

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Delaware River - Smallmouth Bass YOY, 2012

Re: Delaware River - Smallmouth Bass YOY, 2012

Author: : Fishidiot

Date: : 2013/2/7 9:12:56

URL:

Quote:

Love2fish wrote:

Everywhere we fish the total catch, size, everything is way down the last 2 years. All season long from early spring summer and up to the fall. We are fishing from Trenton upto New Hope/Lambertville. Not sure the reasoning but I would think hundreds of cormorants hangin out well into mid summer that are eating anything under 10" could be leading to some problems. Which is also a issue that was noted at the Salmon River Hatchery. We also have had very poor top water fishing making us all but abandon top water, if it wasn't for the 18"ish stripers on 6-8 lbs test.

Interesting. Thanks. There are certainly a lot of cormorants on the lower Susky too and many guides and local fishermen feel they are a major problem (if not the problem) with the bass there. Are cormorants common upriver in the Delaware too?

Personally, I'm undecided on the bird issue and think it may be blown out of proportion (although I cringed when I saw a cormorant patrolling the ditch at Big Spring about a year ago).

I don't see large numbers of cormorants on other rivers I frequent (like the Potomac and Juniata) and the summer top water bite still remains poor on those rivers as well. They can certainly eat a lot of fish. If any of you attended the symposium that the PFBC conducted a couple years ago on smallies....you might remember the photo a guide posted showing a cormorant swallowing a muskie that looked to be about two feet long(!). That got a reaction out of the crowd. Anyway, these rivers have a heckuva lot of forage fish for them to eat too. I think there is something else going on. It's almost as if bass in these rivers are changing their habits.