



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Director	1
Administrative Updates	2
Waterways Safety Council	2
Waterways Safety Fund	3
Surveys	4
Registration and Titling	4
Resource Planning	6
Scenic Rivers	9
Public Information and Education	10
Law Enforcement/Search and Rescue	13
Regional Reports	15

Mission:

The ODNR 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.

1-877-4BOATER (Ohio only)

watercraft.ohiodnr.gov

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) worked diligently throughout 2014 to meet the needs of our customers while providing great new opportunities to learn about and experience everything our division has to offer. The ODNR Division of Watercraft performed exceptionally well in this area. The titling and registration office received nearly 37,000 calls this year, and out of those 37,000 calls, only three complaints were received. Obviously, we are always shooting for zero complaints, but three complaints out of 37,000 calls speaks to the quality of our staff as they handle inquiries. Customer service is very important in our department, and our other employees worked to reach out to Ohioans by offering a number of new initiatives to introduce and educate Ohioans about water safety and activities.



One of the division's new events was the Ohio Women's Outdoor Adventures (OWOA) weekend, which was held in August at the recently remodeled Burr Oak State Park Lodge and Conference Center. More than 80 participants gathered together to learn how to improve their abilities in a variety of outdoor skills. Another new event, the Paddlepalooza Festival, took place at Alum Creek State Park during a Sunday in September, with more than 1,000 people participating. It was a great chance for central Ohio residents to try out different kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddle-boarding. These types of events provide the ideal setting and opportunity for us to share our safety message while introducing people to all of the activities available on Ohio's waters.

Since personal watercraft are a popular way for friends and family to spend time out on the water, a new interactive Personal Watercraft Simulator (known as the PWC Simulator) was built to assist the division in sharing their safety message. This is an actual jet-powered watercraft shell which sits on a motion platform, allowing riders to virtually experience how it feels to drive a personal watercraft. This also lets the operator learn how to safely operate a PWC in a virtual environment so they are prepared to be safe and have fun once they hit the water.

I take great pride in the progress the ODNR Division of Watercraft has made over the past year by offering new events and activities to engage Ohio boaters and paddlers. Stay safe on the water during 2015, and thank you for being a crucial part of the success of our state's 2014 boating season.

Sincerely,

James Zehringer
Director

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

The ODNR Division of Watercraft has 137 full-time, 10 part-time and 11 intermittent employees. Commissioned staff focuses 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 oversees all field operations and administrative functions of the division.

Law enforcement staff includes 20 supervisors, 60 full-time officers/officer specialists, and seven investigators who enforce Ohio's boating laws, provide education programs and investigate boating-related accidents.

Significant personnel changes within the ODNR Division of Watercraft during 2014:

- Chief Gary Obermiller promoted to Deputy Director.
- Michael Miller was hired as Assistant Chief and currently serves as Chief following the promotion of Gary Obermiller.
- Deputy Chief Rick Barrera retired.
- Deputy Chief Karen Muench retired.
- Matt Kruse was promoted to Investigator for southwest Ohio.
- Melissa Clark accepted the position of Southwest Ohio Scenic Rivers Manager.
- Craig Watson was promoted to Boating Education Grant Coordinator.
- Travis Martin was promoted to Springfield Area Supervisor replacing Melissa Clark.
- Dawn Potter was promoted to Outdoor Recreation and Boating Safety Program Coordinator.

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 ODNR Division of Watercraft Chief, and they represent the industry, as well as the educational and recreational aspects of boating.



Current members are J. Thomas Pascoe (Chairman) of Sandusky, Chad Taylor (Vice Chair) of Wilmington, Doug McClarnan of Gambier, Gary Branstetter of Dayton and Dennis Mintus of Warren.

