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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Mountain Freestone/Brookie Streams in Early Spring

Mountain Freestone/Brookie Streams in Early Spring

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Was up in NEPA this weekend and took Sat. afternoon to fish one of my favorite mountain freestoners. Normally, the stream is a mix of wild brookies and stocked fish from a local club that stocks it a couple times per year. Knowing it hadn't been stocked since late summer, I was eager to see how many fish wintered over.

Normally, I don't fish these types of streams until late July or August, so I'm unfamiliar with them this time of year. Anyway, I was surprised to see how much ice/snow was present still and I'm curious about the fish behavior.

I didn't see many fish, but I'm not certain if they didn't winter over, or if they're just hunkered down. The ones I did see were large for this stream. Most were very lethargic. Can I simply assume this is typical due to water temperature (I didn't have a thermometer, but I'm guessing high 30s to low 40s)?

As expected there was no surface activity/feeding. Nymphs were mostly unsuccessful, though I did coax one brookie out from beneath some deadfall with a copper john. Most of the action came on a stripped wooly bugger, though out of many tugs and nips at the WB, only one fish successfully hooked and landed - a nice 13" or so holdover brown.

Just wondering how typical this is. My only reason for asking is that this stream runs cold all year (though obviously not this cold), and I sort of expected a bit more going on. I'm definitely rusty from winter, but I expected to have a bit more success.

A few pics follow (unfortunately I forgot my camera and was left with only the iPhone).