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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Susquehanna smallie improvement - go fishing!

Re: Susquehanna smallie improvement - go fishing!

Author: : afishinado

Date: : 2013/10/20 10:55:08

URL:

Quote:

Mike wrote:

Afish,

I don't mind the anecdotal angler evidence as long as it comes from skilled anglers who are reliable and trustworthy sources and who don't stretch the size or the numbers. Ideally, they also need to be observant. All the better when their info is supported by fish population survey data. Anecdotal info is just one piece of information worth considering, keeping its limitations in mind, however. In this case, the data matched the angler reports, which means I had reliable info a couple of months before the electrofishing occurred.. For many fisheries (water bodies, species), I have a species specific or water body specific core group of avid anglers that I occasionally consult. Some keep valuable data, such as time spent fishing and catch rate info for each trip. They also know that I am going to ask odd questions, often involving how many small (defined by specific sizes) fish they caught rather than what was the largest fish that they caught.

No doubt, Mike. I know you often take info provided by anglers very seriously. Some of the guides as well as some of the skilled anglers that fish a lot can add valuable info.

Being a SMB FFER, I have observed, given the lower population of fish (my theory anyway) a FFER or even spin fisher must employ more "low and slow" techniques to catch fish.

Back when the population was huge, stripping popper or slider on the surface or swinging and stripping a bugger or streamer was all that was needed to catch a whole lot of fish. Same for spinner or buzz baits and plugs for spin fisherman. Back in the heyday just about anyone could catch quite a few fish casting out a fly or lure. Now one must work for fish.

Three reasons for this (my theory anyway) First, a large population of fish causes more competition between fish thus more aggressive behavior when feeding. Second, fish were found in many places and the aforementioned fishing techniques allowed the angler to cover a lot of water. Third, there was less available forage with a larger population of fish, whereas now, more/easier to catch prey means more well fed fish.

Also it seems fish are spread out more with concentrations in certain areas. If you really don't know the River, the luck and chance it approach often comes up short.

There are enough smallies (and some really decent sized fish) to make for a rewarding day if you can put in the

time to find them and learn a little bit about fish behavior. Also, one must employ fishing techniques that match that behavior.