

---

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Class A stocking proposal by the PFBC

Re: Class A stocking proposal by the PFBC

Author: : DGC

Date: : 2013/10/8 9:23:46

URL:

Apologies in advance for the tl;dr

I don't like the proposal for what are coincidentally all limestoners. Not so sure it is accurate to say the preferred PFBC direction is to continue stocking, but not privy to that. At the very least the current makeup of the commission argues against that.

No perfect solution to anything in life and this is no exception. If it does not go through and stocking stops, probably see some amount of posting as a result. Maybe quite a bit. Maybe even excessive cropping if regs don't change to limit or eliminate harvest on the proposed waters. But those are the chances you take. I particularly don't like the idea of a family tradition of going to a specific stream on opening day to catch easy stockers being removed. It is not simply a matter of driving over to the next valley, since that is not their "family" trout water. On this last point alone I am nearly in favor of the proposal.

However, no stocking on Class A water has not been around all that long. It must have been quite a fight to get it. Anything that chips away at it is no good even though I can see lots of practical application, and in fact, my own modus operandi for outstanding wild trout fishing is to go to lightly used ATWs of high quality after the Spring rush subsides. The biggest wild brook trout I catch come from such a stream and there are plenty of them.

The wild card is some labyrinth of Harrisburg bureaucratic tactical legal wrangling. I have no idea what that would be given that Class A is always considered the best protection, but then we have never had a Class A ATW, at least not in an official sense. The potential risk is not mission creep that sees yet more Class A waters getting stocked. The risk is diluting the legal standing and therefore the protections that come with Class A.

I can see that being argued from both sides, some saying Class A ATW is a higher standard, and others saying Class A ATW shows that Class A was not all it was built up to be. I hope someone thought about this.

There is a great deal of vagueness to this proposal. A final rulemaking with the actual language may come out later, once again looking for public comment.

The notion that there is anything illegal about this proposal is unlikely. If the Exec director wants an exception, that is all it takes to be legal. As far as I know it's on Arway.

By the way, Arway was on here a few months ago saying how stocker competition is harmful to wild trout. That is a point you might want to make when you send in comment. I don't recall exactly which thread.