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Title: Stock enhancement as a tool to manage recreational fisheries

Abstract:

Stock enhancement, in which hatchery-raised fish are transplanted into waters to increase extant fish populations, is one of the oldest and most common management strategies employed in recreational fisheries throughout the United States and Canada. These fisheries are typified by two common management objectives—sustain healthy populations of wild fish while also providing substantial socioeconomic impact and value to anglers and local communities. It is often been considered that both these objectives may be achieved by stocking, but this has not been well evaluated. In this presentation, I will describe some of the potential socioeconomic-conservation trade-offs that may be realized through stock enhancement actions, and describe spatial stocking approaches that have potential to alleviate them at a regional scale. These trade-offs, as well as the ultimate efficacy of stock enhancement, depend on a suite of interaction ecological and socioeconomic processes that I will argue are of particular importance for designing and evaluating most fisheries management and governance options.