

Ken Gibbons

M.S. Biology (Ecology), 2016

Ken is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He left Ohio to get his bachelor's degree from Albion College, a small liberal arts college in mid-Michigan. While there he majored in Biology with a minor in Geology. With a strong science background, Ken returned to Ohio to enroll in the ecology graduate program in the Department of Environmental Sciences at The University of Toledo.

Ken chose to study at UT because of its involvement with Lake Erie water quality research. His goal was to conduct research relevant to careers in limnology and water quality. Ken worked with Dr. Tom



Bridgeman to monitor water quality issues on western Lake Erie. Weekly samples were collected from the lake over summer months. These were analyzed for many water quality parameters. Ken also had the opportunity to visit the Toledo water intake crib on Lake Erie.

A successful academic career allowed Ken to become a Great Lakes Commission Fellow. He is working on a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) collaboration, which enables science-based information sharing among scientists. This program also encourages communication between scientists and officials working on HABs. Ken is also working on Erie Stat, an information platform to track progress toward meeting the shared, binational goal of a 40% reduction in phosphorus in the western Lake Erie basin. He hopes to continue his career helping to improve water quality of the Great Lakes.

“My advice to students in the DES is to be consistent with your work and not to be discouraged by failures. Success will come at different times for different people. Each day, do your best to move your work forward”.