

Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association

The EPSFA was formed to educate, enhance and protect the sport fishing in Pennsylvania, especially in Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay and its tributaries.

March 6th, 2023

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Attn: Executive Director Timothy D. Schaeffer
1601 Elmerton Avenue
PO Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000

Re: Lake Erie Permit Fund

Dear Mr. Schaeffer,

The Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association is requesting the approval to use the Lake Erie Permit fund to be able to pay for the removal of large naturally occurring navigational hazard obstructions in the water. These are primarily large trees which extend out of the water to some degree, usually minimal and are somewhat lodged on the Lake Erie floor.

These usually occur one to two times during the boating season and usually after a wind event. They represent a navigational hazard and can be dangerous, especially when there are waves/white caps and under low light conditions.

No entity in Erie County will remove them and all claim that the responsibility if not theirs. These represent a hazard to all watercraft including jet skis. However, boating anglers, which pay into that fund will benefit from having these hazards removed.

I have discussed this with Lakeshore Towing Services in Erie, and he estimates that this would cost between \$1,500 and \$3,000 per incident. Their service would entail removing and discarding of these trees which lodge themselves on the floor of Lake Erie. He also noted that these mostly submerged trees have tendency to roll and damage water intakes near the City of Erie.

The E.P.S.F.A on behalf of its fishing and boating members as well as the general angler boating community request this be considered and approved under the Lake Erie Permit monies.

Respectfully,

Peter Alex
E.P.S.F.A President/Sport Fishing Advisor to the G.L.F.C.

CC: Mr. Dan Pastore; P.F.B.C.-Fish Commissioner