

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Large (Dead) Brookies

Re: Large (Dead) Brookies

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URL:

I'm 95% sure the one I posted was wild. Looking at the fish in a vacuum, I'd give it maybe 50-50, one of those ones your not really sure of, and could go either way on. The fins looked good to me in person. Color is good. Sharp distinction between black and white on fins. The most suspect aspect to me is the shape, it's got that football type shape of a fish that grew fast. And on close examination of the pic, a single pec fin looks a little funny, but all others perfect.

There's no dams or anything (a few beaver dams on branches, but the there's a stem clear the whole way). But it's 7+ stream miles from the nearest place they stock brookies. 2 1/2 of those miles would be UP small streams, all of which are completely unstocked of any species. And there are no roads nearby for people to stock em, it's a 2 mile hike as the crow flies from the nearest drivable road. Not that this is an impossible distance or anything for a fish to swim. It's possible, and I don't deny that.

I've fished it a lot and never caught a stocked one, nor known anyone who did. And brookies run big in this stream to begin with. And on MOST days you can expect to catch one or two in the 10-11 inch range that there's no doubt about, mixed in with plenty of respectable 8 inchers. PFBC electrofishing studies have turned up 12 inch wild brookies (nothing over 13 that I know of, though), so you know they're there. Being that the fish looked good enough to pass as wild, it's just the simplest explanation.

In a different situation, yeah, I'd have a whole lot more questions about it.