# Annual Report

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission



## "The resource is the foundation for everything we do"





Thomas Shetterly President



William Worobec Vice President

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing the Commonwealth's aquatic resources, including waterways, fish populations and habitats of game and non-game species. From stocking waterways and measuring native populations to patrolling lakes and restoring habitats, our employees strive to protect the resource, for the resource is the foundation for everything we do.

High quality streams, clean water and good habitat ensure that we successfully carry out the other part of our mission, to provide recreational fishing and boating opportunities for both Pennsylvanians and out-of-state visitors.

The "Resource First" management philosophy ensures that staff will make decisions based on long-term conservation of aquatic resources and will make scientifically-informed decisions. Resource First also has been the foundation for strategic planning discussions.

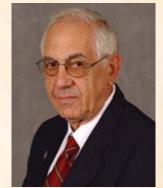
## PA Fish and Boat Commissioners



Term expired



Robert Bachman



Samuel Concilla Term expired



Richard Czop



G. Warren Elliott



Norman Gavlick Term expired



Steven Ketterer



Leonard Lichvar



William Sabatose

Foundation 1866, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is one of the oldest and most effective conservation agencies in the nation. It is an independent state government agency with responsibilities for protecting and managing Pennsylvania's fishery resources and regulating recreational fishing and boating on Pennsylvania's waters. The agency's mission is "To protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities." Statutory authority to address our mission is founded in the Fish and Boat Code of 1980 [Title 30, Pa. Consolidated Statutes] with fishing and boating regulations set forth in Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Code.

Pennsylvania's diverse water resources include Lake Erie, small impoundments, large reservoirs, rivers and streams. These waters provide numerous recreational opportunities for the more than 2.5 million people who fish and boat in Pennsylvania each year. Consequently, fishing and boating have a tremendous positive impact on Pennsylvania's economy, generating an overall estimated annual economic benefit of \$3.4 billion.

The Fish and Boat Commission is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the majority of the Pennsylvania Senate. Commissioners serve terms of eight years. Eight Commissioners are selected based on districts and two Commissioners, representing boating interests, have an at-large, statewide appointment.

Day-to-day operations of the Commission are overseen by the Executive Director, who serves as the Commission's chief executive officer and chief waterways conservation officer. The Executive Director oversees staff that include a complement of 432 full-time employees, and about 150 temporary and seasonal employees who are hired during periods of peak operation.

## "Every year millions of fish are produced and stocked for our customers"

Every year nearly 1.5 million anglers visit Commonwealth streams, rivers and lakes to fish. We want their trips to be meaningful and exciting, so fish production and stocking remain essential goals for us. In 2009, more than 3.3 million adult trout and 48.3 million warm/cool water fish were stocked in Commonwealth waters. Improvements were made in the muskellunge and paddlefish programs, which provided larger than average fingerlings, and we produced a record 1.5 million walleye fingerlings. In addition, more than 3 million American shad fry were stocked into the Susquehanna, Lehigh, and Schuylkill rivers in 2009. More than 7.6 million hickory shad fry were released into one Susquehanna River tributary (Octoraro Creek) and two Delaware River tributaries (Pennypack Creek and Ridley Creek).

Cooperative nurseries are valuable partners. In 2009, cooperative nurseries received approximately 1.2 million trout fingerlings and 150,000 eyed steelhead eggs, fingerlings, and walleye and yellow perch eggs from Commission fish hatcheries in 2009. A total of 35 sponsors received cooperative nursery grant funding totaling \$78,307 for nursery improvement projects.

A new five-year plan for trout management, adopted in October, will ensure that adequate protection will be afforded the resource and that the fisheries will provide excellent angling opportunities. The trout management plan was developed with input from staff, sportsmen's associations and independent trout anglers.

A key to maintaining fish production is reducing waste product from the hatcheries. New microscreen filtration wastewater treatment systems at Tylersville and Pleasant Gap have been working as designed. Construction of the microscreen system at Bellefonte State Fish Hatchery is now complete and construction of microscreen systems at Huntsdale and Benner Spring hatcheries will be complete in early 2010.

