



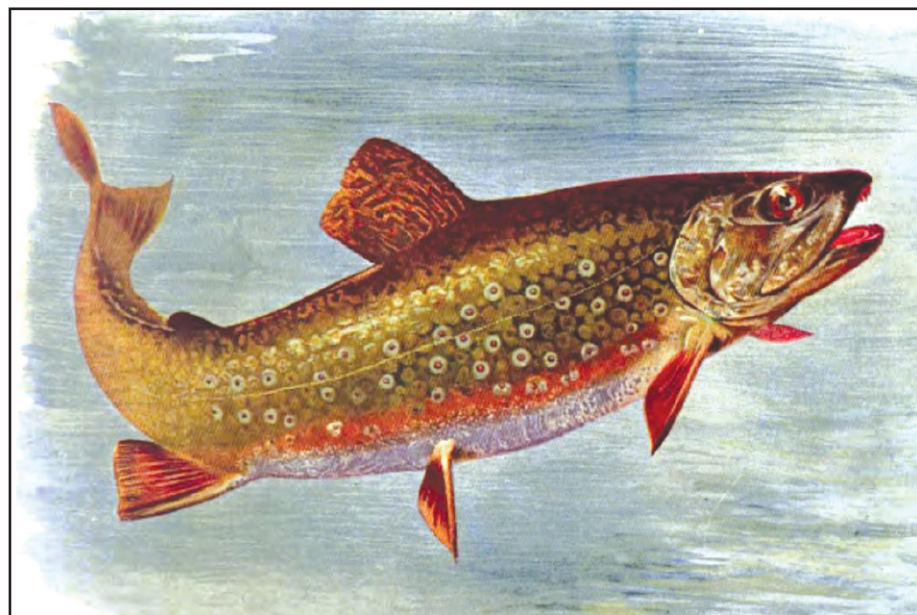
# All About Michigan

## The Brook Trout: Michigan's State Fish

Michigan designated the Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) as the official state fish in 1988. They have a long, streamlined body with a large mouth that extends past its eye. Colors include olive, blue-gray or black above with a silvery white belly and wormlike markings (called vermiculations) along the back. They have red spots sometimes surrounded by bluish halos on their sides. The lower fins have a white front edge with black and the remainder being a reddish orange. The tail fin is square or rarely slightly forked.

The brook trout is native to Michigan's waters. They can be found throughout most of the state in many creeks, streams, rivers, lakes and in the Great Lakes.

Brook trout require cool, clear, spring-fed streams and pools. They can be found under rock cover, logs and undercut banks. Larger Brook Trout often inhabit deep pools moving to shallow water only to feed. They usually do not live longer than six years.



Brook trout living in streams often reach sizes between 7 and 9 inches. Great Lake Brook Trout can get much larger! They can reach up to 25 inches and 10 pounds!

They have been described as big eaters! They consume large amounts of zooplankton, crustaceans, worms, fish, terrestrial insects and aquatic insects often feeding on whatever is most available.

Brook trout are avidly sought after by sport anglers, for food as well as for the sport. There are limits on how many you can catch! They can be caught by using various bait and lures including worms, crickets, grasshoppers, wet and dry flies, spoons, and spinners.

### Brook Trout Fun Facts!

- The brook trout is part of the salmon family of fish.
- Although it is called a trout, it is actually char.
- It can be found as far northwest as Alaska.
- The record for the longest brook trout caught is 31 inches.

