

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Creel limit changes: typically not the effect that you might expect

Re: Creel limit changes: typically not the effect that you might expect

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URL:

John Arway wrote this in the Pa Angler.

"Our current research shows that more of us are practicing catch and release, whether with wild trout, stocked trout or trophy walleye, bass or muskies. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) staff angler use and harvest surveys conducted in 2005 and 2006 on wild trout (April 7 through September 3) and stocked trout streams (first 8 weeks) throughout the Commonwealth showed that anglers released 92.7 percent of the wild trout and 60.1 percent of the stocked trout that they caught."

"...This change in the practice of catch and release got me thinking about how many trout we are now recycling or re-stocking back into our streams and lakes. I did some quick math and found that if 30 percent of the 3.2 million trout that are stocked are harvested and 70 percent of the stocked trout are caught and released two times each in a season, this would amount to an angler re-stocking program of 3.8 million trout every year. Does it really matter if the PFBC or the angler does the stocking? The same trout then become available to be caught again. If we could compare these numbers to when harvest was greater than catch and release rates and licensed anglers numbered over 1.2 million (850,000 today), we would most likely find that there are more trout per licensed angler available today than perhaps any time in our history. Think about it, and let me know if you agree."

I am not sure I agree with these statistics but what do guys think?  
Looks like an argument for reduced stocking.