

ATLANTIC SALMON

(Salmo salar)

**Oneida Lake Status:
Rare**



Atlantic salmon in a lake



Atlantic salmon are prized sport fish



Line drawing of an Atlantic salmon

- Abundant in Oneida Lake in the early 1800's
- Spectacular fighter when hooked
- Recent catches in Fish Creek and Oneida Lake

Atlantic salmon have a grayish brown back that fades to olive on the sides and then fades into a grey belly. They are often confused with brown trout, and this is possible in Oneida Lake where both species reside. Atlantic salmon have a single row of weak teeth on the roof of their mouth, while brown trout have two rows. Additionally, the upper jaw of an Atlantic salmon does not extend past the rear edge of its eye, whereas the brown trout's jaw does.

The Atlantic salmon is one of the most highly regarded sport fish in North America, and is known as "the leaper". They are noted for their spectacular fighting ability, which usually includes several jumps completely out of the water after being hooked by a lucky angler.



Atlantic salmon eggs incubating

Records indicate that Atlantic salmon were abundant in Oneida Lake in the early 1800's, but few remained by 1875. Settlement, development, over-harvesting, dams, pollution, and widespread deforestation around Oneida Lake filled nursery streams with sediment and doomed the species. In 1997, the Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club began a fingerling stocking program with the hope of restoring this historic species. Today, the club has enjoyed success, as both anglers and researchers have reported recent catches in Fish Creek and on Oneida Lake.

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