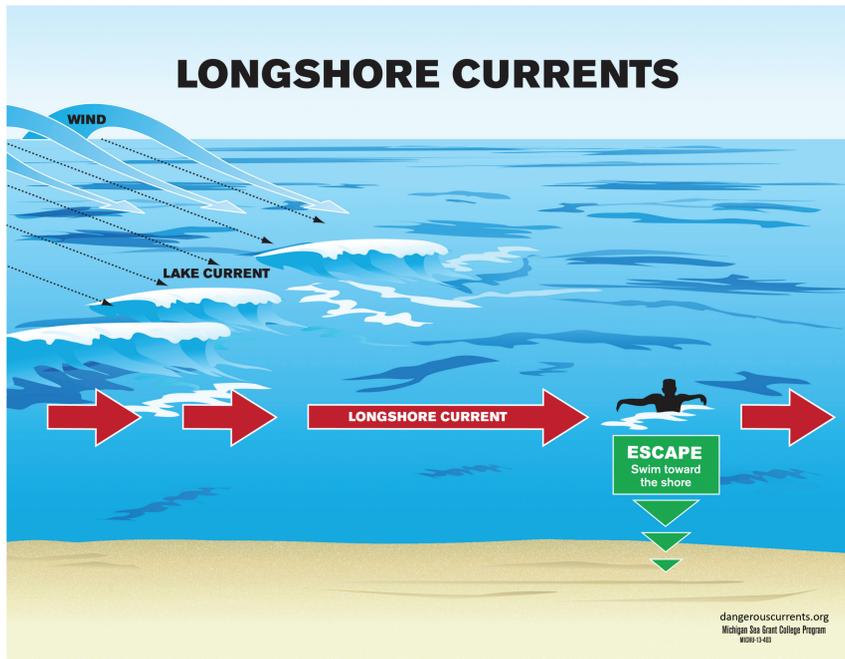
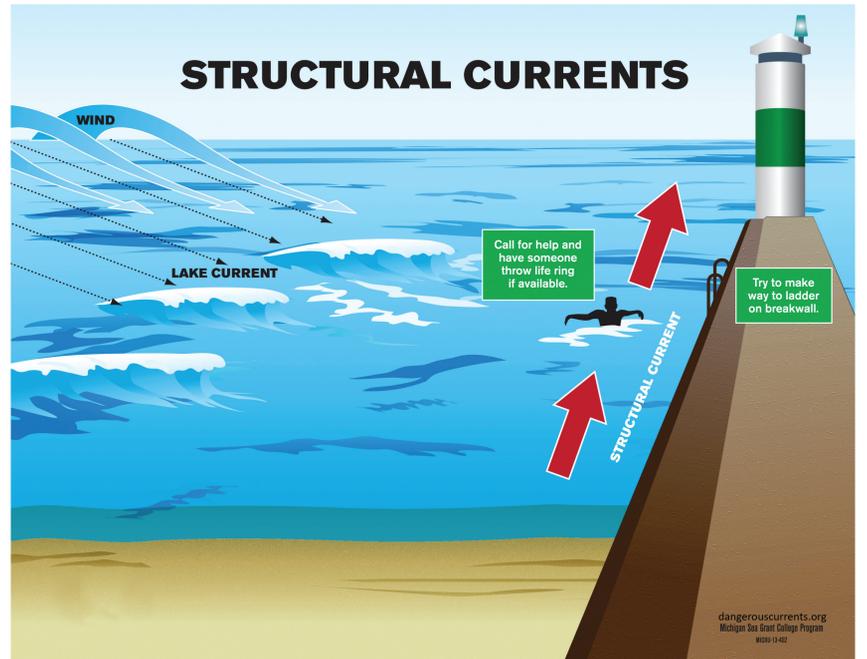


# CURRENTS in Lake Erie

Water currents circulate in Lake Erie. They are powered by energy from the sun, wind, waves and water density differences. Common currents Great Lakes swimmers may encounter are shown.

