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Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : Fishing Creek, Clinton County, 5/1/2013

Re: Fishing Creek, Clinton County, 5/1/2013

Author: : TimMurphy

Date: : 2013/5/13 9:13:25

URL:

Dear Board,

Twenty five years ago the upper section of the Narrows was predominantly brook trout, and they grew to good sizes too. Ten or 11 inch fish were common and 13 to 15 inch were less common but nowhere near rare.

From the walking bridge upstream back then I'd say that 75 to 80% of the fish I caught from there up to the Tylersville Hatchery were brookies.

Nowadays the only brook trout I get in that stretch seem to look like they have washed out of the hatchery during a high water event. I've caught some larger ones up to about 17 inches but to me they clearly looked like hatchery fish with tattered rounded fins.

I do however catch some brook trout further downstream especially in the section above Uncle Tom's Cabin but they are generally small, like 7 or 8 inches tops. It's been quite a long time since I've caught any brook trout larger than that in the downstream area of the Narrows.

I wonder what happened to the brook trout? Given that Tylersville Hatchery has been expanded I think that common wisdom places at least some of the blame on the hatchery. I know I'm guilty of that.

Still, I think that there is more at work than the hatchery. Personally I think that fishing pressure plays a role. Twenty five years ago you'd be hard pressed to find 6 or 8 cars parked along the 5 mile stretch of the Narrows even during a "hatch" weekend in mid-May.

Nowadays you'd be hard pressed to find a place to park during mid-May. I think the pressure combined with the ability of brown trout to grow larger more quickly has had a greater effect on the brook trout than any other factor. One thing is for certain, development hasn't contributed. I don't think that Valley has changed much at all since I started visiting.

Regards,

Tim Murphy 😊