



## Captain Jerry Abele

When most boys reach age 14, the first thing they want is a motorcycle. Not Jerry: he saved his paper route money and bought his first boat, an 18' Lyman.

He would run the shoreline from Lakewood to the Islands, fish all day, and run the shoreline back. His mother never knew where he was!

That's when his addiction began, and he's been feeding it ever since then, 47 years, and he's still going strong.

Jerry was one of the original licensed guides on Lake Erie. He was a charter member of LESF, Lake Erie Sports Fisherman, which was instrumental in the organized buy-out of the gill net fishery on the lake.

LESF morphed into the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, of which he is also a charter member. He remains on the board as the biology liaison for the State of Ohio.

Captain Jerry also helps the Sea Grant Program by doing weekly water sampling and taking Fish Ohio Day passengers for a look at the health of Lake Erie.

Jerry has won several tournaments and was voted Captain of the Year for the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association.

Jerry's whole career on the lake, along with ensuring his passengers have a great day on the water, is making sure Lake Erie and its bounty will be available to future generations, for your grandchildren's grandchildren.

Thank you, Jerry, for a lifetime of service to Lake Erie and Sport Fishing!