

# OHIO

## FISHING REGULATIONS 2016-2017

Effective MARCH 1, 2016  
to FEBRUARY 28, 2017



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**  
[wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov)

# CONTACT INFORMATION



## 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)

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

1500 Dublin Road  
Columbus, OH 43215  
☎(614) 644-3925

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

952 Lima Avenue  
Findlay, OH 45840  
☎(419) 424-5000

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

912 Portage Lakes Drive  
Akron, OH 44319  
☎(330) 644-2293

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

360 E. State Street  
Athens, OH 45701  
☎(740) 589-9930

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

1076 Old Springfield Pike  
Xenia, OH 45385  
☎(937) 372-9261

## 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

## INLAND FISHERIES RESEARCH UNIT

10517 Canal Road SE  
Hebron, OH 43025  
☎(740) 928-7034

## 2016-2017 CHANGES

- See page 9 for updated white bass, hybrid-striped bass, and striped bass regulations in inland waters.
- The Maumee, Sandusky, and Vermilion rivers were added to the Lake Erie regulations on page 7.

wildohio.gov

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(1-800-945-3543)

LAKE ERIE FISHING FORECAST

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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.

The Division of Wildlife is funded by annual hunting, trapping, and fishing license sales. It is the authority on Ohio's fish and wildlife resources, and uses no state or federal taxpayer dollars to fulfill its mission. Additional funds come in the form of federal aid reimbursement from an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment.

Money generated allows the Division of Wildlife to promote conservation efforts of game and non-game animals. Examples of these efforts include endangered and threatened species restoration, fish hatcheries, hunter and angler education, and law enforcement.

# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

2016-2017 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

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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. Due to 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 ODNR Division of Wildlife district office and online at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).

## MAY 7 & 8 ARE FREE FISHING DAYS

On May 7 and 8, 2016, all Ohio residents are invited to experience Ohio's fantastic public fishing opportunities without purchasing a license.



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### 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.

2016-2017 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS  
**LICENSE INFORMATION**

**LICENSE FEES**

LICENSES VALID MARCH 1, 2016 to FEBRUARY 28, 2017

LICENSE TYPE	COST
<b>Resident Fishing License</b> For persons age 16 through 65 who have resided in Ohio for the past six months.	<b>\$19.00</b>
<b>Resident Reduced-Cost Senior Fishing License</b> For persons age 66 and older, born on or after January 1, 1938 who have resided in Ohio for the past six months.	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>One-Day Fishing License</b> For residents and nonresidents, the purchase of a One-Day Fishing License may be applied as credit toward the purchase of an annual fishing license (minus writing fee). Only one may be applied to the purchase of an annual license.	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Lake Erie Charter One-Day Fishing License</b> For residents and nonresidents, the license may be purchased in advance of a scheduled charter trip. To validate the license, anglers must sign it and fill in the date at the beginning of the trip. If the trip is postponed, anglers may keep the unvalidated license until they are able to reschedule the trip.	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Annual Nonresident Fishing License</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Three-Day Nonresident Tourist's Fishing License</b>	<b>\$19.00</b>
<b>Duplicate License</b> A fishing license that has been lost, stolen, or destroyed can be reissued from any license vendor or via the Internet.	<b>\$4.00</b>

ALL ABOVE COSTS INCLUDE A \$1.00 WRITING FEE

**LICENSE PURCHASING**

FISHING LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL AUTHORIZED  
LICENSE SALES AGENTS AND AT [WILDOHIO.GOV](http://WILDOHIO.GOV).

- Licenses and permits purchased at retail outlets or at home will be printed on plain white paper. The paper can be trimmed and folded down. It is highly recommended to protect your licenses from the elements.
- Licenses purchased using a mobile device 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 can be displayed on a mobile device and presented upon request. The Lake Erie Charter One-Day Fishing License is not available for purchase from a mobile device and is not valid for use unless printed.
- Operator assisted short-term licenses are available for purchase by calling 1-866-703-1928 between 5 a.m. and midnight. A \$5.50 fee will be added to the cost of the license.
- 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.



## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- A fishing license is required to take fish, frogs, and turtles from Ohio waters.
- 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, but must have one to take frogs or turtles.
- Persons fishing in privately owned ponds, lakes, or reservoirs that are open to public fishing through an agreement or lease with the ODNR Division of Wildlife are required to have a fishing license.
- Persons fishing must have their license in their possession while fishing and must show the license to anyone on request. Licenses can 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 EXEMPTIONS

### A FISHING LICENSE IS NOT REQUIRED OF PERSONS WHO ARE:

- Less than 16 years of age;
- 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 in a private pond;
- Fishing 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;
- Fishing 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);
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty while on leave or furlough;
- On May 7 and 8, 2016, all Ohio residents may fish without a license as part of Free Fishing Days.

## FREE LICENSES

- Ohio residents born on or before December 31, 1937 can obtain a free license at any license outlet, or online at [wildohio.gov](http://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 and 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 must also declare their residency and provide their full name, date of birth, gender, mailing 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.

If applicants do not have an active SSN, they must submit written verification on form DNR 9151, available at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov) or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543). Upon receipt of this form, the ODNR Division of Wildlife will issue an official customer identification number for use in obtaining hunting and fishing licenses.

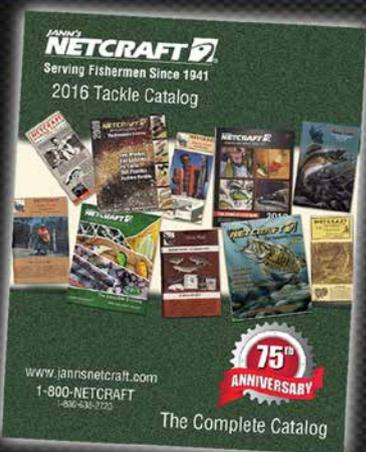
**STATEWIDE REGULATIONS**

These regulations apply to all public waters in Ohio where site-specific regulations are not implemented. Exceptions to these regulations include Lake Erie and its tributaries (page 7), locations listed in the Site-Specific Waters (page 8), Pymatuning Lake (page 10), and the Ohio River (page 12).

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Muskellunge	1	None
Yellow Perch	30	None
Trout (all species)	5 (singly or in combination)	None
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	6 (singly or in combination)	None
Channel Catfish (under 28 inches)	6 (public lakes under 700 acres) No limit (all other public waters)	None
Channel Catfish (28 inches or larger)	1 (statewide)	28 inches
Blue & Flathead Catfish (under 35 inches)	No limit	None
Blue & Flathead Catfish (35 inches or larger)	1 of each (statewide)	35 inches
Lake Sturgeon*	Possession is prohibited	None
All other fish	No limit	None

\* The lake sturgeon is an endangered species in Ohio and must be returned unharmed to the water immediately if caught.

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# LAKE ERIE REGULATIONS

Regulations apply to Lake Erie proper and areas immediately upstream in creeks, rivers, and tributaries. The following regulations for walleye (and sauger and 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:** Ballville Dam;
- **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.

## WALLEYE AND YELLOW PERCH MAY CHANGE BEGINNING MAY 1, 2016

Updated limits will be announced through a news release, posted at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov), and a publication with updated limits for walleye and yellow perch will be available at wildlife district offices and license outlets beginning in April.

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

SPECIES	DATES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29, 2016	6 (singly or in combination)	15 inches
	March 1 - April 30, 2016	4 (singly or in combination)	15 inches
	May 1, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	To be announced	15 inches
Yellow Perch	March 1 - April 30, 2016	West Zone, 30 Central Zone, 30 East Zone, 30	None
	May 1, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	To be announced	None
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	March 1 - April 30, 2016	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
	May 1 - June 24, 2016	Possession is prohibited	None
	June 25, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
White Bass	Open year-round	None	None

## LAKE ERIE REGULATIONS FOR TROUT AND SALMON

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

SPECIES	DATES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Trout & Salmon	May 16 - Aug. 31, 2016	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
	Sept. 1, 2016 - May 15, 2017	2 (singly or in combination)	12 inches

### EXCEPTION TO ABOVE REGULATIONS

For the waters of Cold Creek upstream of State Route 2 (Erie County), and Beaver Creek (Seneca County).

