Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Interesting Study
Re: Interesting Study
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2013/6/21 8:34:34
URL:

troutbert,

Agreed. It's not the first study of this nature, and the others I have read paint the same picture. That doesn't mean there aren't exceptions out there, as in certain streams, strains, etc. where interbreeding may be more common. I'm sure there are. But while falling well short of "proof", this looks to be the rule rather than the exception.

Fish populations are weird. It depends how narrowly you define the term "strain" or "subspecies", but it appears that there are A LOT of differentiat genetics within any one species. They started cataloging them in the west with cutties, you have the greenbacks, west slope, snake river, etc. In reality, these too are probably broad categories, and there are lots of subsets within. Bows, brookies, and browns probably have the same thing going on, though to a lesser degree with browns in North America because only 2 varieties were originally imported from Europe. But when it comes down to it, with say, brookies, you could probably find identifyable genetic differences in every little stream, even ones that are close together and tributaries of the same waterway.

I guess such a plethora of "strains" should be expected in animals with highly isolated populations.

I would still like to know how "sustainable" the hatchery strain is. So in the streams which had wilds, the hatchery fish DID reproduce, and you ended up with two distinct, isolated strains. Wild and hatchery. It seems to be logical that, if stocking were ended, one of the two strains would die out. I would predict that it's the hatchery strain which would die out, but that's merely a hypothesis. And that too could be highly dependent on the specific waters in question, specific strains in question, etc.

Fun to discuss and think about, that's for sure. But as with anything, answers will come slowly over time, and they'll answer some questions and create new questions in the process.