

SUMMER STATE OF MIND

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For outdoor enthusiasts like anglers and boaters, the anticipation of summer is nearly unbearable when May comes around. Though the weather can be unpredictable and sometimes unforgiving for outdoor activities, the calendar keeps spirits high. May and June are all about celebrating Pennsylvania's abundance of aquatic natural resources. The Opening Day of Walleye/Sauger jump starts May (May 4). Then, there's our first Fish-for-Free Day on May 26, and we roll right through the month of June to our final Fish-for-Free Day on July 4.

In between, we celebrate the Commonwealth's special fish and wildlife on Pennsylvania Native Species Day (May 16), support and honor our boating enthusiasts with National Safe Boating Week (May 18-24), build awareness of turtles on World Turtle Day (May 23), and celebrate places to go with National Rivers Month (June) and National Trails Day (June 1). Remember, as ethical anglers and boaters, we all play a bigger role on World Environment Day (June 5), giving us just enough time to gear up for Opening Day of Bass (June 8). Phew!

You don't need an official date on a calendar to experience all that awaits this season on Pennsylvania's waterways. By reading

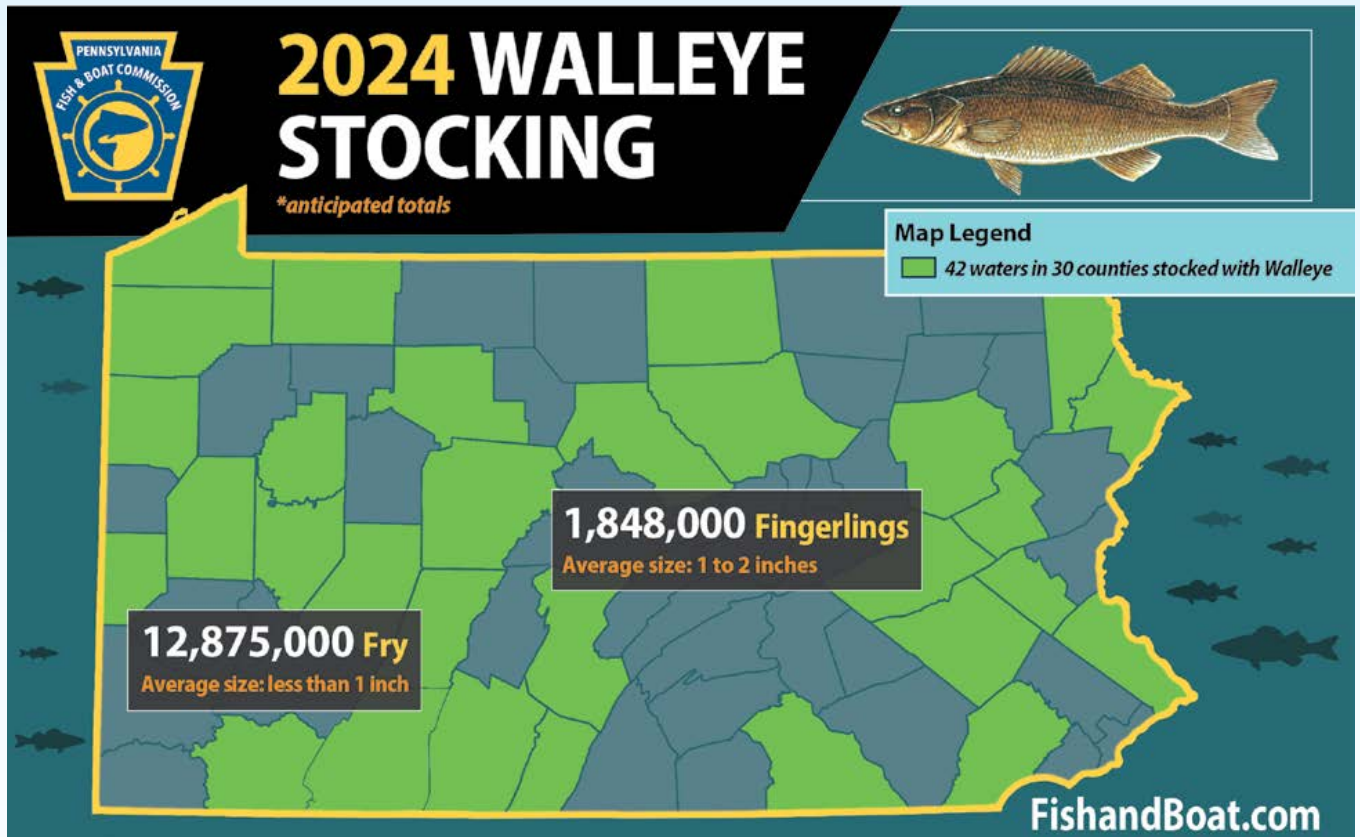
this issue, you are already on your way to fun and adventure in May and June. Keep the stream fishing enjoyable by staying safe and dry with the help of our "Tips for Safe Wading" (page 16). Get set for Opening Day of Bass with the help of our "Top Five Tips and Baits for Bass in June" (page 46).

While you are planning and then setting out on your adventures this season, your love of the water can be "catching" to someone else. Read about how a love of fishing instilled by her dad propels a woman to light the spark for so many others. May her story, "Go with the Flow" (pages 10 and 11), inspire you to share fishing and boating with someone else or to treat those who taught you this Mother's Day or Father's Day. We can help with "Fishing with Mom and Dad" tips (pages 8 and 9).

No matter what your adventure or what you are commemorating when you are out on the water, as always, make safety as important as the fun. Don't just take it along—wear your life jacket. Go outdoors, enjoy the sunshine, get into a positive state of mind and experience Pennsylvania fishing and boating. After all, spending time outdoors in nature has many health benefits. And, May is Mental Health Awareness Month, too. ☑



WEAR IT
National Safe Boating Council
Pennsylvania



OPENING DAY OF WALLEYE/SAUGER
May 4, 2024