

OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS 2021-2022

Effective MARCH 1, 2021
to FEBRUARY 28, 2022



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
wildohio.gov

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE DISTRICT OFFICES

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

1500 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215
1-800-WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, OH 45840
1-800-WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, OH 44319
1-800-WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

360 E. State Street
Athens, OH 45701
1-800-WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, OH 45385
1-800-WILDLIFE

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Ohio Division of Wildlife offers equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in education programs). If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, you should contact:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Diversity & Civil Rights Programs-External Programs,
4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, EEO Office
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D, Columbus, OH 43229-6695

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VISIT US ON THE WEB
WILDOHIO.GOV

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

1-800-WILDLIFE

(1-800-945-3543)

LAKE ERIE FISHING FORECAST

1-888-HOOKFISH

(1-888-466-5347)

TO REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

CALL OR TEXT

1-800-POACHER

(1-800-762-2437)

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2021-2022 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

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JUNE 19 & 20 FREE FISHING DAYS

On June 19 and 20, 2021, **all** Ohio residents are invited to experience

Ohio's fantastic public fishing opportunities without purchasing a license. All size and daily limits apply during these two days.



FISHING REGULATION CHANGES

Changes from the previous regulations booklet are listed in red text.

- Special regulations for walleye, sauger, and saugeye in the Sandusky River and Sandusky Bay have been removed. See page 7.
- Statewide channel catfish regulations at lakes less than 700 acres have been removed. See page 6.
- The Lake Erie Charter Fishing License is no longer available. A one-day license is valid to fish all public waters, including Lake Erie. See page 4.

LICENSE INFORMATION

FISHING LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL AUTHORIZED LICENSE SALES AGENTS AND AT WILDOHIO.GOV.

CATEGORIES

Resident Youth	For Ohio residents under age 16 at the time of purchase.
Resident	For Ohio residents age 16-65 at the time of purchase.
Resident Senior	For Ohio residents age 66 and older born on or after January 1, 1938.
Nonresident	For all nonresidents 16 years old and older at the time of purchase.

LICENSES

COST

Youth LICENSES	Persons under 16 years of age are not required to purchase a fishing license.	
	Resident Youth Lifetime License	\$430.56

Resident LICENSES	Resident 1-Day License	\$14.00
	Resident 1-Year Upgraded from a 1-Day License * (see below)	\$12.00
	Resident 1-Year License	\$25.00
	Resident 3-Year License	\$54.08
	Resident 5-Year License	\$90.22
	Resident 10-Year License	\$180.44
	Resident Lifetime License	\$468.00

Resident Senior LICENSES	Resident 1-Year License	\$10.00
	Resident 3-Year License	\$28.60
	Resident 5-Year License	\$47.58
	Resident Lifetime License	\$84.24

Nonresident LICENSES	Nonresident 1-Day License	\$14.00
	Nonresident 1-Year License Upgraded from a 1-Day* (see below)	\$37.44
	Nonresident 3-Day License	\$25.00
	Nonresident 1-Year License	\$50.96
	Nonresident Lake Erie Fishing Permit (January 1 to April 30, 2021)	\$11.00

Card and Duplicate	Resident Ohio Conservation Card	\$4.00
	Duplicate License - Free reprints are available at wildohio.gov	\$4.00

* A one-day fishing license may be applied as credit toward the purchase of an annual license.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- A fishing license is required to take fish from Ohio waters.
- A fishing license is required to take frogs or turtles on public and private property.
- Persons fishing in privately owned ponds, lakes, or reservoirs that are open to public fishing through an agreement or lease with the Ohio Division of Wildlife are required to have a fishing license.
- Persons must have their license in their possession while fishing and must show the license to anyone on request. Licenses may be displayed using a mobile device.
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty stationed in Ohio, but not on leave or furlough, are required to purchase a resident license.

LICENSE PURCHASING

- An Ohio resident is a person who has resided in the state of Ohio for the past six consecutive months. All others are considered nonresidents and must purchase a nonresident license.
- Licenses purchased on wildohio.gov will be emailed to the customer upon completion of the transaction. Licenses are not required to be printed as long as the image of the license may be displayed on a mobile device and presented upon request.
- Operator assisted short-term licenses are available for purchase by calling 1-866-703-1928 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. A \$5.50 fee will be added to the cost of the license.
- Annual fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. Annual and multiyear fishing licenses are valid from the date of purchase until the expiration date printed on the license.
- A Lake Erie fishing permit is required for nonresidents from January 1 to April 30 annually when fishing Lake Erie and areas immediately upstream in creeks, rivers, and tributaries. See page 7 for a complete list of areas where this regulation applies.
- Lifetime licenses and multiyear licenses may be purchased at wildohio.gov, provided an Ohio driver license or state identification is associated with the customer's account. Lifetime license buyers may also visit an Ohio Division of Wildlife office or mail in a paper application. Proof of age and residency are required at the time of purchase. A multiyear license may also be purchased at an agent location (restrictions apply). Visit wildohio.gov for more information about lifetime or multiyear licenses.

