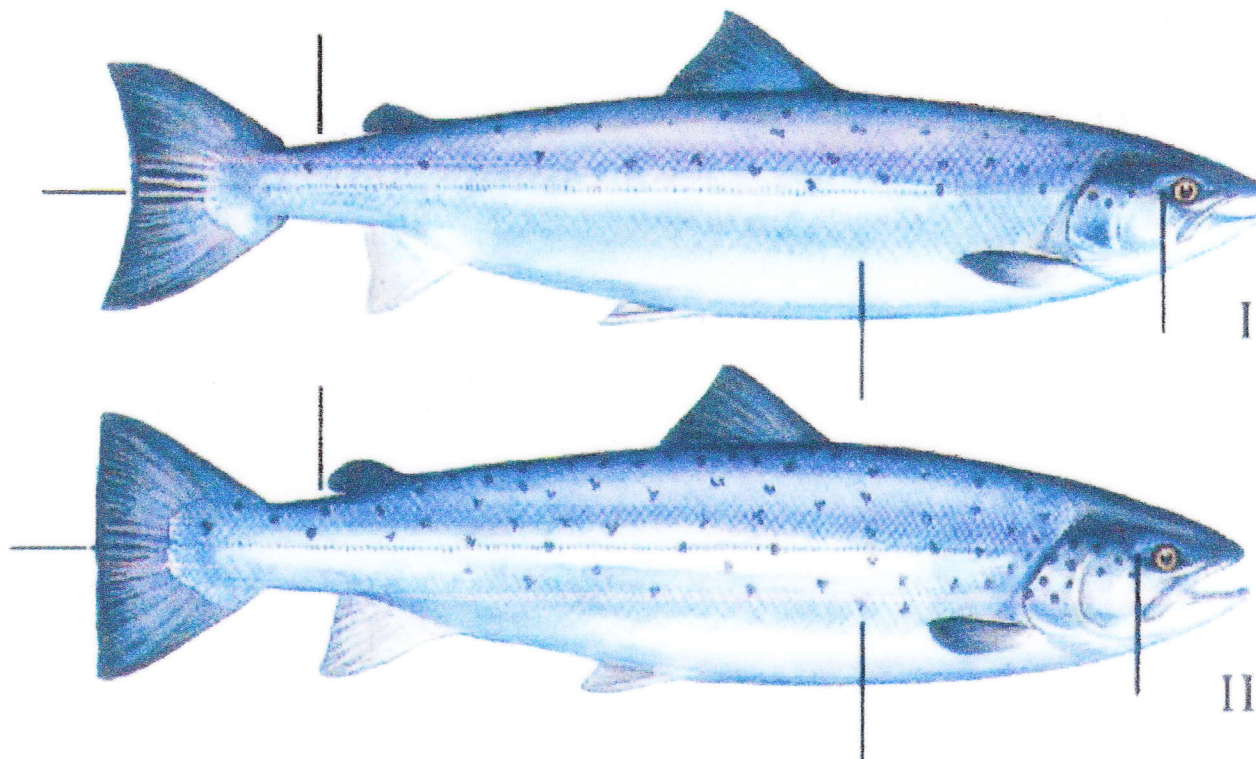


The difference between salmon and sea trout

Salmon
(I) can be



distinguished from large sea trout (II) by a more streamlined shape, concave tail, slimmer tail wrist, upper jaw reaching no further than rear of the eye, few if any black spots below lateral line, 10-15 (usually 11-13) scales counted obliquely forward from adipose fin to lateral line - trout have 13-16.

	Salmon	Sea Trout
General appearance	Slender and streamlined	More round and thickset
Head	Pointed	More Round
Position of the Eye	Maxilla (bony plate usually alongside mouth) does not extend beyond rear of eye	Maxilla extends beyond eye
Colour	Relatively few spots	Often heavily spotted
Scale count (number from adipose fin to lateral line)	10-13	13-16
Fork of tail	Usually forked	Usually square or convex
Wrist of tail	Slender	Broader
Handling	Easy to pick up by tail	Tail slips through hand

The differences between salmon parr, salmon smolts and young trout

Salmon parr (I) can normally be distinguished from young brown/sea trout (II) by the more streamlined shape, deeply forked tail, longer pectoral fin, lack of orange on adipose fin, smaller mouth, sharper snout, only 1-4 spots on gill cover (often one large spot), well defined parr marks.

Salmon Smolts

When the salmon parr begin to migrate to the sea, usually in March, April and May, they gradually become more elongated and the fins darken. A layer of guanine crystals is laid down in the skin, rendering the body more silvery in colour and obscuring the spots and finger-marks, except on the gill-covers. They then become Smolts.