

# LAKE TROUT

*Salvelinus namaycush*



Joseph R. Tomelleri



Juvenile Lake Trout

Kate Steiger-Meister, USFWS



Lake Trout Underwater

Eric Engbetson, USFWS



Swan Lake, Lake Trout

Wade Erdenberg, USFWS

## CHARACTERISTICS

### SIZE:

Can reach up to 3 ft in length. Generally adults weigh 3-4 lbs but individuals have been weighed up to 40 lbs in MT.

### COLOR:

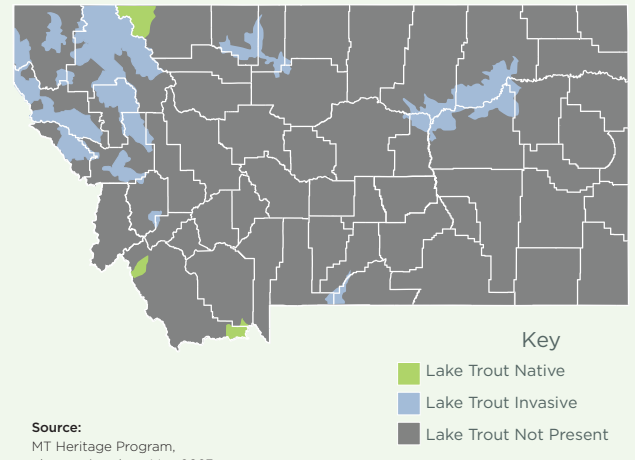
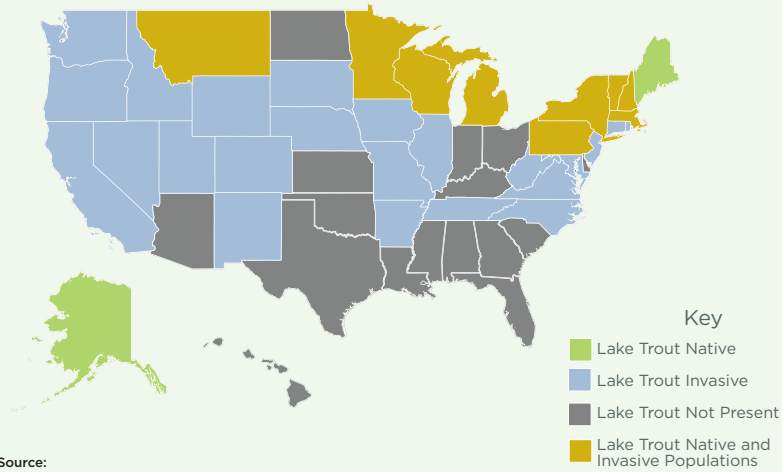
Light spots on a black to grey body and white belly. Dark markings on dorsal fin and white leading edge on lower fins.

### SHAPE:

Have both a dorsal and adipose fin, the tail fin is deeply forked with equal sized lobes.

For more detailed information on Protecting Montana Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species visit <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species>

# DISTRIBUTION



## HABITAT:

Tend to be found in lakes with depths of 50 ft or more. Prefer water temperatures between 40-55 degrees Fahrenheit, typically in more shallow waters in the colder months, moving to deeper, colder water in the summer.

## NATIVE TO:

Northern Canada and Alaska, and the New England and Great Lakes basin. In NW Montana Lake Trout are native to Waterton Lake, Glens Lake, Cosley Lake, and St. Marys Lake. In Southwest Montana Lake Trout are native to Elk Lake and Twin Lake.

## PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

Lake Trout have been introduced outside of their native range as a sport fish, which is how they continue to spread. To prevent the spread, never transfer live fish or release them in another waterbody.

## IMPACTS:

Lake Trout are predators that eat other trout species, leading to these native species' decline. Lake Trout also compete with other trout for food sources.

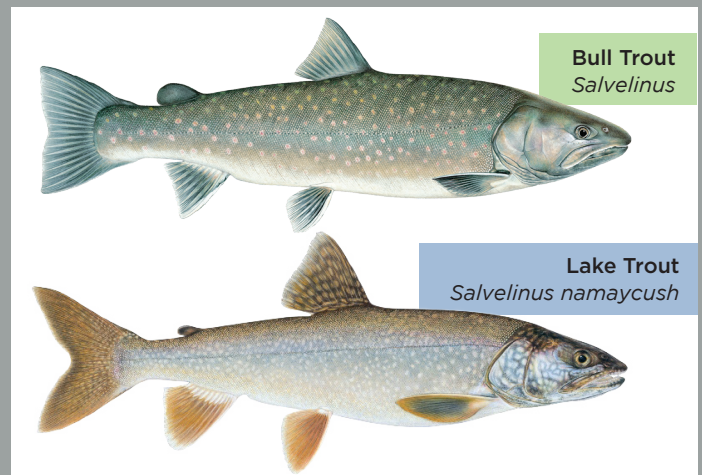
Sources:  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Montana Field Guide,  
USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species

## IN MONTANA:

Considered a species of concern within its native range in Montana; considered invasive and present in several watersheds outside this range.

## NATIVE LOOKALIKES:

Lake trout closely resemble native bull trout, which are also within the genus *Salvelinus* (char family). The **deeply forked tail** of a Lake Trout set it apart from bull trout and other native trout.



Joseph R. Tomeller

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at  
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>  
Or call the MT FWP front desk at 406-444-2440