

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : First good numbers day of the year

Re: First good numbers day of the year

Author: : k-bob

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URL:

the rosenbauer/orvis small stream book mentions this kind of "more browns low/more brookies up high" situation (p 52):

"In the lower reaches of most small streams in the east, the water is warmer and food supply is richer. Here you'll find brown or rainbow trout, sometimes mixed with brook trout and baitfish... But as you ascend... you'll find mostly brookies, even in streams with no impassable barrier to fish... When you get closer to the headwaters, even the baitfish are absent... Why? As you get closer to the headwaters, the acidity increases, and brook trout are more tolerant... The water is also cold year-round, and browns prefer water 55-65 because they cannot grow efficiently in colder water... Aquatic insects are sparse in headwaters, but the brook trout have adapted to subsisting on terrestrials which are too big for the smaller baitfish to inhale."

So the brookies handle the cold and more acidic headwaters better than browns or baitfish, and live largely on terrestrials. Baitfish are a sign of some aquatic insects, I am surprised to see any in acidic extracold headwaters brookie streams.

I remember being way up high on a tiny poconos brookie stream during a beastly hot afternoon last summer, water was 52 even in those conditions...

streams with this brown-to-brookie transition may have a wild tiger trout or two...