

Brown Trout Transcript

Katrina, I kept getting dressed up all nice and fancy for this brown trout episode, and Katrina kept putting it off. Man, it's been amazing, like the third or fourth time I've gotten my brown trout outfit on. I got my brown trout hat, my brown trout socks. I'm wearing brown trout boxer shorts. Got a brown trout shirt on. I'm even wearing brown pants, in case they know the Spanish Armada shows up outside my window.

What are your socks there? Can we see it?

Oh, wow. They're like, spotted.

Yeah, there you go.

Wow. Where'd you get those?

Christmas about 10 years ago? And if you'll see, there are holes all over the bottom, I wore them a lot but refuse to throw them out. Okay, I got a brown belt on the buckle. It's an unspecified trout, but I'll say brown trout. Hang on.

We don't need to see your boxers

You've worn this the last like, two times I've canceled this?

Yes, and then I have to, like, well, I don't want to get, like, when I go out and work on my trailer or something. I don't want to get it dirty, so then I have to get completely changed.

Anyhow, I'm so sorry I still haven't prepped any more than before.

[laughs]

Okay, well, we'll do it anyways. Brown Trout incoming. That's the fish this week.

Is this the fish that you have the most outfit pieces for I'm kind of surprised. I thought you'd have like some I don't know...a different fish.

It probably is, and I think that's by virtue of the brown trout is so popular as a sport fish, and there's just tons of artists out there trying to make things and they know it will sell too. So I think it's both, it is a very pretty fish, so it's inspires artists. It's a muse in a sense. And then, economically speaking, if you're an artist and you're trying to make something that's going to sell, you make brown trout stuff, because people will buy it because it is pretty. And it's also a status symbol. You know, the big brown trout is definitely a status symbol among anglers in the world. Well,

I wish we were doing video. Y'all should see Guy's outfit. It's very, very, I don't know, enthusiastic, okay, well, should we start?

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Sure.

Okay, hey to all you fish enthusiasts out there. Whether you're an avid angler or just curious about fish, we'd like to welcome you to fish of the week, your audio almanac with all the fish Monday, July 15, 2024 and we're on a week by week tour of fish across the country with guests from all walks of life. I'm Katrina Liebich with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska,

and I'm Guy Euro all decked out in my brown trout regalia, getting ready to talk about old *Salmo Trutta* with you.

Yeah, and it's just Guy and I for this one, and we do like to have some fun when it's just the two of us. So hopefully you enjoy.

I'm also drinking coffee, which is brown.

Okay, mine's very light brown, not quite brown trout colored. Should I tell my poop story?

Yeah, sure. Jump right in.

Okay. So when I was working out in Maine on Atlantic salmon, we were at the stream. It was Sedgeunkedunk Stream, and there's going to be this new rack ramp built to help...

Sedgeunkedunk?.

Yeah, Seg-un-ee-dunk. That's the real name

Okay, Sedgeunkedunk. Okay, sorry...

It's a beautiful stream. Okay, so there was going to be this rack ramp folks were building to help native fish like Atlantic salmon and alewives get over this dam. Super cool project. We were checking things out, and we found this human turd just very precariously perched on a rock in the middle of this beautiful creek. It looked like it had taken some skill for the placements, and someone in our crew called it out as a brown trout aren't native there. So unfortunately, while I do like brown trout, I like all fish, I have a hard time hearing that word now without immediately thinking of that turd on that rock,

Was that, do you think just someone like, "Oh, I bet you I could, I could poop there." Do you think that was more of a protest against fish passage in general?

I think it was just someone enjoying the creek and thought they could poop there. I don't think it was a well known fish passage, but I was super impressed. Speaking of Maine, brown trout looks, surprisingly to me, kind of like an Atlantic salmon that's in spawning coloration. So what do you think of that?

