OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 28 – FISHERIES RESEARCH AND INTERSTATE COOPERATION

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO COOPERATE IN GREAT LAKES BASINWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT EFFORTS AND TO CONTINUALLY RESEARCH BETTER FISHERIES USE AND MANAGEMENT.

Authorities and Administration

ODNR, Division of Wildlife, coordinates closely with Canada, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York by working in conjunction with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the IJC, the Great Lakes Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other groups concerned with Lake Erie fishery management and rehabilitation. The commissions coordinate their efforts for the better development of fishery rehabilitation programs and management practices, including a process for consolidating and resolving issues.

The division also conducts extensive research on Lake Erie fisheries. Annual indices of fish population trends and sport and commercial fisheries harvests are developed by the division and are used to develop recommendations to allow a desirable fish community to reach its potential within existing environmental conditions. Such indices are prerequisites for determining the present status and future outlook of certain fish stocks. This comprehensive stock assessment program assists in determining research priorities and provides a means of evaluating the success of management strategies. The application of findings from these assessment surveys provides biologically sound harvest regulations for the sport and commercial fisheries.

The Great Lakes Toxic Substances Control Agreement calls for the issuance of uniform lakewide fish consumption advisories. This initiative has improved cooperation among state agencies involved with the issues of toxic pollutants in the environment and public health. The Directors of ODNR, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) agreed to identify additional surveillance, laboratory and related programs needed to effectively address these issues. An ad hoc committee from those departments was formed to recommend the types of fish tissue contaminant monitoring programs that are needed.