

PFBC Activity Report Highlights for Third Quarter 2008

Bureau of Administration

Fishing License Point-of-Sale (POS): Also known as the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing Service (PALS). PALS was activated for the sale of fishing licenses and permits on December 1, 2006, and now has 943 agents selling fishing licenses and permits. The 2008 fishing licenses went on sale November 30, 2007 and as of September 19, 2008 we have successfully sold over 1,415,552 licenses and permits, and have successfully accounted for and transferred almost \$30 million in license revenues from the agents to the PFBC. Since the Act 2 of 2008 was implemented in PALS, the PFBC has recovered \$ 825,674.83 in transaction fees. Act 26 of 2008 was passed on June 17, 2008 and provides the ability for the PFBC to issue vouchers for fishing licenses. These vouchers can be purchased on behalf of another individual and presented as a gift, especially during the holiday season. As of this writing, PFBC has sold 49 vouchers. Also as an enhancement, PALS now has the ability to accept donations from customers. Customers are asked when purchasing a license or privilege on PALS if they would like to contribute. So far, the PFBC has received \$494.33 from anglers.

Bureau of Administration staff continue to work with Pennsylvania Game (PGC) staff and Automated License Systems (ALS) headquartered in Nashville, TN. ALS is the PFBCs' selected vendor for developing, implementing, and managing PALS. This is a long term project and it is expected to take at least another year to assist ALS in getting the PALS system completely implemented. PA Game Commission PALS pilot started September 22, 2008 with PGC Headquarters and Regional Offices.

A new agent database on PALS Web Console was implemented and downloaded on September 16, 2008. The PFBC and the PGC now can share common agent data through PALS for vendors sell both fishing and hunting licenses. Agents will be able to sell fishing and hunting licenses to customers in the same transaction.

Charter Boat/Fishing Guide Permits: The PFBC's new Charter Boat/Fishing Guide Permit program was established during 2005 and went into effect on January 1, 2006. Bureau of Administration staff issued 319 resident and 44 non-resident guide permits during 2008. Total active permits as of September 22, 2008 are 363.

Fishing License Sales & Revenues: Fishing license sales are almost two percent higher than the 2007 level and total permit sales are over 2.14 percent ahead of the 2007 levels. Some of the increase is being credited to the timelier reporting of the PALS system issued licenses and permits. Nevertheless, sales figures are ahead of last year with a total licenses sales of 831,781 and permit sales of 583,771. That compares to 816,636 and 571,521 respectively for the same period in 2007.

Fishing License & Permit Types	Units Sold - 2008	Units Sold - 2007
Resident	714,358	711,864
Senior Resident	17,946	16,140
Senior Lifetime & DAV & DAV SR. Lifetime	15,488	10,912
1-Day Resident	2,636	2,191
PA Resident National Guard/Reserve	528	698
Non-Resident	39,118	38,242
1-Day Tourist	4,905	4,421
3-Day Tourist	21,992	20,538
7-Day Tourist	6,530	5,562
Lake Erie Permit	16,004	15,963
Combination Lake Erie & Trout/Salmon Permit	82,777	73,667
Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit	484,990	481,891
Total Licenses & Permits:	1,415,552	1,388,157

Boat Registration and Titling: Total boat registration and titling transaction activity during calendar year 2008 decreased by eight and one-half percent to 195,199 transactions. This compares with 213,221 transactions completed through the same period last year. Registration renewal transactions decrease by 3.67 percent, while new registrations and titles are down by 36.75 percent.

Boat Registration & Titling Transactions	Transactions - 2008	Transactions - 2007
Registration Renewal	133,683	138,778
Registration Transfer	9,196	11,926
Registration New	21,393	25,746
Registration Change	1,144	1,502
Registration Duplicate	4,012	4,168
Title New	13,271	16,556
Title Transfer	9,498	10,958
Title Correction	1,009	1,105
Title Duplicate	744	788
Total Transactions	195,199	213,221
Total Active Boat Registrations	332,574	348,676

Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget Submission: Administration staff facilitated and issued guidance for the preparation and submission of the Commission's 2009-10 budget request. Agency staff completed the preliminary version of the Commission's fiscal year 2008-09 budget. Authorization to move forward with the 2009-10 budget request will be reviewed during the October 2008 Commission meeting.

Financial Summary & Budget: As of June 30, 2008, fiscal year 07-08 non-restricted Fish Fund revenues were roughly 15 percent, or \$5,512,275, above fiscal 06-07. Boat Fund revenues were also down by three percent, or \$417,880, over last year, mostly due to the 23 percent, or \$503,653, decrease in the reimbursement from the Motor License and Liquid Fuels Tax Funds. Overall, Fish Fund expenditures were four percent more relative to fiscal year 06-07 and Boat Fund expenditures were down three percent over last year. Boat Fund expenditures decreased due to last fiscal year's purchase of docks for the Walnut Creek Marina facility. Fish Fund and Boat Fund revenues and expenditures are consistent with the approved levels in the 07-08 budget.

Federal Assistance: Staff monitored and managed 60 existing Federal grants and applied for and received funding under 11 additional grant awards. Staff also worked with other key Commission staff on new grant opportunities and to facilitate the preparation and submission of new grant applications and required reports for existing grants. The PFBC receives roughly \$12 million annually in federal assistance from a number of federal agencies. Alissa Chilcote was recently appointed as the Commission's Federal Program Manager.

State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program: Currently, the PFBC's SWG program consist of 31 active grants that will provides over \$4.5 million in federal funding to support research and monitoring efforts for a wide variety of non-game species and their habitats. The PFBC received notification that an additional \$1.02 million in federal fiscal year 2008 apportioned SWG funds will be available for these efforts. Approximately one-third of these funds are provided to the Commission's competitive grant program. Staff are currently preparing the required Federal documentation and applications to submit to the USFWS for these projects, and are working with PFBC project leaders and the Commission's legal office to prepare third-party cooperative agreements.

The week of October 6, 2008, federal assistance staff, Kelly Wiley and Alissa Chilcote will attend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5 2008 Federal Assistance Coordinators conference, in Cape May, N.J. This is an annual conference hosted by one of the 14 states within Region 5 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to the annual conference, staff will be attending three days of Advance Grants Management Training.

Cooperative Nursery Database Application: Initial discussions have taken place with fish production staff with the goal of the development of a cooperative nursery database application. This system will provide commission staff with the means and methodologies to electronically administer the cooperative nursery program. Initial efforts will focus on the building information infrastructure. Development will proceed to a system that process cooperative nurseries requests for fish. Next methods will be developed to assign and facilitate delivery of these fish to the cooperative nurseries. Lastly the system will provide a systematic methodology of capturing post stocking information that can be integrated with other commission databases. This integration will provide information for a variety of efforts such as cost capture and in stream stocking reports to fish management personnel.