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Well, I think it shouldn't be surprising, because they're in the both in the same genus, *Salmo*, which is sort of the Eurasian trout lineage, that genus, and it's within the same sub family as the North American trout and salmon that would be sub family Salmoninae within family Salmonidae, which also includes whitefishes and graylings and taiman and stuff like that. Originally, a lot of the other fish, like *Onchorynchus*, was included within *Salmo* before being busted out. But all of the *Salmo* are basically native to Europe, Asia, a little bit of the north part of Africa that borders on the Mediterranean Sea there, with the exception of the Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon is the only one that's actually native also to North America. Yeah, and yeah, they do look very similar.

They do.

Um, so we do like to talk about what the fish looks like at the beginning of each episode. Like, you know, people are pretty familiar with this fish, I think. But guy, what really stands out to you feature wise about this fish? Like, what's the first thing you notice?

They're a gorgeous fish at any size. And I think the thing that I noticed first is probably going to be color especially, you know, when I'm fishing for them, you can't always pick out the patterns and everything, but the buttery golden color that a good, nice colored up brown trout has really sticks out. How about how about you Katrina?

For me, it's the spots. So they've got these really cool light rings around the spots, which is kind of different from what you might see with a rainbow trout or a Pacific salmon, which have dark spots but not rings around them, and those are in that different genus, *Onchorynchus*. So spots are also different than like a Dolly Varden or a lake trout or brook trout, which have light spots, and they're in the *Salvelinus* genus. So those really stand out to me. They're really pretty

The only thing that I think you could potentially confuse them with is a brook trout, not the fish itself, but the spotting, because they have red spots. Now, brook trout will also have red spots, sometimes with a blue halo around them. Brown trout, the spots are oftentimes kind of a wonky shape. They're not necessarily going to be circular, and they have that mix of black spots. It's primarily going to be black spots, but occasionally red spots. There's actually some, I don't know if it's a subspecies or just a particular form over in Italy that has become very famous on Instagram lately, and I definitely over and catch one of those. Just basically, like, almost all, some will have almost all red spots. Some of them are, like, really big, like, quarter to half dollar size, giant, like, circular red spots. Absolutely brilliant fish.

Wow. Yeah, the spots on the ones I've seen are small, ish. They're big for trout spots. Normally, we're talking, wow, what's a good quarter inch?

Yeah, yeah. Quarter inch. So big, big for trout spots and then, but also talking about the forms of this fish, when they get big, one thing that really sticks out, and you'll, you'll see this. We were talking about the art earlier. Everyone loves to draw the big males, the big buck brown trout. And yeah, they get this kype, which is a hook jaw on the lower jaw. And so that just really stands out whenever you see a fish with a big kype like that. You know that you've caught a big male.

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That's how I always picture brown trout is with that type. I think that's the imagery you see the most of it is on the it is on the bottom with salmon. You've got it on the top with char. It's on the bottom as well. But yeah, those types are super cool. Yeah.

You know, people are always going to show like the 10-12, point buck, yeah. And so that's what you get used to seeing. When you see things in magazines or you see artwork being done. Of course, they don't all look like that. There's, there's plenty of spikes out there, the spike equivalent in the brown trout world, which is what like a seven, eight inch fish?

I caught wood in Lake Ontario, and that thing looked like a football. So the shape can be a little bit different as well, just fat. It was just like football shaped and big and not quite as buttery as you described.

Otherwise, they're not all buttery. I think that's the pretty bunch you can see here on my hat. Some Chattahoochee butter right there. But they can have lots of different forms. Silvery ones are common. Then you start to have to look at the spots to tell what you got. Those ones are more easily confused for, like a rainbow trout. There are silvery ones that can come from the ocean or can come from like there are sea run forms of brown trout,

