

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : From the minnow chaser thread - An ethics lesson

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Dear Board,

This quote was lifted from Mike Richardson's Minnow Chaser/ mini Wooly Bugger thread, post #8 IIRC.

"Listen to Chaz apperantly he knows everything. I would tie them in size 10-16. No way a 5" brookie is fitting a size 6 hook in its mouth. Without getting the point threw its eye. If your fishing for big wild brookies only. Your kinda missing the point."

Anyone who fishes catches dink fish from time to time, some more than others.

However, seeing advice as to the proper way to tie wooly buggers in order to catch 5 inch fish disgusts me.

If the brook trout water you are fishing yields fish that are generally sub-legal in size here is where a lesson in angling ethics will come in handy. I'll make it blunt and to the point.

Deliberately fishing for 5 inch trout is not ethical, period. An ethical angler who finds his/herself repeatedly hooking sub-legal fish will always seek greener pastures, so to speak.

Catch and release can be a wonderful tool to enhance fishing opportunity. However, it has to be practiced by ethical people and not just by people who feel that as long as they are living within the rules no harm is being done.

Deliberately hooking sub-legal fish for the purpose of amusement violates the rules of ethical behavior, no matter how much care you exercise in the process.

You can argue with me if you'd like but you'll be pissing up a rope because what you are doing is indefensible.

Regards,

Tim Murphy