

Notice
Lake Erie Commercial Fishing – 2009
Revised Total Allowable Catch for Yellow Perch

The Executive Director of the Fish and Boat Commission (Commission), acting under the authority of 58 Pa. Code §69.31(c), previously established that the 2009 total allowable commercial catch for yellow perch from the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie is 30,000 pounds. 39 Pa. B. 1277 (March 7, 2009). Section 69.31(c) provides that after the announcement, the Executive Director may, from time to time, revise the total allowable catch for the year if he determines that the conditions so warrant.

When the Executive Director originally set the total allowable catch for yellow perch at 30,000 pounds, he did so in anticipation that the quota allocated to the Commonwealth through the Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission would be reduced by about 16%. He also determined at the time that there was little chance that the 30,000 pounds would be attained by the commercial fishing licensees. However, the Commonwealth's share of the 2009 yellow perch quota (693,090 pounds) was not reduced, and it is likely that the 30,000-pound quota will be attained by the end of August. In light of these conditions, the Executive Director has determined that it is reasonable to increase the total allowable catch for yellow perch by 10,000 pounds for the remainder of the season. The commercial fishing season for yellow perch on Lake Erie is accordingly January 1 until the date the Executive Director determines that 40,000 pounds of yellow perch probably have been taken by commercial fishing interests fishing in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. With this increase, the share allocated to Pennsylvania's commercial fishing interests is less than 6% of the total allocated to the Commonwealth.

FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION:

Douglas J. Austen, Ph.D
Executive Director