

For Immediate Release
July 17, 2013

Ohio Lake Erie Commission Releases 2013 Plan to Protect Lake Erie

Sandusky -- The Ohio Lake Erie Commission released its Draft *Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan 2013* (LEPR) for public comment. The LEPR, last published in 2008, reflects actions that the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and its member agencies will take over the next several years to protect, preserve and restore our Great Lake. The state's actions complement federal and local partners' initiatives in the Lake Erie basin and across the region.

The plan is organized into twelve priority areas, addressing current and emerging issues in the Ohio Lake Erie basin. The plan features a variety of topics affecting Lake Erie, including nonpoint source pollution, invasive species and climate change. Specific short and long-term actions are identified and build upon current and on-going efforts to meet restoration and protection goals for Lake Erie.

The Commission will hold two public meetings to present the plan and solicit public comment: Tuesday, August 6 at the Maumee Public Library from 6:30pm-8:00pm, and Thursday, August 8 at the Bay Village Public Library from 6:30pm-8:00pm. The Commission will also hold one webinar the afternoon of Wednesday, August 7. For more information and additional meeting details, please visit the Commission's website: <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov>. The public comment period will close Friday, August 23. Comments may be submitted at public meetings, or by contacting the Commission at lakeeriecommission@lakeerie.ohio.gov.

Revenue generated by the sales of Lake Erie license plates provides funding for projects that assist with the implementation of the LEPR. These funds are deposited into the Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF), which was established to finance research and on-the-ground projects aimed at protecting, preserving and restoring Lake Erie and its watershed. Citizens purchasing a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse by Ohio artist Ben Richmond, or the newly released Lake Erie life ring, participate directly in the protection and restoration of Lake Erie. Citizens may also help fund projects that directly benefit Lake Erie by sending a donation to the Commission's office at 111 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

OLEC was established to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promote economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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