

Eastern Brook Trout

JOINT VENTURE



What is the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture?

The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) is a unique partnership between state and federal agencies, regional and local governments, businesses, conservation organizations, universities, and private citizens. The nation's initial pilot project under the model of the *National Fish Habitat Initiative* (www.fishhabitat.org), EBTJV is a geographically focused, locally driven, and scientifically based effort to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat throughout the range of the Eastern brook trout.

Are there existing programs similar to EBTJV?

EBTJV has been modeled after the joint ventures that are aligned with the highly successful North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a strategy which was implemented in the 1980s to forge partnerships for the restoration and protection of millions of acres of wetland breeding areas for waterfowl.

What will EBTJV do?

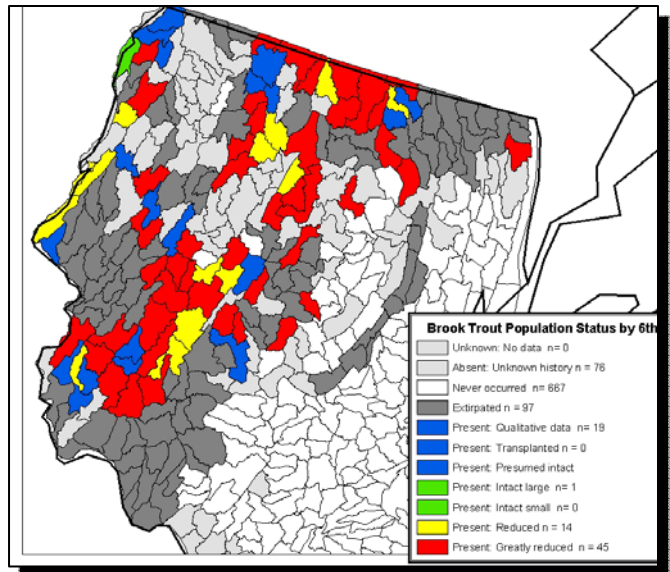
EBTJV will function at multiple geographic and jurisdictional scales to achieve measurable on-the-ground conservation success while securing the adoption of policies favoring aquatic habitat protection. EBTJV seeks to maximize the energies, expertise and existing partnerships throughout Eastern brook trout range through a collaborative, non-regulatory framework.

Partners in EBTJV are working to:

- Assess the status, trends, and current vs. historical distribution of native brook trout populations from Georgia to Maine.
- Identify threats and potential solutions as part of a range-wide conservation strategy
- Prioritize on-the-ground actions based on measurable improvements for the least investment, in the shortest period of time.
- Track, quantify and report, protection and restoration progress and results, and share information and successes with partners.
- Leverage existing funding and resources.
- Develop, implement and manage a public outreach, education and stewardship campaign.

Why a "Joint Venture"?

Historically, approaches to the conservation of Eastern brook trout have been fragmented. A comprehensive range-wide conservation and education strategy will assist all partners in effectively addressing common large-scale threats to brook trout and their habitat. EBTJV will promote recognition that aquatic habitat loss is a national problem and that quality and diversity of aquatic resources depend on habitat protection. EBTJV will demonstrate the effectiveness of broad collaborative endeavors to improve aquatic habitats and conserve valuable aquatic resources.



EBTJV serves as a forum that utilizes the collective expertise of its many partners to achieve conservation successes while educating and attracting support from the public and others. EBTJV will provide a model for other aquatic based regional and national conservation efforts and will secure populations of native brook trout, aid in the restoration of watershed integrity, protect water quality, and enhance human connections to and stewardship of our natural environment.



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