

Mr. Morris,

I'd like to chime in with my opinion regarding TP&W's statement about a plan to potentially expand the LLM regulations on trout to other fisheries....

I think the limit should be 5 statewide. Although I know different "fisheries" have different carrying capacities, leaving some at 10 while lowering others has the undesired effect of sending more "meat haulers" to the area with the higher limit. Furthermore, it is incredibly difficult to enforce different limits in different places. I fish out of Corpus, and I know people who go south of the Land Cut and catch 10-fish limits over there, then return to the dock in Corpus, because they know they will be stopped at the Breakaway Bar at the front of Baffin, where the limit is 10.

I also think the state should do away with the "one over 25 per day" law. Issue a license holder a trophy tag, like with redfish, and allow them one over 25 per year. We need to stop killing the bigger trout. All evidence supports the idea that they are the most important fish out there. Allowing people to harvest one every day is irresponsible.

Last, limit guides to one charter per day. I know this isn't a "trout specific" recommendation. But I know people in my area already run two charters per day during the spring and summer. If you lower the limit on trout, they may run three or even four. In the end, they will wind up harvesting the same number of fish they do now. If the state thought it was a good idea to eliminate the guide's limit as part of the group's limit, why would they allow the guide to run multiple charters in a day?

Thanks for considering my opinions. Please lower the trout limit. The future of our resource depends on thoughtful intervention by people like you.

Captain Kevin Cochran