

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

Re: Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

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URL:

I can't agree that the environs described in this summary are in the least similar to the more remote or more accessible areas of Pa. Reproduction is rarely a limiting factor in those areas, with the exception of streams suffering from substantial acid deposition problems. I have never found a population of wild brook trout in Pa that was dominated by adults as described in the summary and those with a failed year class or near-failure of same usually display within their age/size structure evidence of a previous strong year class. What is more common in Pa is to have low densities across all year classes in marginal brook trout streams. While year class failures can occur repeatedly, that situation is not the usual one in Pa brook trout populations where, in my experience, there is frequent evidence of a previous strong year class or two within the populations.

As for Pa's Brook Trout Enhancement Program, it was never stated that any of the streams placed under those regs were placed in the program because of a problem with reproduction. There was an angler-perceived problem with harvest. Years of field experience and the statewide wild trout angler use and harvest study told the biologists otherwise. And in a recent test of some of the Brook Trout Enhancement waters and their control(s) angler usage throughout the season was documented and confirmed to be low...just as low as that found in the statewide wild trout angler use and harvest study, adding further support to the results of that study.