



# Compass Rose

Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association Monthly Newsletter

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February Issue

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## Message from the President

Dear Members,

March is here as I type the February newsletter message. Days are getting longer; the sun is shining more often, and the soft water season is about to get started.

Today, the Kids Day sold out at 100 entries. Another fast sell out which makes me feel great about the event, our efforts and that parents and kids are interested in our fun day at Presque Isle State Park. If you are interested in donating or helping, we would take either. Contact any BOD member or the director of our Kids Day, Paul O.

In March, I will be headed to Hamilton Ontario to attend the Great Lakes Lower Lakes meetings. At the meeting, the TAC is released for 2020 and there are many presentations from various fishery heads throughout Lake Erie. This is open to any public interest group. I attend representing the sports fishing community as the PA Sport Fishing Advisor to the State of PA. There is a wealth of information provided and I usually leave with a notepad and head full of information.

Our tournament season kicks off with our Spring Trout Challenge in April. The STC will be part of the Trout Cup once again. Let's hope for a nicer day this year.

March 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to make a public E-Comment on the proposed Cormorant controls. This is very important and ever one reading this should take 10 minutes and make a comment in support of instigating control methods to bring down the population. Please comment take the time to . Information on page 2.

March will be our one and only public meeting. We will have elections, discuss a variety of things and one of the newest USGC captains; Joe Nemet, will discuss "Open Water Trolling Techniques".

Sharp Hooks,

*Captain Pete Alex*

## Current Events:

### **Western NY Sport and Travel: Hamburg, NY: March 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**

Seminars on Lake Ontario cut bait, west end spring kings, fall shallow water lake trout & many more

### **Erie, PA Walleye University (sold out): March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Kids Day 2020: (Sold out):** Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 If interested in volunteering-Contact Paul O-EPSFA VP.

**Spring Trout Challenge:** Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**B.A.S.S. Nation Regional Championships:** June 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

**Summer Slam-Pro Am:** July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Captains meeting July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Fall Trout Challenge:** Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Member News

- EPSFA is still looking for a director for the Slam event. The compensation is \$600.00
- Memberships are up for renewal for many of you. They can be renewed on our website. By becoming a member, you become part of a larger voice and are supporting the activities and agenda we represent and stand for. Remember-----**NO MEMBERS=No Voice**
- Want to donate? EPSFA is accepting donations through our membership registration page on our website.
- **Lakeshore Towing has \$5 discount to all EPSFA members.**
- The EPSFA has a very active face book page with much information. Check it out!
- Membership is at **124 and** Facebook followers is 1,736

### **2020 MEETING and SPEAKER SCHEDULE: Election Meeting**

March public meeting will be held Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 **Location: American Legion Post 773, 4109 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Erie, PA**

Speaker: Captain Joe Nemet on Open Water Trolling Techniques

*As part of ongoing efforts to address conflicts between double-crested cormorants and wild and stocked fisheries, the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has announced an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR), and intention to prepare a draft environmental review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.*

<https://www.fws.gov/regulations/cormorant/>

Lake Erie high water levels=breaking records...US Army Corps of Engineers state that we passed the high lever record previously held in 1986 and it's still on the rise?

*The Lake Erie Region Conservancy and Pennsylvania Sea Grant, obtained grants to purchase a portion of the Gilmore Farm property in Girard Township. The property was purchased for \$911,000. It is located near Beckman Road and Interstate 90.*

*The acquisition adds 6,325 feet of new public access to the creek. The Lake Erie Region Conservancy now owns the land. But it will be deeded over to the PFBC which has better resources to manage the property.*

Crews will remove the ice boom from the outlet of Lake Erie, where it protects the Niagara River from ice jams all winter, this week. The [boom, a series of 22 steel pontoons that has been used since 1964](#), is normally opened at the beginning of April. Last year, the date was April 22, according to a news release. The latest date was May 3, 1971, while the earliest was Feb. 28, 2012.

No [notable ice cover formed on Lake Erie this season](#), the least amount of ice since the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration began keeping records in 1973. The Great Lakes in total are [currently 17 percent frozen](#).

(In January, the [Great Lakes were forecasted to reach 80 percent ice cover](#).) So much for predictions.

*After years of rebuffing pressure to limit fertilizer and manure flowing into Lake Erie, Ohio will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for phosphorus, which causes harmful algal blooms in the western basin.*

*The Ohio EPA's draft 2020 water quality report -- which every two years outlines the general condition of Ohio's rivers and lakes -- says the state will spend two to three years to develop an enforceable limit on the amount of phosphorus that can be dumped into the water.*

### **EPSFA Mission Statement:**

The EPSFA was formed to educate, enhance and protect the sport fishing in Pennsylvania, especially in Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay and its tributaries. To that end, we have established goals which we believe will define our organization's activities by their significant diversity. We welcome and invite you!