

The Science of Stocking Trout

Each year, the Commission raises and stocks millions of trout. These fish are put in our waters just for us to catch. But they aren't stocked without rhyme or reason. For example, trout aren't stocked in streams that have lots of wild trout. Wild trout are those that are spawned and grow in the wild. If there are enough wild trout naturally occurring in a waterway to support fishing pressure, then that waterway isn't stocked. The Commission calls these stream sections "Class A Wild Trout Waters." There are more than 1,000 miles of stream sections considered Class A. Waters that have some wild trout, but not enough to support high fishing pressure, are good candidates for stocking.



the amount of parking near the stream, the stream's closeness to roads, and who owns the land surrounding the stream.

All of this information is collected and analyzed. The number of fish stocked (if at all) is based on the analysis of the stream. Streams stocked

at the highest rates (streams that get the most fish) include those that have the following characteristics:

- low to moderate population of wild trout.
- water temperatures that don't exceed 75 degrees in the summer.
- pH of at least 6.0.
- width between 16 and 66 feet.
- public ownership or cooperative landowners willing to open their property.
- nearness to lots of people.
- plenty of places for anglers to park.
- easy for anglers to access.

Streams that fit this ideal receive up to 475 trout per acre per year. The number of trout stocked decreases as conditions move away from the ideal.

The fewest number of trout stocked per acre per year is 50.

You can see that there is a lot of work that goes in to stocking trout. All this work is well worth it so you can have a good day on the water.

Cut out the trout identification card at left, fold over on dotted line and keep in your fishing vest pocket to help identify your catch.

Trout



Brook trout
Salvelinus fontinalis
PA's Official State Fish



Brown trout
Salmo trutta



Rainbow trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Golden rainbow trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Lake trout
Salvelinus namaycush

Identification



Brook trout has red spots with bluish halos.



Worm-like pattern (vermiculation) on back.



Front edge of fins white or lighter in color.



Brown trout has dark spots, few or none on tail.



Rainbow trout has dark spots, especially on tail, and a pink lateral stripe.



Golden rainbow trout has deep-yellow or orange coloration. Some have darker gold stripe.



Lake trout has light spots over entire body. Tail deeply forked.



Illustration: Ted Walke