Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing
Topic: : Susquehanna spawning conditions
Re: Susquehanna spawning conditions
Author: : Woolybugger
Date: : 2008/5/28 0:54:45
URL:

Pad,

I fish the Susquehanna all the time and I have mixed feelings about that Heavenly Water.
Rain and near flooding all spring this year had the Susquehanna so diluted that I had the best year in the last 10! Wrightsville for the past 5 years was a dead zone. No fish and a smelly cesspool. But this year started off with a bang!
With all the high, brown water the last 2 weeks in March and all of April, I took my 8wt and caught dozens of huge bass every time I went out. Rain or cold front..... it didn't matter. The high water pushes the big spawners to the shoreline. All the bass stay at the first drop off about 10' feet from shore. This is one time that a flyrod is better than a spin. I bumped a size 4 black leadeye woolybugger along the bottom, only 15' of line, and caught so many bass that you wouldn't believe me!! LOL
I don't know what happened! Where did the fish go? Do they swim 50 miles downstream or do they die after spawing?
In May it slowed down quite a bit. After several fishless days, I only fished for trout and I even grabbed my spin rod.
Frustrated, I moved upstream to Harrisburg and Marysville and Perdix! Nothing with my flyrod, so I grabbed my spin and caught a couple. Yamamoto plastics on a jighead with invis braid is pretty hard to match with a flyrod and chicken feathers!
I know the spawn is on and almost over. I caught 3 bass today with spin gear.
But..... I see quite a few dead bass every time I go out anymore. I don't see the fry in the shallows anymore.
This "wackey weather" has everything screwed up. I still have my fingers crossed, but 10 years ago if I would have fished the same area I did today..... with a 6wt, I would have caught 75 smallmouth bass and 25 rockbass.
I know we are in for drastic fish declines and drastic polluted river conditions, but fishing is what I do, it's all I do, and I will hang in there until the end! I'll give the bass a rest for a week. Maybe in June I'll catch a few with my flyrod.
Tomorrow I'll use my flyrod and go to the local stockie streams. It's still fun to catch tiny trout with a 3wt and tiny flies, but not as much fun as to catch a sunfish with a 3wt! I just wish the water wasn't so stinkin' shallow!