Angler Logs Database: The system will provide anglers an opportunity to track their catch, post photos and provide participants with a systematic approach to evaluate their angling success. The information collected will be available anonymously to other anglers which should provide some real world experience to interested anglers evaluating where they might want to fish. More importantly, this information will be available to PFBC staff and if of sufficient quantity can provide a wealth of otherwise unattainable information.

GIS Development Efforts:

Numerous web GIS and related projects have been completed and deployed over the past 3 months, including applications related to fishing hot spots, biologist reports, and steelhead fishing in Lake Erie tributaries. The web pages are linked via the PFBC web site and provide interactive mapping allowing users to easily find locations on a map and quickly obtain more information, such as stocking lists, reports, regulation information, and driving directions. The mapping is overlaid on the familiar Google Maps interface making them very user-friendly. GIS staff also continues to maintain related stocking list web pages for trout and warmwater/coolwater species.

GIS staff continues to develop and refine numerous GIS data layers. The layers address most program areas including trout and warm water/cool water fishing, boating and access, property management, law enforcement activities, and threatened and endangered species/habitat management. Staff also produced numerous maps and completed various analyses in support of these various agency programs, as well as many external data requests. Some of the more notable projects include: analysis of wild trout waters related to current and proposed DEP protection regulations; analysis of the status and distribution of rare fish and mussel species; and mapping/analysis of current and proposed easements/acquisitions adjacent to Lake Erie tributaries.

Other large projects include: continued development of a property GIS layer which is linked with the PFBC real estate database; maintenance and update of a PNDI environmental review GIS tool used by Division of Environmental Services staff; development of WCO District Maps to aid in the permitting process related to annual PennDOT bridge projects; and development of a database for the inventory and analysis of State Wildlife Grant (SWG) projects as related to how they are meeting the goals defined in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).

GIS software/data and GPS units have been deployed to all WCO's. The deployment was provided Region by Region and included in-class and field training. Updates to the GIS data will be provided semi-annually.

GIS was a central focus of the Pennsylvania Fishing and Boating Access Plan effort where locations of proposed access improvements were collected across the Commonwealth in a series of regional stakeholder meetings and through various additional input. The improvement data was compiled into a GIS database and summary data/statistics, along with various maps, were produced to assist in the preparation of the final plan and for internal use as the PFBC continues fishing and boating access development.

The Outdoor Shop: Bureau IT staff continue to refine the Outdoor Shop application and develop system enhancements to make the site more customer friendly and secure. As of September 15, 2008, the PFBC sold 65,078 licenses, 42,111 permits, and renewed 24,573 boat registrations through the Outdoor

Shop. Last year during the same period there were 50,926 licenses and 32,007 permits sold, and a total of 22,622 boat registrations processed. Also, enhanced features such as the ability to add a permission to a previously purchased license was recently added to this system.

Bureau of Boating and Access

Boating Law Administrator Duties: Dan Martin represented the Commonwealth and the Commission at the NASBLA conference in September. The Commission continues to be a leader in its boating programs. A Boating Advisory Board meeting with a full agenda of regulatory and discussion items has been scheduled for September 24th.

Boating Fatalities: There have been six (6) fatal recreational boating accidents with six (6) fatalities to date in 2008, one in each month, starting in April. This is the safest year to date since the Commission began to keep records.

Water Trails: New water trails were printed for the North Branch of the Susquehanna River and the Three Rivers. Guides being proofed or set up include the Clarion River, Pine Creek, Yellow Breeches Creek, and the Tidal Delaware.

Water Rescue: The lesson plan for the Commission's primary water rescue curriculum has been updated to incorporate the latest in swift water instruction. The Commission continues to lead in water rescue curricula and the training of instructors.

Aids to Navigation: There have been eight floating structure permits reviewed and 11 new ones issued. All Vendor contracts have been sent out.

Dams: 62 run of the river dams were inspected last quarter. The inspections are complete and all compliance issues have been addressed and resolved via the inspection process and without further order to show cause.

Walnut Creek Marina: Staff met with BEPS to draft projects and a timeline for new traffic patterns, removal and replacement of the net shed and other miscellaneous projects. Work is progressing on final disposition of these projects.

Northeast Marina: The new dock work plan for the RFP has been completed, submitted and accepted by DGS on June 10, 2008. We are awaiting capital funding authorization before we can begin to move forward. Staff met with the facility vendor and BEPS to discuss year ending issues as well as projects and project timelines for 2009.

Bridge Projects: Bureau staff responded to 22 bridge replacement/repair projects. Nine on-site visits were conducted. We received notification from PENNDOT that 411 bridge projects will be let out for construction in 2009 and over 1,000 projects for the next three years. Staff worked with GIS staff to prepare regional maps for use by the WCOs to identify bridge locations for their input into projects prior to us receiving the official request. Maps have been completed and will go out to WCOs in September.

Capacity Plates: 350 new capacity plates were issued.

Statewide Fishing and Boating Access:

1. Statewide Access Plan – A draft of the document is *underway* by PEC and PFBC staff. Regional meetings to share the draft with internal and external stakeholders will take place in November.
2. Partnerships are being developed to implement Access Improvement Programs similar to Erie along the following rivers:

- a. Upper Juniata River in cooperation with DEP and DCNR. Funding from DEP has been approved. Little Juniata River Association is still waiting to hear from DCNR on the status of their grant request to DCNR.
 1. A draft of a brochure that will be provided to landowners has been completed.
- b. Clarion River in cooperation with North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development Commission.
 1. Staff attended a meeting in Ridgway for the presentation of the Ridgeway Feasibility Study conducted for the Borough of Ridgway. Access on the Clarion is a component of the Feasibility Study.
3. Staff has been working with Matt Beaver (DCNR State Forests) and Jeff Johns (DCNR State Parks) to develop an Intergovernmental Agreement between the two departments of DCNR and PFBC to improve access in state parks and state forests. Sites on the Loyalsock served as a pilot to this cooperative approach. The Agreement is currently in the process of being signed by DCNR.
4. Staff represented the PFBC at DCNR Lower Susquehanna River Conservation Landscape Initiative (CLI).
5. Staff continues to participate in internal meetings on Norfolk Southern settlement on Sinnemahoning Creek.

