

OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS 2020-2021

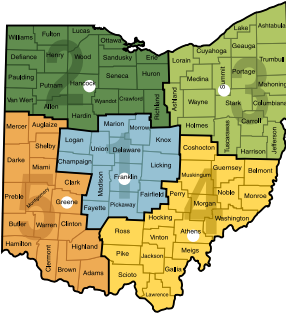
Effective MARCH 1, 2020
to FEBRUARY 28, 2021



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
☎ (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

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
1-800-POACHER
(1-800-762-2437)
AVAILABLE 24 HOURS

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2020-2021 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. 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.

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JUNE 20 & 21 ARE FREE FISHING DAYS

On June 20 and 21, 2020, 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.

FISHING REGULATION CHANGES

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

- Lake Erie walleye bag limits have been updated. See pages 6 and 7.
- A maximum of three fishing lines are permitted on Ohio's portion of Lake Erie and the Ohio River. See pages 6, 8, and 16.
- Existing fishing regulations at American Electric Power's ReCreation Lands will continue at Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area. See pages 10 and 11.
- Walleye, sauger, and saugeye regulations have changed on the Ohio River. See pages 8 and 9.
- Free fishing days were moved to the weekend of June 20-21, 2020. See above and page 5.
- Some resident and nonresident license fees have increased. See page 4.

2020-2021 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS 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
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Youth LICENSE	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-Day Lake Erie Charter Fishing License (see below)	\$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-Day Lake Erie Charter Fishing 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, 2020)	\$11.00

Card and Duplicate	Ohio Conservation Card (residents only)	\$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.

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.



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.

LICENSE PURCHASING

- An Ohio resident is a person who has resided in the state of Ohio for the past 43 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. The Lake Erie charter one-day fishing license is not available for purchase from a mobile device and is not valid unless printed.
- Short-term licenses are available for purchase by calling 1-866-703-1928. 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. Licenses can be repurchased 30 days prior to the expiration date.
- Annual licenses can be set to automatically renew every year when purchased at wildohio.gov.
- 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). Go to 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 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 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 June 20 and 21, 2020, all Ohio residents may fish without a license as part of Free Fishing Days.**
- See page 17 for information on free licenses.

2020-2021 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 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)	6 (public lakes under 700 acres) No limit (all other public waters)	None
Channel Catfish (28 inches or larger)	1 (statewide)	28 inches
Lake Sturgeon*	Possession is prohibited	
Largemouth, Smallmouth, & Spotted Bass	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
Muskellunge	1	None
Striped, Hybrid-Striped, & White Bass	30	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

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

2020-2021 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.



A maximum of **three** lines are permitted in Ohio's portion of Lake Erie. This includes Lake Erie proper 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, 2020	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
	May 1 - June 26, 2020	1 (singly or in combination)	18 inches
	June 27, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	5 (singly or in combination)	14 inches
Walleye, Saugeye, & Sauger	March 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	6 (singly or in combination)*	15 inches
White Bass	Open year-round	None	None
Yellow Perch	March 1 - April 30, 2020	30 (West, Central, & East Zones)	None
	May 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	To be announced	

*The walleye bag limit is 4 in Sandusky River and Sandusky Bay from March 1 to April 30, 2020.

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, 2020	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
	Sept. 1, 2020 - May 15, 2021	2 (singly or in combination)	12 inches

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

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 A TAGGED FISH: Please remove the internal transmitter, external tag, and rinse with water. Store the transmitter and tag at room temperature. You may keep the fish.

Call the number printed on the transmitter or tag, call (419) 625-8062, or visit wildohio.gov to report when and where you caught the fish.

2020-2021 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.
- A maximum of three lines are permitted in the Ohio River units.



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
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 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 (wv.dnr.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.

