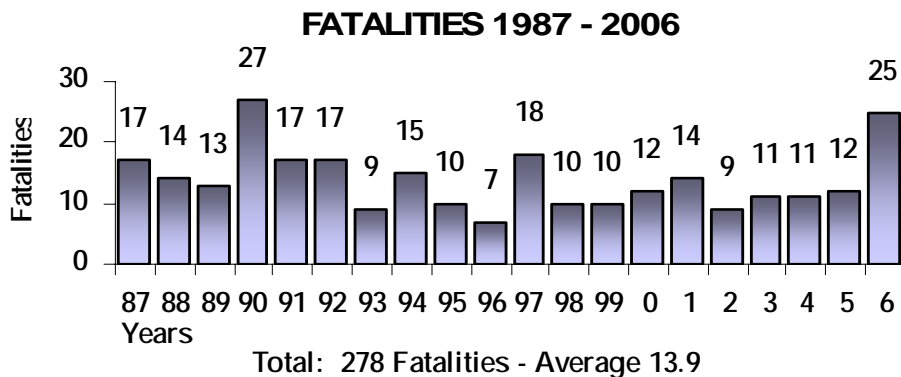
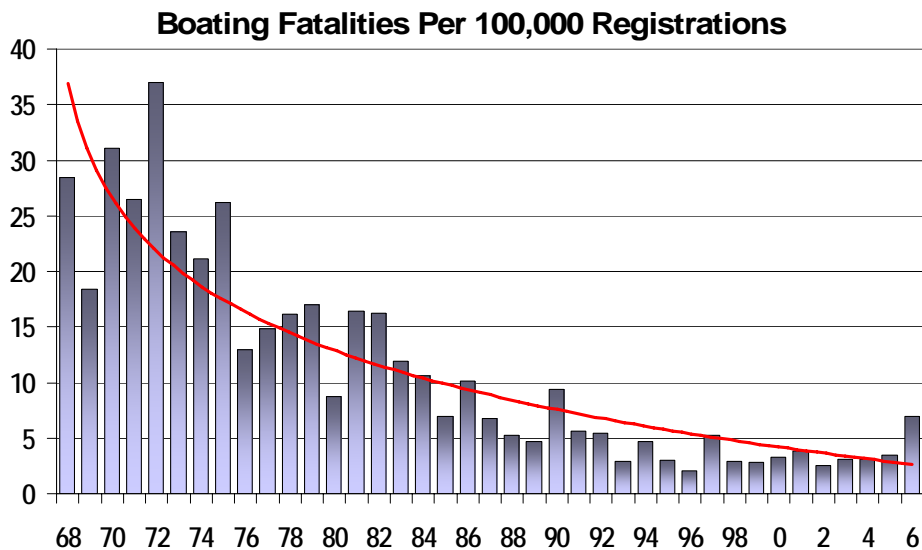


**RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM
 PERFORMANCE REPORT
 PART 1 C: ACCOMPLISHMENTS
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2006**

The Recreational Boating Program in Pennsylvania, which is administered by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) is dependant on the infusion of funds from the Recreational Boating Safety Program grant to be successful. One way to measure the success of Pennsylvania's boating safety program is the number of recreational boaters injured or killed in boating accidents. Because of the importance of weather and other factors impossible or difficult to control, the trend in boating accident fatalities is the statistic most valid for judging program success. The following graph shows boating fatalities in Pennsylvania from 1987 through 2006. In 2006, there was a dramatic spike in the number of recreational fatal boating accidents. Nineteen fatal recreational boating accidents with twenty-five fatalities were reported, more than double the number in 2005.

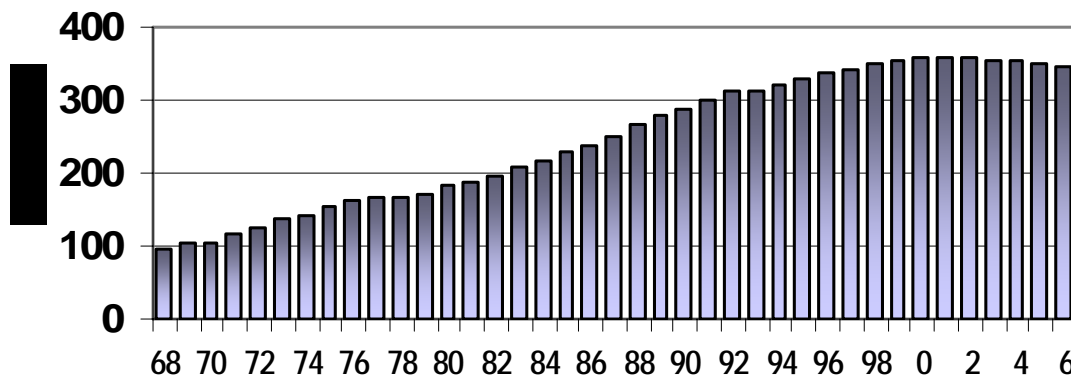


The average number of fatalities for the twenty-year period of 1987 through 2006 is 13.9. The success of the Commission's boating safety program is illustrated by comparing the number of fatalities to the number of or registered boats. These records are available for the last 39 years. The following graph shows the number of recreational boating fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. The huge increase in the number of boats registered in the Commonwealth over the last 39 years has been matched by a commensurate increase in boating safety. This would not have been possible without the support of Coast Guard RBS funding.

