

OHIO LAKE ERIE FISHING GUIDE



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
wildohio.gov

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

The ODNR Division of Wildlife's mission is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.



Download the free
HuntFish OH app

The Ohio Division of Wildlife's **free** app has all the features anglers need to enjoy a day on the water. Fishing licenses may be purchased through the app in a smooth, easy process. Multiyear and lifetime licenses are also available for purchase.

The app's map feature allows users to find boat ramps, wildlife areas, ODNR shooting ranges, license agents, and more. Further, the app contains a weather widget, sunrise and sunset times, wind speed and forecasts, digital copies of the fishing and hunting regulations booklets, and even links to Ohio state parks and boat registration information.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

TO VISIT US ONLINE
WILDOHIO.GOV

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION
1-800-WILDLIFE
(1-800-945-3543)

LAKE ERIE FISHING REPORT
1-888-HOOKFISH
(1-888-466-5347)

WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS

2045 Morse Road
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
☎ (614) 265-6300 (Voice)
1-800-750-0750 (Ohio Relay-TTY)
1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)

FAIRPORT FISHERIES UNIT

1190 High Street
Fairport Harbor, OH 44077
☎ (440) 352-4199

SANDUSKY FISHERIES & ENFORCEMENT UNITS

305 E. Shoreline Drive
Sandusky, OH 44870
☎ (419) 625-8062



LAKE ERIE FISHING GUIDE

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FREE FISHING DAYS

During Father’s Day weekend in June, all Ohio residents are invited to experience Ohio’s fantastic public fishing opportunities without purchasing a license. All size and bag limits apply during these two days.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

LICENSE INFORMATION AND FISHING REGULATIONS

LICENSE INFORMATION

An Ohio fishing license is required for all anglers ages 16 and older who are fishing Ohio waters of Lake Erie. For information on exemptions, reduced cost and free licenses, refer to Ohio's current fishing regulations booklet, or online at wildohio.gov.

REGULATIONS TO REMEMBER

Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch limits are set in the spring and may change beginning May 1. A summary of Ohio's current fishing regulations can be obtained at any license agent, division office, or online at wildohio.gov.

Each licensed angler is allowed up to three fishing lines with up to three hooks on each line. Double or treble hooks are prohibited in the Maumee, Portage, and Sandusky rivers, including their associated bays, from March 1 to April 30. Refer to site-specific fishing regulations in the regulations booklet for more information on hook size restrictions, restricted fishing areas, and times.

- It is unlawful to buy or sell any fish taken by sport fishing.
- It is unlawful to transport and introduce any aquatic species from one body of water to another, including releasing live bait (minnows).
- It is unlawful to possess a fish in any form other than whole while fishing or unloading after fishing. Fillets must be kept whole until anglers reach their permanent residence, or until the fish are prepared for immediate consumption.





POPULAR LAKEERIE SPORTFISH TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

WALLEYE

TIP: Walleye generally prefer cool (less than 72 degrees Fahrenheit), moderately clear water and will move great distances to find good foraging conditions. So, it may take some time to find the fish. Actively feeding walleye are often suspended in the water column, so try different depths. When you do find a feeding school, fishing can be outstanding! Fishing for walleye is often best at dawn, dusk, or on overcast days with a light chop. For shore anglers, the best opportunities are dawn and dusk near accessible river mouths (especially in fall) and spring fishing during the walleye spawning run.

TECHNIQUE: Walleye can be caught by trolling, casting, or jigging. If you are unsure where the walleye are located, trolling is the easiest way to cover a lot of water to find the fish (but remember, just two lines per angler are allowed in Ohio). Trolling can be done with planer boards, an assortment of divers, down riggers, or by simply flat-lining. Common trolling lures include diving plugs, bottom bouncers, crawler harnesses, or spoons. Casting lures include weight-forward spinners, mayfly rigs, or crankbaits. Jigging lures include blade baits, spoons, and twister tails or hair jigs.

YELLOW PERCH

TIP: Yellow perch are most active during the day from spring through fall. They are found in a variety of habitats, but nearly always near the lake bottom. When a large school is found, fishing can be fast and furious, and makes great family fishing, so do not hesitate to move around until a feeding school is found. Perch bites are usually soft taps that require attention to detect.

TECHNIQUE: The most common technique is to use a spreader with multiple hooks and a large sinker (3/4 – 1 oz) to keep the bait (shiners) near the bottom. Periodic jigging can entice bites. If fishing a school with large yellow perch, jigging with a small twister tail or hair jig can produce great catches of jumbo perch while skipping the undersized fish.





SMALLMOUTH BASS

TIP: Smallmouth bass are active during the day from spring through fall. Smallmouth are attracted to structure such as rocks, shipwrecks, piers, logs, and submerged vegetation and are frequently found close to shore. Male bass provide essential care for their eggs and fry, thus special regulations are in place for Lake Erie from May 1 until the fourth Saturday in June. Refer to the current regulations book for specific information.

TECHNIQUE: Casting crankbaits and tube jigs are the most popular techniques in Lake Erie, but drop-shotting with soft, plastic baits is also extremely effective. Twister tails, hair jigs and spoons catch their share of smallmouth bass, too.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

TIP: Largemouth bass are active in near-shore areas during the day from spring through fall. They are aggressive feeders that will eat almost anything. Largemouth are common in nearshore habitats with vegetation or structure, like piers, rocks, or logs, where they wait to ambush their prey. Male bass provide essential care for their eggs and fry, thus special regulations are in place for Lake Erie from May 1 until the fourth Saturday in June. Refer to the current regulations book for specific information.

TECHNIQUE: Fishing the bays, harbors, and protected shorelines are best. Casting for largemouth bass typically involves rubber worms, twister tails, flipping baits, crankbaits, spinners, and spoons. Using topwater and weedless lures is common for shallow, heavily vegetated areas.



