

ATLANTIC OR PACIFIC FISH?

Young Atlantic salmon were recently found in Thurston County's Scatter Creek. Biologists worry that Atlantics could hurt native Pacific salmon and cutthroat trout by pushing them off prime spawning and feeding areas. Atlantics also could eat young native fish or spread

disease. The Atlantic salmon escaped into the creek from a nearby hatchery that produces 7 million young Atlantic salmon each year for Puget Sound net pens. Adult salmon also escape from those pens, and state biologists want anglers to know how to identify Atlantic salmon.

Anglers who catch Atlantics in Washington should keep the fish and call the state Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-902-2700. Anglers fishing in British Columbia should call 1-800-811-6010.

ATLANTIC SALMON

These non-native fish are recognized by large black spots on their gill covers and back, with rarely any spots on the tail fin. Does not have red stripe on side.

Large dark spots dot gill covers.

Large scales, and x-shaped spots on back are absent of halos.

Forked tail rarely has spots.

Fins may be eroded or worn from containment in net pens.

Anal fin has eight to 11 rays.

Fish not drawn to scale.

CUTTHROAT TROUT

Red-orange slash marks on the underside of the lower jaw, although may not be visible in bright sea-runs. Heavily spotted on back and tail.

CHINOOK (KING) SALMON

Largest of all Pacific salmon, it has large black spots on back, dorsal fin and both the upper and lower lobes of the forked tail. The mouth is dark with a black gumline.

STEELHEAD TROUT

This sea-run rainbow trout has small dark spots scattered over its entire body, including the squared tail.

COHO (SILVER) SALMON

Black spots scattered on the back with few on the upper portion of the forked tail. It has a white mouth with a white gumline and a dark tongue.