



Lake Erie Fishing Guide License Application

Information:

- This annual license is valid until April 15 the year following issuance. \$50 fee.
- Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-3-11 was changed effective January 1, 2024. The changes were limited to language cleanup and addressing trends in non-traditional guiding services that are becoming more popular. Traditional (charter boat) fishing guides saw no impact from these changes.
- Reminder about the voluntary Erie PrOH program. Erie PrOH is a voluntary stewardship certification course through Ohio Sea Grant for fishing guides and crew members who work on Lake Erie. This course aims to empower participants to promote their industry and sustainable angling while using conservation-orientated best practices. You can find more information on this program here: [Erie PrOH Guide Certification Program | Ohio Sea Grant \(osu.edu\)](https://www.osu.edu/erie-prOH)
- Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-3-11 requires that a boat guide submit a copy of their valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) with their application. *We need to see a legible copy/photo the page/s with your photo and signature. As of 3/1/24, the USCG has changed the format of the MMC. It is extremely important that we see the entire document, as the required document number is located in the white box below the barcode.* For MMC's issued *before* 3/1/24, we need the document number located above your photo that begins with "USA". For MMC's issued *after* 3/1/24, we need the document number located under the bar code. The format of that number has changed as well. If you're using a paper application, just fill that number in the boxes provided.

endorsement labels. The MMC document number is found in the white box below the barcode.



Applying for 2024:

- Renewal* licensing runs 3/17/24 – 5/15/24. After 5/15/24, you must submit a new application.
- New guides* can begin applying on 3/1 to obtain the new year's license.
- Online Application:* [Ohio Lake Erie Fishing Guide License | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](https://www.ohiodnr.gov/licenses). Click the green Launch button on right. Credit card (with service fee) payment accepted. Make sure your email address is up to date in our system as this is how we communicate with you about your application status and payment. Digital copy of your MMC will need to be uploaded to your application or emailed.
- Mail Application:* Application can be downloaded at the link above. Check/money order accepted. Make sure to send a legible copy of your MMC. Please don't submit prior to 3/17 or it will be returned to you.
- In-Person Application:* Begin 3/18/24. Paper application must be completed. Check/money order or credit card (no fee) payments preferred. Cash is accepted as exact change only. **Licenses issued Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 2:00pm at the address below.**
- Emailed/faxed applications are not accepted.

USCG LICENSE INFORMATION – The USCG requires a license of all people taking passengers for hire on the Great Lakes. Information concerning the USCG license can be obtained online at www.uscg.mil or by contacting:

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office
420 Madison Ave., Suite 700 Toledo, OH 43604
Phone: 419.418.6000