



Brook Trout

Maine's Native Fish is a Natural Choice

Brook Trout is undoubtedly, Maine's ultimate indigenous species. They are arguably the most sought out game fish by anglers, unarguably the prettiest of the trout species, and highly regarded for their flavor. The trend with pond stocking in Maine has, historically speaking, started with brook trout, shifted to rainbow trout, and, in recent years, shifted back to brook trout. The claims that rainbow trout had better survival rates than brook trout may have played a role in the shift; however, the real explanation is that fish hatcheries preferred to produce rainbow trout for economical reasons, and subsequently, the overall production of brook trout by private hatcheries in Maine declined. Availability of brook trout during the late 80's and early 90's was few to none. Recently, there has been a "renaissance" in the stocking of brook trout in private ponds in Maine. More and more people are making the switch, and finding out that brookies thrive in their ponds. Improvements in fish rearing facilities, and fish culture techniques have dramatically improved the survival of brook trout in ponds. The other factor for this brook trout "resurgence" is due to the fact that the Mountain Springs facility has steadily increased its production of brook trout, and made them available not only throughout Maine, but in other New England states as well. The focus on non-native species in recent years may also be a factor in the increasing demand for brook trout. Much scrutiny is being paid to non-native species of fish and plants, and more people are making a conscience choice to do the "native thing". Having difficulty deciding whether or not brook trout are right for your pond? Consider this, brook trout are in demand, they are healthy, hearty species, and they're Maine's native fish, making them a safe and natural choice.