

2012

**Ohio**

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Watercraft

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# *Recreational Boating In Ohio*



## *Table of Contents*

The Value of Recreational Boating to Ohio . . . . .	4
<i>Statistics that stand out and mean business for Ohio.</i>	
Waterways Safety Fund . . . . .	6
<i>Funding for state boating programs comes directly from Ohio boaters.</i>	
Travel and Tourism: Ohio's Boating Destinations . . . . .	7
<i>Ohio offers a diversity of boating opportunities and destinations.</i>	
Travel and Tourism: Community Events Attract Boaters, Too . . . . .	8
<i>Boating-related events create positive economic impacts for local communities.</i>	
Strategic Planning: Recent Accomplishments . . . . .	10
<i>Addressing boater priorities enhances Ohio's boating experiences.</i>	
Strategic Planning: Looking Forward To Ohio's Boating Future . . . . .	11
<i>Charting a forward course for Ohio's boating programs.</i>	
Ohio's Boating Partners . . . . .	12
<i>There's no "I" in team as many partnerships shape Ohio's recreational boating industry.</i>	

*I*nformation for this booklet was gathered from:

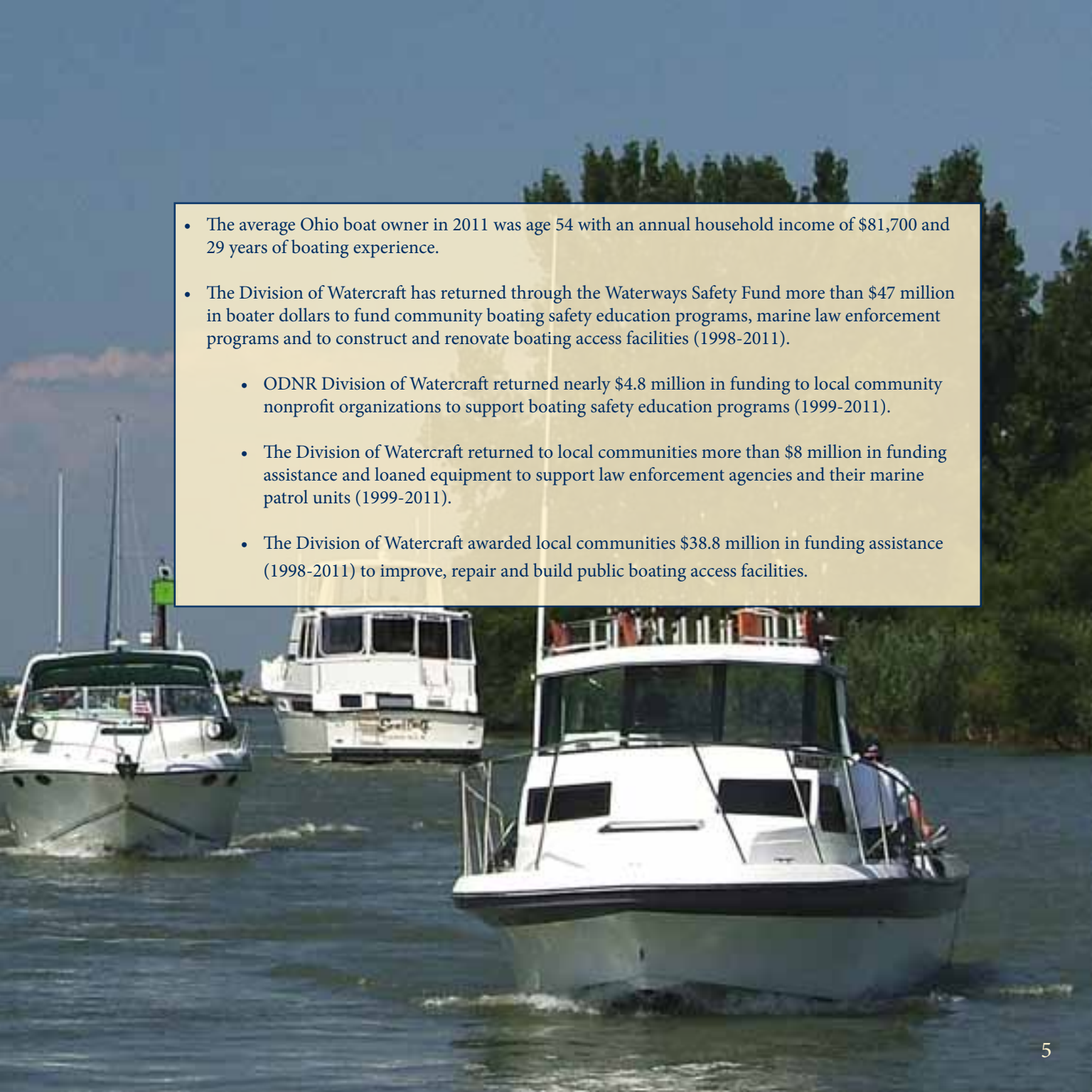
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Watercraft, Ohio State University, the Great Lakes Commission, Ohio Department of Taxation, Ohio Division of Travel & Tourism, U.S. Coast Guard, ODNR Division of Coastal Management, ODNR Division of Wildlife, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

