



Lake Erie Fishing Guide License Application

Information:

- This annual license is valid until April 15 the year following issuance. The fee is \$50.
- New Guides: please refer to the document on our website called Applying Online Ohio Lake Erie Fishing Guide for questions about our application process and applying. You can download that document on our website at the link listed to the right.
- 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.



Erie ProOH 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 ProOH Guide Certification Program | Ohio Sea Grant \(osu.edu\)](#)

Applying for 2026:

Visit our website for all the information you need:

[Ohio Lake Erie Fishing Guide License | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](#)

- Renewal* licensing runs 3/17/26 – 5/15/26. After 5/15/26, you must submit for a new application.
- If you didn't have a license for 2025*, you can apply on 3/1/26 to obtain the 2026 license.
- Online Application:* Use the link above and click the green Launch button on the right. Credit card payment accepted (small fee). Make sure your email address is correct as this is how we communicate with you about your application status and payment. Digital copy of your MMC will need to be submitted.
- Mail Application:* Application can be downloaded at the link above. Check/money order accepted. Make sure to send a legible copy of your MMC. For renewals, please don't submit prior to 3/16 or it will be returned to you.
- In-Person Application:* Begins 3/17/26 at 9am at the Sandusky office address listed below. Paper application must be completed. MMC is reviewed by staff at time of application. 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.**
- Emailed/faxed applications and credit card payments by phone 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