Yeah, sea trout over in your....in fact, it's kind of interesting. So the brown trout was the first trout described by Linnaeus. It was the 10th Systema Naturae, volume 10. So that's when you started doing animals, and this was the first trout in there. In fact, there's tons of old writings about the brown trout, just because there's a lot of preserved literature from Europe going back into Renaissance, Middle Ages. So Isaac Walton, you know, he wrote the complete angler. He's got a whole section there about trout. One of the first people to write about fly fishing was, actually, I don't know if she was a nun at the time, that she wrote it. But Dame Juliana Berners, she's got a whole treatise on fly fishing. I think it's the first piece of literature on fly fishing. And so when she's writing about trout, they're always talking about brown trout, even though it's not specified that is the trout that they're always talking about over there. But Systema Naturae, Linnaeus, he described different forms, and now it's not really the same as subspecies like we like to think about them today, even though people still sometimes write the form as though it's like a sub specific epithet. But he's broke them out as the sea trout, the lake trout, not to be confused with the lake trout, lake trout, our lake trout, and then the River Trout, because they did operate in these different habitats, and did kind of get different forms based on these different habitats. But I don't think it's really accepted that those are different genetic lineages. It's more just adaptation to these different habitats.

Sea trout. And we see that with rainbow trout as well, with the steelhead, these different variations where they're utilizing different habitats, like that.

Yeah.

I was kind of curious. I came across the story of how they came to the US. Are you familiar with that? Because it's really kind of impressive, how long ago it was and how they shipped fish over.

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I'm vaguely familiar.

Yeah. So I guess they came to Michigan via Germany in the 1880s and it's not like they could, like, FedEx them over here at that time, but they literally shipped them on a steamship. There was a fish biologist from New York and a German fish culturalist, and they made an agreement to trade whitefish eggs for 80,000 brown trout eggs. And I just can't imagine, like, the logistics back in the 1800s of doing that, but that's how they first made their way to the United States, which I thought was really neat.

Yeah, and it was within like months of each other. So you kind of had this population coming out of New York and this population coming out of Michigan, and the guy in New York that you mentioned, his name is actually Seth Green, not Scott Evil. Seth Green, okay. Robot Chicken, Chris Griffin. Seth Green. Seth Green, the father of American pisciculture, the father of American aquaculture. People like to call him. He was a prominent player in the early days of, you know, the development of American Fisheries.

You should probably define pisciculture.

Oh yeah, pisciculture. So aquaculture is, it's water farming, pisciculture is a subset that's specifically raising fish, Pisces, you know, the fish. And so it's the same root pisciculture. There's a C, there's a C in there. Yeah,

Yeah, yeah. Hard to hear it.

Yeah. Piscine.

Piscivore.

There you go. More words with the roots, yeah. No, exactly,

Yeah. So, I mean, brown trout have been in the US for a long time, so they're kind of like a naturalized fish that people are very familiar with some people, you know, really, really like them. Love fishing for them. I've definitely fished for them. And then, you know, we've even been hearing on this podcast from our guests how brown trout are interacting with native trout. So there's a bit of a mixed bag in terms of how people feel about these.

Yeah, you mentioned they brought over these eggs, and they actually brought them over from these different strains that we were talking about. And so now the fish that we see in the US, they just mix them all together, which in some ways isn't bad if you're trying to produce a fish that's healthy and that can occupy lots of different environments and be stocked into lots of different places. And the great trout biologist Robert Bankey, Bob Bankey, he described what's now being stocked in America as the "American generic brown trout" is what they're calling it. So obviously brown trout, it's *Salmo Trutta*, but it is. It's not this particular lake form, because they brought some over from Germany. Those were those first. Then they brought some over from Scotland, shortly after. Gradually, yet, all these different genetic strains get brought together. You think about it. You know, I got this dog downstairs, the most

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annoying dog, but she's a mutt, as opposed to all the like, purebred labs that we've had, and she is the healthiest dog, yep, just because she's got all this mixed genetics in her. So, yeah, there is something to that.

And they're doing very well across the US. I mean, I've fished for them in Michigan streams. I'm sure. Where have you caught them?