WATERWAYS SAFETY FUND

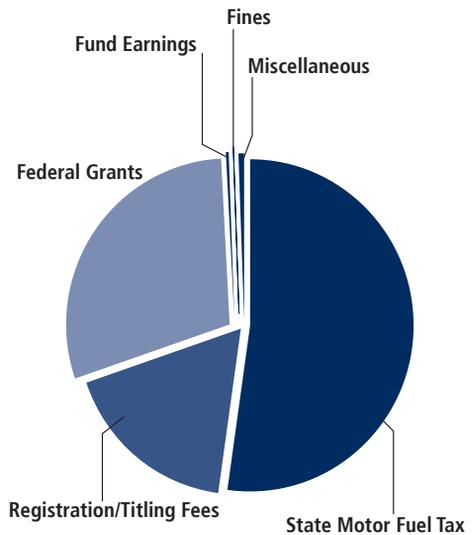
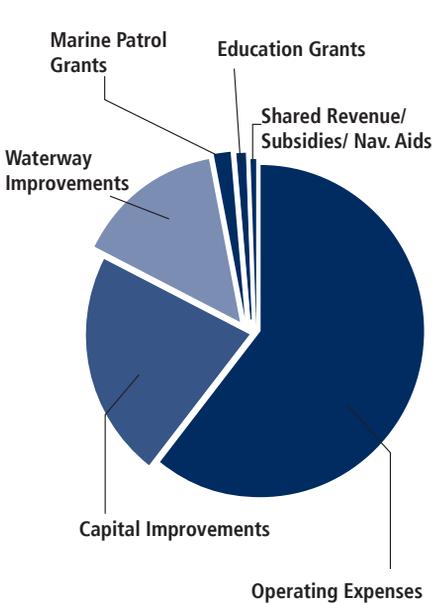
The ODNR Division of Watercraft is funded through the Waterways Safety Fund. The fund represents boating dollars and was created by the 101st General Assembly in 1955. The Waterways Safety Fund is the sole mechanism used to finance division operations, payrolls, grant programs and other state boating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

Expenditures:

Operating Expenses	\$21,046,298
Capital Improvements	7,588,785
Waterway Improvements*	5,026,764
Marine Patrol Grants	570,658
Education Grants	303,422
Shared Revenue/Subsidies/ Navigational Aids	114,812
Total Expenditures	\$34,650,739

Revenues:

State Motor Fuel Tax	\$16,035,290
Registration/Titling Fees	5,283,591
Federal Grants	9,023,791
Fund Earnings	70,002
Fines	56,407
Miscellaneous	87,801
Total Revenue	\$30,556,882



SURVEYS

The ODNR Division of Watercraft continues to use data gathered through customer input in order to better serve our boating constituents. Data was most recently collected for the 2013-2014 cycle through the tri-annual "Survey of Recreational Boater Safety and Participation in Ohio." The results of this survey, sent out to 2,500 registered boat owners in the state, will continue to be used by division staff to guide efforts to improve programs and services statewide.

Additionally, the ODNR Division of Watercraft will launch a Customer Feedback Survey in 2015 to collect ongoing input from boating constituents on a variety of boating programs and services offered by the division. Boaters can offer their input through written surveys available at a variety of boating locations or through an online version of the survey that will be available on the ODNR Division of Watercraft's website.

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, the U.S. Coast Guard, Ohio Clerk of Courts title offices and other states.

Registration/Accounts Receivable functions include overseeing the registration sales, monetary data entering, auditing, and posting of all watercraft registrations statewide (i.e. mail renewals, online renewals, as well as traditional, historical, documented, temporary and alternative registrations for hand-powered vessels). This section is also responsible for the issuance of temporary registrations, veteran registrations, dealer and livery licenses; collection of revenue from registration sales; and coordination and training of registration agents who sell watercraft registrations.

Registration/Titling functions include downloading a program called Watercraft Information System (WIS) Remote. This program allows Web-based sales of boat registrations. Currently, most of the contracted independent watercraft agents throughout Ohio are using this new program. The WIS Remote program allows ODNR Division of Watercraft staff to search vessels more efficiently. In addition, WIS Remote provides improved customer service, as well as quicker capability in correcting and updating watercraft vessels and outboard motor titles issued by County Clerk of Court title offices. It also assists with the scheduling of vessel inspections and Hull Identification Number (HIN) issuances.

