



Ohio Division of Wildlife

Winter 2020/2021 Update

Statewide Updates: Give the Gift of the Outdoors

Fa la la la, let's go fishing! 🎮

Gift cards are available to use towards licenses and permits:

ow.ly/cLuF50CFT2b [#wildohio](https://twitter.com/wildohio)

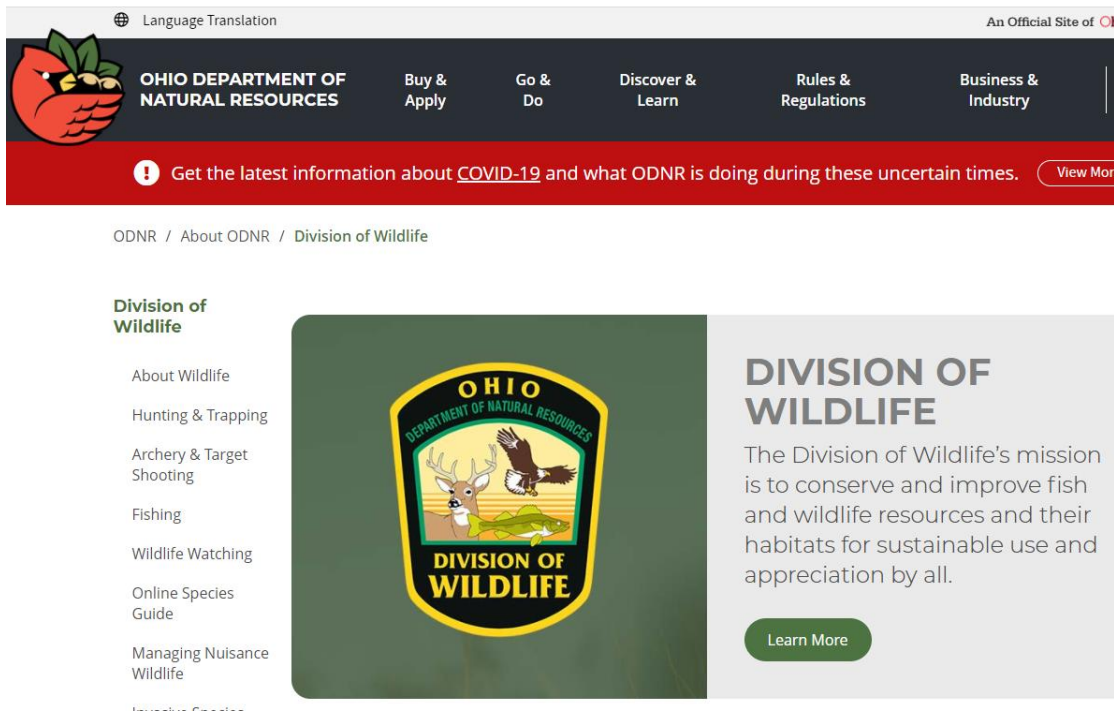


Tis the
Season for Giving
& Harvesting

Statewide Updates: New Website

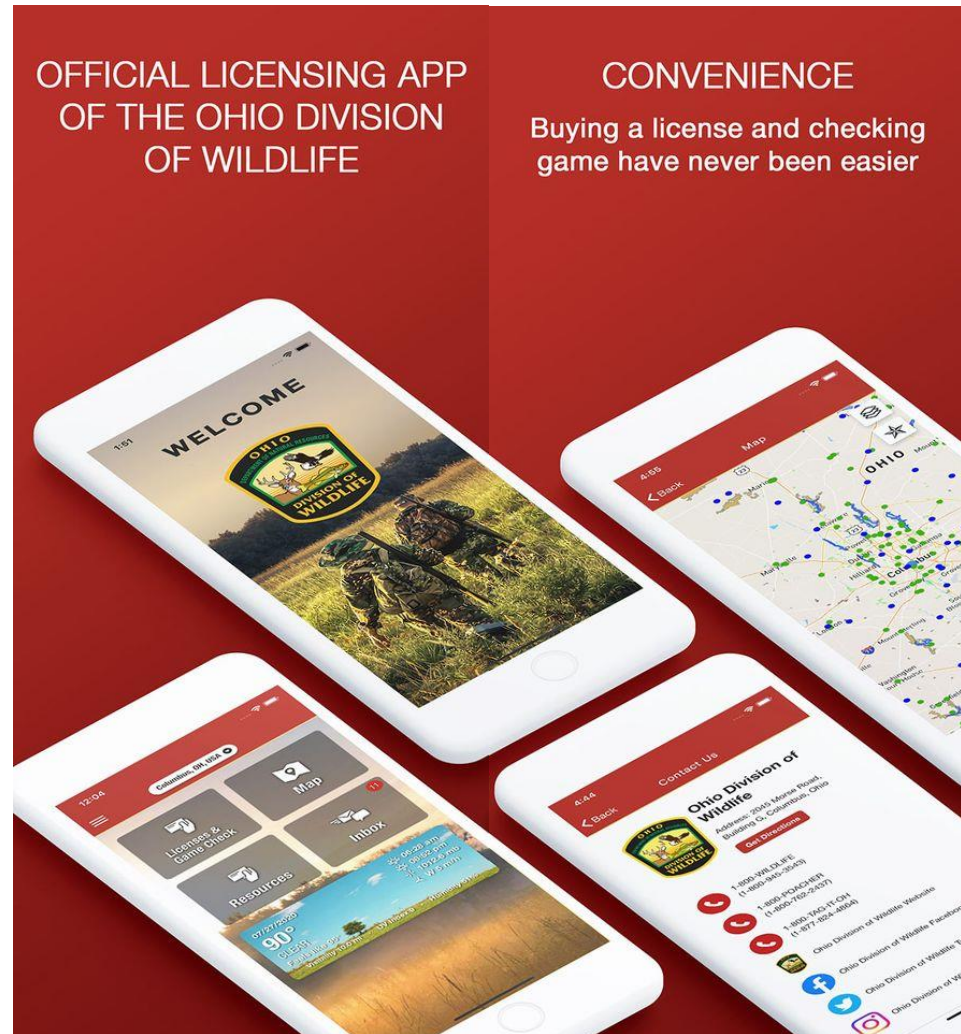
Explore and get familiar with our new mobile-friendly website at ohiodnr.gov! Some tips for using the site:

- Click on links in the top navigation to find information from all ODNR divisions
- Use the search tool in the upper right corner to find what you're looking for quickly
- Go straight to wildlife home page at wildohio.gov. The left navigation here is very helpful for finding information about hunting, fishing, shooting sports, education, and grants.



Statewide Updates: HuntFish OH App

- Our mobile app, HuntFish OH, was released in August 2020 and has had over 49,000 downloads so far!
- HuntFish OH is a mobile path for Ohio's hunters, anglers, and shooters to easily access licensing, game check, and communication on mobile devices.
- Download it today if you haven't already!
ow.ly/kWNW50B3KAe



Statewide Updates: Deer Season

- 71,650 harvested during deer gun week
(*Last 3-year average: 65,566*)
- 79,499 harvested by archery hunters
- 5,795 harvested during 2-day youth gun weekend
- **Deer harvest total: 156,944**

