Salmon and Trout of Lake Ontario

A Visual Identification Guide

Atlantic Salmon
(Salmo salar)

Lake Phase Adult
No spots on tail
Forked tail fin
Mouth extends to middle or rear edge of eye
No spots on tail
Forked tail fin
Mouth extends to middle or rear edge of eye

Stream Phase Adult
No spots on tail
Forked tail fin
Mouth extends to middle or rear edge of eye

Juvenile (smolt stage)
Clear adipose fin
Large pectoral fin
Deeply forked tail

Juvenile (parr stage)
Clear adipose fin
Large pectoral fin
Deeply forked tail

Brown Trout
(Salmo trutta)

Lake Phase Adult
Few spots on upper tail
Spots on adipose fin
Mouth extends beyond rear edge of eye

Stream Phase Adult
Few spots on upper tail
Spots on adipose fin
Mouth extends beyond rear edge of eye

Juvenile (parr stage)
Orange adipose fin

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

Body Features Used in Identification

Caudal fin
Anal fin
Dorsal fin
Kype
Adipose fin
Pectoral fin (2)
“Tailing” - The ability to land a fish by grabbing it by the tail while it is still in the water

Atlantic Salmon
Brown Trout

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For additional information:
Dave MacNeill
315-312-3042
dbm4@cornell.edu

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Chinook Salmon
(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)

Lake Phase Adult
Fully spotted tail

Stream Phase Adult
Fully spotted tail

Juvenile (parr stage)
Tail fin spotting same as adults

Juvenile (smolt stage)
Adipose fin with a few spots

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