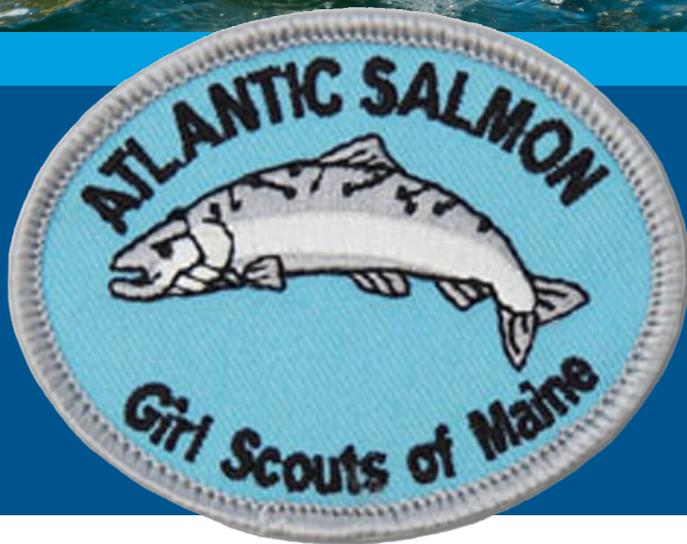


girl scouts
of maine



Atlantic Salmon PATCH PROGRAM

“Living wild species are like a library of books still unread.”

-John Dingell

Statement of Purpose

When I've earned this patch, I'll have learned all about Atlantic salmon in Maine and helped to protect them for future generations.

Introduction

Atlantic salmon have a unique and important history in Maine. You will learn about the life of salmon, the laws regarding salmon fishing practices, and many of the issues regarding the salmon industry in Maine. After learning about Atlantic salmon, you'll put your knowledge to use making a difference in your local community.

Steps

1. Learn about the science of Atlantic salmon
2. Discover laws about Atlantic salmon
3. Discover the history of Atlantic salmon in Maine
4. Learn about how Atlantic salmon impacts Maine
5. Connect and share

1. Learn about the science of Atlantic salmon

When learning about a species, it's important to understand how it lives and survives. This information can help you discover new and unique information about the species and can be used when scientists develop management practices. Begin your discovery of Atlantic salmon by completing one of the following activities:

- **Learn about research labs** - Visit one of the following marine research labs in Maine and learn about scientific research being gathered on Atlantic salmon:
 - ▶ NOAA Fisheries Maine Field Station - Orono
 - ▶ East Machias Aquatic Research Center – East Machias
- **Learn about hatcheries** - Visit one of the following Maine fish hatcheries and learn how they work:
 - ▶ Green Lake Fish Hatchery - Ellsworth
 - ▶ Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery – East Orland

Learn how a fishes' early life may be different in a hatchery compared to those in the wild. Compare and contrast good and bad things about hatcheries.

- **Learn about salmon farms** - Visit one of the following Maine salmon farms and learn how they work:
 - ▶ Whole Oceans - Bucksport
 - ▶ Maine Aquaculture - Walpole

Learn how a fishes' life differs in a salmon farm compared to a fish hatchery. Compare and contrast good and bad things about salmon farms.

2. Discover laws about Atlantic salmon

Laws about wildlife are put in place to make sure that species like Atlantic salmon are able to live in their environment for years to come. They must be followed by all of those that interact with animals, especially researchers, fishermen, and hunters. Discover what some of these laws require by completing one of the following activities:

Equipment - Find out what kinds of equipment are used at salmon farms compared to salmon hatcheries. What is the difference between these two, and what laws much each of them follow? Why are these laws put in place?

Local laws - What types of local laws are there for salmon fishing? Talk to a local fisherman, government policy worker, or park ranger about what the rules are and why these rules are in place.

Want to learn more about laws in general? Check out the Inside Government badge!

State laws - Are their differences between laws on salmon in Maine compared to other states? Are their differences between laws on salmon in the United States compared to other countries? Create an informational pamphlet that explains these differences.

3. Discover the history of Atlantic salmon in Maine

The laws you learned about in the previous step were all put in place because of historical events or changes. Understanding this history can shed light on why Atlantic salmon is important to the state of Maine and why the laws you researched or heard about were originally created. Discover some of the history by completing one of the following activities:

Population - Research how the population of Atlantic salmon has changed over time. Create a chart that shows your results, and discuss how these changes may have occurred.

Check out Google Scholar for easy access to published scientific studies!

Fishing - Meet with someone who works for one of the following organizations and discuss with them how fishing of Atlantic salmon has changed over time:

- ▶ Maine Audubon
- ▶ Maine Department of Marine Resources
- ▶ Penobscot River Restoration Trust
- ▶ Downeast Salmon Federation

Communities - Look up a local fishing community either through historical records at your local library or online resources, and check out some images of the community changing over time. If you can, travel to this community and compare. How do you think Atlantic salmon has impacted these changes? Can you find any evidence of this?

4. Learn about how Atlantic salmon impacts Maine

As you started to learn in the previous steps, Atlantic salmon is very important to Maine. Its importance reaches from the environment to the economy and even is brought into politics. Discover how Atlantic salmon have impacted at least one of these areas:

Discover the economic impacts of the salmon industry in Maine - Travel to a Maine fish farm, hatchery, or fishing wharf and discuss with someone who works there about how Atlantic salmon impacts their job and wages.

Discover the environmental impacts of the salmon industry in Maine - Meet with someone who works in an environmental field in Maine, and discuss how the current levels of the salmon population are impacting the state.

Discover the salmon industry in Maine politics - Meet with at least one Maine politician, and discuss with them about their views regarding Atlantic salmon laws/policies.

5. Connect and share

Now that you have gathered information on many different aspects of Atlantic salmon, use your knowledge to go out and make a difference in your community and the state of Maine by doing one of the following:

Present it - Compile all of the information you have gathered throughout the previous steps. Create a presentation and present it to friends and family or at a local educational event.

Use it - Using the knowledge gained throughout the previous steps, spend a day helping to restock a local river with Atlantic salmon from a hatchery.

Design it - Design your own project that will help to ensure Atlantic salmon will be a thriving species in Maine.