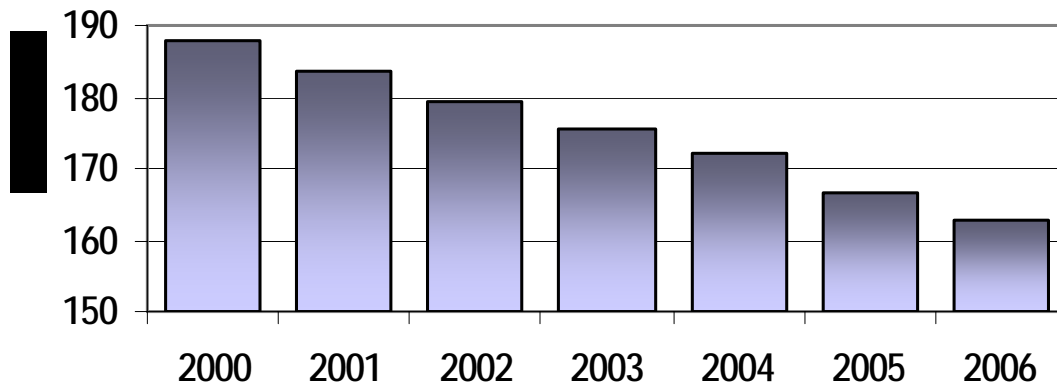


Pennsylvania experienced another slight decrease in boat registrations in 2006. The Commission now registers 344,452 craft, a decrease of 4,060 boats or 1.2% less than 2005. This decrease is small but is significant as a trend. During the period of 1968-2006, boat registrations have gone up every year but seven and have declined in each of the last six. Because of the passage of new legislation, a substantial boat registration fee increase went into effect in 2005. Unpowered boat registrations fees increased 80%; all motorboat registration fees increased 30%. Because of these fee increases and the increase in gasoline prices last summer, we expected boat registrations to decline in 2006. This decline was primarily in one class of boats. The numbers of motorboats less than 16 feet in length that are registered in Pennsylvania have declined steadily since 2000 (see chart below). Because of the fee increases and the bad weather, many of these small open boats primarily used for fishing were not registered by their owners.

BOAT REGISTRATIONS 1968 - 2006



MOTORBOATS <16 FT. REGISTRATIONS



	2006 BOAT REGISTRATION STATISTICS	2005 BOAT REGISTRATION STATISTICS	2004 BOAT REGISTRATION STATISTICS	2003 BOAT REGISTRATION STATISTICS
Total Active Registrations:	344,452	348,512	353,478	355,246
Total Unpowered Vessels:	39,435	40,134	40,281	39,278
Total Active PWCs:	26,511	26,367	26,095	26,281
MOTORBOATS BY CLASS:				
Less than 16 Ft.	162,626	166,546	172,265	175,444
16 Ft. to 25 Ft.	135,593	135,238	135,276	134,454
26 Ft. to 39 Ft.	5,958	5,841	5,720	5,543
40 Ft. to 65 Ft.	553	530	514	499
Boats over 65 Ft.	33	31	28	28
REGISTERED UNPOWERED CRAFT:				
Rowboats	1,991	2,010	2,054	2,082
Sailboats	1,563	1,637	1,691	1,801
Canoes	22,202	23,211	24,122	24,337
Kayaks/Other Boats	13,679	13,276	12,414	11,058

The number of personal watercraft registered in Pennsylvania again remained constant in 2006; registrations increased by 144 boats (see above chart). We now register 26,511 personal watercraft. Personal watercraft (PWC) account for 7.7% of currently registered vessels. Prior to mandatory education requirements, personal watercraft operators had been involved in a disproportionate number of boating accidents and were associated with a number of different problems that needed to be addressed by the Boating Safety Program (see chart on next page). The Commission took additional regulatory action in several areas in 1999 to reduce the negative impacts of these craft. Enforcement of those regulations and an increase in the number of boaters taking NASBLA approved boating safety courses has resulted in a major reduction of mayhem involving personal watercraft operators on Commonwealth waters in the past seven years. The chart clearly shows that when comparing 1999 to the following years that there has been a marked decrease in the number of PWC accidents, injuries, collisions, and property damage. The statistics demonstrate that the Commission's programs with Coast Guard funding support have made a major impact on boating safety.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS 1989 - 2006

