

# OHIO

## FISHING REGULATIONS 2019-2020

Effective MARCH 1, 2019  
to FEBRUARY 29, 2020



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)



## PLEASE CONTACT A DISTRICT OFFICE TO REACH A WILDLIFE OFFICER

### 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

## 2019-2020 CHANGES

- New license options are available for residents. See page 4.
- Annual fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. See page 5.
- The Lake Erie fishing permit is required for nonresidents from Jan. 1 to April 30. See pages 5 and 7.
- Lake Erie black bass regulations were updated. See page 7.
- The Ballville dam was removed on the Sandusky River. The new endpoint for regulation purposes is the Waterworks dam in Tiffin. See pages 6 and 12.
- Crappie regulations were removed at several inland lakes. See page 10 for a list of lakes where regulations still apply.

VISIT US ONLINE AT  
**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 A WILDLIFE VIOLATION  
**1-800-POACHER**  
(1-800-762-2437)  
\*\*AVAILABLE 24 HOURS\*\*

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# 2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

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).

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## MAY 4 & 5 ARE FREE FISHING DAYS

**On May 4 and 5, 2019, 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.**

## 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.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The ODNR 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.



**PUBLICATION 5084 (R1218)**

Total Printed: 625,000 Unit Cost: \$0.075 Pub Date: 2/19

2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS  
**LICENSE INFORMATION**

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

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

LICENSES	COST
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<b>Youth LICENSE</b>	Persons under 16 years of age are not required to purchase a fishing license.	
	<b>Resident Youth Lifetime License</b>	\$430.56
<b>Resident LICENSES</b>	Resident 1-Day License	\$11.00
	Resident 1-Day Lake Erie Charter Fishing License (see below)	\$11.00
	Resident 1-Year Upgraded from a 1-Day License ** (see page 5)	\$9.00
	Resident 1-Year License	\$19.00
	<b>Resident 3-Year License</b>	\$54.08
	<b>Resident 5-Year License</b>	\$90.22
	<b>Resident 10-Year License</b>	\$180.44
<b>Resident Lifetime License</b>	\$468.00	
<b>Resident Senior LICENSES</b>	Resident 1-Year License	\$10.00
	<b>Resident 3-Year License</b>	\$28.60
	<b>Resident 5-Year License</b>	\$47.58
	<b>Resident Lifetime License</b>	\$84.24
<b>Nonresident LICENSES</b>	Nonresident 1-Day License	\$11.00
	Nonresident 1-Day Lake Erie Charter Fishing License	\$11.00
	Nonresident 1-Year License Upgraded from a 1-Day ** (see page 5)	\$40.56
	Nonresident 3-Day License	\$19.00
	Nonresident 1-Year License	\$50.96
	<b>Nonresident Lake Erie Fishing Permit</b> (see pages 5 and 7)	\$11.00
<b>Card and Duplicate</b>	<b>Resident Ohio Conservation Card</b>	\$4.00
	Duplicate License - Free reprints are available at <a href="http://wildohio.gov">wildohio.gov</a> .	\$4.00

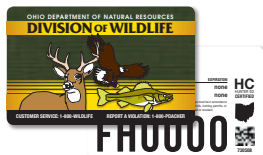
A fishing license that has been lost, stolen, or destroyed can be reissued from any license vendor or via the internet.

**LAKE ERIE CHARTER FISHING LICENSE**

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.

**THE OHIO CONSERVATION CARD**

The Ohio Conservation Card (a durable plastic card) is included with the purchase of a lifetime license. The card can also be purchased for \$4.00 with a multiyear 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 the internet 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 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. A \$5.50 fee will be added to the cost of the license.
- **A Lake Erie fishing permit is required for nonresidents from Jan. 1 to April 30 annually when fishing Lake Erie and areas immediately upstream in creeks, rivers, and tributaries.**
- **\*\*A one-day fishing license can be applied as credit toward the purchase of an annual 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.**
- Lifetime licenses and multiyear licenses can be purchased at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov), provided an Ohio driver license or state identification is associated with the customer's account. Lifetime license buyers can also visit an ODNR 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 can also be purchased at an agent location (restrictions apply). Go to [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov) for more information about purchasing a lifetime or multiyear 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 ODNR 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 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. 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 which they or their parents own, except where the land is in or borders on state parks or state-owned lakes;
- 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);
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty while on leave or furlough;
- On May 4 and 5, 2019, all Ohio residents may fish without a license as part of Free Fishing Days.
- See page 16 for information on free licenses.

2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

# 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 Pymatung Lake (page 11).

SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
<b>Blue &amp; Flathead Catfish</b> (under 35 inches)	No limit	None
<b>Blue &amp; Flathead Catfish</b> (35 inches or larger)	1 of each (statewide)	35 inches
<b>Channel Catfish</b> (under 28 inches)	6 (public lakes under 700 acres) No limit (all other public waters)	None
<b>Channel Catfish</b> (28 inches or larger)	1 (statewide)	28 inches
<b>Lake Sturgeon</b> The lake sturgeon is an endangered species in Ohio and must be returned unharmed to the water immediately if caught.	Possession is prohibited	
<b>Largemouth, Smallmouth, &amp; Spotted Bass</b>	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
<b>Muskellunge</b>	1	None
<b>Striped, Hybrid-Striped, &amp; White Bass</b>	30	No more than 4 over 15 inches
<b>Trout</b> (all species)	5 (singly or in combination)	None
<b>Walleye, Sauger, &amp; Saugeye</b>	6 (singly or in combination)	None
<b>Yellow Perch</b>	30	None
<b>All other fish</b>	No limit	None

2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

# LAKE ERIE REGULATIONS

These regulations apply to Lake Erie proper 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.

