

## New License Transaction Fee

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission announced in February that Governor Edward G. Rendell had signed House Bill 1109 into law (Act 2 of 2008), resulting in a small license transaction fee for anglers effective immediately.

The Fish & Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are jointly developing a new electronic license delivery system known as the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing Service (PALS) system. The PALS system eliminated the need for paper-based fishing licenses for the 2008 fishing year, which began December

1, 2007. PALS is managed by a private firm and the Commission is charged a \$.70 electronic processing fee for each transaction made through the system.

Act 2 of 2008 allows the Commission to recover up to \$1.00 in electronic license fees for each transaction from the license buyer. This means each license and permit currently purchased through PALS will cost \$.70 each. The electronic processing fee will cost the average license buyer \$1.40 to purchase a fishing license and permit, making it one of the lowest transaction fees of its kind in the country.

This new legislation also addresses replacement licenses and permits. Before the law passed, the Commission's fishing licenses and permits were individually priced at an average replacement cost of \$14.25. PALS now allows the Commission to combine the purchase of a license and all previously purchased permits into one replacement license for the low cost of \$6.70.

The law also expands the blackout period when One-Day Tourist and One-Day Resident licenses are not valid. One-Day Tourist and One-Day Resident Licenses are not valid for fishing from March 15 to April 30 of any year. One-Day Tourist or One-Day Resident licenses issued to be used on March 14 expire at 11:59 p.m. on March 14, regardless of what time the license begins.

### Fishin' from the Kitchen

## Roasted Walleye with Herb Vinaigrette

by Wayne Phillips

Served hot or at room temperature, roasted walleye with basil/lemon vinaigrette over a bed of couscous is hard to beat.

#### Ingredients for four servings:

- ✓ 4 skinless, boneless walleye fillets
- ✓ 1 medium onion, sliced
- ✓ 1 clove garlic, minced
- ✓ 1 lemon, sliced
- ✓ 1 lemon zested, then squeezed for juice
- ✓ 1/2-cup basil, finely minced
- ✓ 6 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- ✓ 1 Tbsp. white balsamic vinegar
- ✓ Salt and white pepper to taste
- ✓ Couscous prepared with chicken stock and vegetables

#### Procedure

Massage a bit of extra virgin olive oil into the walleye fillets. Season fillets with salt and white pepper. Scatter half of the onion, garlic and sliced lemon in a baking dish. Place walleye fillets on top. Scatter the rest of the onion, garlic and lemon slices over the fish. Bake in a 350-degree oven until fish is baked through. While fish is baking, combine Dijon mustard, white balsamic vinegar,



photo-Wayne Phillips

basil, lemon juice and zest. While whisking slowly, add extra virgin olive oil. Season with salt and white pepper to taste. If vinaigrette gets too thick, add some white wine or water to thin it.

#### Serve

Serve the walleye over a bed of couscous. Spoon the vinaigrette over the fish just before serving. Flavor the couscous with chicken stock, diced tomatoes, minced green onion, chopped basil and a squeeze of lemon juice. You could also serve the fish over a green salad that you dress with the same vinaigrette you used on the fish.

Baking the fish on a bed of onion, garlic and lemon slices adds wonderful flavor to the finished dish. Warm or at room temperature, this dish is great for a hot summer's day.

### Regional Reports

When you visit the Commission's web site, [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us), be sure to click on the "Regional Reports" pages, on the left side of the main page. There you will find a wealth of information from around the state, including fishing and boating reports, the weekly Erie report and biologist field reports. Aquatic resources program specialists compile the fishing and boating reports with input from waterways conservation officers. The Erie report, compiled by waterways conservation officers, provides details on the steelhead action, area fishing and boating conditions, and events. Area fisheries managers provide the biologist reports, which include information on stream and lake surveys from across the state. All of this information can be valuable in determining where to fish and boat. On the left side of the Commission web site's main page, click on the state map labeled "Regional Reports."