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

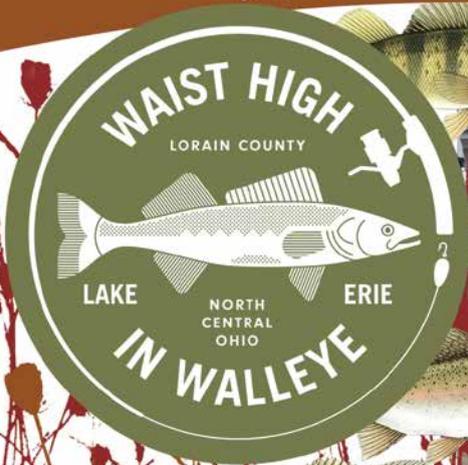
# SITE-SPECIFIC WATERS

## INLAND LAKES, RESERVOIRS, RIVERS, AND STREAMS

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

SPECIES	LOCATION	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Crappie	Reservoirs: Acton • Alum Creek • Berlin • Buckeye • Caesar Creek • C. J. Brown • Clear Fork • Clendening • Deer Creek (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 • Griggs • Hargus • Highlandtown • Hoover • Indian • Kiser • Knox • Loramie • Madison • 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 • Lake Milton • Mosquito • Nimisila • O'Shaughnessy • Paint Creek • Piedmont • Pleasant Hill • Portage Lakes: East, North, Turkeyfoot, and West • Rocky Fork • Rush Creek • Salt Fork • Seneca • Springfield (Summit County) • Tappan • Veterans Memorial • West Branch Lakes	30	9 inches
	• Killdeer Plains • Oxbow • St. Joseph River Wildlife Area lakes	10	None

*lake erie is in our nature.*



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[LakeErieFishing](#)

SPECIES	LOCATION	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	• Knox	5	18 inches
	• Adams • Blue Rock • Caldwell • Cowan • Dale Walborn • Greenfield • Hancock County Wetlands • Ohio-Erie Canal • Pine • Ross • Rush Creek • Rush Run • Seneca • Wellington Reservoir South • Zepernick Lakes	5	15 inches
	• Acton • Findley • Hargus • Highlandtown • New Lyme • Paint Creek • Salt Fork • Snowden • Silver Creek • Upper Sandusky No. 2	4 fish split daily limit	2 fish less than 15 inches, and 2 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches
	All American Electric Power Company waters* • Belmont • Guilford • Killdeer Reservoir and Killdeer Plains ponds No. 30 and No. 33 • Kiser • Long • Oxbow • Spencer • St. Joseph Wildlife Area • Wingfoot • Tycoon • Wolf Run	3 fish split daily limit	2 fish less than 14 inches, and 1 fish greater than or equal to 20 inches
	• 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
Largemouth Bass	• La Su An • Resthaven Pond No. 8	Special limits are posted	
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, and White Bass	All waters except Lake Erie proper and areas immediately upstream in creeks, rivers, and tributaries identified on page 7.	30	No more than 4 over 15 inches
Walleye, Saugeye, & Sauger	• Acton • Alum Creek • Atwood • Berlin • Buckeye • C.J. Brown • Caesar Creek • Ferguson • Findlay No. 1 & No. 2 • Lake Milton including the Mahoning River connecting Berlin Lake and Lake Milton • Indian • Lake Snowden • Metzger • Piedmont • Pleasant Hill • Rocky Fork • Seneca • Tappan • West Branch Lakes	6	15 inches
Trout (all species)	• Mad River and its tributaries • Clear Fork River and its tributaries • Clear Creek from the first Fairfield County Road 69 bridge (east of the junction of County Roads 26 and 69) to U.S. Route 33 bridge in Hocking County	2	12 inches
Brook Trout	• Chagrin River and its tributaries (Geauga County) • Rocky River and its tributaries (Medina County)	Possession is prohibited	
Sunfish (all species)	• Killdeer Plains • Oxbow • St. Joseph River Wildlife Area lakes	10	None
	All American Electric Power Company waters*	20 (singly or in combination)	None

\* includes all AEP ReCreation Lands and Conesville Coal Lands. Avondale has been closed to access.



# SITE-SPECIFIC WATERS

## MAUMEE, PORTAGE, MAHONING, & SANDUSKY RIVERS

The following regulations are in effect from **March 1 to April 30, 2016.**

### 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 where the Toledo Edison power line crosses the river at the southeast corner of Rodger Young Park in Fremont 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 where the Toledo Edison power line crosses the river at the southeast corner of Rodger Young Park in Fremont to the northern tip of Brady's Island;
- 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 prohibited:

- In the Sandusky River from the Ballville Dam to where the Toledo Edison power line crosses the river at the southeast corner of Rodger Young Park in Fremont.