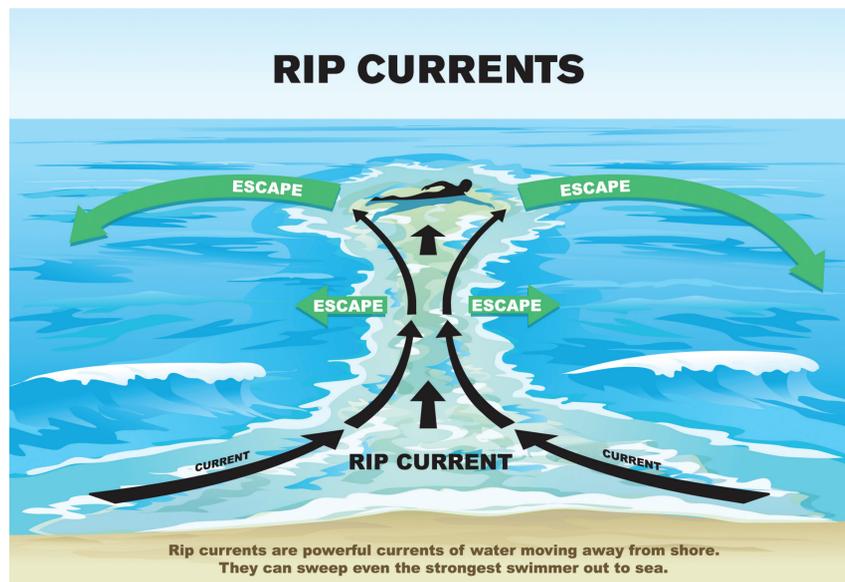


Longshore currents move parallel to the shore. The force of these currents can make it difficult to remain in front of a spot on the beach. Longshore currents often happen between the first and second sandbars near the shore. Longshore currents can move a swimmer swiftly down a beach. To escape a longshore current, swim or walk toward the shore.

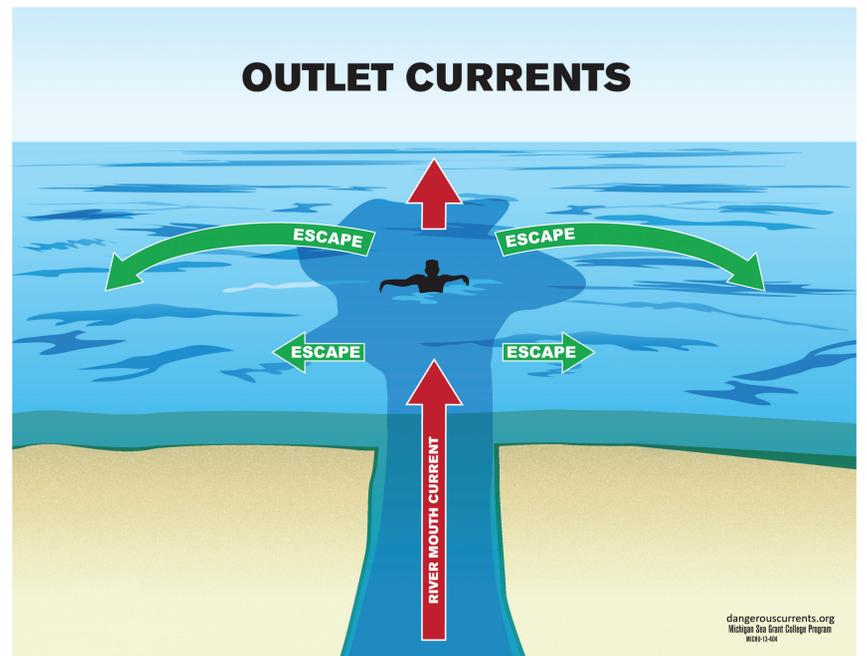


Structural currents are found alongside or as a result of structures including jetties, piers and breakwalls. The currents are nearly always present. Currents found along these structures can be dangerously strong. Avoid jumping off or swimming near piers, jetties and breakwalls especially when there are waves on Lake Erie.

In addition to currents, sharp underwater dropoffs may be present along the coast.



A rip current is a narrow, powerful stream of water and sand moving (ripping) swiftly away from shore. Rip currents vary in size and speed but can be found on many beaches every day. Rip currents do not pull a swimmer under the water; rip currents carry people away from shore out to open water. To escape a rip current, swim parallel to the shore away from the current's pull and then swim toward the shore.



Outlet currents can be found where rivers and streams empty into Lake Erie. The flow of water from the river or stream can move quickly out to open water; the flow can be amplified by jetties and other structures along the shore. As the current enters the lake's open water it may take a while for the current to slow. To escape an outlet current, swim parallel to the shore.



Learn more about Lake Erie and all of Ohio's public access sites

Ohio Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Office of Coastal Management

[coastal.ohiodnr.gov/GoCoast](http://coastal.ohiodnr.gov/GoCoast)

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