

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : why stock over wild trout

Re: why stock over wild trout

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URL:

Yeah, the quick answer is that the angling public, by percent of license buyers, demands it. Remember, it's not by angler hours, it's by number of licenses sold. So all those who fish 1 or 2 weekends a year have as much say as the guys who fish 200 days a year. And if they've been going to a stream for years, take their kids on opening day as a tradition, etc., and suddenly the PFBC takes it off the stocking list, they get a little upset. Politically, removing streams from the list is simply difficult.

Regarding the hatchery closings and reductions in stocked fish, I do recognize that eliminating class B's alone doesn't gain you much. Less than 1% of stocked fish go into them. I still support removing those streams from the list out of principle. But I recognize it's not a "solution" to the fish reduction problem.

When you start eliminating class C's and D's the numbers grow considerably. And I won't say that none of these should be stocked. Nor will I say that there's any way to get out of this without reducing numbers of stocked fish per stream. But I will say that where there's options, I support removing streams before reducing numbers in other streams. And the higher the wild biomass, the more favored that stream should be for removal from the stocking list.

I would also welcome a greater push towards establishing fingerling stocked fisheries, rather than adult stockings.