

**OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
POLICY 24 – FISHING AND HUNTING**

**IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO PROVIDE EXPANDED SPORT FISHING AND SAFE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COASTAL AREA BY:**

- A. REQUIRING LICENSURE FOR HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING (O.R.C. 1533.10, 1533.111 AND 1533.32);**
- B. REQUIRING COMPLETION OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HUNTER SAFETY AND TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSES FOR FIRST-TIME LICENSE BUYERS BEFORE ISSUING A HUNTING LICENSE OR TRAPPING PERMIT (O.R.C. 1533.10 AND 1533.111);**
- C. ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING AND ASSISTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING FISHING ACCESS AREAS;**
- D. ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING WILDLIFE AREAS AND WETLANDS, AND EXPANDING THE USE OF OTHER STATE-OWNED LANDS FOR THE REGULATED TAKING OF WILDLIFE; AND**
- E. ENCOURAGING PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO ALLOW FISHING AND HUNTING ON THEIR LAND UNDER THE OHIO WILDLIFE COOPERATIVE FISHING AND HUNTING PROGRAM.**

Authorities and Administration

- A. See Policies 27 and 29.
- B. All first-time hunting license buyers in the State of Ohio are required to complete a hunter safety and conservation course and pass an examination as prescribed by the Chief of the Division of Wildlife (DOW) before a hunting license can be issued (O.R.C. 1533.10). The course consists of subjects including, but not limited to, hunter safety and health, use of hunting implements, hunting tradition and ethics, the role of hunting in conservation, and hunting rules and regulations.
- C. DOW has the authority to acquire and develop areas for fishing access along Lake Erie, (O.R.C. 1531.06). This activity is part of the Division's Fish Ohio Program to increase fishing opportunities in Ohio through cleaner waters, stocking and fishing access to Ohio's waters. The division has developed a prioritization system for fishing access projects of the LEAP, which considers fishing access needs, shoreline analysis for potential sites and number of existing accesses and cooperation of landowners.

ODNR provides financial and technical assistance for fishing access to local governments along the Lake Erie shoreline. Development of shoreline fishing access has resulted from shoreline recreational projects funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Technical assistance is available from the above divisions and programs for fishing access.

- D. See Policies 27 and 29.
- E. Through the Ohio Wildlife Cooperative Hunting and Fishing Program, additional hunting and fishing opportunities are created for Ohio hunters and anglers by encouraging private landowners to permit public hunting, fishing and trapping. Effective control of public use is available to participating landowners. Under the hunting phase of the program, the landowner permits hunting on a first-arrival basis. Permits outlining certain conditions to be followed while hunting on the premises must be signed by each hunter and the landowner. The landowner still retains the authority to regulate the number of hunters on his or her land at any one time and to refuse hunting privileges to any intoxicated, disrespectful or abusive individuals. A landowner must control a single farm unit of 50 acres or more. In return, the DOW agrees to furnish certain materials to landowners that will help them control hunters on their property. Hunting with permission, parking and safety zone signs are provided by the DOW as well as the permit forms. To increase game on the property, participants in the program may obtain food and cover planting stock from the DOW. State wildlife officers patrol these areas during the hunting season as a routine part of their duties. Through the hunting permit, the landowner is released from liability in case the sportsperson is injured or suffers personal property damage while on the landowner's property (O.R.C. 1533.18 and 1533.181).