CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Atlantic salmon

Salmo salar

Atlantic salmon breaks the rule everyone learns from Pacific salmon: it does not have to die after spawning. A spent fish, called a kelt, can drop back to sea, feed, recondition and return to spawn a…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Salmonidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers and coastal North Atlantic Ocean
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern (global), but many wild populations are Vulnerable or Endangered locally
Lifespan: 3-8 years
Weight: 3.5–12 kg (7.7–26 lbs), occasionally up to 24 kg (53 lbs)
Scientific name: Salmo salar

Did you know?

- Atlantic salmon undergo dramatic physical changes, called smoltification, to adapt from freshwater to saltwater environments.
- An Atlantic salmon can leap over 3 m to clear a waterfall, launching from the base of the plunge pool where upwelling water gives it extra lift. Farm…

What I learned

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