

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Schuylkill River: Continues to return from the dead: wild ST

Re: Schuylkill River: Continues to return from the dead: wild ST

Author: : Mike

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URL:

As a result of the survey I already terminated future stockings of fingerlings from Pottsville upstream to Middleport. They will continue from Pottsville downstream to Schuylkill Haven.

Why would we not want to demonstrate that a river is recovering and that a fish population is being restored, regardless of the species, especially in a river that many believe is still in much worse condition than it really is? And this goes for individuals in key positions in some state agencies who make decisions that could be based on the continuing belief that water quality has not improved and that few if any fish of any species are present. In fact, that just came up last week and will result in the possible design modifications to a project that had the potential to discharge warm mine water into the river. These individuals are impressed that there are wild trout in the river, that there is a fishery, and that we have enough faith in river water quality to stock fish that need to survive multiple years in order to provide a fishery. You see, we are already planning ahead by attempting to make sure that new discharges are cold enough and metals reduced enough to meet the requirements of wild trout populations that with more river improvement may expand in the future (and provide a fishery without supplementation with stocked fingerlings) .

Additionally, I absolutely want to provide a fishery in a stream that has year around cold water and in one that flows through numerous small towns where many of the citizens have grown up with no local fishery and with the belief that the river is irretrievably polluted. Believe me, people in those towns do a double-take when they see an angler fishing there. Not only is the river providing recreation, but when locals see other locals fishing in the river and learn what they are catching, the fishery becomes an educational tool.

Furthermore, why would we not want to create a fishery ASAP in a river where many man hours and much money has been spent, and continues to be spent, in restoring water quality through various mine acid abatement projects and through recent construction of a sewage treatment plant for towns that had none?

And, if you care only about fishing and not any of the rest, then just the size of some of the brown trout being caught from the river would impress you.

One question I would have for you to ponder is why would anglers want agencies to create a trout fishery in a warm river and not in a nearby one that is cold?