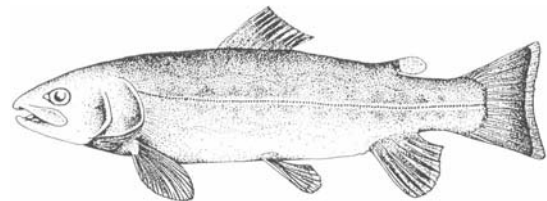


## Threatened fishes of the world: *Salmo platycephalus* Behnke, 1968 (Salmonidae)

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**Common name:** Flathead trout (E), Alabalık (Tr)  
**Conservation status:** Listed as critically endangered (defined by CR B1ab(v)+2ab(v) criteria) in the IUCN International Red List **Identification:** D iii 10, A iii 8, P 14, V 9, Ll. scales 109–110, total vertebrae 57–59, pyloric caeca 15–16, gill rakers 23–24. Head broad, snout blunt; fins large with pale margins; preserved colors dusky brown shading darker to lighter from dorsal to ventral (Behnke 1968; Sušnik et al. 2004). **Distribution:** The flathead trout has a very restricted distribution. It is found in Rivers Karagöz, Soğuksu and Uzunyayla, the tributaries of River Zamantı which belongs to Seyhan Basin emptying into the Mediterranean Sea. **Abundance:** The population is currently abundant, but restricted. **Habitat and ecology:** It is adapted to high mountain stream waters. Non-migratory species. **Reproduction:** Ova up to 2 mm and the spawning period in autumn (Behnke 1968). Maximum lifespan is



**Fig. 1** *Salmo platycephalus*

10 years (Alp and Kara 2004). **Threats:** *Salmo platycephalus* is threatened due to its limited and isolated distribution. A primary continuing threat to this fish is the potential adverse impact of introduced non-native rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Walbaum, 1792), which has been commonly cultured and stocked in Turkey. Rainbow trout is a predatory threat to larva of *S. platycephalus* and direct competitor for food and space. Illegal fishing using nets is a possible threat for population decline in some rivers. **Conservation action:** The species is officially protected by prohibiting fishing. **Conservation recommendations:** A detailed study of current population status, and biology and ecology of *S. platycephalus* is required. It is recommended to avoid releasing cultured *O. mykiss*. **Remarks:** Although genetic evidence suggests that *S. platycephalus* may be conspecific with *Salmo trutta*, this unique morph warrants protection.

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