WHITE BASS

TIP: The most popular time to fish for white bass is around their spawning run. White bass begin to make their way into the rivers when the water temperature is between 55 and 64 degrees Fahrenheit and peak spawning occurs in early May. Fish river mouths from piers or break walls, or in the river proper. Some white bass stay in the rivers all summer, but people also catch them in the open lake. Look for flocks of birds that are attracted to the large schools of white bass that drive prey fish toward the surface.

TECHNIQUE: Use shiners, jigs, twisters, small crankbaits, spinners, streamers, or spoons. When a large feeding school is found, some anglers use an agitator to attract strikes.

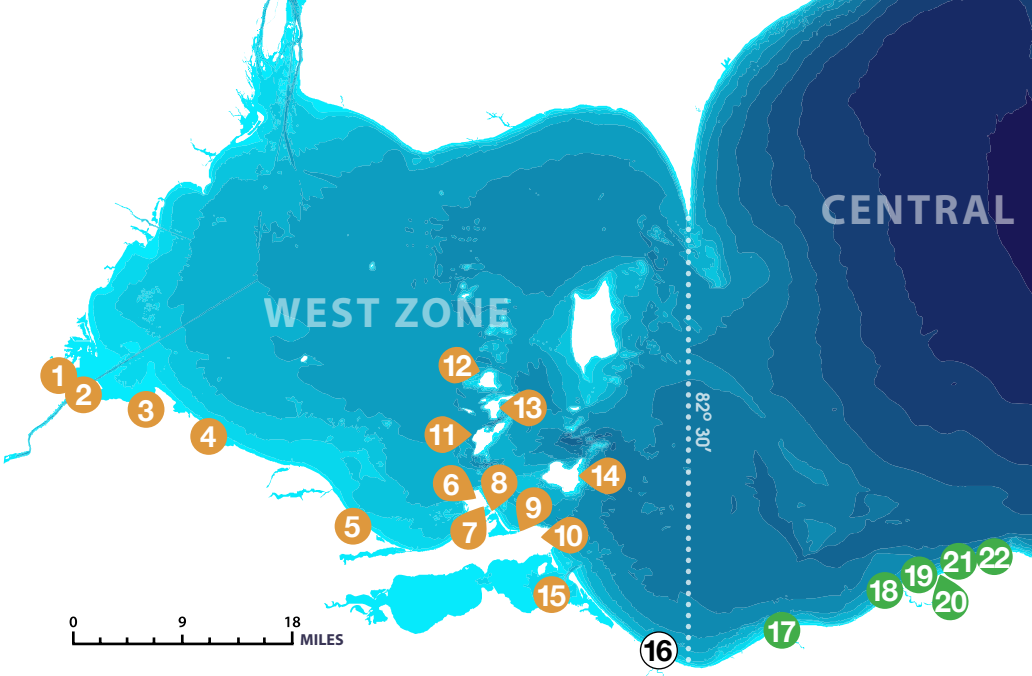


STEELHEAD

TIP: Steelhead have been stocked in Lake Erie for more than 40 years. Steelhead prefer cold (less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit) waters, so the best time to catch them is when they migrate in and out rivers in northeast Ohio from October through May.

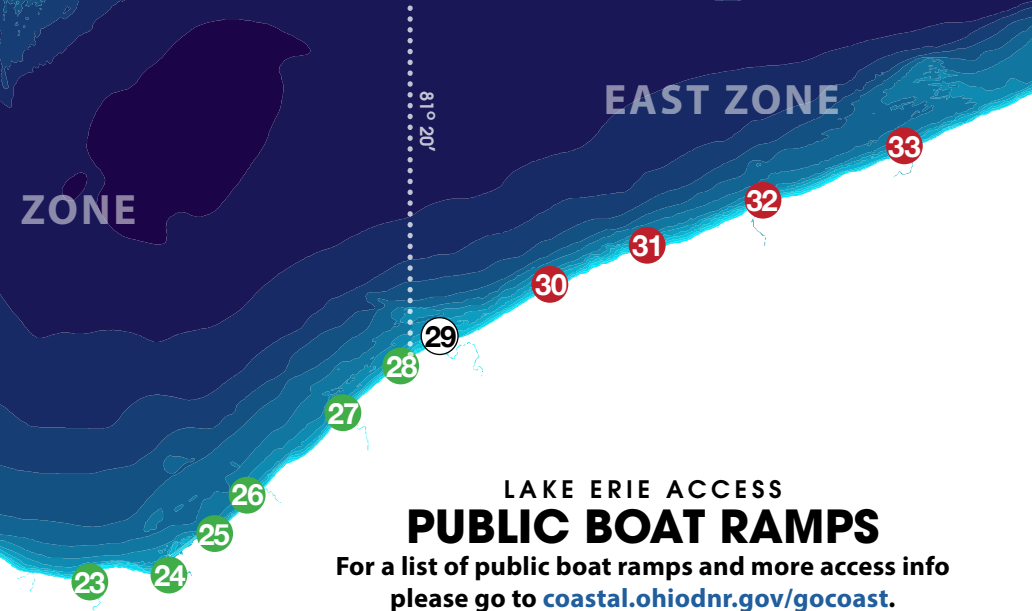
TECHNIQUE: Trolling near river mouths is successful with spoons and plugs when the fish are preparing to move into the rivers. Casting from break walls is also successful at this time, but the majority of steelhead are caught by anglers in the rivers. Small jigs tipped with meal worms or fish eggs, spoons, and spinners are all effective. Anglers flyfishing catch steelhead on nymphs, streamers, or egg patterns. In rivers, steelhead orient toward cover and often occupy moderate to deep pools.





