

## Lake Erie Cooperative Angler Logbook Program (LECAL)

The PFBC's Lake Erie Research Unit has been conducting an annual, voluntary "logbook" survey of Steelhead and Brown Trout fishing in Lake Erie tributary waters since the 2013/2014 season.

To date, a total of 76 individual volunteers have logged 1,647 trips, spent 11,333 hours fishing, and caught 6,509 Steelhead. The average catch rate for steelhead over the last 7 seasons varies from one fish every 90 minutes to 1 fish every 3 hours.

The purpose of this voluntary annual logbook survey is to collect quantitative data from fishermen in Steelhead and Brown Trout fisheries in tributary waters of Pennsylvania. The collected data allow us to estimate the number of fish returning to each tributary during the season see the impact of changes we make to the management of the fishery.

Data collected:

- Date and time fishing occurred
- Location(s) fished
- Number of fish caught
  - Steelhead
  - Brown trout
- Number of fishermen in the party

Additionally, anglers may record data for their personal use such as fishing conditions, lures/bait used, descriptions of the fish caught, etc.

We are seeking data from anglers of all skill levels and from anglers who make only one or two trips each year. Those who make many trips and catch many fish obviously bias the conclusions.

We ask that participants enter data from each fishing trip as soon as possible after returning home to maximize accurate recall of details...ie: before the number of fish and their size somehow increases.

This survey requires very little time and effort to complete. Anglers will be provided with a logbook and a stamped, addressed return envelope along

with simple, clear instructions. Once all logbooks have been received and all data entered and processed, logbooks will be returned along with a report of each angler's catch statistics and those of all other participating anglers (all angler data will be anonymous). We hope that you will consider participating in this survey, and by doing so, contribute valuable data which will help us to improve the fishery. If you are interested in participating in this survey, please send via email your name, mailing address, and phone number (optional). If you do not have an email account, you can reach me at my office by calling (814) 474-1515.

Thank you!

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