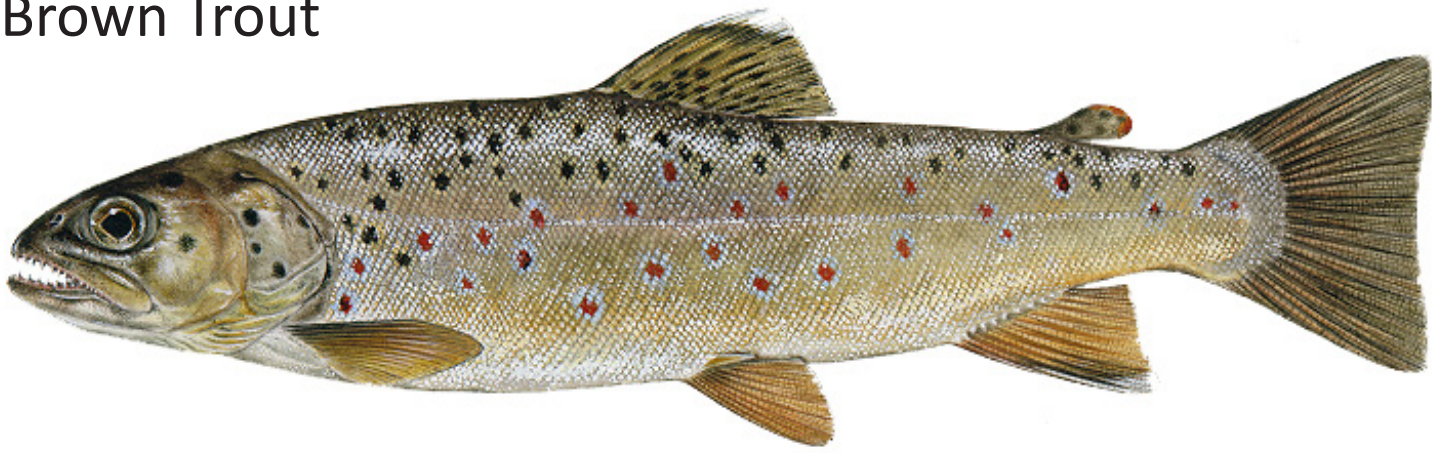


Maine's Coldwater Game Fish

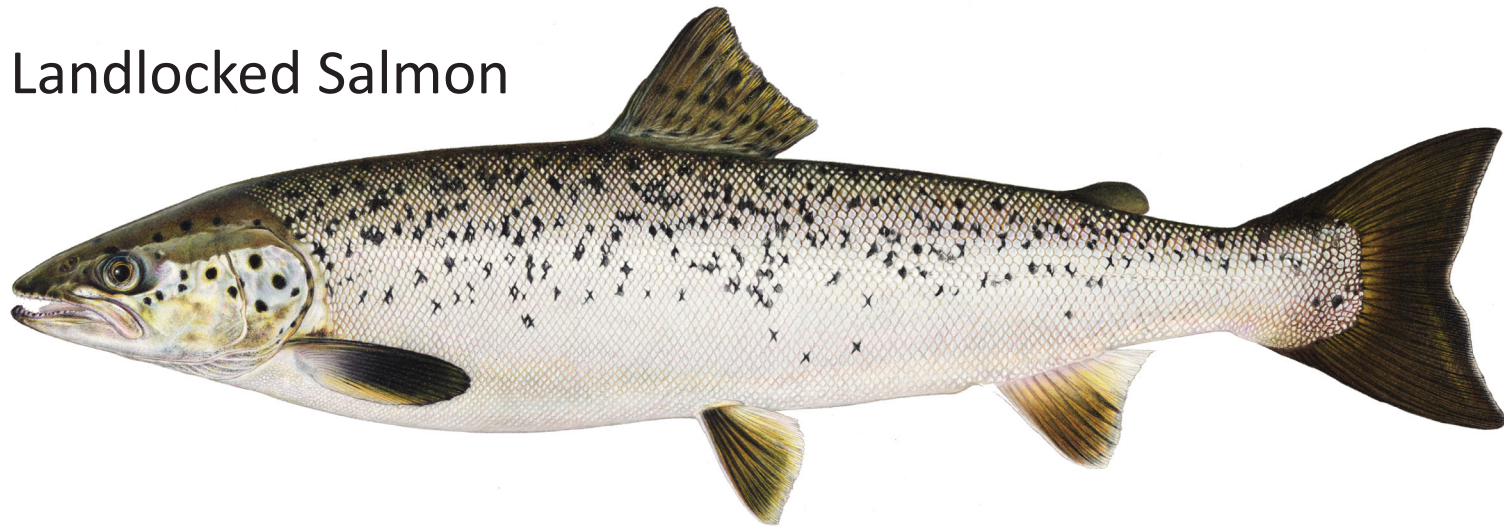
Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Landlocked Salmon



