



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

You might be aware that the Commission stocks fish, protects Pennsylvania's amphibians, reptiles, aquatic insects and invertebrates, and works to keep anglers and boaters safe. But were you aware that the Commission produces brochures, posters and fact sheets and makes them available to educators and youth group leaders--free of charge? Did you know you can borrow a video from the Commission on aquatic insects for use in your classroom? Were you aware that the Commission offers training to teach adults how to instruct others in boating safety, fishing skills and Pennsylvania's aquatic resources? If you didn't know these things, please read on.

Education Resources Catalog

The Commission's Education Resources Catalog lists fact sheets, brochures and loaner videos available free of charge to educators. These resources make great supplements to informal activities or formal classroom curriculum. The catalog is available for download from the Commission's web site: www.fish.state.pa.us.

Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth (P.L.A.Y.)

PLAY is an educational newsletter for youngsters aged 8 to 12. Each issue includes games, stories and fun activities on our state's aquatic resources and how they relate to fishing and boating. Individual subscriptions are available free of charge. Forms are available on the Commission's web site. Bulk quantities are also available for classroom use. Send requests for classroom quantities to the Commission on school or organization letterhead.

Online Resources

Many Commission publications are available for download from our web site. *Pennsylvania Fishes*, an identification and field guide to the common fishes of PA, is also available online. This book is also available for purchase, discounted for educators. Included in *Pennsylvania Fishes* are illustrations and details on fish biology and life history, as well as information on distribution and status. The book or our web site should be your first stop when researching the fishes of Pennsylvania.



Also online is the Boat Pennsylvania Internet Course. Boaters can take an approved boating course and earn a Boating Safety Education Certificate at home. Click on "Boat Pennsylvania" to access the course or to view a listing of scheduled classroom boating safety courses.

Publications for Sale

The Commission offers wall charts of Pennsylvania's fishes, amphibians and reptiles. One set of charts is available to your school free. Other sets can be purchased online or through the mail. In addition to *Pennsylvania Fishes*, the Commission offers *Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles*, a guide to the amphibians and reptiles (herps) found in Pennsylvania. A special discount is offered to educators.

State-Fish Art Contest

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission partners with *Wildlife Forever* to conduct a state-fish art contest each year. Pennsylvania's state fish is the brook trout. Entries are categorized by grade level: 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Contest rules, an entry form, and the artwork of previous winners can be found on the Commission's web site: www.fish.state.pa.us. The deadline for entries is March 31 each year.

Teacher Workshops

Commission-sponsored workshops and the materials provided are designed for use by classroom educators. However, the materials can easily be adapted for use with any youth group. The materials and training provided will assist educators in teaching content areas in the Ecology and Environment standards. Workshops are designed to provide educators with an introduction to the background content as well as exposure to learning activities associated with that content.

Project WILD Aquatic

The Commission is the state sponsor for WILD Aquatic (www.projectwild.org). The Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide emphasize aquatic wildlife and aquatic ecosystems. Commission Project Aquatic WILD workshops are a minimum of 8 hours. Participants receive the activity guide and PFBC publications and education resources. Training includes the use of the guide and aquatic ecology background information.

Aquatic WILD workshops may also be offered on specific topics such as American shad and Pennsylvania Fishes.

Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles Workshop

Participants in these 10- to 15-hour workshops receive a copy of the curriculum guide: *Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles*. The amphibians and reptiles curriculum guide is a multi-disciplinary curriculum designed for classroom educators of grades K-12. The guide is divided into four units: *Awareness* (basic biology), *Identification*, *Habitat* and *Responsible Human Action*. Participants also receive an introduction to the biology, ecology and identification of Pennsylvania's reptiles and amphibians.

Fishing Skills Training

Fishing Skills Instructor Training

The Fishing Skills Instructor (FSI) workshop is designed to teach adult leaders how to teach our youth basic fishing skills and aquatic ecology. Certified instructors then teach "SMART" Angler classes, and Family Fishing Programs. "SMART" is the acronym for Safety first, Manners are important, Appreciate clean water, Release your catch and Teach others. Fishing or teaching experience is helpful, but not required. The only prerequisite is the desire to donate time and teach SMART angler classes. Participants receive training on basic aquatic ecology, fishing skills, teaching techniques and equipment access. The workshop is particularly useful to rangers, park educators, sporting club leaders, camp counselors and outdoor education teachers.

Boating Course Instructor Training

PA Basic Boating

This course was developed to supply boaters with practical information so they can make informed decisions on the water. Instructors provide students with information to help them reduce the risk of injury and conflict on the water. This course was designed for Pennsylvania's recreational powerboaters. However, it can be presented to any group interested in boating or boating safety. This course is taught in a classroom by Commission employees and certified volunteer instructors. A minimum of eight hours is required.

Boating and Water Safety Awareness (BWSA)

The Fish & Boat Commission's Boating and Water Safety Awareness education involves students in the proper procedures for recreational boating and requires students to demonstrate proficiency in boating safety. This course is designed for school students in 6th through 12th grades. Through appropriate adaptation, the course can also be used to teach Scouts and youth groups. This course is taught by Commission employees and certified volunteer instructors. A minimum of eight hours is required.

Water and Ice Rescue Training

The Water and Ice Rescue Training curriculum is designed to train emergency response personnel in the most current techniques of boat rescue and water safety. The various courses in the program can be used to train police departments, park service personnel, and members of any boating and water safety organization. The minimum age for attending any water rescue course is 18. The curriculum is divided into several courses. Each course covers one of five levels of water rescue, progressing from self-rescue in water rescue and emergency response to more technical rescues. Courses include:

- Water Rescue and Emergency Response
- Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue
- Ice Rescue and Emergency Response
- Line Systems
- Personal Watercraft Emergency Operations and Rescue

Each course requires 12 to 16 hours of instruction. Instructor candidates must take the basic courses before attending instructor training.

Regional Education Specialists

The Commission has six regional education specialists to provide training and support for your educational activities. Contact them for information on all of these training opportunities.

Northwest: 814-336-2426 (Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren).

Southcentral: 717-705-7850 (Counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York)

Southwest: 814-443-9841 (Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland)

Northcentral: 814-359-5127 (Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union)

Southeast: 215-968-3631 (Counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill)

Northeast: 570-477-2206 (Counties: Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming)

For more information on publications, fact sheets and videos, contact: Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Division of Communications, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000; 717-705-7833 (voice); 717-705-7831 (fax).

E-mail: ra-be@state.pa.us

Web site: www.fish.state.pa.us

Persons with disabilities who wish to participate in a Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission program or activity and anticipate the need for special accommodations should telephone (717) 705-7833. Persons using a TTY should dial Pennsylvania Relay telephone number 711 to contact us.

