



2011

ANNUAL REPORT

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Watercraft

John R. Kasich, Governor • James Zehringer, Director • Rodger M. Norcross, Chief

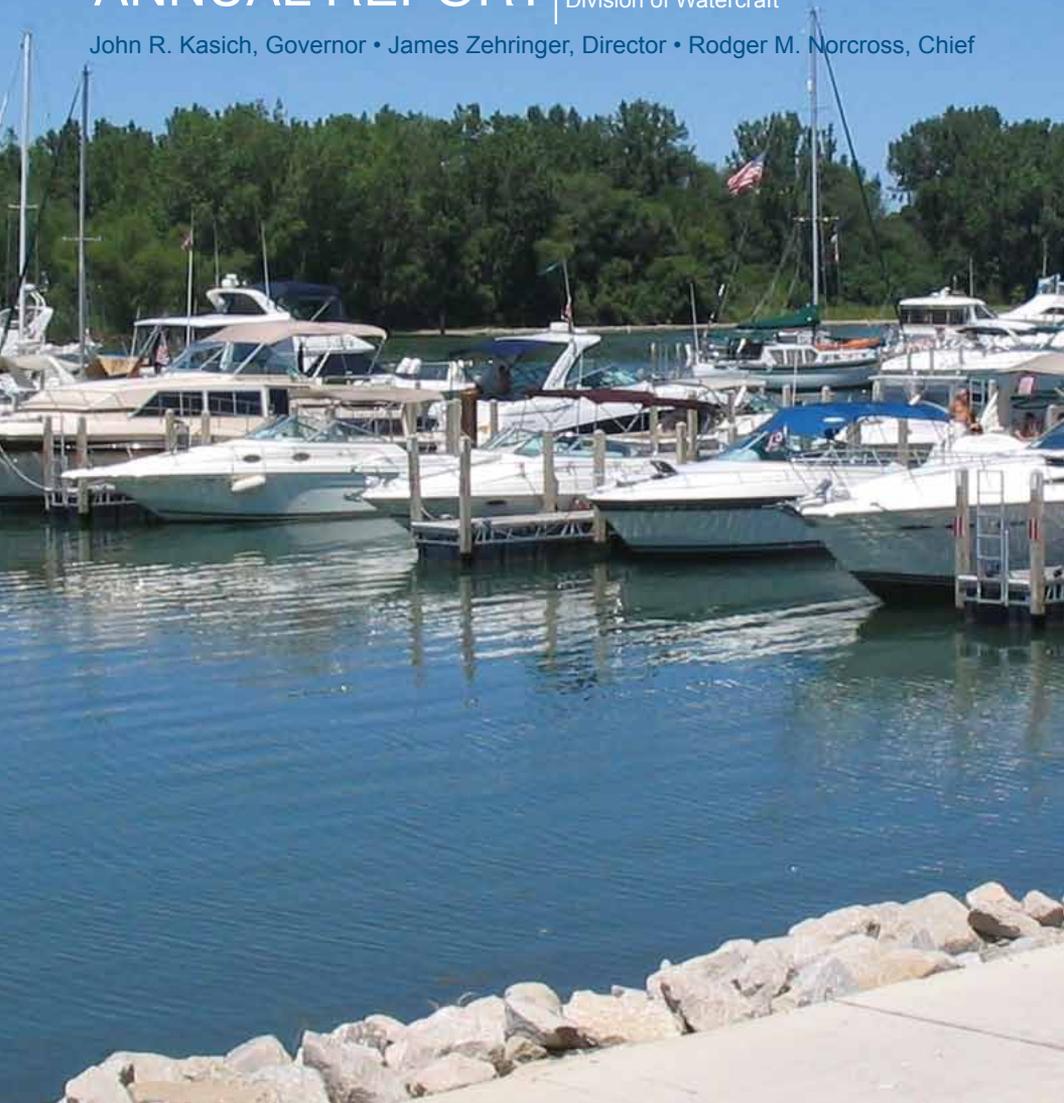


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Mission:

The Division of Watercraft shall provide the finest boating services, facilities, protection, and education for users of Ohio’s waterways through the innovative and wise use of our resources.



