
Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Wild or stocked?

Re: Wild or stocked?

Author: : dc410

Date: : 2013/8/2 22:48:34

URL:

Alright, I guess I should chime in since I started this mess. First of all, I would like to clarify that I was in no way, shape or form trying to be an elitist with this thread - simply not my MO. Nor was it my intention to turn it into a pissin' match although I knew there was an inherent risk that it might go that way. I merely posted a picture - which admittedly wasn't the best photo - and asked the forum members for some feedback on stocked vs. wild trout. Many folks provided that feedback and I thank them for it. I thought many of the opinions offered on the various characteristics were very interesting.

This fish was caught in the FFO C&R section of the West Branch of the Octararo Creek in southern Lancaster Co. I always considered this stream a totally stocked trout fishery - and I still do. I am unaware of any streams on the natural repro list in the W. Branch's watershed. However, the thing that left me wondering was the fact that this fish had the grayish-blue eye spot. It was a bit hard to see in the photo but I clearly noticed it before the release. I never remember catching a stocked brown that clearly showed this trait.

Years ago this stretch was regulated as FFO/Delayed Harvest. I always figured this reg was on because of the elevated water temps and the inability of fish to survive through the summer. At one point the regulation was changed from DH to C&R. I am not exactly sure why this change was made. Over the years I have discovered several cooler springs that enter the stream through the streambed due to the local geology. Some deeper areas just downstream of these springs offer fish an environment to possibly holdover through the summer. I have never heard anything about any natural reproducing brown trout in this stream. The State stocks the stream every year (spring and fall - I think) and I am unaware of any co-op, club or fingerling stocking programs. If anyone had any other insight on the West Branch I would enjoy hearing it.

This post wouldn't be complete unless I apologized to all the Tom, Dick and Harrys out there who are Oh so tired of discussing stocked and wild trout. I am sorry for wasting so much of your time. However, I think it is important for all of us to remember that the Tom, Dick and Harrys out there who so greatly share their love for flyfishing are what make this online community so great. We all play an important role in that.

Kum-ba-yaaaaaaa