

DEC INLAND TROUT STREAM MANAGEMENT TALKING POINTS

September 2017

If you can get to one of the meetings, please do, and express your opinion. It is felt more TU voices will have more impact.

Several TU activists have had discussions and developed the following talking points, which you may find useful. Feel free to provide me with feedback.

I (and TU) recognize that in many trout streams a satisfying angling experience can only exist with a well managed stocking program.

I put more value on larger (wild or stocked) trout and the pristine environment of NY's inland trout streams.

I value wild trout and the quality of the angling experience more than the catch rate and quantity of stocked fish caught, or the number of trout harvested.

Limited harvest on selected trout waters generally results in increased trout populations and bigger fish, which is of more value to me.

I recommend that DEC use the expertise of its staff to evaluate trout waters for the potential to support self-sustaining wild trout populations based on a focus on natural habitat and limited harvest, rather than stocked fish and catch rates.

Increased self-sustaining populations of wild trout result in reduced need for stocking, reduced costs, and savings for the tax payer.

The investment in trout stream habitat provides refuge from predators, increases stream stability and food supply, which increases the quality, quantity, and size of wild trout and results in better fishing. This makes stocking less necessary resulting in savings to the tax payer in the long run.

I value management of streams for wild trout where feasible, recognizing that only select streams are healthy enough to do so.

Trout Unlimited uses the resources of its members, fund raising, and partnerships with agencies and other NGO's to implement improvements to trout habitat.