

## Tagged Fish

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans tag fish throughout the province as part of their management programs.

If you catch a tagged fish, please note the tag number and colour and date and place of capture.

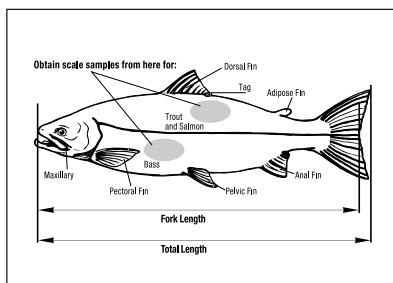
A sample of scales (taken from the area just behind and below the top or dorsal fin), the fork length of the fish (from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail), and the weight of the fish are useful measurements to understand growth rates (see diagram below).

Although some of this information is impossible to obtain if the fish is released, the departments would still like to hear from you. For trout and smallmouth bass, please contact the Inland Fisheries office in Pictou at the address on page 24. They will tell you the

history of the fish and mail you an embroidered crest to thank you for helping to improve their knowledge of fish populations.

Please report tags found on Atlantic salmon to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans by returning the tags to the address printed on them. A cash reward is offered for some Atlantic salmon tags.

### OBTAINING SCALES AND MEASURING LENGTH



## Definitions

**ANGLING**—fishing with a line to which one or more hooks are attached and that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

**ARTIFICIAL FLY**—a single hook or double hook or two single hooks dressed with materials likely to attract fish, and to which no weight, spinning device, or natural bait is attached.

**FLY FISHING**—angling by the use of an artificial fly or flies that are attached to a line or to a leader that is attached to a line.

**HOOK**—a single, double, or treble hook with or without barbs on one shank or shaft.

**JIGGING**—fishing by manipulating one or more hooks so as to pierce a fish in any part of its body instead of luring the fish to take the hook or hooks into its mouth.

**NON-RESIDENT**—anyone who is not a resident of Nova Scotia.

**PROVINCIAL WATERS**—waters upon any shore or land, or on, or in any lake, river, stream or watercourse, wholly or partially within the province, or over which the province has authority to legislate with respect to fishing.

**RESIDENT**—anyone who permanently or ordinarily lives in Nova Scotia for the last 2 months. A resident also includes officers of the diplomatic or consular service of any foreign country stationed in Nova Scotia and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Canadian Armed Forces stationed or born in Nova Scotia. Anyone born in the Province of Nova Scotia who owns real property in the province is considered a resident.

**SPORTFISH**—Atlantic salmon, landlocked salmon, trout, and smallmouth (black) bass.

**UNBAITED LURE**—a lure to which no natural bait is attached.



## Handy Knots

### Nail Knot

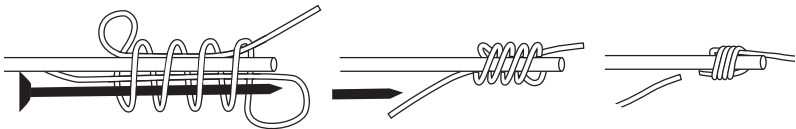
The nail knot is good for attaching two lines of different diameters. Generally used to attach fly line to fly line backing and to attach a leader to the line. This makes a strong smooth knot that rolls out when casting.

1. Hold nail or needle, tip of fly line and backing material between thumb and

forefinger. Wrap backing six or seven turns. Wind carefully for a tight, smooth knot. Thread end of backing between nail and fly line.

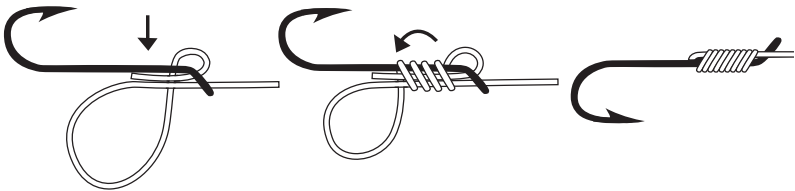
2. Remove nail. Holding coils carefully between thumb and forefinger, alternately pull both ends with free hand to tighten.

3. Snip off excess.



### Snell Knot

A strong connection when fishing with bait and using a separate length of leader.



1. Insert one end of the leader through the hook's eye extending one to two inches past the eye. Insert the other end of the leader through the eye in the opposite direction pointing toward the barb of hook. Hold the hook and leader ends between thumb and forefinger of your left hand. Leader will hang below the hook in a large loop.

2. Take the part of this loop that is closest to the eye and wrap it over the hook and shank and both ends of the leader toward the hook's barb. Wrap for seven or eight

turns and hold wraps with left hand. Grip the end of the leader that is through the eyelet with your right hand and pull it slowly and steadily. Hold the turns with your left hand or the knot will unravel.

3. When the knot is almost tight, slide it up against the eye of the hook. Grip the short end lying along the shank of the hook with a pair of pliers. Pull this end and the standing line at the same time to completely tighten the knot. Trim the tag end.



