

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

Re: Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

Author: : NJAngler

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URL:

Mike I'm wondering why biologists thought angler harvest was a 'perceived' problem. The remoteness of the streams I'm familiar with should tell anybody that angler usage is low and that angler harvest even lower. I doubt anglers hike a mile into a steep ravine to a rhododendron-lined, 6 foot wide trickle to kill native brook trout. I think 99% of those anglers that make that effort are C&R. One could fish some of these streams for a lifetime and not see another angler so I really do wonder why experienced PFBC personnel thought it would make any difference. You seem rather reasonable and know your craft well. Did you agree with their perceptions? I would be disappointed if you did.

I think the studies have shown flows and habitat dictate pops and sizes and not harvest/usage. No regs can control flows or create habitat. You could shut a stream down to fishing completely for a year and not guarantee it will hold more trout one year later. Limiting harvest will only work where harvest of native brook trout could be - or is - high. Off the top of my head, I cannot think of any that qualify(at least in in eastern Pa where I fish).

The WBTEP just isn't working. It could work on overfished/high pressured brook trout only streams but how many of those are there? Not many. Plus you can poll all the anglers want about whether they practice C&R or hypothesize about what % of wild/native trout are being creeled but unless you get out there opening day and actually SEE whats being killed, you won't know for sure how many brook trout are being killed.