

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Opening day angler counts

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Opening day angler counts at 8AM and 9:30 AM will occur statewide again this year along streams from selected stocked trout stream classifications (categories). For instance, Fisheries Management Area 6 staff is looking at four width class 3 (4-10 meters wide on average) suburban streams in Lancaster, Lebanon, and Berks Counties. Three will be suburban streams that have human population densities that are close to crossing into the "urban" categories. They will also be looking at a mid-range human population density suburban stream in Lancaster Co or two rural streams in York Co. Other staff will be assisting with some counts in Area 6 portions of Schuylkill and York Counties. This is just an example of what will be occurring statewide on the two opening days. Such counts are important in managing the individual streams as well as in establishing stocking rates and frequencies for the various stream classifications or categories. This work has been going on for a number of years, but has a new sense of urgency given the 1) the increased emphasis on a more efficient stocking program by the present Commissioners and 2) the potential closure of two hatcheries after 2015.