

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Pennsylvania State Record Muskellunge - 1924

Re: Pennsylvania State Record Muskellunge - 1924

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URL:

I'm a newbie here but not to muskies and certainly not to flyfishing. You guys have had some interesting discussion on the state record fish and the whole can o' worms with Ramsell and the MDWRMA.

The fish and boat commission manages our waters so that anglers can catch fish. It's not even in their peripheral view to be managing for trophy waters. Apparently the 40" size limit was a long shot suggestion from anglers that gained some momentum and support from inside, after they had wanted to go from 30" - 36". Regardless, we should be happy that angler input was taking into account and that an impact was made.

The talk of state record fish and where they would come from is all speculation.... There are sooo many things that would need to go right for a fish to be of the right length and only limited times in the year that they would reach a girth to reach 54 lbs. You're looking at a window in the late season and super early season. One of the things that would play into it would be the cold spring like this year, and a later spawn in which the fish would retain the girth longer into the spring, creating a better chance for anglers to catch her.

One of the problems in other states is the season limit. Guys on the St Lawrence/Buffalo Harbor/Georgian Bay are trying to get longer seasons, because the cold water forage movements in the fall are offset by the warmer weather, and the fish don't come shallow early enough to be targetted in season. Anyone who fishes there will tell you that the hours and hours between fish are insane, and the temps and winds make it almost unbearable in a boat, trolling. These are the diehard trophy hunters of the world.

Brad Bohlen is in one of the single best places to fish for muskies in the world. There is no shortage of fish in Wisconsin, or water to target them... There are guys doing it on the big waters of St Clair with pretty good success, I'd think that is where the next fly monster will come from. The late fall window when the shad are moving in the rivers is the time to be there.... But the big ticket is finding the place before it gets hyped like that fishery.