

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Susky Smallie Spots

Re: Susky Smallie Spots

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Date: : 2013/2/17 10:34:25

URL:

I think the black spots, or "splotchy bass" started showing up in the lower Susky last year?

This condition usually comes about as localized outbreaks, usually in larger fish and during the colder months of the year. Notwithstanding the inevitable speculation and conspiracy theories about MS drilling, point source pollution and similar possible causes.....the exact reason for these spots (which also occur on LMs and panfish) isn't known and they show up in many states. It does seem to me that when I've heard about these outbreaks, it's often in impoundments in the South. Back in the 80s and 90s I remember reports of this condition here in PA.

I noticed a couple of the LMs in the Bass Pro Shops fish tank last week had these spots. For those unaware....it should be pointed out that these spots are not the same as the lesions (although both are prevalent in the lower Susky these days).

I scrutinize carefully most of the bass I catch in the lower Juniata (which also has some problems with bass these days). All the fish I caught last year, including many during the colder months, were healthy and I saw none of the spots or lesions.