LICENSE EXEMPTIONS

A FISHING LICENSE IS NOT REQUIRED OF PERSONS WHO ARE:

- Less than 16 years of age. This includes frogs and turtles;
- Persons fishing in privately owned ponds, lakes, or reservoirs to and from which fish do not migrate are not required to have a license to take fish;
- Giving assistance to an angler who has been issued the free mobility impaired or blind fishing license, provided the two persons together are using only one line;
- Fishing, or taking frogs or turtles, on land and water where they or their parents are tenants on which they reside, and from which they derive the majority of their income from agricultural production on that land (except state-owned lakes);
- Fishing, or taking frogs or turtles, on land and water which they or their parents own, except where the land is in or borders on state parks or state-owned lakes;
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty while on leave or furlough;
- On June 19 and 20, 2021, all Ohio residents may fish without a license as part of Free Fishing Days.
- See page 16 for information on free licenses.

THE OHIO CONSERVATION CARD

The Ohio Conservation Card (a durable plastic card) is included with the purchase of a lifetime license. The card may also be purchased for \$4.00 with a multiyear license.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

These regulations apply to all public waters in Ohio where site-specific regulations are not implemented. Exceptions to these regulations include locations listed for Lake Erie and its tributaries (below), the Ohio River (pages 8-9), Site-Specific Waters (page 10-12), and Pymatuning Lake (page 11).

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Blue & Flathead Catfish (under 35 inches)	No limit	None
Blue & Flathead Catfish (35 inches or larger)	1 of each (statewide)	35 inches
Channel Catfish (under 28 inches)	No limit	None
Channel Catfish (28 inches or larger)	1 (statewide)	28 inches
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
Muskellunge	1	None
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, & White Bass	30 (singly or in combination)	No more than 4 over 15 inches
Trout (all species)	5 (singly or in combination)	None
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	6 (singly or in combination)	None
Yellow Perch	30	None

STATE ENDANGERED FISH SPECIES

In an effort to protect rare native species, the fish listed below are protected in all Ohio waters and if caught must be immediately released back into its originating waterbody. Possession of these fish is prohibited.

Bigeye shiner	Longnose sucker	Popeye shiner	Shovelnose sturgeon
Cisco (or Lake herring)	Mountain brook lamprey	Pugnose minnow	Spotted darter
Gilt darter	Northern brook lamprey	Scioto madtom	Spotted gar
Goldeye	Northern madtom	Shoal chub	Tonguetied minnow
Iowa darter	Ohio lamprey	Shortnose gar	Western banded killifish
Lake sturgeon	Pirate perch		

VISIT WILDOHIO.GOV FOR MORE INFORMATION

FISH TAGS

To increase our knowledge and better manage Ohio's fisheries, an angler may encounter a tagged fish from Lake Erie, the Ohio River, or any of the state's reservoirs. The fish may be kept but please remove the tag, rinse with water, and store the tag at room temperature. Call the number printed on the tag or visit wildohio.gov to report when and where the fish was caught.

Tagged Lake Erie walleye will have up to two external tags and one internal transmitter. Please remove the tags and transmitter. Call (419) 625-8062 to report tagged Lake Erie walleye. A \$100 reward is offered for information on the external tag and transmitter in the event that you catch and keep a tagged walleye.

LAKE ERIE REGULATIONS

These regulations apply to Lake Erie and areas immediately upstream in creeks, rivers, and tributaries. The following regulations for walleye, sauger, saugeye, yellow perch, black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted), and white bass apply to the waters of Lake Erie, its embayments including Maumee Bay, Sandusky Bay, East Harbor, Middle Harbor, and West Harbor, and from where Lake Erie tributaries enter the lake upstream to the following end points:

- **Arcola, Wheeler, Cowles, and Indian creeks:** U.S. Route 20 bridges;
- **Ashtabula River:** E. 24th Street bridge;
- **Black River:** State Route 611 bridge;
- **Conneaut Creek:** Main Street bridge (downtown to Conneaut);
- **Euclid Creek and Chagrin River:** State Route 283 bridges;
- **Rocky River:** Detroit Road bridge;
- **Sandusky River:** Waterworks dam in Tiffin;
- **Maumee River:** First dam upstream (Grand Rapids, Ohio);
- **Vermilion River:** State Route 2 bridge;
- **Grand River:** State Route 535 bridge;
- **Cuyahoga River:** Harvard Road bridge.

A maximum of **three** lines are permitted in the Lake Erie Sport Fishing District as defined in Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-1-02. This includes Lake Erie and areas immediately upstream in creeks, rivers, and tributaries.

All statewide regulations apply to Ohio waters of Lake Erie EXCEPT for those listed below.