For weekly updates on deer harvest, visit the [Deer Harvest Summary](https://wildohio.gov/deer-harvest-summary) at wildohio.gov.



Statewide Updates: Chronic Wasting Disease

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife has identified a positive test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a wild Ohio white-tailed deer in Wyandot County. The Division of Wildlife is gathering additional details about the adult male deer taken by a hunter on private property. Tissue samples were submitted for testing by a taxidermist and the positive test was identified after results were obtained on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

To read more on CWD click here: [CWD](#)



Statewide Updates: Delaware Shooting Range

The Delaware Wildlife Area Shooting Range is open! The shooting range was previously closed for major enhancements and renovations, as well as construction of a new indoor Archery Training Center. Plan your visit: ow.ly/h5Tk50CCSxw



Statewide Updates: Wild Ohio Harvest Community

Looking for a resource to refer to aspiring hunters and anglers? The Wild Ohio Harvest Community is a great start! Our website page has tips and tricks for beginning hunters and anglers! Check it out here: [Wild Ohio Harvest Community Page](#)

Wild Ohio Harvest Cookbook

Also apart of the Wild Ohio Harvest Community, this resource is for new and experienced hunters and anglers alike! Check out our delicious recipes here: [Wild Ohio Harvest Cookbook](#). Keep your eye out for more recipes to come!



