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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : PFBC Commissioners and Tailwater Wild Trout-Article

Re: PFBC Commissioners and Tailwater Wild Trout-Article

Author: : barbless

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URL:

I think that smallies prefer water less than 80 F. In my experience with lakes in Maine, they're much more active in shallow water when the temperature is around 75 degrees.

Colder water holds more oxygen (unless it's really cold), and that's a major benefit for smallmouth habitat overall, even if the releases would push their preferred range downstream from the source for a few miles. It's also good for the invertebrates.

I fished the Potomac around Seneca for a short while last evening, wading wet. That water is warm (and very low, with a lot of exposed weed beds). I didn't have my thermometer with me, but it had to have been well over 80 degrees. I did notice some surface activity that seemed to be from adult-size bass, but not that much. I think smallmouth bass prefer deep water and shade when it gets that warm, and they're active in the shallows mostly at night and in the early morning. To the extent that they show up there at all. That's been my experience, anyway.