



## Hello Steelhead Anglers,

Bowling Green State University is working with the Ohio Division of Wildlife through an Ohio Sea Grant research project to study the characteristics of Steelhead Trout returning to our Lake Erie streams as adults. We are looking at the return rates of strains raised at the Castalia Fish Hatchery AND the effects of hatchery-raising strategies in fish conditions upon stocking of smolts.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE WE DESIRE THE HEADS OF STEELHEAD YOU HARVEST

Any Steelhead caught in Ohio Lake Erie tributaries (Vermilion to the Ashtabula River) from October to April are desired. **Fish 29 inches or less** are needed for the study (1, 2, and 3 summers in Lake Erie). Flip to the back to see details and ways to get these heads to us. You can also contact me at [jminer@bgsu.edu](mailto:jminer@bgsu.edu). Dr. Jeff Miner, Department of Biological Sciences



Background:

- Castalia Fish Hatchery currently receives Steelhead Trout eggs from several sources, primarily wild stock from Michigan and Wisconsin. We will be determining if different stocks return at different rates and sizes.
- All hatcheries raise young Steelhead as fast as they can, but this may lead to changes in the chemistry of their bones. We will use organs in their head (otoliths/ear bones) to assess how these changes affect survival/migration once out in Lake Erie.

**Therefore, we need good numbers of returning adults so we can use physical characteristics and genetics to determine the sources of the adults, and provide information to the hatchery program to aid in Steelhead production.**

**Ways to Participate (get Steelhead heads to us)**

1. Hold the fish heads in your freezer (baggies) and email us. One fish per baggie and each baggie having a label. We will schedule a pick-up.
2. Bring the samples (in baggies and with labels) to the Ohio Division of Wildlife offices in Sandusky or Fairport Harbor (10 am-2 pm non-holiday weekdays):

Fairport Fisheries Research Station, 1190 High St., Fairport Harbor, OH 44077 (440) 210-3807  
Sandusky Fisheries Research Station, 305 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870 (419) 871-6143

Data needed (head (and pectoral fins)).
1. Harvest location: _____
2. Date collected _____
3. Fish total length _____
4. Your contact information (optional)
E-Mail: _____
Name: _____
Thanks (jminer@bgsu.edu)

THANK YOU!

Use the QR Code here for the above information and links:



<https://tinyurl.com/steelhead-flyer>