SPECIES	DATES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	March 1 - April 30, 2021	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
	May 1 - June 25, 2021	1 (singly or in combination)	18 inches
	June 26, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
Walleye, Saugeye, & Sauger	March 1, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	6 (singly or in combination)	15 inches
Striped, Hybrid, & White Bass	Open year-round	No limit	None
Yellow Perch	March 1 - April 30, 2021	30 (West, Central, & East Zones)	None
	May 1, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	to be announced late April	

LAKE ERIE REGULATIONS FOR TROUT AND SALMON

Lake Erie proper and the entire length of all direct and indirect Lake Erie creeks, rivers, and tributaries.

SPECIES	DATES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Trout & Salmon	May 16 - Aug. 31, 2021	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
	Sept. 1, 2021 - May 15, 2022	2 (singly or in combination)	

EXCEPTION TO ABOVE REGULATIONS

For the waters of Cold Creek upstream of State Route 2 (Erie County).

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Trout & Salmon	5 (singly or in combination)	None

OHIO RIVER REGULATIONS

The following Ohio River fishing regulations are the result of agreements between the fish and wildlife agencies of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Some regulations differ between the Ohio–Kentucky border (Western Unit) and the Ohio–West Virginia border (Eastern Unit). Anglers must abide by each state’s specified regulations for information not specified below.

- It is illegal to snag fish in the Ohio waters of the Ohio River for any species during any time of the year.
- A maximum of three lines are permitted in the counties that comprise the Ohio River fishing units.



OHIO RIVER AGREEMENT REGULATIONS

WESTERN UNIT • OHIO/KENTUCKY

The western unit consists of Lawrence County west of South Point, and Scioto, Adams, Brown, Clermont, and Hamilton counties. Ohio and Kentucky will honor the other state’s fishing licenses along their common borders on the main stem and from the banks of the Ohio River, excluding embayments and tributaries.

UNIFIED OHIO AND KENTUCKY REGULATIONS

The following are the **ONLY unified regulations** in this agreement and must be followed when fishing on or within a quarter mile of the Ohio River on its embayments and tributaries to the first riffle or dam in the **Western Unit**.

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Black & White Crappie	30	None
Muskellunge	2	30 inches
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, & White Bass	30 (no more than 4 over 15 inches)	None
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	6 (singly or in combination)	14 inches

OHIO REGULATIONS

These **Ohio regulations** apply only to boat anglers when fishing in Ohio waters, shoreline anglers when fishing on the Ohio shoreline, and all anglers in Ohio embayments and tributaries within the Western Unit.

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	6 (singly or in combination)	12 inches

KENTUCKY REGULATIONS

Kentucky regulations apply to boat anglers fishing beyond the 1792 low water mark, identified at wildohio.gov.

SITE-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

INLAND LAKES, RESERVOIRS, RIVERS, AND STREAMS

These regulations apply to the waters listed under the **LOCATION** column.

SPECIES	LOCATION	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	• La Su An	Special limits are posted	
	• Knox	5	18 inches
	• Adams • Blue Rock • Caldwell • Cowan • Dale Walborn • Greenfield • Ohio-Erie Canal • Hancock County Wetlands • Pine • Resthaven Pond No. 8 • Ross • Rush Creek • Rush Run • Seneca • Wellington Reservoir South • Zepernick	5	15 inches
	• Acton • Findley • Hargus • Highlandtown • Lake Snowden • New Lyme • Paint Creek • Salt Fork • Silver Creek • Upper Sandusky No. 2	4 fish split daily limit	2 fish less than 15 inches, & 2 fish 15 inches or longer
	• All American Electric Power Company waters* • Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area • Belmont • Guilford • Jesse Owens • Killdeer Plains ponds No. 30 and No. 33 • Kiser • Long • Oxbow • Spencer • St. Joseph Wildlife Area • Tycoon • Wingfoot • Wolf Run	3 fish split daily limit	2 fish less than 14 inches, & 1 fish 20 inches or longer
	• Burr Oak • Dow • Fox • Hammertown (Jackson City Reservoir) • Lake Rupert (Wellston City Reservoir) • Slope Creek (Barnesville No. 3) • Turkey Creek	5	None may be taken between 12 & 15 inches
Channel Catfish & Blue Catfish		None may be taken between 18 & 28 inches	
	• Hoover Reservoir	4 fish split daily limit	3 fish less than 18 inches, & 1 fish 28 inches or longer
Crappie	• Alum Creek • Berlin • Buckeye • Caesar Creek • Deer Creek Lake (Fayette and Pickaway counties) • Delaware (including the Olentangy River upstream to the Waldo dam, and Whetstone Creek upstream to State Route 229) • Dillon • East Fork • Ferguson • Grand Lake St. Marys • Hoover • Indian • Kiser • Lake Milton • Loramie • Mahoning River, from the dam at Lake Milton to the Mahoning-Trumbull County line, and between Berlin Lake and Lake Milton (Mahoning and Portage counties) • Metzger • Mosquito • O'Shaughnessy • Paint Creek • Piedmont • Pleasant Hill • Portage Lakes: East, North, Turkeyfoot, and West • Rocky Fork • Salt Fork • Seneca • Tappan • Veterans Memorial	30	9 inches
	• Killdeer Plains • Oxbow • St. Joseph River Wildlife Area	10	None