I've caught them everywhere. And it frustrates me a lot of the time. There are numerous cases that come to mind. I was trying to catch my I think it was a Bonneville cutthroat trout for the Utah trout slam, and I went back. I tore I knocked the rudder board off the side of my element, trying to go on this real rough Forest Service road to try and get back into where these cutthroats should be. And then nothing but brown trout.

Oh, man, okay.

I'm going, I was going up into the High Sierras looking for Golden trout. And I get into these streams. Nothing but yeah, brown trout. Yeah, just, just brown trout. I was going for Apache trout. I hiked about two miles in brown trout.

Brown Trout, nice.

And the thing is, when you find the stream that's got, it's basically, I mean, brown trout and rainbow trout can sometimes kind of coexist and where you catch both of them, but a lot of the times, particularly if you're looking for a native trout, brown trout, they're gonna out compete them, and as So, one thing worth noting is of the trout that we have and we're familiar with kind of your cuts, Brooks, rainbows, browns, brown trout thrive in the warmest water temperatures. So you think, as water start to get warmer, the percentage of optimal habitat for them, relative to other native trout species, is going to continue to expand, and so they're going to continue to do well here in the US, I was trying to catch Rio Grande cutthroat town. That's another one.

Brown trout?

Granted on back to back cast I caught...what was it? It was like a 17 in and 23 inch brown trout. Some back to back. I think I caught 41 inches of brown trout on back to back cast, which was pretty cool. I frustrated because it's not what I was targeting.

Like in terms of targeting brown trout when I was fishing, I'm always like targeting them tight to the bank, looking for some overhanging cover, a little more nocturnal. You're thinking about fish behavior and where they're going to be. Brown Trout and other trout are going and other trout are going to be probably hiding behind maybe a current break, waiting for stuff to drift by. I mean, they're all kind of looking for maybe a specific catch when it's happening. But,

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yeah, I think they're more similar to the other trout than they are different if you're in a stream. I'm much more used to fishing them in flowing water than I am in still water. So this is really only applies to flowing water. Their whole goal is to...

They're going to optimize their energy use.

There's not a ton of food. And you're having to stay in the water. So you're gonna look for rocks. Look for basically places where the water is slow, but it's near fast water that's bringing a lot of food by whether that food is insects, whether that food is other fish. Because one thing that is interesting about brown trout is and sort of similar to like steelhead, where some from a single brood will decide to go to the ocean, some will stay in the stream, some from a single brood of brown trout, some will just at some point, they hit a tipping point, they start feeding on fish, and those are the ones that get really big, but some of their siblings will just continue to feed on bugs their entire life and never get as big. And my experience has been you find them in the places where you find trout, and not that. If they're mixed in with rainbow trout, you'll find the rainbow trout somewhere else and the brown trout somewhere else. The big trout occupy the prime habitat, whether it's a brown or a rainbow,

And prime is where they're going to be optimizing their energy and getting the best food.

Exactly, exactly. And also, considering there are predators out there, a lot of you do have Ospreys. You do have eagles. So deeper holes where it's harder for a bird to get down an undercut bank, like you mentioned Katrina, where a bird's not gonna be able to swoop down. And then you do have things we mentioned, fish eaters. There are also, you know, mouse eaters being by that over hanging bank if a mouse falls in. And there are people who night mousing for big brown trout is a very particular for anglers. And that is a thing, and it's something that I haven't done. I do know people who have done it. I know there's people who go down specifically to New Zealand to do that, where you basically have a mouse pattern, you'll strip it, and you're just, you're basically fishing by ear trying to listen for a big pop and so I know people have done that, and that's, yeah, sounds quite fun.

It does sound fun. I think I mentioned this on a previous episode, but we got a rainbow trout up here with one of our sampling crews, and it had a bunch of shrews. And it like a whole family of shrews had fallen in, and that thing, like, took them down.

I do think the biggest brown trout ever caught did come from New Zealand, obviously not native there. They were introduced there because there's good habitat for them, along with rainbows.

How big was that?

