

## Notice

### Proposed Addition to List of Class A Wild Trout Waters

Big Rift Creek, Tioga County

The Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) is considering a change 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 April 21 and 22, 2008, the Commission intends to consider adding Big Rift Creek, Tioga County, from the headwaters to the mouth, to its list of Class A Wild Trout Streams. Commission staff, during a 2007 survey, documented this stream to have a total wild brook trout biomass of 35.15 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 [www.fishandboat.com/regcomments](http://www.fishandboat.com/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