* Includes all AEP ReCreation Lands

Sunfish (all species)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killdeer Plains • Oxbow • St. Joseph River Wildlife Area 	10	None
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All American Electric Power Company waters* • Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area • Jesse Owens 	20 (singly or in combination)	None
Trout (all species)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Creek from the first Fairfield County Road 69 bridge (east of the junction of County Roads 26 and 69) to the U.S. Route 33 bridge in Hocking County • Clear Fork of the Mohican River in Ashland County 	2	None
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mad River and its tributaries • Clear Fork of the Mohican River in Richland County 	2	12 inches
Brook Trout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chagrin River and its tributaries (Geauga County) • Rocky River and its tributaries (Medina County) 	Possession is prohibited	
Walleye, Saugeye, & Sauger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acton • Alum Creek • Atwood • Berlin • Buckeye • C.J. Brown • Caesar Creek • Ferguson • Findlay No. 1 & No. 2 • Indian • Lake Milton, including the Mahoning River connecting Berlin Lake and Lake Milton • Metzger • Piedmont • Pleasant Hill • Rocky Fork • Seneca • Tappan • West Branch 	6	15 inches

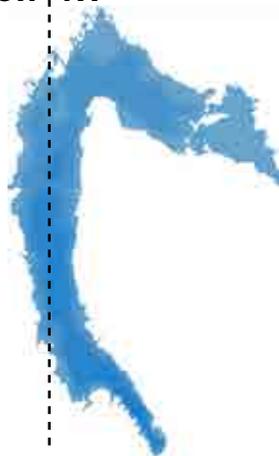
* Includes all AEP ReCreation Lands

PYMATUNING LAKE REGULATIONS OHIO - PENNSYLVANIA

ASHTABULA COUNTY OH | CRAWFORD COUNTY PA

Either an Ohio or Pennsylvania fishing license may be used when fishing from a boat; however, a Pennsylvania fishing license is required to take fish, frogs, or turtles from the shore of the Pennsylvania side or from any island. Fish may not be filleted before the angler has completed fishing. Fish may be taken only by angling, except carp and suckers which may be taken with longbow and arrow, or spears. Special regulations apply to frogs, turtles, tadpoles, minnows, and ice fishing — see the Pennsylvania regulations for specific information.

Pymatuning Lake anglers fishing in either Ohio or Pennsylvania waters may use up to three fishing lines, whether fastened to a pole, a rod and reel, or hand-held. Anglers may use up to three hooks on each line.



SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Crappie	20	9 inches
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
Muskellunge	2	30 inches
Walleye	6	15 inches
All other fish	No Limit	None

SITE-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

MAUMEE, PORTAGE, MAHONING, & SANDUSKY RIVERS

The following regulations are in effect from **March 1 to April 30, 2021**.

NO FISHING WITH A LINE WITH MORE THAN A SINGLE HOOK.

The line may not have a hook larger than ½ inch from shank to point, or lure having more than a single hook larger than ½ inch from shank to point. Double and treble hooks are prohibited. These regulations apply to the following areas:

- The Maumee River from the Grand Rapids Providence Dam to a line in the Maumee Bay from Little Cedar Point to Turtle Island;
- The Sandusky River from the Waterworks Dam in Tiffin to a line running ¼ mile east of and parallel to the full length of the Norfolk Southern railroad bridge in Sandusky Bay;
- The Portage River from State Route 19 to the dam at Elmore;
- The Mahoning River from the dam at Berlin Reservoir to Lake Milton.

FISHING IS ALLOWED ONLY FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- The Maumee River from the Ohio Turnpike bridge to the Old Waterville interurban bridge at the end of Forst Road in Wood County, and from the State Route 295 bridge to the Grand Rapids Providence Dam;
- The Sandusky River from the Waterworks Dam in Tiffin to the northern tip of Brady's Island in Fremont;
- The Portage River from State Route 19 to the dam at Elmore;
- The Mahoning River from the dam at Berlin Reservoir to Lake Milton.

H2Ohio

THE FILTERING PROCESS
OF WETLANDS IMPROVES
WATER QUALITY.



H2.OHIO.GOV

The H2Ohio Fund will help ensure safe and clean water across Ohio by providing the resources necessary to plan, develop, and implement targeted long-term water solutions.

FROG & TURTLE REGULATIONS

Reptiles and amphibians may not be taken by shooting, except green frogs and bullfrogs which may be taken with archery equipment.