## PYMATUNING LAKE

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 cannot be filleted before the angler has completed fishing. Fish may be taken only by angling, except carp and suckers 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 not use more than 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
Walleye	6	15 inches
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
Muskellunge	2	30 inches
All other fish	No Limit	None

# FROG & TURTLE REGULATIONS

Reptiles and amphibians may not be taken by shooting, except bullfrogs, green frogs, snapping turtles, and softshell turtles, which may be taken with archery equipment. None can be taken by the use of a foothold or bodygripping trap.

## FROG SEASON

Frog season is open from 6 p.m. the second Friday in June (June 10) to April 30, 2017. Only bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken. Not 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 bodygripping trap;
- Chemicals;
- Deleterious or stupefying substances;
- Smoke;
- Explosives.

## TURTLE SEASON

Turtle season is open July 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017. Only snapping and softshell turtles may be legally taken. Snapping turtles and softshell turtles must have a straight-line carapace length of 13 inches or greater to be taken, and there is no daily limit on the number that may be taken. A turtle trap with mesh less than 4 inches square must have an opening at least 6 inches in diameter leading from it. Wings and leads are unlawful. The trap must be marked with the name and address of the owner or user. All traps must be checked once every 24 hours.

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

- By shooting, except with archery equipment;
- 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, held open at all time;
- Turtle traps placed in water having wings or leads;
- A foothold or bodygripping trap;
- Chemicals;
- Deleterious or stupefying substances;
- Smoke;
- Explosives.

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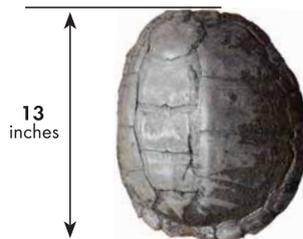
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# OHIO RIVER REGULATIONS

The following Ohio River fishing regulations are the result of agreements between the fish and wildlife agencies of Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Some regulations differ between the Kentucky–Ohio border (Western Unit) and the West Virginia–Ohio border (Eastern Unit). Anglers must abide by regulations in each state’s fishing digest 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.

## OHIO RIVER AGREEMENT REGULATIONS

### WESTERN UNIT • KENTUCKY–OHIO

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.

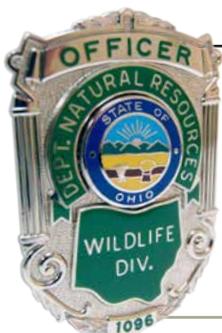
The following are the only **UNIFIED REGULATIONS** in this agreement and must be followed when fishing within the Western Unit.

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	10 (singly or in combination)	None
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, & White Bass	30 (no more than 4 over 15 inches)	None
Muskellunge	2	30 inches
Black & White Crappie	30	None

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** apply to boat anglers fishing below the 1792 low water mark, identified at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).



## BECOME A WILDLIFE OFFICER

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

To learn more about the next cadet academy, contact the ODNR 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](http://wildohio.gov).

# OHIO RIVER AGREEMENT REGULATIONS

## EASTERN UNIT • WEST VIRGINIA - OHIO

Lawrence County east of South Point, and Gallia, Meigs, Athens, Washington, Monroe, Belmont, Jefferson, and Columbiana counties. West Virginia and Ohio will honor the other state's fishing licenses along their common borders on the main stem of the Ohio River, including its banks and embayments and tributaries to the landmark location

listed in Publication 404, Waterfowl Hunting and Fishing on the Ohio River ([wvdnr.gov/fishing/PDFFiles/ohio\\_river\\_hunt\\_fish.pdf](http://wvdnr.gov/fishing/PDFFiles/ohio_river_hunt_fish.pdf)), or call 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543). Boundaries for areas not listed in this publication extend to the first riffle. This agreement applies to West Virginia and Ohio residents only.

The following are the only **UNIFIED REGULATIONS** in this agreement and must be followed when fishing within the Eastern Unit.

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	6 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, & White Bass	30 (no more than 4 over 15 inches)	None
Muskellunge	2	30 inches

These **OHIO REGULATIONS** apply only to shore anglers when fishing on the Ohio shoreline and all anglers in Ohio embayments and tributaries within the Eastern Unit.

