Over the past few years, ADF&G has verified harvests of Atlantic salmon in Southeast Alaska salt waters. Atlantic salmon are not native to the Pacific Ocean; they are raised in areas along the West Coast outside of Alaska, and their presence in Southeast Alaska waters is biologically undesirable. Anglers have reported catching Atlantic salmon in several of Southeast Alaska's fresh water systems. Alaska sport fishing regulations do not limit harvest of Atlantic salmon, but if you catch one, you can help us determine their status by bringing the entire fish to the nearest ADF&G office for biological sampling.

### Atlantic Salmon - Identification

- **Identification Characteristics:**
  - Body tapered at head and tail
  - Black spots on gill cover distinguish from all Pacific species
  - Base of tail is slender or “pinched” in appearance
  - Black x-shaped spots on back
  - Large scales
  - Upper jaw does not extend past rear of eye
  - Fewer than 13 anal fin rays

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**Steelhead Trout**
- Small black spots
- Uniform spots on tail
- Short head
- Slender lateral profile
- 8-12 anal fin rays
- Wide caudal

**King Salmon**
- Irregular-shaped spots on back, dorsal fin, and tail
- Silver tail
- Thick caudal
- Black mouth with black gums
- 13-19 anal fin rays

**Atlantic Salmon**
- No spots on tail
- May, or may not, have spots on tail
- Spots on tail
- Caudal is slender or “pinched”
- Black x-shaped spots above lateral line, large scales
- Large black spots on gill cover
- Body tapered at head and tail
- Upper lip does not extend past rear of eye
- 8-12 anal fin rays

Photograph courtesy of Troy Tydingco.