# NO FISHING

The Halifax Regional Water Commission wishes to inform the public that **FISHING IS NOT PERMITTED** in Lake Lamont, Topsail Lake, Chain Lake, Pockwock Lake, Bottle Lake, Island Lake, or Lacey Mill Lake. **These lakes form part of the public water supply for Dartmouth, Halifax, Bedford-Sackville, and the Lakeside Timberlea area. Anyone found fishing in these lakes will be prosecuted.**

In addition, fishing is **RESTRICTED** in Lake Major and Long Lake, located within the East Region of the Halifax Regional Municipality, as follows:

- No person shall fish at any time from a vessel on Long Lake.
- No person shall fish from the shoreline or bank of Long Lake within one hundred (100) metres of the intake for the water supply for the community of North Preston.
- No person shall fish from a vessel or from the shoreline or bank of Lake Major within one hundred (100) metres of the intake for the water supply for the Dartmouth area.

**These lakes form part of the public water supply for Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, Eastern Passage, and North Preston. Anyone not conforming to these regulations will be prosecuted.**

## 490-4835

## Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protecting Our Wilderness Tradition

Nova Scotia's 31 designated Wilderness Areas protect some of our province's most outstanding natural features, and provide locations for enjoying wilderness recreation, sport fishing, and traditional patterns of hunting and trapping.

Do your part this fishing season to help protect these wild areas for future generations. Our *Keep It Wild* brochure contains guidelines for low impact travel and camping, and outlines key provisions of the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*.

**Keep It Wild**  
Nova Scotia's Protected Areas

**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Environment and Labour  
Environmental and Natural Areas Management Division  
Protected Areas Branch

To obtain a copy of the *Keep It Wild* brochure or view a Wilderness Area map, visit your local or district office of the Department of Natural Resources or Environment and Labour, or call 424-2117 (Halifax), 563-2100 (Sydney), or 543-4685 (Bridgewater).

[www.gov.ns.ca/enl/pareas](http://www.gov.ns.ca/enl/pareas)

Background Photo: Tobetic Wilderness Area by Oliver Maass

# Angler's Guide to the



**1 Speckled Trout**  
*Salvelinus fontinalis*



**2 Atlantic Salmon**  
*Salmo salar*



**3 Rainbow Trout**  
*Oncorhynchus mykiss*



**4 White Perch**  
*Morone americana*



**5 American Shad**  
*Alosa sapidissima*



**6 Chain Pickerel**  
*Esox niger*



**7 Smallmouth Bass**  
*Micropterus dolomieu*



**8 Brown Trout**  
*Salmo trutta*



**9 Yellow Perch**  
*Perca flavescens*

**10 Lake Trout**  
*Salvelinus namaycush*

Illustrations by Bruce John Wood

# Fishes of Nova Scotia

**11 Rainbow Smelt**

*Osmerus mordax*



10

**12 Alewife**

*Alosa pseudoharengus*



11

**13 Striped Bass**

*Morone saxatilis*



12

**14 Lake Whitefish**

*Coregonus clupeaformis*



13

**15 American Eel**

*Anguilla rostrata*



14

**16 White Sucker**

*Catostomus commersoni*



15

**17 Brown Bullhead**

*Ameiurus nebulosus*



16



17

The Nova Scotia Fish Fact series, which provides detailed information about all these species, is available at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportfishing>

# Is it a Salmon or a Brown Trout?

Anglers may confuse brown trout with Atlantic Salmon, particularly in the spring when "slink" salmon are in the rivers. The following points can be used to distinguish between the two species.

## Atlantic Salmon

Inside Upper

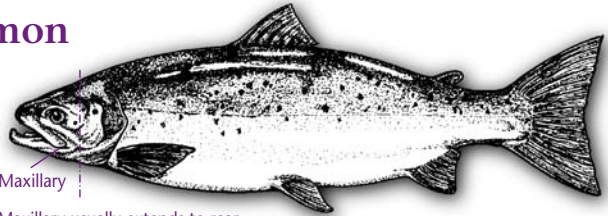


**Vomerine Teeth**  
Small and arranged in a single row along the vomerine shaft. Absent or very sparse on the vomerine head.

Inside Lower



**Tongue**  
Tapered and round.



Maxillary

Maxillary usually extends to rear edge of eye or slightly beyond.

## Juvenile Salmon

Maxillary reaches middle of the eye.  
Tail fin tips are pointed and the adipose fin is clear.



Adipose fin

## Brown Trout

Inside Upper

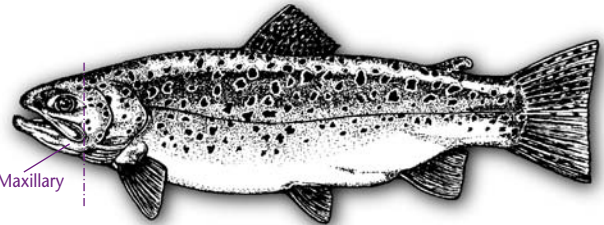


**Vomerine Teeth**  
Well developed on both the vomerine head and shaft. Arranged in a zig-zag fashion along the shaft.

Inside Lower



**Tongue**  
Broad and square.

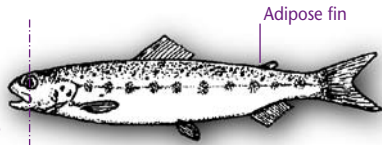


Maxillary

Maxillary usually extends well past rear edge of eye.