WEST ZONE

1. **Cullen Park** | 4526 Summit Street, at 101st Street, Toledo
2. **Bayshore Fishing Access** | Bayshore Road, west of Wynn Road, Oregon
3. **Cooley Canal Launch Ramp** | 780 block of Anchor Point Road, Curtice
4. **Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area** | Bono Road, off SR 2, Curtice
5. **Portage River Access** | West Lakeshore Drive, Port Clinton
6. **Catawba Island State Park** | 4049 East Moore's Dock Road, Catawba
7. **East Harbor State Park** | 1136 Buck Road, Marblehead
8. **West Harbor Public Ramp** | 1955 N.E. Catawba Road, Port Clinton
9. **Mazurik Access Area** | 8957 North Shore Road, Marblehead
10. **Dempsey Fishing Access** | Bay Shore Road, Marblehead
11. **South Bass Island State Park** | 1523 Catawba Avenue, Put-in-Bay
12. **Put-in-Bay Public Launch** | Bayview Avenue, Put-in-Bay
13. **Middle Bass Island State Park** | 1719 Fox Road, Middle Bass Island
14. **Kelleys Island State Park** | 920 Division Street, Kelleys Island
15. **Shelby Street Public Launch** | 101 Shelby Street, Sandusky
16. **Huron River Boat Access** | 41 Cleveland Road, Huron



LAKE ERIE ACCESS
PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS
For a list of public boat ramps and more access info
please go to coastal.ohiodnr.gov/gocoast.

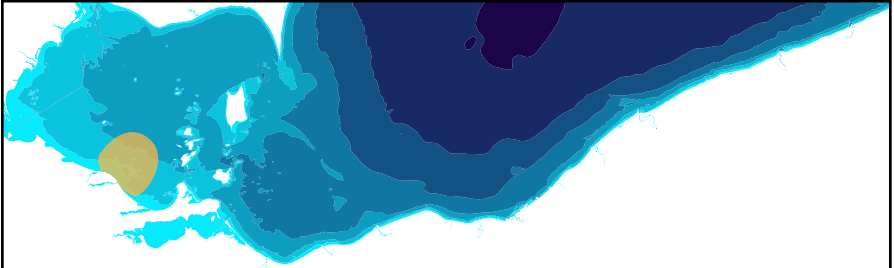
CENTRAL ZONE

- 17. South Street Launch | West River Road, Vermilion)
- 18. Lorain Public Boat Ramp | First Street and Oberlin Avenue, Lorain
- 19. East Side Launch Ramp | Lakeside Avenue, Lorain
- 20. Black River Wharf Launch | 1355 Black River Parkway, Lorain
- 21. Sheffield Lake Community Park | Lake Road, Sheffield Lake
- 22. Avon Lake Boat Launch | 33760 Miller Road, Avon Lake
- 23. Emerald Necklace Marina | Valley Parkway, Lakewood
- 24. Edgewater Boat Ramp | Whiskey Island Drive, Cleveland
- 25. Gordon Park Boat Ramp | 8701 Lakeshore Boulevard, Cleveland
- 26. Wildwood Park Ramp | Lakeshore Boulevard, Cleveland
- 27. Eastlake Port Authority Boat Ramp | 201 Erie Road, Eastlake
- 28. Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve | 8365 Harbor Drive, Mentor

EAST ZONE

- 29. Fairport Harbor Boat Launch | 220 Third Street, Fairport Harbor
- 30. Madison Township Park | 6717 Lake Road, Madison-on-the-Lake
- 31. Geneva State Park | 4499 Padanarum Road, Geneva-on-the-Lake
- 32. Lakeshore Park | 1700 East 1st Street, Ashtabula
- 33. Conneaut Port Authority Access | Naylor Boulevard, Conneaut

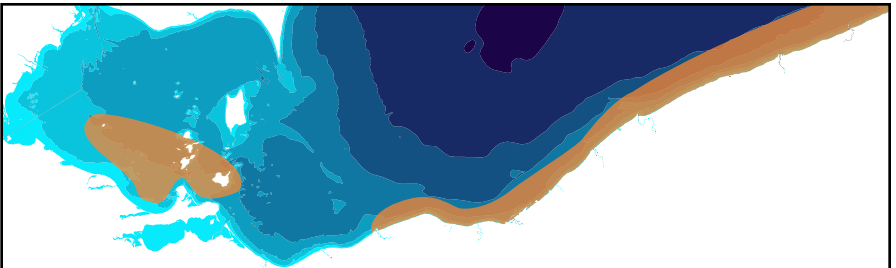
SEASONAL HOTSPOT **WALLEYE**



SPRING WALLEYE

(MARCH - MAY)

In spring, as the water approaches 50 degrees Fahrenheit walleye enter prime spawning time. Males will often lie near the lake's bottom around the firing reef complex in relatively shallow water. Anglers work to entice predatory strikes by drifting and vertically jigging 3/8-1 oz. hair jigs or blade baits off the bottom. Anglers pursuing trophy walleye can still target pre- and post-spawn females just outside of the reefs by trolling.



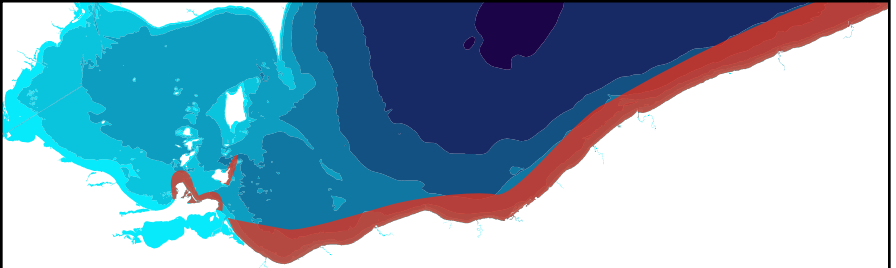
SUMMER WALLEYE

(JUNE - AUGUST)

During these months walleye are suspended in open water from West Sister to Kelleys islands. Anglers troll crankbaits in the top half of the water column at 1.5 to 2 mph. Once the water temperatures reach 60 degrees Fahrenheit, anglers troll or cast worm harnesses. As the water temperatures increase some anglers trolling switch to spoons pulled behind divers around 2.5 mph.

