

PFBC Activity Report – Highlights of Second Quarter 2006

Executive Office

Natural Resources Leadership Development Program: To mitigate the potential loss of key leadership positions projected over the next four years, staff have initiated a leadership development contract with a training consultant, Progress Associates from Syracuse, NY. Progress Associates delivers a similar program for other Natural Resources federal and state agencies through Michigan State University. Training sessions at PFBC headquarters will cover key leadership traits and will be presented initially to mid- to upper level management personnel. Sessions are scheduled to occur in October 2006 and January 2007

Policy Development Efforts: Staff completed another internal administrative policy regarding the loss of driving privileges to include PA driver's license and commercial driver's license.

Commonwealth (DEP, DCNR & PFBC) v. Espy, et al. (Little Juniata River Litigation): During the week of June 12, 2006, the Honorable Stewart Kurtz presided over the trial of this matter in the Court of Common Pleas of Huntingdon County. PFBC, DEP and DCNR attorneys worked closely in preparing and presenting the case at trial. Prior to the trial, the parties reached an agreement on a comprehensive stipulation that served to streamline the trial significantly.

Commonwealth ownership of submerged lands is based upon use of the river for commerce in the late 1700s and early 1800s. For this reason, the principal evidence presented by both parties was that of historical experts, based upon historic documents such as letters and newspaper articles from the period that indicated commerce-related navigation on the river. In total, the Commonwealth agencies called five witnesses, including DEP Deputy Secretary Cathleen Myers; historical expert Judith Heberling of Heberling Associates, Inc.; Craig Garman, PFBC Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO); Walter Rosser, retired PFBC WCO; and Rodger Cook, DCNR, Land Records Section Chief. All Commonwealth witnesses did an excellent job, and at the conclusion of the trial, the judge commented that he was impressed with the presentation by the parties of their cases and the volume of evidence put into the record.

Upon receipt of the trial transcript, the parties will have 45 days in which to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, and oral argument will be scheduled thereafter. Judge Kurtz indicated that he expects to issue an opinion within 60 days of oral argument. Regardless of the outcome, it is expected that there will be an appeal.

Heffner v. PFBC: By opinion dated June 2, 2006, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania upheld the Commission's suspension of Timothy Heffner's boating privileges for a period of one year for his refusal to submit to chemical testing upon being placed under arrest for boating under the influence. Heffner alleged that the Commission's officers did not have reasonable grounds to believe that he was operating a boat while under the influence. The Court rejected Heffner's arguments, holding that the Commission presented credible testimony that Heffner was indeed the operator of the boat and that he was under the influence of alcohol.

Herp Regulations: The Office of Chief Counsel continued to work with BOF and BLE staff to "fine tune" the extensive changes that have been proposed to the Commission's reptile and amphibians regulations. The Office scheduled and planned the third meeting of the external workgroup on May 30. The Office also played a role in analyzing and summarizing the many public comments received to date.

Grant Programs: The Office of Chief Counsel continued to provide support and guidance to the following grant programs – Erie Access Improvement, Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education,

Cooperative Nursery, Boating Facilities, and Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration. The Office also assisted staff with the selection of projects under the federal Landowner Incentive Program.

POS: The Office of Chief Counsel assisted with the development of the Point of Sale contract through final negotiations and culminating with the execution of the contract in May 2006. The Office also assisted staff in developing a new agent agreement for issuing agents under the POS system as well as proposed regulations for the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System (“PALS”).

Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund Site: The Office of Chief Counsel continued to work with BOF staff and the other state and federal natural resource trustees to address their respective natural resource damage and restoration concerns and responsibilities arising from the release of hazardous substances at this site.

Planning: Staff recently met and reviewed the Commission’s Strategic Plan, updated the status of specific tasks, identified outputs and outcome performance measures and identified the process to link the strategic initiatives to the agencies FY 07-08 budget.

Grants: Staff, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, reviewed applications for the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and have initially identified projects for funding. Site visits for these projects will be conducted in July and August, with final selection of projects anticipated by late August. Staff also reviewed and selected projects to be funded through the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program. These projects will help the Commonwealth implement the State Wildlife Action Plan and further the Commission’s conservation efforts for species of greatest conservation need (SGCN).

State Wildlife Action Plan-Northeast Regional Project: Fish & Boat Commission staff and Game Commission staff participated in the Northeast Regional Wildlife Action Plan meeting held in Albany, NY on March 28-30. Of 72 topics identified as important to fish and wildlife conservation in the northeastern U.S., the highest priority project selected was a regional habitat classification project. With participation by all 13 northeast states and D.C., a proposal was submitted to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for funding. The NFWF funding is available for multi-state projects on a competitive basis. Staff expect notification of status of funding by July 15. Developing consistent habitat classification will be an important step in the management and protection of SGCN which transcend state boundaries. Staff also participated in a multi-state meeting held at Patuxent, MD, on June 23. This meeting provided an overview of current GIS work being conducted in the northeast region and elsewhere in the U.S.