SPECIES	DATES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Bullfrog & Green Frog	June 11, 2021 - April 30, 2022	15 (singly or in combination)	None
Snapping Turtle & Softshell Turtle	July 1 - December 31, 2021	None	11 inches

TURTLE SEASON

Turtle season is open July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Only snapping and softshell turtles may be legally taken. Snapping turtles and softshell turtles must have a straight-line carapace length of 11 inches or greater to be taken, and there is no daily limit. A turtle trap must be marked with the name and address or customer identification number of the owner or user. All traps must be checked once every 24 hours.

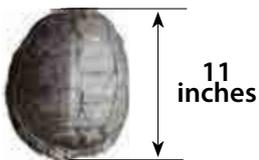
It is illegal to take, collect, or possess the eggs of snapping turtles or softshell turtles from Ohio lands or waters. See wildohio.gov for additional regulations.

Snapping turtles and softshell turtles may be taken by any method except:

- By shooting;
- Turtle traps having mesh measuring less than 4 inches on a side, unless such traps are provided with an escape ring of at least 6 inches in diameter leading out of the trap and held open at all times;
- Turtle traps placed in water having wings or leads;
- A foothold or body-gripping trap;
- Deleterious or stupefying substances;
- Chemicals;
- Smoke;
- Explosives.

Please report your turtle harvest at wildohio.gov. Search for report wildlife.

HOW TO MEASURE A STRAIGHT-LINE CARAPACE LENGTH



FROG SEASON

Frog season is open from 6 p.m. on June 11, 2021 (the second Friday in June) to April 30, 2022. Only bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken. No more than 15 (singly or in combination) may be taken or possessed in any one day.

Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken by any method except:

- By shooting, except with archery equipment;
- A foothold or body-gripping trap;
- Deleterious or stupefying substances;
- Chemicals;
- Smoke;
- Explosives.



WILD OHIO MAGAZINE



GET SIX ISSUES FOR ONLY \$5

Go to wildohio.gov to sign up online, or visit any store that sells fishing licenses and sign up to have the magazine mailed to you.

BANKLINES, SETLINES, FLOATLINES, AND TROT LINES

TROT LINES

A trotline is a fishing line having suspended from it, at frequent intervals, vertical lines with baited hooks attached. Trotlines must be marked with the name and address or customer identification number of the user. Trotlines must be anchored. A trotline may not be made of wire or cable. A trotline may not be capable of being removed from the water by pulling on the shore end of the line.

No more than three trotlines are permitted in any one body of water in the Inland Fishing District. No more than 50 hooks per trotline are permitted. Trotlines may not be used within 1,000 feet downstream of any dam. All trotlines must be checked once every 24 hours.

A special trotline license is required in the Lake Erie Fishing District. This license may be obtained at the Sandusky Fisheries Research Unit, 305 East Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870 (phone: 419-625-8062).

Trotlines may be used only in:

- Streams;
- Mosquito Lake north of the causeway and south of a line of buoys designating the wildlife refuge;
- Charles Mill Lake north of State Route 430;
- Clendening Lake east of State Route 799;
- Seneca Lake south of State Route 147;
- Tappan Lake above the gas line causeway and State Route 646;
- Atwood Lake north and east of State Route 542 North at Dellroy;
- Piedmont Lake in sections 11 and 12 of Kirkwood Township;
- Wills Creek Lake, except in the area directly in front of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District boat landing;
- Berlin Lake south and west of State Route 225;
- The inland part of Sandusky Bay commonly called Muddy Creek Bay;
- The area of Grand Lake St. Marys bounded on the west by Prairie Creek, on the east by Big Chickasaw Creek, and on the north by a line of buoys extending east to west between Big Chickasaw and Prairie creeks. Trotlines may not be set in channels or across the mouths of channels or streams in Grand Lake St. Marys.



BANKLINES OR SETLINES

A bankline or setline is a fishing line attached to the bank. Banklines or setlines may be used to catch turtles and fish. The name and address or customer identification number of the user must be attached to each line. The maximum is 50 lines, each having a single hook (not a treble hook). The lines must be attached to the shore above water, but not to a boat, dam, dock, pier, pole, rod, or wall. No more than six banklines or setlines may be used in Ohio's public waters less than 700 surface acres in size. All lines must be checked once every 24 hours. All lines must be removed after completion of use.

FLOATLINES

A floatline is a fishing line suspended in the water under a float. Floats may not be made of glass or other shatterable material. Floats must bear the name and address or customer identification number of the user. Floats must be freely adrift and be attended by the user at all times. A floatline may only have one single hook (not a treble hook). It is unlawful to set, use, or maintain more than six floatlines in all public waters of the state of Ohio less than 700 surface acres in size.

