

In response to the post submitted by wccprez:

For the record:

One of the Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association goals was to establish a bona-fide Lake Erie Brown Trout stocking program in addition to the fish that were being stocked by the WCC and 3-C-U. This goal is also “in writing” and those that are involved with the Association know what efforts have been done to see this occur. We don’t disagree that other organizations desired to stock more BT’s in Lake Erie but feel there is a different story as to how this happened and what organizations are involved.

We knew there was a BT stocking program already in place but in small and inconsistent numbers. The 3-C-U stocked some Browns on the west side and the WCC stocked some on the east side but the majority of the WCC program was for put and take with some designated for the Lake. Again, the stocking levels were small and not in numbers large enough to create a lake/trib fishery. The EPSFA wanted to find a way to work with them and the PFBC to increase their numbers and commit to them on an annual basis for an extended period of time. To date, this has happened and will so as long as all organizations cooperate and stay committed to the program. Both organizations; the 3-C-U and WCC deserve more credit for their time and efforts that what they receive.

However, the EPSFA approached the PFBC some time ago and we asked this question: How can we establish a bona-fide Brown Trout program on Lake Erie? Not in low numbers but in larger/allowable numbers for the sole purpose of establishing a sustainable BT program on Lake Erie and tribs. Eventually, calls were made to the WCC, 3-C-U, PA Steelhead Assoc. and Pittsburgh Downriggers seeking their support and later presence at a meeting. Well, plans were made and the EPSFA spearheaded the program with the PFBC as well as support from the mentioned parties. Obviously, cooperation from the 3-C-U and WCC were huge because they have hatcheries and maintain them.

The EPSFA has also contributed to the WCC and 3-C-U hatchery program in 2008 and has committed to annual future contributions. The contributions were solely committed to help feed and raise Brown Trout designated for Lake Erie. There was no mention of this in the post by wccprez???? We have also committed to trying to raise money for the proposed hatchery and this was made known on more than one occasion.

To clarify the stocking location: The WCC fish will be released on the east side tribs. and the 3-C-U fish are currently designated for the west side. The primary reason is the location of their hatcheries and transportation. The PFBC stocking location of the BT’s is not fully known but there has been mention of releasing their fish on the west side and/or P.I. Bay.

Our local Fish Commissioner; Sam Concilla was extremely instrumental in making this happen. In fact, he was excited and explained the process during our initial 2-hour meeting. It was not easy but he did what was necessary on his end and did what he said he would do. Sam and the PFBC also deserve mention and much credit for listening and designating our license dollars to what a lot of folks were interested in; more Brown Trout.

There can be much more said regarding this BT program and the steps taken by the EPSFA and perhaps others. Let it be known that our Association is committed to seeing the program succeed and supporting the organizations that also support the BT program. You, the anglers can take

help and support these efforts by joining the EPSFA, WCC or 3-C-U or by making contributions designated toward the Lake Erie Brown Trout program.

Our association's website can be viewed at [www.epfsa.com](http://www.epfsa.com) . There you can find membership forms, letters written to the PFBC and information on many of the other events we are involved with.

Pete Alex  
President, EPSFA