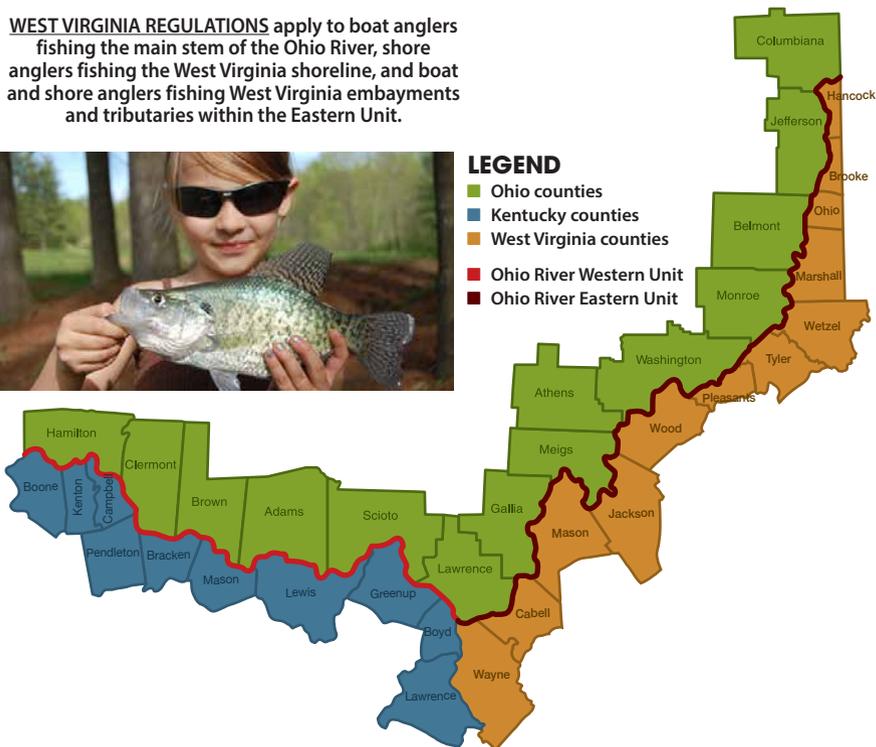
SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	10 (singly or in combination)	None
Black & White Crappie	30 (singly or in combination)	None

**WEST VIRGINIA REGULATIONS** apply to boat anglers fishing the main stem of the Ohio River, shore anglers fishing the West Virginia shoreline, and boat and shore anglers fishing West Virginia embayments and tributaries within the Eastern Unit.



### LEGEND

- Ohio counties
- Kentucky counties
- West Virginia counties
- Ohio River Western Unit
- Ohio River Eastern Unit



# BANKLINES, SETLINES, FLOATLINES, AND TROT LINES

## DEFINITIONS

- **Bankline or setline:** A fishing line attached to the bank. This line can only have one single hook (not a treble hook). It cannot be attached to a dock, wharf, pier, boat, dam, or artificially constructed retaining wall, or attached to a fishing pole. In addition, it must be attached above the water.
- **Floatline:** A fishing line suspended in the water under a float. Floats cannot be made of glass or other shatterable material. Floatlines cannot be anchored, fastened, or otherwise restricted from moving, floating, or drifting freely and independently of any other line. A floatline can only have one single hook (not a treble hook).
- **Trotline:** A fishing line having suspended from it, at frequent intervals, vertical lines with baited hooks attached. A trotline cannot be made of wire. A trotline cannot be capable of being removed from the water by pulling on the shore end of the line.



## BANKLINES OR SETLINES

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. Treble hooks may not be used. 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

Floats must be made of nonshatterable material and 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. Treble hooks are unlawful. 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 and 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.

## TROT LINES

Trotlines must be marked with the name and address or customer identification number of the user. Trotlines must be anchored. Wire or cable may not be used. No more than three trotlines are permitted in any one body of water in the Inland Fishing District. Not more than 50 hooks per trotline are permitted in any tributary of Lake Erie. 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 Mud 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.

## Fish the Clean Waters of Lake County Ohio Lake Erie East

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Image by Paul Liikala

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2016-2017 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

# 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 to transport and introduce any aquatic species (fish, invertebrate, plant) from one body of water to another.
- 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 when unloading the fish from a boat, while wading, or while fishing from shore on any waters in this state where a fishing license is required.
- Fillets must be kept whole until an angler reaches their permanent residence, or until the fish are prepared for immediate consumption. 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.

