

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Opinion needed sanctuary solution

Re: Opinion needed sanctuary solution

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URL:

Many years ago I became aware of a refuge on a famous central Pa stream. Even the refuge is famous. I happen to get into that location quite a bit and have been able to observe the location during some very warm seasons. I've even noticed fishermen fishing the spot during warm periods. Over the years I've found that the stream still holds very respectable numbers of fish and while there is a drop off after severely warm years with low water it bounces back and keeps producing. My guess is that during very warm years the impact from anglers who decide to fish the "sanctuary" is actually minimal compared to the overall mortality from the stress of the natural struggles such a season places on the trout.

As practical matter having the PFBC determine refuges on more than a couple high value streams and then enforce them seems more burdensome than any measurable results would be worth. By naming these refuge locations you then let everyone know where they are. Would you manage a refuge by date? Water temperature? Distance from source?

While I believe fishing over fish stressed in this way is not ethical I don't see it as enough of a problem to warrant the effort needed to determine refuges on a large number of waters and enforce whatever restrictions would be put in place.