Erie Access Improvement Program:

1. Staff continues to assist Legal Counsel with Fish Ladder and Easement Project at the Lawrence Park Golf Course.
2. Staff continues to work on the additional properties. Froehlich-sitter and Rathman were completed in the 3rd quarter and are open to anglers.
3. Staff has begun work on a new project with Millcreek Township, DEP, and DCNR at the Millcreek Mall. The project will be a major stream bank restoration and access project along Walnut Creek.
4. Staff has begun work on an acquisition and easement project on the Allegheny River with Allegheny Valley Conservancy and DCNR. This stretch of the Allegheny River in Venango County was identified during the stakeholder meetings as needing access. The Conservancy has applied to DCNR for matching funds for the acquisition. The property would provide 3,300 lineal feet of access to the Allegheny.
5. Staff attended several meetings on streams impacted by acid mine drainage. Staff toured the Catawissa Creek with a representative of the Watershed Association. The Creek has the potential to serve as a pilot project for emerging waterways. Additional follow-up will be done with the Watershed Association in the coming months.
6. Bid specifications were prepared for appraisal contracts in Huntingdon and Blair Counties, the Norfolk Southern settlement area and Erie County.
7. Staff assisted Legal Counsel on the acquisition of the MAIDA property.

Boating Facilities Grant Program:

1. The Commission has forty-nine active projects under the Boating facility Grant Program. All forty-nine applicants have fully signed and executed contracts. Thirty six of the applicants with fully executed contracts have submitted their final engineering and bid specifications for their projects. Staff has reviewed and approved their designs and has issued them a notice to proceed with construction. Twenty nine projects have been completed and inspected by staff and the applicants have submitted their final invoices for payment. In addition, five applicants have informed staff that they are nearing completion of their Boating Facility Grant projects. Staff is working with the applicants to submit their invoices for the projects and to schedule final inspection meetings on these facilities.

2. Staff prepared and implemented changes to the procedure guide allowing land trusts, conservancies and watershed associations to be direct applicants to the program. The application deadline was extended to October 31st. To date, 3 such organizations have indicated they will be submitting grant applications to this program.

Office of Chief Counsel

Dredging Appeals (Hanson Aggregate PMA et al. v. DEP vs. PFBC): On September 5, 2008, the Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and three dredging companies settled several related appeals before the Environmental Hearing Board involving a fish survey condition contained in the dredging companies' water obstruction and encroachment permits issued by DEP. As a result of the settlement, the dredging companies are still required to perform fish surveys in areas prior to receiving authorization to dredge those areas and certain protections for endangered and threatened fish species remain in place in the permits.

Norfolk Southern Train Derailment: The Office of Chief Counsel continues to work with staff to develop and finalize program guidelines and the application package for the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program. This program will seek to restore ecological and recreational values that were lost due to the June 2006 train derailment that resulted in the discharge of more than 40,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide into Big Fill Run, Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek and the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek.

Dutch Fork Lake: In two separate lawsuits (one in Washington County, Pennsylvania and the other in Brooke County, West Virginia), the Office of Chief Counsel continues to work with the Deputy Attorney General assigned to these cases. The Commonwealth filed a motion to dismiss in the Brooke County case this spring, and the motion is still pending before the court. The basis of that motion is that the Commission had insufficient contacts with the State of West Virginia to confer jurisdiction on West Virginia's courts. The Brooke County Court has allowed limited discovery on the jurisdictional issue, and a Commission employee was deposed on August 20, 2008. In the Washington County action, the case continues to be stayed.

Lehmier v. PFBC: In an action filed by Ted Lehmier in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania against the Commission, Executive Director Austen and Waterways Conservation Officers Corey Britcher and Terrance Kane, the Office of Chief Counsel continues to work with the Deputy Attorney General assigned to the case. The complaint asserts, among other things, that the Commission and its employees violated Mr. Lehmier's first amendment rights. On July 21, 2008, the District Court granted the Commonwealth's motion to dismiss the Commission from the lawsuit. The Commonwealth's motion to transfer is still pending before the District Court.

Quaker Lake: Currently, the parties are engaged in discovery in an action before the Court of Common Pleas of Susquehanna County. By agreement of the parties, the access area remains open to the public while the litigation is pending.

Boll (North East Marina Litigation): Currently before the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County is Petitioners' claim for consequential damages for the alleged injury to or loss of surface support to their properties. Petitioners claim that the interruption in the littoral drift caused by the marina resulted in the accelerated erosion of the bluffs along their properties. Petitioners' counsel proposed that the parties certify the case for trial during the October 2008 term of court. However, he has not done so to date.

Holtwood Dam: The Office of Chief Counsel continues to assist Bureau of Fisheries staff during negotiations with PPL Generation LLC (PPL) regarding PPL's plans for amending its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permit to expand its hydroelectric facility on the lower Susquehanna River. PPL has agreed to design its project to improve fish passage (especially for American shad) at its facility as well as other improvements to benefit resident fish passage, angler access and boating.

Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund Site: The Office of Chief Counsel continues to work with Bureau of Fisheries 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. The natural resource trustees continue to meet with the responsible party regarding these issues.

Grant Programs: The Office of Chief Counsel continues to provide support and guidance to the following grant programs – Erie Access Improvement, Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education, Cooperative Nursery, Boating Facilities, Boating Infrastructure, Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration, Landowner Incentive and State Wildlife Grant Programs.

Bureau of Engineering and Property Services (BEPS)

Division of Construction & Maintenance

Accesses

- **Beechwood Lake** – Crews completed renovations to this access. This project included stormwater drainage, grading the road and parking lot, and maintenance dredging at the ramp.
- **Neshannock** – Crews completed renovations to this access. This project included expanding the parking area and constructing a new walkway and launch for canoes and small boats.
- **Cranberry/Glade Lake** - Crews completed renovations to this access. This project included constructing a new concrete launch ramp, bulkhead, and dock.
- **Hyner** - Crews completed renovations to this access. This project included expanding the parking lot and constructing a new concrete launch ramp.

Hatcheries

- **Huntsdale** – Crews completed the installation of the new high voltage line.
- **Pleasant Mount** – Crews commenced construction to replace the hatch house roof.

Miscellaneous

- **Station 22** – Crews restored power to the facility and installed a new septic holding tank.
- **Habitat Management** – Crews assisted Habitat staff with construction at Hammond Lake and Spring Creek.
- **Frankford** – Crews completed the demolition of the bunker and landscaping around the bunker area.

Engineering Section

Bellefonte SFH

- Hatchery improvements - DGS has informed us that the bid documents have been fully executed as of 9/5/2008. A pre-construction conference will be scheduled in the near future.
- Well 2 – Emergency repairs are complete.

Benner Springs SFH

- DGS is hoping to clear the project for bidding the week of September 22, 2008.

Big Springs SFH Closure Plan

- Received comments from DEP regarding the Post Construction Stormwater Management plan on August 17, 2008. The revisions to be completed and returned by the end of September, 2008.

Corry SFH

- Water line - Engineering design is underway.
- Culvert at Union City – Culvert repairs are complete.