Copies Printed . . . . . 2000  
Unit Cost . . . . . \$1.42  
Publication Date . . . . . 1/2012



## *Economic Impact: Recreational Boating In Ohio*

- Recreational boating generates an economic impact for Ohio's economy estimated at \$3.5 billion annually based upon a 2007 Great Lakes Commission study.
- Ohio's boating industry supports as many as 26,000 full-time equivalent jobs based upon the same Great Lakes Commission study.
- An estimated 3 million Ohioans, or nearly 1 in 4, go boating each year.
- A record 425,916 recreational boats were registered through November 30, 2011. Ohio ranks 9th in the nation in the number of registered boats.
- Ohio has over 108,000 registered canoes/kayaks including those registered through commercial liveries.
- A total of 36,846 canoes/kayaks were registered in Ohio through November 30, 2011, alone which generated over \$809,028 for the Waterways Safety Fund.
- Boat ownership by women in Ohio increased from 2.6% in 2001 to 6% in 2010.
- Ohioans paid \$5.4 million in watercraft registration and title fees in 2011.
- Boaters paid \$15.4 million in Ohio fuel tax during the 2011 boating season.
- Ohioans paid \$11.2 million in state sales tax on watercraft purchased in 2011.
- Ohio had 626 boat dealers and 56 canoe/kayak rental liveries in 2011.
- 99 percent of Ohioans live within 36 miles of a waterway that can accommodate a powerboat.

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- The average Ohio boat owner in 2011 was age 54 with an annual household income of \$81,700 and 29 years of boating experience.
  - The Division of Watercraft has returned through the Waterways Safety Fund more than \$47 million in boater dollars to fund community boating safety education programs, marine law enforcement programs and to construct and renovate boating access facilities (1998-2011).
    - ODNR Division of Watercraft returned nearly \$4.8 million in funding to local community nonprofit organizations to support boating safety education programs (1999-2011).
    - The Division of Watercraft returned to local communities more than \$8 million in funding assistance and loaned equipment to support law enforcement agencies and their marine patrol units (1999-2011).
    - The Division of Watercraft awarded local communities \$38.8 million in funding assistance (1998-2011) to improve, repair and build public boating access facilities.

## Economic Impact: 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 represents boating dollars. The Waterways Safety Fund is the sole mechanism used to finance 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.

