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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Score two for C&R

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First, I'll state, I have no qualms with folks who catch and keep fish to eat them. I have only disrespect for those who feel the need to parade their catch around on stringers and then toss them or don't actually use them for consumption. That being said, I find I get way more mileage out of fish if I put them back, instead of put them in my belly.

Back when the state stocked tigers, I caught what I presume was a stocked tiger on Donegal Creek. I say presume because I have caught wild browns and wild brooks in Donegal. But odds are it was stocked. That was about ten years ago and was the only tiger I had caught in my life. This year, I managed not one, not two, but three tiger trout, so far. The last one I caught last Friday. When I finally pulled the pictures off my phone today, I compared the most recent tiger to the last tiger I caught (both from the same drainage), just in case they happened to be the same fish. Turns out they weren't. But, the weekend I caught the second tiger, Swattie and his FIL were also fishing with me and Swattie picked up a tiger as well. So I compared photos and lo and behold, there was a solid match. The fish had moved maybe a tenth of a mile, downstream, but I am 100% confident it has the same fish. Look at the long unbroken vermiculation in the middle of the fish, below the lateral line..

June 14, 2013



From [Catch and Release Successes](#)

September 6, 2013



From [Catch and Release Successes](#)

Once upon a time, I had a bit of a photographic memory. Sadly, that film plate has dulled a bit as the grey matter has been crammed full. But one of the browns I caught the day before I caught the tiger also looked familiar. I'd like to say my mind recognized the spot pattern, but it was actually how fat the fish was that reminded me of another fish I caught over a year ago in almost the same spot. So, on a whim, I broke out the pictures to compare tonight. And lo and behold, I'm also 100% positive they are the same fish. Luckily, I snapped pictures of the same side of the fish.

Focus on the red spots, moving from the left, at the tail. There are one-two-three red spots, the fourth red spot

is higher and the fifth red spot is more in line with the first three. Then drop down towards the anal fin and notice the two smaller red spots. Compare to this year's photo.

June 20, 2012



[From Catch and Release Successes](#)

September 5, 2013



From [Catch and Release Successes](#)

I have hundreds of fish pictures from multiple trips to a number of different streams, and I'm sure if I pored through them, I'd find additional matches. But it is neat to look back at a couple of the nicer fish and clearly see that decisions made to release the fish paid off, sometimes months later, and sometimes over a year later.

Thanks to all who may have caught fish before me and you're welcome, to whomever may fish after me..