Huntsdale SFH

- The DGS bidding department has set the issue date, September 16, 2008 and the bid date, October 15, 2008 for this project. The pre-bid meeting will be held at the site on October 1, 2008 at 10:00 am at Huntsdale.

Pleasant Gap SFH

- Phase I of the new alarm system is complete.
- Emergency generator needed to be repaired.

Reynoldsdale SFH

- Engineering is coordinating with HDR/FishPro on the recycle and effluent design.

Tionesta SFH

- Materials list for pond fill lines sent to purchasing for bidding.

Tylersville SFH

- **Admin Bldg** – All permits are in-hand and construction is ready to begin.

Various SFHs –Infrared electrical equipment scans are complete and equipment ordered where necessary to prevent unplanned shutdowns.

Dams and Reservoirs

Beaver Run Reservoir – The Bureau was informed by South West Law Enforcement that the Water Authority formally rejected the concept of opening the reservoir up for public fishing without ever receiving an access proposal from the Commission. No change in status.

Opossum Lake – Overall design is approximately 30%complete. Will continue work in the coming week(s). A contract is being pursued to have a surveyor locate and quantify areas on which water may encroach on neighboring land owners as a result of the dam. Easements will be needed for any encroachment area. Local survey firm to conduct property surveys in late September or early October.

Comfort Pond - This PA American Water Company reservoir in northern Susquehanna County has been formally opened for public fishing with a ceremony. A small parking area and signs have been placed.

Lake Oneida – An agreement has been sent to the PA American Water Company to open up this reservoir in Butler County to public fishing. We hope to have an agreement in place by the end of the summer.

Thorn Run Reservoir – An agreement has been sent to the PA American Water Company to open up this reservoir in Butler County to public fishing. We hope to have an agreement in place by the end of the summer.

Property Services Section

Real Estate

Sandy Run - Staff continues to work with Legal and Access to develop documents in final form in order to initiate the transaction and develop a stewardship fund for the property.

PFBC Oil & Gas Policy - Drafted an agency oil and gas policy with staff to provide a guide for evaluating and administrating oil and gas exploration and production work on PFBC property.

Tea Creek - Closed on Tea Creek easement acquisition and deed of easement will be placed on record the week of September 15.

Opossum Lake - Evaluated and drafted a license for the removal of sediment at Opossum Lake by local nonprofit.

Lewistown Narrows Access - Reviewed and processing interagency agreement for the transfer of the Lewistown Narrows Access from PennDOT to PFBC. Transfer should be complete by early November.

Charming Forge Property Exchange - Negotiating deal and drafting necessary documents for property rights exchange along the Tulpehocken Creek in Berks County.

PA American Water Co. Butler County Lakes - Negotiated (w/ WCO) and drafted documents for opening up two water supply reservoirs in Butler County for public fishing.

PA Game Commission - Drafted report and overseeing a property exchange with the Game Commission.

West Hickory Access - Partially drafted and reviewed interagency agreement for PennDOT to allow PFBC to operate and maintain a fishing and boating access on PennDOT property along the Allegheny River in Forest County.

USGS Stream Gage Licenses - Negotiated, drafted and processing license agreements allowing USGS to place, operate and maintain stream gages at Big Spring (Cumberland Co) and Spring Creek (Centre Co.).

Survey

Corry SFH – Completed the mapping of the route survey (2nd route) from the Foster Well to the hatchery complex. Engineering will use the mapping for design of a proposed 8" waterline.

Reynoldsdale SFH – Performed a topographic survey and drafted site plan of the existing effluent ditch at the hatchery. HDR/FishPro requested additional mapping for their design work.

Oswayo SFH – Performed a route survey and drafted site plan from well # 8 to the hatchery. Engineering will use the mapping for the design of the proposed waterline replacement from well # 8 to the hatchery.

Gravel Lick Access - Performed a topographic survey and drafted site plan of the access site. Engineering will use the mapping for the design of the proposed upgrade of the parking area and the canoe launch.

Walnut Creek Marina Access – Performed a topographic survey and drafted site plan of the west revetment (rock jetty) at the confluence of Walnut Creek. Engineering will use the mapping for the design of the proposed stabilization of the existing west revetment.

Greenlick Run Lake - Performed a topographic survey and drafted site plan of the shoreline at the Southeast Access site and the sediment bar at the influence of the lake. The mapping will be used by the Lake Habitat Unit to perform bank stabilization at the Southeast Access site.

Neshannock Creek (Alduk) Access – Performed construction stakeout for the renovations to the access.

Budgeting and Human Resource:

- Submitted fiscal year 09-10 Bureau budget for review and submission to the Governor's Budget Office.
- Kevin Giles was hired to fill the Civil Engineer General position. His focus is on Boating and Access Programs for the Engineering Section.
- Brittany Bell was hired to fill the temporary clerical position. Her focus is assisting Bureau staff with clerical support.

Bureau of Fisheries Administration

Fisheries Administration

- Initiated cross divisional training to prepare DHM regional staff to prepare species management plans for State Wildlife Action Plan species.
- Met with NYDEC to discuss coordinated upper Delaware River fisheries management
- Participated in discussions to draft comments on DRBC Flexible Flow Management Plan for the Upper Delaware River.
- Met with DCNR re design of Sunbury fishway
- Worked with states of Delaware and New Jersey in development of a striped bass slot limit proposal for the Delaware River for presentation to ASMFC in October
- A number of staff attended AFS international meeting in Ottawa, in part to continue planning for 2010 meeting in Pittsburgh.
- Bureau staff completed first and second drafts of the State Trout Plan. Met once with internal trout work group. Final report is now scheduled to be coincident with PFBC strategic plan in approximately July 2009.
- Prepared 2009-10 budget for Bureau of Fisheries
- Reviewed plan for Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed grant program plan
- Met with Pennsylvania TU to discuss various issues of concern
- Worked with other PFBC staff and PDA to develop draft VHS regulations and coordination with other Great Lakes states to work towards development of consistent regulations for bait relative to VHS.

Budgeting and Financials

- The annual Budget meeting was held on September 5th to prepare the 09/10 Budget Request due to be reviewed at the October Commission meeting.
- Encumbrances for the 07/08 Fiscal year are continuing to be reviewed, paid and liquidated through the end of October.

Human Resources

- The Bureau of Fisheries completed the following E-PARs in the last three months: Request to Fill (13), Fill a Vacant Position (14), Create a Position (0), Separation (2), BLWOP/RLWOP (15), TWOC (1), Reclassification (6), Extension of Time (2), Probation (11), Resignation (3), Updated Roles (0), Change in Work Code (1), Change in Time Code (0), and Change in Supervisor (0).

