

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Fall, fishing or hunting?

Re: Fall, fishing or hunting?

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URL:

That case can be made, but you have to consider that pulling a fish out for good gives that fish no chance to spawn. There are many rivers and streams that get fished heavily and have great populations. If everyone kept every fish they caught, a lot of those rivers would no longer maintain fishable populations. I think past examples of over fishing from salmon runs to shad runs to certain cuthroat species and even saltwater species have proven that catch and release is less bad than catch and keep. No one has ever said damn they really damaged the fishery by making it catch and release. Maybe in a case where the fish become stunted from overpopulation, and then some stress related mortalities would be welcome.

And let's be real here. Most of the fishing we do here is for transplanted or exotic fish. They were put where they were solely for personal enjoyment and often favored in policy over native fish species that aren't "sporting." I love brown trout, and I'm happy that there are reproducing populations in America, but they're a European fish that exists in the states solely for the purpose of recreation. For this reason, the utility of releasing the fish to have a shot at continuing to reproduce and provide recreation to other fisherman is greater than the utility of one small meal. And if the fish happens to die, let it give its energy back to the river to help the other components of the ecosystem live. Or if you get a fish in and know it's probably going to die, then just keep it.