Ohio Division of Wildlife Lake Erie Fish Management

The Lake Erie Fisheries Research Units sample fish populations with trawls and gill nets aboard research vessels, such as the *Grandon* and the *Explorer II*.

These research vessels are also used to monitor the food web and the spread of exotic species.

The Fairport Harbor and Sandusky Lake Erie Fisheries Research Units assess and manage fish populations and fisheries in Lake Erie's Western and Central basins and their tributary streams.

The Lake Erie Fisheries Research Units:

- Monitor fish populations' abundance, growth, age, diet and health.
- Survey Lake Erie's sport fishing anglers and commercial fishing boats.
- Protect and enhance aquatic habitat in Lake Erie and its tributaries.
- Perform environmental reviews of planned development projects to insure habitat protection and resource integrity.
- Provide the public with timely fishing and fishery information.
- Produce and distribute the *Ohio Lake Erie Fisheries* status report annually.

Learn More

wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/fisheries-management

Much remains to be learned about Lake Erie.

Exploration and study of Lake Erie and its watershed are ongoing. Research increases our understanding of the role people play within the Lake Erie ecosystem.

Over time, the use of Lake Erie resources has changed significantly. The future sustainability of lake resources depends on our understanding of those resources and their limitations.

Models help us understand the complexity of Lake Erie. Models can process and help us visualize observations, describe interactions, expose information gaps and forecast future conditions.

Understanding the ecosystem requires collaboration between biologists, chemists, climatologists, computer programmers, engineers, geologists, meteorologists, physicists, social scientists, educators and communicators.

Lake Erie Literacy Principle 7d:
New technologies and methods of observation are expanding our ability to explore Lake Erie. Freshwater scientists rely on new technologies to monitor conditions in the lake and provide information to policy makers and leaders in coastal communities.

Learn More
coastal.ohiodnr.gov/LakeErieLiteracy

Nearshore
Lake Erie Fish Research

An ongoing study using electro-fishing and benthic (bottom substrate) sampling compared species richness to the type of shore conditions present at specific locations along Ohio's coast.

The study concluded that compared with natural sites, altered shorelines without vegetation, including structures such as seawalls and revetments, showed decreased species richness of both fish and invertebrates.

However, altered shorelines with terrestrial vegetation, including trees, shrubs and native plants, had fish and benthic species richness comparable to natural shores.

Incorporating vegetation into coastal projects that alter the shore may benefit the nearshore habitat and the fish communities along that portion of shore.

Collaborative research* shows that the health of Lake Erie's world-class fishery is directly related to the quality of the lake's nearshore habitats.

Minimizing negative impacts of coastal construction projects, while preserving and restoring the physical characteristics of the nearshore, can positively influence the quality of the habitats that support the Lake Erie fishery.

See online factsheet: *Nearshore Habitat: Guide to Minimize Impacts from Coastal Construction Projects* [pdf 4Mb]

* Collaborative partners include the ODNR Division of Wildlife and Office of Coastal Management, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Toledo.

Learn More

wildlife.ohiodnr.gov coastal.ohiodnr.gov