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
Author: : albud1962
Date: : 2013/9/8 20:43:20
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 8r Boat Commission (PFBC)
staff angler use and harvest surveys conducted in 2005
and 2006 on wild trout (Aprill7 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.