As the water warms, most of the large walleye migrate east toward Cleveland and beyond. Troll for walleye using crankbaits aided by inline weights, spoons pulled behind divers, using downriggers or lead core line in depths from 45 to 75 feet of water. In the western basin, target deeper waters adjacent to reefs or the islands by casting or trolling worm harnesses or spoons. Walleye can be caught at night by casting crankbaits up into shallow reefs adjacent to deeper water.

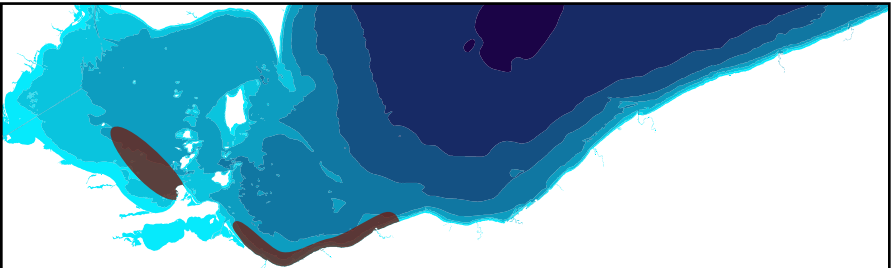
SEASONAL HOTSPOT **WALLEYE**



FALL WALLEYE

(SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER)

Walleye slowly begin their seasonal migrations back toward their western basin spawning grounds. During this time, walleye are often caught by anglers fishing from boats and the bank along the shore. Walleye target baitfish in the shallows from Cleveland to Catawba, but most anglers focus on nearshore areas from Cleveland to Sandusky. Although sometimes difficult to predict, fishing for large, aggressive walleye during this time is exhilarating. Anglers cast or troll crankbaits in shallow waters just off piers and along the shoreline.



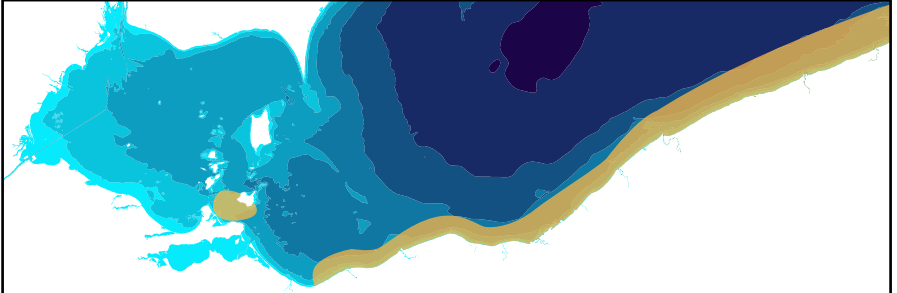
WINTER WALLEYE

(DECEMBER - FEBRUARY)

In years with sufficient ice, anglers pursue walleye as they make their way back to the spawning grounds. Early in the winter, start off fishing near Catawba Island and end the season off the reef complex west of the Bass islands and north of Camp Perry firing range. Fish with ice fishing lures tipped with minnows, fished just off the bottom.

During late February through March, fish are in pre-spawn mode. Anglers fish from boats by vertically jigging ice fishing lures, or trolling crankbaits in the middle of the water column at speeds as slow as 0.8 to 1 mph. Fish between Catawba Island and the reef complex, just west of the Bass islands, and nearshore in the central basin.

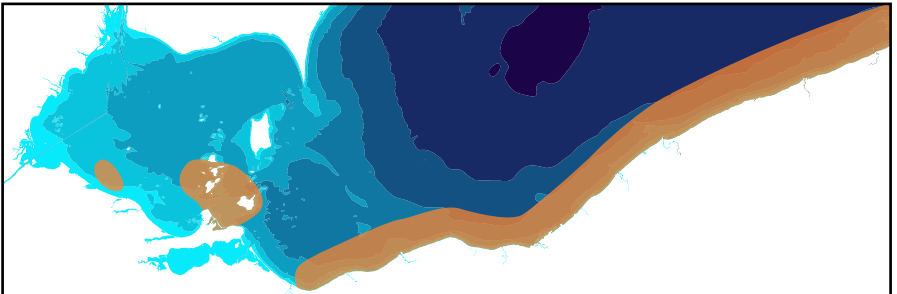
SEASONAL HOTSPOT
YELLOW PERCH



SPRING PERCH

(MARCH - MAY)

In the spring, yellow perch move close to shore to spawn. In the western basin, try near Catawba, Marblehead, and around the islands. In the central basin, target yellow perch by fishing on the bottom of shallow water near break walls, docks, and rocky points from Huron to Ashtabula. Fish for perch with crappie rigs or perch spreaders baited with minnows.

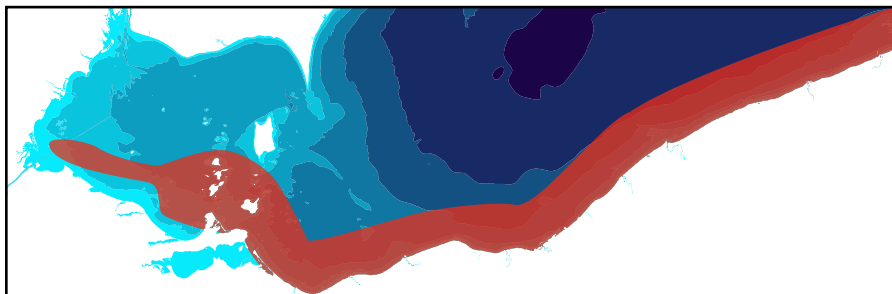


SUMMER PERCH

(JUNE - AUGUST)

Post-spawn, fish move to deeper water. Anglers should target the bottom with perch or crappie rigs baited with minnows. In the western basin, anglers fish off Catawba, Marblehead, Bass and Kelleys islands, the Toledo water intake, and Metzger Marsh pier. In the central basin, anglers fish offshore from major ports and harbors from Huron to Conneaut.