In addition, biosecurity plans for each hatchery are being instituted including a vigorous steelhead biosecurity plan to minimize the risk of spreading the infectious disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) to hatcheries. The numbers of warmwater and coolwater species cultured and stocked from 14 state hatcheries in 2009 include:

Black CrappieFingerling303,708BluegillFingerling2,000BluegillAdult100Brown TroutFingerling43,925Channel CatfishFingerling6,245Golden ShinerAdult85,450Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Warm/Cool Water Species		
Black CrappieFingerling303,708BluegillFingerling2,000BluegillAdult100Brown TroutFingerling43,925Channel CatfishFingerling6,245Golden ShinerAdult85,450Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling49,800MuskellungeSmall Fingerling106,353MuskellungeFingerling106,353Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Species	Lifestage	Number
BluegillFingerling2,000BluegillAdult100Brown TroutFingerling43,925Channel CatfishFingerling6,245Golden ShinerAdult85,450Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling49,800MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassPH1253,648	American Shad	Fry	3,063,478
BluegillAdult100Brown TroutFingerling43,925Channel CatfishFingerling6,245Golden ShinerAdult85,450Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Black Crappie	Fingerling	303,708
Brown TroutFingerling43,925Brown TroutFingerling6,245Channel CatfishFingerling6,245Golden ShinerAdult85,450Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Bluegill	Fingerling	2,000
Channel CatfishFingerling6,245Golden ShinerAdult85,450Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Bluegill	Adult	100
Golden ShinerAdult85,450Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Brown Trout	Fingerling	43,925
Hickory ShadFry7,096,753Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	6,245
Lake TroutFingerling40,199Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000	Golden Shiner	Adult	85,450
Lake TroutYearling72,231Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Hickory Shad	Fry	7,096,753
Largemouth BassFingerling16,010MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Lake Trout	Fingerling	40,199
MuskellungeSmall Fingerling49,800MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Lake Trout	Yearling	72,231
MuskellungeFingerling106,353MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	16,010
MuskellungeYearling3,505Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Muskellunge	Small Fingerling	49,800
Northern PikeFingerling10,860PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Muskellunge	Fingerling	106,353
PaddlefishFingerling5,077Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Muskellunge	Yearling	3,505
Rainbow Trout SteelheadYearling1,095,000Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Northern Pike	Fingerling	10,860
Striped BassFry5,950,000Striped BassPH1253,648	Paddlefish	Fingerling	5,077
Striped Bass PH1 253,648	Rainbow Trout Steelhead	Yearling	1,095,000
	Striped Bass	Fry	5,950,000
	Striped Bass	PH1	253,648
Tiger MuskellungeSmall Fingerling92,900	Tiger Muskellunge	Small Fingerling	92,900
Tiger MuskellungeFingerling91,170	Tiger Muskellunge	Fingerling	91,170
Walleye Fry 27,885,000	Walleye	Fry	27,885,000
Walleye PH1 1,522,735	Walleye	PH1	1,522,735
White / Striped BassFingerling133,824	White / Striped Bass	Fingerling	133,824
Yellow Perch Fry 410,000	Yellow Perch	Fry	410,000



Trout Species	Lifestage	Number
Brook Trout	Adult	659,180
Brown Trout	Adult	914,884
Rainbow Trout	Adult	1,724,537
Golden Rainbow Trout	Adult	10,766
Brook Trout	Fingerling	448,500
Brown Trout	Fingerling	953,740
Rainbow Trout	Fingerling	526,163

## "Survey information is used to monitor fish populations and develop management plans"

To help gain a more complete understanding of the resource and anglers' needs, biologists collect data by sampling fish populations and talking to anglers through on-the-water surveys.

Striped bass remain a high priority species in the lower Delaware River and Delaware Estuary. In 2009, a total of 238 striped bass were collected from the river and estuary ranging from 6.5 to 48.8 inches in length. The total catch rate of striped bass from the index sites was the second lowest on record during the 15 year sampling period. The catch rate of legal size striped bass (28 inches) was nearly the same as in 2008 and was similar to the long-term average. New angling opportunities for striped bass were provided to anglers in 2009 as the result of a regulation change. A 20-26 inch slot limit, two fish creel limit was instituted in the Delaware Estuary for the months of April and May. The fishery was previously closed to harvest during this period.

#### Smallmouth Bass Data Collection

Data findings in smallmouth bass fisheries showed young-of-year abundance was below average in the Delaware and Susquehanna drainages and above average in the Ohio drainage. Continued attention was directed to Susquehanna River water quality to identify the causes for reduced young-of-year density in recent years and the presence of disease in young-of-year bass. These efforts concentrated on monitoring water temperature and dissolved oxygen in the microhabitats critical for young bass survival and included an expanded effort to identify disease occurrence on young-of-year smallmouth bass in the tributaries to the Susquehanna River. Staff collected adult and young-of-year smallmouth bass from the Susquehanna River for analysis by U.S. Geological Survey in an effort to determine the causes of stress and their relationship to the fish kills on the Susquehanna River.

