IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Osmerus mordax

SPECIES NAME(S)
Rainbow smelt, American smelt, Smelt

STOCK IDENTIFICATION
There is no research conducted on the population structure of Rainbow smelt in Lake Erie.

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
The Great Lakes Fishery Commission’s Lake Erie Forage Task Group is tasked with estimating abundance and biomass levels of all forage species in Lake Erie on a regular basis.

Weaknesses
The fishery is unregulated and there is a need to formally quantify Rainbow Smelt catches from gillnet, traps, and other recreational and subsistence fisheries gears. The species is seen as an invasive species in Lake Erie.

Options
Data collection needs to be strengthened in subsistence and recreational sectors for more robust stock assessments in future.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Yet Scored</td>
<td>Not Yet Scored</td>
<td>Not Yet Scored</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
<th>Not Yet Scored</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Retailers & Supply Chain

- Start a fishery improvement project (FIP) to address the lack of publicly available information on the fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP’s Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs and other resources at https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Toolkit/Resources.
- Encourage scientists to share their studies/publications with FishSource by commenting on the profile and uploading a hyperlink to the document.
- Work with the government and scientists on the collection of data and make them accessible online.