



PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED P2 POLICY ON COOPERATIVE NURSERIES OPERATED BY TU CHAPTERS

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This policy establishes guidelines for the operation of trout nursery facilities operated by TU chapters in Pennsylvania. It applies solely to those facilities being used to raise fingerling-sized trout to catchable size, for release into streams in order to provide recreational angling opportunities.

The TU National policy on hatcheries and stocking is that they should only be used to restore wild fish populations. Trap-and-transfer of wild fish is considered to be the best way to re-establish wild trout populations, if no other source of wild trout is present in the immediate watershed.

PA Council recognizes the utility of hatchery trout for providing recreational fishing in marginal waters (those incapable of sustaining wild trout) in Pennsylvania.

PA Council also recognizes that hatchery fish released into streams containing wild trout populations is detrimental to the wild fish.

PA Council is especially cautious of the idea that streams containing a modest population of wild trout can be improved by adding stocked trout to bring the abundance up to some designated desirable level. Financial support of cooperative nurseries that stock hatchery fish over wild trout or that violate any of the below listed principles is contrary to TU's conservation mission.

PA Council does not support the continued involvement by TU chapters with cooperative trout nurseries that do not conform with PA Council's stated Trout Management Policy and the PA Fish and Boat Commission's stated rules and regulations with regard to the stocking of trout in the Commonwealth's approved trout streams.

PA Council strongly opposes the establishment of any new trout cultural facilities in the name of Trout Unlimited.

To best protect Pennsylvania's wild trout resources, while at the same time allowing the continued operation of its existing trout cultural facilities, PA Council of Trout Unlimited establishes the following set of principles for its chapters:

1. Excessively warm and/or untreated or marginally treated nursery discharges should not be discharged into streams that support wild trout.
2. No more than a minimal amount of water should be removed from any stream that holds wild trout. In no case should so much water be diverted from a wild trout stream (in order to support the nursery) that the feeding stream is degraded.
3. PA Council does not support chapter-operated cooperative nursery facilities that stock in waters capable of sustaining wild trout.
4. Due diligence should be applied when making donations of TU monies to any club that is violating any of the above principles.