

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Statement on Climate Change

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is a member of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), which represents all of North America's fish and wildlife agencies, promotes sound management and conservation, and speaks with a unified voice on important fish and wildlife issues. PFBC hereby endorses the following statement and management principles developed by AFWA's Climate Change Subcommittee.

Climate Change Statement

Global climate trends indicate warming temperatures, sea level rise, and increased frequency of extreme precipitation events in North America over the past century (Climate Change 2007 Synthesis Report, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007). Milder winters, longer and warmer growing seasons, and extreme snowfall and rain events leading to increased flooding are manifestations of the global climate trends. The consequences of these climate trends will exacerbate other recognized impacts to fish and wildlife resources such as habitat fragmentation, degradation, and loss from changing land uses; pollution and sedimentation; deleterious or invasive species; and unsustainable use of natural resources. The anticipated acceleration of climate change will challenge 21st century resource agencies to manage for healthy ecosystems in uncertain future conditions.

Management Principles

The following management principles will guide the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's responses to climate change as we carry out our mission to protect, conserve, and enhance aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

- Healthy and robust ecosystems are necessary to support fish and wildlife conservation.
- Reducing nonclimate stressors will help reduce impacts from changing climate conditions.
- Systems in transition will present management challenges commensurate with the rate and extent of climate change.
- Some species will become extirpated, or even worse extinct, while others will increase or adapt under changing climate conditions.
- Long-term management objectives and implementation options will be influenced by changes in species compositions, distributions, and changing interactions with humans.
- Effective partnerships and collaborations at state, regional, and international levels will be needed to address climate change challenges.