National Fish Habitat Initiative: From May 7-10, the Fish and Boat Commission hosted the National Fish Habitat Initiative Core Work Group, with members hailing from across the nation. This team, led by Dr. Austen, was instrumental in developing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan for this initiative. Modeled on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the approach is to develop regional partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations to achieve measurable on-the-ground conservation success. The Commission is beginning to work with the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, one of the focus areas of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. With the many diverse issues affecting Pennsylvania’s aquatic resources, additional partnerships are anticipated. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan was approved by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) at its annual meeting in Columbus, OH, March 21-23. Dr. Austen provided a presentation on the NFHI and was acknowledged by many nationally-recognized fisheries professionals for his key leadership role in advancing this effort. On April 24, 2006, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan was signed by then Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez and Acting Director of the Department of the Interior Lynn Scarlett.

Conservation Assembly: On June 22 the Fish and Boat Commission hosted a meeting of 18 people representing a broad spectrum of natural resource interests. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss

interest in developing a strategy for addressing unmet conservation needs. The group agreed that we need to advance a process for gathering information on pressing conservation needs and coalescing support for a new conservation funding initiative.

GIS Development Efforts: Based on interviews, GIS workshop input from February 2006 and an internal needs assessment process, a GIS plan was developed and circulated for final staff review in early June. Staff also developed an ArcReader Tool to provide for staff access to agency GIS data layers and provided training sessions on using the tool on May 23 in Harrisburg and June 7 at Stackhouse. GIS staff developed and continue to refine numerous GIS data layers including but not limited to: the trout stocking layer, warm water & cool water stocking layer, and special regulation layers for both fishing and boating areas, and layers for streams and lakes. Staff also produced numerous maps in support of various agency programs and continues to work on updating the Paddle PA GIS data layers.

Natural Heritage Partnership Program: The Commission is now a full partner with DCNR, PGC and WPC in the finalized Natural Heritage Program. Staff has participated in strategic and operational planning meetings and has worked with the partners to develop and execute data sharing agreements. The Commission is also working with the partners to develop new conservation tools that will help protect habitats for species of greatest conservation need.

Tylersville Hatchery Transfer: Dr. Austen attended a committee meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 15 to testify in support of the transfer of the Tylersville Hatchery from the USFWS to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The transfer language has been integrated into HR 4957 and S 3551 introduced in the House and Senate respectively. The Commission has leased the facility from the USFWS since 1983.

Dam Restoration Partnerships: Staff has been engaged in dam restoration partnerships and has furthered discussions with county and local partners at Canonsburg, Somerset, Dutch Fork, Mauch Chunk, Leaser and Opossum lakes. The local partners at Canonsburg have secured \$250,000 in federal funds to help address the dredging issue at the lake. The local group at Opossum Lake has secured funding for recreational enhancements at the lake and they have also secured a county commitment of \$500,000 toward the reconstruction of the dam and restoration of the lake. The local group at Lake Somerset has finalized its site master plan and will likely be pursuing a long-term lease for part of the Lake Somerset property. It is anticipated that this will lead to new County investments in the facility. Staff attended a public meeting on the Canonsburg master site plan on June 20. The final appeal for disaster relief funding for Dutch Fork Lake is still pending. FEMA has until September to render a decision.

Press and Public Relations: A total of 20 press releases were issued in the second quarter, covering agency-related subjects as diverse as trout fishing, boating safety and grants. The new self-subscribe e-alerts system continued to expand, both in terms of recipients and messages issued. For the quarter, more than 58,000 e-alerts were issued, nearly triple to activity of the first quarter.

Web trends: All the major tracking points for usage of the Commission's web site continue solid gains in the second quarter. Users accessed pages on our web site more than 4.6 million times in the first quarter of the year, a 12% increase over the same period in 2005. There were more 2 million page views in April alone, by far the highest total ever experienced on our site. We are currently averaging more than 326,000 different visitor sessions (distinct log-ins from individual users) in March, 34% more than in 2005. The number of individual users who visit our site more than once a month is up 36% higher than last year.

Web site sales/renewals: So far this year, there have been 53,597 fishing licenses and permits sold via the web site and 16,206 boat registration renewals. This is significant in that this activity translates to \$86,009 in revenue from issuing agent and convenience fees recognized by the agency. Almost 5% of

fishing licenses sold now are internet transactions. Notably, 25% of our non-resident and tourist sales come through the internet, including 47% of all the one-day tourist licenses sold thus far.

Promotions: The start of bass season and the occurrence of Fathers Day on the same weekend was the basis for a multi-faceted promotion involving direct mailers to demographically targeted households in suburban Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, radio advertising & on-air promotions and a web-based contest. By developing a partnership with Dick's Sporting Goods, the Commission was able to offer participants the opportunity visit select pages on our web site to win one of 15 rod and tackle packages valued at \$110 each.

The promotion encompassed several key components in our marketing strategy, including: the promotion of warm/coolwater fishing; highlighting close-to-home fishing opportunities to combat the perception of lack of time as a barrier to participation; leveraging the national "Take Me Fishing" campaign and extending the natural PR momentum created by trout season later into the spring.

Some 7,700 individuals entered the contest. As the contest was primarily a lure to get people to seek out more information on local fishing opportunities and select PFBC programs, the sharp uptick in visits to key web pages showed the effort was successful in that objective. For instance, nearly 13,000 people visited the web site to look at our county fishing and boating guides in June - 243% more than the usage in June 2005. The PLAY Program and Angler & Boater Magazine also benefited from the additional exposure as both saw marked increases in the number of individuals who called up those particular portions of the web site.