#### **Trout Stream Assessments**

In 2009, the Commission began assessing a prioritized list of waters with the potential of supporting wild trout. Among the 94 waters sampled, 58 were found to support wild trout. Staff conducted stocked trout residency monitoring on 39 stream sections, and opening day angler counts were conducted on 26 stream sections to examine the cost-benefit of stocking. Results indicated that only two stream sections had a negative opening weekend cost-benefit relationship. Opening day angler counts and angler interviews were conducted on seven trout stocked lakes that support multi-species fisheries and are currently managed under the Early Season Trout-Stocked Waters program.

### "Fisheries benefit from creating and enhancing habitats"

Partnerships are critical to leveraging funds for habitat projects. Some of the partnerships the Commission participates in under the umbrella of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan include the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, The Great Lake Fish Habitat Partnership, The Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership. These partnerships provide geographic coverage of Pennsylvania in its entirety and are expected to result in considerable project funding support for habitat initiatives.

In 2009, the Commission worked on 52 Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP) lake projects, which included the construction of 1,619 in-lake habitat structures and the creation or enhancement of 100 acres of habitat. The Commission's CHIP program contributed nearly \$50,000 for project materials on a matching basis and leveraged \$227,000 of outside contributions to support projects. Commission staff also worked on 32 CHIP in-stream projects, which included the construction of 750 in-stream habitat structures and the creation or enhancement of 4 miles of stream habitat. The in-stream program provided nearly \$103,000 for project materials on a matching basis and leveraged \$470,000 of outside contributions to support projects. In 2009, approximately 21 dams were removed, resulting in the reopening and improving of over 125 miles of stream habitat.

Before

Habitat Restoration-Commission staff spent three days restoring a highly eroded stream bank in Cambria County.



After



## "We help protect the resource by predicting risks and assessing damages"

The Commission predicts risks and assesses damages to the Commonwealth's rare species and aquatic resources, and works on a variety of issues including stream and wetland encroachments, sand and gravel dredging, coal and non-coal mining, oil and gas well drilling, and pollution incidents and fish kills. A significant number of permit applications were reviewed, including mining (194), pond and lake draw-downs (150), aquatic herbicide (1252), hydropower (4) and water allocation (81). In 2009, the Commission spent significant time associated with the developing Marcellus Shale gas industry.

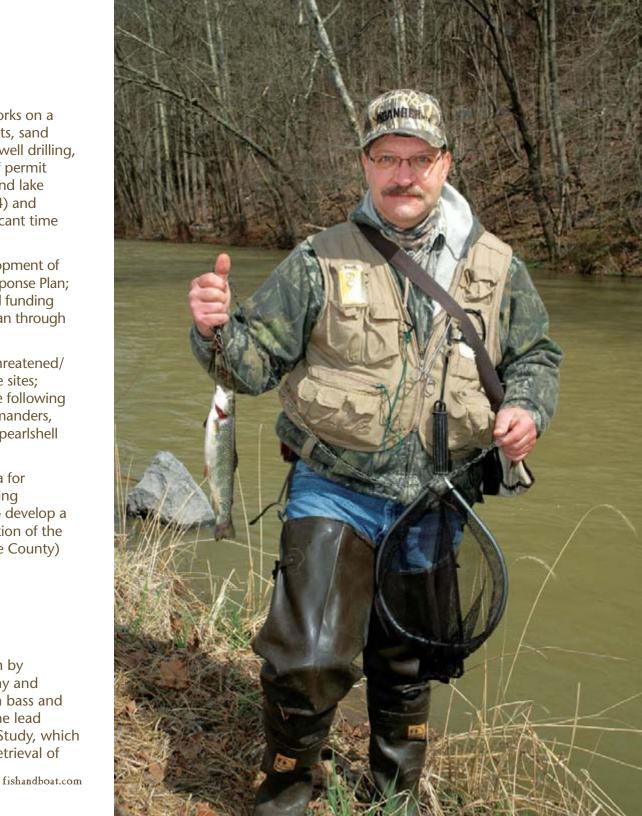
The Commission also worked with PA Sea Grant on the development of the Commonwealth's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Rapid Response Plan; AIS disinfection protocols for the gas well drilling industry; and funding initiatives for implementation of the state AIS management plan through the Great Lakes Restoration program.