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Message from the Chief

With the close of 2011, I want to take a moment to recognize all Division of Watercraft employees for their continued commitment to providing Ohio's boaters with quality customer service and programs. From the front-desk staff providing registrations, to the officers on the water, to the support staff and management behind the scenes, the Division continues to shine as a result of everyone's team effort.



With a record number of 426,674 registered boats in 2011, Ohio continues to rank 9th in the country with regard to registered vessels. Ohio has a wide variety of beautiful boating venues that offer diverse recreational opportunities.

In 2012, the Division will turn its focus inward to consider improvements to our management practices and look at ways to streamline these processes in order to further improve our quality of service. To ensure that our services to the public remain at the highest level of quality, we will closely examine areas within the Division to determine what needs attention and focus our efforts on continuous improvement.

The Division will explore innovative ways to maintain sufficient staffing levels so we can continue to provide quality customer service, education, and conscientious management to Ohio Boaters.

Sincerely,
Rodger M. Norcross, Chief
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Watercraft

Administrative Updates

The Division of Watercraft has 164 full-time, 12 part-time, and 21 intermittent employees. Commissioned staff focus on the public safety aspect of boating, while remaining staff provide updated boating facilities, programming, regulatory, and administrative services such as registration, titling, and grant program oversights. Agency staff oversee all field operations and administrative functions of the Division.

Law enforcement staff include 19 supervisors, 47 full-time watercraft officers/officer specialists, and seven watercraft investigators who enforce Ohio's boating laws, provide education programs, and investigate boating-related accidents. The Division hired 28 watercraft officer cadets who began a portion of their training in fall 2011 that continues throughout 2012.

Significant changes within the Division of Watercraft during 2011:

- Deputy Chief Rodger Norcross was promoted to Chief, replacing Pam Dillon who retired.
- Registration and Titling Section Manager Rick Barrera was promoted to Deputy Chief, replacing Bill McGarity who retired.
- Law Enforcement Training Coordinator Karen Muench was promoted to Deputy Chief, replacing Rodger Norcross who was promoted.
- Investigator Carl Vance was promoted to area supervisor of the Scioto County office, replacing Dean Palmer who retired.
- Investigator Andy Hollenback was promoted to area supervisor of the Alum Creek office in Delaware County.

Waterways Safety Council

The Waterways Safety Council is an important advocate for recreational boating. The council includes five members who are appointed by the Governor to five-year terms to act in an advisory capacity to the Division of Watercraft Chief and represent industry, educational, and recreational aspects of boating.



Current members are (left to right) Dan Mullens of Sciotoville, J. Thomas Pascoe (Chairman) of Sandusky, Chad Taylor of Wilmington, Doug McLarnan of Gambier, and John Onacila Jr. (Vice Chair) of Cleveland.

Waterways Safety Fund

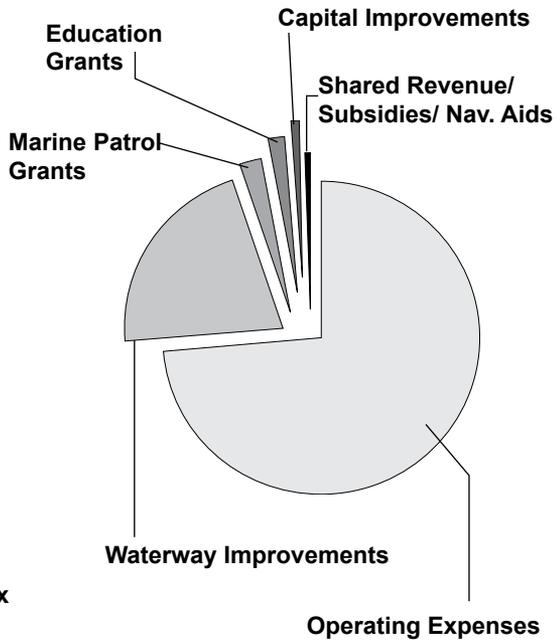
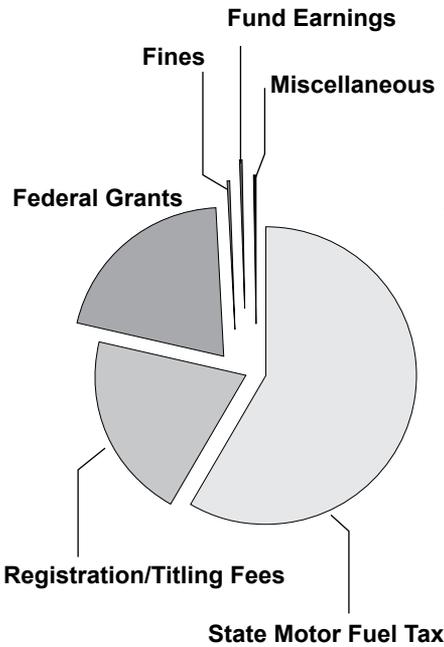
The Division of Watercraft is funded through the Waterways Safety Fund. The fund represents boating dollars and was created by the 101st General Assembly in 1955. The Waterways Safety Fund is the sole mechanism used to finance Division operations, payrolls, grant programs, and other state boating programs. The fund comprises a share of the state motor vehicle fuel tax (0.875 percent), watercraft registration and titling fees, federal grants, account interest, and fines.

