

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Muskies!?!

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Mike or any other fish experts:

The post about the stocking of amur pike brings up a question I have about introducing huge predator fish such as muskies to many lakes. Two lakes come to mind. Francis Slocum State Park Lake in the Wilkes-Barre area, where I grew up, was/is stocked with muskies. They grow huge there. This is the type of lake to take your kids to and fish for bluegills and crappie, and maybe catch some decent bass once in a while. Ditto for Marsh Creek Lake in MC State Park where I live now.

Few anglers target muskies compared to the vast majority of fisherman who fish for panfish and bass. Those fishermen that do use very specialized tackle and lures suited to catch these fish. The musky is known as "the fish of a thousand casts," just to give you an idea on the success rate.

My question is the introduction of these large predators for sport fishing, or does it have some value in balancing the fish population in the lake? If there is no biological reason to stock them, it would seem that these types of lakes would be better off, from an overall fishing perspective, without the introduction and stocking of huge predator fish such as muskies.