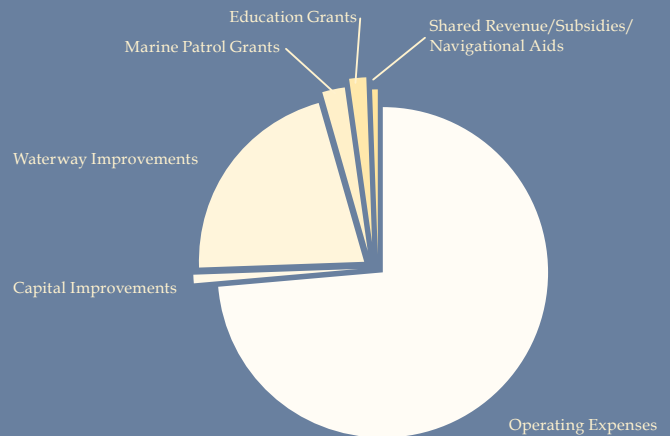
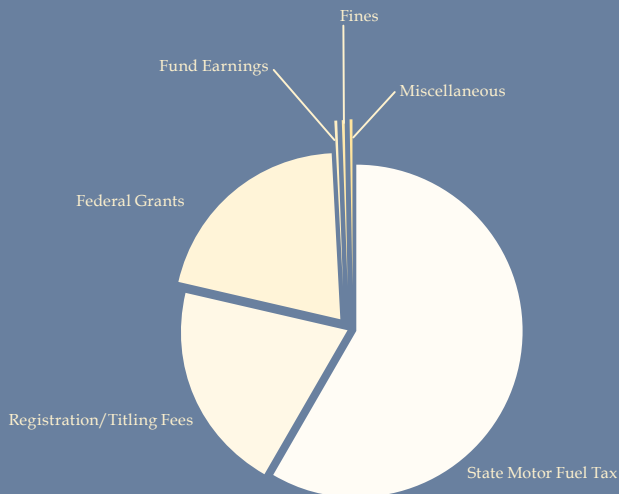
2011

### Revenues:

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

### Expenditures:

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



\*Dredging support to Division of Parks & Recreation

## *Travel and Tourism: Ohio Boating Destinations*

Recreational boating generates an economic impact for Ohio's economy that was estimated at \$3.5 billion annually, according to a 2007 Great Lakes Commission study. The Great Lakes States, including Ohio, are a recreational powerhouse with nearly one-third of all registered boats in the U.S. Favorite boating activities among Ohioans and nonresidents include sportfishing, swimming, wildlife viewing, dining, shopping, picnicking, camping and simply cruising our waterways. Sportfishing alone in Ohio, generates a statewide economic impact estimated at \$1.1 billion annually and helps support the full-time equivalent of an estimated 20,000 Ohio jobs.

Other key components of Ohio's recreational boating industry include:

- Tourism is a \$38 billion per year industry – Ohio's 3rd largest – and one that supports the full-time equivalent of approximately 439,000 Ohio jobs that produce \$10 billion in direct earnings.
- More than 100,000 northern Ohio jobs are directly linked to Lake Erie region visitors who spend more than \$10.7 billion annually. This spending also generates \$430 million in state taxes and \$320 million in local taxes, according to the Ohio Department of Development.
- Ohio boaters collectively spend half their time on the water enjoying fishing. Over 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.
- Great Lakes boat owners each spend an average of \$3,600 per year on their boats, which includes \$1,400 on boat-related expenses such as dock fees, repairs and insurance. The remaining \$2,200 is spent on boating trip-related expenses such as food, lodging and onshore entertainment. Average spending per boating day on trips varies from \$76 to \$275. Most boating trip costs are for marine fuel (22 percent), restaurants (17 percent) and groceries (14 percent).



## *Travel and Tourism: Ohio Boating Events*

Boating-related events are prosperous for Ohio communities as they create sustainable tourism activity. These events not only bring tourists to Ohio, but also encourage Ohio residents to travel to event sites and in some cases extend their stays by enjoying other local and regional attractions. Collectively, this sustainable tourism diversifies the economy and provides a dollar value to the resources that make Ohio communities unique and worth visiting.