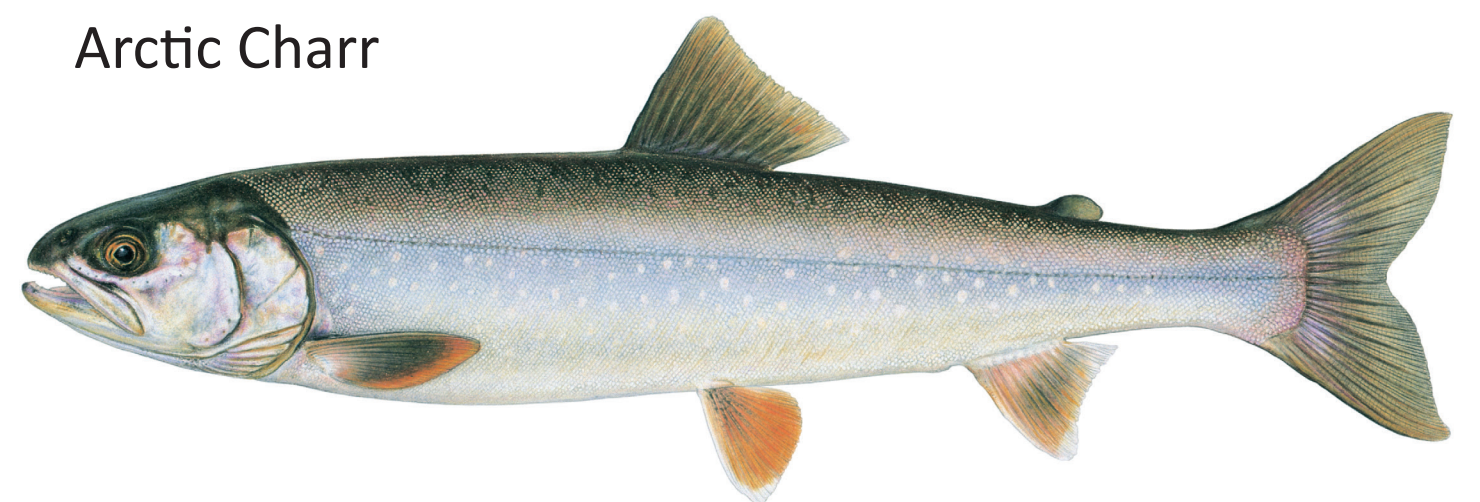
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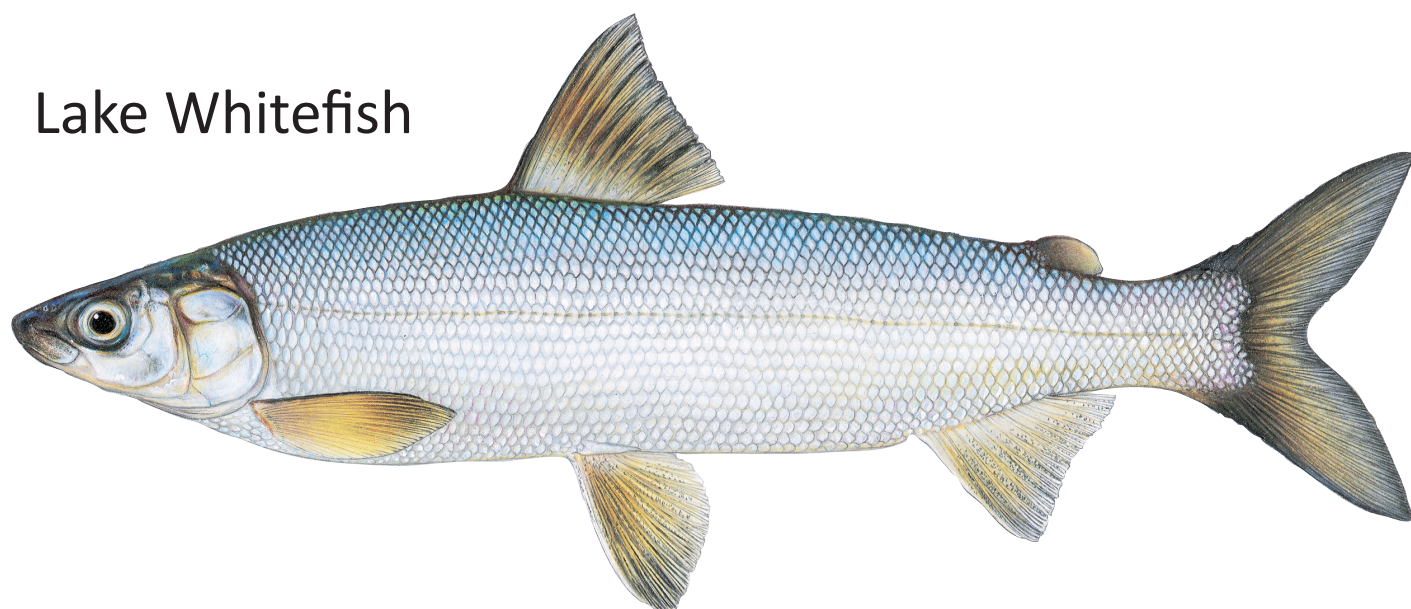
Splake



