



PennState
Behrend



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Penn State Behrend Joins Initiative to Fully Use Each Fish

Erie-based institution becomes fourth research organization to sign the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge

(Erie, Pennsylvania) – Penn State Behrend has signed the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge, becoming the fourth research institution to join the initiative. Its participation brings the growing binational movement to 49 companies and organizations committed to ensuring that every part of each fish is fully used and not wasted.

Penn State Behrend, formally Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, has longstanding connections to Lake Erie science and fisheries. Pennsylvania Sea Grant is based at Penn State Behrend, and Behrend faculty and students conduct research involving Lake Erie fish and aquatic ecosystems. Current and recent work has included research involving Walleye, Yellow Perch, Steelhead Trout, invasive species, and fish with potential applications in Great Lakes aquaculture.

The institution's participation follows the recent expansion of the Pledge to include laboratories and research facilities in the Great Lakes States, Ontario, and Québec that work with fish and fish materials. These organizations commit to productively using all fish and fish parts handled through their work wherever permitted, rather than sending them to landfill.

As part of the Pledge, Penn State Behrend will work alongside other participating companies and organizations to promote the full use of fish. This includes raising awareness of

opportunities for innovative applications of fish co-products, such as compost, fertilizer, protein, marine collagen, leather, and other new, high-value products.

The Pledge is part of the 100% Great Lakes Fish initiative created by the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (GSGP), an organization representing the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Premiers of Ontario and Québec.

“Penn State Behrend brings a strong connection to Lake Erie, extensive scientific expertise, and a commitment to applied research that make it a natural addition to the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge,” **said David Naftzger, Executive Director of GSGP.** “Research institutions have an important role to play in developing new uses for fish materials and demonstrating how those materials can be managed more productively. We are pleased to welcome Behrend to this growing network.”

The Great Lakes region is home to growing aquaculture operations and sizeable commercial and sport fisheries, but only about 40% of each fish (the filets) are usually eaten or productively used. In contrast, the remaining 60% of the fish is often relegated to inexpensive uses or discarded. The 100% Great Lakes Fish initiative seeks new and innovative ways to fully use each fish to reduce waste, create more value and jobs, and support rural economic development. Iceland pioneered this approach and has seen the value of products made from each cod skyrocket from \$12 for just the filet to a remarkable \$5,000 for products including cosmetics, medical bandages, nutritional supplements, and a range of other products.

“Penn State Behrend’s location near Lake Erie gives our faculty and students a close connection to the fisheries and freshwater resources of the Great Lakes,” **said Cora MacBeth, Director of the School of Science at Penn State Behrend.** “Joining the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge gives us an opportunity to build on that work, think more intentionally about the materials generated through research, and collaborate with other institutions and partners pursuing practical ways to reduce waste and make better use of fish resources.”

More information on 100% Great Lakes Fish, including a copy of the Pledge, is available at <https://gsgp.org/projects/100-great-lakes-fish/>.

The 49 companies and organizations participating in the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge include:

A&A Marine Foods – Tilbury, Ontario	Henriksen Fisheries - Ellison Bay, Wisconsin
Acme Smoked Fish – Brooklyn, New York	Hudson Valley Fisheries – Hudson, New York
All Temp Foods – Leamington, Ontario	Huron Tackle – Traverse City, Michigan
Aquaborne – Sacramento, California	J&M Fisheries - Ellison Bay, Wisconsin
Aqua Garden LLC – Amery, Wisconsin	John O’s Foods – Wheatley, Ontario
Archway – Chicago, Illinois	Lindal Fisheries – Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
Big Fish Farms – Bethel, Ohio	Merinov – Gaspé, Québec
Big O’ Smokehouse – Caledonia, Michigan	Motor City Seafood – Highland Park, Michigan
Big Stone Bay Fishery – Mackinaw City, Michigan	OceanArc Technologies – Pataskala, Ohio
Bodin Fisheries – Bayfield, Wisconsin	Penn State Behrend – Erie, Pennsylvania
Baileys Harbor Fish Co. – Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin	Presteve Foods – Wheatley, Ontario
Cambrian Co-Products – Minneapolis, Minnesota	Purvis Fisheries – Silver Water, Ontario
Carlson’s Fishery - Leland, Michigan	Red Cliff Fish Co. – Bayfield, Wisconsin
Cole-Munro Foods – St. Thomas, Ontario	Rushing Waters Fisheries – Palmyra, Wisconsin
Dan’s Fish, Inc. – Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin	Skytop Springs Fish Farm - Sydney, New York
Dramm Corporation – Manitowoc, Wisconsin	Springhills Fish – Hanover, Ontario
Euclid Fish Company – Mentor, Ohio	Steelhead Food Co. - St. Thomas, Ontario
Farm to Pet – Chicago, Illinois	Superior Fresh – Northland, Wisconsin
First Catch LLC - Baraga, Michigan	Taylor Fish Co. – Wheatley, Ontario
Fiskur Leather – Mora, Minnesota	Treaty Fish Co. – Suttons Bay, Michigan
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. – Winnipeg, Manitoba	UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Fortune Fish & Gourmet – Bensenville, Illinois	UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility – Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Great Lakes Food Co. – Chatham, Ontario	VanLandschoot & Sons Fish Market – Munising, Michigan
Great Lakes Tinned Fish – Grand Rapids, Michigan	Walnut Creek Marina – Fairview, Pennsylvania
Halvorson Fisheries – Cornucopia, Wisconsin	

About GSGP

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GSGP unites the chief executives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec, and Wisconsin. The Governors and Premiers work as equal partners to grow the region’s \$9 trillion (US) economy and protect the world’s largest surface freshwater system. Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro serves as GSGP’s Chair.

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