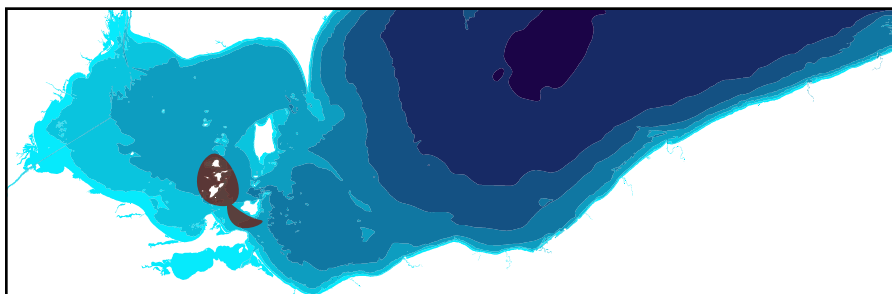
SEASONAL HOTSPOT **YELLOW PERCH**



FALL PERCH

(SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER)

Late summer through fall produces some of the best yellow perch fishing on Lake Erie. In the western basin, anglers target fish by fishing near the bottom using perch or crappie rigs baited with minnows. Popular locations include near West Sister Island, the Toledo Shipping Channel, the Toledo water intake, Catawba, Bass islands, Marblehead, and Kelleys Island. In the central basin, anglers fish offshore from Huron to Conneaut. In late summer and early fall, before the thermocline breaks down, yellow perch can be caught suspended up in the water column in the central basin.

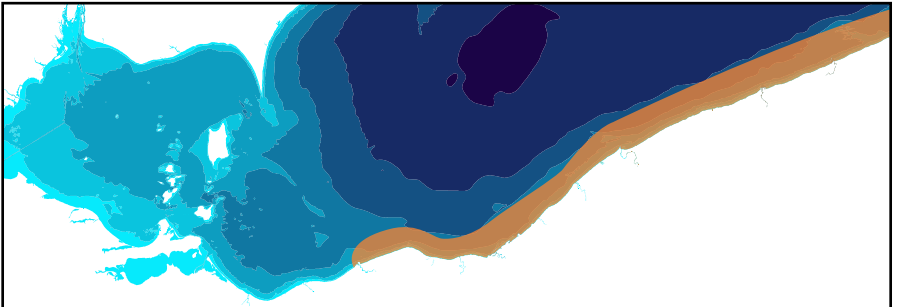


WINTER PERCH

(DECEMBER - FEBRUARY)

Fishing for perch during colder months is popular, especially in years with sufficient ice. Anglers use light jigs tipped with minnows or wax worms fished near the bottom. Anglers in the western basin usually target near Catawba, the Bass islands, Marblehead, Sandusky Bay, and harbor areas. In the central basin, anglers fish off break walls and in the harbors from Huron to Conneaut.

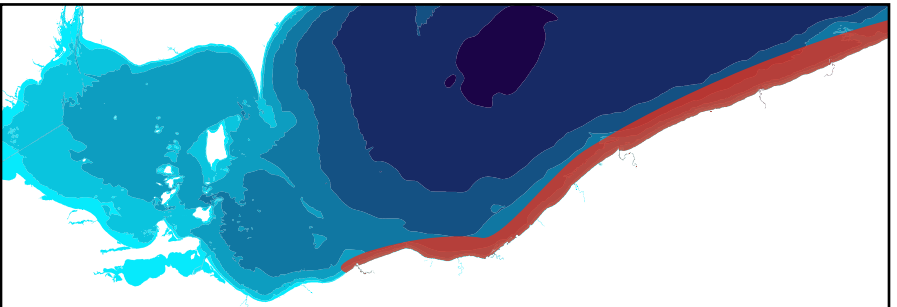
SEASONAL HOTSPOT STEELHEAD



SUMMERTO EARLY FALL STEELHEAD

(JUNE - OCTOBER)

In the summer, anglers fish for steelhead offshore in the central basin using depth-controlled trolling from the Lorain sandbar to Avon, Cleveland, Fairport, Geneva, and Ashtabula. Anglers troll spoons or crankbaits using divers or downriggers. As the water temperatures cool, steelhead move inshore where anglers troll or cast spoons and crankbaits.

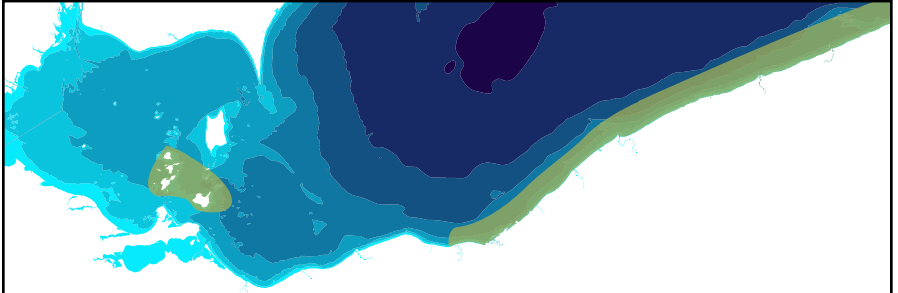


FALL THROUGH SPRING STEELHEAD

(NOVEMBER - MAY)

Anglers fish for steelhead in the central basin off piers, beaches, and break walls from Avon east by trolling or casting. Anglers also fish the Vermilion, Rocky, Chagrin, Grand and Ashtabula rivers, and Conneaut Creek. Fish will stage and move upstream for spawning. During high-water events anglers also target the smaller tributaries. Troll spoons or crankbaits using divers or downriggers. In the rivers, fish with spoons, spinners, jigs tipped with maggots, spawn sacs, minnows, and night crawlers. Anglers fly-fishing use streamers, buggers, nymphs, and egg fly patterns. In the fall, steelhead will be caught in deeper pools and runs. In the winter and spring, fish move into shallower waters to spawn. Active fish will be associated with a current line, boulders, or woody debris.