Statewide Updates: Wild Ohio Magazine

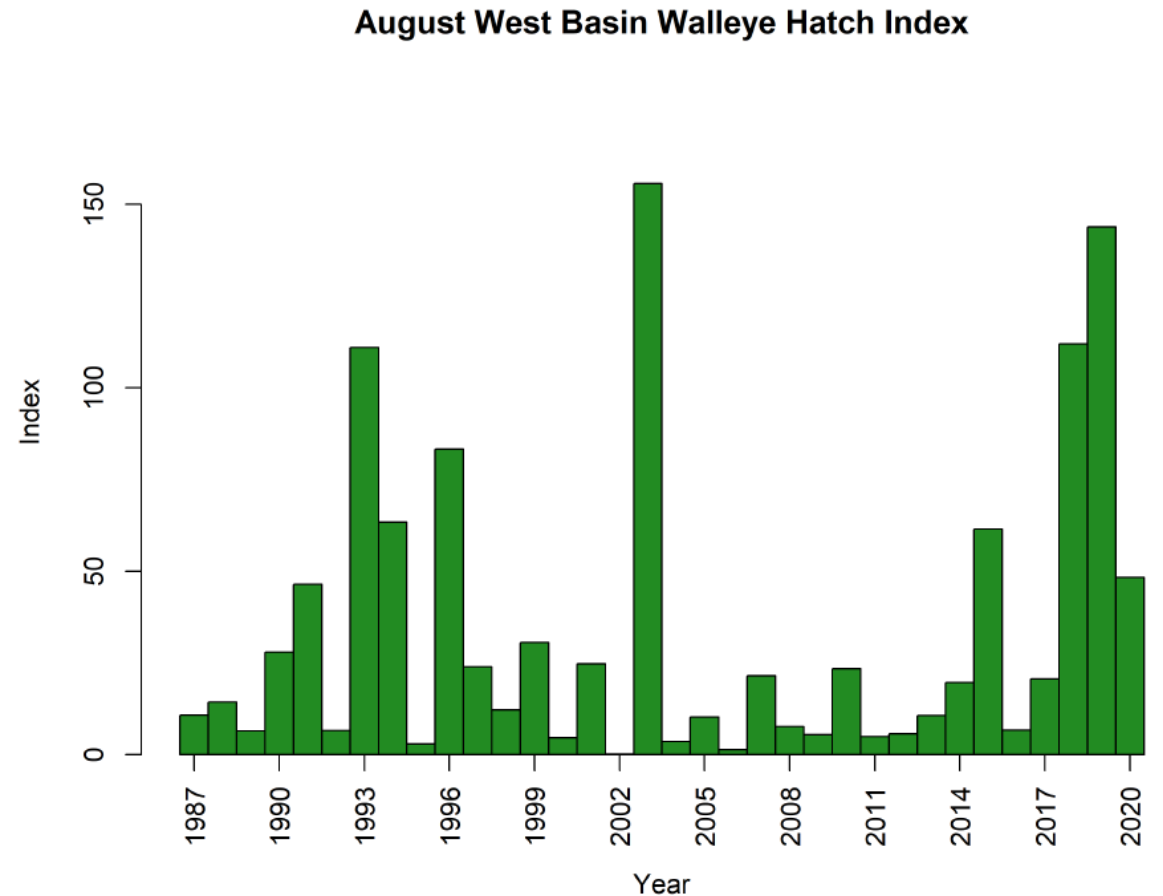
- The *Wild Ohio Special Edition* was delivered to mailboxes last week! This edition focused on wetlands and waterfowl. The calendar will be sent out soon!
- Each magazine has a “Conservation Club Spotlight” page that features conservation clubs in the District. If your club is not included and would like to be added to the list, contact brian.plasters@dnr.ohio.gov.
- Total mailings will be around 44,000.

If you do not receive *Wild Ohio*, you can purchase a subscription [here!](#)



Statewide Updates: Lake Erie Walleye Boom

- The Lake Erie walleye boom continues. Sampling for young-of-year walleye in 2020 showed another above average year class. The graph to the right is a good indication of what will be the adult population in 2 years.
- The Ohio August west basin trawl survey index in 2020 was the 8th best in the 34-year sampling window. This is well above the that windows average. Add those fish to the big hatches in 2015, 2018 and 2019 and the future of walleye fishing in Lake Erie seems secure for a long time.



Statewide Updates: Hunter Education



hunter-ed.com/ohio/

- Online Hunter Education is for Ohio residents 12 years of age or older (those under 12 can purchase and use the apprentice license until in-person courses are available again).
- This version of hunter education allows students to complete the entire course online. This online course will take approximately eight hours to complete, but you may stop and pick up where you left off in the course as you please. There are quizzes at the end of each unit. You must pass the unit quiz to proceed to the next unit. Students must pass a final exam to receive certification. There is a fee paid to the online vendor at the time of registration prior to starting the course.

Statewide Updates: Landowner Opportunities

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- ✓ Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in your county
- ✓ Pays for many different land management practices including wetland enhancements, tree planting, native grass and wildflower establishment, invasive species removal, timber stand improvement, etc.