## 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, snapping turtles, softshell turtles, and forage fish (see page 17).

## ICE ANGLERS

Ice anglers may use holes no larger than 12 inches in diameter. In 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 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.

## CLAMS, MUSSELS, & MUSSEL SHELLS

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

## FISHING LINES

Anglers may not use more than two fishing lines, whether fastened to a pole, a rod and reel, or hand-held. 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.



### 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.

### CAST NETS

Forage fish and minnows may be taken with cast nets. 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 ODNR Division of Wildlife signs indicating cast net use is prohibited.

### MINNOW OR BAITFISH TRAPS

It is illegal for anglers to possess or use a minnow or baitfish trap larger than 24 inches in length and 12 inches in width. Additionally, possessing or using a minnow or baitfish trap with an opening larger than 1 inch is illegal. A tag must be attached to the trap(s) with the owners name and address, or the customer identification number.

### FORAGE FISH

Forage fish means freshwater drum (sheepshead), common carp, grass carp (in waters not stocked by the ODNR 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, 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.

### 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](http://wildohio.gov).

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



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2016-2017 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

# FISH TAGGING PROGRAMS

## MUSKELLUNGE ANGLERS!

The ODNR Division of Wildlife is conducting a muskellunge tagging study in four Ohio reservoirs: Alum Creek (Delaware County), Clear Fork (Morrow and Richland counties), Leesville (Carroll County), and Salt Fork (Guernsey County). The purpose is to evaluate muskellunge survival and angler catch rates, and to monitor movement of the fish out of reservoirs through dams. Please report any tagged muskellunge caught or found using the toll-free number listed on the tag, or through the Muskie Angler Log at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).

Tags will be located near the dorsal fin.

**DO NOT REMOVE THE TAG**  
if the fish is released.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## LAKE ERIE ANGLERS!

To increase our knowledge on walleye movement and better manage the fishery, a study is being conducted at Lake Erie. Each tagged Lake Erie walleye will have up to two external tags and one internal transmitter. A \$100 reward is offered for information on the external tag and transmitter in the event that you catch and keep a tagged walleye.

### IF YOU CATCH AND KEEP A TAGGED WALLEYE, PLEASE:

- Record when and where you captured the fish.
- Remove the internal transmitter and external tag, and rinse with water. Store the transmitter at room temperature. You may keep the fish.
- Call the number printed on the transmitter or tag, or call (419) 625-8062.



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2016-2017 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS  
**FISH OHIO AWARD**

Applications for the Fish Ohio pin are accepted at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.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. Go to [outdoorwritersofohio.org](http://outdoorwritersofohio.org) for more information.

**LIST OF QUALIFYING SIZES FOR A FISH OHIO CATCH**

Blue Catfish	35 in	Largemouth Bass	21 in	Sunfish	9 in
Brown Trout	25 in	Muskellunge	36 in	Walleye	28 in
Carp	26 in	Northern Pike	32 in	White Bass	16 in
Channel Catfish	26 in	Rainbow Trout	28 in	Yellow Perch	13 in
Crappie	13 in	Rock Bass	10 in		
Flathead Catfish	35 in	Sauger	16 in		
Freshwater Drum	22 in	Saugeye	21 in		
Hybrid-Striped Bass	21 in	Smallmouth Bass	20 in		



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2016-2017 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

# 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 Environmental Protection Agency lists current guidance on safe consumption of wild-caught fish in Ohio for specific waters and fishes at [epa.ohio.gov](http://epa.ohio.gov).

Anglers can minimize exposure to contaminants with a few simple steps.

- Discard the organs (do not eat).
- Remove skin from fillets or steaks.
- Trim away fatty areas near the belly, back, and sides.
- Broil, bake, or grill on a rack, or poach and discard the liquid.
- Broil, bake, grill, or poach before adding to a soup or chowder.
- If deep-frying, discard oil after use.
- Pan frying removes few, if any, contaminants.

## HELP PROTECT OHIO WATERS

### IT IS **ILLEGAL** TO USE BIGHEAD CARP OR SILVER CARP AS LIVE BAIT IN OHIO.

Bighead and silver carp are invasive fish spreading within the Ohio River basin and may cause harm to native fish and wildlife.

#### BIGHEAD CARP & SILVER CARP CHARACTERISTICS

- Low-set eye; large upturned mouth without barbels.
- Scaleless head; body scales very small.
- Adults may weigh more than 60 pounds and measure 4 feet long.
- Silver carp may jump out of the water when disturbed by boat motors.