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) Boat Registration Marketing Program was a success for the fourth year. The division registered 1,057 lapsed vessels by using this program. The division will again work together

for the fifth year with the RBFF to market a boat renewal registration program for motorized boat registrations that have not been renewed and will expire March 1, 2015.

Accomplishments

- Renewed 20,507 registrations online.
- Renewed 33,769 registrations via mail renewal.
- Maintained a two- to four-day turnaround for processing online and mail renewals.
- Issued 1,889 Hull Identification Numbers.
- Two new watercraft registration agents added statewide including:

County	Registration Agent
Cuyahoga County	Strongsville Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Strongsville
Fairfield County	Fisher’s Marina, Millersport

2014 Registration and Titling Statistics

Total Registered Boats	460,277
Total Registered Livery Boats	8,344
Total Alternative Registrations	45,417
Dealer Registrations.....	403
Telephone Calls Handled.....	36,826
Hull Identification Numbers Issued	1,889
Registrations Entered.....	10,557
Mail Renewals Processed.....	33,769
Online Renewals Processed.....	20,507
WIS Remote Registration Downloads Audited	73,992
New Titles Entered	36,415
Titles Audited	82,285
Titles Searched.....	39,951
Titles Corrected	12,245
Boat Checks	42,433

Canoe/Kayak Registrations

Over the last decade, the number of Ohio-registered canoes and kayaks has increased dramatically. In recent years, the number of canoes and kayaks increased from 126,504 in 2013 to 140,434 in 2014. The number of watercraft (mostly canoes and kayaks) included in commercial livery registrations has also increased from 7,549 in 2013 to 7,937 in 2014. This trend is expected to continue into 2015.

RESOURCE PLANNING

Boating Access Interactive Map

In April 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft placed a Boating Access Interactive Map (BAIM) on the website. This application works on both desktop computers and mobile devices with Internet connectivity and is a useful tool for planning a boating trip. The BAIM provides information about public motorized and non-motorized access locations (ramps, docks, etc.), paddling hazard locations (such as low head dams), facility contact information, available amenities and motorized facility photos for the entire state of Ohio.

Water Trails

In 2014, the Water Trails Program provided \$6,600 for updating and printing maps and brochures as well as the purchase of signage for the Great Miami River, Mad River and Stillwater River Water Trails. This was a coordinated effort between ODNR, the Miami Conservancy District and other local partners. The Water Trails Program partners with local sponsors to establish a network of waterway trails to improve access as well as increase safety, awareness and participation in paddlesports.

Clean Vessel Act Grant (CVA)

The Clean Vessel Act provides funding to public and private marinas for the construction and renovation of pump-out and sanitary dump stations, including floating restrooms or other structures that are not connected to land. Other eligible grant activities also include processes necessary to hold and transport sewage to treatment plants, such as holding tanks, plumbing and bleed-ion facilities.

CVA Projects Completed in 2014	Amount
Tibbel's Marina	\$9,033.01
Venetian Marina	21,210.00
Total	\$30,243.01

In 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft received seven applications for the CVA program. Applications are currently being evaluated by U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. Awards will be announced in spring 2015.

Recreational Harbor Evaluation Program

The Recreational Harbor Evaluation Program grant provides up to 100 percent reimbursement assistance to eligible political subdivisions and state/federal agencies for dredging on the Ohio River, Lake Erie, and their tributaries.

2014 Awarded Projects	Amount
Ashtabula River Dredging, Ashtabula.....	\$97,000
Total	\$97,000

In 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft received six applications for the RHEP program. Applications were reviewed and scored, and five projects were awarded to benefit boaters within the Lake Erie region.

Cooperative Boating Facility Grants

The ODNR Division of Watercraft works with local, state, and federal agencies and conservancy districts to provide funding and technical assistance for projects that improve access to recreational boating, improve safety at launching facilities, and enhance the recreational boating experience. Boaters enjoy free parking and launch facilities at hundreds of publically accessible sites across the state, including most of Ohio’s 74 state parks. From 1998 through 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft has provided more than \$53 million from the Waterways Safety Fund to partner agencies through the Cooperative Boating Facility Grant Program to renovate, repair, and construct publicly accessible recreational boating facilities.