Year	Registrations			Reported Boat Accidents			Fatalities			Injuries			Collisions			Reported Property Damage		
	Total Boats	PWC	% Tot	Tot	PWC	% Tot	Tot	PWC	% Tot	Tot	PWC	% Tot	Tot	PWC	% Tot	Tot	PWC	% Tot
2006	344,452	26,511	7.7%	66	8	12%	25	2	8%	65	11	17%	17	7	41%	\$137,438	\$29,080	21%
2005	348,512	26,367	7.6%	72	15	21%	12	1****	8%	65	16	25%	20	9	45%	\$303,424	\$21,990	7%
2004	353,478	26,095	7.4%	60	14	23%	11	0	0%	50	12	24%	17	9	53%	\$107,191	\$27,100	25%
2003	355,246	26,281	7.4%	83	15	18%	11	0	0%	60	8	13%	29	9	31%	\$230,316	\$29,682	13%
2002	357,434	26,384	7.4%	107	18	17%	9	0	0%	66	10	15%	41	13	32%	\$149,687	\$22,595	15%
2001	359,706	25,843	7.2%	90	17	19%	14	1***	7%	66	8	12%	28	10	36%	\$179,362	\$21,395	12%
2000	360,361	25,741	7.2%	90	13	14%	12	1**	8%	67	11***	16%	33	8	24%	\$234,370	\$12,364	5%
1999	352,231	24,988	7.1%	125	36	29%	10	0	0%	89	26	29%	47	21	45%	\$337,434	\$49,785	15%
1998	348,393	23,340	6.7%	136	43	35%	10	0	0%	116	46	39%	66	37	56%	\$162,130	\$67,516	41%
1997	340,637	21,466	6.3%	122	34	28%	18	0	0%	94	30	32%	53	25	45%	\$201,563	\$ 41,292	19%
1996	337,201	18,575	5.5%	117	38	33%	7	0	0%	77	24	31%	46	28	61%	\$276,109	\$ 52,964	19%
1995	330,426	15,392	4.7%	115	39	34%	10	1*	10%	101	31	31%	48	25	52%	\$242,595	\$ 76,437	32%
1994	322,318	12,117	3.8%	111	27	24%	15	0	0%	83	21	25%	46	20	43%	\$368,642	\$ 57,864	16%
1993	311,542	9,343	3.0%	101	26	26%	9	0	0%	63	15	24%	56	24	43%	\$327,914	\$ 48,115	15%
1992	311,893	7,658	2.5%	119	22	18%	17	2	12%	75	10	13%	50	15	33%	\$299,493	\$ 45,092	15%
1991	301,804	6,115	2.0%	110	11	9%	17	0	0%	93	5	5%	43	11	26%	\$228,298	\$ 17,512	8%
1990	286,826	5,511	1.9%	120	9	7.5%	27	0	0%	82	3	4%	52	7	13%	\$374,186	\$ 15,306	4%
1989	278,535	3,225	1.2%	94	6	6%	13	0	0%	77	3	4%	44	4	9%	\$810,076	\$ 9,205	1%

Note: PWC totals include any accident in which a PWC was involved.

*PWC operator struck a skier and was not the victim. **PWC operator was at fault but was not the victim. ***The operator of the PWC was involved in a fatal accident but was not the victim. ****The passenger of this rented PWC died of a heart attack while reboarding the boat. The injured persons were being towed behind a PWC. *****The operator of the PWC was involved in a fatal accident but was not the victim.

The Commission has continued to train and employ quality conservation officers. A new class of Waterways Conservation Officers is currently being trained to fill existing and expected vacancies in our field force. The program is a 52-week training program, which includes 20 weeks of municipal police officer training. Officers are hired as seasonals and are moved into permanent positions as they become available. Boaters are generally a safe, law-abiding group. If there is a visible enforcement presence, problems seem minimal. Efforts to educate and control boat operators have worked.

The following goals and objectives were set for the Commission for the 2006 recreational boating safety grant year:

GOALS

1. Assure that an educated and informed boating public understands and practices boating safety.
2. Improve boating safety, limit the number of boating accidents, and reduce boater conflicts.
3. Provide adequate, effective and efficient enforcement of the boating laws and regulations.
4. Develop and maintain a liaison with other boating organizations and agencies.
5. Administer a boat registration system that is responsive to the needs of the Commission and the boating public, efficiently collects the revenues needed to run the boating program, and identifies legal ownership of recreational boats.
6. Provide recreational boaters with the highest quality boating facilities on all navigable water bodies of the state.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an active recreational boating planning program. This effort includes greater cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and private companies and entities who are prime providers of facilities in Pennsylvania.
2. Provide an efficient and cost-effective method of registering and titling boats, assuring that Pennsylvania receives and deposits the fees expeditiously and that the boat owner receives his title and registration certificates promptly and courteously.
3. Provide an adequate level of control over and distribution of aids to navigation, floating structures. Coordinate with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Protection on the issuance of permits that have recreational boating implications.
4. Provide training opportunities, educational materials, and support to boating education partners so all recreational boaters will be knowledgeable of the boating regulations and the principals of boating safety.
5. Make the necessary training available to police, fire, and rescue personnel to prevent unnecessary and tragic water related fatalities due to an inadequate understanding of the forces of water and how to handle water emergencies.
6. Assure that Pennsylvania boaters have available information and education programs that give them required or requested information.
7. Provide a law enforcement effort that assures an acceptable level of compliance with the boating laws and regulations.
8. Provide necessary vehicles, boats and other related equipment that Waterways Conservation Officers need for the efficient and effective performance of their duties.
9. Maintain the liaison between the PFBC, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, and other boating safety organizations.

10. Provide grants to local governments for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion, and rehabilitation of public boating facilities located on the waters of Pennsylvania.

ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Maintain liaison with representatives of the boating industry, organized clubs, and organizations, private citizens, federal, state, and local officials responsible for parts of the Commonwealth's Boating Program to assure a greater cooperation and coordination of efforts.**

Staff met with the Pennsylvania Boating Association, PA Boating Association Southeast, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S Power Squadrons, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, numerous individual sportsmen's clubs, Water Trail sponsors, Corps of Engineer Lake Resource managers, the Erie and Three Rivers Water Safety Committees, the Governor's Youth Council and others.

- 2. Conduct a minimum of two Boating Advisory Board and four Commission meetings to formulate appropriate regulations and approaches to Pennsylvania's Boating Program and present solutions and recommendations to the PFBC for action.**

The Boating Advisory Board (Board) met twice during the year – March 28, 2006 and October 25, 2006. The Board considered several items for further consideration by the Commission.

1. Unacceptable Boating Practices Section 105.3(1) of the Fishing and Boating Regulations.
This regulation currently prohibits the operation of a boat at greater than slow no wake speed when any person is riding on the bow decking of a closed bow boat not equipped with railings or other safeguards. The current regulations do not define what makes a railing safe and they have observed boaters operating with persons on the deck of boats with short railings that would not keep someone from falling over them or railings of a height that a person could easily slip below them. While no accidents have recently been attributed to these conditions, the Board reviewed the current regulatory language for possible improvement. After considerable discussion the Board could not arrive at a consensus for change. No action was taken at the March meeting and the board requested that staff draft specific language for the Board's consideration. At the October meeting the Board again considered modification to the language. After much discussion they decided to leave the regulation as it currently exists, citing the difficulties in crafting non-exclusionary language that took into consideration all of the various boat styles and operating situations.
2. Unauthorized Use of a Motorboat. Field officers occasionally encounter a person operating a boat without the authorization of the owner. Although infrequent, the officer has little recourse in the Fishing and Boating Regulations to address this situation. Unauthorized use of a motorboat is covered in Title 18 Pa Crimes Code 39.28 as a misdemeanor of the second degree. Often, the circumstances surrounding this activity do not warrant this degree of penalty and a suggestion was made to adopt a regulation prohibiting the unauthorized use of a watercraft with a summary offence penalty. The Board considered amending the regulations and directed staff to develop a specific proposal. After further staff deliberations it was determined that the limited number of occurrences of this type did not warrant a change to the regulations and the proposal was dropped.

3. **Lights on Unpowered Boats.** At both meetings of the Board, the interpretation of lighting requirements for unpowered boats was discussed. This discussion was precipitated by an instance on July 4, 2005 where an individual in a canoe was escorted off the water during a fireworks display where the officer was concerned that motorboats in the area would not be able to see his flashlight, creating a potential for a collision. The question presented was whether a flashlight met the requirements of the Rules of the Road and whether an all round light should or could be required for unpowered boats. Staff researched this issue with the U.S. Coast Guard and concluded that the flashlight would meet the requirements of the rules and that the state could not enact regulations more stringent than the federal rules. The Board agreed with staff interpretation of the regulations and decided that no change was required. The Board suggested that staff develop improved educational material about this issue.
4. **Proposal to Ban Rafting behind Cairn's Cove on Lake Wallenpaupack.** The issue of rafting of boats is a perennial agenda item for the Board. The Board was again requested to consider further restriction on rafting of boats in the cove behind Cairn's Island on Lake Wallenpaupack. Since this cove was made slow no wake a number of years ago, this cove has become a popular place for boats to anchor and raft together. The Commission has addressed the issue a number of times and has established a no anchor zone approximately 100 feet from the shoreline docks to keep an open channel for dock owners and others to navigate through the area. The popularity of the rafting has created increased conflict with property owners who are offended by the noise and activity. The Board did not agree on the need to outright ban the practice of rafting in the cove citing the public nature of the water and the rights of boaters to use this water in a legal manner. The Board took no action but requested that law enforcement staff increase their patrols in the area to assure observance of the regulations.
5. **Mandatory Wear of Life Jackets in Cold Weather Months.** This past January, two accidents in Pennsylvania and one on the joint waters of the upper Delaware River resulted in the loss of three lives. Over the past 10 years, 48 persons have lost their lives in boating accidents between October and May. These lives could possibly have been saved had the individuals worn a lifejacket. The Board reviewed the statistics and discussed the pros and cons of a mandatory wear requirement. The Board recommended that the Commission publish a notice of proposed rulemaking requiring the wearing on PFDs on all boats less than 16 feet in length and all canoes and kayaks regardless of length during the cold weather months. The Commission subsequently published this notice and added an alternative regulation to require wearing PFDs year-round. This notice was published in July. The Commission received about 600 comments on this proposal. Because of the nature of the alternatives presented in the notice, it is difficult to report exactly the public sentiment for a mandatory wear requirement but generally it can be stated that the public was opposed to the regulation by a margin of 5 to 1. The proposal to require wear year-round was soundly opposed and the proposal to require wear in the winter months receive only slightly more support. The general feeling among those who commented was that the wearing of a personal flotation device was a personal decision and the state had no business telling individuals what was good for them. The Commission will consider this change to the regulations, along with public comment, at its January 2007 meeting.

