



Greetings, fellow brook trout or fly fishing enthusiast:

As you may know, the home base of the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada is the Credit River, particularly the upper reaches in Caledon. Over the last 10 to 15 years, there have been major declines in the populations of brook trout there. At the same time, long-time fly fishers have consistently remarked on apparent declines in aquatic insect populations. This has caused some concern amongst the fly fishing community. A study of insects has been recently launched by Credit Valley Conservation, using their own benthic data, as well as recorded and anecdotal information collected by fly fishers.

In order to determine if these trends are restricted to the Credit River or are more widespread through southern Ontario, the Greg Clark Chapter is initiating a survey of individuals and agencies involved in, or supporting, recreational fishing of trout.

So, how can you help? By responding to this email in as few or many words as you wish, please tell us about your experiences and knowledge of a particular cold-water watercourse, specifically if you have noticed or have heard of decreases of insect life and/or trout in a particular stream. Although the fly fishing community will tend to have noticed changes in insect populations, this survey is open to all anglers because possible decreases in brook trout numbers are of interest. Even if you have information about aquatic insects in watercourses where other species (e.g. brown trout, rainbow trout or even bass) prevail, we'd like to hear from you. At this point, anecdotal information is better than no data. It would help if you can provide data on specific species, observed changes in population (increase or decrease), the watershed(s) of observation, year and/or month of observations, changes in hatch patterns and any reason you feel might be the cause for these changes on these waters. We have already heard from a few individuals, and with this survey we are hoping to be able to build a larger picture or, at least, an impression, of where in southern Ontario numbers of insects and trout are decreasing – if at all – other than the Credit River.

We would appreciate receipt of any comments and observations by **March 15, 2015**. At the end of the survey we will compile our results and forward the information to all respondents.

If you have any questions, please email me and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Retailers and guides: please pass this on to others.

Thanks for any help that you can provide.

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