

Ted Strickland, Governor
Ed Hammett, Executive Director

One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 245-2514 lakeerie.ohio.gov

Contacts: Ed Hammett, Executive Director at (419) 245-2514

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2007 Coastweeks Celebration is September 5-22

TOLEDO, OH – Restoring and protecting Lake Erie, Ohio's Great Lake, will again be the focus of the Coastweeks observance, scheduled this year from Wednesday, September 5, to Saturday, September 22.

Ohio's Coastweeks is part of an annual nationwide effort to educate the public about protecting America's coastlines. Coordinated by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC), Ohio's focus is Lake Erie and its watershed.

Last year, beach walks, cleanups, and nature programs were examples of the activities that took place during Coastweeks. This year, Ohio's Coastweeks will again focus on cleanup events. International Coastal Cleanup Day takes place on Saturday, September 15; it is the world's largest one-day volunteer effort to clean up coastlines and waterways. The Maumee Remedial Action Plan is coordinating its annual Clean Your Streams program on the same day and will feature several clean-up locations in northwest Ohio.

Environmental organizations, schools, scout groups, clubs, community groups and individuals throughout Ohio's Lake Erie watershed are encouraged to make a difference and get involved in this year's Coastweeks by organizing an event.

Visit the OLEC web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo or call 419-245-2514 to learn more about Coastweeks, or to obtain an event application form to organize an event. The OLEC will provide the tools needed to promote Coastweeks events.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and promote economic development of 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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One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor Toledo, Ohio 43604
p. 419.245.2514 f. 419.245.2519 w. lakeerie.ohio.gov