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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Twenty Inch Smallmouth... Edit: Finally Did It!

Re: Twenty Inch Smallmouth

Author: : afishinado

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URL:

The 20" SM I've caught have come from the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers, I guess for the most part, because that's where I fished for them 90% of the time, and the big rivers had the forage and habitat to allow them to grow to those dimensions. I lived a block from the Susquehanna River and fished it nearly every day as a kid. Later on I camped out on many summer weekends and fished the Delaware River. I suppose if you fish enough in places that hold trophy fish, you're bound to latch on to one once in a while. Also I found a few places on those rivers that didn't get hammered too hard by fisherman.

I caught a lot of trophy SMs before I fly-fished for them. I was a stonecat / hellgrammite guy (called caddies & clippers back in NE PA) and I used lures later on. I now FF for them exclusively, and I have caught a few 20" SMs on flies.

I believe that today, C&R and many angler now fishing with artificial lures has had a positive impact on the SM populations, especially for the larger fish. There was a time when every fisherman wading the Susky or D had a stringer and an Old Pal bait can tied to his belt. Now most anglers practice C&R for SMs and, IMO, the average size of the fish has increased since when I fished as a kid.

Most of my SM fishing has been in NE PA, but the fishing in lower Susky was unbelievable a decade ago. It's really a shame how far downhill it has slipped. The great SM fishing may return some day to the lower Susky, one can only hope.