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Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations

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As suspected last March during a stocked trout residency survey, Blymire Hollow Run's wild brown trout population has reached the equivalent of a Class A biomass. As of yesterday's population estimate, the biomass was 60 kg/ha, while the minimum required for a Class A wild brown trout population is 40 kg/ha. Sampling the same sampling site in 1978 for 300 yds produced one trout in 1978, and that may have been a stocked trout. In 1995, 230 yards at that same sampling site produced 16 wild browns. Yesterday, during the first of three electrofishing passes at that site, 99 wild browns were captured in 284 yards. The largest fish was 12 inches. This is at least the fourth time that I have witnessed a small or non-existent wild brown trout population become established and grow to Class A or equivalent biomass despite the same stream section being stocked, sometimes intensively, with adult trout (Codorus Ck, Valley Ck, Conowingo Ck).

Stocking will continue until a second survey is conducted. The stream has been stocked in recent years with brook trout by the PFBC in an effort to minimize impacts on wild brown trout and perhaps assist the population to grow. If the wild brown trout population is again the equivalent of a Class A biomass during the next survey, then, according to the PFBC policy, the stream can be proposed for removal from the trout stocking program. Given legislation presently being considered, it is unclear at this point that removal will be a given.

I would add that only part of this stream section is on public land. The rest is privately owned and the private property that I saw yesterday was posted against hunting, but fishing was permitted. It is unclear in most cases statewide and here, what will happen to fishing being permitted when a Class A segment is no longer stocked. One needs to consider that a very minor state stocking program, such as the one on Blymire, can be the key to keeping such waters open to public fishing with little impact on the wild trout population.