6. **Fine Tuning Life Jacket Requirements.** Current boating regulations establish requirements for the carriage and/or use of lifejackets on boats and for specific activities. These requirements are general in nature and simply require that the person carry or use U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V devices. In recent years the Coast Guard has begun to approve devices for specific activities. For instance, a Type III may be approved for whitewater or sailing; a Type III inflatable may be approved for general use, but specifically prohibited for use on personal watercraft. Pennsylvania also does not have specific requirements for impact rated devices for use by water skiers, thus allowing someone to water ski using a Type II horse collar device which probably should not be the device of choice for this activity. The Board and staff discussed the pros and cons of trying to fine-tune the requirements but found that any proposed language that was sufficiently tight to make a difference over the current regulations became too complicated to be effective. Additionally, the Board stated that it was already difficult enough to get people to carry personal flotation devices to place an additional responsibility to make sure they had specific devices on board. Statistics did not indicate that the wrong type of PFD was a factor in accidents.
 7. The Commission received a petition to amend the regulations to increase the horsepower limits on Sugar Lake from the current 6 horsepower to 10 horsepower. Staff prepared a report and the Board recommended that the Commission approve the increase in horsepower.
- 3. Work with Pennsylvania legislature for the passage of laws that benefit boaters, particularly bills that would improve regulations addressing boating under the influence.**
- SB1262** - Amended the boating under the influence statute by revising the chemical testing provisions to determine the amount of alcohol and/or controlled substances, lowered the B.A.C. from .10% to .08%, increased penalties for graduated offenses, and added a section for aggravated assault by watercraft while operating under the influence. The criteria related to BUI are, once again, very similar to the DUI law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This legislation is known as Act 149 of 2006 and took effect on January 8, 2007.
- HB1641** - Boat and marine forfeiture by “operation of law” as related to boats, equipment and watercraft trailers abandoned at a marine business. New sections were added to the Fish and Boat and the Vehicle Codes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This legislation was introduced on June 6, 2005 and became Act 79 of 2006 on July 7, 2006 with an effective date of November 4, 2006.
- HB1713** - Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for boating aid victim Good Samaritan civil immunity. Introduced and referred to the House – Judiciary Committee on June 13, 2005. No action was taken and the Bill died at the end of the session in November, 2006.
- HB1373** - Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the use of laser pointers; and prescribing penalties. Introduced and referred to the House – Judiciary Committee on April 14, 2005. No action was taken and the Bill died at the end of the session in November, 2006.

SB202 - Amends the act of March 28, 1984 (P.L.150, No.28), known as the Automobile Lemon Law, further providing for short title and for definitions; and expanding the scope of the act to further include boats. Introduced on February 7, 2005 with Senate Committee action on February 7, 2005 and October 17, 2005. No action was taken and the Bill died at the end of the session in November, 2006.

HB1703 - Would require the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources To allow outboard motor boats with not more than 25 hp on certain lakes. Increased horsepower (20 – 25 hp) would be permitted on 6 state park lakes. Marine dealers contend that very few manufacturers produce a 20 hp motor. Introduced and referred to the House – Tourism and Recreational Development Committee on June 13, 2005. No action was taken and the Bill died at the end of the session in November, 2006.

BOAT REGISTRATION

- 1. Provide an effective and cost-efficient method of registering boats, assuring that Pennsylvania receives and deposits its fees expeditiously, and that the boat owner receives their registration certificate and/or boat title promptly and courteously.**

No major enhancements were made to the method of registering boats in Pennsylvania because the methods currently in place are operating with the most recent advancements in the computer industry.

- 2. Continue to meet with a cross-section of boat dealers and lending institutions to ensure the new titling regulations meet their needs.**

No new training sessions were held during the grant period.

EDUCATION

- 1. Continue to offer courses needed for operators of personal watercraft and certain other motorboat operators to obtain the required Boating Safety Education Certificate. There will be 10,000 students certified. Students will be certified through the following methods:**
 - a. Continue to promote the PFBC's classroom boating course, Pennsylvania Basic Boating. Certify 1,000 students.**
 - b. Continue to offer the Boating and Water Safety Awareness Program to schools and camps. Certify 1,000 students.**
 - c. Continue to offer the PFBC's two long-distance learning Boat Pennsylvania courses so interested boaters can better understand the importance of boating safety concepts by taking a course via the internet or video correspondence. Certify 8,000 students.**

The Commission certified 14,029 students in NASBLA approved boating courses in 2006, 908 more than in 2005 (see chart on next page). We have found that compliance with the mandatory education requirement is good to excellent and that most people required to obtain a Boating Safety Education Certificate to operate a personal watercraft or a motorboat powered by a motor greater than 25 horsepower have done so. The number of boating safety education certificates being issued is stable with only minor fluctuations over the last four years (2003 – 14,208; 2004 – 12,639; 2005 – 13,121; 2006 – 14,029).