2014 Completed Projects

County	Project Name	Amount
Ashtabula	Division of Parks & Rec., Geneva Transient Facility	\$435,895
Delaware	Division of Parks & Rec., Alum Creek Hollenback Parking Lot.....	1,229,288
Delaware	Division of Parks & Rec., Delaware Launch Ramp Renovations	810,000
Guernsey	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Piedmont Lake	442,034
Logan	Division of Parks & Rec., Indian Lake ADA Canoe/Kayak Access	56,505
Lorain	Division of Parks & Rec., Findley ADA Canoe/Kayak Access	75,506
Miami	City of Troy, Treasure Island Restroom.....	85,000
Portage	Portage Park District, Red Fox Trailhead.....	80,000
Trumbull	Trumbull Co. Metroparks, Mahoning River Water Trail Upgrade.....	50,000
	Total	\$3,264,228

In 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft received 26 applications for new projects to be funded through the Cooperative Boating Facility Grant Program. These applications were reviewed and scored, and 16 projects were awarded funding. Of these 16 projects, 10 will help support the state’s fastest growing boating opportunities by improving access for non-motorized boats, such as kayaks and canoes. The other projects will enhance recreational opportunities primarily for users of motorized watercraft.

In addition to dedicated grant programs that provide funding and technical assistance to projects, the ODNR Division of Watercraft also plans strategically for other projects that improve the recreational boating experience in Ohio.

Other Completed Projects Funded from the Waterways Safety Fund in 2014

County	Project Name.....	Amount
Clark	Division of Parks & Rec., Springfield Watercraft Office Repairs	\$50,980
Clark	Division of Parks & Rec., Springfield Watercraft Maintenance Area Repairs	132,821
Cuyahoga	Edgewater Marina, Breakwall Reconstruction - Phase 1	658,495
Cuyahoga	Edgewater Marina, Marina Restoration.....	4,500,056
Delaware	Division of Parks & Rec., Alum Creek Hollenback Restroom	77,562
Delaware	Alum Creek Field Office Repairs	59,200
Erie	Sandusky Field Office, Marblehead Dock Repairs	34,460
Franklin	Ohio State Fairgrounds, Watercraft Area Renovations	59,765
Ottawa	Division of Parks & Rec., Middle Bass Launch Ramp Restroom	100,089
Ottawa	Division of Parks & Rec., Middle Bass Marina Ramp Parking	531,334
	Total	\$6,204,762

Navigational Aids Grants

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

Agency	Amount
Cedar Point Harbor	\$4,020.00
Conneaut Port Authority	8,303.01
Miami Conservancy District	6,330.24
Ohio State Parks	31,572.75
City of Rossford	774.00
Total	\$51,000.00

In 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft received seven applications for the Navigational Aids program. Applications have been reviewed and scored with announcements forthcoming.

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

The Boating Infrastructure Grant is offered by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the ODNR, Division of Watercraft to construct, renovate and maintain transient docking facilities for use by recreational boats 26 feet and longer. The BIG program is available to both public and private entities and requires a minimum 25% match.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Projects Completed in 2014:

City of Cleveland.....	\$1,960,000
Village of Put-In-Bay	3,509,484
Total	\$5,469,484

In 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft received one application for a Tier 1 Boating Infrastructure Grant. This application will be evaluated by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service with awards announced in spring 2015.

SCENIC RIVERS

The Scenic Rivers Program facilitates the protection of 14 designated wild, scenic and recreational river systems across 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.

Program Highlights for 2014:

In 2014, the Scenic Rivers Program partnered with the Ohio Water Trails Program to introduce Paddle Ohio across the state.

Paddle Ohio is a new program which invites individuals to paddle four different segments of any of the State Designated Wild, Scenic or Recreational Rivers or Water Trails and submit information regarding their trips to receive a free Paddle Ohio pin. To introduce Paddle Ohio, the Scenic Rivers Program and the Water Trails Program worked together to schedule a Paddle Ohio Day and a series of paddling events on Scenic Rivers and Water Trails across the state.

