

PA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
September 2010

WATER: Lackawanna River (405A) Section 07 Lackawanna County

EXAMINED: July 2010

BY: Tom Greene, Bob Weber, Dave Nihart, Dave Arnold, Daryl Pierce, Bryan Chikotas, George Vernoski, Aaron Kaiser, Rob Wnuk, Aaron Frey, and Jake Precone

Bureau Director Action: [Signature] Date: 12/16/11

Division Chief Action: David A. Mico Date: 12-16-11

WW Unit Leader Action: _____ Date: _____

CW Unit Leader Action: Robert J. Weber Date: 12/16/11

AREA COMMENTS:

We surveyed Section 07 of the Lackawanna River in July 2010 to update its wild brown trout biomass classification. Wild brown trout density at the four sampling sites was highly variable, with the lowest biomass at the most downriver site. Thus, we recommended moving the downriver section limit upstream. Wild brown trout biomass in the re-defined Section 07 exceeded Class A standards.

The annual mortality rate for Age 1 and older wild brown trout was very similar to that of an unexploited population. Additionally, the annual mortality rate for Age 3 and older wild brown trout was extremely low. Mortality rates indicated that angler harvest had no impact on population density or size structure. Thus, more conservative angling regulations would not benefit the wild brown trout population.

AREA RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Re-define the limits of Section 07 as follows: from the Route 347 Bridge at the border of Olyphant and Dickson City downriver to the Green Ridge Street Bridge in Scranton (9.33 km).
2. Add Section 07 to the Class A wild trout waters list.
3. Petition the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to upgrade the Chapter 93 water quality classification of Section 07 from Coldwater, Migratory Fishes to High-Quality Coldwater, Migratory Fishes.
4. Continue to manage Section 07 under Commonwealth Inland Waters Regulations.
5. The wild brown trout population in Section 07 would benefit from riparian plantings to provide shade to the stream and buffer the

warming effects that direct sunlight is having on the water temperature of the stream. If a local group such as Trout Unlimited, separately or in coordination with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Division of Habitat Improvement, were interested, riparian plantings to shade the river in Section 07 would be a worthy project.