

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2009

OLEC Funds Research on Lake Erie Water Quality and Artificial Fish Habitats

TOLEDO, OH - The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will provide grants for two projects that will investigate water quality issues and create enhanced fishing opportunities in Lake Erie.

On December 16, OLEC members approved the latest round of Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF) small grants. The LEPF funds a variety of projects that provide direct benefit to Lake Erie and its tributary watersheds in Ohio. The fund is supported by Ohioans through the purchase of the "Erie...Our Great Lake" license plates that display the Marblehead Lighthouse, or renewal of the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse plate as designed by noted Lake Erie artist Ben Richmond. Fifteen dollars from the sale of each plate is invested in the Lake Erie Protection Fund grants program.

The University of Toledo's Department of Civil Engineering will receive \$14,998 for a project that will enable detection of phosphates in Lake Erie by improving a recently developed microsensor. This sensing tool will be refined and tested to measure lower levels of phosphate and Soluble Reactive Phosphorus which will improve our ability to manage phosphorus in the lake.

Ohio Sea Grant College Program – The Ohio State University will receive \$9,900 for a project to build complex fish habitat structures in seven (7) of Ohio's clean marinas along Lake Erie's south shore. It is anticipated that these structures will attract more fish and increase angling success for Ohioans.

The Lake Erie Protection Fund was established to help finance research and implementation of projects aimed at protecting and restoring the environment, economy and recreational opportunities of Lake Erie and its watershed.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established for the purpose of protecting Lake Erie's natural resources, the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

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