

Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations

Topic: : Once again a wild BT population blossoms on a stocked trout stream

Re: Once again a wild BT population blossoms on a stocked trout stream

Author: : afishinado

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URL:

The **Clean Water Act**, which applied to the surface waters of the United States, went beyond protection and sought restoration of our nation's waterways. Restoration of polluted waterways was a relatively new concept in 1972. **Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law**, passed in 1937 to protect "clean" waters from becoming polluted, did not require that polluted waters be restored.

Nearly thirty years passed before **the Clean Streams Law was amended to include the goal "to reclaim and restore to a clean unpolluted condition every stream in Pennsylvania that is presently polluted."** Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law was further amended in 1970 to state that the discharge of materials contributing to pollution was against public policy and constituted a public nuisance.

The Clean Water Act provides for the delegation of authority to states. In 1978, the EPA determined that Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law met the minimum requirements of the Clean Water Act and delegated to the Commonwealth the power to implement the provisions of the federal law. Pennsylvania regulations meet and in many respects exceed federal law. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is designated as the state agency with authority to enforce the powers of the Clean Water Act, however municipal governments play a key role protecting water quality and in meeting the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act.

Like the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Act and the 1972 Clean Water Act, laws protecting water quality have generally originated at the federal level and primarily addressed point source pollution, leaving the regulation of nonpoint source pollution to state governments. Water quantity and water supply protections have also been left primarily to the states. By contrast, zoning and land use management decisions have generally been left to the control of local government.

In Pennsylvania, local governments, or municipal corporations, include cities, boroughs, incorporated towns, and

townships of the first or second class. Each of these local government structures is a creation of the state and “may exercise any power or perform any function not denied by this Constitution, by its home rule charter or by the General Assembly at any time.”

Express powers, such as the power to enact zoning provisions that protect public health and safety, preserve natural, historic, and agricultural resources, and prevent damage from flooding can also be exercised by Pennsylvania’s local governments.

Guberment regs gone wild.... 🤪

Thank the polities (with some foresight) for doing the right thing.

Decades later, we are seeing some of the positive results, IMHO.