Legislation: The following bills were addressed by the legislature during the two-week period prior to summer recess.

SB-601: An Act relating to confidentiality of Social Security numbers; and making a related repeal. Approved by the Governor, June 29, 2006, Act No. 60. Takes effect in 180 days.

SB-868: An Act amending the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798, No.591), referred to as the Forest Reserves Municipal Financial Relief Law, increasing distribution of annual charge; and making editorial changes. This legislation requires that an additional \$.80/acre (state land) is paid to each county, municipality and school district where the property is located. The increased payment is to be paid from the gaming fund not by the individual agencies. Approved by the Governor, July 7, 2006, Act No. 102. Takes effect immediately.

SB-1262: An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for chemical testing to determine amounts of alcohol or controlled substances and for operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances; and providing for aggravated assault by watercraft while operating under influence. This legislation will lower the legal blood alcohol content for a boat operator from .10% to .08%. In the House - Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, July 1, 2006

HB-1320: An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, restricting the transport, sale, importation or release of non-native injurious fish. Approved by the Governor, July 7, 2006, Act No. 75. Takes effect in 60 days.

HB-1641: An Act amending Titles 30 (Fish) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for boat and marine forfeiture, for the powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, for boat, marine equipment and watercraft trailer forfeiture and for the powers and duties of the Department of Transportation. Approved by the Governor, July 7, 2006, Act No. 79. Takes effect in 120 days.

HB-2824: An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the fees, powers and duties, rules and regulations and records of issuing agents; and making an editorial change. This legislation will allow PFBC to transition smoothly from a paper license system to an electronic means. Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, June 21, 2006. Reported as committed, June 27, 2006. First consideration, June 27, 2006. Re-committed to RULES, June 27, 2006.

Statewide Fishing Access Improvement Program: Staff has continued to work internally and externally with partners to develop a new statewide Access Improvement Program. The grant application submitted to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to develop a statewide Access Improvement Plan is pending. In the interim, staff has met with TU and DCNR representatives to review existing acquisition funding programs and identify opportunities for using them to enhance fishing access to the Commonwealth's waters. PFBC staff are working on a fact sheet to cover the variety of programs that are out there and "Frequently Asked Questions."

Bureau of Administration

Fishing License Point-of-Sale (POS): Bureau of Administration staff continue working with Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) staff to develop the automated license system, also known as POS. Automated License Systems (ALS) headquartered in Nashville, TN, is the Commission's selected vendor for developing, implementing, and managing POS. ALS currently manages electronic license sales for 16 other states and is in the process of implementing a system for the state of New Jersey. The Commission signed a six-year term contract with two renewal options for an additional four years. Implementation of the POS system is on schedule with a pilot fishing license sales project scheduled for the month of October.

Expectations are that 2007 fishing licenses will be available through the POS on December 1, 2006. Bureau staff recently completed draft regulations and an agent agreement to help provide issuing agents with guidelines and policy on how to manage POS operations. An equipment selection survey was developed and mailed to all potential issuing agents to assess POS equipment needs. Bureau staff is actively engaged with developing and supplying issuing agents with a monthly newsletter designed to answer questions and to keep issuing agents informed about the "next" steps needed for the transition from selling paper-based fishing licenses to the POS.

Fishing Licenses, Permits and Forms for 2007: In the event that POS is not ready for deployment on December 1, 2006, bureau staff is reviewing and updating the various traditional license certificates, stamps and forms used to administer and sell fishing licenses through our network of 1,000 issuing agents. All licenses and forms have been redesigned and are ready for the 2007 license year. The decision to procure the traditional paper-based license and stamps will be made toward the end of August 2006.

Computerized Vessel Registration (CVR): Administration and legal staff successfully negotiated a non-exclusive contract with CVR that will allow boat dealers and other agents to conduct certain boat registration and titling functions at the agent location. Once implemented, the proposed concept would allow agents of the Commission to process certain transactions locally at little or no charge to the Commission. This could drastically increase the speed at which our boat registration customers receive registration documents and may reduce the manual processing of applications by Commission employees. The project has entered the requirements gathering and business rules development stages with the expectation of conducting a pilot phase for the winter/spring portion of the 2007 boating season. The Commission is waiting on the results of a market and cost benefit analysis being conducted by CVR.

Results of these studies will be used to determine if there is sufficient consumer activity to warrant continuation and development of this project.

Management Internship Position: Bureau staff conducted recruiting efforts and selected a talented administration professional to assist bureau staff with selected special projects and with the preparation and submission of the Commission's 2007-2008 state fiscal year budget. The internship runs from June 2006 through August 2006.

Conservation License: Bureau of Administration staff is working on the development of a new voluntary prestige license for those interested in donating money to PFBC conservation efforts. This voluntary license will indicate membership to an exclusive and prestigious conservationist club at three different levels: gold, silver and platinum, each entailing certain membership benefits. Research to develop the concept and to devise an implementation strategy is underway. This includes cooperative efforts with marketing, fisheries, license and registration, and legal staff to consider options for the marketing and promotion of the voluntary licenses, the planning and management of the funds generated from the sales of the various voluntary license types, and handling any legal concerns or POS considerations.