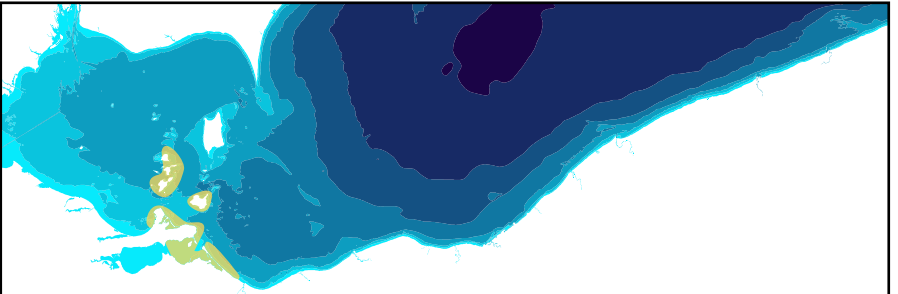
SEASONAL HOTSPOT
BLACK BASS



SMALLMOUTH BASS

(YEAR-ROUND)

In the western basin, anglers fish for smallmouth bass nearshore around Kelleys and the Bass islands casting tube jigs or using drop shot rigs. In the central basin, anglers fish for smallmouth bass in 10 to 30 feet of water around the harbor areas from Cleveland to Conneaut using drop shot rigs, tube jigs, shiners, soft craws, leeches, and crankbaits.



LARGEMOUTH BASS

(YEAR-ROUND)

Largemouth bass can be caught in harbors, marinas, and along the main lake shoreline. Anglers generally target nearshore around Catawba, Marblehead, and the islands using shiners, night crawlers, drop shot rigs, tube jigs, spinners, buzzbaits, crankbaits, plastic worms, leeches, or crayfish.



LODGING, FISHING CHARTERS, AND ATTRACTIONS

Ohio has some wonderful state parks along Lake Erie that offer anglers some great overnight accommodations and marinas. Visit parks.ohiodnr.gov to find one near your destination.

For information on lodging, fishing charters, launch ramps and marinas, and other attractions contact one of the following visitors bureaus along the lakeshore.

ASHTABULA COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1-800-337-6746

visitashtabulacounty.com

shoresandislands.com

GREATER TOLEDO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1-800-243-4667

visittoledo.org

LAKE COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

1-800-368-5253

lakevisit.com

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU OF GREATER CLEVELAND

1-800-321-1001

thisiscleveland.com

LORAIN COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

1-800-334-1673

visitolraincounty.com

OHIO DIVISION OF TRAVEL & TOURISM

1-800-BUCKEYE

www.ohio.org

SANDUSKY COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

1-800-255-8070

sanduskycounty.org

LAKE ERIE SHORES & ISLANDS

1-800-255-3743



MARBLEHEAD LIGHTHOUSE

FISH OHIO AWARD

- Applications for the Fish Ohio pin are accepted at fishohio.gov.
- Anglers will receive a Fish Ohio pin for their first entry each year, and a Master Angler pin for qualifying entries in four different species categories in the same year.
- Fish must be taken by legal angling and not from pay lakes. Deadline for online application entry is Dec. 31.
- Possible state-record fish must be kept frozen for verification by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio. For more information, go to outdoorwritersofohio.org.

QUALIFYING FISH OHIO SIZES

- Qualifying sizes below apply to Lake Erie and its tributaries.

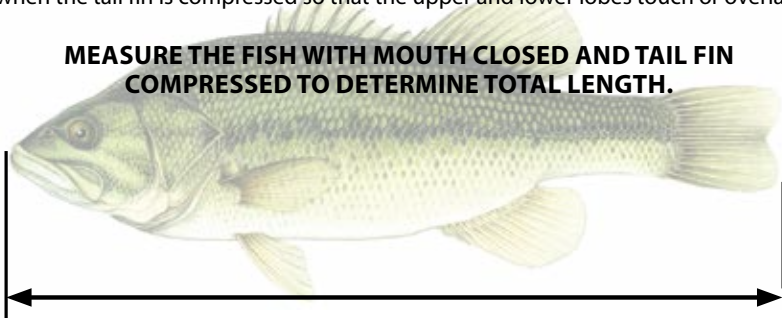
SPECIES	MIN. SIZE
Bowfin	23 inches
Brown Trout	20 inches
Bullhead	14 inches
Carp	28 inches
Channel Catfish	26 inches
Crappie	13 inches
Flathead Catfish	35 inches
Freshwater Drum	24 inches
Largemouth Bass	20 inches
Longnose Gar	34 inches

SPECIES	MIN. SIZE
Muskellunge	40 inches
Northern Pike	32 inches
Steelhead	28 inches
Rock Bass	9 inches
Sauger	16 inches
Smallmouth Bass	20 inches
Sucker	20 inches
Sunfish	9 inches
Walleye	28 inches
White Bass	15 inches
Yellow Perch	13 inches

HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

The measurement of the length of a fish is taken in a straight line from the utmost end of the snout with the mouth closed to the utmost end of the caudal (tail) fin when the tail fin is compressed so that the upper and lower lobes touch or overlap.

MEASURE THE FISH WITH MOUTH CLOSED AND TAIL FIN COMPRESSED TO DETERMINE TOTAL LENGTH.



LAKE ERIE BOAT SAFELY

BOATING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAKE ERIE

Make sure to check that your boat has the proper safety equipment. Refer to the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft's Ohio Boat Operators Guide for a complete list of boat-specific requirements. Be sure you have:

- Proper type and number of PFDs
- Fire extinguisher(s)
- Visual distress signals (boats 16 feet or longer are required to have a USCG-approved signal for both day and night use)
- Sound signaling device
- Sufficient anchor and line



Anglers fishing from boats should consult the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft for information on recreational boating practices, laws, licensing, and regulations at watercraft.ohiodnr.gov, or the U.S. Coast Guard Information line at 1-800-368-5647.



