

# East vs. West: Approaches to Native Trout Management Across North America (# 8)

This symposium will highlight conservation and management of native trout across North America, including both the conservation of Brook Trout and the challenges facing native trout in the West. Bringing together managers from the east and west to enable collaborative discussions that will lead to better management of native trout.



WESTERN  
NATIVE  
TROUT  
INITIATIVE



Chairs: Zachary Beard, Martin Koenig, Lori Maloney, Julie Carter, Farhat Bajjaliya  
Hosts and Sponsors: Western Native Trout Initiative, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, AFS Fisheries Management Section



**Abstract deadline: April 22**

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In Eastern North America, Brook Trout *Salvelinus fontinalis* is a symbol of persistence, adaptability, and clean, cold water. Occupying a range of habitats from forested headwater streams, to coastal rivers, it is sought as a sportfish, revered for its beauty, and culturally significant to many Tribes. Unfortunately, due to detrimental land use practices and non-native species, its populations are severely reduced. Brook trout is the only native salmonid in the southern part of its native range. In contrast, there are 21 native trout and char species found across the west. Similarly, the distribution and abundance of most species have been significantly reduced due to habitat loss and non-native fishes. Brook Trout are often the focus of native trout conservation efforts both east and west, but often for opposite reasons. A focal native species in the East, Brook Trout were widely introduced nationwide and are often implicated in declines of western native trout through competition, predation and hybridization. Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* – native to the West – are similarly implicated in declines of native Brook Trout stocks in Eastern North America. Despite this ironic juxtaposition, the conservation challenges facing trout within their native ranges are similar nationwide.

This symposium, jointly hosted by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Western Native Trout Initiative, and the American Fisheries Society-Fisheries Management Section, will highlight conservation and management topics of native trout across North America, both east and west. This will be a session to discuss the conservation of Brook Trout in the East, as well as highlight diverse challenges facing native trout in the West. We hope this will engage fisheries managers from both the East and West and provide an opportunity to compare similar challenges, novel solutions and common ground to enable collaborative discussions that will lead to better more comprehensive management of native trout in the future.



Photo: Peter Abdu