Subject: : Stream Reports
Topic: : Tulpehocken, Berks County, 06/12/2010
Re: Tulpehocken, Berks County, 06/12/2010
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2010/6/23 9:46:53
URL:

Quote:

> With all of the issues about water depth and temperatures, what about the obvious solution of increasing the water flow from the dam?

It's not about the amount of water, its about the amount of COLD water! High and warm does you no good either. My understanding (and it could be wrong since I've never heard it from the Army Corps guys) is that the dam is capable of taking cold water from deep and warm water from the top and mixing it how they see fit. Unfortunately, the deep, cold pocket in the lake is not all that big, so each year you only have so much of that cold water available. So if you shoot out cold water at a high rate, you run out of cold water earlier in the summer, and you're left with warm water temps in the late summer and trout have very little chance to hold over. So, instead, they ration the cold water. They pull it all from the top until it gets too warm, and then add cold water a little at a time to keep the water temperature just under lethal. Hopefully, in a cool year, you'll get through the summer.

But that deep water pocket is filling in and getting a bit smaller every year, and thats the base of the issue that the Tully faces. It gets harder and harder to supply enough cold water to last the summer. You could dredge it, but that carries no advantage for anyone but fishermen, so it'd have to be fishermen funded. The other option is to give up on the year-round fishery, which seems to be the direction we're headed. It can still be a fine put and take fishery in the spring, and heck, its not a bad warmwater fishery either.

As for holding water, yeah, there's a lot of "dead" or almost dead stretches. Like I said, that doesn't mean you can't go through there at certain times and pick up a fish or two. Most of the better holding areas are well known, though they're not all right at access points. Since the adult stockings started, I've noticed that the fish have been more concentrated at access points than before.