Application Deadline: January 15, 2021

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) & Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- ✓ Administered by Farm Service Agency in your county
- ✓ Land must have cropping history (corn, soy, wheat, etc.)
- ✓ Yearly payments for life of the contract (10, 15, or 30 years)
- ✓ Establishment costs and incentive payments at sign up for many practices
- ✓ Some practices can be signed up at anytime (riparian areas, filter strips, wetlands, etc.)

Sign up has not yet been announced. Contact your county office and they will call you when the application period has been announced.

Questions? Contact
Ryan Jackson at
ryan.jackson@dnr.ohio.gov or
330-245-3023.

Wetland Quality Incentive Program

- ✓ Only available in the Western Lake Erie Basin
- ✓ Land must be eligible for CREP
- ✓ One-time incentive payment of \$2,000 per acre for wetland practices (CP23A and CP23) and riparian buffers (CP22) only

Application Deadline: January 29, 2021

District Three Updates: Bluebird Nest Boxes

- In an effort to keep plans from months ago moving forward but in a different capacity, a partnership between DOW and Summit Metro Parks will lead to 50 families picking up, taking home, and constructing bluebird nest boxes. The Highlandtown Wildlife Area crew, Jeff and Vern, made the kits and Communication Specialist Jamey Emmert helped distribute them. A YouTube video, produced by Summit Metro Parks, will feature instructions on proper construction of the box, location selection, and maintenance tips.



District Three Updates: 120th Christmas Bird Count



- A virtual birding academy for staff kicked off last spring, encouraging DOW employees to consider birding as another opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy additional wildlife-related recreational opportunities. Presentation topics so far include basics of bird watching, basic bird identification, the history of bird populations in Ohio, current population trends, and most recently, participating in the international Audubon Christmas Bird Count population census. This event involves thousands of volunteers across the western hemisphere and is the longest-running citizen science project in the world. Are you interested in helping contribute data? Check out audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count for more information or contact Jamey Emmert at Jamey.emmert@ohio.gov to learn more.

District Three Updates: Taxidermy Donations

- Do you have animal mounts to donate that you no longer want or have room for anymore? Please consider the DOW. We partner with many organizations and educators across the state to help refresh old nature centers, establish new nature centers, or enhance science classrooms for wildlife-related learning. We are able to help connect donations of animal mounts and other related items to these facilities. Contact Jamey Emmert at Jamey.emmert@ohio.gov if you have anything to spare. Most recently, items were or will be donated to the soon-to-be Rittman Wetlands Nature Center in Wayne County, the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves Eagle Creek Nature Center in Portage County, and the Pymatuning State Park Nature Center.



District Three Updates: Ohio Project Wild



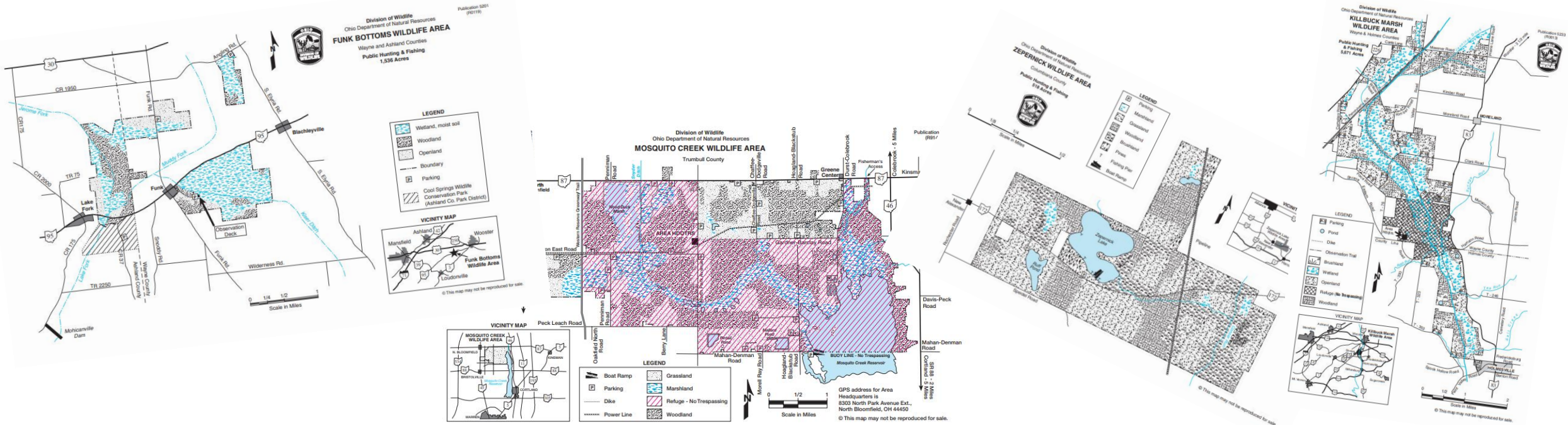
- The DOW administers an international program, Project WILD, here in Ohio which focuses on teaching wildlife and conservation concepts through everyday subject area skills like math, science, social studies, and literature. While in-person workshops are currently on pause, we have moved to a virtual format for the first time ever, opening up opportunities to still continue sharing the program with those who will benefit.
- Read more about Project WILD in Ohio: [Project WILD](#).
- Jamey Emmert is the northeast Ohio regional contact for this program. Please contact her at Jamey.emmert@ohio.gov if you or someone you know can benefit from attending a Project WILD online workshop.

