### Atlantic Salmon

*The “leaper” known for its beauty and spirit.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Lives to be 11 years old.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Grows to be 50-100 centimetres ... or even longer.</td>
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**What it looks like**

- Changes colour depending on the water it is in.
- The young fish are silver in colour when they leave for the ocean.
- In fresh water, the adult fish becomes bronze or brown.

**Interesting facts**

- Scientists can ‘read’ the salmon’s story in its scales.
- The scales tell how old the fish is. They tell how many years it has been in fresh water... And how many years it has spent at sea.
- Good at ‘high jumps’. It can leap almost four metres in the air.
- A great traveller. It can swim across the ocean... and back again.
- Has a long history. It was protected by law in 1215. (The Magna Carta)
- People come to New Brunswick from all over the world to catch this mighty fish.

- Lives in our larger rivers – like the Restigouche, Miramichi and Saint John.

**Where it lives**

**How it raises its young**

- Returns to the river that it was born in to lay its eggs.
- In the fall, the mother digs a nest (or redd) deep in the river bottom.
- She lays at least 3 000 eggs. (700 eggs per pound of her own weight)
- Each egg is about 5-7 millimetres in size.
- The mother then buries the eggs with gravel. River water flows through the nest. This keeps the eggs clean and cool.
- The eggs hatch in spring. The young fish stays buried in gravel for up to five weeks.
- The young fish is about 2.5 centimetres long when it leaves the nest.

**Who eats whom?**

- Try some smoked salmon. Yummy!
- Large ocean fish, seals and sharks like to eat them too.