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¡VAMOS A PESCAR!

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“Vamos A Pescar” means “Take Me Fishing” in Spanish. Our partners at the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) have been making fishing and boating more accessible to more people through the George H.W. Bush Vamos A Pescar™ Education Fund and engaging online content. To broaden its reach, RBFF maintains both a takemefishing.org website in English and a VamosAPescar.org one in Spanish.

As Pennsylvania becomes a more diverse state and as our agency tries to create a more welcoming environment for everyone to fish and boat, we are following their lead to try to let everyone know that the water is open to them.

We are kicking off one new strategy with this issue of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*. With each issue of the magazine, we will have an accompanying full Spanish translation of the article on our website. For those articles, there will be a sidebar with a QR code that will direct subscribers to the Spanish version of the article on the website. The inaugural article, “Knotes” on Knots”, page 34, can be found on the website under the title “Notas en nudos”.

Thank you in advance for sharing this feature with friends or family members for whom Spanish is their first language. We hope they like it.

One of RBFF’s current engagement themes is “Find Your Best Self on the Water.” To be your best self on the water, you need to be able to get to the water. And, that is just what is happening all over Pennsylvania as individuals, businesses, community organizations and

local governments realize the transformative power of building connections to local waterways that are welcoming to all.

In our agency’s 2023 Annual Report to the General Assembly, we highlighted several ways that we and our partners are working across the Commonwealth to implement the second part of our mission to provide fishing and boating opportunities through improved public access. Visit fishandboat.com for a link to the Annual Report and examples of ways we are implementing our strategic plan goal to maintain, improve and connect people to public access locations and create new public access to ensure a diversity of sustainable recreational fishing and boating opportunities for all to enjoy.

If you enjoy the Commonwealth’s waters from a boat this spring, wear your life jacket. The current 10-year average for recreational boating fatalities in Pennsylvania is at an all-time low since 1988 when these statistics began being recorded. The most impactful action to keep that momentum going in the right direction is for boaters to wear a life jacket. Here and across the country, about 80% of all boating fatalities were a result of the victim not wearing a life jacket. In some cases, the life jackets were on board the boat, but they did no good without being worn.

And, if you fish from a boat during Mentored Youth Trout Day on March 30 or the Opening Day of trout season on April 6, you are required to wear a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet in length and on any canoe, kayak or paddleboard. The coldwater life jacket requirement is saving lives and remains in effect from November 1 to April 30. ☐



WEAR IT
National Safe Boating Council
Pennsylvania
¡Póntelo!