

Chapter 5 – Brook Trout may be a surprise.

Brook Trout are one of those special trout you find in the cleanest water associated with some of the greatest areas of North America. The Brook is a northeastern fish that had an original range into Georgia and as far west as eastern Iowa. The species has always been the most abundant coldwater game fish in the northeastern states. It goes by many names and may be an Eastern Brook Trout, Speckled Trout, or Coastal Trout. In Lake Superior it is sometimes called a Char. A true char, the Brook is easily caught and there numbers have been reduced in some areas by over-fishing. There is still excellent Brook Trout fishing in Maine and all of eastern Canada. Brook were introduced in the western United States from 1915 to 1950 and now range from Alaska to Arizona in the west.



This is the largest Brook I have caught, and was taken from Henry's Lake, Idaho.

The largest Brook Trout I have every caught was taken from Henry's Lake in Idaho and I was a little embarrassed about the way it happened. I was fishing with good friends and my mother who was in her late 80's. She was not having a good day and had not had a hit. I was doing well and had caught several nice Cutthroat. I talked her in the switching rods and gave her my rod and fly that had caught four fish in a relatively short time. I took her rod and quickly switched flies to a #16 will bug that was working on the other rod. Her rod was a little different. She had sinking line and I was fishing a line that was very slow floating and kept the fly in the top 2-3 feet of water. Her slow sink line was getting the fly in 4-6 feet of water and sometimes a little deeper. I had no sooner switched flies and made one case when I got a hard hit. It was a good fish and took several minutes to land. It was a Brook that actually ran off line into my backing. That has only happened one other time and that was in the same lake several years ago. I turned to my good friend Mike Brickner who was tubing nearby and said that I couldn't show this one to Mom. So he took a picture and I quickly slipped it back into the water. Catching a Brook Trout that weighted 5-pounds will probably be the best one of a lifetime, and I will never forget.

I guess that I am partial to Brook Trout because they are one of the first trout that I ever caught. When I was 10 or 12 years old I was introduced to Brook Trout in Colorado, they were fun to catch, and I marveled at such a pretty fish. I do not go out of my way to catch Brook Trout any more, but when I stumble on a beaver pond I spend as much time as I can to see if the Brookies are hitting. If they are there they will usually be biting.

Brook Trout are one of the best fish to take a dry fly of all of the trout. I have caught them on nymphs, but they really do like dry flies. I #12-16 Adams has always been one of my favorites, and if the fly should get wet and sink keep fishing. There are many times that I have caught Brook retrieving an Adams below the surface in a beaver pond. I have also had that work in small streams. I guess the bottom line is that Brook are not all that hard to fool. It is nice to know that there are always some fish that are ready to be caught. When you find Brook Trout, just enjoy the time!

If you want to learn more about Brook Trout check out the chapter on Brook Trout in the book or e-book **Trout Adventures – North America**. The book is being published by Wilderness Adventures Press sometime in 2012. Their e-mail is www.wildadvpress.com and they feature books on fly fishing.