

Office of Coastal Management

Coastal management is a continuous dynamic process by which actions are taken for the sustainable use, development and protection of our shared coastal resources. In Ohio, coastal management's importance lies in Lake Erie, a socially, economically and environmentally significant natural resource.

Ohio's portion of the Lake Erie Watershed, 11,649 square miles, drains all or portions of 35 Ohio counties and is home to 4.65 million residents. An estimated 2.6 million people reside in Ohio's eight coastal counties; 3 million Ohioans tap Lake Erie as their source of daily drinking water.

Ohio's Lake Erie watershed includes large and small businesses and industries, world-class institutes of higher-education, welcoming communities, prime farmland, scenic rivers, lush forests, natural wetlands, growing sand dunes and thriving estuaries. According to 2008 study*, visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region spend \$10.7 billion annually. This includes the estimated impact of Ohio's Lake Erie sportfishing which was \$801 million in 2006**.

To help balance the uses of resources with sustaining a healthy environment, the ODNR Office of Coastal Management (OCM) administers the federally approved Ohio Coastal Management Program (OCMP). The program sets forth policies and guidelines to monitor activities that affect coastal resources and ensure resource protection while balancing economic, cultural and environmental interests for the benefit of all citizens and future generations. The Ohio Coastal Management Program Document can be downloaded from the Office of Coastal Management website: ohiodnr.com/coastal.



Our Activities Include:

- **Implementing laws, regulations and voluntary programs** to help achieve the goal of attaining and sustaining a healthy coast and lake by balancing use and conservation. OCM involvement includes reviewing applications for Coastal Erosion Area Permits, Shore Structure Permits, Submerged Land Leases and other regulatory authorities as outlined in Ohio Revised Code §1506 and Ohio Administrative Code §1501-6. OCM is also helping to draft rules for the placement offshore Lake Erie wind-powered electrical generation facilities.
- **Providing education and outreach** on topics including coastal resources, Lake Erie and Great Lakes ecosystems. One of OCM's more recent endeavors is a collaborative education program with the ODNR Division of Wildlife-Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Sea Grant College Program. To aid in Lake Erie-related education, together we have developed *Lake Erie Literacy Principles and Concepts* which outline basic information people should know about Ohio's shared fresh water resource. The goal is to provide people an easy way to understand Lake Erie and be able to take personal actions that create a healthier lake and watershed. **Learn more:** ohiodnr.com/LakeErieLiteracy
- **Administering grants to improve the coastal area.** The OCMP has awarded more than \$33.4 million in grants since the program was federally approved in 1997. Grants issued range from land acquisition from willing sellers to construction, planning, hazard mitigation and enhancing public access. Grants awarded to public access sites along Ohio's coast are mentioned in the site descriptions. Details about all grants awarded by the OCMP are found on the OCM website by selecting "Grants" in the top navigation.
- **With our partners, promoting effective management, protection and restoration of Ohio's coastal resources.** OCM coordinates with and seeks support from agencies and groups at the local, state and federal levels as well as internationally. Efforts include extensive mapping of the Lake Erie Watershed, land-use planning, erosion management planning, and coordination of groups working to improve Lake Erie and the watershed.

* *Lake Erie Region Tourism Economic Impact Study, Tourism Economics* through Ohio Department of Development, 2008.

** *Economic Impact of Great Lakes Fishing by State in 2006* (revised in 2008) by the American Sportfishing Association.