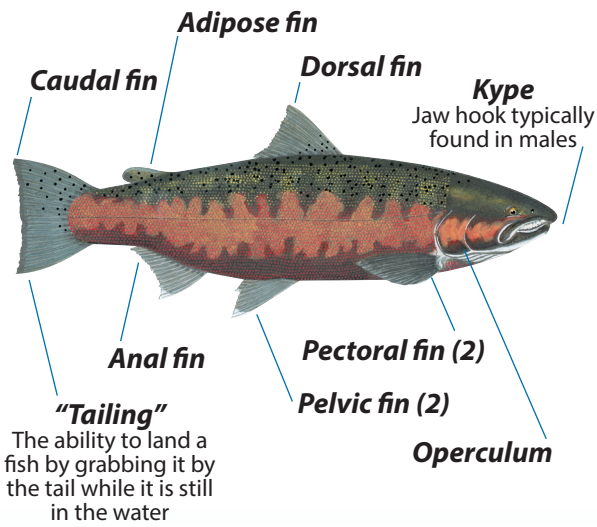


Body Features Used  
in Identification



This brochure results from a collaboration between New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grants, members of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.

We sincerely thank John Lyons, Brian Roth and Roger Greil for their valuable review comments on this brochure.

**EXPERT REVIEWED** Original By: Dave MacNeill, Mary Austerma (NY Sea Grant), Dan Bishop, Fran Verdoliva (NYSDEC), Jim Johnson (USGS). Revised By: Jesse Lepak (NY Sea Grant), Dan O'Keefe (MI Sea Grant), Mitchell Zischke (IL-IN Sea Grant), Titus Seilheimer (WI Sea Grant). Artwork By: Peter Thompson.

Please refer to your State or Provincial fishing guidelines for creel and size regulations on each species.

Additional information can be found at [www.MichiganSeaGrant.org/salmonid](http://www.MichiganSeaGrant.org/salmonid)

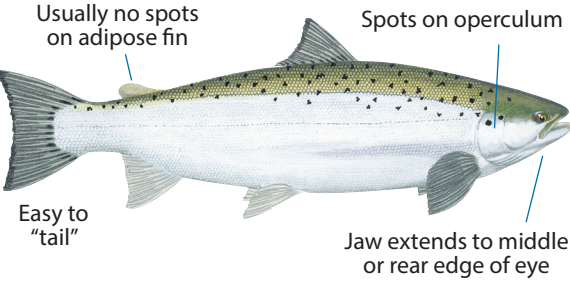
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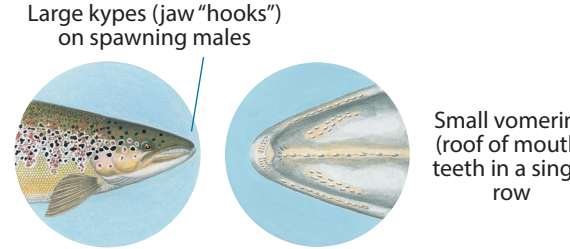
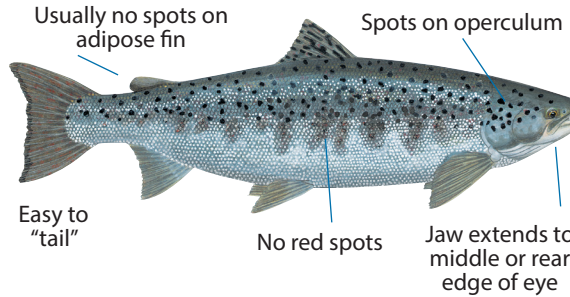
Atlantic Salmon

(*Salmo salar*)

Lake Phase Adult

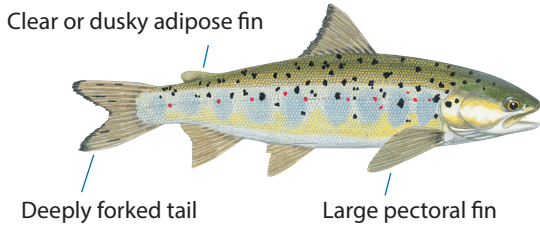


Stream Phase Adult



Spawning Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout can be difficult to distinguish. Vomerine teeth are the best characteristic to distinguish between these species.