FEMA/PEMA/Insurance Funds for June 2006 Flooding Incident: Bureau of Administration staff will coordinate the recovery of federal and state funds for Commission property damaged or lost due to the flooding that recently occurred in eastern Pennsylvania.

Charter Boat/Fishing Guide Permits: All administrative functions of this new program, approved by the Commission during its September 2005 meeting, were completed and implemented on January 1, 2006. Administration staff has issued 184 resident and 36 non-resident guide permits.

Scientific Collector Permitting System: Bureau of Administration staff in the Pleasant Gap Data Center are working with Bureau of Fisheries staff to develop a system to capture information collected by permitted scientific collectors. Currently the Commission issues collector permits to individuals who have provided valid justification to pursue scientific collections of aquatic and herpetological specimens. Current reporting requirements for these individuals will be revamped. An application is being developed to provide input and retrieval methodologies in a consistent geo-referenced database of these collections. Full implementation is scheduled for the 2008 collection year.

E-mail Blast – Sent to 50,000 Potential Customers: The IT staff worked with the Commission marketing staff to coordinate sending an e-mail blast to over 50,000 potential customers, encouraging such customers to purchase a fishing license for Father's Day. The IT staff is also investigating software to provide for high volume e-mail to potential customers and provide for analyzing the results of such a marketing effort.

New Central Computer Systems: The bureau acquired new computer hardware for use with the Boat Registration System that will provide for greater system speed and capacity. Full implementation of the system is expected by September, 2006. Newer, faster computer equipment was also recently acquired for the Pleasant Gap complex. This equipment is currently being configured by the IT staff.

Habitat and Fish Passage Databases: Bureau IT staff has developed a multi-layered database system for the collection, evaluation and analysis of habitat and fish passage information. This database, developed in SQL server will allow for networked habitat staff to track improvement projects from inception and evaluation through the approval process. Design and development phases will be tracked and pertinent information will be made available to staff in a geo-referenced format. A cooperator database will be populated as information is entered into the database providing a contact resource for Commission staff. A similar cooperator/funding source database has been developed to similarly track fish passage projects. This will provide the Commission with a valuable reference of geo-referenced fish passage projects and associated information.

Warm Water Cool Water Stocking Database: Bureau IT staff continue to work on a database application to be used by the hatchery divisions for stocking of warm water and cool water fish species. This application is an interactive distributed computer system that allows for seamless exchange of information between remote hatcheries and production headquarters in Pleasant Gap. The application provides an efficient workflow tool that provides the means to move stocking requests from fish management to production chiefs for culture station assignments. Stations receive their assignments electronically and then develop and manipulate the required information to generate necessary documents to provide fish stocking reporting requirements. The system provides for instantaneous updates to all production staff in the event of changes and produces reports as necessary through the stocking season.

Harrisburg Headquarters Enhancements: Bureau staff coordinated the installation of new flooring for the lunch room. Bureau staff also worked closely with BEAD staff to procure and apply a top coat of asphalt to the parking lot.

Fiscal Year 2006-07 Rebudget Submission and 2007-08 Budget Submission: Bureau staff completed and submitted the Commission's fiscal year 2006-07 rebudget. The rebudget submission was approved on June 20, 2006. Administration staff is developing guidance for the preparation and submission of the Commission's 2007-08 budget request.

Financial Summary & Budget: As of May 31, 2006, Commission revenues and expenditures are consistent with expectations and within the approved 2005-2006 approved budget. After eleven months of activity, roughly 21% of the Fish Fund and about 28% of the Boat Fund budgeted amounts are still available for expenditure. Overall revenues for both the Fish and Boat Funds are up due to Act 159 of 2004, and a higher rate of return on PFBC funds managed by Treasury. Bureau of Administration staff developed and conducted a half-day budget and fiscal reporting training session for Bureau of Fisheries senior staff.

Federal Assistance: The Commission receives about \$9.5 million annually in federal funds. The primary source of these funds is the Sport Fish Restoration Act, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other major sources of federal funds include the U.S. Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grant program and the Landowner Incentive Program. The Commission also receives funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Bureau of Administration staff continues to monitor and manage existing grant performance and financial activity and work with other Commission staff on new grant opportunities and the preparation and submission of grant applications. During this quarter, staff coordinated the submission of grant documents for the next segment of the Propagation Infrastructure Improvement Project, the project that partially funds the effluent and efficiency upgrades planned at most hatchery facilities. From this point forward, work under this project will include the efforts eligible for and funded through Growing Greener II. New grant applications are being prepared to build a boat launch facility in Monongahela Township, Greene County, and to extend the dock and enhance the launch facility at the Monessen access area. Staff continues to work with Fish and Wildlife Service on the environmental review process for the Ingham Springs property disposition.

