

= Fur @-@ bearing trout =

The fur @-@ bearing trout (or furry trout) is a fictional creature purportedly found in North America and Iceland . According to tales , the trout has created a thick coat of fur to maintain its body heat . Tales of furry fish date to the 17th @-@ century and later the " shaggy trout " of Iceland . The earliest known American publication dates from a 1929 Montana Wildlife magazine article by J.H. Hicken . A taxidermy furry trout produced by Ross C. Jobe is a specimen at the Royal Museum of Scotland ; it is a trout with white rabbit fur " ingeniously " attached .

There are no real examples of any fur @-@ bearing trout species , but two examples of hair @-@ like growths on fish are known . The " cotton mold " , Saprolegnia , can infect fish , which can result in the appearance of fish covered in the white " fur " . A real fish , Mirapinna esau , also known as the " Hairy Fish " , has hair @-@ like outgrowths and wings .

= = Commonalities = =

Fur @-@ bearing trout are fictional creatures that are purportedly found in Arkansas , northern North America , and Iceland . The basic claim (or tall tale) is that the waters of lakes and rivers in the area are so cold that they evolved a thick coat of fur to maintain their body heat . Another theory says that it is due to four jugs - or two bottles - of hair tonic being spilled into the Arkansas River .

The origins vary , but one of the earlier claims date to a 17th @-@ century Scottish immigrant 's letter to his relatives referring to " furried animals and fish " being plentiful in the New World . It was followed by a request to procure a specimen of these " furried fish " and one was sent one home . A publication in 1900 recounts the Icelandic Lodsilungur , another haired trout , as being a common folklore . The earliest known American publication dates from a 1929 Montana Wildlife magazine article by J.H. Hicken .

The " cotton mold " Saprolegnia will sometimes infect fish , causing tufts of fur @-@ like growth to appear on the body . A heavy infection will result in the death of the fish , and as the fungus continues to grow afterwards , dead fish that are largely covered in the white " fur " can occasionally be found washed ashore . A real fish , Mirapinna esau known as the " Hairy Fish " , has hair @-@ like outgrowths and wings . It was discovered in the Azores in 1956 .

= = Icelandic Lodsilungur = =

According to Icelandic legend , the Lodsilungur is a furry trout that is the creation of demons and giants . The Lodsilungur are described as inedible fish that overwhelm rivers and are a form of punishment for human wickedness . In 1900 , The Scottish Review featured an account of the Lodsilungur as a poisonous " Shaggy trout " of northern Iceland . In 1854 , a shaggy trout was " cast on shore at Svina @-@ vatn " and featured in an 1855 illustration in Nordri , a newspaper . It was described as having a reddish hair on its lower jaw and neck , sides and fins , but the writer of the Nordri article did not specifically identify it by name . Sjón , a popular Icelandic writer , became obsessed with the folk tale when he was nine . Sjón recounted that if a man were to eat the furry trout he would become pregnant and that his scrotum would have to be cut open to deliver the baby . Sjón noted that the story " might explain why I was later propelled towards surrealism . "

= = United States Furry trouts = =

An account of a furry trout appeared in 1929 in Montana Wildlife magazine and was first noted by J.H. Hicken . Hicken 's account states that when the fish is caught " the change of temperature from this water to atmosphere is so great that the fish explodes upon being taken from the water , and fur and skin come off in one perfect piece , making it available for commercial purposes , and leaving the body of the fish for refrigerator purposes or eating , as desired . "

Another fur @-@ bearing trout story originated with Wilbur Foshay , secretary of the Chamber of Commerce . Foshay promoted the story so convincingly that it was picked up by the Salida Record

newspaper . According to its Foshay , the trout grew fur due to the cold temperatures of the Arkansas River and shed the fur as the water temperatures warmed in the summer . In November 1938 , a story in the Puebloan Chieftan recounted the hairy trout history and stated that " [o] ld @-@ timers living along the Arkansas River near Salida have told tales for many years of the fur @-@ bearing trout indigenous to the waters of the Arkansas near there . " In 2014 , Mysteries at the Museum visited the Salida Museum and is expected to be part of a segment in late 2014 .

A tall tale was recounted by S.E. Schlosser , it states that hairy trout were the result of two bottles or four jugs of spilled hair tonic . To catch hairy trout , fisherman would act as barbers and lure fish from the waters with the offer of a free trim or shave . An intentionally fantastical story in Maine and claimed hairy trout were under catch and release policy that was enforced by wardens ' carrying Brannock Devices . If a fish was caught , the warden would measure it against the fisher 's foot . If the fish 's length matched the fisher 's foot size , the fish could be eaten and the outards made into furry slippers .

= = Canada = =

The Canadian Fur @-@ bearing trout is another example of the furry trout hoax . According to the story , a trout with white fur was caught in Lake Superior off Gros Cap in Sault Ste . Marie , Ontario , Algoma District , Canada , and its taxidermist was Ross C. Jobe of Sault Ste . Marie . The purchaser of the fish learned of the hoax after presenting it to the Royal Museum of Scotland . The white fur of a rabbit was described as being " ingeniously " attached to the fish . A fictional description of the Canadian " Hairy " Trout was published by Takeshi Yamada .