#### BIGHEAD CARP



#### SILVER CARP



**REPORT NEW SIGHTINGS OF  
BIGHEAD CARP AND SILVER CARP TO  
1-877-STOP-ANS**

# 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 COMPRESSED TO DETERMINE TOTAL LENGTH.**



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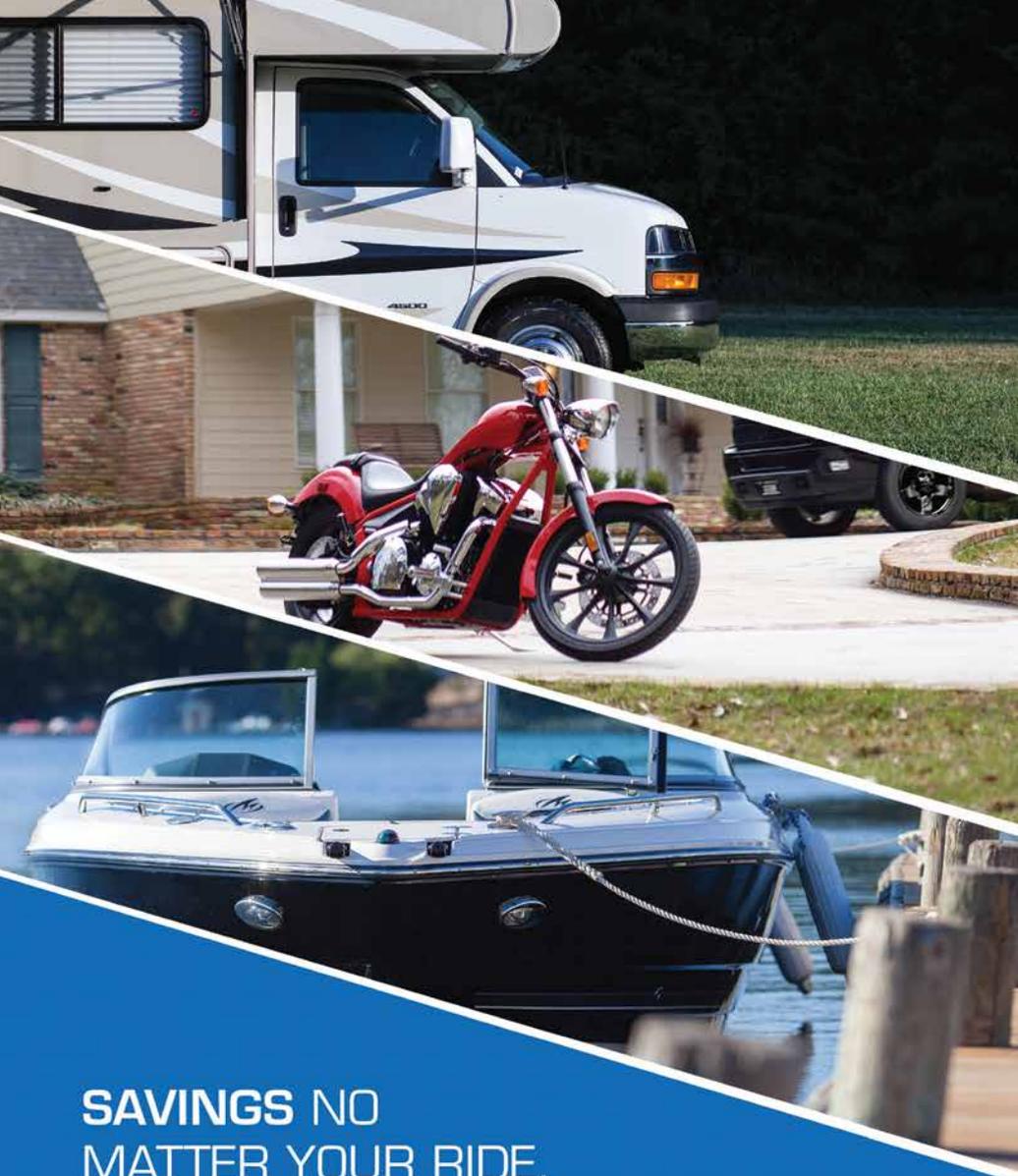
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