Floatline or jug fishing is permitted in:

- All streams;
- Sandusky Bay west of the Conrail Railroad bridge;
- Berlin Lake south & west of State Route 225;
- Mosquito Lake north of the causeway and south of a line of buoys designating the waterfowl refuge;
- Charles Mill Lake north of State Route 430;
- Clendening Lake east of State Route 799;
- Seneca Lake south of State Route 147;
- Tappan Lake above the gas line causeway and State Route 646;
- Atwood Lake north and east of State Route 542 north at Dellroy;
- Piedmont Lake in Sections 11 and 12 of Kirkwood Township;
- Wills Creek Lake, except in the area directly in front of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District boat landing;
- All public waters, except where prohibited by the owner in authority.

FISH FOR YOUR HEALTH

Most Ohio sport fishes are low in fat, high in protein, and can be part of a healthy diet. The Ohio Department of Health recommends limiting fish consumption to one meal per week, unless a specific advisory is listed for a water body or type of fish.

Ohio anglers typically eat two or fewer meals per month of wild-caught fishes. The greatest amount of fish eaten in Ohio come from Lake Erie, where both sport and commercial fisheries operate. Current Lake Erie advisories indicate that it is safe to eat one meal per week of walleye, and two meals per week of yellow perch.

The Ohio Department of Health lists current guidance on safe consumption of wild-caught fish in Ohio for specific waters and fishes at odh.ohio.gov/ohfishadvisory.



GENERAL INFORMATION

- It is unlawful to buy or sell any fish taken by sport fishing, including angling, bankline, setline, floatline, and trotline, from any water area in the state.
- It is unlawful for the public to tag and release fish into any public water area.
- It is unlawful for any person to possess a fish in any form or condition other than whole while, on or unloading the fish from, a boat while wading, or while fishing on or in any waters in this state where a fishing license is required.
- It is unlawful to transport and introduce any aquatic species (fish, invertebrate, plant) from one body of water to another.
- Fillets are required to be kept whole until an angler reaches their permanent residence, or until the fish are prepared for immediate consumption. Frozen fish are required to be transported in such a way that the fillets can be easily identified and counted. This does not apply to anglers with a receipt from a fish cleaning house or charter captain which states the date, number, and type of fish possessed. Fish must be transported whole or as a complete fillet while returning from the Lake Erie islands on a commercial ferry boat.
- Forage fish, rough fish, and game fish that do not have a possession or length limit on those waters may be cut up and used for bait, provided that the skin or head of the bait is intact so that the species is visually identifiable.
- It is unlawful to take the following fish by any method of using the hands (including noodling) statewide: bullhead, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and blue catfish; coho and chinook (pink salmon); brown trout, rainbow trout, and steelhead trout; as well as walleye and sauger in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers.

CLAMS, MUSSELS, AND MUSSEL SHELLS

Clams, mussels, or mussel shells may not be taken, possessed, or collected for any purpose.

FREE LICENSE

- Ohio residents born on or before December 31, 1937 may obtain a free license at any license outlet, or online at wildohio.gov.
- The following Ohio residents are also eligible for a free license, but **must submit a formal application** (Form DNR 9032), which is available by calling 1-800-WILD-LIFE (1-800-945-3543):
 - Persons who are mobility impaired and require the assistance of another person to cast and retrieve
 - Holders of veteran license plates displaying the international wheelchair symbol
 - Certain veterans who are permanently disabled
 - Residents of state & county institutions
 - Former prisoners of war.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIREMENT

Any customer who applies for a license is required to provide their Social Security Number (SSN). Federal Statute 42 requires the SSN of any individual to whom the state issues a recreational hunting or fishing license. Applicants who do not have an active SSN must affirm their status at the time of application. Applicants must also declare their residency and provide their full name, date of birth, gender, address, height, weight, hair color, and eye color. Once provided and recorded in the licensing system, applicants will only be required to update their information on file if it changes.

BAIT

It is unlawful for any person except licensed bait dealers to possess more than 100 crayfish, or in combination 500 crayfish, minnows, and other baitfish. A bait dealer's permit is required of persons buying or selling minnows, crayfish, and hellgrammites. This permit may be obtained at wildohio.gov.

It is unlawful to release any baitfish or minnow into waters of the state from which it did not originate.

FORAGE FISH

Forage fish means freshwater drum (sheepshead), common carp, grass carp (in waters not stocked by the Ohio Division of Wildlife for vegetation control, as indicated by signs), bighead carp, silver carp, black carp, quillback, suckers, bowfin, gar, buffalo, gizzard shad, and goldfish. These species may be taken by any method except by means of explosives, poisons, firearms, electricity, chemicals, nets (other than cast nets), seines, traps, or by snagging within 1,000 feet downstream of a dam. Gizzard shad and rainbow smelt may be taken with a minnow seine, minnow dip net, or hand landing net.

ICE ANGLERS

Ice anglers may use holes no larger than 12 inches in diameter. On Lake Erie, ice anglers may use holes no larger than 12 inches in width. Ice anglers may not use more than six tip-ups and two rods per person. All shelters and tip-ups must display the name and address or customer identification number of the owner or user.