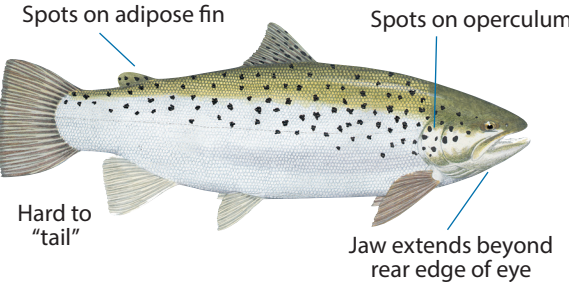
Juvenile (parr stage)



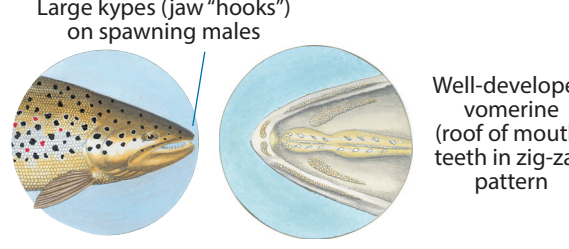
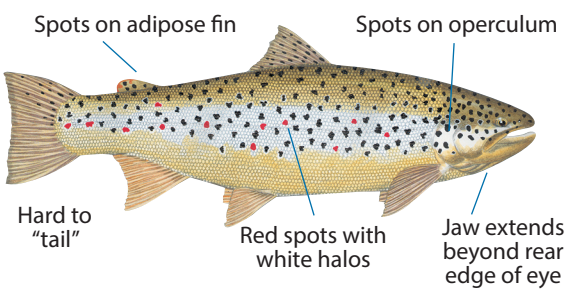
Brown Trout

(*Salmo trutta*)

Lake Phase Adult

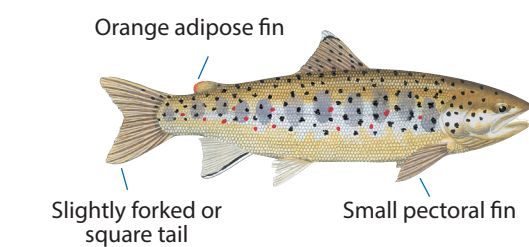


Stream Phase Adult



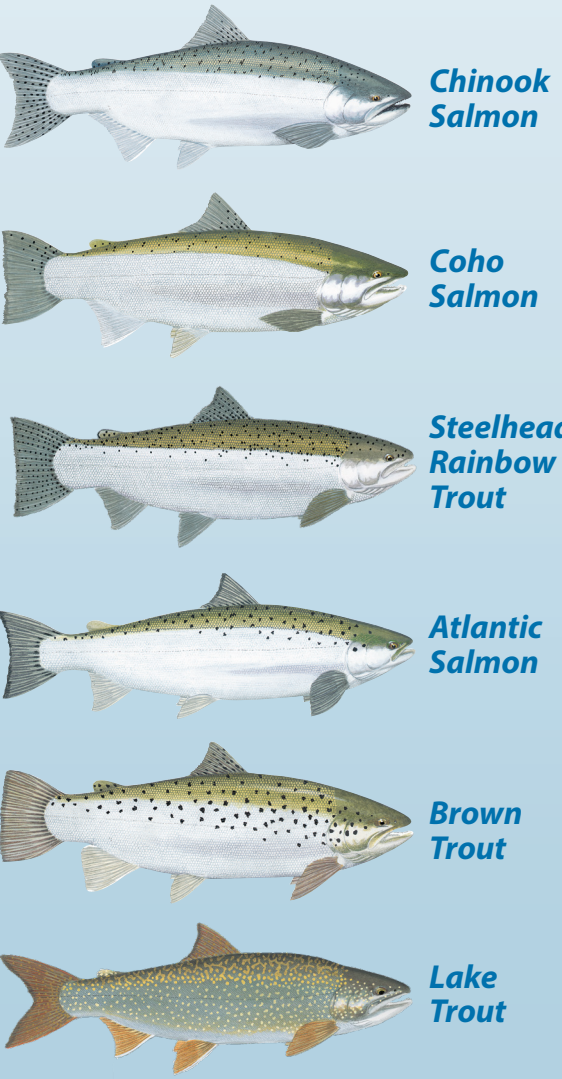
Spawning Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout can be difficult to distinguish. Vomerine teeth are the best characteristic to distinguish between these species.

