Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing
Topic: : Susky Smallie Spots
Re: Susky Smallie Spots
Author: : afishinado
Date: : 2013/2/17 9:56:23
URL:

Quote:

> streamerguy wrote:
> I've seen those black blotches before on fish in the Erie tribs, as well as a few other locations. **From what I heard/read they cause no harm to the fish(at least in the Erie watershed, which is arguably the best SMB fishery in the world).** They're certainly not on 90% of the fish though.

The lower Susky **WAS** one of the best SMB fisheries in the world.

Many of us have fished the Susquehanna River for many years and have never or rarely seen such spots on fish from the River. The spots themselves may or may not be a symptom of some problem with the River; no one seems to know.

Here is an excerpt from an article which mentions the increase of SMB observed with spots. The article was written by John Arway, the Executive Director of the PBFC.

Last fall, anglers and PFBC staff began finding diseased adult smallmouth bass in the Susquehanna River between York Haven and Safe Harbor dams. These outbreaks were so severe that about 40 percent of the adult smallmouth bass surveyed had extensive lesions and open sores.

Within the last month, increased sightings of black spots on smallmouth bass have been reported throughout the Susquehanna River Basin. Although there is no evidence to suggest that these spots are the result of a pollution event, it has raised public awareness, in part because it is so visibly striking and because of the well-documented ongoing smallmouth bass disease issues.
Endocrine-disrupting compounds are emerging here and nationwide as a primary concern for fish and public health. Wide-scale evidence of endocrine disruption exists in the smallmouth bass population of the Susquehanna River with male smallmouth bass exhibiting signs of producing eggs.

These cases are among the most severe that have been observed by Dr. Vicki Blazer, a U.S. Geological Survey researcher who has studied this condition in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and other North American waters.

Similarly, studies by the USGS have found that adult male bass collected from the Susquehanna River also have exhibited varying concentrations of vitellogenin in their blood. This is a protein that serves as a precursor to egg production in females and should not be readily detectable in male fish. We don't know why these

conditions are occurring in the Susquehanna River, but they are reason for concern.

Link to source: http://www.pennlive.com/editorials/in ... a_river_clearly_need.html

BTW, 90% of the fish caught *during this outing* had spots or lesions. More and more adult fish seem to have issues.