Subject: : Conservation
Topic: : Stocking Trout Over Wild Fish
Re: Stocking Trout Over Wild Fish
Author: : salvelinusfontinalis
Date: : 2009/6/10 21:22:11
URL:

Bad idea but better than what we do now.

Quote:

> Some people believe that stocking trout over stream born trout is bad because it deminishes the stream born trout population. The theory behind this belief is that stream born trout can't compete for food with the stocked trout.

Yes what you say here is very true but it also isnt that simple. There is a stream capacity of fish. It is figured by the amount of food available for the amount of fish in the stream. Lets say we stock a stream full of fingerling brown trout over wild brown trout. The bugs, shrimp, crustaceans and baitfish in this said stream are all the available food source. This amount of food in this stream can support approx. 100 fish. Well there were 75 wild browns but we placed 700 fingerling browns in the stream. 675 fish will die. Granted most fingerling stockings are unsuccessful. The reasons are always different. But there is amount of the stocked fish that will die in the first few days, then weeks, then months and then years....the questions is will the wild trout be able to compete with them and survive?

Quote:

> Also, there behavior would be very close to that of the wild fish.

The answer is still NO.

The reason is that behavior of stocked adults and stocked fingerlings is different than that of a wild trout. While it is worse in adults, stocked trout will fight and fight and fight for food with each other. They will fight for lies and sometimes i think just fight for fightings sake. Wild fish will fight but not for very long. They have realized that fighting only wastes energy and takes away from feeding time. They will be pushed to inferior lies just like the adult stocked fish would do to them and become even less nourished. Look.....even fingerling Lions will still bite you

Quote:

> Since they would be spending most of there life in the stream, they probably wouldn't grow any larger than

the stream born trout would.

Going back to the streams carrying capacity of fish and food available. Picture this: 3 BWO's floating down stream....10 fingerlings in a pool and 2 wild browns. What are the chances those wild fish will get the food? 1 in 5? Plus the amount of energy wasted in fighting for the food will only hurt them. They will also grow faster. It is in their genetics to grow faster. Especially in a stream with more food like a limestone spring creek.

Bottomline:

I agree that on SOME streams this is worth looking into. Especially the thought of stocking the same species together. Try to remember that blanket regs, blanket stockings and blanket management is NOT what PA needs. PA needs a case by case, stream by stream basis to figure out what is best. But i can assure you....stocking anything over what is already there is ALMOST NEVER a good idea.