State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program: The PFBC will receive \$1,048,663 in fiscal year 2006 federally apportioned SWG funds through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In keeping with past practice, the PFBC and PGC issued a call for projects to help with the management of species with the greatest conservation need. Of the 24 projects submitted, 14 are PFBC related. Staff from the Bureaus of Administration and Fisheries and the Executive Office reviewed, ranked, and recommended funding for four projects. The Executive Director approved the project funding recommendations on July 10, 2006.

In addition, the Executive Director approved the recommendation to fund six internally sponsored SWG projects in support of Commission efforts to implement portions of Pennsylvania’s wildlife action plan.

Staff finalized and submitted a grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for assessment and inventory of the threatened Red-Bellied and invasive Red-Eared Slider turtles found in Southeastern Pennsylvania. PFBC Natural Diversity Section staff, in cooperation with Drexel University, will manage this project.

Fishing License Sales & Revenues: As of July 7, 2006, year-to-date fishing license sales are up by 19,620 units or 3.07 percent and Trout/Salmon and Lake Erie permit sales are up by 2.82 percent. Revenues collected from fishing licenses and permits are up by \$598,534.

Boat Registrations: Through July 7, 2006, for the 2006 boating season, Bureau of Administration staff processed a total of 171,286 registration and titling transactions. This compares with 177,722 transactions completed through the same period last year. Processing activity is up-to-date; renewals are being “turned around” within 48 hours after being received, and applications for registration and/or titles are being processed well ahead of their temporary registration expiration date.

Year-to-date Boat Registration Statistics, as of July 7, 2006

Transaction Type	2006	2005
Duplicate Registrations	2,444	3,205
Duplicate Titles	403	513
Inactive Registrations	1,092	1,190
New Registrations	13,940	14,523
New Title	9,479	10,284
Registration Corrections	1,115	164
Registration Transfer	7,058	7,885
Renewals	129,437	133,840
Title Corrections	672	483
Title Transfers	5,646	5,635
Total Transactions	171,286	177,722

Bureau of Boating and Education

Educational Media: During this quarter, the Educational Media Section continued to provide media services and print materials for Boating & Education (B&E), Executive Office, Law Enforcement (BLE), Fisheries, and Administration. Editorial and photography staff continued its series on cooperative nurseries in *PA Angler & Boater* magazine with two articles and four interviews for future coop articles. Photography assignments included opening day (trout) photos, family fishing (Gifford Pinchot State Park) photos, DWCO graduation, and NE Region (Harveys Lake) boating and law enforcement photos. Design staff completed a new water rescue exhibit and companion brochure. New tabletop exhibits (Take Me Fishing) were produced for education staff. Production services and materials for agency advertisement were produced for marketing. Printing staff continued to produce agency staple products such as region guides, as well as new publications. One of these is a new set (two guides) of water trail guides for the Juniata River Water Trail.

Boating Fatalities: There were nine (9) fatal recreational boating accidents with twelve (12) fatalities in the second quarter of the year, a total of 14 fatalities for the first six months of 2006. Fatalities ranged from capsizing a canoe on a small farm pond to a high speed collision between two boats on Lake Erie.

Safety Programs: We have issued nearly 8,000 boating safety education certificates to June 30. This is a slight increase over the first six months in 2005 but is not statistically significant at this time.

Interest in the Commission's water rescue training program continues. In 2006, we have held instructor training conferences in Ice Rescue and Emergency Response and Water Rescue and Emergency Response, Advanced Line Systems Rescue and Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue. Demand was so high that we have scheduled two additional instructor training conferences in September and October. Commission trained personnel demonstrated the value of the program as they led the response to the flood emergency in the Susquehanna and Delaware basins at the end of June.

Water Trails: New water trail guides were issued for the upper and lower sections of the Juniata River. Pine Creek, Yellow Breeches Creek, the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, Connequenessing Creek, the Youghiogheny River, and the Monongahela River are all water trail projects in different stages of development.

Aquatic Resource Education: Bureau staff solicited, reviewed and selected grant applications for the first Sport Fishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grant program. More than 60 applications were received by the May 1 submission deadline, requesting more than \$250,000. Fourteen applicants will receive grants for the 06-07 fiscal year. Cooperative agreements have been sent, and ARPS are/will be meeting with each grantee in July.

PFBC provided 20,000 packets of materials for some 50 Youth Field Days as well as sending out tens of thousands of pieces of educational materials for other fishing and/or aquatic education programs.

PFBC regional education staff scheduled some 40 Family Fishing Programs for the summer months. Only a few of these were cancelled or rescheduled. These programs provide a family friendly opportunity for the entire family to improve their fishing skills, or learn new ones. In many cases these programs are held at PFBC Fishing Tackle Loaner sites. The Commission now has some 40 tackle loaner sites around the state.

Bureau of Engineering & Development

Construction crews: Construction crews have been busy in the second quarter. Projects include installation of bird predation system at the Oswayo State Fish Hatchery, constructing a new feed storage building to replace the deteriorated icehouse that was previously used for feed storage and removing sediment build-up at the ramp caused by power loading of boats at Conneaut Lake. In addition, crews repaired/replaced planks damaged by power loading.

Construction crews also completed construction of a new concrete single lane ramp with a new bulkhead and dock at Northumberland Access, Northumberland County. Construction crews completed a new 12' concrete ramp, stone parking lot for nine car trailer spaces and 12 car spaces at Whites Ferry, Wyoming County.