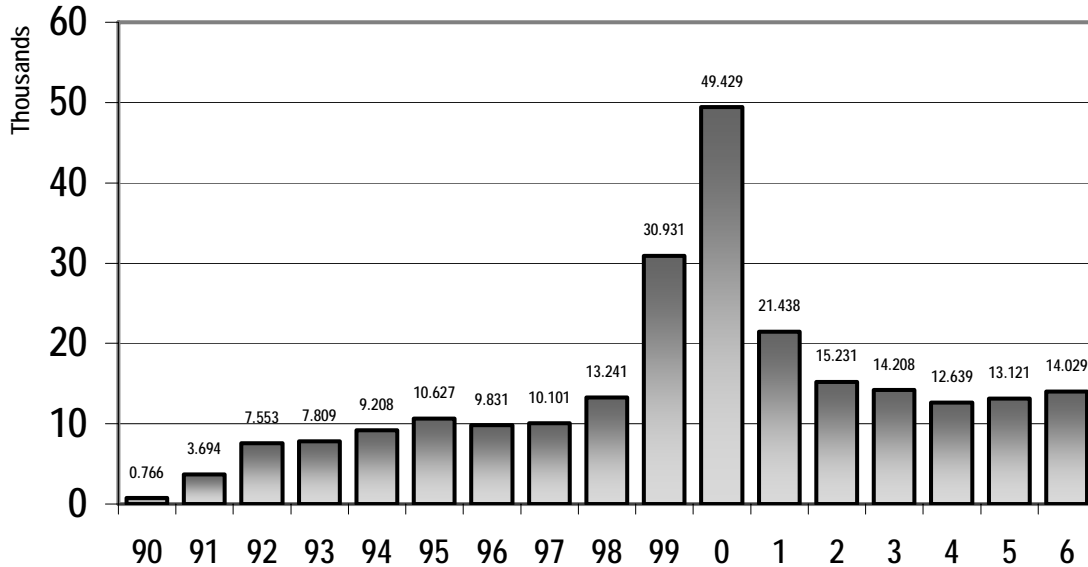
The agency issued boating safety education certificates to 2,266 students who successfully completed a PA Basic Boating course, an increase of 484 over 2005. Not everyone applies for boating safety education certificate. Many people take a boating course for fun or enrichment. The agency and its volunteers taught 133 PA Basic Boating Courses. Instructors reported that 2,276 students successfully completed this course in 2006. Not all courses are reported. Commission staff certified 17 new volunteer PA Basic Boating instructors to teach this course.

We issued boating safety education certificates to 620 students in Boating and Water Safety Awareness Courses in 2006. Volunteers and staff taught 53 Commission courses. Expanding the number of students being certified in Boating and Water Safety Awareness is difficult because it requires a safe water site to conduct part of the course. We continue to attempt to bring additional school districts onboard to teach this valuable program. In addition, many students do not apply for certification after successfully completing this course because of the \$10 cost. Commission instructors submitted course records showing that 2,161 students successfully completed this course in 2006. Only 29% of those students applied to the Commission for a boating safety education certificate. Commission staff taught four training seminars that certified 52 new volunteer Boating and Water Safety Awareness instructors to teach this course.

The Commission has two Commission-sponsored long distance learning courses. This includes a correspondence, video-driven safe boating course and an Internet course. We continue to be very successful with this program. 757 people completed the Boat Pennsylvania correspondence course in 2006. Only two people who took the correspondence course failed to pass. 11,382 students took the Boat Pennsylvania Internet course with 10,339 successfully completing it. The Commission issued 9,723 boating education certificates to students for successfully completing these two long-distance learning courses, an increase of 569 over 2005.

Total 243, 856

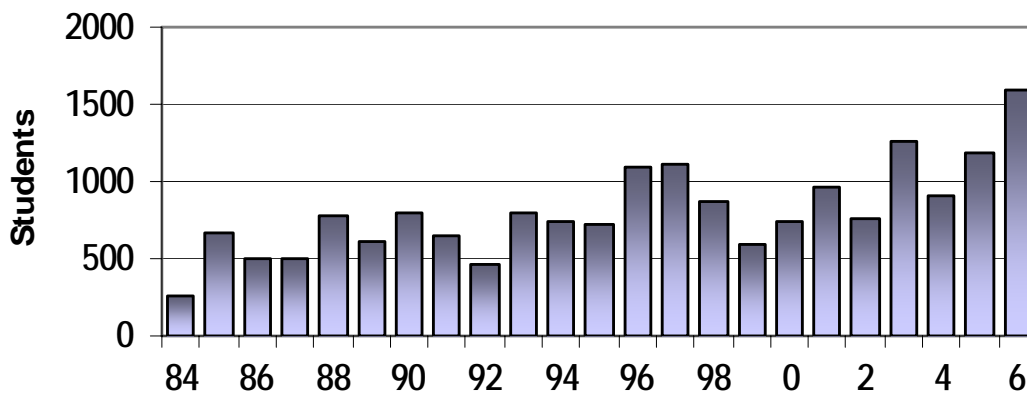
BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATES



2. Continue to offer the Water Rescue Training Program to train water rescue volunteers and professionals in proper rescue techniques.

The Commission certified 1,590 students through 100 courses in the Water Rescue Program in 2006, the best year on record for this valuable program. The Commission has a trained volunteer instructor corps of 159 individuals who provided more than 5,400 hours of training this past year. Our new 2 ½-hour Water Rescue for the First Responder (Awareness) Course had a huge first year. More than 62 courses were taught with a student enrollment greater than 2,000. We are proud of our efforts in this program and have the largest program of its kind in the United States.