Juvenile (parr stage)



Salmon and Trout of the Great Lakes

A Visual Identification Guide



Chinook Salmon

(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)

**Lake Phase Adult**

No spots on operculum

Inside of mouth and gums are black

Fin Base

Fin Ray

Easy to "tail"

Longest anal fin ray is shorter than 2/3 length of the fin base

**Stream Phase Adult**

Inside of mouth and gums are black

Easy to "tail"

Longest anal fin ray is shorter than 2/3 length of the fin base

Olive, brown, or black sides

Large kypes (jaw "hooks") on spawning males

Pink Salmon and Chinook Salmon can hybridize. These hybrids are called "Pinooks." Pinooks have variable characteristics and their appearance can be similar to either parent species.

**Juvenile (parr stage)**

Anal fin same shape as adult

Wide parr marks with narrow spaces between

Coho Salmon

(Oncorhynchus kisutch)

**Lake Phase Adult**

No spots on operculum

Inside of mouth is black or gray with lighter gums

Fin Base

Fin Ray

Hard to "tail"

Longest anal fin ray is shorter than fin base but longer than 2/3 of fin base

**Early Stream Phase Adult**

Inside of mouth is black or grey with lighter gums

Hard to "tail"

Longest anal fin ray is shorter than fin base but longer than 2/3 of fin base

**Late Stream Phase Adult**

Inside of mouth is black or gray with lighter gums

Hard to "tail"

Some reddish or purple color on sides

Kype - upper jaw becomes hooked

**Juvenile (parr stage)**

Sickle shaped anal fin with white/black edge

Narrow parr marks with wide spaces between

Fish coloration varies greatly and live fish may not look exactly as shown in the brochure.

Steelhead/Rainbow Trout

(Oncorhynchus mykiss)

**Lake Phase Adult**

Fully spotted, square tail with spots in radiating rows

No spots on operculum

Inside of mouth and gums are white

Fin Base

Fin Ray

Hard to "tail"

Longest anal fin ray is longer than fin base

**Stream Phase Adult**

Fully spotted, square tail with spots in radiating rows

Inside of mouth and gums are white

Longest anal fin ray is longer than fin base

Spawning fish reddish to pink stripe (along lateral line below eye to tail)

Large kypes (jaw "hooks") on spawning males

Spawning fish reddish to pink stripe

Lake Trout and Brook Trout can hybridize. These hybrids are called "Splake." Splake have variable characteristics and their appearance can be similar to either parent species.

**Juvenile (parr stage)**

Black rimmed adipose fin

Pink stripe

Wide parr marks

Pink Salmon

Lake Superior and St. Marys River  
Rare in Western Great Lakes

(Oncorhynchus gorbuscha)

**Lake Phase Adult**

Forked tail

Small body size

Large oval spots on both lobes of tail

**Stream Phase Adult**

Large back hump (male), smaller hump (female)

Humps may be absent in lake phase

**Lake Trout**

(Salvelinus namaycush)

Forked tail

Light spots on dark background

No orange, pink or red spots

No black or white stripes on belly

Inside of mouth and gums are white

**Brook Trout**

Lake Superior and streams

(Salvelinus fontinalis)

Square tail

May have pink/red spots with halos on dark background

May have black and white belly stripes

Inside of mouth and gums may be grey or black