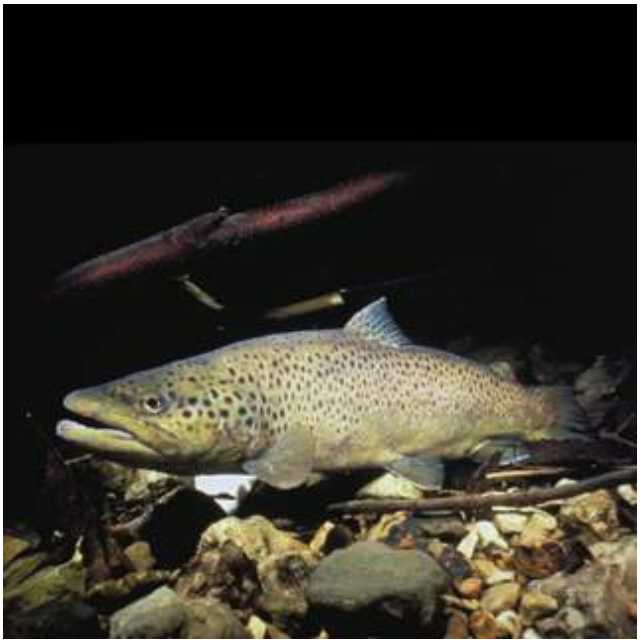

brown trout

Salmo trutta

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Salmoniformes
Family:	Salmonidae

Features

The brown trout is generally brown, shading to green and yellow. It has orange or rusty spots on the sides that often are bordered by a lighter halo. Its tail fin is not forked. Like other trout, it has tiny scales and an adipose (fat) fin. The inside of the mouth is white. It may exceed forty pounds in weight, but fish over three pounds are considered trophy-sized.

Natural History

The brown trout lives in the coldwater, spring-fed streams of northeast Iowa. Hatchery reared fish are released as fingerlings (2 1/2 inches) or catchable-sized (10 inches). This fish feeds from dusk to morning. It eats whatever is available, including fish. Brown trout spawn during October and November. The female lies on her side and fans a saucer-shaped nest in gravel. Up to two males move alongside the female and they deposit eggs and sperm. The female deposits 200 to 800 or more eggs, depending on her size. She then beats the bottom with her tail fin to cover the eggs with gravel. Eggs hatch in late winter.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

common; exotic

Iowa Range

northeast Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.