



LEHIGH COLDWATER
FISHERY ALLIANCE

www.thelehighriver.org

Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance Talking Points

Mission Statement: Our mission is to obtain a consistent release of cold water (55f.) from the F.E. Walter Reservoir to enhance the Lehigh River's wild trout fishery.

Activities:

- Formed in 2004 as an advocacy and awareness group for the Lehigh River and its coldwater fishery and ecosystem, with a primary focus of enhancing the wild trout fishery.
- Solicited non-federal co-sponsors for Sec. 22 Planning Assistance to the States Coldwater Study at Francis E Walter Reservoir (facilitated through the Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia Office). Co-sponsors of \$400,000 study were the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and the Department of Conservation of Engineers (DCNR). Study proved modifications at Francis E. Walter Reservoir could influence coldwater to Jim Thorpe (20 miles + downstream).
- Provides feedback to the Army Corps' annual Flow Plan with our emphasis placed on maximizing angling opportunities during prime time trout season as well as limiting low flows from Francis E Walter during the stressful summer months.
- Advocates for increased access points up and down the watershed; specifically boat ramps that can accommodate trailers.
- Advocates for higher and steadier coldwater releases from Beltzville Reservoir in order to maximize the thermal refuge capability of the coldwater plume at the mouth where it reaches the Lehigh River.
- Frequently speak to local angling and conservation organizations regarding the resurgence of the Lehigh River trout fishery.
- Formed a work group with the local Trout Unlimited groups up and down the Lehigh River watershed.
- Vocal advocates of the economic benefits of a wild trout coldwater tailwater fishery to federal, state and local politicians.
- Partnered with the PFBC to assist in studying the effectiveness of annual fingerling stockings.
- Hosts Lehigh River Workday's for local politicians and stakeholders to showcase the value of a wild trout fishery.