## WALLEYE AND YELLOW PERCH REGULATIONS MAY CHANGE BEGINNING MAY 1, 2019

Updated limits will be announced through a news release, posted at 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.

**REQUIRED • NONRESIDENT LAKE ERIE FISHING PERMIT**

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 4.

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, 2019	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
	<b>May 1 - June 21, 2019</b>	<b>1 (singly or in combination)</b>	<b>18 inches</b>
	June 22, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
Walleye, Saugeye, & Sauger	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28, 2019	6 (singly or in combination)	15 inches
	March 1 - April 30, 2019	4 (singly or in combination)	15 inches
	May 1, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	To be announced	15 inches
White Bass	Open year-round	None	None
Yellow Perch	March 1 - April 30, 2019	30 (West, Central, & East Zones)	None
	May 1, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	To be announced	None

**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, 2019	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
	Sept. 1, 2019 - May 15, 2020	2 (singly or in combination)	12 inches

**EXCEPTION TO ABOVE REGULATIONS**

For the waters of Cold Creek upstream of State Route 2 (Erie County).  
This regulation no longer applies to Beaver Creek in Seneca County.

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

**ATTENTION LAKE ERIE ANGLERS!**

To increase our knowledge on walleye movement and better manage the fishery, a study is being conducted on 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:**

- Remove the internal transmitter and external tag, and rinse with water. Store the transmitter at room temperature. You may keep the fish.
- Record when and where you caught the fish.
- Call the number printed on the transmitter or tag, or call (419) 625-8062.
- You can also report a tagged fish at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).

2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

# 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 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.

## OHIO RIVER AGREEMENT REGULATIONS

### WESTERN UNIT • OHIO - KENTUCKY

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 REGULATIONS

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
Black & White Crappie	30	None
Muskellunge	2	30 inches
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, & White Bass	30 (no more than 4 over 15 inches)	None

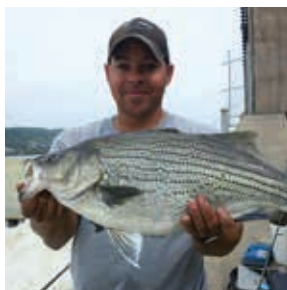
### OHIO REGULATIONS

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
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	10 (singly or in combination)	None

### KENTUCKY REGULATIONS

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





## OHIO RIVER AGREEMENT REGULATIONS EASTERN UNIT • OHIO – WEST VIRGINIA

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.

### UNIFIED REGULATIONS

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
Muskellunge	2	30 inches
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, & White Bass	30 (no more than 4 over 15 inches)	None

### OHIO REGULATIONS

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.

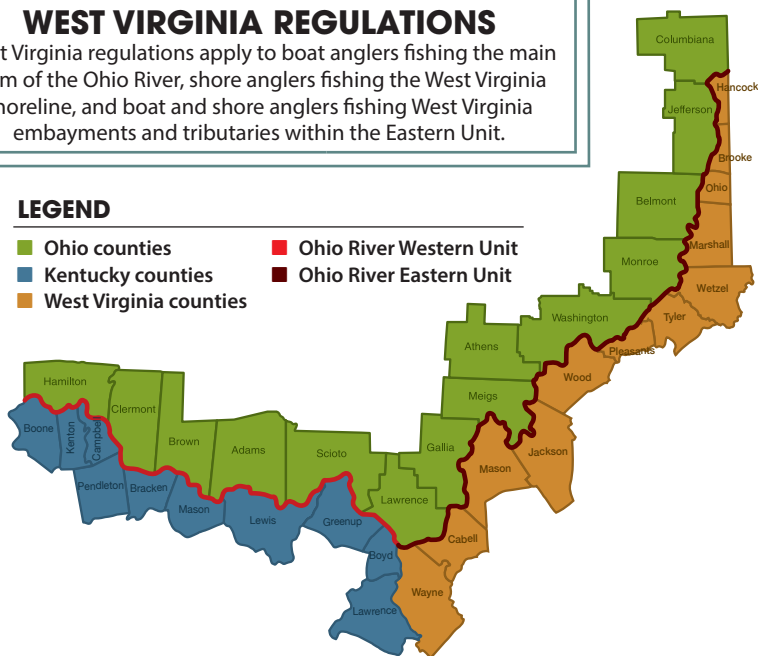
SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Black & White Crappie	30 (singly or in combination)	None
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	10 (singly or in combination)	None

