



VERNON'S GUIDE SERVICE, LLC NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2024

It's hard to believe that our 2024 fishing season is just on the horizon. Our winter snow totals were down which may very well turn into early fishing. We never know what mother nature has in store for us, but let's hope that no matter what, the 2024 fishing season will be a good one for you. This years newsletter is dedicated to the following:

- **Invasive Plants in our waterways and how to prevent it.**
- **How to tell a brookie from a lake trout and article char.**

HELP US KEEP IT MAINE: PROTECT OUR WATERS FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Maine has some of the country's most pristine and healthy waters, which support high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife as well as endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. On our inland waters, anglers can fish for native brook trout, Arctic charr, landlocked salmon, and lake trout, just to name a few.

Unfortunately, Maine waters, as well as the fish, wildlife, and recreation they support, are threatened each year by introductions of fish, plants, diseases, and other aquatic invasive species that compete with and displace native natural communities.

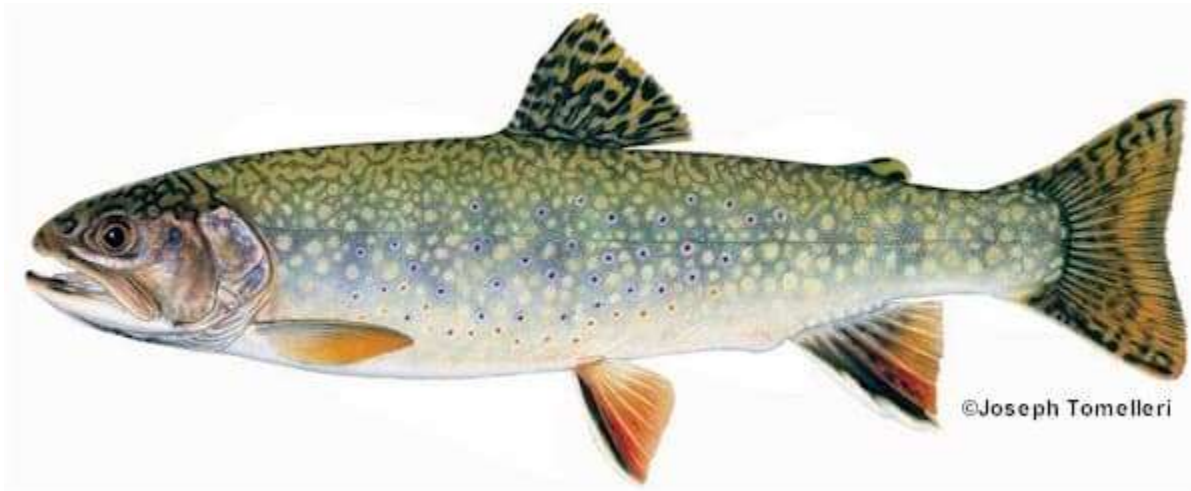
Why should I care?

Once an aquatic invasive species has established in a body of water, it is extremely difficult for it to be eradicated. These efforts are costly, often risky, and not always successful and introductions have the potential to change our natural places and the way we enjoy them forever.

What can be done?

Prevention is key. So much of the spread comes from people simply enjoying the great outdoors. It's our duty as those who enjoy using Maine's waters to become informed, attentive, and accountable for our potential role in the spread of invasive species and to take steps to protect Maine's waters.

Trout Identification



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

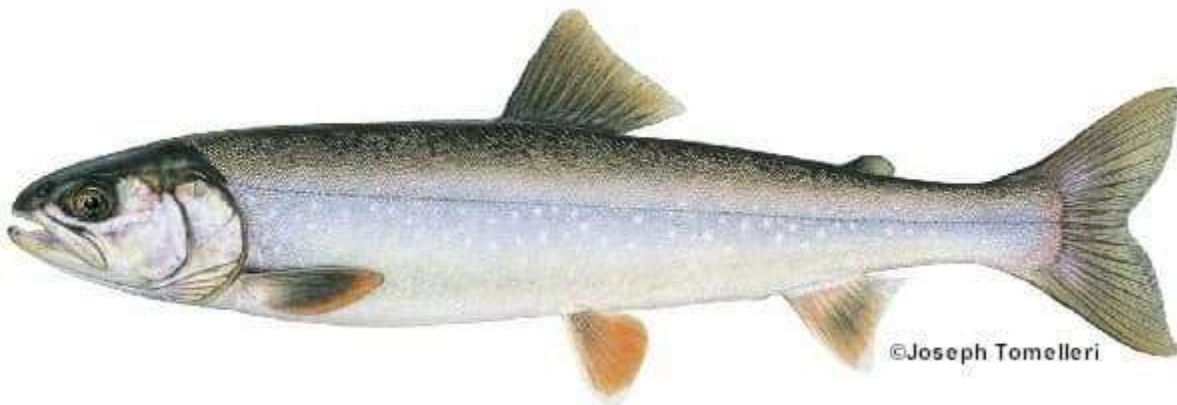
Other Names: Laker, Grey Trout, Mackinaw

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 of over 30 inches and 10 pounds.

Identification: Lake trout have a typical trout-shaped body covered with creamy white spots on a background of bronze, dark brown, or green. Their coloration can resemble brook trout but lack the colorful reds spots with blue halos of a brook trout. Another distinguishing feature of lake trout is a deeply forked tail as opposed to the square tail of the brook trout.



Common Name: Landlocked Arctic Charr

Other Names: Arctic Charr, Blueback Trout, Sunapee Trout

Scientific Name: *Salvelinus alpinus oquassa*

Origin: Native

Adult Size: Arctic Charr in Maine can live up to 15 years and attain a size of about 20 inches and 3 pounds. More often Arctic 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 Arctic 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.

You can find more information about the different species on this website:

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/fisheries/species-information/index.html>

This Quarter's Fishing Logic!

How big was the fish you caught?





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