Revenues:

State Motor Fuel Tax	\$15,461,114
Registration/Titling Fees	5,416,994
Federal Grants.....	5,406,669
Fines.....	72,341
Fund Earnings	65,476
Miscellaneous.....	54,676
Total Revenue	\$26,477,270

Expenditures:

Operating Expenses	\$17,833,524
Waterway Improvements*	5,116,679
Marine Patrol Grants	573,833
Education Grants.....	366,643
Capital Improvements.....	190,588
Shared Revenue/Subsidies/ Navigational Aids	112,129
Total Expenditures	\$24,193,396



*Dredging support to Division of Parks & Recreation

Surveys

The Division of Watercraft continues to use input from the public to better understand our constituents and their expectations. In 2011, the Division received the latest set of data from the Survey of Recreational Boater Safety and Participation in Ohio, a triennial customer satisfaction survey completed in conjunction with Ohio Sea Grant. Information from this survey and correlating information from prior surveys will be used to provide direction to managers and staff with the goal of improving programs and services to better meet the needs of Ohio's boating public.

Several items of note in this survey:

- The average 2011 Ohio boating household owns 2.2 boats; the average boat is 18.5 feet long and has, on average, 140 horsepower.
- The average Ohio boater has over 14 years of education and an average of almost 30 years of boating experience.
- Approximately 80% of all respondents indicated that they felt "Safe" or "Very Safe" on the water.
- The average respondent was "Satisfied" with the services provided by the Division of Watercraft with regard to registration and titling questions and the number of days required to receive their boat registration renewal.

Registration and Titling

The Registration and Titling Section serves as Ohio's repository and historic reference for all boat registrations issued since 1960. It provides boat information to the general public, registration agents, boat owners, boat dealers, and law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio and the United States including private businesses, U.S. Coast Guard, Ohio Clerks of Court, and other states.

Registration functions include overseeing the sale of all watercraft registrations statewide (mail renewals; internet renewals; traditional, historical, documented, temporary, and alternative registrations). The section also is responsible for entering, auditing, and maintaining all records of registered boats stored in the Watercraft Information System (WIS), the issuance of veteran registrations, dealer and livery licenses, collection of revenue from registration sales, and coordination of agents who sell watercraft registrations statewide.

Titling functions include correcting, updating, and auditing all watercraft and outboard motor titles issued by the County Clerks of Court title offices, in addition to providing information and direction regarding the issuance of watercraft and outboard motor titles.

The Registration and Titling Section further tested a pilot program allowing the web-based sales of registrations by five contract agents, successfully completing 371 registrations from August through October 2011. Web-based sales were made available to all contract agents in December 2011.

