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## Deceiving A Salmon

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### Abstract

A poem published in issue one of *new words*, a trans and gender-expansive journal.

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# new words

{issue one}

a trans and gender-expansive journal.

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Allan Scherlen

*Deceiving a Salmon*

Our fishing guide shocked me  
when he forcefully pulled a hook  
from a salmon's mouth,  
flinging the crescent red salmon  
back into the Alaskan river.

Demonstrating how to rig fake salmon eggs  
to our rods, he stood in waist-high waders,  
saying, "it's a trick to lure salmon; it thinks  
it's retrieving eggs floating from nests."

Upon casting into the river,  
his rod jerked his gloved hand:  
another salmon had been deceived  
into rescuing bogus eggs -

while hundreds swam around his waders;  
the hooked salmon fought to save the roe,  
rippling the water,

its body whirling on the line,  
its scales shimmering,  
its eyes glistening,  
looking out of the river,  
up into sunlight.