Maintenance crews from Tionesta and Somerset traveled to the northeast, southeast, and central parts of the state to assist with the June flood cleanup. Overall, crews were able to clean and open over 75 access areas. Crews will be revisiting the sites in the next few weeks to finalize cleanup at each of these areas.

2nd Quarter Paving Summary:

- H.R. Stackhouse: Paved an additional area adjacent to the new kitchen, repaired the flood damaged portion of the parking lot next to the gate, overlaid the entire lot.

- Northeast Marina: Rebuilt the two driveways adjacent to Pa Route 5, paved two new asphalt roads through the undeveloped space between the existing roads and provided stone parking between the new and existing asphalt roads.
- Point Access, Huntingdon County: Rebuilt the flood damaged portions of the parking lot and overlaid the entire parking lot.
- Rose Valley Lake, Southside Access Drive, Lycoming County: Rebuilt the first 100 feet of the driveway, patched several cracks in the existing drive, overlaid the entire drive.
- Belmont Lake Access, Wayne County: Paved the 300' x 60' parking lot and overlaid the entire road.
- Kaercher Creek Lake Access, Berks County: Overlaid the existing parking lot completing the boating access renovation.
- Danville Access, Columbia County: Overlaid the existing parking lot completing the boating access renovation.

Hatchery Projects: Staff work continues on projects at various State Fish Hatcheries:

- Tylersville: \$1.7 million Infrastructure Upgrade Project construction progressing ahead of schedule and is approximately 70% complete.
- Pleasant Gap: Re-bid opened June 28, 2006, with contract award expected in August and construction to begin in September 2006.
- Corry: Design of 6,700 feet of water main and electrical service 95% complete. Environmental Assessment underway by consultant and to be complete by August.
- Bellefonte, Benner Spring, Huntsdale: The consultants are in preliminary design on Bellefonte and Benner Spring with Huntsdale 45% complete.
- Union City: Sand filter building addition ready to go to construction.
- Reynoldsdale: Contract for demolition of old manager's residence completed in June.

Timbering and Gas & Oil: The Real Estate Section has been administering existing agreements at Somerset, Oswayo and Hemlock lakes. Staff also has been investigating and evaluating property rights exchange and potential additional gas drilling at Hemlock Lake with the assistance of Game Commission staff. In addition, staff met with a prospective driller at Cloe Lake. Research is ongoing into gas exploration and production potential at Kyle Lake.

The Real Estate Section has been researching the potential for additional timber project at Kyle Lake north of I-80. Staff field reviewed potential timber cutting blocks at Hunters Lake.

Survey Section: The survey second performed courthouse research, recon, property survey, and plotted deeds related to disputed property at Quaker Lake, Susquehanna County. A topographic survey was completed at Neshannock Creek Access, Lawrence County. At Nessmuk Lake, Tioga County, staff performed a topographic survey for site development.

Bureau of Fisheries

Environmental Services Meetings: Environmental Services staff represented the agency in numerous meetings including: Governor’s Invasive Species Council, Fish Consumption Technical and Communication Workgroups, Allegheny and Ohio River Sand and Gravel Dredging permit applications, the Conservation Assembly, and interviews for 3 Regional Habitat Biologists positions. Presented a talk titled “*Mercury in Pennsylvania’s Air, Water and Fish—A Resource Agency Perspective*” at the Delaware Estuary Fish Consumption Summit. Staff continued coordination of environmental issues and stream biomonitoring at State Fish Hatcheries and commercial sand & gravel dredging in the Three Rivers.

Watershed Analysis: Priority projects for the Watershed Analysis Section included the Harveys Lake (Luzerne County), Appleton Papers (Blair County), Route 202 (Bucks County), I-99 (Centre County), Turtle Creek (Westmoreland County), Philadelphia Airport project, and the Renovo Flood Protection Project (Clinton County).

Studies: Aquatic Resources Section conducted Conneaut Lake Bathymetry study (Crawford County), Palmerton Zinc Superfund site (Carbon County), Valley Creek Restoration Project (Chester County), Fisher Mining (Lycoming County), Consol Deep Mine on South Fork Dunkard Fork (Greene County), Plant Survey at Sinnemahoning State Park (Cameron County), PPL Martins Creek Fly Ash Spill, Instream Flow Training, and the Delaware River Subcommittee for Ecological flows.

Natural Diversity: Natural Diversity Section priorities included the Muhlenburg Bog Turtle Management Plan, Berks County, the statewide timber rattlesnake site inventory and assessment project, and the development of a Bog Turtle Habitat Conservation Plan, Chester County. Submitted proposals for PA SeaGrant funding for snapping turtle and red-eared slider projects. Coordinated a variety of State Wildlife Grant projects including WPC malacologist, WPC herpetologist, Allegheny River Pools 6 to 8 mussel surveys, at-risk herptile surveys, and Carter’s Dam mussel surveys/translocations. Presented talks on “Pennsylvania Fish Species of Special Concern”, “PFBC Rare, T&E and Non-game Species Program and Environmental Review”, “PA Herptile Species of Concern” at the PA Environmental Professionals Annual Meeting. Coordinated invasive species issues with the various committees of the Governor’s Invasive Species Council.