### WEST VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

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



2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS  
**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
<b>Largemouth, Smallmouth, &amp; Spotted Bass</b>	• 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 * • Belmont • Guilford • 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	
<b>Channel Catfish &amp; Blue Catfish</b>	• Hoover Reservoir	None may be taken between 18 & 28 inches	
		4 fish split daily limit	3 fish less than 18 inches, & 1 fish 28 inches or longer
<b>Crappie</b>	• Alum Creek • Berlin • Buckeye • Caesar Creek • 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 • 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

<b>Sunfish (all species)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Killdeer Plains • Oxbow</li> <li>• St. Joseph River Wildlife Area</li> </ul>	10	None
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All American Electric Power Company waters *</li> </ul>	20 (singly or in combination)	None
<b>Trout (all species)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Clear Fork of the Mohican River in Ashland County</li> </ul>	2	None
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mad River and its tributaries • Clear Fork of the Mohican River in Richland County</li> </ul>	2	12 inches
<b>Brook Trout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chagrin River and its tributaries (Geauga County)</li> <li>• Rocky River and its tributaries (Medina County)</li> </ul>	Possession is prohibited	
<b>Walleye, Saugeye, &amp; Sauger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acton • Alum Creek • Atwood • Berlin</li> <li>• Buckeye • C.J. Brown • Caesar Creek</li> <li>• Ferguson • Findlay No. 1 &amp; No. 2 • Indian</li> <li>• Lake Milton, including the Mahoning River connecting Berlin Lake and Lake Milton</li> <li>• Metzger • Piedmont • Pleasant Hill</li> <li>• Rocky Fork • Seneca • Tappan • West Branch</li> </ul>	6	15 inches

\* Includes all AEP ReCreation Lands and Conesville Coal Lands. Avondale is closed to access.

## PYMATUNING LAKE REGULATIONS OHIO - PENNSYLVANIA

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 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 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
<b>Crappie</b>	20	9 inches
<b>Largemouth Bass &amp; Smallmouth Bass</b>	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
<b>Muskellunge</b>	2	30 inches
<b>Walleye</b>	6	15 inches
<b>All other fish</b>	No Limit	None

2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS  
**SITE-SPECIFIC WATERS**

**MAUMEE, PORTAGE, MAHONING, & SANDUSKY RIVERS**

The following regulations are in effect from **March 1 to April 30, 2019.**

**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.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT GEAR YOU WILL PACK

Learn more about light weight pull cord inflatable life jackets

**It could save your life**

[watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/lifejackets](http://watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/lifejackets)



Ohio Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
 DIVISION OF PARKS AND WATERCRAFT



# 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	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Bullfrog & Green Frog	15 (singly or in combination)	None
Snapping Turtle & Softshell Turtle	None	11 inches

## TURTLE SEASON

Turtle season is open July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. 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.

### HOW TO MEASURE A STRAIGHT-LINE CARAPACE LENGTH



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.

Please report your turtle harvest at wildohio.gov. Click the SPECIES AND HABITATS tab, then REPORT WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS.

### 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;
- Chemicals;
- Deleterious or stupefying substances;
- Smoke;
- Explosives.

## FROG SEASON

Frog season is open from 6 p.m. the second Friday in June (June 14) to April 30, 2020. 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;
- Chemicals;
- Deleterious or stupefying substances;
- Smoke;
- Explosives.

## Reel in the FUN in Pennsylvania



Purchase your Pennsylvania  
fishing license online at:

[www.GoneFishingPa.com](http://www.GoneFishingPa.com)

# BANKLINES, SETLINES, FLOATLINES, AND TROT LINES



## 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 cannot 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 can 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.



**JUST ASK**  
TAKE SOMEONE FISHING

**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 cannot be made of wire or cable. A trotline cannot 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 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.

**I AM NOT  
A PET**

**GOOD INTENTIONS CAN HURT;  
LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD**



[wildohio.gov/staywild](http://wildohio.gov/staywild)

**GET SIX ISSUES  
FOR ONLY \$5**

Go to [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov) to sign up online, or visit any store that sells fishing licenses and sign up to have the magazine mailed to you.

**WILD OHIO  
MAGAZINE**

# 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 when 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 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.

## FREE LICENSE

- 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 & 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.



## 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 (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.



## CLAMS, MUSSELS, AND MUSSEL SHELLS

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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
<b>Minnow Seine: Inland</b>	4 feet x 8 feet	Streams only, 4 a.m. to 9 p.m.
<b>Minnow Seine: Lake Erie*</b>	None	No Limit
<b>Minnow Dip Net: Inland</b>	4 feet, each side	All public fishing waters
<b>Minnow Dip Net: Lake Erie*</b>	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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 2019-2020 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.

## 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.**



2019-2020 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS  
**FISH OHIO AWARD**

- Applications for the Fish Ohio pin are accepted at fishohio.gov. See page 18 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
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.

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

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

SPECIES	MIN. SIZE
Freshwater Drum	24 inches
Smallmouth Bass	20 inches
Walleye	28 inches
White Bass	15 inches
Yellow Perch	13 inches

# 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](http://www.CleanDrainDry.org)



Great Lakes  
RESTORATION



**CLEAN  
DRAIN  
DRY**  
INITIATIVE