

Recreational Boating In Ohio



Recreational boating generates an economic impact for Ohio's economy estimated at \$3.5 billion annually.

Ohio's boating industry supports as many as 26,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

More examples of the economic impact generated by recreational boating in Ohio include:

- An estimated 3 million Ohioans, or nearly 1 in 4, go boating each year
- A total of more than 426,000 registered recreational boats (2012)
- Ohio ranks 9th in the nation in the number of registered boats
- \$5.6 million paid in watercraft registration and title fees (2012)
- \$14.8 million paid in Ohio fuel tax during 2012 boating season
- Ohioans paid \$11.8 million in state sales tax on watercraft purchased in 2012
- Ohio received \$4.8 million in federal grants through the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Homeland Security in 2012 that was returned to boaters statewide to support various boating programs.
- The Division of Watercraft has returned more than \$51 million in funding support through the Waterways Safety Fund for community boating safety education programs, marine law enforcement programs, and boating access facility projects 1998-2012.
- Boating and related activities support Ohio's tourism industry. Tourism is a \$40 billion per year industry – Ohio's 3rd largest – and one that supports the full-time equivalent of approximately 443,000 Ohio jobs that produce \$10 billion in direct earnings.
- Ohio boaters collectively spend half their time on the water enjoying fishing. More than 750 licensed fishing guides operate on Lake Erie, which is nationally recognized as the "Walleye Capital of the World" and a top destination for anglers also seeking yellow perch and smallmouth bass. Ohio's estimated 1.5 million anglers and hunters annually spend about \$2 billion on sportfishing and hunting.

more...



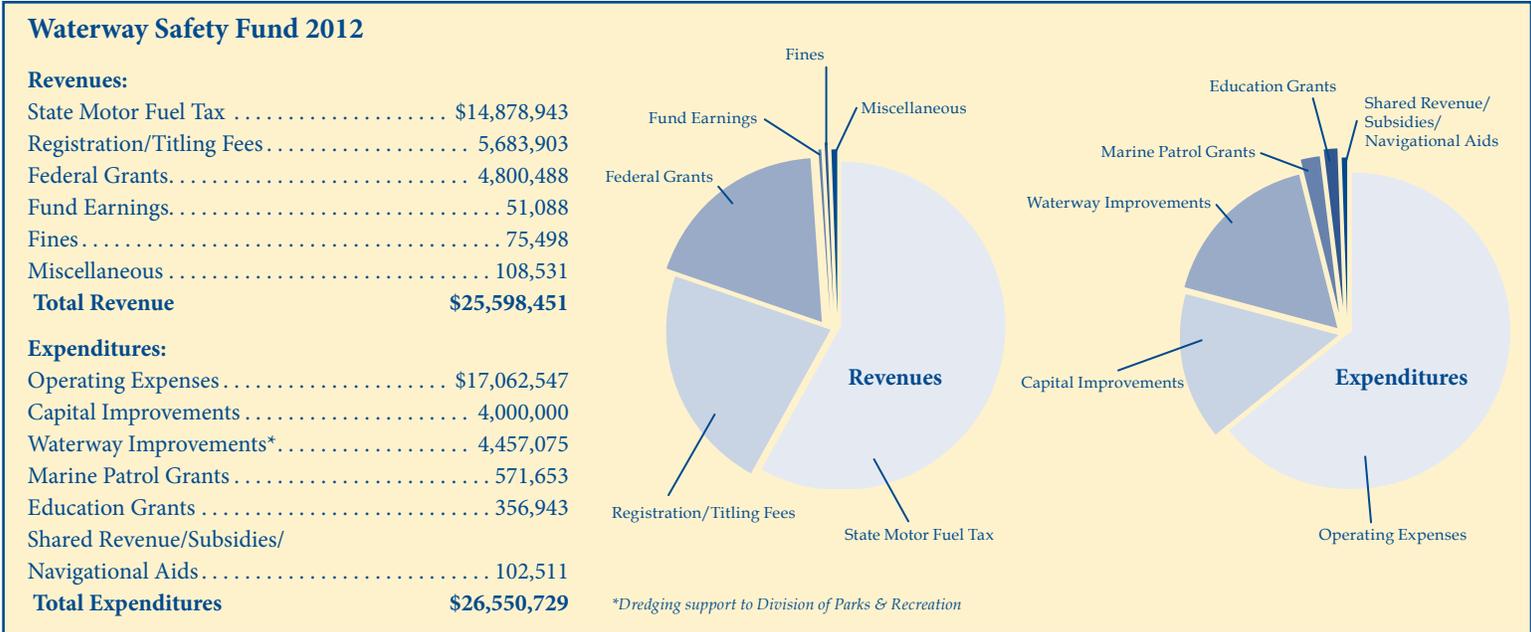
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Watercraft