Fish Production Services:

- Stocked 4.3 million American shad and 2.6 million hickory shad in the Susquehanna River Basin.
- Stocked 0.6 million American shad and 6.5 million hickory in the Delaware River Basin.
- Attended several ongoing PPL/Holtwood Power Plant redevelopment meetings, provided official comments and worked with resource agency partners to begin negotiations over funding plans.
- Provided agency testimony at the proposed Wilkes-Barre inflatable Dam public hearing.
- Conducted 121 routine, two emergency and six prospective Co-op Nursery inspections.
- Drafted issue paper on evaluation and documentation of source waters at state fish hatcheries.
- Water Quality lab conducted Proficiency Testing as required by DEP for pH, Ammonia-N, Total Phosphorus, TSS, and CBOD-5.
- Staff contributed to Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s American shad stock assessment.
- Evaluated walleye tetracycline tag retention and provided guidance for striped bass otolith tagging project.

Northern Regional Hatcheries:

The 2006 Esocid production accelerated in the second quarter. Approximately 2.5 million musky eggs harvested with 100,000 shipped out of state and the balance used for production. Over 2.5 million tiger musky eggs were taken with 622,988 transferred out of state. Northern pike egg production was 603,848 with 103,302 exported to other states. 92,158,450 walleye fry and 244,382 advanced walleye fry were

stocked. 1,435,077 phase-1 walleye were harvested from production ponds and stocked. Stockings of 62,858 sauger and 18,505 saugeye were completed. We also transferred in and stocked 82,750 channel catfish. Steelhead stockings were completed with 245,279 additional yearlings stocked. Adult trout stockings were completed with 176,225 brown, 128,296 rainbow and 145,745 brook trout stocked. Fingerling trout continue to be transferred to Co-ops with 443,100 completed so far.

Personnel action included filled an Assistant Managers vacancy, 2 seasonal fish culturist positions and 1 full-time fish culturist position. With a retirement in July and 3 full-time and 2 seasonal fish culturist positions yet to fill, interviewing will be ongoing.

Projects include covering Oswayo raceways with bird netting and finished the dry-vit on the visitors building. Corry has a well cleaning scheduled for this month and is receiving materials for the new generator building at the Foster property. Union City is receiving materials for the new hatch house filter system. Electrical rewiring of the garage and warmwater units was completed at Tionesta. We hope this year to start engineering on the Growing Greener projects approved at Linesville and Union City. Fairview is scheduled for repair to the visitors' center roof. All other Northern Region Hatcheries Growing Greener projects are on currently on hold. Pleasant Mount has experienced serious flooding. Our construction crew is on site and repairs are ongoing.

Southern Regional Hatcheries:

Fish Distributions

SPECIES	NUMBER STOCKED	SIZE OR LIFESTAGE
Brook Trout	295,507	Average 50.2 lbs./100
Brown Trout	1,132,576	Average 49.6 lbs./100
Rainbow Trout	742,552	Average 50.7 lbs/100
Brook Trout	128,600	Fingerling
Brown Trout	850,451	
Rainbow Trout	658,850	
Striped Bass	1,180,000	Fry
	279,172	Fingerling
Walleye	143,360	Fingerling

Personnel actions included hiring a clerk typist at Tylersville and filling Fish Culturist 2 positions (Tylersville and Benner Spring) with in-house transfers. Harry Beatty, foreman at Pleasant Gap hatchery, retired with over 13 years of service.

Wastewater treatment construction projects: Work continued at Tylersville with an estimated completion date of November, 2006; a bid of 1.36 million was submitted for Pleasant Gap renovations. This represents a savings of over \$700,000 dollars from the estimated cost. The McGuire consulting group is currently working on preliminary designs for Benner Spring and Bellefonte improvements. Quad-3 consulting group is working on final designs for the Huntsdale project.

Fisheries Management: Field activities included stream surveys on 65 trout stocked stream sections during the first two weeks of April as part of the Stocked Trout Movement Study. Trap net surveys were completed on 10 lakes, and night electrofishing surveys were conducted on 13 lakes. In addition, stream surveys were conducted on 18 wild trout stream sections and 11 trout stocked stream sections were re-inventoried. An angler use and harvest continues on the trout stocked section of the Lehigh River. A total of 64.9 liters of American eggs were collected (2.33 million eggs) with a 50% viability rate. American shad monitoring recorded a total of 1,853 AMS passing the Easton Dam as of June 13, 2006. Striped bass sampling on the Delaware River estuary showed increases in adults. Staff members attended at least 22 meetings with topics ranging from sampling design for future surveys to the Limestone Streams Habitat Initiative. Staff provided a variety of presentations, demonstrations and interviews such as walleye management on Pymatuning Lake, a training session on the use of the Pennsylvania Instream

Flow Model, a trap net demonstration on Cowan Gap Lake, an electrofishing demonstration for the Rivers Conservation Camp students, and a television interview on the opening day of trout season on Wysox Creek.

