



Life in Lake Erie ranges in size from the smallest virus to the largest animal that still lives in fresh water, the lake sturgeon (see fish picture above).



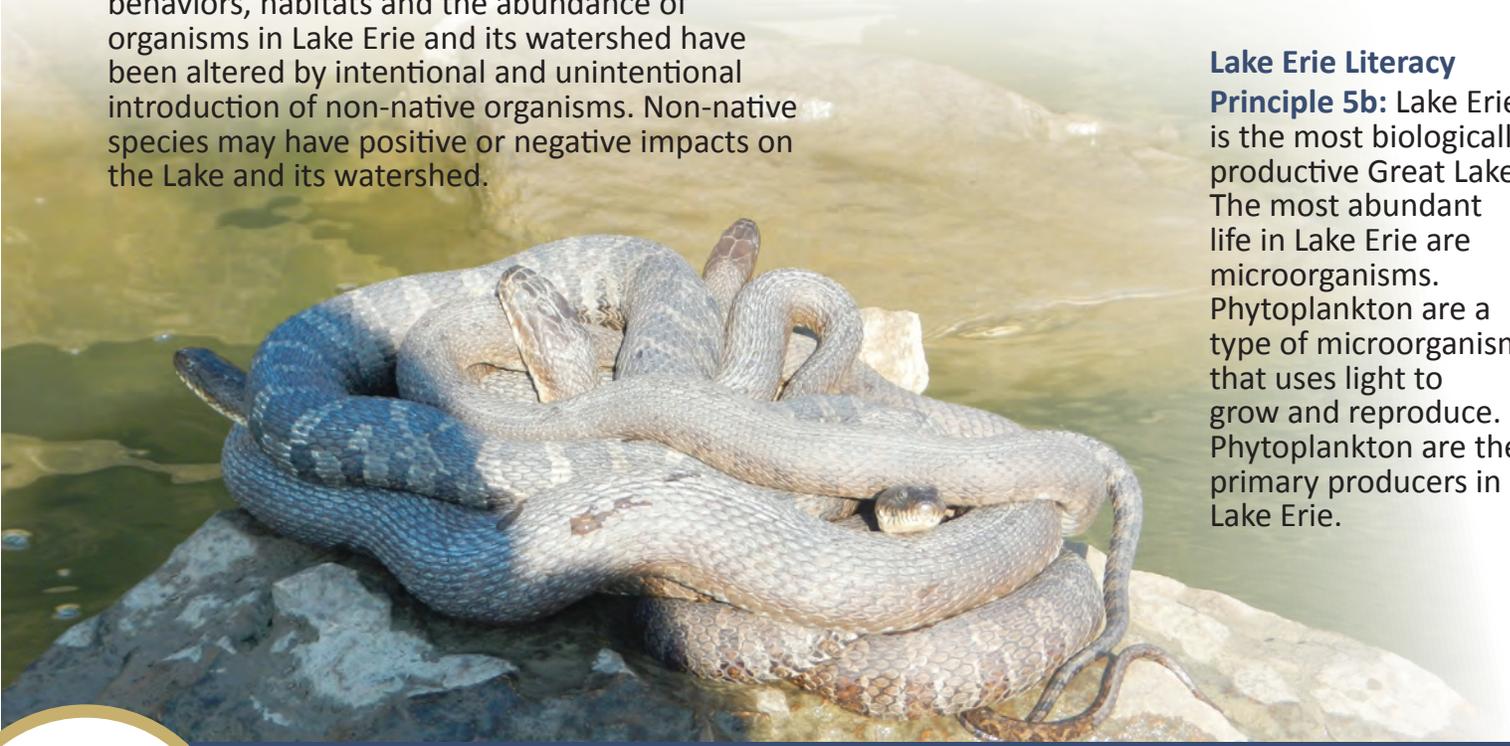
Life cycles in Lake Erie have been altered by invasive plants and animals such as Phragmites, purple loosestrife, round goby and zebra and quagga mussels (shown at left attached to a native mollusk).

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

Lake Erie Literacy Principle 5i: Life cycles, behaviors, habitats and the abundance of organisms in Lake Erie and its watershed have been altered by intentional and unintentional introduction of non-native organisms. Non-native species may have positive or negative impacts on the Lake and its watershed.

Lake Erie supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

Lake Erie Literacy Principle 5b: Lake Erie is the most biologically productive Great Lake. The most abundant life in Lake Erie are microorganisms. Phytoplankton are a type of microorganism that uses light to grow and reproduce. Phytoplankton are the primary producers in Lake Erie.





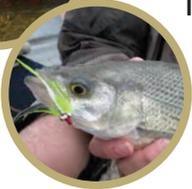
Lake Erie Fishing

There are many ways to fish Lake Erie: from a boat, along the shore or river, through the ice, and on a charter vessel.

Access spots on Lake Erie and its tributaries are in *Ohio's Lake Erie Public Access Guides*:
[coastal.ohiodnr.gov/GoCoast]
[coastal.ohiodnr.gov/GoRivers]

Lake Erie Fishing Forecasts are found online and by calling 1-888-HOOKFISH.

The **Fish Ohio!** program recognizes anglers for noteworthy catches of 20 Ohio fish species.
[search on: Fish Ohio]



You can help maintain a healthy fishery:

- 1.) Follow Ohio's catch limits.
[wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fishingregulations]
- 2.) Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species: [ohiodnr.gov/ais]
 - Never dump live bait or unwanted pets into bodies of water.
 - Clean, drain and dry your boat, fishing gear, trailer and bait buckets when transferring from one body of water to another.

*The Lake Erie fishery generates more than \$900 million annually in the regional Ohio economy.**

*Anglers value fishing from Ohio's Lake Erie shore and spend \$1.1 million each year 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

Lake Erie Literacy Principle 5e:
The Lake Erie ecosystem provides habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species. Lake Erie is multi-dimensional, offering vast living space and diverse habitats from the atmosphere to the shore, to the water surface and down through the water column into the lake bottom.