- For the most part, the Bureau of Fisheries has recovered from a number of retirements in 2007 just in time to evaluate and adapt to the Governor's freeze on the filling of positions through June of 2009.
- Discussions are continuing, via the grievance procedure, to determine the most correct protocol for hiring full-time FCs. The issue is still pending and is unresolved to date. The results may reinforce or redefine the definition of seniority unit per each hatchery or the thirteen hatcheries state-wide as one unit when settled.

Safety

- The Administrative Officer, Liz Ebeling, represented Fisheries and attended the quarterly safety meeting in Harrisburg on August 28th. Safety inspections are scheduled once a year for all of the Fisheries' physical locations and bi-annual fire drills will continue to be conducted.

Miscellaneous

- The final preparations are being completed for the Bureau of Fisheries' meeting to be held in October 8th, 9th and 10th for all full-time and permanent part-time staff. The three day conference will have a full agenda including training, education and professional camaraderie.

3 Rivers Ecological Research Center

- Continued interactions with partners and stakeholders in Pennsylvania's Ohio River Basin, including Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania SeaGrant, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
- Designated as the General Meeting Chair for the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh in 2010 and attended the AFS Annual Meeting in Ottawa in August (Thompson).
- Assisted Area 8, DEP, EPA, Ohio DNR, USGS, and USFWS in various surveys on the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers (primarily Ventorini).
- Represented Pennsylvania at the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) meeting (Thompson).
- Active in developing the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (ORBFHP), including being invited to represent states at a meeting of the NFHAP Federal Caucus and participating in the strategic planning session to select conservation targets.
- Prepared draft outline for River Management Plans.
- Organized presentation by Brian Ickes, USGS Upper Mississippi Long-Term Resource Monitoring Program on their large river protocols as well as arranged visit by PFBC river biologists to participate and observe LTRMP field methods.
- Met with Joe Flotermersch, EPA Large River Ecologist, to discuss collaboration on large river studies, especially utilizing DIDSON sonar.
- Submitted formal request for funding from the Mississippi River Basin Panel for baseline survey of angler / boater awareness and knowledge of aquatic nuisance species.
- Met with Reliant Energy Environmental Partners Program and secured funding for three habitat projects in southwestern PA (ca \$20,000).
- Reviewed reports and interacted with partners on Ohio Basin State Wildlife Grants.
- Training included Bivalves of the Upper Ohio Basin; Boat Operation, Maintenance, and Trailing; Leading at All Levels in AFS; R Software; Fundamentals of Supervision; and Leadership Training.

Fisheries Management

Biological Sampling

- Reinventory of 10 wild trout streams to monitor changes in abundance.

- Initial inventory of 17 streams thought to have the potential to support wild trout. Wild trout populations were documented in nine of these streams while the other eight streams did not support wild trout populations.
- Five streams were surveyed as part of the evaluation of the brook trout enhancement regulation package.
- Fourteen warmwater streams were sampled to gather baseline data and to determine if they contained fish populations capable of supporting directed recreational fishing.
- Night electrofishing to monitor adult black bass populations was conducted on five lakes.
- Aquatic vegetation identification of coverage was conducted on eight lakes. Four lakes were considered to have dense weed coverage and four lakes were considered to have minimal weed coverage.
- A vertical chemical profile was conducted on Lake Winola, which indicated that conditions were suitable for the year-round survival of trout but the survival zone was reduced as compared to previous evaluations.
- Smallmouth bass population estimation work and angler creel survey work continued on the West Branch Susquehanna River.
- Young-of-the-year smallmouth bass sampling was conducted on historic waters statewide. General results are as follows: Ohio River – below average; Allegheny River -ranged from slightly below average to above average; Delaware River – above average; Susquehanna River – ranged from below average to average with diseased fish being found spread throughout the system but the heaviest concentrations appeared to be in Harrisburg area; Lehigh River – below 2007 catches; West Branch Susquehanna River – ranged from above average to below average; North Branch Susquehanna River – above average and was 4th highest catch on record.
- American shad results from egg take operation: total catch of 708 shad (448 females and 260 males), total of 148.2 liters of eggs were shipped with a 28.5% viability rate.
- Sampling was conducted on Laurel Run and South Branch Laurel Run to evaluate the effectiveness of limestone sand treatment on a wild brook trout population.
- The Lake Erie Unit conducted the annual yellow perch gill net assessment – catch rates remained very good.
- The Lake Erie Boat Angler survey continued and indicated very good catch rates for walleye and yellow perch.
- Area 8 staff (southwest region) assisted the USGS in obtaining fish samples using night electrofishing techniques for the Three Rivers emerging contaminants research.
- Review of the Easton fish way video tapes confirmed a total of 408 American shad had passed the dam between April 12 and June 13, 2008. A partial review of the Chain Dam fish way video tapes confirmed the passage of 44 American shad through June 3, 2008.
- Panfish enhancement angler opinion surveys were conducted on eight lakes. Over 1,000 angler interviews were reported from five of the eight lakes surveyed.

Meeting Highlights

- Lake Erie Unit Leader participation in a meeting with the PA Sea Grant staff to discuss future participation in a Lake Erie fisheries management overview for the PA Sea Grant Science on the Water Program,
- Lake Erie Unit Leader attended the Annual Great Lakes Committee Meeting in Cleveland, OH.
- Area 5 participated in the Directors tour including sampling on the Lehigh River Section 09
- The Area 2 staff attended a meeting to review the work being done to remedy the increased flows at the Brandy Camp acid mine drainage treatment facility.
- Area 3 AFM met with USFWS staff to discuss the implementation of a brook trout thalweg modeling project.
- The Area 2 AFM attended a meeting with NYDEC personnel to discuss the reintroduction of gilt darter to New York portions of the Allegheny River using fish obtained from Pennsylvania sections of the river.
- Meeting in Somerset to discuss work responsibilities River Biologists.

- The WWU Leader, Area 8 FM, and Area 3 AFM met with Tyler Wagner from the PA Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Unit to discuss analysis of Panfish Enhancement regulations data.
- The Area 5 AFM and Delaware River Biologist met with NYDEC staff to discuss plans for monitoring efforts on the Delaware River.
- The Lake Erie Unit Leader attended a meeting of the PFBC Leadership Team to discuss the utility of Progress Associates training, continuing education, and future plans for the team.
- The Lake Erie Unit Leader participated in a Lake Erie Committee conference call to discuss the formation of a Human Dimensions Task Group, to review the Great Lakes Sturgeon Management Plan, to develop a position statement on wind power generation on Lake Erie, and to discuss final edits of the Lake Erie Yellow Perch Management Plan.
- The Cold Water Unit Fisheries Biologist 1 attended a meeting with Fish Production staff and Penn State Department of Supply Chain staff to discuss improving fish distribution efficiency.
- The Cold Water Unit Leader attended a meeting with Adrian Martin, DCNR, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Hardy-Grey Limited staff to discuss the Hardy-Grey Limited Fly Fishing Museum in Lancaster County.
- The Warm Water Unit Leader, Division Chief, and Area 7 AFM met with Fish Production staff to discuss 2008 and 2009 warmwater/coolwater fish production limitations and needs. One outcome from this meeting was to initiate a comparative muskellunge survival study to examine survival of muskies of various sizes reared on various diets to at least age 3 or 4 beginning in 2009.
- The Division Chief and Cold Water Unit Leader met with Fish Production staff to discuss the development of a premium trout program for the 2010 season.
- The Area 3 AFM attended an Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture project officers meeting with USFWS staff.
- Division Chief attended the American Fisheries Society meeting in Ottawa. Benefits of attendance included the dissemination of new and innovative fisheries management techniques and a much more thorough understanding of the operation of a meeting of this magnitude in preparation for Pennsylvania hosting the event in 2010.

