Subject: : Stream Reports
Topic: : Donegal Ck CRFFO Area, Lancaster Co, 7/16/13
Re: Donegal Ck CRFFO Area, Lancaster Co, 7/16/13
Author: : Mike
Date: : 2013/7/17 21:21:00
URL:

Fingerling survival was not acceptable in my view. Preliminarily, we estimated that it was around 7.5 percent (napkin calculation).

In contrast, I was quite impressed with the abundance of wild brown trout in comparison to their abundance a decade or a little longer ago.
This could be related to habitat improvements upstream that possibly improved summer water temps and/or a result of substantially reduced adult trout stocking that I requested years ago. At one time the FFO area was overcrowded with stocked adults as a result of combined PFBC and club stockings to the extent that the forage fish base was minimal as a result in comparison to the normal stocked trout section upstream and I thought that wild trout fingerlings were largely being consumed as forage (unlike the stocked section upstream where harvest was typical for a stocked trout section). Soon after overstocking ceased in the DH (now C& R) area fingerlings appeared in fair quantity. Apparently, based on this week's work, that reproductive success continued. Sediment is still a major problem as is the resulting habitat degradation, which is very bad, but the resiliency of wild browns has once again been demonstrated as with Valley Ck and Conowingo Ck. I would not be surprised if the Donegal biomass calculation turns out to be the equivalent of a Class A qualifying biomass at the site that we sampled, which would be quite remarkable if true. I am pleased that those whom I asked to reduce stocking took the request seriously. This is not a shot at adult trout stocking in general, but I have long been concerned about the occasional practice of overstocking on top of PFBC stockings in a largely C & R setting, whether it is a DH area or a C&R area.