


2008

**Adult Trout Stocking
Program Changes**

by R. Thomas Greene

Licking Creek, Juniata County





For the 2008 season the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission will stock some 3.4 million adult trout in Commonwealth waters open to public angling. This figure includes trout produced at state fish hatcheries, trout obtained from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as part of a cooperative agreement between the Fish & Boat Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and trout obtained as part of a purchase contract with a commercial hatchery. This figure is similar to the number of trout produced for stocking during the 2007 season. As implemented for the 2007 season, the average length of the trout produced for stocking will be 11 inches.

New waters

East Branch Brandywine Creek, Chester County. Located partially in a public park near a dense population center, a 2.1-mile stream section will be added to the trout stocking program. Stocking will extend from the SR 4004 bridge on Dowlin Forge Road downstream to Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown. The stream will receive a preseason stocking of brown and rainbow trout.

Huntingdon Creek, Columbia County. Recent efforts by Columbia County officials have been successful in restoring access to a part of this stream that was removed from the stocking program several years ago because of posting. This will allow a 1.6-mile stream section from Forks Farm downstream to Twin Bridges Park to be added to the stocking program. This stream section will receive a preseason and an inseason stocking of brown and rainbow trout.

Jordan Creek, Lehigh County. A 3.2-mile section extending from the Mill Creek Road bridge (SR 4009) downstream to the Jordan Road bridge (T-593) near the Trexler Game Preserve will be added to the trout stocking program. The addition of this stream section will provide additional angling opportunities near a dense population center. This stream section will receive a preseason and an inseason stocking of brown and rainbow trout.

Little Neshannock Creek, Lawrence and Mercer counties. A 4.1-mile stream section extending from the confluence with the West Branch of Little Neshannock Creek downstream to the mouth will be added to the trout stocking program. This stream section will receive a preseason and an inseason stocking of brown and rainbow trout.

Early warning waters

Dotters Creek, Monroe County. A 2.5-mile stream section extending from the Mertz Road bridge (T-442) downstream to the mouth will be removed from the trout stocking program because of an increase in landowner posting.

Horm Run, Jefferson County. A 2.4-mile stream section extending from the T-450 bridge downstream to the mouth will be removed from the trout stocking program because of a combination of access limitations (less than 20 percent of the stream is within 100 yards of a road), low

angler use, and the small stream size. This water had been stocked preseason only.

Other program changes

Clear Run, Jefferson County. Early season water quality concerns stemming from episodic acidification have changed this waterway's trout stocking. Beginning with the 2008 season, stocking will be conducted inseason only. This water had been stocked preseason only.

North Fork Redbank Creek, Jefferson County. Early season water quality concerns stemming from episodic acidification have eliminated preseason stocking on a 1.4-mile stream section extending from Moore Bridge Road (SR 4006) downstream to the confluence with Pekin Run. Inseason stocking will continue.

Rocky Run, Elk County. Opening day angler counts conducted in 2006 and 2007 documented very low early season angler use on this water. The timing of stocking will therefore change from preseason only to inseason only.

Delayed-Harvest area extension

Sandy Lick Creek, Clearfield County. In cooperation with the Allegheny Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the city of Dubois, a 0.5-mile extension will be added to the Delayed-Harvest, Artificial-Lures-Only area on Sandy Lick Creek in 2008. The revised area will extend from the confluence with Laborde Branch downstream to the SR 0219 bridge in Dubois.

Stocking restoration

Cold Run, Schuylkill County. A 2.2-mile stream section extending from the confluence with Beaver Creek downstream to the mouth will return to the trout stocking program in 2008 following the completion of repairs to the access road. This waterway will be stocked preseason only with rainbow trout.

Delaware Canal, Bucks County. Following the completion of maintenance work on the canal, stocking will resume in a 1.0-mile canal section extending from the upstream boundary of Upper Washington Crossing State Park downstream to the canal lock at the lower park boundary. This water will receive a preseason and an inseason rainbow trout stocking.

Laurel Lake, Cumberland County. A lake drawdown for maintenance repairs led to canceling the 2007 preseason and spring inseason stockings on this 25-acre impoundment. Trout stocking was tentatively scheduled to resume during the fall in 2007.

Lyman Lake, Potter County. This 40-acre lake was removed from the stocking program in 2001 because of safety concerns that required a total drawdown of the impoundment to allow for major renovations to the structure of the dam. Trout stocking was tentatively scheduled to resume beginning with the winter stocking period in late 2007.

Rock Run, Lancaster County. A 2.7-mile stream section extending from the campgrounds located about 1 mile downstream of the Berks and Lebanon County line downstream to the mouth will be restored to the trout stocking program following the resolution of access problems. This stream section will receive a preseason stocking of brown and rainbow trout.

Stocking expansion

Changes in classification, surface area, and/or stocking limit extensions have led to an increase in the stocking program on the following waters for the 2008 season: Big Spring Creek, Cumberland County; Codorus Creek, York County; Cowanshannock Creek, Armstrong County; Frances Slocum Lake, Luzerne County; French Creek, Chester County; Lake Wilma, Greene County; Lehigh River, Carbon and Luzerne counties; Little Clearfield Creek, Clearfield County; Manatawny Creek, Berks County; Meshoppen Creek, Wyoming County; Montour Run, Allegheny County; Pekin Run, Jefferson County; Raystown Branch Juniata River, Somerset County; Sacony Creek, Berks County; Tuscarora Creek, Bradford and Wyoming counties; West Branch Chester Creek, Delaware County; West Branch Meshoppen Creek, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties; Wheeling Creek, Dunkard Fork, North Fork, Greene County; Whiteley Creek, Greene County; Willow Creek, Berks County; and Yellow Creek, Bedford County. □

R. Thomas Greene is the Commission's Coldwater Unit Leader.



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Important Information About Stocking Fish

Every spring, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission stocks trout in thousands of stream miles and dozens of lakes. Interested anglers and other citizens often arrive to help or watch stockings. The safety of all in attendance often becomes a significant concern, as does the effective stocking of the delicate cargo brought to the water from our hatcheries.

A planned fish stocking can be disrupted or delayed because of unsafe conditions created by factors including the weather, road and traffic conditions, the number of participant vehicles, access to the water by the stocking truck and officer, and participant conduct. When attending a fish stocking, it's important for everyone to abide by the directions given by the waterways conservation officer (WCO) or his/her designee. In addition:

- Arrive in time to hear the WCO's briefing of safety and stocking instructions.
- Don't help carry fish if you have health problems.
- Don't park ahead of the stocking procession's lead vehicle or behind the designated tail safety vehicle.
- Keep your vehicle at least 40 feet behind the stocking truck at all times.
- Do not jump ahead of the stocking truck and park in off-road spots that will be used by the truck. Doing so can cause the truck to bypass that stocking location.
- Do not park your vehicle in a manner that obstructs traffic. Park safely off the roadway in a legal manner.
- Carpool with other participants, if possible.
- If you're going to help carry buckets, always off-load the buckets from the back of the truck.
- Fish don't survive long in a bucket, so carry your buckets as quickly as possible from the truck to the water. Bring the bucket back to the truck promptly so that the stocking can continue without delay.
- Don't pour buckets of fish into shallow, muddy or silted areas. Be sure the water is deep enough to prevent fish from dying because of clogged gills.
- Always stay alert to moving traffic. Keep children under your immediate safe control, and do not stand in traffic lanes while watching or helping to stock.

The Fish & Boat Commission is not liable for any injury to stocking assistants or damage to their vehicles. Please help make fish stockings safe, efficient and enjoyable by always observing safety precautions!