

ANNUAL REPORT



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The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing the Commonwealth's aquatic resources, including waterways, fish populations and habitats of fish and non-game species. From stocking waterways and measuring native populations to patrolling lakes and restoring habitats, our employees strive to protect the resource, for the resource is the foundation for everything we do. High quality streams, clean water and good habitat ensure that we successfully carry out the second part of our mission, to provide recreational fishing and boating opportunities for both Pennsylvanians and out-of-state visitors.

Fishing License & Permit Types

| Jan 1 – November 30, 2008 | Units Sold |
|---|------------------|
| Resident | 719,545 |
| Senior Resident | 18,138 |
| Senior Lifetime | 15,341 |
| 1-Day Resident | 3,328 |
| PA Resident National Guard/Reserve | 537 |
| Non-Resident | 39,760 |
| 1-Day Tourist | 6,156 |
| 3-Day Tourist | 24,864 |
| 7-Day Tourist | 7,168 |
| Disabled Veteran | 445 |
| Lake Erie Permit | 18,865 |
| Combination Lake Erie & Trout/ Salmon Stamp Permit | 85,685 |
| Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit | 484,804 |
| Total Licenses & Permits: | 1,424,636 |

Resource First is the management philosophy that best describes our mission.

The phrase was coined in the mid 1980s and represented a change in focus from recreational considerations alone to the resource and its users. In April 2008, the Commissioners took formal action to adopt the most recent iteration of Resource First, clearly reaffirming their expectations that the agency's work will be evaluated and practiced within the context of this philosophy.

The philosophy ensures that staff will make decisions based on long-term conservation of aquatic resources and will make scientifically informed decisions. Resource First also has been the foundation for strategic planning discussions between Commissioners, staff and stakeholders. The outcome of these discussions will be clearly identified goals, objectives, activities and measures framed by Resource First. Commission planning efforts

Boat Registration & Titling Transaction Types

| Jan 1 – November 30, 2008 | Transactions |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Registration Renewal* | 134,167 |
| Registration Transfer | 11,628 |
| Registration New | 26,858 |
| Registration Change | 1,332 |
| Registration Duplicate | 4,236 |
| Title New | 16,539 |
| Title Transfer | 12,236 |
| Title Correction | 1,239 |
| Title Duplicate | 861 |
| Total Boat Transactions | 210,634 |

* Boat registrations are valid for two years.

Figure 1. Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Report:
Actual expenditures charged from July 1, 2007,
to June 30, 2008

| Expenditures | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Fish Fund | | |
| Personnel | 21,414,653 | 64% |
| Operating | 8,926,023 | 26% |
| Fixed assets | 1,654,231 | 5% |
| Grants | 1,261,924 | 4% |
| Payments to state agencies | 324,513 | 1% |
| Fish Fund total | 33,581,344 | 100% |
| Boat Fund | | |
| Personnel | 77,978,453 | 62% |
| Operating | 2,937,830 | 23% |
| Fixed assets | 843,408 | 7% |
| Grants | 978,365 | 8% |
| Payments to state agencies | 11,408 | 0% |
| Boat Fund total | 12,749,464 | 100% |
| Fish Fund, Boat Fund Total | | |
| Personnel | 29,393,107 | 63% |
| Operating | 11,863,852 | 26% |
| Fixed assets | 2,497,638 | 5% |
| Grants | 2,240,288 | 5% |
| Payments to state agencies | 335,922 | 1% |
| Fish Fund, Boat Fund total | 46,330,807 | 100% |

currently underway include the Trout Management Plan, Statewide Access Plan and the agency-wide five-year Strategic Plan.

The 2008 Annual Report is a summary and review of the key accomplishments which support the Fish & Boat Commission's mission and goals.

Statewide license sales in 2008 decreased by about 1.79 percent from 2007 levels, with sales figures at the end of November 2008 totaling 835,282 licenses, which compares to 850,245 licenses for the same period in 2007. Similarly, combined trout/salmon stamps and the Lake Erie permits showed a net decrease of a little more than 2.42 percent. The number of stamps sold decreased from 595,720 in 2007 to 589,354 in 2008. The Commission's boat registration and titling transaction activities decreased by 5.51 percent in 2008 to 210,634 transactions. This figure compares with 222,916 transactions completed through the same period last year. There are 338,566 actively registered boats in Pennsylvania. The Commission's Charter Boat and

Figure 2. Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Report: Actual revenue deposited from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008

| Revenue | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Fish Total | | |
| Licenses, fees | 26,444,060 | 64% |
| Fines, penalties | 470,140 | 1% |
| Miscellaneous | 3,470,292 | 9% |
| Federal | 10,797,340 | 26% |
| Fish Fund total | 41,181,832 | 100% |
| Boat Total | | |
| Licenses, fees | 6,593,087 | 49% |
| Fines, penalties | 240,640 | 2% |
| Miscellaneous | 2,895,850 | 21% |
| Federal | 3,718,258 | 28% |
| Boat Fund total | 13,447,835 | 100% |
| Fish Fund, Boat Fund Total | | |
| Licenses, fees | 33,037,147 | 60% |
| Fines, penalties | 710,780 | 1% |
| Miscellaneous | 6,366,142 | 12% |
| Federal | 14,515,598 | 27% |
| Fish Fund, Boat Fund total | 54,629,667 | 100% |

Fishing Guide Permit program issued 322 resident and 45 nonresident guide permits during 2008. The Commission sold 816 casting permits. Staff also coordinated the annual accounting and administration of the Sand and Gravel Royalties program. Royalties in excess of \$900,000 are collected annually from five companies that dredge Pennsylvania waters for sand and gravel. □



Commission Environmental Education Specialist Adam Spangler demonstrates how to properly enter the water for a go rescue.