Like 44 pounds? I don't know how it's pretty big, many inches, but quite large. 44 is fat. Big fish

Sounds like a fatty

Yeah.

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Awesome.

It's time for a minute with Maria. I'm Maria Dosal, and today I'm calling in from Agdaagux lands in the Alaska Peninsula, my homelands where the Unanga̅ people are from. So everyone, I really want to give a huge prop to guy who's wearing his brown trout regalia, as he calls it. And I think it really sparks a bigger conversation to me, as an indigenous person, about wearing and celebrating regalia in general. So with that being said, the fish can be made into indigenous art, and I've seen it made into some really beautiful fish leather jewelry products that people have worn and used for different materials and different tools, such as pouches. They can be used for so many things. You can respect the whole fish by using and learning these techniques and seeking out that ancestral indigenous knowledge about how to process skins and use them for art. So if you can, do that, if not, you can also just support your local Indigenous artists who are working with fish as art and I king fish leather jewelry or making backbone beads. There's so many different uses, so it just made me think of that when I was listening in. So thank you so much. Qa̅asakuq, we'll see you next time on minute with Maria.

What have you heard from folks, kind of a range of opinions about this fish, either end of the spectrum on likability, and then people hate, I mean, we talk in like a common carp kind of situation here, the dog of fish like we talked about earlier this year, or a little bit less so,

I think less so because....so there are the people who are the native fish enthusiasts like myself. They basically, in every case, prefer native fish. And as I've mentioned, I've on numerous occasions, been frustrated catching a brown trout. But unlike common carp, brown trout have a general appeal to the public that I think people need to consider, and people do consider brown trout bring in money, and they bring people to fish. A lot of times, people's first positive interactions with fish, if it's not culinary, is going to be through angling and through sport fishing, as we mentioned, brown trout are gorgeous fish. It's, there's a little bit of a status to, you know, fishing for things like brown trout, and so it definitely helps get people hooked. Dumb play on words there, but it brings fuel in. And so people want to fish for this fish. They will because they want to fish for this fish, regardless of whether they care about the native minnows or not. They want to protect habitat that this fish needs, but that these other fish also need. They are buying fishing equipment, which there's excise taxes on this, and they're buying licenses so that stuff, some of it comes back in the form of like Dingle Johnson money, that's specific for sport fish restoration. But again, if you're restoring habitat for sport fish, you are restoring some habitat for native fish as well.

Yep. And we've talked about gateway fish before, so fish that get people interested in fishing. We've talked about bluegill, and it does seem like once you get hooked, then you start to maybe understand that there's other species of trout out there that are really cool, like some of the native Western trout that we've talked about, brook trout, yeah, cutthroats, all that stuff. So I think, I think you're right in that respect, that it is there are some different positives in terms of attracting people to the sport of fishing. Yeah, this fish does a good job of that, yeah. And

so you brought up the common carp, which is a good and I'd suggest people go listen to that episode, because we do bring up these parallels with the brown trout there. They have very similar histories in North America. They're brought over around the same time.

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They're rich champion history, yeah, rich history here, yeah, yeah.

They're popular sport and food fish here. And then common carp fell out of favor. Brown Trout still quite popular. They don't really bring in the same sort of benefit to for conservation or for the angling world, like brown trout do, yeah?

So yeah, all the things that we think about in terms of conservation that we've talked about on the show in the past, I mean, you're talking fish passage. We're talking leaving riparian buffers intact. So fish have those undercut banks and that those trees coming in. I think there's definitely something to be said there in terms of thinking about what fish need. And brown trout can be kind of a proxy for other fish as well that might also need that.

Yeah. But I still envision a world that one day we get to the point where we're able to, well,

you can go catch all these fish you wanna. You can go catch all the fish you wanted to catch. Yeah,

People will appreciate the brook trout out east and there won't be this need for constant stocking of fish, or if there is stocking it's stocking of native fish, yep. For what it's worth, both carp and brown trout are on the IUCN's list of the top 100 invasive species. Not, not just a fish, just top 100 invasive species in the world.