ODNR Director James Zehringer kicked-off Paddle Ohio on Friday, June 20, with an event held at the Battelle Darby Creek Metropark, Alkire Road access on the Big Darby Creek State and National Scenic River. Many local officials, conservation partners and news media were in attendance that day despite high water prohibiting anyone from floating.

Paddle Ohio Day was scheduled for Sunday, June 22, with events on the Grand Wild and Scenic River, Kokosing Scenic River and Water Trail, Sandusky Scenic River and Stillwater Scenic River and Water Trail. Only the Grand River and Sandusky River events occurred that day due to high water. The Kokosing event was rescheduled for a later date.

Participation for Paddle Ohio Events for 2014:

Central Ohio, Kokosing State Scenic River and Water Trail	45 participants
Northwest Ohio Sandusky State Scenic River.....	38 participants
Northeast Ohio, Grand Wild and Scenic River	65 participants

For its inaugural year, 36 individuals submitted information regarding their floats and requests for Paddle Ohio pins, with a total of 14 meeting all the criteria.

Scenic Rivers Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM)

The Scenic Rivers SQM volunteers helped teach workshops and collect scenic river data. Data provides baseline river health information and is tracked long-term in a database shared with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Ohio was the first state to use volunteer data in state 305(b) water quality reports.

	<i>Workshops</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Monitored Sites</i>	<i>SQM Samples</i>	<i>Reference Sites</i>
Central	10	2,574	43	194	38
Northeast	6	2,196	46	238	31
Northwest	13	1,320	9	39	14
Southwest	10	1,000	25	80	23

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Boating Education and Events

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

Courses Taught by Watercraft Officers

	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Audience</i>
Boating Safety Presentations	274	15,067
Ohio Boating Education Course (OBEC)	129	1,515
Assisted U.S. Power Squadrons and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.....	58	569
Canoeing	50	1,771
Kayaking	31	4,166
Sailing	2	14
Other Certified Courses	26	339
Power Boating	28	170
Personal Watercraft	3	110
Water Rescue/Survival	6	87

Number of Boater Safety Education Certificates Issued

Classroom

ODNR Division of Watercraft	2,161
OBEC Taught by Others (non-ODNR)	946
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	342
U.S. Power Squadrons	307

Online

BoatED	5,454
BoaterExam	1,492
BoatUS Foundation	1,323
Home Study	852
Total	12,025
Replacement Cards	1,196

2014 Boating Safety Education Grants

The Waterways Safety Fund provides financial assistance to support community boating safety education and boating skills programs. In 2014, a total of \$308,891.39 in grants was awarded to 22 program recipients statewide. The ODNR Division of Watercraft has provided more than \$3.9 million over the past decade to support diverse boating education programs in dozens of Ohio communities.

County	Grantee	Award
Allen	Lima Power Squadron	\$3,850.00
Butler	Great Miami Rowing Center	12,704.92
Cuyahoga	Bay Village Schools	7,889.50
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Metroparks	28,529.00
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Site Center	17,022.00
Cuyahoga	Diabetes Partnership of Cleveland	3,942.00
Cuyahoga	Greater Cleveland Safety Council.....	15,871.51
Franklin	Boy Scouts of America, Simon Kenton Council	19,807.97
Franklin	West Ohio Conference United Methodist Church.....	30,000.00
Franklin	HERO USA Inc.	28,587.15
Greene	Greene County Parks and Trails	11,229.50
Guernsey	National Whitetail Deer Education Foundation	23,705.20
Hamilton	Green Umbrella.....	6,000.00
Lake	City of Mentor.....	8,110.00
Lake	Lake Metroparks	14,248.77
Logan	YMCA of Central Ohio.....	12,767.00
Logan	Kirkmont Center Inc.	5,469.51
Montgomery	Five Rivers MetroParks	24,891.00
Portage	Kent State University.....	17,504.61
Richland	Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors Inc.	2,562.25
Richland	North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council	7,031.10
Summit	Barberton Parks and Recreation Commission.....	7,168.40
	Total	\$308,891.39

