

Brown trout

Salmo trutta



First introduced to the Plenty River in 1864.
Widespread and abundant down to sea level in all major drainages.

Description: A long, thick-bodied fish. They have a dorsal fin high on their backs. They have a small fleshy fin near the tail called an adipose fin. Mouth extends back past the eyes.

Colour: The colour is highly variable depending on their age, habitat and life history. Lake fish can show golden, green and brown colours with a pale belly. River populations are darker and often have bright red spots surrounded by pale halos. Sea-run brown trout are usually silver. Spawning fish become darker on the sides and back, with a yellow or white belly.

Size: Can grow to over 20 kg and 1400 mm long. The official record in Tasmania is 13.3 kg for a fish caught at Huon River in 1880s.

Habitat: Newly emerged fry school in slow shallow water along stream edges or backwaters. Adults can be found in a variety of habitats.

Diet: They feed on a wide variety of animals including crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects and small fish.

Life Cycle: Spawning occurs during Autumn and Winter, when fish migrate upstream to gravel-bottom stretches. Fish pair up with eggs and milt deposited into a depression prepared by the female called a redd. The eggs hatch after four to six weeks, depending on water temperature. Hatchlings stay in the gravel feeding off their yolk-sacs until they emerge as fry and disperse.

Distribution status: Introduced in 1864.

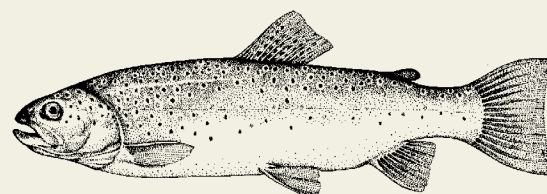
Original range: Native to Europe, the Middle East and Northern Africa. They have been stocked around the world for angling and aquaculture.

Reasons for change to distribution: Low flows in spawning streams. Loss of instream habitat; Erosion leading to increased sedimentation; Overfishing.

Legal status: Angling.

Can it be taken? An inland recreational Angling Licence is needed to take brown trout. Specific bag and size limits and permitted fishing methods (bait, lure or fly) may vary between waters.

Other names: Sea trout, Englishman.



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