

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Commission hopes for multiyear fishing licenses

Re: Commission hopes for multiyear fishing licenses

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URL:

One mistake was raising the out of state license fee. For an agency crying about license sales this move seems short sighted. The commission's own research shows a significant decrease in sales every time license costs increase. Another result has been increased license fees for Pennsylvania residents in neighboring states. I like to travel and until recently maintained fishing licenses in multiple states. The current costs make it prohibitive.

Every angler likes to keep his prime fishing spots to himself, but fishing tourism may be the very thing that saves our streams for future generations. The oil and gas industry has deep pockets and from my observations, anglers are losing the battle against these interests.

By promoting and developing blue ribbon rivers and streams greater protection may be afforded them because of public awareness and use. Instead of trying to create new anglers, why not attract those who already fish and have a love for the sport?

I think its criminal that Pennsylvania has more coldwater and wild trout resources than many western states yet we continue to neglect and mismanage them.

How bout some catch and release areas for Erie steelhead streams? Less than 1 percent of the total miles of trout waters are delayed harvest or catch and release. Can't these programs be expanded?

Protect native brook trout streams.

Why is harvest allowed? I have no problems with anglers keeping hatchery fish. but this is no longer the good old days. The eastern brook trout is extremely threatened. Its time to protect it. I realize while the results of the brook trout enhancement program were mixed, factors such as hooking mortality due to bait, and increased angler pressure because of program advertisement were not considered. Many streams included in the program had habitat limitations which naturally hindered populations and growth of the natives.

Implementation of this program for all wild brook trout streams might have yielded better results. Shenandoah National Park and the state of Maryland have adopted artificial lure catch and release programs for native brook trout populations. Larger brook trout are common as a result.

Fee fishing areas.

Pay to play. This may sound somewhat elitest, but it has been successful in Virginia and an option for those intent on harvesting fish. This may be the future.

I have purchased my multiyear license with trout and Erie tributary stamp. I have done my part, now PFBC do yours.