

USPS Regional Weather Guides
Region 11–Great Lakes

South Coast of Lake Erie-- Maumee Bay to Cleveland OH

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Maumee Bay has a dredged channel from the Toledo light 7 Miles offshore to the inner harbor bridges Downtown Toledo. The bay is shallow and one is advised to stay in the buoyed channels and marked side channels especially in the late summer and fall when the water levels are generally lower. The weather comes from the west / south west and gives a favorable wind for day sailing most of the time. Storms can be seen gathering over the Toledo Airport on radar and often sweep across the lake toward the Erie Islands.

Western Basin Area including the Erie Islands: In summer the waters are warm and shallow. Thunderstorms are frequent in the western basin and waterspouts can occur through out the the western basin area in late summer and early fall. Gale force westerlies can cause the water to drop in less than an hour often as much as 1.5 ft. making some parts hazardous to navigation. Small craft warnings are often up more than down as south westerly storms move rapidly through the area on a regular basis. Waves in storm areas can go to 4 ft in 20 minutes as thunder storms and cold fronts move rapidly through.

Put in Bay is the best sheltered harbor from the open waters with moorings available . There is a counter clockwise current that can develop in the harbor resulting in a choppy night in the harbor moorings. There is heavy ferry boat traffic adding to the wave action.

Sandusky Bay: This area provides shelter from lake storms but has an average depth of about 8 ft with the exception of the Mosby dredged channel . Storms often move down the bay toward Cedar Point and can cause decreased water levels and rough seas in this shallow area. There is a current moving toward Cedar Point adding to the waves breaking on Bay Point.

Huron River Basin: This harbor is protected from all but the trains. There is however a strong current in the river and the river depth of some 35ft does not become choppy with out cause.

Vermilion is a protected harbor with a stone barrier protecting the entrance. However the wind does cross the entrance making it some times choppy and difficult with turbulence. Winds from the NE make this harbor with the barrier a refuge.

Lorain harbor is a good deep water port with a strong current moving toward the break wall that protects the harbor entrance. Winds from the south west often funnel toward the wall and add waves to the current requiring caution in heavy seas. There is heavy commercial traffic with a deep water channel. Winds can often swirl and add to the waves from the boat traffic.

Cleveland has a break wall that runs for some 5 miles and offers a barrier from northern

winds. This busy area has protected dockage. However storms can often be seen building over the city and moving parallel to the break wall resulting in choppy seas inside the barrier. The Cuyahoga river has a strong current and heavy boat traffic resulting choppy boat wake.