

VISION QUEST

Sports Fishing Service of Erie

(814) 725-0694 www.dreamsteelie.com

7007 Moorheadville Road, North East, PA 16428

"The ultimate in Lake Erie & Lake Ontario Sport fishing"

Charter your way to Great Fishing on Erie

So, you've heard about the excellent fishing that takes place near the shores of Erie, PA. Well, you're right. Erie is currently home to some of the hottest fishing in the country.

Erie is synonymous with the word walleye and wherever walleyes are found, anglers are not far behind, usually with their taste buds leading the way.

Yes, you probably heard about just how good and how big those walleyes sitting off the Erie shoreline are but until you have pursued them, you will never know how big and tasty they really are. Anyone who has witnessed a cooler full of "Erie Eyes" comes to grip quickly with the word "Awesome". What many people are unaware of is that Erie is not just a one horse lake. Steelhead, Lake Trout, Smallmouth Bass and Yellow Perch flourish along our Lakefront.

You may be asking yourself "why should I charter a boat?" The answer is simple. Charter fishing can be the least expensive way to experience the trip or catch of a lifetime. You also have the opportunity to see just how the pros score, while learning new techniques and tricks.

Ontario: Silver Spring Fever

If there was ever a fresh water fish made to test line, tackle and the anglers patience, the Salmonid is it. Spring and summer is an excellent time for it. Most people have heard about the outstanding trout and salmon fishery that exists on Lake Ontario. This comes as no surprise.

Spring fishing on Lake Ontario means big fresh silvery salmonids with an appetite for destruction. Late April and May is when this fishery kicks into high gear. The fish are hungry after a long winter when their feed levels have been down due to the cold water temperature. Their colors are the most splendid of the year and flesh better yet.

The **Vision Quest** is docked on the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario during this period and is in hot pursuit of salmon and trout. If you've never tried this exciting fishery, you should. There is no other Great Lakes fish that can provide you with the thrill that an Ontario King, Bruiser Brown Trout or Demonic Steelie can.

Chartering is also a cure for cabin fever and the pressures of everyday living. When that first fish of the day is hooked up

there won't be many thoughts on your mind. Fishing has a way of doing that.

When you hire a charter boat, you are not only renting a boat, you are acquiring an experienced captain and his knowledge of the lake, value of safety and the know how to catch those prized fish. You will also be making a new friend, someone who has shared the days of laughter, memories, and success with you.

So, the next time you are pondering that vacation or fishing trip, try chartering with the **Vision Quest** and experience some of the best darned fishing in the country.



The Vision Quest IV in Action

Experience an Adventure

One of the most popular sports in the US is fishing. Not only because it's relaxing and a lot of fun, but for the experience itself.

Sharing quality time in the great outdoors with family, friends, and business associates is reason enough. But fishing also offers the challenge of the hunt and the testing of our skills against nature.

This in itself should be enough, but there is also the pre-trip anticipation and preparation, as well as stories, pictures, and a good fish dinner to enhance the experience.

Catching fish is really incidental to the total picture but success is usually measured by results. This is why it's important to choose your charter boat carefully. You not only want to have a pleasurable and safe day on the water but the best possible chance for success.

The Vision Quest Law enacted in 2004: "Leave no fish behind"
CALL: (814) 725-0694 FOR RATES or check out www.dreamsteelie.com

What to Expect

In this business, the old saying “you get what you pay for” is very evident.

What you will be paying for is a sport fishing vessel designed for your comfort, safety, and overall fishability.

The **Vision Quest** fleet consists of a 29 ft. Tiara Pursuit that stretches nearly 10 ft. wide and a 39 ft. Tiara Yacht. Both vessels are equipped with twin inboards. Vessels are equipped with a private stand up heads, cabin areas and large fish fighting cockpits.

Equipped to fish, is all you need to sum up the **Quest**'s arsenal. **VQ IV** and **VQ V** have all state of the art fish-direction finding technology. All equipment such as rods, reels, & lures are supplied, the **Quest** is also armed with (4) Big Jon high speed electric downriggers and surface and sub-surface temperature gauges.

A helpful first mate is usually provided to help tend lines and satisfy the customer. If customers prefer a more hands on experience, the mate can take the day off and you, the customer, can help set lines, tend to boat chores and net fish. The first mate can also filet your catch at day's end. A tip, however, is expected for a job well done by the first mate. The Vision Quest can also provide extra charter boats in order to accommodate large groups.