What place do they hold?

Yeah, carp's 30 and brown trout is 82 okay. Rainbow Trout, 63 largemouth bass, 54 there's even a Roman historian or a writer "alien." I don't think it's pronounced alien like but that's how I'm gonna say it. A, E, L, I, A, N, and he wrote about animals and natural history, and he wrote about the fish with the speckled skins, even as early as 200AD

Wow.

So. That's a real early reference to brown trout. So it's definitely a long and rich history over there.

An alien account. That's cool.

You know, I poo poo. I've spent time, you know, poo pooing the brown. haha poo poo. Hey, going back to your story, trout is a... it wasn't intentional, but brown trout is definitely a euphemism that I've heard a lot, especially in urban environments, to refer to turds floating in the water. So what have you heard?

Tell me your specifics.

Specifically, you know, I've heard of things, you know, like in Georgia, if there's a turd in the water, that's called an Atlanta brown trout. That's actually kind of funny, because talking about Atlanta brown trout, there are brown trout in Atlanta, surprisingly, and that's a result of you have like varieties both,

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hopefully more of just the actual trout variety, but yeah, occasionally some some of the others. But no, there's actually a really nice brown trout fishery in Atlanta, Lake Lanier. And this actually throws another wrinkle into, you know, we're talking about, well, native fish versus sport fish in the overlap and what's good, what's not, as we've kind of covered, there's a big gray zone. And to add to that, our instances like Atlanta, where you have this hypolimnetic release. This is this bottom of the reservoir release of water. As you know, water stratifies by density, which is by temperature, and so you have this cold water at the bottom of this reservoir. And the reservoir is there to have water for the city of Atlanta. So it's there for other purposes. But when this water comes out, it's really cold and it's significant. Portion of the native fish can't live in that stretch of river that until it warms up again further down. And so you've got this spot that's very different from what it would naturally be. And so they've stocked fish in that I think they actively stock rainbow trout, because the rainbow trout can't reproduce, but it's enough that brown trout naturally reproducing this stretch of river, and because it's next to such a large urban area, it's one of the most heavily used in terms of angler days on a stretch of river.

That's a great example of like, a good opportunity in terms of if it's not really a usable area, because we've altered the water temperature, and they're able to stock a fish where people can actually have an opportunity. To fish. I mean, land is a pretty big metropolis in terms of numbers of people, and I can imagine that kind of any fishing spot you'd want to be able to support a lot of anglers getting there. That's cool,

yeah, and that's a it's a great way to get urban people into because in general, I think rural people, per capita are more likely to be into sports like fishing, like hunting, and people raised in an urban environment are less likely. And so having this fishery resource, not just a fishery, this is like a high class fishery, not just in the sense of like, oh, brown trout or high class, but like, this is a really solid fishery. People pull out, you know, fish in the 12 pound plus. People pull out big, 20 inch fish occasionally. So it's a really good fishery down there, and it's really close to a major urban center. And so it's a great opportunity to try and get people who otherwise might not be into fishing, not just into fishing for a local pond, but really into I particularly think that fly fishing is at an Echelon above any other forms of fishing. I know some people do, but to get people into this other form of different technique is it's kind of cool. I think it's really cool. And then I'll get back to the poo pooing of the brown trout, my buddy. He was from Atlanta, and his favorite fish. He told me, one time we were driving back from I think it was like a kid's fishing day or something, he told me his favorite fish was the brown trout. And I laid into him for like several minutes, and it was in good fun, but that's a ridiculous fish to be your favorite fish,

Did you convert them?

I'll say this much that I talked to him the other day. He's about to go down into the Grand Canyon, where actually there is a mandatory kill order on a brown trout in the Grand Canyon, or to try to protect things like your humpback chub and your suckers and native fish down there. And he the comment he made to me before going down there, because we're talking about fishing in my time down in Arizona. He's like, Why do we feel the need to put trout in the Colorado River, in Grand Canyon? There's so many other places that you can put trout, that have trout, you're going to be everywhere fish and I'm I'm like, Yeah, and he's a good guy. I just, I thought it's funny that his favorite fish was the brown trout.