WATER RESCUE STUDENTS



- 3. Maintain the Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) to prevent instructor burnout and encourage volunteer instructors to continue to teach. This program provides small gifts such as personal PFDs, ball caps, instructor shirts and rescue gear as an incentive to continue to participate in the program**

The Commission issued 178 awards to volunteer instructors in 2006 for a total value of \$4,436. Awards items ranged from fishing line to dry suits.

- 4. Continue to foster a close working relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron's education programs for boater safety certification. Make certain that all Auxiliary Flotillas and U.S. Power Squadrons in Pennsylvania receive an update with certification instructions.**

The Commission continued its recognition program to outstanding Auxiliary Flotillas and members in the 5NR. The Commission issued awards and certificates to outstanding Flotillas and Auxiliarists in the 5NR in Pennsylvania. The USCG Auxiliary turned in applications for the Commission to certify 1,142 students in 2006, an increase of 104 certificates. The USPS turned in applications for the Commission to certify 269 students in 2006, a slight increase of eight certificates. The decline in the number of students receiving certification for classroom boating courses stopped in 2006. Hopefully, there will be no further decreases in the numbers of students choosing to take classroom boating courses. All Commission, Auxiliary, Power Squadron, and other approved courses are listed on the Commission's web site. Course information is available from the Commission's toll-free telephone number. Commission representatives continue to attend USPS and USCG Auxiliary conferences, workshops, and (on request) teach the legal requirements section for their courses.

- 5. Promote safe boating habits and increase the knowledge of boaters through the production and distribution of boating safety literature. The literature will be distributed through the mail, boat and sports shows, and other outlets. Continue to update the safety brochures, information sheets, and PA Boating Handbook to ensure that boaters have up-to-date information on current boating laws and safety information. Provide a copy of the PA Boating Handbook to all first time boat owners and to participants in PFBC boating courses.**

Two existing boating safety publications were updated: the Boating Regulation Recap and the PA Boating Handbook. All are available online at the Commission's website: www.fish.state.pa.us. The Recap brochure is also provided in Spanish. The Boat Registration Section provided the newly revised PA Boating Handbook to each new boat owner. In addition, anyone taking and completing the PA Basic Boating Course or the Boating and Water Safety Awareness Course received a copy (total 100,000 distributed). Inserts on Commission boating education courses and launch permits were also distributed to all boat owners registering their boats during the 2006 calendar year (total 170,000 distributed). The Commission printed several new water trail guides that include boating safety information as well as a host of additional information. We distributed literature, either paid or free publications, at 40 boat and sports shows and approximately 250 requests for publications came via the mail. The Commission's web site is a major source of boating safety information. There is an incredible array of boating and water safety materials at www.fish.state.pa.us. Everything from an enhanced version of our Boating Handbook to water trails to information on where to find a PFD is included. Links to our boating safety partners enhance the site.

6. Maintain a video library available to boating safety instructors, various organizations, clubs, and individuals from across the Commonwealth.

The Bureau of Boating and Education received and filled 130 requests for videos to be used in boating courses and public speaking appearances.

7. Promote boating safety through news releases, radio advertisements, public service announcements, radio and TV interviews, and the Commission's Internet web page.

The Commission distributed 19 statewide news releases dealing with boating regulations and boating safety. A special collection of information was posted on the web site for National Safe Boating Week at

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/promo/safeboat/000index.htm. In addition, the Commission conducted approximately 200 boating safety related media interviews over the course of the year.

AIDS-TO-NAVIGATION

1. Maintain a current computer-based inventory of all aids to navigation in Pennsylvania with emphasis on the body of water, location (county), the owners of water, jurisdiction, number of aids, type of aid, wording of aid, maintenance responsibility, and approximate set and removal date.

The Commission maintains accurate, up-to-date computerized records of all aids-to-navigation on Pennsylvania waters. The inventory is kept current through a cooperative ATON Program with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, federal and state agencies, and the Commission's Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs).

2. Continue to maintain a numbering system for all aids with emphasis on determining the exact location of each aid and purpose. Further chart and map development will be accomplished when a computer-based mapping program is implemented.

The Commission continues to operate an extensive Aids-to-Navigation Program. Most of our aids/floating structures are currently permitted. Efforts over the years have resulted in the location and permitting of all private aid/floating structures on state waters. Owners are attaching an identifying number to each aid to help establish their identity and location. Hand drawn maps with a few computer-generated maps are being used to graphically depict where buoys and structures are found for management purposes. The Commission is currently working with GPS and GIS to generate body of water maps showing location of Commission owned aids with plans to extend to privately owned aids.

3. Partner with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to provide for the timely reporting of problems within the ATON system.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary provides a very valuable service to the Commission in the Aids-to-Navigation Verification Program. While on patrols, they observe aids-to-navigation and their positions are verified on charts provided by the Commission. Those aids that are missing damaged or off station are reported and corrective action is taken. This system has resulted in greater reliability of aids in Pennsylvania waters.

4. Educate the public in the use and identification of aids through the distribution of decals, pamphlets, magazine articles, and news releases describing aids.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and Commission Boating Education Instructors distributed more than 20,000 Uniform State Waterway Marker decals while conducting boating education classes. In addition, short articles on ATON appeared in the Pennsylvania Angler & Boater magazine.