Accomplishments

- Renewed a record 16,635 registrations via the internet.
- Renewed 38,178 registrations via mail renewal.
- Maintained a two- to four-day turnaround for processing internet and mail renewals.
- Issued 2,604 Hull Identification Numbers.
- Seven new watercraft registration agents:

Ashtabula County	Ashtabula License Bureau, Ashtabula
Hamilton County	Western Hills License Bureau, Cincinnati
Knox County	Knox County Title Department, Mt. Vernon
Mahoning County	Union Square License Bureau, Youngstown
Medina County	Wadsworth License Bureau, Wadsworth
Summit County	Barberton License Bureau, Barberton
Wood County	Wood County Title Department, Bowling Green

Registration and Titling Statistics

Total Registered Boats	426,674
Total Registered Livery Boats.....	6,436
Telephone Calls Handled.....	52,356
Hull Identification Numbers Issued	2,604
Registrations Entered	85,736
Mail Renewals Processed	38,178
E-Renewals Processed	16,635
Titles Entered	47,636
Titles Audited	80,052

Canoe/Kayak Registrations

Paddlesports remain among the fastest growing of all outdoor recreation activities. The number of Ohio-registered canoes and kayaks has more than doubled from 46,514 in 2001 to 97,693 in 2011 – an increase of 110%. The Division of Watercraft also reports that the number of watercraft (mostly canoes and kayaks) included in commercial livery registrations increased from 5,282 in 2001 to 6,436 in 2011.

Resource Planning

Water Trails

In 2011, the Division of Watercraft received applications to designate 28 miles of the Mohican River in Knox County and 23 miles of the Mahoning River in Trumbull County as Ohio Water Trails. State designation will promote and educate users on waterways accessible to recreational paddlers, fishermen, and wildlife watchers. The Ohio Water Trails Program partners with local sponsors to establish a network of waterway trails across Ohio to increase awareness of and participation in boating and to provide/improve waterway access. These projects are a coordinated effort between the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Knox County Park District, and Trumbull County Metro Parks.

Cooperative Boating Facility Grants

The Division of Watercraft works with local, state, and federal agencies and conservancy districts to provide funding assistance through the Waterways Safety Fund for recreational boating public access projects statewide. Ohio boaters enjoy free parking and boat launching access at hundreds of public sites statewide including most of Ohio's 75 state parks. From 1998 through 2011, the Division of Watercraft awarded nearly \$40 million to local communities through the Cooperative Boating Facility Grant Program to renovate, repair, and construct public boating access facilities statewide.

2011 Completed Projects

County	Project Name	Amount
Clermont	Village of New Richmond Augusta St. Boat Launch	\$113,984
Columbiana	Guilford Lake State Park Lake Ramp / Dock Lighting.....	30,000
Delaware	Alum Creek State Park Howard Road Boarding Docks ..	125,000
Delaware	Delaware State Park Main Launch.....	100,000
Fulton	Harrison Lake State Park Public Boat Launch	242,752
Harrison	MWCD Tappan Lake Boat Ramp	400,000
Jackson/Vinton	Lake Alma State Park.....	60,000
Lorain	Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail Canoe/Kayak Access(4).....	65,865
Mahoning	Lake Milton State Park Courtesy Docks.....	355,570
Miami	Great Miami River Canoe/Kayak Access	125,700
Preble	Hueston Woods State Park Boat Ramp Restroom	100,000
Summit	Portage Lakes State Park Nimisila Ramp Renovation....	175,000
Tuscarawas	Village of Gnadenhutten Boat Ramp Area Improvement ..	89,838
Vinton	Lake Hope State Park Boat Launch Ramp	131,000
Washington	Wayne National Forest Frontier Boat Ramp	2,247,055
	Total.....	\$4,361,764

Ohio Clean Marinas Program

The Division of Watercraft and ODNR are supporting partners in the Ohio Clean Marinas Program. This program is designed to encourage marinas and boaters to use simple, innovative solutions to keep Ohio's coastal and inland waterways clean. It also educates marina operators and pleasure boaters about environmental laws, rules and jurisdictions. In 2011, there were 37 certified Ohio Clean Marinas with 32 additional facilities across the Lake Erie region pledged to attain their Clean Marina certification. For more information, go online: www.ohioseagrant.osu.edu/cleanmarinas

Clean Vessel Act Grant (CVA)

Eligible CVA grant activities encompass the construction and renovation of pump-out and sanitary dump stations, including floating restrooms or other structures that are not connected to land. Eligible grant activities also include processes necessary to hold and transport sewage to treatment plants such as holding tanks, plumbing, and bleed-ion facilities.