Arctic Charr



Lake Whitefish



Rainbow Trout



Cusk



Rainbow Smelt



Maine Department of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



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Maine’s Coldwater Game Fish

COMMON NAME: BROWN TROUT
OTHER NAMES: GERMAN BROWN TROUT, BROWNIE, LOCH LEVEN TROUT, SAIBLING
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salmo trutta*

ORIGIN: Introduced

ADULT SIZE: Normal size is 14-20 inches and 1-2 pounds. Browns occasionally reach 10 pounds.

IDENTIFICATION: Usual coloration is light brown or tawny with pronounced black spots on the back, sides and head. Spots are often surrounded with reddish halo, along with reddish spots on the sides. Color is highly variable and browns are occasionally confused with landlocked salmon.

COMMON NAME: LANDLOCKED ATLANTIC SALMON
OTHER NAMES: SEBAGO SALMON, OUANANICHE
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salmo salar*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Average size is 16-18 inches and 1-1/2-2 pounds, but 3-5 pound fish are not uncommon.

IDENTIFICATION: Adults are generally silvery with a slightly forked tail and small X-shaped markings on the back and upper sides. Juvenile salmon have a dark red spot between each pair of parr marks. Mature males develop a “kype”, or hooked jaw, during the spawning season.

COMMON NAME: SPLAKE (from speckled trout and lake trout)
OTHER NAMES: WENDIGO
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salvelinus namaycush X Salvelinus fontinalis*

ORIGIN: Hatchery Hybrid

ADULT SIZE: In Maine, splake typically range in size from 10 to 18 inches. Splake grow at a faster rate than either of its parental species. They can attain lengths of 18 inches in just 2 years after stocking. Splake over 10 pounds have been caught.

IDENTIFICATION: Splake and brook trout have very similar coloration patterns, making it very difficult for the untrained eye to distinguish between the two species. Splake tend to have a slight fork in the tail, a trait passed down from its lake trout parent; while brook trout tend to have no fork or “square” tails.

COMMON NAME: LAKE WHITEFISH
OTHER NAMES: WHITEFISH
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Coregonum clupeaformis*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Whitefish are normally 14-20 inches long and weigh 1-3 pounds, but can reach lengths of 25 inches and over 6 pounds. A number of lakes contain populations of “dwarf” sized fish where mature adult whitefish attain lengths of only 6-8 inches.

IDENTIFICATION: Overall coloration is silvery dark brown to black on the back becoming silvery on the sides and silvery white below. The fins are generally black or black tipped. Scales are large. The body is somewhat laterally compressed. Lake whitefish are easily distinguished from fallfish (chub) by having a small mouth and the presence of a small adipose fin located on the back between the dorsal and caudal fins. A related species, the round whitefish, is light brown on the back becoming silvery on the side. It has a more cylindrical body shape than the lake whitefish.

