

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : why stock over wild trout

Re: why stock over wild trout

Author: : Mike

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URL:

pcray: I understand you point. One thing that needs to be remembered by any angler who debates this issue aside from the nuances surrounding the wild trout density and biomass issue is that the PFBC does not consider stream sections that average less than 4 meters in width for trout stocking. This eliminates (eliminated) the vast majority of wild trout streams with attractive fish populations and size (fish length) structures from ever having been stocked or considered for stocking(s), now or in the future. Furthermore, no Class B's may be added to the stocking program, and it has been that way for over a decade. It would not surprise me to see an attempt to remove the vast majority of Class B's from stocking in the near future, but as troutbert says, it was tried before and failed. That's called being prepared to accept political realities as a fisheries manager. I would not predict that any Class C's would be removed from the stocking program based solely on the fish population size or length distributions, but I can say that there is a Class C in SE Pa that is so good (and wide) that I would not have considered adding it to the stocking program. That is a rare C, however. Additionally, I once (about 1981) removed a B from the program (Northkill above I-78) in deference to the good population of wild trout. It once went to a low Class A and then slid back through the B's. Then a freak thunderstorm hovered over the basin and dumped a tremendous amount of rain, destroying most of the habitat that had held larger fish. It slid to a high Class C. I still would not stock it.