Some of the notable boating-related events enjoyed in Ohio include:

- Winter and spring see thousands of boaters join with families and friends to attend one of the many marine trade show events held each year in Ohio. These selling shows generate a significant boating-related economic impact early in the year well before the boating and fishing seasons begin. Among the larger of these marine and outdoors trade show events are the Ohio Boat and RV Show (Columbus), the Mid-America Boat & Fishing Show (Cleveland) the Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show (Cincinnati) and AAA Great Vacations Expo (Columbus) held each January. A full listing of trade show events in which the Division of Watercraft participates is available online at [www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft](http://www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft).
- Ohio waterways are host to many local, regional and national fishing tournaments. Among these in 2011 were the X-Series Bass Fishing, the Cabela's Walleye Circuit, the Lake Erie Walleye Trail, the FLW Outdoors, and the Ohio State Carp Championship fishing tournaments. These are in addition to hundreds of local community fishing tournaments held weekly and bi-weekly across Ohio.
- June 2-10, 2012 is National Fishing and Boating Week. Ohio boaters spend half their time on the water fishing. Over 750 licensed sportfishing guides operate on Lake Erie, 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 spend \$2 billion on sportfishing and hunting. Visit [www.rbff.org](http://www.rbff.org) for more information.
- June 9-10, 2012 is the annual North Coast Harbor Boating and Fishing Fest at Voinovich Park along Cleveland's lakefront. The event provides thousands of aspiring boaters the opportunity to enjoy free boat outings hosted by local yacht, fish and boat clubs. Visit [www.boatingfest.com](http://www.boatingfest.com) for more information.
- June 23, 2012 is the annual Ohio River Way Paddlefest in Cincinnati. Paddlefest is the largest canoe/kayak paddling event in the Midwest and includes the largest flotilla of paddlecraft in the country with over 2,000 paddlers making their way down the Ohio River. Visit [www.ohioriverway.org/paddlefest/](http://www.ohioriverway.org/paddlefest/) for a full list of available Paddlefest events.
- In southeast Ohio, American Power Boat Association Super League racing returns to the Ohio River in Marietta July 14-15, 2012 for a weekend of racing action, filled hotels, restaurants and other area tourist attractions. Visit [www.apba-racing.com](http://www.apba-racing.com) for more information.



- July 21, 2012 is when thousands of spectators and participants descend upon the banks of the Maumee River in Perrysburg and Toledo as Partners in Education of Toledo hosts the annual Dragon Boat Festival. The one-day event is like no other seen in Ohio. Visit [www.partnerstoledo.org](http://www.partnerstoledo.org) for more information.
- August 3-5, 2012 is when sailboaters from across the country head to Ohio to view or participate in the Inter-Lake Yachting Association Sail Regatta on Lake Erie's western basin. This year's event is hosted by the Put-In-Bay Yacht Club. Visit [www.i-lya.org](http://www.i-lya.org) for more information.
- August 25-26, 2012 is the Celina Governors Cup Regatta at Grand Lake St. Marys State Park. This race attracts racers from across the United States and Canada who come to test their boats and skills. Visit [www.celinaevents.com](http://www.celinaevents.com) for more information.
- Each Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 1-3, 2012), thousands of boaters and other spectators gather for the Cleveland National Air Show held at the Burke Lakefront Airport along Cleveland's Lake Erie shoreline. Few experiences compare to a weekend of boating fun and air show excitement. Visit [www.clevelandairshow.com](http://www.clevelandairshow.com) for more information.

*Additionally, local festivals, races, training events and summer fireworks celebrations bring millions of people to enjoy boating in Ohio during spring, summer and fall. Visit [www.discoverohio.com](http://www.discoverohio.com) for more information.*



## *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 and emergency response units in the nation that is readily called upon to provide mutual assistance to other public safety agencies across the state, region and nation.

Developed with extensive stakeholder input, focus of the Division's "Strategic Plan For Ohio Boating 2011-2015" remains on promoting recreational boating as a fun and safe recreational pursuit. The majority of the Division's efforts, funding and resources are outlined in these primary strategic issues:

- Develop, maintain and upgrade new and existing public boating access facilities to enhance boating opportunities.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for waterways management to improve boater experiences.
- Increase and enhance boating education opportunities.
- Coordinate, increase and provide consistent boating law enforcement/safety services.
- Provide support to grow Ohio's economy through continued promotion of state boating programs and sustainable travel and tourism opportunities.