COMMON NAME: CUSK
OTHER NAMES: BURBOT, LAWYER FISH (Great Lake states), FRESHWATER COD
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lota lota*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Sexual maturity is usually attained during the third or fourth year. Males often mature at a smaller size than females. Aged (otoliths) Maine cusk average 18 inches and 24 ounces in their eighth year of growth, 20 inches and 32 ounces in their tenth year, and 24 inches and 62 ounces in their thirteenth year. The largest angler-caught cusk recorded in Maine was 18 pounds 8 ounces.

IDENTIFICATION: Cusk have an elongated body with a broad, flattened triangular head. The mouth is large and wide. A single chin barbel adorns the lower jaw. Scales are small and embedded giving burbot the appearance of being slimy. The anal and dorsal fins run nearly half the length of the body. In Maine, coloration ranges from a tan to dark brown background overlaid with dark brown to black mottling or spots. Some may be uniformly dark brown or black.

COMMON NAME: EASTERN BROOK TROUT
OTHER NAMES: SQUARETAIL, BROOKIE, SPECKLED TROUT
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salvelinus fontinalis*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Size varies greatly, depending on water temperature, productivity, and food sources. The statewide average length of 3-year-old brook trout in Maine lakes is 13.3 inches. However, same-age trout from different lakes range from 7.5 to 17.5 inches in length. Stream populations are typically slower growing than lake populations. Some high elevation trout populations mature and reproduce at lengths smaller than 6 inches.

IDENTIFICATION: Color is variable, depending on habitat. Brook trout can be distinguished from other members of the trout family by the dark, wavy, worm-like line on their back and the white leading edges of their fins, including the tail.

COMMON NAME: LAKE TROUT, TOGUE
OTHER NAMES: LAKER, GREY TROUT, MACKINAW
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salvelinus namaycush*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: In most waters, lake trout commonly reach lengths of 18 to 24 inches and weights of 2 to 4 pounds. They are among the longest lived and largest freshwater game fish, often living 20 years or more and attaining sizes over 30 inches and 10 pounds.

IDENTIFICATION: Lake trout have a typical trout-shaped body covered with light spots on a darker background of green or grayish brown. They are closely related to the brook trout, but lack the bright coloration and can be distinguished by a deeply forked tail.

COMMON NAME: LANDLOCKED ARCTIC CHARR
OTHER NAMES: CHARR, BLUEBACK TROUT, SILVER TROUT, SUNAPEE TROUT, WHITE TROUT
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salvelinus alpinus oquassa*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Charr in Maine can live up to 15 years and attain a size of about 20 inches and 3 pounds. More often charr are much smaller; in some lakes the average size is closer to 6 inches and a few ounces in weight. A fish larger than 2 pounds is of significant size.

IDENTIFICATION: The charr is a slender member of the salmon and trout family. Usually dark on the back, lighter on the belly, and having light spots on the sides. Paired fins are orange to red with a bright white leading edge. Tail is moderately forked. During breeding season, both sexes become highly colored. Coloration can then range from pink to orange bellies, blue to brown backs, and creamy to orange spots. Fin colors can also become very intense during spawning.

COMMON NAME: RAINBOW TROUT
OTHER NAMES: BOWS
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

ORIGIN: Introduced

ADULT SIZE: Anglers normally catch fish in the 8 to 16-inch range, but occasionally fish up to 7 or 8 pounds are caught.

IDENTIFICATION: Coloration is highly variable depending upon size, sexual condition, and habitat. Dorsal surface ranges from a greenish yellow to a blue-gray color with silvery colored sides; and the belly area is white to pale yellow in color. Large numbers of relatively small black spots occur over the whole body, but spotting is generally heavier along dorsal areas. Rainbow trout are often recognized by a vague pink to prominent red colored band, which extends from the cheek to the base of the caudal fin.

COMMON NAME: RAINBOW SMELT
OTHER NAMES: SMELT, FRESHWATER SMELT, AMERICAN SMELT
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Osmerus mordax*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Maine smelt can reach a wide variety of sizes. In many lakes smelt grow to a maximum size of 3-5 inches, depending on food, competition, and growing conditions. Smelt in northern Maine lakes commonly average 6-8 inches in length, and some Maine lakes grow smelt as large as 14 inches.

IDENTIFICATION: Their body is long and slender with a large elongated, pointed mouth. They have strong conical teeth on jaws and tongue, with fewer than 75 scales along lateral line. Color is silver with a green back, and iridescent purple, pink, and blue reflections on the side. An adipose fin is present.