Training

- Staff completed the LMS on line training course for the Right and Duties for Work Related Injuries, and attended Back Injury Prevention training.
- Area 4 staff, Area 3 Staff, and the Fisheries Biologist 1's and Technicians from Areas 8, 6, Warm Water Unit and Cold Water Unit participated, taught portions of and completed Boat safety training.
- Several staff members participated in R statistical software training at Penn State University.

Presentations/Public Interaction

- The Area 3 AFM attended the West Branch Susquehanna River Restoration Symposium and presented information on data collected by the PFBC.
- The Cold Water Unit Fisheries Biologist 1 attended the Executive Safety Committee meeting and manned the PFBC booth at Ag Progress Days.
- The Area 1 Fisheries Biologist attended the PFBC booth at the Crawford County Fair.
- The Lake Erie Unit Leader provided a presentation on Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management on Lake Erie at a Science on the Water program for the Pennsylvania Sea Grant.

Division of Fish Production

Many activities and projects took place within the Division of Fish Production during the last quarter. These included effluent management studies, hatchery renovation plans, staff hiring and training, increased biosecurity, new equipment purchases and seeking cost reduction methods. The F-74-D segment 17 report was also completed.

Tylersville and Pleasant Gap SFH's continue to have their water quality, flows and effluent closely monitored. Additional water samplers have been set up at Pleasant Gap to determine water quality at various locations in the facility as well as pre/post microscreens. Reports are being prepared for DEP on the use of these filters.

Renovation plans continue for Bellefonte, Huntsdale, Benner Spring and Reynoldsdale SFH's. The contract has been awarded for Bellefonte and construction will start this fall. Huntsdale will be bid very soon (pre-bid meeting in October). Permitting has delayed Benner Spring but it is now complete and the bid prep process will start soon. Engineering consultants have completed the 35% design phase for Reynoldsdale. Cost estimates for renovations continue to rise due to time delays and rising material costs.

Many fish culture vacancies have been filled and new employees are moving quickly into full time positions. The recent hiring freeze may have serious adverse affects on the ability of hatcheries to deliver trout during the stocking period since there are many open positions that cannot now be filled. The new Fish Culture School has begun and two courses were offered in late July. Introduction to Fish Culture and Fish Health were taught at the H. R. Stackhouse and Benner Spring SFH, respectively. Warm/Cool Water Fish Production will be taught in October at Linesville SFH. In addition to these offerings, many staff attended a Biosecurity Seminar in Ohio, Boat and Trailer Training, and numerous OA courses. Director attended North East Fish Culture Chiefs meeting to discuss feeds, effluents and fish disease issues. PFBC will host this meeting next year.

Biosecurity has taken center stage due to VHS and aquatic invasive species. A biosecurity plan has been developed for inclusion in the PFBC policy that specifically addresses the hatcheries. New equipment and disinfectants are being purchased to aid in this plan. Two new egg picking machines have been purchased at Huntsdale and Benner Spring to separate dead eggs from live eggs to reduce pathogens and increase inventory accuracy. Staff contacted and received a draft proposal from PSU on developing a mathematical model to be used in minimizing our trout distribution costs.

Northern Hatcheries

Fish Distribution

SPECIES	LIFESTAGE	POUNDS STOCKED	NUMBER STOCKED
Chain Pickerel	Fingerling	76	2,570
Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	8	7,730
Muskellunge	S Fingerling	154	20,298
Muskellunge	Fingerling	2,363	55,270
Northern Pike	Fingerling	53	6,530
Paddlefish	Fingerling	569	1,990
Steelhead Trout	S Fingerling	365	51,000
Striped Bass	Phase I		1,475
Tiger Muskellunge	Fingerling	3,200	72,630
White X Striped Bass	Fingerling	358	7,250

Personnel

- Foreman position at Tionesta was filled by Zane Brower.
- Fairview full time FC position filled by Jeff Kightlinger

- Currently, there are two open full time FC positions at Oswaya, Pleasant Mount and a non-permanent at Fairview.
- Two FC's are off on workman's comp

Projects

- Fairview has repaired/patched the blacktop areas that were cut for the new building.
- The electricians are installing the generator at Tionesta.
- The Linesville crew has been renovating the conference room for the fish culture school being held there in October.
- The culvert over Bently Run was repaired at Union City and Annex pond at Corry was repaired.

Southern Hatcheries

Fish Distribution

SPECIES	NUMBER STOCKED	LIFESTAGE
Brook Trout	100	Adult
Brown Trout	490	
Rainbow Trout	1,110	
Brook Trout	23,000	Fingerling
Brown Trout	170,400	
Rainbow Trout	122,000	
Striped Bass	1,475	Fingerling

Personnel

- Matt Somogyi hired to fill non-permanent FC1 position at Huntsdale
- Joe Burkardt hired to fill full time FC1 position at Benner Spring
- Matt Thomas hired to fill full time FC1 position at Pleasant Gap
- Dawn Roland, secretary at Tylersville transferred to Department of Welfare

Wastewater treatment construction projects

- Contract to construct effluent treatment system at Bellefonte has been awarded. Pre-construction conference scheduled for 10/1/08.
- Maguire Group completed design of Benner Spring project. Should be bid soon.
- Design for Huntsdale effluent project complete. DGS to send out bids soon.
- HDR/FishPro continues with design of the Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery renovation project

Fish Production Services

- Staff are working out near-final details of Holtwood Hydroelectric Dam Re-licensing settlement and 401 Water Quality Certification agreement.
- Conducted Basic Fish Health Training for fish culturists and Boat Operation maintenance and Trailing training for Bureau of Fisheries field biologists and fish culturists.
- Hosted Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission public meeting on American shad management plan update.
- Attended American Fisheries Society Meeting in Ottawa, Canada to observe and prepare for PFBC meeting hosting duties in 2010 in Pittsburgh.
- Awarded \$26,000 grant from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for 2009 VHS virus field surveillance sampling.