BE ALERT TO WEATHER

Lake Erie is known for its sudden storms and pounding chop. Because it is shallow, waves can grow quickly and are often closer together than in larger, deeper waterbodies. Watch the weather carefully, check the forecasts before and during your trip and, when in doubt, head for a safe harbor.



SOURCES OF MARINE WEATHER FORECASTS AND CURRENT CONDITIONS INCLUDE:

Forecasts on Marine VHF weather channel (WX1, 2 or 6, depending on location)

NOAA weather and marine forecasts (www.weather.gov/cle/)

NOAA's real-time buoy data (www.ndbc.noaa.gov)

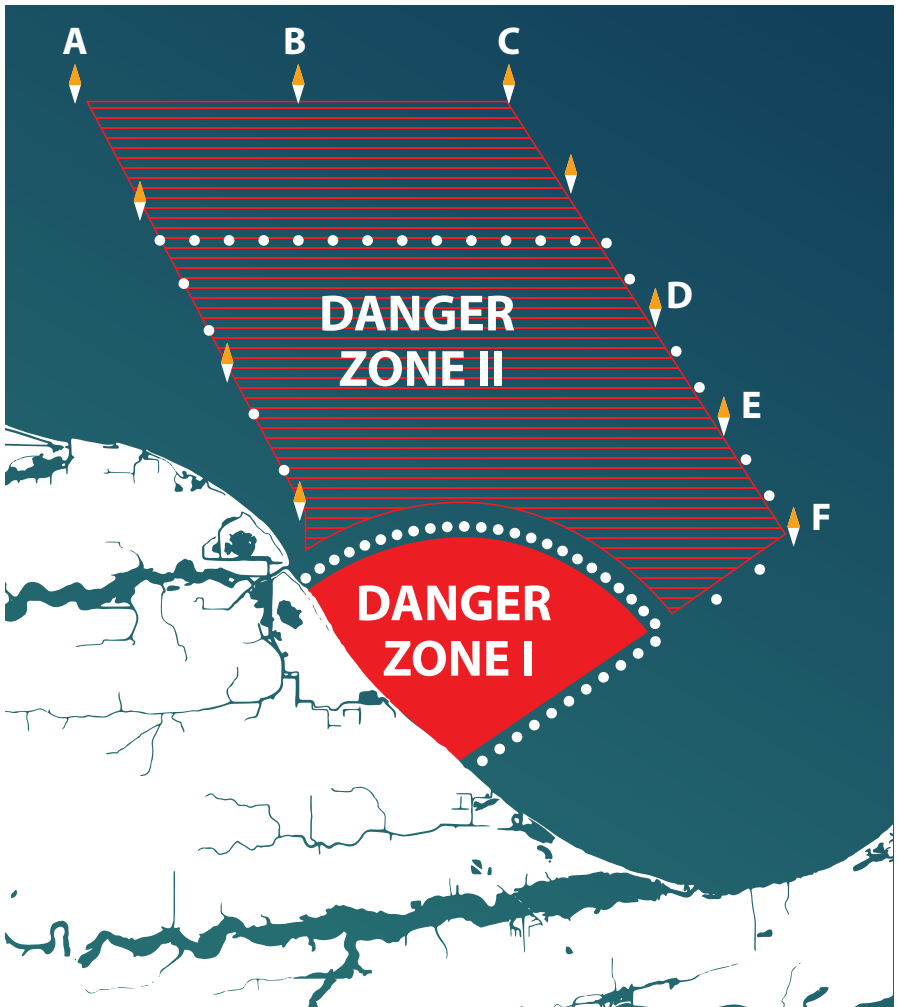
CAMP PERRY FIRING WESTERN RANGE

The Camp Perry Joint Training Center operates a firing range in the western basin of Lake Erie. An inner zone (Danger Zone I) may be in use between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., daily. A larger firing impact zone (Danger Zone II) extends up to 10 miles offshore and may be in use between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Danger Zone II is marked with orange and white buoys that read "range danger zone."

During firing activity, the Camp Perry strobe light will be activated and red range flags will be displayed.

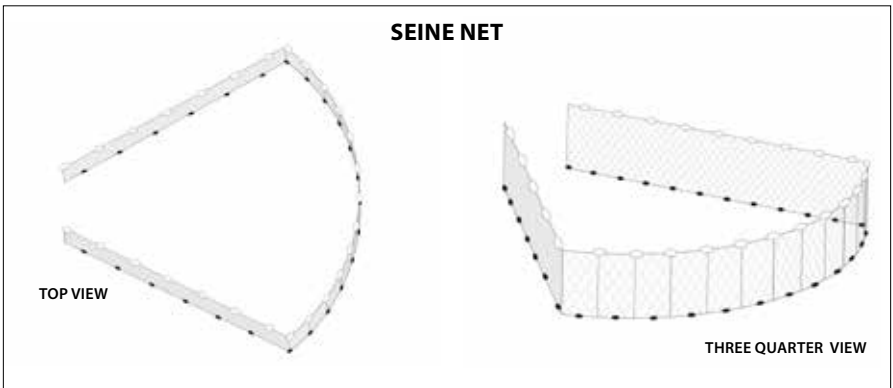
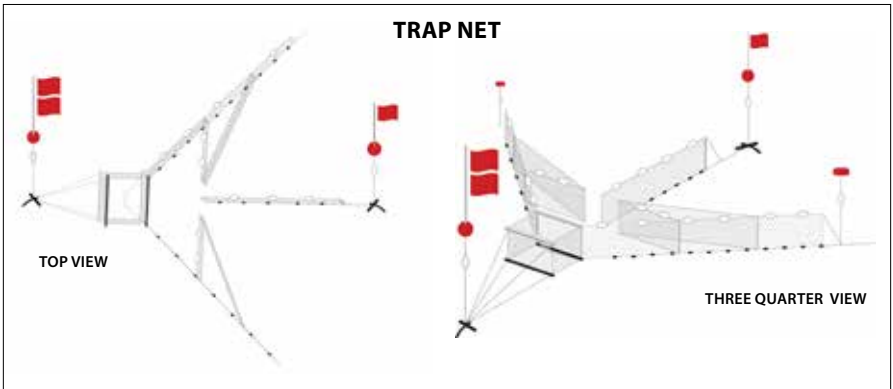
For specific firing schedules, call the Camp Perry Range Safety Office on Marine VHF Channel 16 or 419-635-4021 ext. 6203/6245.



