Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Help: Erie Steelhead Fishing
Re: Help: Erie Steelhead Fishing
Author: : Christian
Date: : 2009/2/24 17:50:00
URL:

Personally I wouldn't go hog wild on a new rod if you have something in a 9' 5 weight or 6 weight (for PA). I tried an 8 wt the first time up and it was way overkill. I now use a 10' 6 weight in heavy flows and a 9' 5 weight for lower flows. When the water is clear and tippets are light, a heavier stick is actually a detriment IMO.

With a 5 wt, you can whip a steelie in under 5 minutes (sometimes well under- most are only 4 to 7 lbs) if you learn how to fight them. Sideways pressure on their head with the rod swept low, and pulling opposite their travel is key. Keep them guessing. A rod held high in the air is a sure sign of a long fight to come- it just let's the fish control the situation. Take control and whip them fast.

Don't make it tougher than it is; take your nymphing rig, have egg patterns from size 8 to size 16 in cream, pink, orange, yellow, chartreuse, and powder blue (my favorite); even mix colors on the same fly (black/yellow, blue/pale yellow, RWB, etc). Also nymphs in dark colors and smaller sizes. I take a vise and replenish in the room each night. Tippet from 4x for low & clear to 2x or heavier for higher, colored flows. And don't overdo the weight- I start with one 4 shot and add more as necessary. Often 2 or 3 number 4 shot is sufficient even for good flows(and don't be afraid to try none in lower water once you have a saturated fly).

Stay away from the mouths of Elk and Walnut unless you like a circus. There can be hundreds of people there, and yet I can find relative solitude a few miles upstream or on a lessor known stream. Take your map and spend a day exploring.