

# Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

## Translation of scientific name:

“char” “of springs”

**Status:** native to Pennsylvania

**Habitat:** small, cold

(50- to 60-degree F range) streams

**Spawn:** September through November

**Eggs produced:** less than 100 to 1,000 eggs

**Average length:** 5 to 7 inches long

**Average lifespan:** 2 to 5 years



Brook Trout are classified as char, not trout. Chars live more north than other Salmonids. They prefer cold, clean, high-oxygenated waters. Today, their home waters are small headwater streams. Nick-names for the Brook Trout include speckled trout, squaretail or brookies. Before European settlement, Brook Trout lived in most Pennsylvania streams. The growing human population resulted in landscape changes. Timber was overharvested, coal was mined and flowing waters became sewers. Populations of Brook Trout were eliminated from many waters because of the resulting pollution, habitat loss and warmer water.

## Brook Trout Life Cycle

