

# **Pennsylvania Trout Plan**

**History and Status  
Fisheries Management**



## **§ 57.1. Policy for the Conservation & Management of Fishery Resources.**

*It will be the policy of the Commission to protect, conserve, and enhance the quality and diversity of the fishery resources of this Commonwealth including reptiles and amphibians and to provide continued and varied angling opportunity through scientific inventory, classification, and management of that resource. To achieve the objectives of this policy, the Commission will do the following:*



## § 57.1. (Continued)

1. Establish and maintain a current data base.
2. Develop Statewide management programs to assure consistent treatment of all resources within any given class.
3. Manage self-sustaining fish populations as a renewable natural resource to conserve that resource and the angling it provides.
4. Use hatchery fish to provide recreation in those waters where fish populations are inadequate to sustain the fishery at desired levels.
5. Develop appropriate regulations and operational strategies to replace policies that are not compatible with management through resource classification.

***1. Establish and maintain a current data base on the quality and quantity of the aquatic and fishery resources of the Commonwealth.***

- **4,468 water areas have been examined via stream or lake inventories**
- **Inventory information has been collected on:**
  - 3,298 Stream sections managed for trout**
  - 144 Lakes managed with trout**

## **Examinations since 1997**

- **2,158 water areas have been examined via stream or lake inventories**
- **1,632 are managed with trout**
- **Includes initial inventory information on:**
  - 555 Flowing water sections managed for trout**
  - 14 Lakes managed for trout**

# Angler Surveys

- **30 - Trout Stocked Stream Sections in 2005**
- **200 - Wild Trout Stream Sections in 2004**
- **15 - Trout Stocked Lakes from 2000-2001**
- **5 - Wild Trout Stream Sections from 1994-1998**
- **7 - Delayed Harvest Areas from 1993-2000**
- **5 - Trout Stocked Lakes from 1988-1998**
- **28 - Trout Stocked Stream Sections from 1988-1991**

**2. Develop Statewide management programs to assure consistent treatment of all resources within any given class. Similar waters will be managed to meet the same objectives.**





## § 57.2. Allocation and Stocking of Trout.

- a. The Commission will allocate trout, except fingerlings, to individual waters with the rate and frequency to be determined by **assignment of each water to a resource category**.
- b. The Commission will **assign water areas to resource categories based on the appropriately weighted biological and social factors**, including the status of wild trout populations, stream width or lake area and recreational use potential as indicated by public access, parking spaces, ownership, proximity to roads, proximity to urban areas and activities of resource adoption organizations.
- c. The Division of Fisheries Management will maintain a current list of resource categories, trout allocation processes and trout allocations.
- d. This section supersedes all other Commission policies or operating procedures to the extent inconsistent with this section.

# Biomass Classification

- **Class A Wild Trout Waters – No stocking – 473 stream sections – 1,395 miles of stream**
- **Class B Waters – 484 Stream Sections - 1,548 miles of stream**
- **Class C Waters – 458 Stream Sections - 1,590 miles of stream**
- **Class D Waters – 1,805 Stream Sections - 9,436 miles of stream**

## **Resource Categories are based on a combination of biological and social factors:**

- **Density of wild trout populations**
- **Stream width or Lake area**
- **Proximity to roads**
- **Parking spaces**
- **Ownership (Public vs. Private and Open vs. Closed)**
- **Human Population Density**

***3. Manage self-sustaining fish populations as a renewable natural resource to conserve that resource and the angling it provides.***





## § 57.8a. Class A Wild Trout Streams.

*It is the policy of the Commission **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 the Commonwealth's naturally reproducing trout fisheries. These stream sections are managed solely for the perpetuation of the wild trout fishery with no stocking.*



## § 57.4. Wilderness Trout Streams.

*It is the policy of the Commission to maintain the wilderness trout streams program where stream remoteness and **populations of naturally reproducing trout** combine to offer sport fishing opportunity for the recreation of anglers in a wilderness setting away from roads or vehicular access. It is the Commission's intent to advocate proper watershed management to maintain the wilderness setting and to advance and seek the highest water quality standards through the Department of Environmental Protection.*