Habitat Improvement: Staff administratively supported PFBC/DCNR habitat collaboration at state park lakes. Interviewed and recommended hiring two habitat biologists. Attended Water Law Course, GIS and PFBC leadership training, E-PAR and Budget training, and 2006 PA/NY Black Bass Workshop. Represented PFBC Earth Day press event with USFWS Acting Secretary Lynn Scarlet to highlight the Pennypack Creek collaborative restoration effort. Supported State Wildlife Grant and Landowner Incentive Programs Grants. Attended public meetings in South Middleton Township, conducted a public information meeting on the McCoy Dam removal project.

Fish Passage: The Fish Passage Unit completed the removal of Lochner and Ward dams, Smithtown Creek, Bucks County; Ford’s Dam, Pequea Creek, Lancaster County; Hackenburg Dam, Strouds Run, Mifflin County; Silver Spring Mill Dam, Trindle Spring Run, Cumberland County, and Millmont Dam, Penns Creek, Union County.

Habitat Projects: The Stream Unit completed 3 project applications and 9 plan administration/development. Reviewed 2 stream restoration plans, 3 GP-1 reviews and 3 stream mitigation plans. Field activities included 17 field pre-project meetings, 7 field inspections, 16 field designs, 8 field construction meetings, and 3 aquatic surveys. Attended Sea Grant meeting, KCWA Habitat Committee and Landowners Workshop, West Branch Susquehanna Symposium, 2006 PA/NY Black Bass Workshop.

The Lake Unit completed 3 project applications and 4 habitat management plans. Field activities included attending 3 field pre-project meetings, 6 project designs and 18 construction/placement of habitat structures. Attended meetings regarding Lyman Lake, Curwensville Lake and Pymatuning Lake. Coordinated the 2006 PA/NY Black Bass Workshop.

Bureau of Law Enforcement

Deputies: In June, 22 individuals completed the basic Deputy training course and were commissioned as Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers. These officers will return to their districts and be required to complete an additional 150 hours of on-the-job training with their Waterways Conservation Officer.

REGION	NAME		
NW	MICHAEL	P	NEYLON JR
NW	DAVID	W	GAINER
SW	JOSEPH	D	CHRISTNER
SW	JEFFREY	W	RHODES
SW	DAVID	M	KNEPP
SW	ALAN	E	HARFF
SW	GEORGE	W	LISTON
SW	RUSSELL	P	MILLER JR
NE	MITCHELL	K	MARCUS
NE	TINA	M	CUMBER
NE	LEONARD		JANESKI JR
NE	AARON	B	LUPACCHINI
SE	MARIE	D	KNADLER
SE	CHARLES	E	LOUGHLIN JR
SE	MARK	E	BRUBAKER

REGION	NAME		
SE	JAMES	S	YERGER JR
SE	MICHAEL	P	KOEHLER JR
SE	JOSHUA	A	MILLER
SE	DAVID	A	STRAWN
SE	MICHAEL	S	RAU JR
SE	RICHARD	D	BABB
SE	EDMUND	M	PORTKO
SE	DANIEL	J	O'CONNOR

WCO Class: Ten individuals have been selected to be part of the Eighteenth Waterways Conservation Officer cadet class. The class will be training on July 17, 2006, at our Stackhouse Facility. After two weeks of orientation, the class will begin the ACT 120 portion of the training at the PSP regional training facility in Meadville.

NAME			HOMETOWN
DAVID	A	HURST	NEW CUMBERLAND
DARRIN	W	KEPHART	NEWPORT
ROBERT	A	PLUMB	ORRSTOWN
JEFFREY	R	SABO	ALLENTOWN
JEFFREY	L	SCHMIDT	MILLERSVILLE
BRENDAN	J	RYAN	LANDENBERG
JOHN	G	HOPKINS	CLYMER
GREGORY	R	KRAYNAK	NORTHERN CAMBRIA
DOUGLAS	H	KUNKLE	APOLLO
JEREMIAH	D	ALLEN	WASHINGTON

Flood Response: Waterways Conservation Officers were actively involved in the recent flooding in the eastern portion of the state. Officers were dispatched to monitor rising water levels in Commission-owned lakes and dams during the early morning hours of June 28, 2006. Other officers were dispatched to Susquehanna and Schuylkill counties to rescue stranded individuals using Commission patrol boats. Commissioned officers were credited with 19 rescues in the early morning hours of June 28, 2006.

Accident Investigations: Waterways Conservation Officers have been actively involved in investigating several tragic fatal boating accidents.

Train Derailment: Northcentral Waterways Conservation Officers have been actively involved in a pollution investigation that resulted from a railroad accident in Cameron County. The release of thousands of gallons of sodium hydroxide resulted in a major kill of aquatic organisms.

Award: Matt Visosky (WCO, Crawford County) has been recognized as NASBLA's Boating Safety Officer of the Year for 2005. An official award presentation will occur in Erie in early August.

NC Region Assistant: Assistant Regional Supervisor Jerry Barton has return to his duties in the Northcentral Region after having served a tour of military duty in Iraq.

Rescue: Southcentral Waterways Conservation Officers were involved in the rescue of an unconscious swimming victim who was not breathing and had no pulse from Lake Raystown on July 1, 2006. Commission officers performed CPR and revived the individual. Officers then transported to victim to an ambulance on shore.