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Shout out to that guy, whatever your name is, yeah,

yeah, Elijah. I have been fortunate enough to have opportunities to fish for this fish in its native range. And you know, where is that? Um, where'd you go? I did some coursework when I was an undergrad over in England, and afterwards, I went over with my dad to Scandinavia. I met him in Copenhagen, and then we just drove up Norway and down Finland, and just all throughout there, I'm gonna put on my Norway hang on hat switch time. Yep,

Guy switching his hats.

It says G sport. I think it's a, it's kind of like a sporting goods store thing over there. We needed help, I don't speak Norwegian, getting the licenses. We went up to Finnmark, which is like this northernmost province in Norway, and there is this girl over there working at the place, and we asked, because he needed a license to fish in Norway, and then you need a special license of fish in Finnmark. And we asked, what's that about? You? Like, because we has more fish, it's like, oh, that's what I wanted to hear. I mean, she helped me get a fishing license because I don't speak Norwegian. I needed help. We did a lot of good fishing over there. Caught lots of brown trout. I think the highest latitude fish I've ever caught is, in fact, a brown trout. We're up in up in Finnmark, and then there's a spot nordcap, which is like the highest the road will go. And in fact, you have to take they have a tunnel that goes under the ocean. And I guess so you're going along, and you start to get out to these islands, not like Svalbard type islands, but these kind of small islands off the northern coast of Norway. And so you got these tunnels. And it gets real cold when you go under the tunnels, as you might expect, but it's you can feel it. So on one of these little islands that the road kind of went to, there was some ponds. And so I did some fishing. And what was interesting too was actually had a really green sheen to the fish, huh? I assume native fish. And I caught an arctic char while I was out there, too. And one of the rivers, not in that little pond up there, but yeah, so that was cool. And then, in fact, on the way down, until I said, we kind of did this loop we were talking about, you know, getting kids into fishing. One of the greatest public fishing areas I have ever seen was in Finland. And what was so nice about it. It was well organized, and it kind of had something for everybody. They had spots for tent camping. They had spots for RV camping. They had a little like shower booth area. Then they had, like a central lodge where you could buy food and snack, buy fishing, license, rent boats. And then right next to the camp, they had a spot where they stock rainbow trout, basically like a put them in, putting them out, putting cake, real easy for the kids, right next to the campground. They have a river running through that, and they have a certain stretch blocked off for fly fishing only, okay, bait, no, just strictly artificial, single hook. Then they have other spots in the river where my dad actually caught like a 23 inch brown trout, which is pretty nice over there. And then they got these series of ponds caught my 1,000th fish ever over there. It was a common base, wow. Yeah, 1,000th individual. 1,000th individual since I had started recording in high school.

That's Wow. I don't know how many fish I've got even close. That's cool, brown trotting

their native habitat. Very much worth the trip. And I want to get over to Europe and do more like I say, get down to Italy. I want to see those. Yeah, interesting. Yeah. Go look those up. Those are gorgeous

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fish. But then also, you know, there's other over here. We talk about all these different species and subspecies within *Oncorhynchus*, it's similar over there. There's like and it depends on what people are actually defining the species, but there's about 50 species of *Salmo*, some of which are restricted, like what we have with our cutthroat subspecies probably could be considered their own species. A lot of them are subspecies right now, if

we let that natural variability happen, if you did just let them do their own thing, you would see some really cool variability. Fish have a natural variability. And anywhere you go, you're gonna have, like, a really cool variety of fish, like you mentioned this place that you were at, where you've got different varieties different fishing techniques you can use. So

