



Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association

"Dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of all sport fish species in Lake Erie through education and association"

May 18th, 2009

Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508-Room 4522
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

Re: 501(c)3 request, Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association EIN# 20-4473823

To whom it may concern,

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this information, including accompanying documents, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contains all of the relevant facts relating to the request for the information, and such facts are true, correct, and complete.

In response to item #1. "Additional Information Requested":

1. Educational Activity: Fish reporting log books

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in Pennsylvania and primarily, Erie County-Lake Erie waters and tributaries.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is conducted year round and is considered a year long process. Participants record their fishing trips 12 months out of the year. The log books are distributed monthly at our meeting and can be ordered through our website. Collections begin in January and the books are gathered at our meeting or are sent to our P.O. Box.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 10% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Youth and adults will have opportunity to participate. Both members and the public.
- How are the participants selected? The participants volunteer or are solicited by the organization via advertisement, web site notice and or general public meeting. Anyone is able to participate.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fees apply; we pay for the materials through contributions solicited from the public and membership fees.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate in, meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have

pursued as an organization. We feel that by collecting this data and recording it on an annual basis, we are providing a very valuable educational and research tool. This will enable us to monitor fish catch numbers, presence of forage fish, what the fish are consuming, etc... We are doing this program with the cooperation of the PFBC (Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission). They are overwhelmed that our Association has taken this step to provide valuable data. They used to have a similar program for charter boat operators but abandoned it some time ago due to lack of management personnel.

- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 500 out of \$10,000 budget is dedicated to this activity.
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 15% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

2. Educational Activity: Annual fish testing

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in Pennsylvania and primarily, Lake Erie. Fish are caught in Lake Erie waters of PA and are tested by Microbac Lab located in Erie. We test for mercury, PCB's and lead. The results are compared against levels set by FDA and CDFA.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is during the summer/fall period annually.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 10% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? NA. Results are provided to all members and other non-profit groups that are interested.
- How are the participants selected? NA.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fees apply; we pay for the testing through contributions solicited from the public and membership fees.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. They are what we believe are important and meet our mission statement. By providing annual fish testing, we are able to educate the angler and non-angler regarding fish consumption and the positive/negative impacts. There is a lot of "negative" discussion regarding fish consumption which is not founded. By providing our own fish testing and taking those results to formulate an educated opinion compared against National consumption levels, we feel we are providing an incredible research tool to the fish consumer. Also, we educate the fish consumer on the "benefits" of eating fish. We accomplish this by publishing a letter with test results and links to many informative educational articles.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 1,000.00 out of \$ 10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity...
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 5% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

3. Educational Activity: Monthly meetings

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in City of Erie, Pennsylvania. Our meetings are held at Calamari's Restaurant located in the City of Erie.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is conducted year round and is considered a year long process. Our director meeting begins at 5:00 pm and our general membership meeting begins at 6:30pm. Meetings conclude around 8:30 pm and are open to the public.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 15% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Youth and adults and general public are able to participate. We advertise in an effort to solicit people to the meetings for the purpose of educating them to our purpose and to educate them towards fishing.
- How are the participants selected? The participants volunteer or are solicited by the organization via advertisement, web site notice and or general public meeting. Anyone is able to participate.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fees apply; we pay for the facility use through contributions solicited from the public and membership fees.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. They meet our mission statement and allow us an opportunity to inform and educate the members and public about our Association, goals and activities. During the meetings, we inform attendees of all of our activities which not only educates them but provides them with information that they are unaware exists. We use this time to explain our educational programs and give them progress reports such as fish test results, fish report log books etc... The folks that attend the meeting walk away with a lot of information that they were unaware of prior to the meeting.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 1,000.00 out of \$10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity.
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 15% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

4. Educational Activity: Communication with local agencies

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in City of Erie, Pennsylvania and Erie County. Primary contacts are DCNR, PFBC and DEC. Meetings are usually held at their offices in Erie County.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is conducted year round and is considered a year long process. We do not have specific meeting times or dates.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 5% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Membership only.
- How are the participants selected? NA.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fees apply.

- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. They are consistent with our mission statement and are a needed part in order for us to succeed. We meet with numerous educational agencies and public institutions for the main purpose of being informed/educated as to what events and issues are surrounding us. This time also allows us to extend to those agencies, our goals and agenda regarding our Association. We feel this communication not only educates us but it allows us to pass this information along to the members and public. It also allows us to grow/maintain our relationship with agencies that have grant monies available from time to time which may be useful to us.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 500.00 out of \$ 10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity.
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 5% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

5. Educational Activity: Brown trout stocking program

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in Pennsylvania and primarily, Lake Erie and tributaries. We work with the 3-C-U Trout Club and Wesleyville Conservation Club. Both organizations are non-profit and have hatchery facilities located in Erie County. We also were instrumental in beginning the brown trout program with the PFBC. Because of our involvement, they have started a brown trout stocking program as well.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is during year round. The fish are stocked in May and during the prior months; directors visit the hatchery facilities to monitor the progress.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 15% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? The members, both adult and youth are urged to participate in this program as well as volunteers from the public.
- How are the participants selected? Anyone may participate with this program in regard to volunteering their time to visit hatcheries and stock fish.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fees apply; we pay for the raising of the fish through contributions solicited from the public and membership fees.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. They are what we believe are important and meet our mission statement goal. By starting and maintaining this particular program, we had to educate the public, members and PFBC as to the importance of this program. Specifically, the recreational and monetary impact that introducing a new species would have. We were able to prove to the organizations that have hatcheries, just how important and how much the public desired to have this program introduced. Now that we have it established, we can educate the members, public and youth about the impact, fish raising process and angling methods to target these fish once they mature. The brown trout program allows

us to have a species that we can specifically monitor and report progress, whether it is the rearing process or total numbers caught (log book program). It will allow us to maintain a program that we actually have some control over and make a positive impact on the angling community. To us, this is extremely important and educational. In the future, we will conduct hatchery visits to the members and public and educate them on the entire fish raising process. One of our goals is to obtain grant monies or contributions to increase the hatchery size of the two organizations currently raising these fish.

- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 3,000.00 out of \$ 10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity...
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 10% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

6. Educational Activity: To protect fish stocks and resources related to the community

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in Pennsylvania and primarily, Lake Erie and tributaries. We focus on the Erie County tributaries and Lake Erie-PA fish stocks.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is during year round.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 5% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? The members, both adult and youth are urged to participate in this program. However, this program mostly involves our directors with the information being passed down to the public and membership.
- How are the participants selected? Any member can participate in this program.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. NA.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. They meet our mission statement goals. This item is extremely educational in content. It requires us to educate ourselves with the PFBC in regard to fish levels and fish stocking goals. It involves meeting and membership with the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council. They are a national organization that monitors activity in all Great Lakes including environmental issues. They publish an annual newsletter which provides a wealth of information at a local and national level. This information is passed on to the members and made available to the public via our website. The whole business of maintaining fish stock levels have a huge impact on what happens in Lake Erie. Maintaining relationships with such agencies and educating ourselves as to what is occurring at all levels has a significant impact on what we are trying to do. Knowing this allows us to stand up and make a difference in our community. Fish stocks can make or break a local fishery and by being informed at all levels, we can help protect what we have.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 500.00 out of \$10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity...
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 5% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

7. Educational Activity: Bi-monthly newsletter

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in various States through general membership. The newsletter is generated at my office located at 1644 east 12th Street.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is conducted on a bi-monthly process via mailing and internet. Our newsletters are published the first of the month and contributions are accepted the prior month.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 10% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Youth and adult members.
- How are the participants selected? The participants are emailed or mailed copies of the newsletter.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fees apply; we pay for the materials through contributions solicited from the public and membership fees.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. The newsletter allows us to pass on learned information for the specific purpose of educating the reader. We pass on information such as environmental issues, fishing tactics, fish stocking information, information concerning our Association programs, fish reports and much more. The newsletter goal is to educate and inform the reader and it is published bi-monthly.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 1,000.00 out of \$ 10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity.
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 10% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

8. Educational Activity: Youth membership

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in various States through general membership. The memberships are distributed by one of our directors residing in Erie, PA.
- When is the activity conducted? Year round. Memberships can be obtained at any time.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 5% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Youth only and we encourage the public as well as members kids to join.
- How are the participants selected? The participants request membership through general request process. Any youth is able to participate in the program.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. Yes, \$5.00 membership fee to cover postage, membership forms, Frisbee and magnet that they get as a result of being a member. Any additional costs are paid for from contributions made from the general public.

- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. In 2009, we decided to add a youth membership at the request of a member. We felt it is a great way to get the youth involved and make them “part of the team”. Also, by doing so, they would have a great opportunity to be educated from a variety of sources. Such as: fish consumption, angling tactics, fish raising process, environmental issues and more. When we voted to accept a youth membership, we did so with the specific intent to provide a “fish educational opportunity” to the kids and felt it was needed.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 1,000.00 out of \$ 10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity.
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 10% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

9. Educational Activity: Youth Education Program for Boy Scouts of America

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in Pennsylvania and primarily, Erie County. We have held meetings in Erie at the main Boy Scout facility in Erie and we have met them in Allegheny County at their local troop facility.
- When is the activity conducted? We have two meetings annually, usually in January and February with the Boy Scout troops at which time we review the program with them.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 10% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Youth only and they do not have to be members of the Association to participate.
- How are the participants selected? The participants volunteer or are solicited by the organization via meeting with Boy Scouts directly.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fee applies.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. This was a new activity we started in 2008/2009. The goal was 100% education in many ways. It allowed us to meet with the Boy Scouts and teach them about fish and fishing techniques. We also presented them with a challenge and that challenge is to write an essay on a topic we provide them. They are informed that the essay has to be done in a proper form and will be judged. This format not only allows them to think and write but requires them to do so in an acceptable manner. Three winners are chosen. First place receives a full day charter on Lake Erie and second and third place receive a full day trip on a perch fishing head boat.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 500.00 out of \$10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity and the shortfall, if any, is solicited as sponsor/donation requests.
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 10% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

10. Educational Activity: Kids only fishing day

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in Erie Pennsylvania and Erie County. Our first annual event is being held at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is conducted in May. This year's event takes place May 23rd.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 10% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Youth only and we try to attract non-members as well as members. We feel that attracting youth that are not necessarily informed via adult members will help us meet our goal of educating the public/youth.
- How are the participants selected? The participants are solicited through advertisement and membership.
- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. No fees apply; we pay for the testing through contributions solicited from the fishing related manufacturers, local restaurants/food suppliers and local non-profit groups like the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie.
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. This Youth Day Fishing program serves many educational purposes and they are taught: fishing etiquette, fishing safety tips, fishing and boating laws. There are numerous State and local agencies that are involved in this educational event. The goal of the event is to involve kids in fishing and educate them on the value of it along with the items mentioned above. The Association feels it is imperative to keep the youth involved in fishing and we have dedicated this day for that reason.
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? \$ 500.00 out of \$10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity and the shortfall, if any, is solicited as sponsor/donation requests.
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? 10% of our time is dedicated to this activity.

11. Educational Activity: Seminars

- Where is activity conducted? Activity is conducted in City of Erie, Pennsylvania and at our meeting location which is Calamari's restaurant located in the City of Erie.
- When is the activity conducted? Activity is conducted during the winter meetings, usually January, February and March.
- How significant is the activity in relation to your total activities? The significance is primary to the other activities. We focus on this activity 5% of the time.
- Who may participate in the activity? Youth and adults and general public.
- How are the participants selected? The participants volunteer or are solicited by the organization via advertisement, web site notice and or general public meeting. Anyone can participate in this program.

- Is there a fee for participation in the activity? If so, provide a fee schedule. **No fees apply, we pay for the facility use and materials through contributions solicited from the public and membership fees.**
- How does the activity further your exempt purpose? **The activities we participate meet educational and non-profit requirements and they are activities we have pursued as an organization. Seminars are a great tool for teaching and informing people. We have chosen seminars for this purpose and feel there is a large need to educate people on the environment, fish stocking procedures and ever changing fishing tactics. By holding seminars, we are able to provide useful information to the public, youth and membership**
- What percentage of your total funds is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? **\$ 500.00 out of \$ 10,000.00 is dedicated to this activity.**
- What percentage of your total time is dedicated to this activity (total must equal 100%)? **5% of our time is dedicated to this activity.**

The E.P.S.F.A. raises money to fund these activities by holding tournaments on Lake Erie. This is our primary fund raising activity. Our annual Pro-Am and Walleye Challenge tournaments generate proceeds with the Pro-Am event generating by far the most. Without that event, we would be unable to complete the majority of the activities listed above. One of the problems we encounter while soliciting money or product from companies is the fact that we are “not” a non profit entity. Many companies will not acknowledge us until we receive this status. The non profit status is extremely important and will allow us a better ability to raise money so we can continue these programs, enhance the programs and expand our educational programs. Membership fees and donation requests simply will not afford us the money to maintain our Association’s goals so we place a high value on the tournaments our Association hosts. Without them, we are unable to fund the programs we find important.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pete Alex III,
EPSFA President

CC: Sean T. Sullivan; CPA

