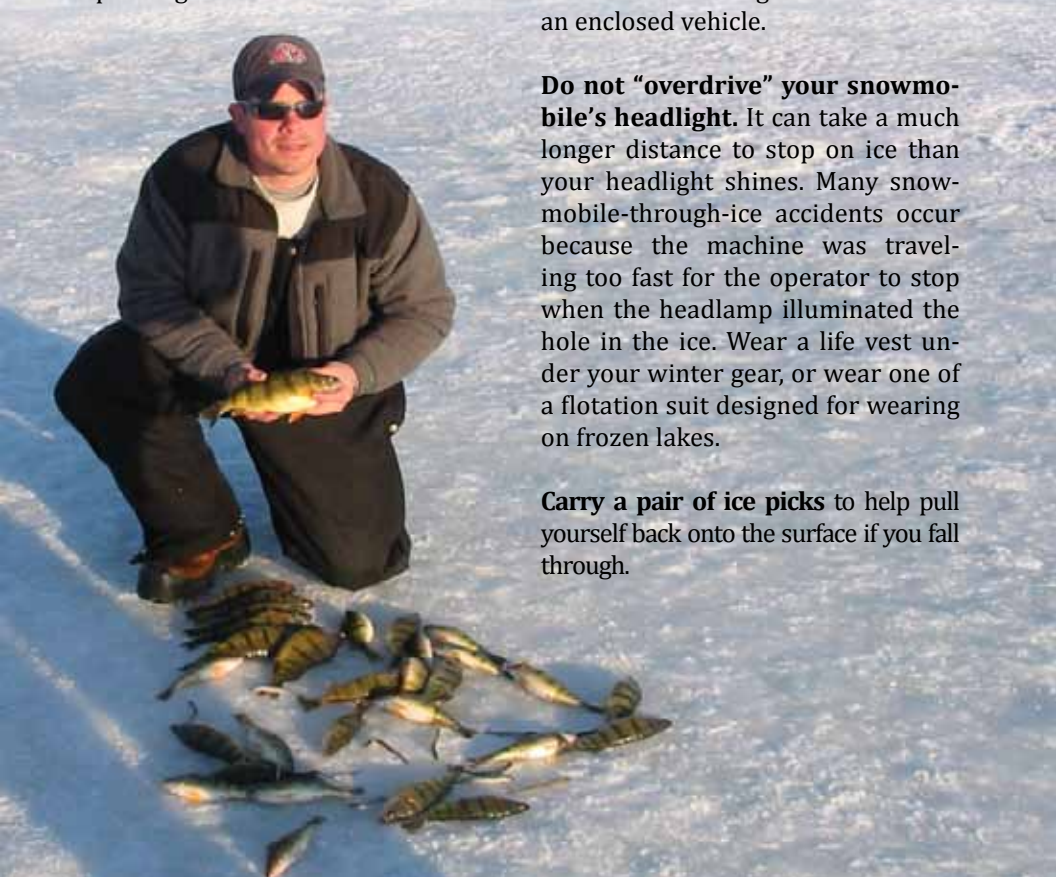
Ice on Lake Erie

Ohio's south shore sees ice fishing and across-ice snowmobiling, but there is no such thing as 100 percent safe ice. The following tips are useful for anyone who plays on water when it is frozen.

Check for known thin ice areas with a local resort, bait shop or professional ice fishing guide. Test the thickness of ice with a chisel, ice auger or even a cordless 1/4-inch drill with a long bit.

- 4 inches of new clear ice is the minimum thickness for travel on foot.
- 5 inches is minimum for snowmobiles and ATVs.
- 8 to 12 inches for cars or small trucks.

Refrain from driving on ice whenever possible. If you must drive a vehicle, be prepared to leave it in a hurry. Keep windows down, unbuckle your seat belt and have a simple emergency plan that you have discussed with your passengers. Do NOT wear a flotation device when traveling across the ice in an enclosed vehicle.



Do not "overdrive" your snowmobile's headlight. It can take a much longer distance to stop on ice than your headlight shines. Many snowmobile-through-ice accidents occur because the machine was traveling too fast for the operator to stop when the headlamp illuminated the hole in the ice. Wear a life vest under your winter gear, or wear one of a flotation suit designed for wearing on frozen lakes.

Carry a pair of ice picks to help pull yourself back onto the surface if you fall through.

Winter Activities

Lake Erie Public Access Site	Page	Sledding	Cross Country Skiing	Ice Fishing	Ice Skating	Ice Boating	Snowmobiling
East 55th Street Marina	238			*		*	
East Harbor State Park	60	*	*	*	*	*	*
Edgewater Park	228	*	*	*		*	
Euclid Beach Area	244			*		*	
Geneva State Park	302		*	*			*
Gordon Park	240			*		*	
Headlands Beach State Park	274	*	*				
Huntington Reservation	212	*	*	*			
Kelleys Island State Park	170		*	*	*		
Lakeview Park	186				*		
Maumee Bay State Park	40	*	*		*		
Metzger Marsh State Wildlife Area	45			*			
Pickerel Creek State Wildlife Area	101			*			
South Bass Island State Park	76			*	*		
South Shore Veterans Park	38	*					
Villa Angela Area	246			*		*	
Waterworks Park	52				*		
West Shore Ice Ramp – North	80			*		*	
West Shore Ice Ramp – South	80			*		*	
Wildwood Area	246			*		*	
Willow Point State Wildlife Area	104			*			