- Attended Cheyney University Aquaculture Research and Education Center Advisory Committee meeting.
- Coordinated confined space training as part of agency safety team obligations.
- Conducted over 50 emergency visits to co-op nurseries due to low water and stressed fish.
- Water Quality Lab successfully re-certified by DEP.
- Worked with Schering Plough Pharmaceutical Company to set up a florfenicol drug test at the Tionesta SFH.
- Began feeding and data collection for a four-diet, comparative feed performance study.
- Staff participated with State Civil Service Commission in the development of a new Fisheries Technician test.
- Staff attended recirculating aquaculture course in Roanoke, Virginia.
- Entered training course data onto Learning Management Systems forms to facilitate creation of individual training personnel files.
- Met with DCNR staff to discuss and move forward plans for fish passage at the Sunbury Inflatable Dam.

Division of Habitat Management

Division Chief

- Prepared 09-10 budget
- Continued work of Lehigh River fish passage document.
- Completed contractual agreements with Boondocs Program, Clearwater Conservancy, and Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NCPC), USFWS
- Completed draft plan and guidelines for the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program that will be used to administer the \$3.75 million dollars stemming from the Norfolk Southern resource damage settlement.
- Devoted significant time to advancing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, LIP, SWG program, and bog turtle restoration program.
- Worked with partners to advance EBTJV projects in PA.
- Advanced filling three habitat biologist vacancies from recent transfers to Fish Management.
- Attended meetings including: PFBC Commission, PSU Coop Unit, Spring Creek Technical Committee, Linn Conservancy, Boondocs Program, Sinnemahoning Stakeholder Group, DEP/NCPC, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and USFWS.
- Began work on multi-state SWG proposal to improve fish passage.
- Attended Leadership Training in Harrisburg

Fish Passage Section

- Completed the removal of two dams on Bear Run, Fayette Co., Spangler's Mill Dam, Yellow Breaches Creek, Cumberland County.
- Continued coordinating in excess of 100 dam removal/fish passage projects across the Commonwealth.
- Advanced contractual agreement with American Rivers, Myersdale Boro, and Garrett Boro for funding to remove dams in Westmoreland and Somerset Co's.
- Completed phase II of the McCoy Dam removal project.
- Kristine transfer to Fish Management.

Stream Section

- Completed flood damage/stream stabilization project at Pleasant Mount Hatchery.

- Provided technical assistance for over 30 sites to improve fish habitat through the Technical Assistance Program (TAP).
- Completed over 20 habitat enhancement construction projects through the Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP).
- Completed stream restoration education workshops.
- Coordinated Northcentral Pennsylvania Stream Improvement Pilot Project with DEP, NCPD.
- Constructed fish habitat enhancement structures to support the Upper Kettle Creek, EBTJV project and Spring Creek C2P2/NFWF project.
- Staff attended stream restoration training course at PSU.
- Coordinated riparian buffer management on PFBC properties.

Lake Section

- Provided technical assistance for 2 sites to improve fish habitat through TAP.
- Completed approximately 30 construction/placement of habitat structures through CHIP.
- Continued coordinating PFBC/DCNR collaborative lake habitat project including construction at Lake Pymatuning and Lake Nockamixon.
- Provide draft press releases to PFBC Communication Director

Regional Habitat Section

- Anderson attended 138 Annual AFS Conference.
- Attended bog turtle training provided by NDS.
- Completed multiple habitat and fisheries surveys to document impact of habitat treatments.
- Worked with project partners to advance multiple habitat projects throughout PA.
- Completed the removal of two dams on Big Spring as part of the comprehensive stream habitat restoration project.
- Completed phase I of the Upper Kettle Creek EBTJV project and Spring Creek C2P2/NFWF project.
- Began advancing the NFWF funded reservoir projects with Lake Section
- Advanced S Br Kinzua Creek acid precipitation remediation project.

Division of Environmental Services

Staff participated in the following meetings: Dredgers Appeal Settlement, DCNR statewide meeting, DEP redesignation of Hammer Creek, Berks County, Susquehanna River smallmouth bass water quality study workgroup, PA Biological Survey Steering Committee, USGS on Marcellus Shale gas well drilling, Heartland Coalition on the design of a mercury study, the Wild Resources Conservation panel review of project proposals, PA SeaGrant on invasive mussels, Susquehanna River Symposium at Bucknell University, Upper Delaware Flexible Flow Management Plan, PA Dept. of Agriculture's Pesticide Advisory Board, PFBC's Station 22 meeting with DEP's mining program staff, USGS flow gage closures, and gill darter collections on the Allegheny River.

Watershed Analysis Section

- Surveyed the West Branch of Perkiomen Creek, Berks County for wild trout.
- Evaluated the I-95 Scudder Falls bridge replacement project for impacts to Atlantic and short-nosed sturgeon.
- Attended the DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee's Chapter 105 Subcommittee.
- Inspected the Veolia Greentree Landfill expansion project, Elk County. Mitigation measures reduced perennial stream channel impacts from 4,225' to 1501' and wetland impacts from 4.36 acres to 1.6 acres.
- Worked with the Bureau of Boating on guidance for Aids to Navigation near PennDOT projects.
- Staff attended an R-statistics course at PSU.

Aquatic Resources Section

- Staff provided training on aquatic vegetation controls to the Youth BASS Anglers Conservation School.
- Assisted at the PFBC Information Booth at Ag Progress Days at PSU.
- Assisted the BLE staff with the investigation of an oil spill on Chappel Fork, McKean County.
- Attended the National Triploid Grass Carp Workshop in St. Louis, MO.
- Coordinated AES Ironwood grants.
- Investigated the Warriors Ridge Hydropower project incident.
- Worked on the Upper Delaware River Flexible flow Management Plan and attended the Subcommittee on Ecological Flows meeting.
- Attended the statewide State water plan meetings.

Natural Diversity Section

- Staff coordinated the Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conference in Pittsburgh. Over 80 biologists from northeastern states attended, representing state and federal agencies, natural heritage programs, conservation organizations, colleges and universities, and consulting firms. Meeting attendees gave presentations on a variety of reptile and amphibian studies they are conducting, and reported on and discussed a number of initiatives that NEPARC and its parent organization, PARC, are involved in to further the conservation of reptiles and amphibians.
- Reviewed an aquatic invasive species poster for Boating and Education.
- Conducted CREP surveys in Cumberland County.
- Performed fish surveys at Cherry Valley in Monroe County and French Creek and Muddy Creek in Erie County.
- Provided Bog Turtle training for the Habitat Management Division biologists.
- Attended the Wild Resource Conservation Board meeting.
- Attended agency leadership training.

