

Ohio Marine Trades Association
and Government Advantage Group

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

APRIL 2026



House and Senate Recess

Both the House and Senate have recessed and will not return until after the May 5th primary. The Senate does have a session currently scheduled for Mid-April, however it is uncertain if that session will be needed or cancelled.

Due to them being on recess, we are not expecting any significant legislative activity until after the primary has concluded and the chambers return to session in Mid-May.

ODNR Online Boater Education Course for Boat Rentals

ODNR has officially filed a new version of Rule 1501:47-1-15 to allow the on-line completion of the boater education course for boat rentals. OMTA previously submitted comments on a draft version of this rule supporting the change. All information on this rule can be found [here](#). A public hearing is scheduled for May 6th at 2pm.

April 14th Columbus Meeting

On Tuesday April 14th, Michelle joined Amanda and RJ in Columbus to meeting with Senators and senior policy staff to discuss OMTA's priority issues and work to advance our members legislative objectives.

The Senate officially recessed in doing so joined the House and will not be in session again until after the May 5th primary.

On Thursday April 16th a statewide coalition announced it will begin educating voters in a bid to stave off a potential November ballot issue that could eliminate property taxes. Ohioans to Protect Public Services is a coalition made up of 65 organizations (and counting) with bipartisan representation from police, fire, emergency medical personnel, educators and to note the Ohio Travel Association is also signed on.

News to Peruse

Lake Erie Daily Limits Announced For 2026 Fishing Season

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Lake Erie anglers can expect the 2026 season to again offer world-class fishing, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. As walleye from Lake Erie’s recent large hatches continue to grow, anglers can expect even more “Fish Ohio” sized walleyes to be caught in The Walleye Capital of the World. A Lake Erie “Fish Ohio” walleye is a fish measuring 28 inches or more in length.

Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch 2026 quotas were announced by the Lake Erie Committee on Friday, March 27. All angler daily harvest limits remain unchanged in Ohio for 2026 and will be in effect through April 30, 2027. Yellow perch populations continue to struggle in most of Lake Erie, however a stable yellow perch population in Lake Erie’s west zone should provide good fishing in 2026.

Ohio’s Lake Erie Angler Daily Limits (May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027)

- Walleye: 6 fish per day, 15-inch minimum length requirement
- Yellow perch, west zone (approximately Toledo to Huron): 30 fish per day
- Yellow Perch, central zone (approximately Huron to Fairport Harbor): 10 fish per day
- Yellow Perch, east zone (approximately Fairport Harbor to Conneaut): 20 fish per day

Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch fisheries are managed through an interagency quota system. Each jurisdiction regulates its catches with annually determined harvest levels that ensure sustainability.

Walleye

Angler harvest rates set a new record high in 2025, and exceptional fishing is expected again in 2026. Above-average hatch success in eight of the past 11 years has sustained an abundant lake-wide population of walleye, and fish from the large 2015 year-class will provide trophy opportunities in upcoming seasons.

Yellow perch

Recent years have provided seasonally and regionally variable angling success for yellow perch. In 2026, the best fishing is expected in July and August in the west zone, where more consistent hatch success has resulted in better angling opportunities. Ohio’s central and east zones have both experienced low angler catch rates, as below-average hatches have resulted in decreased abundance. In the central and east zones, the best opportunities to catch limits are late in the fall near harbors as large adult perch migrate inshore to find baitfish

[Outdoors: Friend’s timely action helped with overboard angler on Maumee](#)

[EPA flags microplastics, pharmaceuticals as contaminants in drinking water](#)

[ARPA-H launches groundbreaking, \\$144 million program to combat toxic microplastics in the human body](#)

[In northwest Ohio, Ramaswamy, McColley tout H2Ohio for Lake Erie](#)

[Ohio economists: Water-quality bonds good for public health, uncertain about other benefits](#)

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awards contract for Cleveland Harbor dredging](#)

[Why Ohio is urging Congress to renew Great Lakes funding before this critical September deadline](#)

[Historic Cleveland lighthouse back up for grabs](#)

[Don’t Let Spring Sunshine Fool You: Ohio Waters Remain Cold](#)