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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Who owns the trout?

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I always enjoy reading the posts here, but I rarely contribute to the conversations. I'm just not much for communicating by way of the ether. Lately, though, I've been nagged by questions to which some of you must surely know the answer and about which all of you certainly have an opinion.

Namely, who owns the wild trout in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? If the answer is the state, when did the state gain title? Did the governed ever consent to this? If so when? Did William Penn once own all of the trout? Charles the Second? If the answer is: "We all own the trout." then, well I just hope that's not the answer because to me it's a hopelessly vague and ambiguous one. If the answer is: "No one owns them." then by what legal logic does the state regulate the possession of wild trout?

Simply by asking these questions, my own opinion must be quite plain. But please don't assume that my motives are only selfish or that I wish to exploit what I know is a limited and precious resource. That is not the case. Rather, I practice conservation. But I am also a "reluctant anarchist" (as my late friend, Joe Sobran, would put it). For me, these are not contradictory ideas; indeed I believe that blame for both destruction of natural resources and the destruction of liberty can be laid squarely on the centralization of power in the hands of a few regardless of their good intentions.

But, hey, that's just me. What do *you* think?