## Juvenile Brown Trout

Maxillary reaches rear edge eye.  
Tail fin tips are rounded. Adipose fin is orange or yellow.



Adipose fin

## Set Young Salmon and Trout Free

Note the differences in these fish:

### Salmon Parr

- Black spots on back and sides, and a forked tail
- No markings on fins or tail
- Large eye



### Salmon Smolt

- Silvery with black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a forked tail
- Large eye



### Brook (Speckled Trout)

- Tail is nearly square
- Large fin on back (dorsal) has irregular markings
- There are no black spots, and the eye is smaller
- Lower fins have a white leading edge





# Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekend

The annual Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekend will be held June 3-4, 2006, and all Nova Scotians are encouraged to try fishing as a way to enjoy Nova Scotia's great outdoors.

During these two days, residents may fish without a general licence. However, if you fish for Atlantic salmon, you will need a salmon fishing licence.

Please keep in mind that bag limits and all other sportfishing regulations will still apply.

## Get out for the fishing!

## Fish Consumption Advisory

### Mercury

Traces of mercury have been detected in certain species of freshwater sportfish. The Nova Scotia departments of Health, Environment and Labour, and Agriculture and Fisheries advise people to limit consumption of these freshwater sportfish.

Rainbow trout have levels of contaminants below the Health Canada Guidelines and are safe to eat. Brook trout and white perch under 25 cm (11 in.) in length are also safe to eat. Consumption of brook trout and white perch larger than 25 cm should be limited to one meal once every week. Consumption of other freshwater sports fish should be limited to one meal every two weeks. Children under eight, pregnant women, and nursing mothers should consume only rainbow trout, white perch, and brook trout less than 25 cm (11 in.) in length.

**For further information contact the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour at (902) 424-2553.**

### Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Recent sampling of fish from the Five Island Lake watershed continues to show PCBs in a number of fish species.

Scientific research suggests that over a number of years, eating a steady diet of contaminated fish may be harmful to human health. Trout caught in two lakes showed levels of PCBs in edible tissue above the acceptable guidelines established by Health Canada. As a precaution the Nova Scotia Department of Health is advising the public not to eat fish taken from Five Island and Sheldrake Lakes.

This advisory may be revised as new or additional data becomes available.

**For further information contact the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour at (902) 424-7773.**

*Catch and release regulations are in place on Five Island, Sheldrake and other lakes in this area (see Recreational Fishing Area 3).*





# Community Group Partnerships

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following groups for their continued support with our fieldwork projects, stocking strategies, sportfishing derbies and tournaments.

Albert Bridge Recreation Association  
Annapolis Fly Fishers  
Bass River Fire Department  
Black River Environmental Committee  
Bluenose Atlantic Coastal Action Project  
Bluenose Bassmasters  
Bras d'Or Wildlife Association  
Canadian Association of  
Smallmouth Anglers  
Cape Breton Sportfishing Advisory Council  
Clean Annapolis River Project  
Cobequid Salmon Association  
Cumberland County River Enhancement  
Association  
East Shelburne County River Association  
Enfield Volunteer Fire Department  
Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Service  
Friends of Cornwallis River  
Guysborough Fish & Game Association  
Habitant River Trout Association  
Halifax Wildlife Association  
Hants County Wildlife Association  
Hants West Wildlife Association  
Highland Sport Club  
Kings County Wildlife Association  
LaHave Salmon Association  
LaHave Trout Association  
Lake Ainslie & Margaree River  
Heritage Association  
Lunenburg Wildlife Association  
Margaree Salmon Association

Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement  
Project  
Mulgrave Recreation Department  
New Waterford Fish & Game Association  
Nine Mile River Association  
Noel Shore Game Protection Association  
Nova Bassmasters  
Nova Scotia Federation of  
Anglers & Hunters  
Nova Scotia Salmon Association  
Petite Riviere Association  
Pictou County Rivers Association  
Port Morien Wildlife Association  
Queens County Fish & Game Association  
Richmond Wildlife Association  
Sackville Rivers Association  
Salmon River Salmon Association  
Sheet Harbour & Area Ground  
Search & Rescue  
Shelburne County Fish & Game  
Association  
South Shore Bassmasters  
St. Mary's River Association  
Stewards of River Denys Watershed  
Association  
Strait Area Fish & Game Association  
Town of Amherst  
Trout Nova Scotia  
Trout Unlimited  
Tusket River Environmental  
Protection Association  
Wildlife Habitat Advocates