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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

Re: Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

Author: : Maurice

Date: : 2013/3/7 10:04:19

URL:

Quote:

wildtrout2 wrote:

Chaz, it seems to me that the only "goal" with the WBTEP is to have a CR program (brookies only) on said streams. I believe this should apply to all native brookie streams on the Class A list.

This could not be farther from the truth...

The goal of the WBTEP was simply to shut the traps of the folks at PATrout who have been blabbering for years that harvest and cropping of wild brook trout is the reason for the brook trout being so small in these small freestone systems.

The streams selected varied in a wide range of geography and popularity to demonstrate the PF&BC assertion that harvest in these streams is below the level of natural and seasonal mortality. So far their assertion has proven correct.

What the WBTEP did accomplish is increase pressure on these streams by popularizing them. While the angler surveys say different It could be argued that incidental mortality through increased angling could have suppressed the numbers.

The bottom line is as frequent anglers we would like to see larger fish and we release our catch to preserve our entertainment value in angling. On the other hand, there are those that harvest trout for a number of reasons, few of which involve sustainance, mostly because "they are permitted to".

Its not like deer hunting where we are trying to manage or control a population to protect life and property from pests the size of humans that run in front of cars and eat landscaping.

It is also argues that a five trout limit on wild brook trout streams makes no difference because not enough people harvest them anyway. So why not lower it to two? If it don't make a difference why does it need to be five? Likely few would complain, far fewer than those in the "Save the brook trout" camp. Harvest is still on the table and the trout huggers get their way too.

But make no mistake the progress in our favor as the F&BC struggles to stay afloat, fewer stream sections on streams with natural reproduction will be stocked and this will expand the range of wild brook trout. It won't be

as quickly or robust as we'd like but it is not a zero-sum game. We will prevail through default. It's a pressure game.

It will prove that reducing and eliminating stocking in areas where wild reproduction is possible increases fishing opportunities overall.

The WBTEP should not have the name enhancement in it. It was put there to have the results prove its failure. If no enhancement, no success, even if pops stayed static.

The question remains how did they do compared to other waters without the regulations and added pressure?