

# Hey kids! Be in the wild

## Atlantic Salmon

The "leaper" known for its beauty and spirit.



### Age

- Lives to be 11 years old.

### Size

- Grows to be 50-100 centimetres ... or even longer.

### 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.

### Where it lives

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

### 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.