Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Species specific stocked trout residency revision
Re: Species specific stocked trout residency revision
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2012/2/15 16:18:48
URL:

As another personal antecdote, we often fish Tionesta Creek (NW PA) early in trout season between Kelletville and Mayburg. It is not stocked with brookies, just browns and bows. We catch plenty of stocked brookies. More brookies than browns, actually, though rainbows clearly dominate. Still, catching multiple brookies happens every year and is too consistent/predictable to be merely a case of a brookie getting mixed in here and there during stocking.

The nearest stream stocked with brookies would be The Branch/Salmon Creek, which combine shortly before running into the Tionesta about 2 stream miles downstream of where we fish. The nearest upstream trib that's stocked with brookies is BlueJay, which runs in maybe 8 miles upstream. So those fish either went down Salmon and then 2 miles UP the Tionesta, or down BlueJay and then 8 miles further down the Tionesta, or else they came from tribs even further away.

Also, Salmon Creek itself. I know it is identified as a poor residency stream. My perception has been that the reason is low pH, though I've never seen that in writing. My own testing shows very low pH's, and the stream does stay cold yet lacks wild fish in an area where wild brookies are common.

But in the days after stockings on Salmon, it's mouth on the Tionesta is a fairly well known hotspot. While the nearest stocking point on the Tionesta is only 6 or 7 hundred yards upstream, the presence of brookies, and the timing suggests those fish are coming from Salmon or The Branch.

Further, later in the summer, usually June, as the Tionesta warms, the mouth of Salmon again becomes a hotspot, presumably due to cold water influence. And many of those fish do ascend the stream.

Seems logical, but I take it as confirmation that fish don't like acid, but they'll choose acid over warm water. Downstream on the Tionesta is the lake and dam, so it's not like they have anywhere to go in that direction.