

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

***Fisheries Committee
Harrisburg, PA***



Dave Miko, Chief

Division of Fisheries Management

July 16, 2012

Purpose of Tail Water Workgroup

Evaluate possibilities for enhancement of cold water tail water fisheries throughout Pennsylvania



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Three Phase Approach

1. Continued compilation of facts and figures
2. Periodic evaluation of progress by tail waters workgroup
3. Recommendations to the Fisheries Committee when Commission action is required

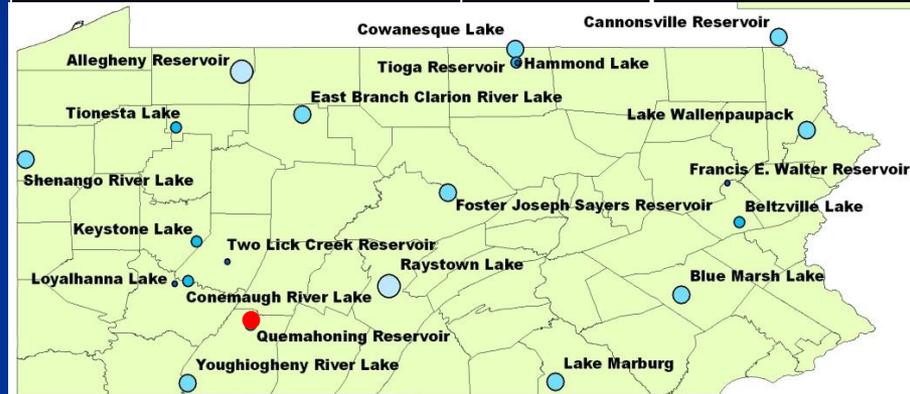


Quemahoning Reservoir



Receiving Water:
Quemahoning Ck
Mean Width: 44 ft

Owner: Public
Size: 845 ac
Max Depth: 92 ft



Tail Water Management: Fingerling trout beginning 2013

Distance of Cold Water Influence: 1.3 miles

Current Activity: Sampled two sites in June. Water temperatures suitable for trout. No trout captured. Habitat is a major limiting factor. The conservation district leading way on habitat improvement below the reservoir. PFBC will stock rainbow and brown trout fingerlings in 2013.

F. E. Walter Reservoir



Receiving Water:
Lehigh R
Mean Width: 126 ft

Owner: ACOE
Size: 80/482 ac
Max Depth: 55 ft



Tail Water Management: Catchable and fingerling trout

Distance of Cold Water Influence: 7.5 miles

Current Activity: Completed final flow model run. Evaluating the results of flow model run. Recommendations on next steps will follow. Completed staff meeting to discuss implementation of 2012 flow plan and discuss ways to improve stakeholder input for 2013 flow plan development.

Lake Wallenpaupack



Receiving Water:
- Lackawaxon R
Mean Width: 127 ft

Owner: PVT
Size: 5,698 ac
Max Depth: 49 ft



Tail Water Management: Catchable and fingerling trout

Distance of Cold Water Influence: 6 miles

Current Activity: FERC relicense through 2045 requires PPL to maintain coldwater release. Fine tuning of system continues with assistance from PFBC.

Cannonsville Dam



Receiving Water:
W. Br. Delaware R
Mean Width: 233 ft

Owner: NYC
Size: 4,703 ac
Max Depth: 141 ft



Tail Water Management: Wild trout

Distance of Cold Water Influence: W. Branch Delaware 18 miles, Mainstem 15 miles

Current Activity: PFBC made a request to DEP for a 24 hour emergency spill from the Extraordinary Release Bank to provide thermal relief to the upper Delaware River. DEP advanced the request to the Decree Party and the emergency spill was granted.

Raystown Lake



Receiving Water:
Raystown Branch
Mean Width: 215 ft

Owner: ACOE
Size: 8,297 ac
Max Depth: 183 ft



Tail Water Management: Catchable trout & warmwater – coolwater species

Distance of Cold Water Influence: None

Current Activity: PFBC staff met with ACOE and hydropower representatives to gauge interest in pursuing a cold water release. PFBC was advised to draft a letter of request to ACOE Baltimore District Commander for official ACOE support. Letter has been drafted for Executive Director's signature and will be sent later this month to begin formal discussions.

Beltzville Lake



Receiving Water:
Pohopoco Ck
Mean Width: 60 ft

Owner: ACOE
Size: 946 ac
Max Depth: 126 ft



Tail Water Management: Catchable and fingerling trout

Distance of Cold Water Influence: 7 miles

Current Activity: Outflow temperatures currently required to meet Chapter 93-HQ-CWF parameters. Need to approach ACOE to determine if a flow model is required to maximize use of cold water resources in the reservoir.

Suggested Policy Statement

The commissioners recognize:

That the Commonwealth's cold water fish populations are increasingly imperiled by factors beyond the commission's control, and

Pennsylvania's large reservoirs provide opportunities to expand wild trout populations in their tail waters through careful manipulation of cold water releases from the reservoirs.



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Therefore, the commissioners direct the Executive Director to actively seek to maximize the opportunities available to protect, conserve and enhance, wherever possible, wild trout populations in tail waters below existing reservoirs within the Commonwealth.

Limitations:

1. The agency will not allow prior agreements with external groups or existing design limitations to deter it from aggressively pursuing its stated tail waters policy.