I'm only caught brown trout and Atlantic salmon. I want to catch. I want to go over there. I want to catch the marble trout. I want to catch the old red trout. I want to go check out these different sub species of brown trout that are just so gorgeous. So one of these times I got to get over to Europe, got to go southern Mediterranean, get into the Balkans. One thing that we didn't mention that's kind of cool, may as well throw it out there. Tiger trout. Tell me about them. They're a hybrid, Inter, generic hybrid between brook trout and brown trout. So they can actually hybridize and create, I'm pretty sure, for the most part, sterile, like an account of them not being sterile. Yeah. And they get some very beautiful kind of marbling patterning. So, you know, like on the backs of brook trout, where you get those vermiculations, yep, it's kind of like that, but over the entire body, but still kind of golden, like a brown trout. And so I know some places intentionally will hybridize those and stock those. And those are really cool. Always fun to. And there's occasionally, up in Michigan, I'll hear because you have wild reproducing populations of both Brown and brook trout that overlap. And occasionally you'll get a natural, quote, unquote natural, a non stock Tiger trout,

yeah. What about a brown bow?

I've net. I don't think that that's possible. Is it possible?

I read that it's been not in nature. It hasn't happened naturally, but I think it's been done before. I was just looking enough to see if I could find a picture and actually a brown bow, like a bow someone would wear came up with my first search there. So I had to modify a little bit. Oh, here it is. Rainbow and brown trout do not interbreed in the wild. Although brown bows have been produced on fish farms.

I've never, I've never seen or heard of a brown bow. That's interesting, though. Look up soft mouth trout.

We could go years and years with this podcast just covering all the trout.

Got a funny That's

odd. His mouth looks really strange. It doesn't look like a trout mouth at all.

Brown Trout Transcript

Look now, look. Okay. Now, look up a Lenok L, E, N, O, K, it's a salmon, Linux trout. Yeah, all right. Now, look up those Italian Browns talking about. The final phase of the show Guy just telling Katrina to Google things. haha

Those are beautiful. Yeah, they've got giant red spots. They look like they're fake. Yeah, that's bizarre. Yeah, I've never seen those before. That's very cool. And that is a variety of brown trout. So with fish, I mean, kind of like with the common carp, it's really interesting to dig in the history. It is neat to kind of understand where they come from and their history when we're thinking about them here in the US.

this is really good that lined up with the episode that we just had with Stewart Reid, talking about pike minnow and appreciating native fish and changing that conversation. We didn't plan it out that way, but there's definitely lots to consider when you're thinking when you're thinking about what you're trying to conserve, because lots of people honestly bill themselves as conservationists, but not everybody's trying to conserve the same thing. And sometimes those things are aligned. Sometimes they're not aligned. Sometimes they're only aligned in certain situations. And so, you know, conservationists aren't a monolith, is, I guess what I should say. And a lot of times people think of it, I think, as though they are. And so always consider what it is you're trying to consider, are you trying to conserve native fish? Are you trying to conserve a sport fishery, you know, preserving the sport and the lifestyle and the pastime which, and

those are all good things.

They're all good things. Yeah? Like I say, I think there's in my ideal world, we move towards trying to elevate the native Fisher. So native. Yeah, they're so cool fisheries for native fish.

I think a lot of people just don't know either. I mean, if your first experience is with a brown trout, and you have a great experience, it does take some digging to get to know all the fish, which we're trying to cover on this podcast. It just takes time to know that and to decide kind of where you want to fall with your conservation ethic,

it ain't black and white, yeah, it's gold and black and red

and buttery, buttery. Get out there and enjoy all the fish, even the brown shrouds and yeah, we hope you enjoyed it. Thanks for listening to fish of the week. My name is Katrina Liebich, and my co host is Guy Eroh. Fish of the Week is a production of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Region, Office of Communications. Our production partner for the series is Citizen Racecar. We honor thank and celebrate the whole community, individual tribes, states, our sister agencies, fish enthusiasts, scientists and others who have elevated our understanding and love as people and professionals of all the fish.