

Various Photos Lake Erie Coast

DESCRIPTION:

At various locations across Ohio's Lake Erie coast, upland property owners have illegally built fences perpendicular across the beach and into the waters of Lake Erie without Federal, State or Local authorizations.



Photo 1
May 5, 2005 at a location in Rocky River.

CONCERNS:

Illegal fences that have been placed over beaches and into Lake Erie do not allow people to recreate along the shoreline in the Lake Erie Public Trust, i.e. below the ordinary high water mark. Also, during higher lake levels, erosion around the fence posts or concrete blocks that a fence is constructed upon can move and shift causing a fence to bend and break. This could produce dangerously sharp metal and/or concrete pieces in the nearshore area, which could harm bathers and other habitat such as fish and water fowl. Additionally, the ODNR will not issue permits nor leases to construct fences in the Lake Erie Public Trust as they are not for a water dependent



Photo 2
May 15, 2004 Catawba Island, Ottawa

purpose as required by Ohio Administrative Code. However, gaining compliance from upland property owners to remove the illegal fences is often a time-consuming process. For example in Photos 2 and 3 a fence that was built across the Lake Erie Public Trust in Ottawa County by the upland property owner. The upland property owner had stationed a guard at the fence who would not allow people to recreate within the Lake Erie Public Trust boundary without paying an entrance fee. It took multiple letters to the upland property owner and many months to gain compliance. In the meantime, many recreational users of this area of the Public Trust were blocked from accessing their favorite beach for the duration of summer.



Photo 2

May 15, 2004 Catawba Island, Ottawa