

Notice

Proposed Addition to List of Class A Wild Trout Waters Middle Spring Creek (Section 01), Cumberland County

The Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) is considering changes to its list of Class A Wild Trout Streams. Under 58 Pa. Code §57.8a (relating to Class A wild trout streams), it is the Commission's policy to manage self-sustaining Class A wild trout populations as a renewable natural resource to conserve that resource and the angling it provides. Class A wild trout populations represent the best of Pennsylvania's naturally reproducing trout fisheries. The Commission manages these stream sections solely for the perpetuation of the wild trout fishery with no stocking.

Criteria developed for Class A Wild Trout fisheries are species specific. Wild Trout Abundance Class Criteria include provisions for:

(i) Wild Brook Trout Fisheries

- (A) Total brook trout biomass of at least 30 kg/ha (26.7 lbs/acre).
- (B) Total biomass of brook trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (C) Brook trout biomass must comprise at least 75% of the total trout biomass.

(ii) Wild Brown Trout Fisheries

- (A) Total brown trout biomass of at least 40 kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre).
- (B) Total biomass of brown trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (C) Brown trout biomass must comprise at least 75% of the total trout biomass.

(iii) Mixed Wild Brook and Brown Trout Fisheries

- (A) Combined brook and brown trout biomass of at least 40 kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre).
- (B) Total biomass of brook trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (C) Total biomass of brown trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (D) Brook trout biomass must comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.
- (E) Brown trout biomass must comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.

(iv) Wild Rainbow Trout Fisheries

Total biomass of rainbow trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 2.0 kg/ha (1.78 lbs/acre).

In order for a water to be removed from the Class A Wild Trout Streams designation, total trout biomass must be documented below the set criteria for two consecutive stream examinations.

At its meeting on July 16 and 17, 2007, the Commission intends to consider adding Middle Spring Creek, Section 01, in Cumberland County to its list of Class A Wild Trout Streams. Section 01 of Middle Spring Creek extends from its source downstream 1.48 miles to Avon Road (T-303). On August 10 and 18, 2006, a Petersen mark-recapture population estimate was conducted at two stations within this section in order to quantify the wild brown trout population. The stations encompassed 27% of the total length of Section 01. During the survey,

a total of 462 wild brown trout, which ranged in total length from 75 mm to 475 mm, were collected. The Section 01 wild brown trout biomass estimate was 76.60 kg/ha. Fish less than 150 mm in total length had a biomass of 17.00 kg/ha. The wild brown trout population documented in Section 01 of Middle Spring Creek exceeds the minimum Class A criteria of a total population biomass estimate of 40 kg/ha with the biomass of trout less than 150 mm comprising at least 0.1 kg/ha.

Persons with comments, objections or suggestions concerning the addition are invited to submit comments in writing to Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, within 30 days after publication of this notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Comments also may be submitted electronically by completing the form at <http://www.state.pa.us/Fish/regcomments>. If an acknowledgment of electronic comments is not received by the sender within 2 working days, the comments should be retransmitted to ensure receipt. Electronic comments submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.

FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION:

Douglas J. Austen, Ph.D.
Executive Director