

Sea Trout

Salmo trutta

Fish · Runs the Nith in summer · spawns Oct-Jan



Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Sea trout are brown trout that migrate to sea to feed and then return to fresh water to spawn. The sea-run fish are chrome-silver with fine black spots and a squarer tail than a salmon's, and are much heavier than their river-resident siblings. They run the Nith and its tributaries chiefly through the summer, and are most often encountered by anglers fishing at night.

BEHAVIOUR

The decision to migrate is not genetic but a response to conditions — the same parents can produce both resident brown trout and sea-going fish, with females more likely to go. At sea they feed on sandeels, sprats and crustaceans and grow rapidly. Unlike salmon, sea trout feed in fresh water and can survive spawning to return several times, so an old fish may have made the journey repeatedly.

WHEN TO SEE IT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Salmon and trout (Salmonidae)
SIZE	Typically 40-70 cm · far larger than river-resident brown trout
UK STATUS	Native; the migratory form of the brown trout, with close seasons in law

Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Natureville