Completed CVA Projects	Location	Amount
Whiskey Island Marina	Lake Erie (Cleveland)	\$9,300
Blennerhasset Yacht Club	Ohio River.....	8,300
	Total	\$17,600

Navigational Aids Grants

Buoys and signs to mark Ohio’s waterways are provided to political subdivisions at no charge through the Division of Watercraft Navigational Aids Grants Program.

Agency	Amount
ODNR Division of Parks & Recreation	\$35,094
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	6,664
ODNR Division of Wildlife	4,994
Conneaut Port Authority	4,500
Miami Conservancy District	2,380
Five Rivers Metro Parks	1,190
City of Perrysburg	833
Total	\$55,655

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

The BIG program is offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the Division of Watercraft to construct, renovate, and maintain transient facilities for use by recreational boats 26 feet and longer, and to produce and distribute information about the program.

In 2011, the Division continued to work on projects across Ohio including these projects currently in the engineering design or construction phases:

Put-In-Bay Transient Marina	\$2,200,000
North Coast Transient Harbor, Cleveland	1,450,000
Vermilion Port Authority	100,000
Total	\$3,750,000

Scenic Rivers

The Scenic Rivers Program facilitates the protection of 14 designated wild, scenic, and recreational river systems across the State of Ohio. This includes 24 different stream segments totaling 800 river miles. The most recent river system designated was the Ashtabula River in October 2008. The Scenic Rivers Program is also responsible for the management of 2,314 acres of ODNR owned and protected “Scenic River Lands” as well as 3,650 acres of private land protected under conservation easements.

In 2011, the Division completed a Scenic Rivers Program strategic plan and fully integrated it into the Division of Watercraft Strategic Plan.

Late in 2011, independent filmmaker Tom Mayor of West Milton completed a 90-minute documentary titled “Call of the Scenic River – An Ohio Journey” on the Scenic Rivers Program. The film was premiered at several different venues in the major metropolitan areas of Ohio in 2012 and will be available for distribution. The film provides a good overview of the Scenic Rivers Program, river conservation, river ecology, river threats, and protection efforts and includes participation from the Division of Watercraft.

Major projects reviewed in 2011 that will continue into 2012 include removal of the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River in Sandusky County, Vrooman Road bridge replacement over the Grand River in Lake County, Harpersfield Dam repair on the Grand River in Lake County, State Route 315 slippage/slope failure adjacent to the Olentangy River in Delaware County, Hamilton Deerfield interconnecting waterline impacting the Little Miami River in Warren County, and the West Milton Dam removal on the Stillwater River in Miami County.

Northeast Ohio Scenic Rivers staff completed a watershed management plan for the Ashtabula State Scenic River. The development of this watershed plan was funded by a three-year NOAA grant, administered through the ODNR Office of Coastal Zone Management, which concluded June 30, 2011.

Rivers Unlimited came forward with an effort to complete a Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Study for the Mad River in Champaign, Clark, Greene, Logan, and Montgomery counties. Support for possible designation of sections of the Mad River has existed for several years. Rivers Unlimited is proposing to secure funding and facilitate the completion of a study with local partners working under Scenic River Program guidelines.

The purchase of a 219-acre property along the Little Darby Creek State and National Scenic River in Madison County was completed in January 2011 for \$875,000 through a Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority. This WRRSP grant provided up to \$1,788,000 of which approximately \$1,584,295 has been spent to protect 394 acres along the Little Darby Creek. Another 12 acres were protected along the Little Darby Creek through the donation of a conservation easement from the Battelle Memorial Institute.

In addition to the protection of these properties, the Scenic Rivers Program also worked with the Columbiana County Park District to complete the protection of 94 acres through a conservation easement along the West Fork of the Little Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River in Columbiana County.

Scenic Rivers Stream Quality Monitoring

	Workshops	Participants	Monitored Sites	SQM Samples	Reference Sites
Central	12	1100	45	190	32
Northeast	10	1821	51	199	30
Northwest	10	1128	14	132	15
Southwest	10	900	26	78	10

Stream Quality Monitoring Program volunteers helped teach workshops and collect scenic river data that provides baseline river health information. Ohio was the first state to use volunteer data in state water quality reports.