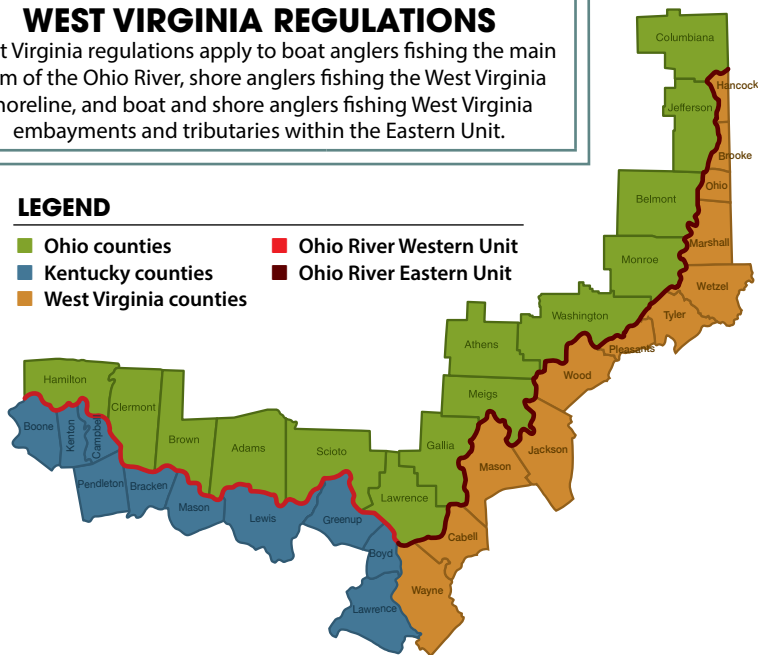
SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Black & White Crappie	30 (singly or in combination)	None
Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye	6 (singly or in combination)	None

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



2020-2021 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS
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 * • 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	• 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
Crappie	• 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

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 * • 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 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 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 Bass & Smallmouth Bass	5 (singly or in combination)	12 inches
Muskellunge	2	30 inches
Walleye	6	15 inches
All other fish	No Limit	None

2020-2021 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

SITE-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

MAUMEE, PORTAGE, MAHONING, & SANDUSKY RIVERS

The following regulations are in effect from **March 1 to April 30, 2020.**

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.

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2020-2021 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

FROG & TURTLE REGULATIONS

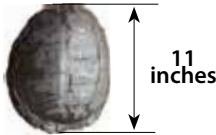
Reptiles and amphibians may not be taken by shooting, except green frogs and bullfrogs which may be taken with archery equipment.

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, 2020 to December 31, 2020. 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. Search for report wildlife.

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. on June 12, 2020 (the second Friday in June) to April 30, 2021. 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.



2020-2021 OHIO FISHING REGULATIONS

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 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.

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.

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A PET**

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LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD**



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**WILD OHIO
MAGAZINE**

2020-2021 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 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 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.

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 FISHING

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 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. 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.

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.

CLAMS, MUSSELS, AND MUSSEL SHELLS

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

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.

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-WILDLIFE (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.

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 Ohio Division of Wildlife signs indicating cast net use is prohibited.



2020-2021 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.

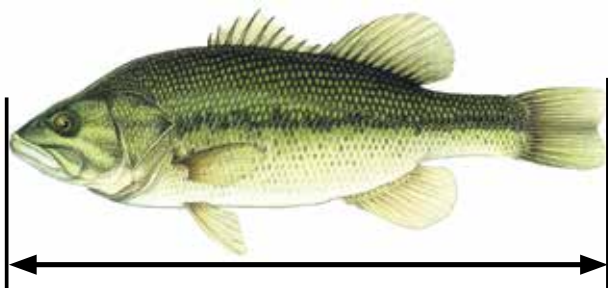
The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency lists current guidance on safe consumption of wild-caught fish in Ohio for specific waters and fishes at epa.ohio.gov.



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.



FISH OHIO

- Applications for the Fish Ohio pin are accepted at fishohio.gov. See page 18 for how to measure your fish.
- 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.
- 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 OHIO PIN 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The Fish Ohio program has recognized anglers for noteworthy catches of Ohio's fish since 1976. The pin was introduced to the Fish Ohio program in 1980. This year marks the Fish Ohio pin's 40th anniversary.

In 1980, the Ohio Division of Wildlife created a popular category of outdoor collectibles when it distributed the first Fish Ohio pins. The little lapel pins quickly became popular fare in the collectors' world of searching, trading, and bartering.

Each angler with a qualifying catch receives a collectible Fish Ohio lapel pin. Each year's pin has a different species of fish on it. A Master Angler category is available to anglers who catch four different Fish Ohio qualifying species in a single year.

Find more information about the Fish Ohio program at wildohio.gov.



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