



Lake Erie supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

Life in Lake Erie ranges in size from the smallest virus to the largest fish, the lake sturgeon which can grow to more than 8 feet long and weigh up to 800 pounds.

(see fish picture above)



Life cycles in Lake Erie have been altered by invasive plants and animals such as Phragmites, purple loosestrife, round goby and zebra & quagga mussels

(shown at left attached to a mollusk).

The Lake Erie ecosystem provides habitat for unique species to thrive including the threatened Lakeside Daisy (top right circle) and the Lake Erie watersnake (bottom).

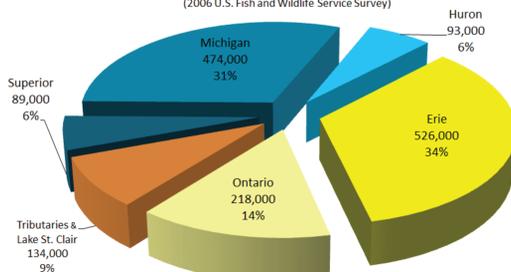
\$1.1 million

amount of money Lake Erie shore anglers spend annually in communities near their fishing destinations.

*Recent studies by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, Ohio State University Extension and Ohio Sea Grant

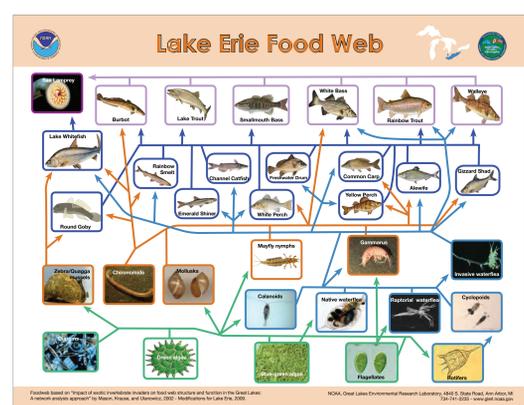
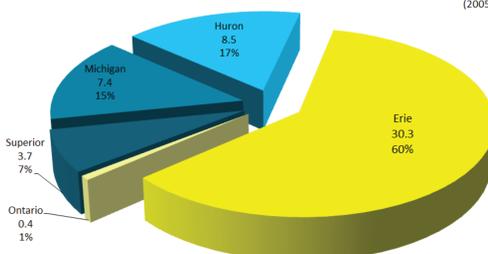
Estimated Number of U.S. Anglers

(2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey)



Commercial Fish Harvest in Millions of Pounds

(2005 data)



Lake Erie Literacy Principle 5b:

Lake Erie is the most biologically productive Great Lake. More fish are caught from Lake Erie annually than the other four Great Lakes combined.



The most abundant life in Lake Erie are microorganisms. Phytoplankton are a type of microorganism that use light to grow and reproduce. Phytoplankton are the base of the Lake Erie food web.



Public access sites on Lake Erie and its tributaries are detailed in Ohio's Lake Erie Public Access Guides:

coastal.ohiodnr.gov/GoCoast

coastal.ohiodnr.gov/GoRivers



Sunset fishing at South Bass Island State Park.