Team Vision Quest “wins again”.

Team Vision Quest Fishing Team has placed in the top 10 more than 18 times in various tournament and Fishing Cup races during the 2007 and 2008 Tournament. This includes (7) 1st and 2nd place finishes. Interested in tournament fishing with us or learning tournament tactics? Contact us for more information.



2008 Orleans County Pro-AM Champs



2008 Dreamweaver Big Catch Friday 1st Place

Is That Fish Safe To Eat?

During the years, there have been an increasing number of stories written concerning the contaminants found in Great Lake fish. Are Lake Erie fish in the same category?

No, they are not. My answers are based on several recent studies completed by the DNR, local health department agency, Canadian/Erie DNR & Federal Agencies. The results were all similar; **NEGATIVE**. Although the fish did contain some contaminants, they were still more contaminant free than the beef you consume and were well below the danger levels that were set forth by the Federal Food & Drug Commission.

Much of the attention concerning pollutants came as a result of certain studies performed on Lake Michigan. Lake Ontario, now the fresh water king of the Great Lakes salmon & trout has also come under fire recently. But results of tests there have been mixed. It was quoted that “Lake Ontario fish are safer to eat than breathing the air in N.Y. City.” And “Drinking diet pop is more harmful than eating twice the amount of Ontario salmon.”

The decision is yours when it comes to these two Great Lakes, but I do know one thing, Lake Erie fish have been given a clean bill of health.

Why Vision Quest Sport Fishing Charters?

First, I would like to thank you, the potential customer, for taking time to read this newsletter and considering **Vision Quest** as your charter boat choice. Secondly, let me brief you on my catching fish/customer philosophy. Catching fish is like any other job in life, there are those who excel and those who don't in their fields. Our Captain's have a self determination to be the best in our line of work. The effort given by Captain and crew to produce fish day in and day out is one of 100% effort. Backed by the 20 plus years of experience, knowledge and equipment, fish catching becomes easier for us. This in turn benefits you, the customer as the recipient of these efforts. The customer, however, comes first. We try to see that all customers are comfortable, safe, and enjoy themselves. Once conditions are safe and customers are comfortable, "we go to work" to try to catch them the most fish we can within that given period of time. That is "what you, the customer, are paying for."



"Captain Pete Alex"

Thirdly, let me brief you on some of the past seasons' highlights. **Vision Quest Sport Fishing LLC** is owned and operated by myself, a fully insured and licensed captain with over 25 years of Great Lake water experience. I am on the field staffs of national tackle mfg. companies such as Daves Lures (former Storm Lures of Norman Oklahoma), Big Jon Sports, Dreamweaver Lures and Superbaits Spoon and Plug Company. Some of the **Quests** highlights over the years include trolling up a six man limit of walleyes in two hours (36), boating (138) smallmouth bass in four hours of trolling, landing (2,897) fish in (89) trips, hooking up (90) and landing (65) lake trout on Lake Erie in nine hours, hooking up (73) and landing (35) salmon & trout in 6 hours, and maintaining a 17 plus fish "average over the years."

Thanks again for considering **Vision Quest** charters, hope to hear from you.



"Captain Mike Hinkel"

Slam-Bam-Crush Steelhead Fishing:

The title of this article describes some of the fishing excitement that Lake Erie Steelhead can deliver. For those weak at heart, I suggest passing this trip up.

The terms "slam", "bam", and "crush" are all terms used to describe the often-savage hits that a fresh Steelie can deliver. Often a strike is heard before seen. If a savage strike doesn't excite you, how about the idea of a 10-15 minute battle with a large Steelhead on light tackle. If not, you should discontinue reading this article. IF so, read on.

Lake Erie has some of the BEST Steelhead fishing in the Country. People come from all over the U.S. to experience our World Class Steelhead Fishery and they are seldom disappointed.

Your Captain has spent the better part of his career in hot pursuit of these spectacular fighters. The Vision Quest pursues these silver battlers from April through November. Often, the V.Q. is alone in the early month of April and November. Both months produce some of the best fishing of the year. No one on Lake Erie has spent more early and late months pursuing these fish than Captain Pete.

The Vision Quest has accounted for numerous 40 to 50 hook up day trips over the years and has recorded hooking up as many as 225 trout & salmon over a four-day period. That's awesome fishing!

