Lake Erie

Experience this Trophy Fishery

Lake Erie waters are among the best trophy fisheries in the world. To many anglers, Erie fishing means steelhead, and for many years, the Lake Erie tributaries provided a world-class steelhead fishery. But, great fishing doesn’t stop there; Lake Erie also has excellent populations of Yellow Perch, Walleyes, Northern Pike, Smelt, Bass, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Bluegills, Channel Catfish, Rainbow, Brook, and Burbot. Let’s not forget that Lake Erie also allows for a variety of boating opportunities as well. So, what are you waiting for? Start exploring this GREAT Lake.

The steelhead fishery in Lake Erie and its tributaries has become a popular destination for anglers. Nearly a quarter of a million steelhead fishing trips were made here every year. These trips generate more than $35.9 million in economic activity for the community. One challenge in keeping this fishing opportunity addressing the increased demand is the development of public access to private lands. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) has taken the lead in developing the Lake Erie Access Improvement Program.

Laurence M. K. Aquatic Nonpoint Source Pollution

Clean Your Gear!

11. Dry your gear. Some waterways have restrictions on drying equipment. Check before you depart. Some waterways are restricted to one method of drying. Remove all possible aquatic life before drying. Sun and heat at the water’s surface can cause some aquatic organisms to die. Watercraft with multiple tanks, live bait wells, any other wet areas, or traps and damage to the streambed of the fishery and the stream. In addition, please be a caretaker of the stream and remove any trash that you may find. Following these guidelines will help to ensure that private properties remain open and available to the public and provide high-quality fishing experiences for generations to come.

Lake Erie Fishing Access Areas

LANDOWNER RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

LANDOWNERS: Please do not post your property against public access in an effort to respond to poor behavior such as littering, building open fires, trampling farm fields, orような intent to prevent anyone from fishing on private property. Preserving public access to private lands is a simple matter, but one that requires us all to take action to protect ourselves. Regardless of whether a public fishing access or a property, visitors on private lands must remember to act like a guest. Respect the landowners and rights and postings, park only in designated areas, access the property only at designated areas, and do not move the marked boundaries of the fishing area and the stream. In addition, please be a caretaker of the stream and remove any trash that you may find. Following these guidelines will help to ensure that private properties remain open and available to the public and provide high-quality fishing experiences for generations to come.

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Erie Access Improvement Program

The Erie Access Improvement Program was made possible by Act 159 of 2004, which created a new Lake Erie stamp-permit (required for angling fish in the Lake Erie watershed) and a Combination Lake Erie Trout/Salmon stamp. The Act provides that the proceeds from the sale of Lake Erie permits are to be deposited into a restricted account to “be used to provide public fishing access on all Lake Erie and the waterbodies of Lake Erie.” With these dedicated funds, the Commission developed the Erie Access Improvement Program to ensure that access to the Lake Erie watershed has pedestrian and high-quality access to fishing opportunities.

Government entities and non-profit, sporting and conservation organizations may also apply for consultations and development needs in the Erie watershed and request Commission funding through the Erie Access Improvement Program to assist in addressing these needs. Eligible projects include acquisition of lands and property rights, and development of lands to improve and/or maintain access to land. A major component of this program is to work with landowners to develop public fishing easements that allow fishing access in exchange for fair compensation.

WHO MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET?

All motorized and hand-propelled motorized boats (in water) are required by law to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet long, on all lakes in all waters. In addition, please be a caretaker of the stream and remove any trash that you may find. Following these guidelines will help to ensure that private properties remain open and available to the public and provide high-quality fishing experiences for generations to come.

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The steelhead fishery in Lake Erie and its tributaries was developed the Erie Access Improvement Program to encompass 35 feet of land from the stream’s edge on either side of the stream. If the source of the stream changes over time, the easement corridor will move with the stream as long as it remains within the boundaries of the property. Easements put an encumbrance on the property title that says on the land even if it is sold or deeded to an easement. Easements under this program provide only fishing access. The landowner continues to own and control the land.

LANDOWNERS: Did you know that Pennsylvania has legislation protecting landowners who hold their lands and waters open for free public recreational use? PFBC has posted an informational article with more details on this Act on its website at www.fishandboat.com (type “Recreational Use of Land and Water” in the search area).

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

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Wann Dressel Creek
**Lake Erie Shoreline Access Areas**

Access Areas for the Lake Erie shoreline, including Presque Isle Bay, are designed to accommodate both public and private access. All public access areas are owned by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), except for those owned by the city of Erie and the Erie County Department of Parks. The Fish & Boat Commission maintains up-to-date maps at www.fishandboat.com.

### Fishing Access

- **Access via the Waterway**: Public fishing access to Lake Erie is available via the waterway. Visit the Fish & Boat Commission website for maps and additional information.
- **Boating Safety**: Boating safety education programs are offered by the Fish & Boat Commission.
- **Near Me Mapping Feature**: The Fish & Boat Commission’s “Near Me” mapping feature provides real-time information on nearby fishing access areas.
- **Trophy Case**: The Fish & Boat Commission maintains a list of Pennsylvania’s top catches for various species.

### Special Regulations: Lake Erie Tributary Streams

- **Lake Erie Tributary Streams**: Fishing regulations apply to Lake Erie tributary streams, including Six Mile Creek, Four Mile Creek, Raccoon Creek, Mill Creek, Raccoon Creek, Walnut Creek, Twentymile Creek, and Twelvemile Creek. A permit is required for fishing in these streams.
- **Fishing Access**: Fishing access is provided by landowner and/or public boat ramp. Please respect landowner rights.

### Data Source

- **Lake Erie Permit**: A permit is required for fishing in Lake Erie tributary streams.
- **Near Me Mapping Feature**: The Fish & Boat Commission’s “Near Me” mapping feature provides real-time information on nearby fishing access areas.
- **Trophy Case**: The Fish & Boat Commission maintains a list of Pennsylvania’s top catches for various species.

### Access Areas

- **Avonia Beach**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 2945 Chestnut Street, Erie, PA 16503.
- **Elk Creek Access**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 105 Elk Creek Road, Millcreek Township, PA 16513.
- **Lampe Marina**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 200 Lakeside Drive, Millcreek Township, PA 16513.
- **Charley’s Boat Livery**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 222 Chestnut Street, Erie, PA 16503.
- **East Avenue Boat Ramp**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 120 East Avenue, Millcreek Township, PA 16513.
- **Raccoon-1.526**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 12 Raccoon Road, Millcreek Township, PA 16513.
- **Twentymile Creek**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 27 Twentymile Creek Road, Millcreek Township, PA 16513.
- **Twelvemile Creek**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 32 Twelvemile Creek Road, Millcreek Township, PA 16513.
- **Presque Isle Bay - Lake Erie**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 41.983493, -80.401949.
- **Range: 0-5 Miles**

### GPS Coordinates

- **Latitude/Longitude**: 42.073106, -80.101675
- **Description**: Fishing access on property owned by the PA Port Authority. Ample parking available at Liberty Park off of Liberty Street.
- **Raccoon-2.412**: Fishing access available via the waterway. Located at 12 Raccoon Road, Millcreek Township, PA 16513.
- **Range: 5-10 Miles**

### Contact Information

- **Fish & Boat Commission**: For more information, visit www.fishandboat.com or call 855-FISH-KIL (855-347-4554).

To ensure an enjoyable fishing experience, obtain a valid fisherman's license and adhere to local regulations. Respect landowner rights and do not trespass on private property or any adjoining private properties without permission.