COMMERCIAL FISHING NETS

Boaters may encounter commercial fishing nets in Ohio waters of Lake Erie. By law, commercial netters are allowed a portion of the total yellow perch harvest in Lake Erie, which provides jobs and economic benefits for the state. Trap nets are usually marked with a single, square red flag on the shore side of the net. The offshore side is marked with two flags: a red flag on top and a flag of any other color on the bottom. When boating, go around, not in between the flags. If caught in a fishing net, put your boat in neutral, turn off the engine, put on a PFD, and call the U.S. Coast Guard or a towing company for assistance.

Another net boaters may encounter are seine nets. One end of the seine is held on shore or on a barge anchored near the shore. A boat carrying the net circles around the fish and returns to shore where a winch is used to haul in the seine. Small black buoys indicating the net's location are visible during the pulling operation.



ALL ABOUT LAKE ERIE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why are there special regulations for bass in the spring?

A: The spring regulations for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass have been implemented for several reasons. First, they are designed to increase the nesting success of bass by reducing nest predation. Through research, ODNR Division of Wildlife found that a non-native fish, the round goby, can consume a significant number of offspring from a nest if the guarding male is removed for an extended period of time. Second, it is important to manage harvest of smallmouth bass and largemouth bass to ensure their abundance remains high.

What are harmful algal blooms?

A: Microscopic algae are everywhere in Lake Erie and are an important part of the food web. However, some species of algae can quickly increase in abundance and can occasionally produce a toxin called microcystin. These potentially toxic blue-green algae species form a visible surface scum when abundant. Avoid direct contact with algal scums as they can irritate the skin and cause sickness if ingested by humans or pets. You can check for fish consumption advisories on the Ohio EPA website (epa.ohio.gov).

Where do I get up-to-date fishing information and reports?

A: The ODNR Division of Wildlife provides updated fishing reports at wildohio.gov, along with links for tips by species and advice for fishing Lake Erie. In addition, there are a number of how-to videos available. A number of public forums and websites also provide current information. Finally, probably the best source for local fishing information is to check with a tackle or bait store near where you plan to fish.

Why is spring walleye harvest legal on Ohio waters of Lake Erie?

A: Spring harvest is a small component of Ohio's annual harvest. In the past decade, April walleye harvest accounts for less than 10 percent of the annual harvest. Most of Ohio's harvest occurs during the summer months of the fishing season. In addition, there is no indication that spring harvest negatively impacts the resulting year-class. Environmental conditions determine the success of each year's hatch, not the number of adult fish spawning. Our regulations are designed to keep our harvest within Ohio's annually allocated catch without limiting fishing opportunities.

Why aren't walleye stocked into Lake Erie?

A: Walleye are not stocked in the lake predominantly because of scale. Lake Erie is so large that the impact of stocking would be negligible. There are approximately 30 million walleye in Lake Erie and about 10 million age-2 fish are added each year through natural reproduction. As a result, the population in Lake Erie is sustained entirely by natural reproduction which also serves to maintain the genetic variability and integrity of Lake Erie walleye stocks.

How are Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch managed?

A: Lake Erie's walleye and yellow perch are managed jointly through the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Inter-agency management is extremely important in Lake Erie due to the different jurisdictions involved, the highly migratory nature of walleye and the numerous sources of both harvest and natural mortality. Harvest, trawl survey, and gillnet survey data are all used to annually estimate the abundance of walleye and yellow perch so that the LEC can establish safe harvest levels through a lake-wide total allowable catch (TAC) distributed to each jurisdiction based on surface area. In Ohio waters of Lake Erie, the ODNR Division of Wildlife allocates our entire walleye TAC to sport anglers, while our yellow perch TAC is split between sport angling (65 percent) and commercial fishing (35 percent).





When do walleye and white bass spawning runs begin and how long do they last?

A: Walleye typically spawn in temperatures that are between 43 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit, while white bass tend to spawn within the temperatures of 55 and 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Walleye arrive in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers in early March and stay through April, with their greatest abundance generally around the beginning of April. White bass begin to make their way into the rivers directly after the walleye leave and will spawn into June. White bass abundance usually peaks in mid-May and they will slowly leave the system, although some white bass stay in the rivers all summer.

How is walleye harvest in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers monitored?

A: Walleye harvest in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers is estimated through direct-contact creel surveys. Anglers fishing in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers are counted and interviewed throughout the majority of the fishing season. Using counts to estimate the number of hours spent fishing (effort) and average catch rates calculated from fish observed during the interviews, we can accurately estimate the number of walleye being harvested during the spring runs.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

WAYS YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- **DO NOT RELEASE ANY LIVE BAIT INTO THE WATER. YOUR BAIT BUCKET MAY INCLUDE AN INVASIVE SPECIES BY MISTAKE!**
- Remove all aquatic plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer, and equipment before leaving any waterway.
- Drain your livewell and transom well before leaving the launch.
- Wash your boat and equipment.
- Do not release any aquarium fish, invertebrates, or plants into any outside waters.

TRASH UNUSED BAIT.

MINNOWS & WORMS
STOP INVASIVE SPECIES

www.CleanDrainDry.org

