

West Virginia Division of Natural resources Wildlife Resources Section Trout Tagging Study

Summary of Results

Since 2006, WVDNR biologists have conducted studies on stocked trout. The goal of this study is three-fold: 1) To determine angler success, 2) To determine stocking success, and 3) To determine angler opinions about trout stocking and fishing.

In 2006, three water bodies were studied: Spruce Knob Lake (Randolph County), North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River (Grant and Pendleton Counties), and Mountwood Lake (Wood County). This increased to five water bodies in 2007: South Branch of the Potomac River (Smoke Hole Section-Pendleton County), North Fork of Cherry River (Greenbrier and Nicholas Counties), Panther Creek (McDowell County), Coopers Rock Lake (Monongalia County), and Jimmy Lewis Lake (Mercer County). In 2008, WVDNR will be tagging and stocking trout into Krodel Lake (Mason County), Summersville Lake Tailwaters (Nicholas County), and the Blackwater River (Tucker County).

Several interesting results have been found:



WVDNR biologists have tagged and stocked 6,461 rainbow, brook, brown, and golden trout.



Overall, 48% (3,090 of 6,461) of the tagged-trout were reported caught. This ranged from 40% on the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, to 65% at Jimmy Lewis Lake.



Anglers caught a greater percent of stocked trout in lakes (56%) as compared to rivers (45%).



Anglers kept 92% of trout they caught.



Based on study results, greater than 65% of the stocked trout were still available for anglers to catch one week after stocking.



Anglers reported catching tagged-trout as long as 1 year following stocking.



Based on 919 angler-submitted surveys, 73% of the anglers were satisfied, 12% neutral, and 15% dissatisfied with their trout fishing experience.



West Virginia anglers represented 89% of those who returned tags, non-resident anglers reported being from 15 states.

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Wildlife Resources Section
Trout Tagging Study**

How To Report Tagged Fish

By Regular Mail:

WVDNR
2311 Ohio Ave
Parkersburg, WV 26101

By Telephone: (8:30am through 4:30pm, week days)

WVDNR-Parkersburg Office
304-420-4550

By E-Mail:

fishtags@wvdnr.gov

Information Requested

1. Location you Caught Tagged Fish
2. Tag Number (Located on Tag)
3. Date You Caught Tagged Fish
4. If You Released *or* Kept Tagged Fish
5. Your Name *and* Address

Questions

Telephone: 304-420-4550
E-Mail: fishtags@wvdnr.gov