Courses Taught by Education Grant Recipients

	Courses	Audience
Advanced Courses	27	353
Canoeing	50	915
Kayaking	250	3,570
Ohio Boater Education Course	24	391
NASBLA Approved Courses	18	186
Power Boating	19	261
Presentations	4	37
Personal Watercraft	10	109
Rowing	17	138
Sailing	47	395
Stand Up Paddleboarding	174	1,588

Volunteer Program

Volunteers are an integral part of the ODNR Division of Watercraft, and they contributed a noteworthy 3,207.7 volunteer hours in 2014. They taught sailing, canoeing and river rescue; performed stream quality monitoring on Ohio's state Scenic Rivers; and assisted with various fairs and festivals, including boat shows and the division's kayak pond at the Ohio State Fair in the ODNR Natural Resources Park. There were 94 contractual statewide volunteers.

Media Outreach

The ODNR Division of Watercraft worked diligently this year to reach out to the media and the public with their public boating safety messages statewide. 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 multiple news releases regionally and statewide, in addition to feature columns, weekly boating reports and media advisories. Watercraft officers and other employees also frequently conducted interviews with media statewide about various boating topics. Promoting the division's new events was a top priority, and some of those events included the Paddle Palooza Festival, the new Paddle Ohio program and the first Ohio Women's Outdoor Adventures weekend.

Wear It Ohio!

Ohio participated in the Ready, Set, Wear It! Life Jacket World Record Day and 636 life jackets were worn during the May 17, 2014, event. Twenty-nine people from around the state wore inflatable life jackets while 607 wore inherently buoyant life jackets. Ohio had the highest participation rate in one state, with 636 total participants attending one of 16 events. Ohio also hosted the largest U.S. event at Stillwater Prairie Reserve, sponsored by the Miami County Park District with 441 participants wearing life jackets. At nearly 200 events around the world, 6,973 people inflated their inflatable life jacket or wore an inherently buoyant life jacket, breaking the world record for life jacket wear.

Ohio State Fair

A total of 3,749 state fair patrons participated July 23 - August 3 at the division's kayak pond for a daily average of 312 participants. With 15 sessions each day, Thursday, July 31, saw the largest number of participants, young and old, with 360 paddlers.

The kayak pond measures more than 7,000 square feet and holds approximately 52,000 gallons of water. The 2015 Ohio State Fair will be held July 29 - August 9 and will again feature the kayak pond for the seventh consecutive year. For many fairgoers, the kayak pond has served as their first on-water paddling experience and is a highlight of the Ohio State Fair.

LAW ENFORCEMENT/SEARCH AND RESCUE

The ODNR Division of Watercraft continues to protect our Lake Erie international northern border working 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. 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 ODNR Division of Watercraft was officially accredited under the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program. Established by NASBLA and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard, the BOAT Program was created to ensure the readiness of law enforcement and emergency response boat crews throughout the country. Agencies who adopt this national standard of training, typing and credentialing assure their ability to conduct missions on our nation's waterways safely and effectively, and operate seamlessly with their federal, state, county, tribal and local maritime partners.

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 educate boaters on the dangers of alcohol and drugs while boating and the programs guide enforcement agencies on state waterways to help them unify patrol efforts. In 2014, state watercraft officers contacted nearly 60,000 boaters, resulting in 59 arrests for boating while intoxicated. Close to 200 citations for other alcohol and drug-related violations were also issued.

2014 State Watercraft Officer Statistics

Number of Officers	64
Contacts Made	58,775
OUI Arrests	59
Accidents Investigated	160
Written Inspections	5,003
Spot Inspections	424
Visual Inspections	1,266
Livery Checks	6,152
Vessel Assists	571
Fatalities	22

Operation Dry Water

The ODNR Division of Watercraft was among a number of enforcement agencies that participated in a nationwide crackdown on drunk boating known as Operation Dry Water, a coordinated marine enforcement effort developed and promoted by NASBLA. Ohio watercraft officers contacted boaters on 666 vessels and made three arrests for boating while intoxicated during this special enforcement weekend June 27-29. A total of 47 other citations were issued in addition to 635 warnings.