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



Waterways Safety Fund

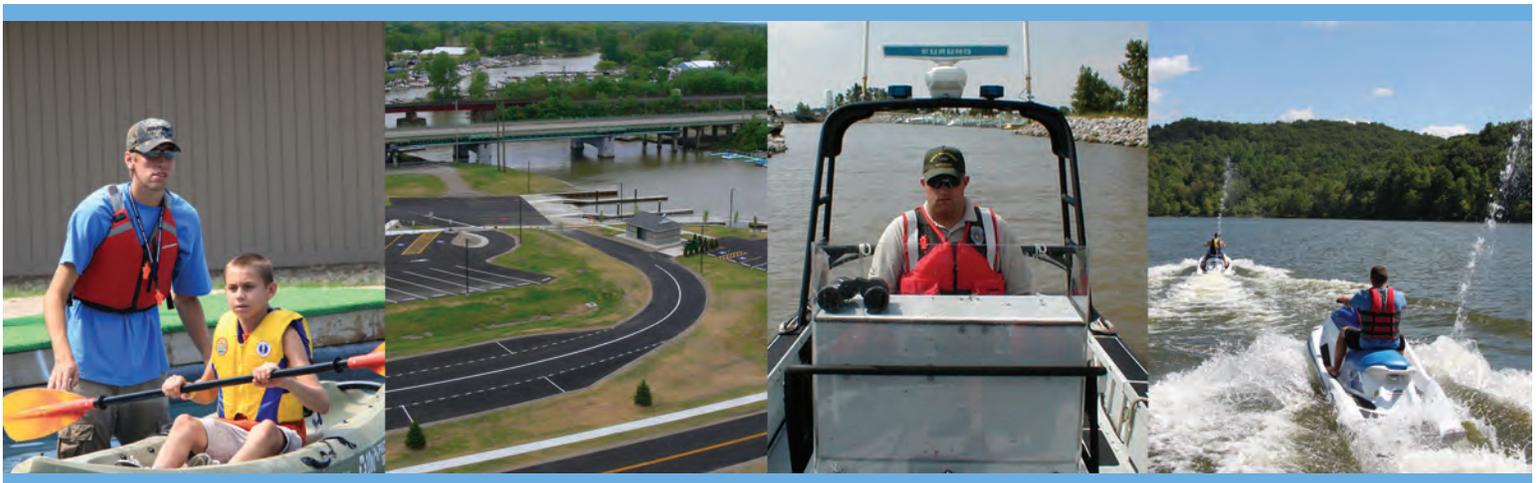
The ODNR Division of Watercraft is funded through the Waterways Safety Fund. This dedicated fund was created by the 101st General Assembly in 1955 and solely represents boating dollars. The Waterways Safety Fund finances Division operations, payrolls, community grant programs, and other state boating programs. The Fund is comprised of watercraft registration and titling fees, account interest, fines, federal grants, and a share of the state motor vehicle fuel tax (0.875 percent) based on taxes collected from marine fuel.



Strategic Planning

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

The ODNR Division of Watercraft is a customer-focused state agency that provides information and tangible resources to Ohio boaters. Additionally, the Division of Watercraft is a regulatory and public service agency featuring one of the most highly trained marine law enforcement units in the nation that is readily called upon to provide emergency response mutual assistance to other public safety agencies across the state, region, and nation.



For more information, please visit our website at www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft or call the Division of Watercraft at 614-265-6480.