

Ohio Marine Trades Association
and Government Advantage Group

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SEPTMBER 2025



Walleye as the State Fish

OMTA continues to lend formal support for the State to designate the walleye as the state fish. [House Bill 312](#) from Representatives Sean Brennen and DJ Swearingen had a proponent hearing on September 30th. In addition to OMTA, supporters include Shores and Islands, the Toledo Walleye and Mud Hens, the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau, the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, and others. The Arts, Athletics, and Tourism Committee was even treated to in-person testimony from the Spike and Wylie Walleye, mascots for the Toledo Walleye Hockey team and the city of Port Clinton, respectively.

Governor Appointments

OMTA is pleased to announce two important appointments.

OMTA Chairman Gary Tennefoss has been formally appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to serve on the Waterways Safety Council.

Ed Alf, from Sea Ray of Cincinnati, has been recommended to serve on the Ohio Rivers Commission. This newly created body will, among other things, develop a master plan for the Ohio River infrastructure and transportation projects.

Ohio EPA Rule Change

The Ohio EPA has proposed a change to Administrative Code Section [3745-42-02](#) regarding NPDES permits (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit). The rule, as proposed, would create a small exemption for boat washing stations under certain circumstances. In order to be exempt from the requirement, the following conditions must be met:

- Wastewater is disposed of at a publicly owned treatment works or a commercial wastewater treatment works with an effective NPDES permit.
- The system is located upland to prevent flooding.
- Installation of an impervious wash pad meets certain conditions.

A public hearing was held on the rule on September 25, 2025. Next, it will go before JCARR for a final review.

Boating Event A Success!

OMTA was pleased to sponsor a boating event in conjunction with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce's policy conference at Sawmill Creek. We were able to host nearly 20 lawmakers, as well as numerous Ohio business leaders. The rain stayed at bay, and our boating hosts were able to take attendees to Put-In-Bay and back. On the island, attendees could explore and then congregated at a reception at the Keys before departing back to Sandusky.

The House's proposal was more encompassing and looked more like a traditional capital bill. The House included the following earmarks of interest to OMTA. We expect the House and Senate to come together on a final spending plan before breaking for the summer.

SEPTEMBER 2025

The feedback from the legislators was tremendous, and OMTA was able to showcase the beauty, fun, and importance of the water economy. OMTA was sure to personally follow up with all of the lawmakers in attendance to express our gratitude for participating and to share a bit more about our priorities for the recreational boating industry.