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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : "The value of stocked trout"

Re: "The value of stocked trout"

Author: : troutbert

Date: : 2013/5/2 6:53:20

URL:

Quote:

salmonoid wrote:

Quote:

KenU wrote:

"Wild trout don't compete with stocked trout and stocked trout don't compete with wild trout.

Since when?!

I have trouble believing this is an accurate quote from John Arway. Whatever, it simply isn't true and there are any number of studies that say so.

Many stocked PA streams are infertile freestones. Food and habitat are scarce. That's why trout living in them seldom exceed 10 inches. A stream can only support so many fish and so much biomass. How could anyone believe that adding more trout does not overload the whole ecosystem? And the fishing pressure/harvesting that stocking encourages is another factor that is just ignored in the discussion.

I initially reacted with a "huh?" on the stocked vs. wild thing. Then, after I thought about it, I felt that the concept of having wild trout vs. the concept of having stocked trout are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and therefore, the concepts don't necessarily compete with each other, so maybe that's closer to what Arway meant. On a stream with wild fish that is stocked over, the concepts do compete with each other, but in Lancaster County, for instance, those ideas can co-exist peacefully. In other words stocked/wild is not an either/or; its a both/and, across the Commonwealth.

It's theoretically possible to have a stocked trout program that does not compete with wild trout.

But in PA, that's not what we have, and we're not close. Hatchery trout are very widely stocked over wild trout

populations in PA, both by the PFBC, and by the coop hatcheries.