5. Place information and danger signs at major access sites and hazardous areas.

Approximately 27 aluminum signs (4' x 4') warning boaters of Slow No Wake zones, dams, rocks, and shoals were installed throughout the Commonwealth. An additional five aluminum waterway marker information signs (2' x 3') were placed at various access and key launch areas to inform the boaters of waterway symbols and their meanings.

6. Evaluate, and if found to be necessary, expand the use of private organizations to place Aids to Navigation.

The Commission issued 23 contracts in 2006 at a total cost of \$34,500. The contracts for these Commission-owned aids-to-navigation are part of our Boating Safety Program. These contracts free conservation officers to focus on other safety and enforcement duties.

7. Review and process all requests to install floating structures on State waters submitted by state, local governments, organizations and individuals.

Thirty six new applications were submitted, reviewed, approved, and assigned a permit number. Overall, there are currently a total of six hundred and thirteen active permits approved for the installation of floating structures on Commonwealth waters.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Provide law enforcement patrols and the support for them to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations regarding recreational boating.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement (bureau) duties and responsibilities during 2006 involved fish and boat code enforcement, public outreach efforts, specialized boating safety efforts, pollution and encroachment investigations, fish stocking, and providing emergency assistance during flooding.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement directs the enforcement of Pennsylvania fishing and boating laws and regulations and certain water pollution laws. Its corps of Waterways Conservation Officers (WCO) also provides conservation education programs, reviews permits for mine drainage and stream encroachments, administers the Commission's special activities permits, and participates in fish stocking operations. Officers manned Commission displays at over 20 outdoor sports shows held throughout the state. The bureau also operates the Commission's most active volunteer program, utilizing a force of more than 180 deputy waterways conservation officers.

The bureau operated during most of the year with a considerable number of vacant districts as a result of retirements and resignations. Several officers were either activated for or continued to meet extended military obligations. Neighboring officers, deputies and regional office staff

performed additional work to provide coverage in areas without an assigned district officer.

By December 31, 2006, conservation officers issued and the courts adjudicated 4,748 summary citations for fishing violations and 3,061 summary citations for boating violations. An additional 1,674 summary fish and boat violation citations were filed with district courts in 2006 and are awaiting final resolution. Officers also issued 31,965 warnings for fishing and boating violations and conducted safety boardings on 27,798 recreational boats. The bureau issued 2,530 special activities permits for fishing tournaments and regattas. Officers issued 156 crimes code summary citations that were directly related to fishing and boating activities. Disorderly conduct, underage drinking ,and violations of state park regulations comprised the majority of the citations issued.

Officers conducted 319 investigations involving pollution or encroachment incidents in or along Commonwealth waters. Several Northcentral officers spent considerable time investigating a high profile pollution incident involving a Norfolk Southern train derailment and subsequent pollution that resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of fish.

Total boating-under-the-influence (BUI) arrests for 2006 were 60 with the earliest made February 16 and the latest, September 9. The Southcentral Region led the state in BUI arrests with a total of 22. Specialized BUI enforcement details were conducted throughout the state on waterways with the highest recreational boating use, including Presque Isle Bay, Three Rivers, Lake Wallenpaupack, Raystown Lake, Delaware River, Blue Marsh Lake, and several boating pools on the Susquehanna River. Officers generally observed reduced levels of boating activity during the late summer which more than likely resulting from the high fuel costs. Officers investigated several high profile boating accidents that involved multiple fatalities on Lake Erie, the Three Rivers area, Lake Raystown, and the Delaware River.

During later part of June, officers assisted the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency by conducting search and rescue operations for stranded residents as a result of severe flooding along waterways in eastern Pennsylvania. Officers provided a quick response and used patrol boats to access residents stranded in houses and transport them to a safe area.

The bureau continued to replace aging patrol vehicles and boats within the limits of available funding. Several new law enforcement patrol boats were placed into service.

The Commission's deputy force continues to maintain its current level. At the end of 2006, our deputy force contains 189 members. The Bureau of Law Enforcement held a basic Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Training Class in 2006 and added twenty new deputies to the current force.

Training is an integral part of operating a professional workforce, and the Bureau of Law Enforcement presented in-service update training to all salaried officers and deputies during 2006 at a region level. Training presented to the veteran officers included: Fish and Boat Code and regulation changes and updates, Act 120 legal updates regarding Title 18 (Crimes Code) and Title 75 (Vehicle Code), policy changes, fisheries management issues, and legislative issues. Annual recertification update training at regional levels continued throughout the year

at each region to all WCOs and DWCOs regarding CPR, first aid, firearms day fire, and tactical and dim light qualifications. Bureau firearms instructors convened for a training and skills assessment workshop in July.

The bureau completed the process of selecting a new class of conservation officer trainees in May of 2006. The Commission hired 10 applicants to become part of the 18th WCO Class in July. The new class of cadets began training in July of 2006 by attending the Municipal Police Officer training course at the Pennsylvania State Police training academy in Meadville. All ten cadets successfully completed this portion of their training in late December. The cadets will return in mid-January of 2007 in order to complete the Waterways Conservation Officer portion of the training program.