



60. BROOK TROUT / BACHSAIBLING (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

IDENTIFICATION: Brook trout (brookies) are considered to be one of the most beautiful game fish of Germany. They are distinguished by red spots with blue aureoles on the sides, dark wavy lines on the back and dorsal fin, pink or reddish lower fins edged with a white and black stripe on the front edge, and teeth on the roof of the mouth. Males at spawning time often have orange on the belly and black on the lower sides. Some species are brilliantly colored with cadmium-colored sides and belly. The caudal fin is lightly forked or square.

HABITAT: The brook trout is native to the eastern North American continent from Georgia to the Arctic Circle. It has been introduced to the remainder of the United States, Canada, South America, and Europe. Brook trout require cold water with high oxygen content: They need temperatures below 20 °C, which is less than for other trout. They inhabit the upper regions of cold, fast flowing waters and are found as far upstream as the source.

FOOD: Insects, crustaceans, mollusks, worms, and fish. They occasionally forage for leeches, shrews, and other mammals. They often show a preference for insects (for example, stone flies, mayflies, caddis flies, and such terrestrials as ants, beetles, grasshoppers).

SPAWNING: October to March. Like salmon they construct a gravelly redd. Their stream-spawning habitat requirements are more specific than salmon's in that they prefer cold spring-fed waters and will enter very small oks. Size generally determines egg production: a female will develop about 1,000 eggs per pound of body weight.