Picture this, an 8 1/2" med. Action rod and reel with 12# test sitting in a rod holder. Trailing is your only lure with only 50-ft. of line out, you can almost see your lure. Now picture a Mint Silver Steelhead on a one way mission, cruising 20 miles an hour, he sets his sights on your offering and WHAM! That's something dreams are made of. Well, consider the **Vision Quest** your dream boat. To experience this SLAM-BAM-CRUSH fishing, call your favorite charter – **Vision Quest** Sportsfishing and set up a date. The time is now.



Babe Winkleman with Captain Pete.
"Captain Pete is one of Erie's Top Guides"
---Babe Winkleman

Famous outdoor writer and State fly tying champion Walt Young adds:
"Pete is an absolute Wizard when it comes to trolling for Salmon and Steelhead in Lake Erie."



Booking That Charter

Before deciding on that preferred date, keep two things in mind. The first thing is that weekends are the preferred – the first to go dates and of course, limited. Secondly, each specie has a particular time when the fishing is better. With this in mind, one should book a charter in advance; a year is not too far.

When choosing a date, a deposit of \$150.00 will reserve this date. This deposit is refundable upon bad weather or an extreme circumstance. A two week cancellation notice is the least notice that is accepted unless of course the weather is bad.

You will be responsible for bringing the proper clothing, footwear, food, beverage, etc. Upon request, food and beverage can be provided at a reasonable cost along with taxidermy service and videotaping.

Upon receipt of your deposit, a confirmation letter & map is sent about one month prior informing you of the date, time of departure, and meeting location of your charter. By planning ahead, you'll improve your chances for a preferred date and successful outing.

If tournament fishing excites you, there are limited days available for these events. The Vision Quest visits several different Ports over the season to compete in salmon & trout tournaments. Call Captain Pete for more details if interested.

Lake Erie's Big 4

When it comes to fishing off the Port of Erie, one ever knows what will be tugging at the other end. Lake Erie, the cleanest of the Great Lakes and the largest exporter of fresh water fish is certainly not lacking in the variety of sport fish that can be caught from her waters. Walleye, smallmouth bass, steelhead, lake trout, and brown trout are all viable takers when trolling. While pursuing the more popular game fish, it is possible to also catch sheepshead, whit bass, white perch, and rock bass.

Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, walleye, steelhead and lake trout and bass are found aboard the coolers of successful trollers. Using proper techniques and employing the appropriate equipment can make this task possible.

Walleye fishing takes center stage in Erie throughout summer and fall. Anyone who has tasted a freshly fried walleye can understand why. However, the walleye not known for its boat shaking strikes and heart stopping leaps cannot compare to a freshly hooked steelie or the stubbornness of a chunky smallmouth or laker when hooked.

Though members of the "Big 4" can be taken simultaneously, each specie has a specific time zone when they can be caught almost exclusively. During spring or early summer, all members of the "Big 4" can be found within a reasonable distance of each other. This is primarily due to water temperature and the presence of bait fish. As the warmer months set in, each particular fish begins to find their preferred temperature zone. Once this occurs, the anglers can target a specific specie or all species with the use of various fishing methods.

However, this is not done easily and without a certain acquired knowledge. Generally, the experienced troller can cash in on a variety of species when applying proper techniques. During the fall months, temperature and spawning urges play a key part in fish movement. Fall fishing is usually done in shallow water. Knowledge of the lake is very important during this period because many times one has to troll in water as shallow as four feet. Fall fishing is very unique because one often finds himself without company and there is no better time to land that trophy of a lifetime.

The next time you're fishing off the Port of Erie, and you're reaching for that bucking rod, don't be surprised at what's tugging at the other end, surely it's one of Erie's "Big 4".

4 ft. waves do not bother the 39ft. V.Q. V Tiara Yacht



Other Services Available

Captain Pete also offers trolling education seminars. You will learn about the art of trolling and the multiple devices available to the angler today. You will learn about: diving devices, wire line rigs, downriggers, in-line planner boards, planner boards, slider fishing, lead core and much more.

The Vision Quest **On Line Tackle Store** has many items for the dedicated troller including all Dreamweaver Products, Paul's Planer Boards, snap swivels, snubbers and much more.

The on-line store is located on the Vision Quest website @ www.dreamsteelie.com

For more information write to: **Vision Quest Sport Fishing, LLC**
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