United States Department of the Interior



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Lake Erie Biological Station

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22 February 2016

Dr. Weidel,

Enclosed are the modified versions of the datasets supporting our data record entitled “Lake Erie Fish Community Data.” The datasets were modified based upon your suggestions and our further proofing of the record. Each change to the datasets or our rationale for not making changes suggested are detailed below in comment-by-comment format. We hope that you will find our edits both easy to follow and acceptable.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns related to the metadata record or our response to the suggestions.

Respectfully,



Taylor R. Stewart  
Fisheries Technician, Lake Erie Biological Station  
Great Lakes Science Center, USGS

**Responses to Data Reviewer’s Comments**

**Changes:**

Comment 1) Upon the reviewer’s suggestion, a single column naming format was select and integrated throughout all files. A description and units for all variables can be found within the metadata record. Changes were made to satisfy the reviewer’s suggestion.

Comment 2) Effort data (distance towed, trawl wingspread, area swept, and hectares swept) were added to the catch dataset to provide data needed to calculate the area swept. Also, the number caught and weight of those fish were provided. With the addition of this data, anyone can calculate the density (number per hectare) and biomass (kilogram per hectare) values we originally provided.

Comment 3) Day, month, and time variables were added to all appropriate data sets.

Comment 4) Coordinate system information can be found in the metadata record. In addition to the metadata record, latitude, longitude, and fishing depth variables were added to all appropriate data sets. This defines the coordinate system both horizontal and vertical.

Comment 5) The depth factor was separated to minimum and maximum. Fixed per suggestion.

Comment 6) Row names were removed and code updated per suggestion.