Public Information & Education

Boating Education and Events

The Division of Watercraft enjoyed participation in a diversity of community events including safety fairs, marine industry trade shows, education programs, dedications, community forums, and much more.

Number of Boater Safety Education Certificates Issued

Classroom

Division of Watercraft.....	1,696
OBEC Taught by Others (non-ODNR).....	1,132
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	461
U.S. Power Squadrons	392

Online

BoatED	5,615
BoaterExam	2,175
BoatUS Foundation	1,004

Home Study.....	1,158
Total	13,633

2011 Boating Safety Education Grants

The Waterways Safety Fund provides financial assistance to support community boating safety education and boating skills programs. In 2011, a total of \$362,938 in grants was awarded to 25 program recipients statewide. The Division of Watercraft has provided more than \$3.8 million over the past decade to support diverse boating education programs in dozens of Ohio communities.

County	Grantee	Award
Ashland	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.....	\$ 6,292.00
Ashtabula	Ashtabula County Educational Services.....	11,753.00
Athens	Ohio University	25,802.00
Butler	Miami University	13,867.00
Butler	Great Miami Rowing Center	9,305.54
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Metroparks.....	28,424.00
Cuyahoga	Bay Village Schools	10,063.57
Cuyahoga	Berea Power Squadron	19,199.37
Cuyahoga	Rocky River Power Squadron	19,843.00
Cuyahoga	Greater Cleveland Safety Council	23,540.15
Franklin	YMCA of Central Ohio	12,305.69
Franklin	Simon Kenton Council, Boy Scouts of America	20,571.67
Geauga	Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland	7,282.00
Hamilton	Cincinnati Recreation Commission.....	9,790.00
Hamilton	Ohio River Way, Inc.	14,516.00
Lake	Lake Metroparks.....	13,016.73
Lake	City of Mentor	9,141.00
Lake	Spirit of America Foundation	22,150.00
Lake	Mentor Firefighter's Historical Association	27,900.00
Logan	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 68	5,464.90
Lorain	Educational Service Center of Lorain County.....	11,195.00
Richland	Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors, Inc.....	3,303.00
Richland	Mansfield Power Squadron	5,975.63
Summit	Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America.....	2,236.75
Summit	Akron Power Squadron	30,000.00
	Total	\$362,938.00

Courses Taught By Watercraft Officers

	Courses	Audience
Boating Safety Presentations	189	21,140
Ohio Boating Education Course (OBEC).....	131	1,832
Assisted US Power Squadrons and USGA	107	1,086
Canoeing	41	774
Kayaking.....	31	3,965
Sailing.....	3	90
Other Certified Courses.....	6	101
Powerboating.....	7	129
PWC	2	52
Water Rescue	1	34

Totals are through 10/31/2011.

Courses Taught By Education Grant Recipients

	Classes	Students
Adaptive Paddling.....	5	35
Advanced Courses	18	124
Canoeing	143	2,048
Kayaking.....	203	5,432
Ohio Boater Education Course.....	37	609
Power Boating	35	467
Presentations.....	28	5,866
PWC	19	365
Sailing.....	42	486
Small Craft.....	72	6,383
Stand Up Paddleboard	32	183
Adaptive Paddling Instructor.....	1	12
Canoeing Instructor	1	11
Kayaking Instructor.....	2	22
Sailing Instructor.....	1	12

Volunteer Program

Volunteers are an integral part of the Division of Watercraft and contributed 1,724 hours in 2011. They taught sailing, canoeing, river rescue, and assisted with various fairs and festivals including boat shows and the Ohio State Fair.

Media Outreach

The Division of Watercraft aired a series of public boating safety messages on broadcast stations around Ohio. These safety awareness messages focused attention on the importance of properly wearing a life jacket and staying sober while boating. The Division produced and distributed over 100 news releases, weekly boating reports, and media advisories in addition to conducting over 300 media interviews statewide sharing information on various boating topics.

Wear It Ohio!

