



Wild Fish

- **Adipose Fin Intact:** Wild fish usually have a full, untouched adipose fin.
- **Perfect or Sharp Fins:** Fins are often well-formed, pointed, and show little to no wear.
- **Vibrant, Varied Coloration:** Wild fish often have brighter, more distinct patterns and colors based on habitat.
- **More Alert and Strong-Willed:** Generally fight harder and react quickly when approached or caught.
- **Streamlined Build:** Their bodies may be leaner and more hydrodynamic, shaped by swimming in natural currents.

Hatchery Fish

- **Missing Adipose Fin:** Most hatchery fish have their adipose fin (small fin between the dorsal and tail) clipped for easy ID.
- **Worn or Damaged Fins:** May have frayed, stubby, or oddly shaped fins from crowded rearing conditions.
- **Uniform Size and Color:** Often look more “cookie-cutter” — similar in size and sometimes paler in color than wild counterparts.
- **Less Energetic or Skittish:** Tend to be less wary of predators, humans, or anglers.
- **Heavier Body:** Sometimes appear stockier or rounder due to hatchery diet and lifestyle.