The Division proved to be highly successful in achieving completion of approximately 90 percent of its previously established goals and objectives listed in its 2004-2010 Strategic Plan For Ohio Boating. Among some of the most recent accomplishments from 2011:

- Completion of 15 boating access projects statewide at an expenditure of more than \$4.1 million through the Cooperative Boating Facility Grant program. The largest of these projects was a \$2.2 million boat ramp facility on the Ohio River completed in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. This project received multiple awards for providing high quality launch facilities for Ohio boaters.
- Utilized \$168,157 from the Waterways Safety Fund for 14 emergency boating access repair projects statewide.
- Opening and dedication of the new Division of Watercraft Scioto County area office (adjacent to Greenup Dam on the Ohio River) on April 25 with relocation of staff and services completed January, 2011.

## *Ohio Boating: Looking Forward*

Driven by stakeholder input, the ODNR Division of Watercraft completed its “Strategic Plan For Ohio Boating 2011-2015”. This revised plan was developed through solicitation, review and inclusion of significant stakeholder feedback and builds upon the mission statement and goals of the Division of Watercraft and ODNR. The consensus of stakeholder opinion is to maintain and help grow Ohio’s recreational boating industry in a manner that supports economic vitality and job stimulus for our state. At the same time, it also remains a program focus and responsibility to:

- Enhance boating safety.
- Invest boating dollars into waterway access development and improvements.
- Improve resource and waterways protection that includes Ohio’s scenic rivers.
- Grow a statewide and nationally recognized position of leadership in regulatory stewardship.
- Maintain a high level of customer satisfaction in boat registration and titling services.
- Provide Division employees with the necessary training and support resources that will enhance their abilities to advance Division goals in service to the boating community.

Goals the Division of Watercraft has set forth to accomplish during 2012-2013:


- Share with boating stakeholders information regarding boater-provided funding to the Waterways Safety Fund.
- Offer standardized power boating skills development opportunities encouraging on water, skill-based training for Ohio boaters.
- Improve public safety by obtaining/updating Mutual Aid Assistance agreements and consolidation of law enforcement databases.
- Establish support for a no-discharge zone designation on Lake Erie.
- Expand the “Get on Board with a Sober Boater” campaign and raise public awareness on the importance of boating safety and the wearing of lifejackets.
- Continue to administer local grant funding assistance programs that support construction and improvement of public boating access facilities, community boating safety education programs and local marine patrol operations.
- Continue to administer federal grant funding programs such as the Boating Infrastructure Grant program that will be utilized to provide \$2.2 million for renovation of the Put-In-Bay Harbor project (South Bass Island) and \$1.45 million for the North Coast Harbor Marina development project (Cleveland).
- Complete design phase for a new marina facility at Caesar Creek Lake State Park in Warren County.
- Twenty-eight Watercraft Officer cadets were hired and began training in 2011. They are scheduled to complete the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy in June of 2012 and then to deploy to their assigned field offices.



## *Ohio's Boating Partners*

*T*here are many diverse organizations, government entities, community organizations, trade associations and individuals commonly sharing a vested interest in Ohio's recreational boating industry and overall economic prosperity. A sampling of these boating partners include:

The U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters (9th District), U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Ohio State University - Ohio Sea Grant College Program, the Ohio Clean Marinas Program, Ohio's marine trade associations, the recipients of boating access facilities, boating safety education program, and marine patrol assistance grants awarded by the Division of Watercraft, Ohio's network of over 200 watercraft registration and titling agents, 56 canoe/kayak livery operators and more than 600 marine dealers.



*Please refer to the ODNR Division of Watercraft publications "Directions - 2011", "Strategic Plan for Ohio Boating 2011-2015" and "Boating On Ohio's Waterways" (BOW Plan) for a more detailed look at Ohio's boating programs and Division of Watercraft operations. These publications are available online at [www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft](http://www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft) and by calling the Division of Watercraft at 614-265-6480.*