The Division of Watercraft conducted its 2011 Wear It Ohio! life jacket awareness campaign May through July with a total of 17 events collectively held at Alum Creek, Caesar Creek, East Fork, and Portage Lakes state parks. A total of 724 new inflatable life jackets were loaned in 2011 to boaters ages 18 and older who signed the Wear It Ohio pledge and agreed to support the awareness program. Since the program began in 2008, the Division of Watercraft has loaned more than 2,300 new inflatable life jackets to Ohio boaters.

Ohio State Fair July 27-August 7, 2011

A total of 3,812 young and old state fair patrons enjoyed the Division's kayak pond, for a daily average of 318 participants. Seventeen sessions were scheduled each day, and Saturday, July 30, saw the largest number of participants with 381 paddlers.

The kayak pond measures over 7,000 square feet with approximately 52,000 gallons of water. The 2012 Ohio State Fair will be held July 25-August 5 and features the kayak pond for the fifth consecutive year. For many fairgoers, the kayak pond has served as their first on-water paddling experience.

Law Enforcement/Search and Rescue

The Division of Watercraft continues to protect our Lake Erie international northern border working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Additional law enforcement responsibilities include addressing security concerns on Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and inland waterways during presidential, vice presidential, and diplomatic visits to Ohio. Watercraft officers and their supervisors worked with the Department of Homeland Security and other state and local enforcement agencies to participate in tactical security exercises to enhance public safety.

The Division continued to aggressively enforce laws to remove alcohol- and drug-impaired boaters from state waterways and participated in state and national media campaigns such as “Get On Board With A Sober Boater” and “Operation Dry Water.” These programs help educate boaters on the dangers of alcohol and drugs while boating and guide enforcement agencies on state waterways to unify patrol efforts. In 2011, state watercraft officers contacted more than 65,000 boaters resulting in 120 arrests for boating while intoxicated. Also included were 67 drug arrests and more than 225 citations for other alcohol and drug-related violations.

2011 State Watercraft Officer Statistics (9/26/10 - 9/24/11)

Number of Officers	47
Contacts Made	66,185
Property Saved	\$9,976
Lives Saved	15
OUI Arrests	120
Accidents Investigated.....	127
Written Inspections	9,810
Abbreviated Inspections	9,767
Livery Checks	54
Assists	348
Fatalities	14

2011 Marine Patrol Assistance Grants

Annually, the Division of Watercraft provides financial assistance from the Waterways Safety Fund in support of community marine law enforcement programs to help enhance waterway safety.

In 2011, a total of \$573,832 was distributed to 28 local law enforcement agencies in support of their marine patrol units. The Division has provided more than \$5.5 million in boating dollars over the past decade to support marine law enforcement activities in dozens of Ohio communities.

County	Agency	Amount
Various	ODNR Division of Parks & Recreation.....	\$ 46,637.63
Butler	Butler County Sheriff's Office.....	16,655.17
Cuyahoga	Rocky River Police Marine Patrol	25,706.90
Erie	Huron Police Harbor Patrol.....	19,374.00
Erie	Kelley's Island Police Marine Patrol.....	9,775.86
Erie	Vermilion Police Marine Patrol.....	21,724.14
Franklin	Columbus Police, Marine Park Unit	22,448.28
Hamilton	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol	16,293.10
Knox	Office of the Knox County Sheriff	18,646.55
Lake	Lake County Sheriff Marine Patrol.....	23,534.48
Lawrence	Lawrence County Sheriff's Department	16,474.14
Lorain	Lorain Port Authority	23,896.55
Lucas	Lucas County Sheriff's Office	20,275.86
Mahoning	Berlin Lake Marine Patrol	18,051.51
Montgomery	Five Rivers Metro Parks	15,209.27
Ottawa	Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.....	32,000.00
Ottawa	Port Clinton Harbor Patrol.....	16,836.21
Ottawa	Put-In-Bay Police Department	22,991.38
Pickaway	Pickaway County Sheriff's Office.....	14,482.76
Portage	Portage County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol	20,793.00
Richland	City of Mansfield, Clear Fork Reservoir Police	22,810.34
Ross	Ross County Sheriff's Marine Patrol.....	18,827.59
Sandusky	Sandusky County Sheriff's Marine Patrol	16,293.10
Scioto	Scioto County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol.....	19,551.72
Summit	Summit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol	28,965.52
Tuscarawas	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	32,000.00
Wood	Perrysburg Township Police	13,577.59
	Total	\$573,832.65