A tip-up means a device consisting of a hook and line attached to a spring or other device which is capable of raising a small flag or other signaling device when a fish is biting or is hooked.

FISHING LINES

Anglers may use a maximum of two fishing lines, whether fastened to a pole, a rod and reel, or hand-held, except for Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and Pymatuning Lake, as listed on pages 7, 8, and 11, respectively. Anglers may use up to three hooks on each line, except as provided in the Ohio Administrative Code.

MINNOW SEINES AND DIP NETS

Square mesh must not be larger than ½ inch on a side.

Seine and net size limits and places where they may be used are as follows:

FISHING DISTRICT	MAXIMUM SIZE	WHERE AND WHEN THEY MAY BE USED
Minnow Seine: Inland	4 feet x 8 feet	Streams only, 4 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Minnow Seine: Lake Erie*	None	No Limit
Minnow Dip Net: Inland	4 feet, each side	All public fishing waters
Minnow Dip Net: Lake Erie*	6 feet, each side	All public fishing waters

* Including East and West harbors in Ottawa County, and waters where fishing with nets is licensed by law.

CAST NETS

Forage fish and minnows may be taken with cast nets. All other fish are required to be released immediately unharmed. It is unlawful to use a cast net with a square mesh less than ¼ inch or larger than 1 inch on a side, or with a diameter greater than 10 feet. It is illegal to use a cast net within a distance of 1,000 feet downstream from any dam posted with Ohio Division of Wildlife signs indicating cast net use is prohibited.

SNAGGING

Snagging with a hook to pierce and hook a fish in a part of the body other than the inside of the mouth is illegal for all fish except forage fish. In Lake Erie, it is also illegal to snag freshwater drum. Snagging any species of fish is illegal from September 1 to April 30 in the Ashtabula River, Chagrin River, Grand River, Rocky River, Vermilion River, Arcola Creek, Conneaut Creek, Cowles Creek, Euclid Creek, Indian Creek, Turkey Creek, and Wheeler Creek. It is illegal to snag any species of fish during any time of the year in the Ohio River. Snagging is prohibited within 1,000 feet downstream of any dam on the Muskingum River. Snagging is prohibited within 1,000 feet downstream of a dam where signs are posted. Hooks used for snagging may not be larger than 5/8 inch from shank to point.

ARCHERY ANGLERS

Archery anglers may use bows of any draw weight. A fishing license is required. Archery equipment may be used to take bullfrogs, green frogs, and forage fish.

FISH OHIO

- Applications for the Fish Ohio pin are accepted at fishohio.gov. See below for how to measure your fish.
- 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 **all Ohio waters**.

SPECIES	MIN. SIZE
Blue Catfish	35 inches
Bowfin	23 inches
Brown Trout	20 inches
Bullhead	14 inches
Carp	28 inches
Channel Catfish	26 inches
Crappie	13 inches
Flathead Catfish	35 inches
Hybrid-Striped Bass	21 inches
Largemouth Bass	20 inches

SPECIES	MIN. SIZE
Longnose Gar	34 inches
Muskellunge	40 inches
Northern Pike	32 inches
Rainbow Trout	28 inches
Rock Bass	9 inches
Sauger	16 inches
Saugeye	21 inches
Spotted Bass	15 inches
Sucker	20 inches
Sunfish	9 inches

Qualifying sizes below apply to inland lakes or reservoirs; the Ohio River; private ponds; inland rivers or streams.

Qualifying sizes below apply to Lake Erie and its tributaries.

SPECIES	MIN. SIZE
Freshwater Drum	20 inches
Smallmouth Bass	18 inches
Walleye	25 inches
White Bass	14 inches
Yellow Perch	12 inches

SPECIES	MIN. SIZE
Freshwater Drum	24 inches
Smallmouth Bass	20 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.

HUNTFISH OH APP

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. Optional notifications in the app provide alerts for upcoming seasons, license renewal, Ohio Division of Wildlife events, and more. The new app makes buying licenses easier and is useful on the water, near the shore, and at home.



BECOME A WILDLIFE OFFICER

Are you interested in a career in law enforcement, wildlife conservation, and public service? The Ohio Division of Wildlife is always looking for exceptional men and women to join our team.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact the Ohio Division of Wildlife's Law Enforcement Section at 614-265-6314. You can view information about wildlife law enforcement and other division career opportunities at wildohio.gov.

THIS SUMMARY is intended for the convenience of anglers and IS NOT INTENDED to cover all laws and regulations. THIS SUMMARY is not intended for use as evidence or as a defense in a criminal or civil case. Because of possible changes, this summary may not be an accurate reflection of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code, which contains the details of these regulations. Copies of the actual laws are available for review at each Division of Wildlife district office and online at wildohio.gov.