District Three Updates: Grand River WA Access

Access was improved in November on Grand River Wildlife Area by the acquisition of a 5-acre inholding on the northwest portion of the area. Parking access has always been limited on this portion of the area due to roadside ditches/wet ground along Brigden Road and this 5-acre property has enough dry ground with an existing gas well entrance to develop a parking lot for hunters.



District Three Updates: Timber Harvest



Timber harvests are necessary to diversify habitats and benefit wildlife species. Funk Bottoms, Killbuck Marsh, Mosquito Creek, and Zepernick Lake wildlife areas are all having timber harvests this fall/winter that total approximately 153 acres. Ohio's forests are maturing and are lacking the young forest, early successional, high stem density habitat component many wildlife species depend upon. The results of these timber harvests will help create a mosaic of habitat types across the landscape that will benefit both wildlife and hunters.

District Three Updates: Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sampling priorities and goals were recently updated statewide that resulted with many northeast Ohio counties getting relatively high quotas compared to the rest of the state.

County quotas are based on a variety of risk factors that are weighted within each county of the state including: deer and hunter density, deer habitat (forest, grassland, etc.), average distance hunters travel from home to the place most frequently hunted, number of taxidermists/processors, number of captive cervid facilities, number of hunters in each county that hunt out of state, presence of wildlife rehabilitators, and distance to known CWD positives in the wild deer herd.

Staff sampling road-killed deer and working with taxidermist/processors are the primary means for CWD sample collection.

In the fall of 2020 (as of mid-December), we have sampled 1,276 deer in northeast Ohio. Additionally, 181 deer were recently sampled during the week of deer gun season for the existing Disease Surveillance Area in Holmes/Tuscarawas Counties.



District Three Updates: Tis the Season for Giving

Officer Warren, assigned to Ashtabula County, with 142 pounds of forfeited deer meat that we donated to the Country Neighbor Food Bank in Orwell.



Officer Pellegrini, assigned to Portage County, with over 75 pounds of forfeited deer meat that we donated today to the Center of Hope in Ravenna.



District Three Updates: Wild Game Cooking

Ken Fry partnered with the Ashtabula County District Library to present a Facebook Live event on the topic of Wild Game Cooking! Click here to view: [Wild Game Cooking Facebook Live](#)



Officer Denamen, assigned to Geauga County, was the feature speaker on 120 Outdoors podcast. He discussed his passion for wild game cooking, and he shared a variety of tips and tricks. Click here to listen in: [Wild Game Podcast](#)



District Three Updates: Surveys

Fish Management staff worked within developed protocols and were able to conduct our routine fish assessment work this fall evaluating regional fish population abundances, fish sizes, growth rates, stocking success, and regulation effectiveness. Surveys conducted were as follows:

Hybrid striped bass stocking evaluation: Dale Walborn reservoir

Walleye stocking evaluation: Pymatuning lake, Berlin lake

Crappie population assessment: LaDue reservoir, Berlin lake, Pymatuning lake

Walleye population assessment: Berlin lake, Lake Milton, West Branch reservoir

Hybrid striped bass population assessment: Guilford lake

Ohio River walleye and sauger population assessment: New Cumberland Dam tailwater (Pike Island Pool)



District Three Updates: Stockings

Waters through northeast Ohio were stocked with channel catfish during October. State Fish Hatchery staff use their large trucks to stock large lakes and reservoirs and Fish Management District Three personnel use our hauling equipment for stocking of smaller lakes and regional fishing ponds.



Thank you for your time

wildohio.gov

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Athens, Ohio 45701
(740) 589-9930

District 2: Northwest Ohio
952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840
(419) 424-5000

District 5: Southwest Ohio
1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, Ohio 45385
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District 3: Northeast Ohio
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, Ohio 44319
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