

GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation

by *Kaine McFarland*

Every fall, the streams along the shores of Lake Erie swell with the increase of rain and lowering temperatures. With this increase of water flow comes an increase of anglers from across Pennsylvania and the country to chase steelhead. Steelhead provide a great opportunity for anglers due to the variety of tactics to catch them and the thrill of the fight.

Steelhead can be caught on conventional tackle or fly fishing gear. Good baits and lures for steelhead include spoons, inline spinners, egg sacs, minnows, and worms. Popular flies for steelhead include Sucker Spawns, Nuke Eggs, yarn eggs, milking eggs, a variety of nymphs, and a variety of streamers. My favorite flies are the milking egg in orange and orange yarn eggs.

While the fishing is amazing, and it provides a great opportunity to many anglers, the fishery would not remain without the hard work of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Every year, steelhead are netted from Trout Run. These fish are then taken to the Fairview State Fish Hatchery and spawned. The eggs from the spawned steelhead are grown into the next generation of steelhead to be stocked into the tributaries, where they will later return to spawn.



photo-courtesy of Kaine McFarland

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The larger streams, such as Elk Creek and Walnut Creek, receive the heaviest of the stockings, which is why the streams have high fish and angler numbers every year. Other streams include Twentymile Creek, Sixteenmile Creek, and Conneaut Creek. With so many tributary streams, you never know what you may find at the end of your line. ☐



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