Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Wild Brown Trout and Special Regs
Re: Wild Brown Trout and Special Regs
Author: : Wulff-Man
Date: : 2006/12/7 8:42:33
URL:

Quote:

> Mike wrote:
> Generally speaking, limestoners (brown trout) in urban areas or close to population centers have potential to see some noticeable impact from fishing pressure, but it depends upon the individual water involved and the pressure has to be extreme, and more importantly the harvest has to be very high. We really aren't seeing that kind of harvest on wild brown trout streams. High fishing pressure is infrequent in Pennsylvania on unstocked wild brown trout streams, except on a few limestoners and freestoners. Perhaps the two streams that you mentioned are exceptions, but I would bet that most individuals on this board would come up with exceptions. There just can't be THAT many exceptions or creel data would not show that wild brown trout harvest is as low as it is in Pa.

Mike, here is an anecdotal situation that illustrates one of the exceptions: I was fishing a Class A freestoner in a fairly populated area (one of Chaz's favorites) when a WCO stopped to check my license and chat. We had a nice discussion about where the fishing is good on this stream, and he told me about seeing some fishermen upstream recently with stringers full of fish. He said it was too bad, but it's legal. Now this was at my favorite section of the stream where I could always count on catching a number of legal sized browns. If just these 2 fisherman decide they want to have more wild trout dinners, it won't be long until my favorite section of this stream is no longer worth visiting (if it is now - I've been there one time since and saw a few scatter but didn't catch any. I'm not sure if this is due to my poor fishing skills, or if there were just a few small ones left).

So, while harvest of wild trout may be generally low, in some areas a few fishermen can pretty much destroy the fishing enjoyment for many others. Why not have harvest restrictions on wild trout, considering that it appears that there aren't many people who harvest them anyway, but it could save some areas from overharvest by just a few?