# Wild Trout Management Programs

- **Class A Wild Trout Streams** – 473 Stream Sections - 1,395 miles of stream Statewide
- **Wilderness Trout Streams** – 111 Stream Sections - 380 miles of stream Statewide

***4. Use hatchery fish to provide recreation in waters where fish populations are inadequate to sustain the fishery at desired levels.***

**Adult Trout Stocking program:**

- 1,092 Stream Sections – 4,749 miles of stream
- Lakes – 128 Lakes - 8,585 acres

**Fingerling Trout Stocking program:**

- 34 Stream Sections - 259 miles of stream
- Lakes – 9 Lakes - 20,300 acres

## 5. Develop appropriate regulations and strategies to replace policies that are not compatible with management through resource classification.

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### WILD BROOK TROUT ENHANCEMENT AREA

#### NO BROOK TROUT MAY BE KILLED OR HAD IN POSSESSION

Brook trout has worm-like markings on back. They also have red spots with bluish halos.



Front edge of pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are white with a black streak. Rest of the fin color is red.

- There are no tackle restrictions.
- The regulations apply to brook trout only; all other species, inland regulations apply.
- During the regular trout season, anglers may harvest up to 5 trout per day (other than brook trout).
- Open to fishing year-round (no closed season).
- A current trout/salmon permit is required.
- Refer to the current PA Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws for specific designated areas.

#### CATCH AND RELEASE GUIDELINES

- Play fish quickly, **DO NOT** play the fish to total exhaustion.
- Keep fish in water as much as possible. Try to remove the hook without removing the fish from the water. Wet your hands if you must hold the fish.
- Be gentle—**if you must hold a fish, treat it carefully.** A landing net can help you land fish quickly.
- Remove hooks from the mouth quickly. Consider using barbless hooks and carrying long-nose pliers or hemostats. If a fish is deeply hooked, cut the line near the mouth without removing the hook.

**Penalty for Violation as Provided by Law**  
**Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission**  
[www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)



## § 57.5. Special Regulations Policy.

*It is the policy of the Commission to **utilize regulations differing from those in application on a Statewide basis** when deemed necessary or desirable to protect, conserve or enhance the quality, quantity and diversity of this Commonwealth's fisheries, to maintain public access or to provide for the safety of the users of the resource. It is the intention of the Commission to use the minimum necessary regulation to maintain the philosophy of its conservation policy and to minimize variations in regulations on similar waters having like management objectives.*

# Special Regulations Programs:

- **Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only – 61 Streams – 98.3 miles**
- **Catch-and-Release – 15 Streams – 46.8 miles**
- **Catch-and-Release Fly-Fishing Only – 33 Streams – 61.6 miles**
- **Catch-and-Release All Tackle – 4 Streams – 53.5 miles**
- **Trophy Trout – 8 Streams – 26.2 miles**
- **Trophy Trout All Tackle – 2 Streams – 16 miles**
- **Wild Brook Trout Enhancement – 9 Watersheds – 62.4 miles**

## **Changes since the third edition of the Management of Pennsylvania Trout Fisheries in 1997:**

- **Implemented two Regional Opening Days of Trout Season in 2007**
- **Implemented the stocking of larger but fewer adult trout in 2007**
- **Consolidated and simplified special regulations programs in 2006**
- **Modified resource based stocking categories to emphasize areas of high human population density in 2004**
- **Reduced the statewide creel limit from 8 to 5 trout/day in 2000**

# Challenges

- **Increase angler participation – more anglers fishing more often for trout**
- **Early season stocked trout movement**
- **More efficient use of stocked trout – address stocking on waters with low use**
- **Evaluate effectiveness of fingerling trout stocking**
- **Prioritize sampling on unsurveyed wild trout waters based on risk to streams from development**
- **Develop guidelines/policies for use of special regulations**