
Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : 30" Browns

Re: 30" Browns

Author: : salmonoid

Date: : 2013/11/4 17:02:59

URL:

Quote:

PatrickC wrote:

Not real..... 😊

I kid. I simply don't understand why those that have not caught certain things are so cynical that they don't exist.

It's hard to draw concrete conclusions from anecdotal evidence, which is what all of the purported and reported catches are; they do not represent a systemic review of all large brown trout catches, so they are anecdotal at best. From the PFBC biggest fish list for the past seven years, there are two fish creel and reported at 30.5". This does not include fish that are Catch and Release (length only) and obviously, not everyone reports their catches to the PFBC. From this thread, the OP states he has caught a 30" brown, and the 32.5" pic from Big Spring is shown as more evidence. But all of that anecdotal data really serves to support the claim that such fish really are rare; all the other posters list fish that are less than 30". I did not see anyone denying that such fish can and do exist but they are scarce; that's not a cynical statement at all - it's a realistic one. Maybe 30 inchers are immune to electroshocking or something but I never remember reading a electroshocking survey result that included a fish over 30". Fish that are long-line released always grow in size, sometime quite rapidly, over a few hours 😊

I searched for some data about growth rates; it seems a rule of thumb is four inches for the first three years, then two inches each year thereafter. That makes a 30" fish pretty darn old, even if you add an inch to each year, for a fish that is genetically prone to growing and is living in the ideal environment. Fish that started in a hatchery might have a jump on length, as would a hatchery brood-stock escapee.