Bureau of Law Enforcement

Personnel

- Melanie Migliaccio has been selected for the southeast regional secretary position in Elm, PA.
- WCO Larry Dvorshock from the Lycoming county district recently retired.
- WCO Chad Wolessagle, David Hurst and ARS Gerald Barton remain on military leave in response to being activated for duty in various parts of the world.
- ARS Clyde Warner participated in a leadership development course in Harrisburg in September.
- The Bureau currently has eight vacant law enforcement positions. Civil Service has announced the application process for the position of Waterways Conservation Officer trainee. The application process closes in early October. Nearly 500 individuals have applied for this position so far. Testing will be completed by November 22nd.
- Agency personnel have begun the process of negotiating a new labor agreement with the Conservation Officers and Assistant Regional Supervisors. A series of additional meetings will occur during the fall in hopes of finding agreement on a new labor contract.
- The current DWCO complement is 178 officers.

Operations

- Waterways Conservation Officers have been involved in the investigation of several boating accidents involving collisions and fatalities. Officers are noticing reduced levels of boating activity on many of the larger power boating waters in the Commonwealth.
- Waterways Conservation Officers have been actively involved in the inspection and enforcement of applicable sections of the Fish and Boat Code relating to gas and oil well development in Pennsylvania. A recent case involved a cooperative trout nursery where fish were killed as a result of a gas well drilling operation. We continue to inspect other oil and gas well development that is occurring in over two thirds of the counties and initiate appropriate enforcement actions if warranted.
- Regional firearms training is being conducted for salaried officers and Deputies during September and October.
- The Bureau continues to contain rising fuels costs by implementing effective and efficient vehicle patrols and minimizing high speed on the water boat patrols.
- The Bureau completed the requisition process for a new patrol boat for Lake Erie. A purchase order was issued to Black Lab Marine for a custom 23 foot aluminum patrol boat that will replace an aging patrol boat in the central Erie district. BLE staff inspected the vessel and provided guidance in the installation of law enforcement equipment on and in the new boat in mid September. Delivery is expected in October of this year
- Bureau Director along PGC personnel is actively involved in the planning and implementation effort for the 2009 Northeast Fish and Wildlife conference.
- Northwest law enforcement personnel along with fisheries personnel have been actively gathering data and information concerning VHS. They have assisted in the development of regulations in order to attempt to stop the spread of the virus and have actively been involved in outreach efforts to inform the angling and boating public about this issue. Several BLE staff are active participants in the AIS work group.
- Northwest law enforcement personnel will be implementing our specialized steelhead enforcement operation in the Lake Erie tributaries once the fish have arrived.
- Harrisburg staff continues to develop a legislative proposal for additions and corrections to the Fish and Boat Code. After full agency review we hope to have this introduced in the legislature during 2009.
- Two out of state training opportunities for LE personnel had to be cancelled as part of the Governor's restrictions on out of state travel.
- Northwest LE staff hosted the Lake Erie interstate law enforcement officers meeting in September.

Policy, Planning, and Communications

Education and Outreach Section Activities

- The fourth annual Youth Bass Angler's Conservation School took place, July 17-18. Spring Reilly served as section lead, various staff from the section and Bureau of Fisheries providing instructional support. Participants in the weeklong residential camp received boating safety education training, introduction to fish management and habitat management as well as

leadership/team building training. Section staff also presented at the River's Conservation School, sponsored by Cumberland County Trout Unlimited. Wading and water safety was the focus of this training. Staff from other Bureaus also provided instruction at the School in fish and habitat management.

- PA Trout Unlimited, using PFBC education grant funds, is funding 21 new schools in the Trout in the Classroom program. Section staff are working with PATU on a teacher-training workshop, scheduled for October 4, 2008.
- Effective July 1, there are now two approved internet based boating safety education courses. Boat Ed and Boaterexam.com are the approved providers of internet courses in Pennsylvania. Information on these providers, as well as the additional classroom course providers is available on our website at <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/98boatco.htm>
- Boating Safety Education: Boating Safety Education Certificates were issued to more than 4,200 students through Commission, USPS or Auxiliary courses since July 1.
- Section staff provided instruction at the 2008 Governor's Institute for Teachers for Ecology and Environment, July 27 to August 1, 2008. More than 100 teachers attended and received training in the Commissions conservation education programs. Section staff also provided instruction and support for the Bureau of Fisheries Boat Operation and Safety Training in September.
- Programs funded for the 07-08 fiscal year with PFBC education grants are now submitting year-end reports, and the evaluation conducted of these programs is nearly complete. Evaluation results will be presented at a future Commission meeting. We will announce in early October that applications for funding in 09-10 fiscal year will be accepted until December 31, 2008.
- Section year round positions are now fully staffed. The SE and NE Region Education Specialists started in late August.

Strategic Planning

- Specifications and solicitation for strategic planning consultant developed and posted, with bid solicitation closing at end of September 2008.
- Strategic planning steering teams and roles drafted for approval and meeting/workshop facilities identified across the state.
- Continued staff participation in Office of Budget's Performance Improvement Initiative to assist in creating meaningful performance measures for the Governor's Report on State Performance and a more integrated approach to our internal and external budgeting processes.
- Continued involvement in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan meetings and development of public recreation surveys.
- Began interagency promotion of the idea of integrating the strategic plan with the budget and individual plans of work.

Publication and Product Requests

- Since July 1, staff has processed 182 new and 799 renewal subscriptions to *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*.
- Nearly 2,100 product requests were received through the Outdoor Shop for paid items such as patches, hats, books, wall charts and launch permits.

- In addition, staff fulfilled over 1,600 individual requests delivered through the web site and the mail for publications provided by the agency at no charge to the public. On average, requests were for a minimum of three different free publications, resulting in nearly 5,000 pamphlets and maps being distributed.

Angler and Boater

- Planning the 2009 *Angler and Boater* issues.
- Working with Marketing to incorporate promotional campaigns into the issues, particularly to make use of the new voucher law.
- Preparing survey to collect demographic data on magazine subscribers.

Marketing

- Bringing Educational Media, Marketing and Education together to make use of available skills and to make sure common messages are being conveyed to public, including the four themes of "Wear Your Life Jacket"; "Clean Your Gear"; "Vouchers Make Great Gifts"; and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) "Take Me Fishing."
- Improving public awareness of PFBC programs and activities using press releases, targeted stories to media, Angler & Boater articles, website and community involvement by ARPS.
- Entering into second year of three-year joint direct marketing mail campaign with the RBFF, targeting lapsed anglers to renew their fishing licenses. The campaign utilizes the PALS system and includes e-mail blasts, post cards and follow-up letters.

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Convened Aquatic Invasive Species Work Group.
- Finalized Biosecurity Protocols for staff.
- Coordinated activities with Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council and Penn State Sea Grant.