

## Atlantic Salmon

The wild Atlantic salmon is an extraordinary and mysterious fish. It is able to survive in both fresh and salt water and navigate thousands of miles to feeding grounds in the northern oceans before returning to the place of its birth to reproduce. Its presence, or absence, is a vital indicator of the relative health of our rivers and seas. Worryingly over the past 30 years numbers of wild Atlantic salmon returning from the sea have fallen by more than half. The survival of the Atlantic salmon as a species can no longer be taken for granted.

Atlantic salmon are anadromous, migratory fish which means they spend part of their life in the ocean but they breed and lay their eggs in freshwater. At each stage of the life cycle of the salmon distinct changes take place. In fact it was not until the first part of the 19th century that it was proven that the adult Atlantic salmon was the same species as the striped parr found in the rivers.

### Salmo Salar – ‘The Leaper’

*Kingdom: Animalia*

*Phylum: Chordata*

*Class: Osteichthyes or Actinopterygii*

*Order: Salmoniformes*

*Family: Salmonidae*

*Genus: Salmo*

*Species: Salmo Salar*

