

# Brook trout

*Salvelinus fontinalis*



Clarence Lagoon, Lake Plimsoll and Lake Selina have supplemented populations of brook trout. Brook trout are occasionally captured in Bronte Lagoon which is downstream of Clarence Lagoon.

**Description:** A long, thick-bodied fish. Large fish have a deep body. They have a dorsal fin high on their backs. They have a small fleshy fin near the tail called an adipose fin. The large mouth extends back past the eyes. Pale spots present above the lateral line.

**Colour:** Dark green on the back, sides and dorsal fin with light worm like markings. Most of its spots are light coloured but red spots may be present on the sides. The lower fins have a white stripe on their edge with a dark stripe next to it. Spawning fish may have a bright orange red blush along the sides and belly.

**Size:** In their native range in North America they are typically smaller in size than brown or rainbow trout, usually around 0.5 kg in weight. Has been recorded up to 4 kg in Tasmania.

**Habitat:** Occupies most habitats in lake and freshwater reaches of rivers.

**Diet:** They feed on a wide variety of animals including crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects and small fishes.

**Life Cycle:** Spawning occurs during Autumn and Winter when fish migrate upstream to gravel-bottom stretches of river. Fish pair up with eggs and milt deposited into a depression prepared by the female called a redd. The eggs hatch after four to six weeks, depending on water temperature. Hatchlings stay in the gravel feeding off their yolk-sacs until they emerge as fry and disperse.

**Distribution status:** Introduced.

**Original range:** Native to north-eastern North America. Have been stocked at various places around the world for angling.

**Reasons for change to distribution:**

Competition with brown trout. The two species do not coexist well in Australia.

**Legal status:** Angling.

**Can it be taken?** An inland recreational Angling Licence is needed to take brook trout. A daily bag limit of two brook trout applies to all inland waters. The minimum size is 220 mm in rivers and 300 mm in lakes and lagoons. Permitted fishing methods (bait, lure or fly) may vary between waters.

**Other names:** Brook char, fontinalis.



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