



TAXONOMIC KEY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SALMONID SPECIES IN NEW ZEALAND

No	Characteristic	Species	Line drawings (copywrite R.M. McDowall)
1	Anal fin short-based, usually 8-12 rays, fin base shorter than longest fin ray	go to 2	
	Anal fin long-based, usually 13-19 rays, fin base longer than longest fin ray	go to 6	
2	Colour comprises dark spots on a paler background: teeth present on shaft of vomer, usually also on head of vomer	go to 3	
	Colour comprises paler spots on a dark background: teeth present only on head of	go to 5	
3	Spots usually lacking from tail, or few and inconspicuous	go to 4	
	Spots numerous and prominent on entire tail; often a pink to red flush on opercula and along sides, especially in riverine and spawning fish	Rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)	
4	Dark spots on body, usually surrounded by paler halos, often pale or reddish orange spots along and below lateral line; teeth on head of vomer, those on shaft strong and not deciduous; caudal peduncal relatively deep	Brown trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)	
	Dark spots on body not surrounded by paler halos: no pale or reddish spots on sides; no teeth on head of vomer, those on shaft weak and deciduous; caudal peduncle	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	
5	Caudal fin slightly forked, shortest ray more than half length of longest ray; pale leading edge of anal and pelvic fins followed by a strongly contrasting black stripe; fewer than 60 pyloric caecae	Brook trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>)	
	Caudal fin deeply forked, shortest ray less than half length of longest ray; pale leading edge of anal and pelvic fins not followed by a contrasting stripe; more than 90	Lake trout, or mackinaw (<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>)	
6	Flesh along base of teeth in lower jaw a dusky grey-black; gill rakers short and relatively few (16-26)	Chinook or king salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>)	
	Flesh along base of teeth in lower jaw not black; gill rakers long and numerous (31-43)	Sockeye salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>)	