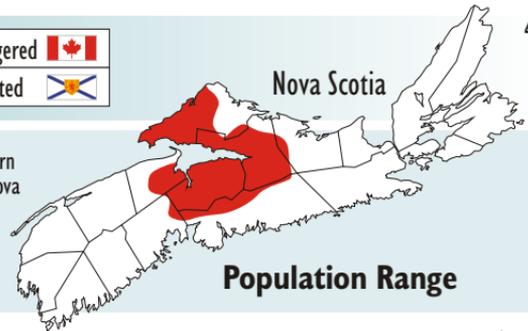


# Atlantic Salmon

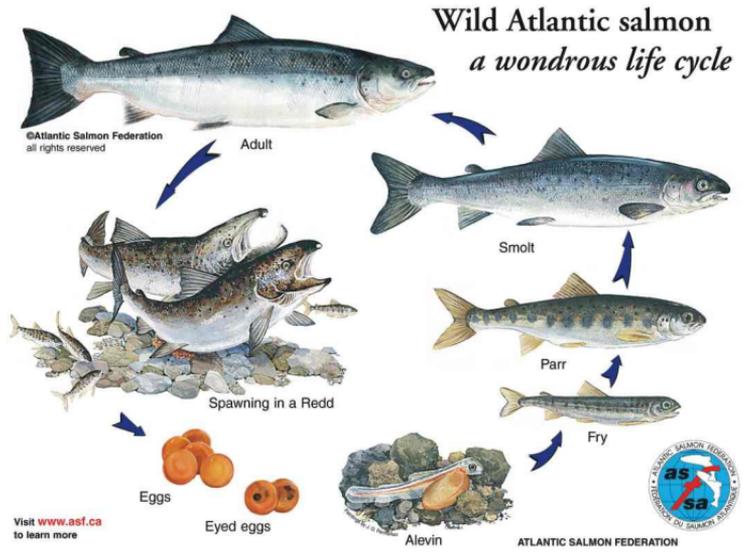
*Salmo salar* (Inner Bay of Fundy Population)

<b>STATUS</b>	Endangered 
	Not Listed 



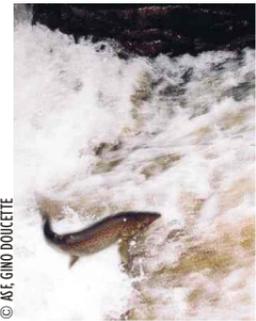
Fewer than 200 adults return to spawn in the rivers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that drain into the Minas Basin, Chignecto Bay and south to St. Martins.

**Population Range**



## Habitat

Found in freshwater rivers and streams that are clear, cool, and well-oxygenated, with gravel, cobble, or boulder bottoms. They spend their first two to three years in the riffles, runs and pools, after which they travel to the sea. After one year in the Bay of Fundy, most return to spawn in the fall in the same areas where they hatched.



© TOM MOFFATT, ASF

© ASF, GINO DOUCETTE

## Species Description

The Atlantic salmon is dark on the back and silvery on the lower sides and belly. When spawning in fresh water both males and females become a bronze-purple colour, usually with reddish spots on the head and body. Young Atlantic salmon are called parr and have 8-11 pigmented bars along each side alternating with a row of red spots. Smolts lose these markings, become silvery and migrate to sea in the spring of their second year.

Atlantic Salmon are most abundant in fast moving, cool streams with abundant food sources such as aquatic insects and small fish. If you catch one, let it go!



© ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION

## Interesting Points

- The name *salar* comes from the Latin *salio* which means “to leap” - the Atlantic salmon can leap as high as 3.4 m!
- Over the last 20 years the Inner Bay of Fundy salmon population has declined by more than 95% - only half of the rivers of the Inner Bay of Fundy still have salmon populations.
- Inner Bay of Fundy salmon are genetically unique from other Atlantic salmon.



© DFO

## Similar Species

### Rainbow trout:

Colour varies; black spots on body (not coloured); spots on tail in rows.



© NSFA

### Brown trout:

Reddish colouring on the adipose fin (just in front of tail on top of body).



© USFWS

### Speckled trout:

Bluish speckled markings on side; brownish back; white or red belly; white edges on the lower fins.



© NSFA

## Threats to Survival

- Acid rain and pollution
- Overfishing
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Lack of riparian buffers (natural vegetation along waterways).
- Water passage obstruction, from culverts, dams, aboiteaux, and lack of pools.



© AMY WESTON

Stream bank erosion and water siltation



© ED SIMPSON, NSCOA

Adopt-a-Stream volunteers rehabilitate a stream

## How You Can Help

Learn to recognize salmon (parr especially), and if you catch one, set it free! Join an eNGO such as the Atlantic Salmon Federation, or participate in the Adopt-a-Stream Program (contacts below). Become an advocate for clean water and healthy habitats that will support many species.

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 and NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, inlandfish@gov.ns.ca

**Info:** Atlantic Salmon Federation [www.asf.ca](http://www.asf.ca)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [sightings@speciesatrisk.ca](mailto:sightings@speciesatrisk.ca)

**Stewardship:** Adopt-a-Stream Program - Nova Scotia Salmon Association, (902) 644-1276 [www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca](http://www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca)