

# TOLEDO WALLEYE HOCKEY CLUB

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September 29, 2025

The Ohio House of Representatives  
Arts, Athletics, and Tourism Committee

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the Toledo Walleye, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that we offer our full support for the designation of the walleye as the official state fish of Ohio.

As a team deeply rooted in the culture and identity of Northwest Ohio, the walleye is more than just our namesake—it is a symbol of our region's natural heritage, recreational spirit, and community pride. The walleye has long been celebrated by anglers across the state, particularly in the waters of Lake Erie and the Maumee River, which are known around the world for their walleye fishing. This iconic species not only contributes more than \$1 billion to Ohio's economy but also serves as a unifying emblem for generations of Ohioans who cherish the memories made on our lakes and rivers.

The Toledo Walleye has proudly carried the name of this remarkable fish since our founding in 2009. With sellout crowds and record-breaking sales in fanwear, we have seen firsthand how it resonates with fans, families, and visitors alike. Naming the walleye as Ohio's official state fish would be a fitting tribute to its ecological importance, cultural relevance, and enduring legacy in our great state.

We urge lawmakers and community leaders to support this initiative and recognize the walleye as a true Ohio treasure.

Sincerely,

Joe Napoli  
President & CEO  
Toledo Walleye &  
Toledo Mud Hens

Neil Neukam  
Executive VP & GM  
Toledo Walleye

Erik Ibsen  
Executive VP & GM  
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Member of the ECHL



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