

**Little Juniata River Association**  
**January 16, 2025**

The LJRA met at Marzonis Restaurant on January 16, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Bill Anderson, President. Directors present were: Bill Anderson, William King, Angie Spagnoli, Gary Miller, Scott Kavanaugh, Logan Stanger, Joe Reese and Lee Pryor.

**Presentation by Bryran Chikotis, South Central District Fisheries Manager**

Bryan presented information from the trout population survey that was done previously in 2010 and 2016 and was repeated this past summer. His presentation focused on the section management strategy for the Little Juniata for the catch and release all tackle regulated area which is about 13.7 miles of stream. This covers management sections 6,7 and 8. They did a Peterson mark recapture method to quantify wild trout abundance expressed as numbers of fish per kilometer or mile as well as the biomass of fish expressed as kilograms per hectare or pounds per acre. A biomass of over 40 kg/ha is considered to be class A.

**Section 6 – Babe Road and Quarry site surveyed June 25, 2024.**

In total between the marking run and the recapture run they captured 1,026 brown trout at those two stations combined. They ranged from 2 to 19 inches and the estimated biomass was 160.9 kg/ha. After doing the mark recapture, a population estimate is generated to come up with the number of fish per mile. This was determined to be 3,031 trout per mile which is an average between the two sites. When comparing the 2010 data with 2024 it was determined that they were seeing larger trout in 2024 than in 2010 overall.

**Section 7 – Barree**

The survey site was about 80 meters upstream from the bridge. This is the lower end of section 7. They captured 842 trout 2 to 18 inches with a biomass of 164 kg/ha. The estimated number of fish per mile was determined to be 3,423. Again when comparing the 2010 data with 2024, they were seeing slightly larger fish overall.

**Section 8 – Near Mouth of River surveyed September, 2024.**

This survey was down in the lower end of the river where the water is wider and warmer than the other sites. They captured 235 trout which were 3 to 18 inches. The biomass was 76 kg/ha. The estimated number of trout per mile was 1,700. A comparison of 2010 was not done as different equipment was used for this survey site.

A brief overview when looking at all three sections the average total biomass is 134 kg/ha. The average abundance was 2,720 trout per mile. Sixteen percent were young of year, 84% were adult fish age one year or older, 33% were over 12 inches, 15% were over 14 inches, 4% were over 16 inches, less than 1% were over 18 inches.

Bill made the comment that there are different variables such as the time of year the survey is taken, rain events and water temperature, which will affect the fish size and population. He was referring to a trout behavior study conducted by Juniata College and the LJRA done in the 2015/2016 time frame which showed trout move around a lot. To do a true comparison you would have to do the survey under similar temperature conditions and same time of the year to be more accurate.

### **Other Business**

Bill informed the group that the Annual River Cleanup was going to be on April 5th but since that announcement, it has been moved to April 12th because of a conflict with the first day of trout season. There will be two meeting points. One will be at the Spruce Creek church and the other at New Pig in Tipton. This will be our 20<sup>th</sup> year for the clean-up. The summer banquet date is set for June 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be on the river bank at Rivers Edge in Spruce Creek.

With no other business to be discussed, a motion for adjournment was made and approved by unanimous consent. The meeting ended at 8:23 pm.

Lee Pryor, Secretary