

May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026 Walleye Sport Fishing Regulations

Michigan bag limits on these 4 waterbodies are the same and will be updated each May 1 and run through April 30 of the following year. Ontario limits noted are for the sport license only, it is 2 fish per day with a conservation license.

Michigan

Detroit River, Lake St. Clair & St. Clair River

- Open all year
- 6 fish per day
- 15" min. size limit
- 3 rods/angler

Michigan

Lake Erie

- Open all year
- 6 fish per day
- 15" min. size limit
- 3 rods/angler

Ontario

St. Clair River

- Open all year
- 6 fish per day
- no size limit
- 2 line/angler when fishing from a boat

Ontario

Lake St. Clair

- Open all year
- 6 fish per day
- no size limit
- 2 lines/angler when fishing from a boat

Ontario

Detroit River

- Open all year
- 6 fish per day
- no size limit
- 2 lines/angler when fishing from a boat

Ontario

Lake Erie

- Open all year
- 6 fish per day
- no size limit
- 2 lines/angler when fishing from a boat

Ohio

Lake Erie

- 6 fish per day
- 15" min. size limit
- 3 rods/angler



Toledo

Monroe

DETROIT

Windsor

Port Huron

Lk St. Clair

Lake Erie

Updated 4/04/2025

2025 WALLEYE FISHING REGULATIONS for the ST. CLAIR SYSTEM AND LAKE ERIE:
Michigan bag limits for all 4 waterbodies are now the same and will be updated each May 1 and run through the following April.



	Michigan	Ontario (sports license)	Ohio
St. Clair River & Lake St. Clair	6 fish per day Open all year 15" size limit 3 rods/angler	6 fish per day Open all year No size limit 2 lines/boat angler	NA
Detroit River	6 fish per day Open all year 15" size limit 3 rods/angler	6 fish per day Open all year No size limit 2 lines/ boat angler	NA
Lake Erie	6 fish per day Open all year 15" size limit 3 rods/angler	6 fish per day Open all year No size limit 2 lines/boat angler	6 fish per day Open all year 15" size limit 3 rods/angler

The Detroit River is defined as: In Michigan - upstream limit: from Windmill Point south to the international border.
- downstream limit: an east-west line through the southern tip of Celeron Island.
In Ontario - upstream limit: from the northerly tip of Peche Island, south to the green marker buoy #DP3 and from that buoy to the most easterly point of the gravel dock in the City of Windsor.
- downstream limit: a line from the southerly tip of the Livingstone Channel west to the International Boundary Line and east to the shore of the Detroit R.

Lake Erie is defined as: In Michigan - those waters south of an east-west line through the southern tip of Celeron Island.
In Ontario - those waters south of a line from the southerly tip of the Livingstone Channel west to the International Boundary Line and east to the shore of the Detroit River.

Questions & Answers:

1. How are the Lake Erie quotas decided?

Walleye within the bounds of Lake Erie are managed by international agreement. Each spring the Lake Erie Committee sets harvests levels that are allocated by an area-based sharing formula of walleye habitat within Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario. Each state or province harvests a portion of the population and is responsible for regulating their own catch.

2. Can I launch my boat in Michigan and fish walleye in Ohio or Ontario and bring my catch back into Michigan?

Yes! As long as when you return through Michigan waters you do not drop lines and fish. You must also have the appropriate Ohio or Ontario fishing license. You cannot fish in Michigan with more than a Michigan limit of fish on board.

3. Why not close the walleye season in the Detroit River in April and May?

Because there are enough adult walleye to continue to have a fishery in those waters. There looks like a lot – but only a small fraction of the adult walleye in the Detroit River are caught each spring.

4. Where do most of the walleye in the Detroit River and Lake Erie come from?

The vast majority of walleye spawning for the whole system occurs in the Maumee River (in Ohio) and on reefs in western Lake Erie.