Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Little J No More
Re: Little J No More
Author: : FarmerDave
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URL:

Matt (and Trubski), I think I agree with you, but I'm not sure with all that philosophical stuff in there.

No matter what anyone says, fishing is a blood sport. If it bothers anyone that they may harm a fish, they shouldn't be fishing at all, or should use hookless flies. In fact, groups like PETA often have more of a problem with C&R only people than they do with someone who eats what they catch. Think about it. You are hooking a fish, playing with it, then you are releasing it after exhausting it, all for your own personal enjoyment. I can understand why animal rights people see this as torture. I don't agree with them (because fish are not human), but I can see why they think that. Then you get way too many fly angers overplaying their catch to the point it needs revived. If you are constantly having to revive fish, you are playing them too long, and a lot more of them die than you think. Anyone using line smaller than 6X is probably overplaying fish, unless they are only fishing for the dinks. I'd rather use thicker line and catch less fish.

It is silly to compare fishing to golf or poker. Neither of these are normally considered to be blood sport. Fishing compares more to hunting. Both are blood sports that have their roots in feeding our families. That statement usually draws fire, but don't confuse hunting with killing. Some people feel that you have to kill something in order for the hunt to be successful. They are entitled to that opinion, but it is not my opinion. Here is the way I look at it. Once I find what I are hunting for, it is up to me whether or not I want to harvest it. I often chose not to. I know what I can do, and don't feel a need to kill something to prove it to myself or anyone else. The same is true with fishing. It is up to us whether or not we harvest anything. But there are difference which I am sure some of you are dying to point out. Here is a big difference. When I hunt, and decide not to harvest, the animal gets away totally unharmed. If we fish, and we catch and release, some of them still die. Don't get me wrong, I don't have a problem with that. It is what it is.

As a general rule for wild trout, I chose to C&R. But I still usually avoid the C&R waters for 2 main reasons. First of all and most importantly, they tend to be too crowded. Secondly, if I should decide to keep a trout or two, I still have that option.