Rainbow smelt

**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 Committee 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 gillnets, traps, and other recreational and subsistence fisheries gears. The species is seen as a 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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality:</th>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tr>
<th>Stock Health:</th>
<th>Current Health</th>
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**FIPS**
No related FIPs

**MSC**
No related MSC fisheries

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**
- **Start a fishery improvement project (FIP)** to address the lack of publicly available information on this 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](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.**