



Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association

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

Volunteer Fish Reporting Program. (V.F.R.P.)

The E.P.S.F.A. in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has initiated a fish reporting program that will be useful to both organizations. The program specifically targets the most popular and sought after fish species. The program wants to identify patterns, catch rates, caught fin clipped Steelhead, caught jaw tagged Walleye, and Lake Trout. In addition to this information, we are requesting that you document Lamprey wounds on the fish and other information that you believe is important to report. The information you provide will be used to compile data and an annual report will be issued by the E.P.S.F.A. and presented to the members. This information will also be presented to the PAFBC to help their research efforts.

**If you have any questions, you can contact Mike Hinkel @ 814-873-0090 or Pete Alex @ 814-602-8432.

Fin clipped Steelhead

Certain States that stock Steelhead Smolts will often fin clip their fish prior to release. By identifying these fish, we can determine how far these fish will travel and where they will end up during their life time.

These fish do not have to be kept in order to identify them. A fish that is going to be released can be given a fast cursory exam prior to being released. However, please be certain (accurate) of your findings when submitting a fin clipped fish report.

Jaw Tagged Walleye

Certain States insert metal jaw tags in the jaw area of fish. By identifying these fish, we can determine how far these fish will travel, where they will end up during their life time and how fast they grow.

These can be easily removed and flattened using pliers.

Return jaw tags to the E.P.S.F.A. with the following information and we will send these to the proper State. The data gained in return from that particular State will be posted on the website

Wire coded Lake Trout Heads

Lake Trout that are planted in Lake Erie often have a “coded” wire inserted in their snouts. These wires contain useful information.

If you harvest a Lake Trout and the Adipose Fin has been removed (see diagram), chances are that fish has a coded wire in the snout. Please remove the head and place in sealed plastic bag. Freeze bag. Attach the following information with the fish head. There will be two collection periods. One at mid-summer and the other in November. These dates and locations will be posted on the website and newsletter.

Information required:

- Date fish was caught.
- Estimated length of fish (squeeze tail method)
- Estimated weight of fish.
- Location where fish was caught. Location can be site specific and GPS/Loran numbers are not required.
- Lamprey wounds present? ____ If so, how many? _____

The E.P.S.F.A. will collect these heads along with catch data two times per year. The heads will be turned over to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

Participants of this program do not need to be a member of the E.P.S.F.A. Or if you know someone that catches a jaw tagged fish, fin clipped fish or a Pectoral Fin clipped lake Trout, you can submit the information on your log book.

Summary:

The information provided by you will be used to compile an annual report prepared by the E.P.S.F.A.; This report will be presented to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and all E.P.S.F.A. members.

Thank You,

Pete Alex
President,
E.P.S.F.A.