OHIO WILDLIFE OFFICERS BY COUNTY

ADAMS Houston Wireman (937) 776-0688	GUERNSEY Anthony Lemle (614) 563-2355	MORROW Tyler Eldred (614) 400-0756
ALLEN Craig Barr (419) 429-8379	HAMILTON Ryan Schock (513) 446-7028	MUSKINGUM Jeffrey Berry (740) 589-9991
ASHLAND Evan Huegel (330) 245-3044	HANCOCK Ryan Burke (419) 429-8384	NOBLE Brad St. Clair (614) 563-7705
ASHTABULA Jason Warren (330) 802-9171	HARDIN Ryan Kennedy (419) 429-8385	OTTAWA Reid Van Cleve (419) 429-8389
ATHENS Mark Basinger (740) 541-8266	HARRISON Nick Turner (330) 245-3049	PAULDING Levi Farley (419) 429-8390
AUGLAIZE Mark Schemmel (937) 728-4192	HENRY Matthew R. Smith (419) 429-8386	PERRY Eric Lane (614) 565-0137
BELMONT Logan Ambrister (614) 563-1680	HIGHLAND Jim Carnes (937) 205-3020	PICKAWAY Josh Elster (614) 203-3406
BROWN Eric Lamb (513) 646-4014	HOCKING Chris Dodge (614) 257-7792	PIKE Matt Van Cleve (740) 589-9994
BUTLER Aaron Ireland (513) 403-6591	HOLMES Jeremy Carter (330) 245-3045	PORTAGE Marino Pellegrini (330) 245-3040
CARROLL Scott Cartwright (330) 802-9163	HURON Matthew D. Smith (419) 429-8387	PREBLE Brad Turner (937) 510-1154
CHAMPAIGN Jeffrey Tipton (614) 902-4209	JACKSON Ted Witham (740) 589-9986	PUTNAM Jason Porinchok (419) 429-8391
CLARK Mathew Bourne (937) 206-9321	JEFFERSON Craig Porter (330) 245-3050	RICHLAND Nathan Kaufmann (419) 429-8392
CLERMONT Gus Kiebel (513) 673-1566	KNOX Austin Levering (614) 400-0731	ROSS Bob Nelson (614) 565-9754
CLINTON Matt Roberts (937) 776-1850	LAKE Ryan Pawlus (330) 245-3034	SANDUSKY Charles McMullen (419) 429-8393
COLUMBIANA Jesse Janosik (330) 245-3039	LAWRENCE Darin Abbott (614) 563-3946	SCIOTO Cole Tilton (614) 565-9064
COSHOCTON Jerrod Allison (740) 502-4586	LICKING Antoinette Jolliff (614) 902-4214	SENECA Brock Williamson (419) 429-8394
CRAWFORD Nathan Cass (419) 429-8380	LOGAN Adam Smith (937) 441-5224	SHELBY Tim Rourke (937) 545-5849
CUYAHOGA Matt Madgar (330) 245-3033	LORAIN Randy White (330) 802-9172	STARK Scott Traver (330) 245-3041
DARKE Jeff Wenning (937) 621-5779	LUCAS Mike Ohlrich (419) 429-8388	SUMMIT Daniel Shroyer (330) 245-3042
DEFIANCE Austin Dickinson (419) 429-8381	MADISON Matt Teders (614) 309-3465	TRUMBULL Marty Cisine (330) 245-3037
DELAWARE Maurice Irish (614) 902-4221	MAHONING Tom Frank (330) 245-3038	TUSCARAWAS Michael Budd (614) 230-6347
ERIE Michele Butler (419) 429-8382	MARION Chad Grote (614) 902-4217	UNION Brian Motsinger (614) 315-4999
FAIRFIELD Tony Zerkle (614) 902-4210	MEDINA Eric Moore (330) 245-3043	VAN WERT Nathan Robinson (419) 429-8395
FAYETTE John Coffman (614) 565-2538	MEIGS Chris Gilkey (614) 563-4492	VINTON Jared Abele (614) 565-0805
FRANKLIN Brad Kiger (614) 902-4212	MERCER Brad Buening (419) 236-8787	WARREN Jason Keller (513) 520-9896
FULTON Josh Zientek (419) 429-8383	MIAMI Jasmine Grossnickle (937) 470-1917	WASHINGTON Ryan Donnelly (740) 412-9184
GALLIA Roy Rucker (614) 563-1843	MONROE Wes Feldner (614) 563-5033	WAYNE Aaron Brown (330) 323-2554
GEAUGA Scott Denamen (330) 245-3035	MONTGOMERY Trent Weaver (937) 545-6768	WILLIAMS Ethan Bingham (419) 429-8396
GREENE Matthew Hunt (937) 545-6327	MORGAN Todd Stewart (614) 563-5338	WOOD Eric VonAlmen (419) 429-8397
		WYANDOT Nathan West (419) 429-8398

CALL or TEXT to Report a Wildlife Violation: 1-800-POACHER (1-800-762-2437)