

Ohio Marine Trades Association
and Government Advantage Group

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JANUARY 2026



WSC Meetings

ODNR has announced the 2026 Waterways Safety Council Meeting dates and times. They are: March 25th, 9am, June 10th, 9am, August 19th, 9am and, December 2nd, 9am.

Controlling Board Requests

These ODNR item below will be in front of the Controlling Board on January 12th for approval.

DNR0106224

The Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests a waiver of competitive selection in the amount of \$48,811.00 for FY 2026 in fund 5140, ALI 725606 (Lake Erie Shoreline) with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to fund the State of Ohio's portion of the Non-Federal Cost Share for the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study (GLCRS).

DNR0106244

The Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests Controlling Board approval for an agency released competitive opportunity in the amount of \$588,236.00 which includes \$500,000.00 from Fund 3P30, ALI 725650 (REAL ESTATE AND LAND MANAGEMENT - FED) and \$88,236.00 from Fund 5140, ALI 725606 (LAKE ERIE SHORELINE) in FY 2026 to contract with Schooley Caldwell Associates, Inc. to provide professional services at Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve Visitor Center located in Huron, Ohio in Erie County.

House Bill 636

[HB 636](#) has been introduced by Representative Mark Johnson which would require certain disclosures, allow consumer choice concerning the use of aftermarket motor vehicle parts, to require the offering of coverage for original equipment manufacturer parts.

ODNR Rules

OMTA has reviewed two rule proposals from ODNR regarding Apple Valley Lake (Knox County) and Lake Roaming Rock (Ashtabula County). These rules create wake boarding restrictions. According to the rule summary, the amendments bring the rules in line with local regulations. In addition to wake boarding restrictions, the rule for Lake Roaming Rock also would prohibit sleeping on your watercraft overnight. These rules have a public hearing schedule for February 19th at 2pm.

OMTA Comments to Ohio EPA

OMTA submitted comments to the Ohio EPA with concerns on a proposal to issue a general NPDES permits for data center wastewater discharges. OMTA advocated that each permit be evaluated and considered independently. We want to ensure each permit is reviewed to evaluate and impacts on Ohio's water quality.

WorkOhio Launched

Ohio Lt. Governor Jim Tressel launched his statewide [WorkOhio](#) Kickoff Tour in Cincinnati, highlighting a new

initiative designed to connect Ohioans with in-demand local jobs through personalized, regionally based support. The program brings together Regional Job Hubs and trusted Community Connector organizations to help job seekers access career guidance, training, and employment opportunities tailored to their goals. Hosted by the Cincinnati Regional Chamber's Workforce Innovation Center, the event underscored WorkOhio's focus on leveraging local expertise to strengthen the workforce ecosystem across Southwest Ohio and the state.

ODNR Fish Stocking Update

In 2025, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife stocked more than 36 million fish representing 11 species at 233 locations across Ohio to support and enhance fishing opportunities for the state's 827,000 licensed anglers. Using six state fish hatcheries, ODNR raised and stocked fish at various life stages from fry to catchable size including saugeye, walleye, trout, catfish, and bluegill, primarily to supplement waters where natural reproduction is limited. While most Ohio fisheries are sustained through natural spawning, targeted stocking, such as sterile saugeye in Grand Lake St. Marys, helps diversify and expand angling opportunities. These efforts are supported in part by the federal Sport Fish Restoration program, which provides dedicated funding for fish production, habitat, research, and public access.

ODNR Rule Review

The Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Watercraft, plus the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves have filed a large package of rules. All of the rules of interest to OMTA were filed without any changes proposed. However, while the rules are out for review, we are able to provide feedback if we think changes are warranted.

These rules include:

- [1501:17-5-10](#) - Boating prohibited; exceptions
- [1501:46-2-08](#) Vessel mooring fees
- [1501:46-12-03](#) Subleasing, transfer, assignment, or unauthorized use of dock prohibited
- [1501:46-12-09](#) Securing of stored watercraft
- [1501:46-12-10](#) Boat docking restrictions
- [1501:46-12-15](#) Removal of watercraft
- [1501:47-3-37](#) Unlimited horsepower at no-wake speed
- [1501:47-7-17](#) Lakengren lakes, Preble county

News to Peruse

[Great Lakes shippers criticize U.S. Coast Guard for ice-breaking delays](#)

[FirstEnergy bribery scheme sank Lake Erie offshore wind, lawsuit says](#)

[Two Ohio wildlife areas approved for oil and gas drilling bids](#)

[Lake Erie freezing rapidly: See how fast](#)

[Lawmakers fear Ohio EPA's proposed data center permit could harm Lake Erie](#)