

PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED
POLICY ON COOPERATIVE NURSERIES
OPERATED BY TU CHAPTERS AND STOCKING BY TU CHAPTERS
September 2014

This policy establishes guidelines for the operation of trout nursery facilities operated by TU chapters in Pennsylvania. It applies to facilities producing catchable-sized trout for release into streams in order to provide angling opportunities. This policy also establishes guidelines for stocking or supporting the stocking of hatchery-reared trout by chapters.

The TU National policy on Stocking over Native Trout (2012) prohibits chapters and councils from stocking (or assisting in stocking) of non-native hatchery fish on top of healthy populations of native trout (Pennsylvania's state fish is the brook trout, the only salmonid native to Pennsylvania's streams).

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

PA Council defines a viable population as one containing recent reproduction and at least one other age class of wild trout, regardless of the biomass estimate.

PA Council also recognizes that hatchery fish released into streams containing wild trout populations is detrimental to the wild fish and that cessation of stocking is likely to result in recovery of low biomass viable populations.

PA Council is especially cautious of the idea that streams containing modest populations of wild trout can be improved by adding stocked trout to bring the abundance up to some designated desirable level.

Stocking of hatchery fish or financial support of cooperative nurseries that stock hatchery fish over healthy self-sustaining populations of wild trout is contrary to TU's conservation mission (see Trout Unlimited North American Salmonid Policy, page 31, letter D).

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

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