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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Species specific stocked trout residency revision

Re: Species specific stocked trout residency revision

Author: : Mike

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URL:

Pcray, now you have asked a question that will also help anglers. First, let me say that the vast majority of streams that have been sampled are in the PFBC's width class 3 category....avg width 4-10 meters. Some have been larger. The trout that have "resided" have generally stayed within a stretch that is 200 m. below the stocking point and 100 m above it. Truth be told, we find very few fish upstream from the stocking points (tip # 1 for anglers). Also, we find only a relative smattering of fish 200 m. below the stocking points (often none from 150-200 m downstream, but plenty within 75 m), but that varies more than the first statement above (So that is tip #2 for anglers). When they do "run" it is almost exclusively downstream and within the first 5 days of the stocking. And, the run does not seem to stop just outside of the 200 meters. Having electrofished as much as 300 m downstream, I have not seen more fish when I have looked. Work by AFM Rob Wnuk using telemetry found that in his study stream the fish ran for miles. Some hit the Susquehanna and kept going. How far the trout are running in any particular stream once they are "willing" to go 200 m downstream from the stocking point is probably stream specific. They might stack up in better habitat; they might distribute themselves somewhat evenly, although I have not seen any evidence to support that via electrofishing, or they might "take off."

One thing that I did not mention in an earlier response to troutbert as a likely cause of the residency problem seen in some streams, especially in my region, is great blue heron predation. This was my observation early on in our residency work and later was documented in Centre Co by a PSU study of tagged stocked fish (and many tags showing up around the heron rookery).