2014 Marine Patrol Assistance Grants

Annually, the ODNR Division of Watercraft provides financial assistance from the Waterways Safety Fund in support of community marine law enforcement programs to help enhance waterways safety. In 2014, a total of \$570,498.52 was distributed to 23 local law enforcement agencies in support of their marine patrol units. The division has provided more than \$6 million in boating dollars over the past decade to support marine law enforcement activities in dozens of Ohio communities.

County	Agency	Amount
Butler	Butler County Sheriff's Office	\$26,221.48
Cuyahoga	Rocky River Police Marine Patrol	24,626.25
Erie	Huron Police Harbor Patrol	26,602.61
Erie	Vermilion Police Marine Patrol	32,000.00
Franklin	Columbus Police, Marine Park Unit	29,117.12
Hamilton	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol	24,216.22
Knox	Knox County Sheriff's Office	20,122.53
Lake	Lake County Sheriff Marine Patrol	31,224.73
Lawrence	Lawrence County Sheriff's Office	15,825.00
Lorain	Lorain Port Authority	32,000.00
Lucas	Lucas County Sheriff's Office	27,020.73
Mahoning	Berlin Lake Marine Patrol	21,862.74
Montgomery	Five Rivers Metro Parks	17,559.91
Ottawa	Ottawa County Sheriff's Office	32,000.00
Ottawa	Port Clinton Harbor Patrol	17,040.78
Pickaway	Pickaway County Sheriff's Office	13,518.00
Portage	Portage County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit	18,281.66
Richland	City of Mansfield, Clear Fork Reservoir Police	28,828.83
Ross	Ross County Sheriff's Marine Patrol	17,031.38
Sandusky	Sandusky County Sheriff's Marine Patrol	25,989.18
Scioto	Scioto County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol	25,369.37
Summit	Summit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol	32,000.00
Tuscarawas	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	32,000.00
Total		\$570,498.52

REGIONAL REPORTS

North Region

The north region (27 counties) encompasses 2.25 million water-acres of Lake Erie in addition to the numerous lakes and waterways of northern Ohio. The region also shares an international border with Canada and state borders with Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The division has five area offices in the region (Ashtabula, Akron, Cleveland, Sandusky, Maumee Bay and Wapakoneta). Within this region there are six supervisors, three investigators, 25 officers, 12 clerical employees, three scenic rivers employees and five natural resources specialists.

Region Highlights in 2014

The ODNR Division of Watercraft was asked to support a water sampling project being coordinated by NASA. Consisting of 12 patrol events, the division provided a platform for researchers by allowing them to take water samples and use equipment to test for water quality issues.

NASBLA certified, ODNR Division of Watercraft instructors provided maritime field sobriety training to marine patrol partners with the U.S. Border Patrol and the U.S. Coast Guard. This program is one of many programs available to marine patrol officers as part of NASBLA's marine officer training program.

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 two area offices in the region, which are the Alum Creek and Cambridge offices. Within this region there are four supervisors, two investigators, 16 officers, six clerical employees, two scenic rivers employees and one natural resources specialist.

Region Highlights in 2014

The Piedmont Lake Marina was renovated, including improvements to the launch ramp provided by a Cooperative Boating Facility Grant.

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, West Virginia and Kentucky. The region also includes major urban centers that include the Cincinnati, Dayton and Springfield metro areas.

The division has three area offices in the region (East Fork, Scioto County and Springfield). Within this region there are three supervisors, two investigators, 18 officers, five clerical employees, two scenic rivers employees and three natural resources specialists.

Region Highlights in 2014

In October 2014, the divisions of Watercraft and Parks and Recreation combined office space at the Springfield Field Office location.

Staff from the East Fork Watercraft Office provided kayak paddling and instruction to more than 200 urban youth at the annual Paddlefest Kids Expo at Coney Island in Cincinnati.



Help Protect Scenic Rivers

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

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



oplates.com



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

2045 Morse Road, Building C
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

877-4BOATER (Ohio only) watercraft.ohiodnr.gov