Awards

The following recognitions were received in 2011 for exceptional achievement and dedication:

- The Division of Watercraft received the Marinas and Harbors Award from the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA). The award recognizes Watercraft's efforts leading to the design and construction of a new state park marina on Middle Bass Island in Lake Erie's western basin. Recognition was for the scope of design and complexity that utilized effective engineering principles, innovative designs and use of updated safety and accessibility standards resulting in a longer life span and reduced maintenance.
- The State Boating Access Program Excellence Award was received from SOBA for the management of Ohio's Cooperative Boating Facility Grant program. Managed by Watercraft employee Julie M. McQuade, Capital Improvement Administrator, this grant program was first established in 1967 to provide local communities with funding support for construction of public boating access facilities. Since its inception, the Division of Watercraft has provided over \$58 million in grant funding for more than 200 boating access projects statewide. Project grant awards have ranged from canoe/kayak access development to large boat access projects costing between \$25,000 and \$2.1 million.
- The Division of Watercraft received The Horizon Award presented at the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Annual Conference. This award was presented by the National Safe Boating Council for hosting two Essential Close Quarter Boat Control Instructor workshops in 2011 and training more than 30 marine patrol and state watercraft officers in the basic course.
- Members of NASBLA's Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee (ERAC) were presented with the President's Award for their collective work in helping to achieve NASBLA objectives and goals. The ERAC workgroup reviews and analyzes boating

safety data with an emphasis on improving reporting protocols and enhancing boating safety awareness. The workgroup is chaired by ODNR Division of Watercraft employee Tammy Terry, Recreational Boating Accident Program Manager.

Regional Reports

North Region

Division of Watercraft staff in the North Region (27 counties) face unique challenges as this is the state's busiest region. About one-third of all Ohio boating activity occurs on Lake Erie, which also has the largest concentration of sport fishing activity. The region shares an international border with Canada and state borders with Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

The Division has five offices in the region (Ashtabula, Akron, Cleveland, Sandusky, Maumee Bay). Within this region there are five supervisors, three investigators, 18 officers, 13 cadets, 12 clerical, five scenic rivers employees, and four natural resources specialists.

Region highlights in 2011

Officers participated in a number of special events that included retail trade shows, community festivals, and assisting other local, state, and federal agencies in special assignment security details.

Central Region

The Central Region (34 counties) features some of Ohio's busiest inland boating waterways and serves the capital city of Columbus, which includes the Governor's office, the state's Emergency Operations Center, and ODNR's administrative headquarters.

The Division has three offices in the region (Alum Creek, Cambridge, Wapakoneta). Within this region there are three supervisors, two investigators, 15 officers, six cadets, five clerical, two scenic rivers employees, and one natural resources specialist.

Region highlights in 2011

The Frontier Public Access Site located in the Wayne National Forest along the Ohio River in Washington County was dedicated May 30, 2011.

South Region

The South Region (27 counties) includes one of the nation's busiest commercial and recreational river corridors as nearly half of the 981-mile Ohio River serves as a state border between Ohio and West Virginia or Kentucky. The region also includes major urban centers that include the Cincinnati, Dayton, and Springfield metro areas.

The Division has three offices in the region (East Fork, Scioto County, Springfield). Within this region there are three supervisors, two investigators, 13 officers, seven cadets, five clerical, one scenic river employee, and three natural resources specialists.

Region highlights in 2011

Officers participated in a number of special events that included retail trade shows, community festivals, and the midwest's largest paddle float event on the Ohio River, Paddlefest 2011, June 23 through 25.

Publication Date 2/12



**Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Watercraft**

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Help Protect Scenic Rivers

Scenic Rivers license plates support conservation of endangered species in Ohio's most pristine paddling waterways. \$15 of your purchase goes directly toward scenic river protection.



www.oplates.com

The Scenic Rivers Program has a long history of river protection and conservation. To learn more go to ohiodnr.com/watercraft.