

---

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : PFBC Commissioners and Tailwater Wild Trout-Article

Re: PFBC Commissioners and Tailwater Wild Trout-Article

Author: : RyanR

Date: : 2012/8/9 13:58:59

URL:

Quote:

rrt wrote:

I can't really answer your questions, though smallies around here seem to favor water that gets into the 70's and 80's, water that is too warm for trout. I just wonder what the warmwater enthusiasts in Huntingdon and elsewhere who frequent the warm, running water below the dam will think and how they'll react. We trout enthusiasts aren't the only fishermen out there. This could open a can of worms that might be pretty unpleasant.

For river smallmouth I think when temps get into the 80s that's quickly moving out of their optimal comfort zone. I think the 70s are more optimal for them and they're still very active in the 60s. On the Lehigh I think you would have a great mix of fabulous wild trout water along with great smallie fishing, just as almost exists now. The trout would dominate the upper area of the gorge but as you moved downriver you would get a great mix of trout/smallies and then eventually giving way to predominantly smallies. The economic impact of an optimal wild trout fishery here would be outstanding and fit exactly within the increasing recreational lean of most of the local towns economies now. If you add a very good year-round wild trout fishery to the hiking, biking, and rafting that already exists you would really see a very robust, diverse and sustainable economy From a water recreation aspect by basically just catering to the rafting enthusiasts these towns are missing out. Trout anglers, especially flyfishers, tend to stay for several days to a week per trip and spend money locally where they're fishing. Rafters are typically here for a day, some may visit a restaurant when they're done but I think most head right home, maybe getting gas/food at a convenience store or fast food joint.

I'm not exactly sure of the price tage but I think the cost to modify the release tower at the dam would likely pay for itself within 5-10yrs.