Among other activities, the Commission conducted 2,982 threatened/ endangered species impact reviews; assessed 140 rattlesnake sites; and performed habitat and presence-absence surveys for the following threatened and endangered species: bog turtles, green salamanders, eastern spadefoot, eastern massasauga rattlesnakes, eastern pearlshell mussels, and northern brook lampreys.

Also, the Commission developed listing and de-listing criteria for threatened and endangered species; worked with the dredging industry and the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a salamander mussel sampling protocol; and led the investigation of the biological damage assessment of the Dunkard Creek (Greene County) fish/mussel kill.

## "We are expanding our understanding of the large river systems in PA's Ohio Basin"

The Commission continues to develop its research program by conducting game-fish surveys at fixed sites on the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, including young-of-year and adult smallmouth bass and walleye. Throughout the year, the Commission served as the lead investigators for the 2009 Monongahela River Monitoring Study, which included nighttime boat electro-fishing, deployment and retrieval of



300 artificial substrate samplers, and collection of 900 composited kick net samples for invertebrates at 12 sites in Pennsylvania and three sites in West Virginia.

The Commission plays an active role in the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (ORBFHP), including assisting with development of a strategic conservation plan for the Ohio Basin and preparation of ORBFHP's application for recognition as a full partnership with the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP), which was granted in October. The Commission assisted the University of Pittsburgh in water sampling events for their emerging contaminants study; provided paddlefish otoliths to researchers from Bowling Green State University in Ohio for a study on the use of chemical markers for fish identification; and provided paddlefish tissue to scientists from Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh for a paddlefish environmental DNA research study.

## "Settlements will help restore natural resources"

During 2009, the Commission, along with federal and other state natural resource agencies, successfully reached a \$21 million settlement for natural resource damages stemming from decades of zinc smelting operations at the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund site in Northeast Pennsylvania. Under the settlement that was approved by U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in October, five companies agreed to pay approximately \$21.4 million in cash and property to the trustees.

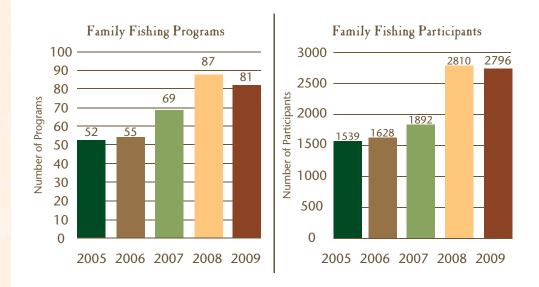
In 2010, the trustees will develop a restoration plan and will present it for public review and comment prior to implementing any restoration projects to be funded with the settlement.

Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program In 2009, the Commission's Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program awarded over \$1.3 million to 14 grantees. These grants will be used to develop and implement projects that benefit recreational fishing and boating and the aquatic resources of Elk, Cameron, McKean and Potter Counties. Funding for this program, which was established in 2008, was made available through a settlement agreement that resolved claims stemming from the 2006 train derailment in Norwich Township, McKean County. The accident resulted in the discharge of more than 40,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide into Big Fill Run and then into Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek and the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek.

## "Educational and outreach programs form the foundation for the next generation of anglers and boaters"

From teaching kids how to fish for the first time to instructing emergency responders in water rescue techniques, the Commission provides the knowledge and skills for anglers and boaters to enjoy a lifelong connection to the resource. In 2009, we received approximately 1,000 requests for educational or information programs, and we provided a speaker or instructor for 700 of the requests. Also, instructors trained by the Commission offered angler education programs to more than 6,100 participants.

The Commission's Family Fishing Programs continued to gain in popularity. These programs provide a family-friendly opportunity to learn a new skill, or improve existing skills.

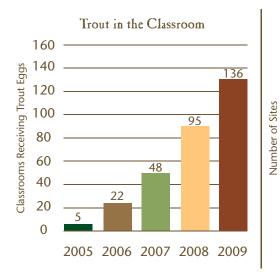


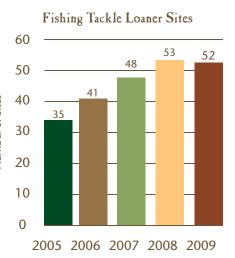
A dozen organizations received Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grants to develop or expand programs that teach fishing and boating skills or to educate participants about waterways and the organisms that live within them. In all, 36 applications were received from sportsman's clubs, school districts, community groups and county agencies. Also, approximately 600 teachers participated in 22 resource education training workshops in 2009.



#### **Trout in the Classroom**

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) continued to expand significantly in 2009, with 136 classrooms across Pennsylvania receiving eyed eggs from Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery.



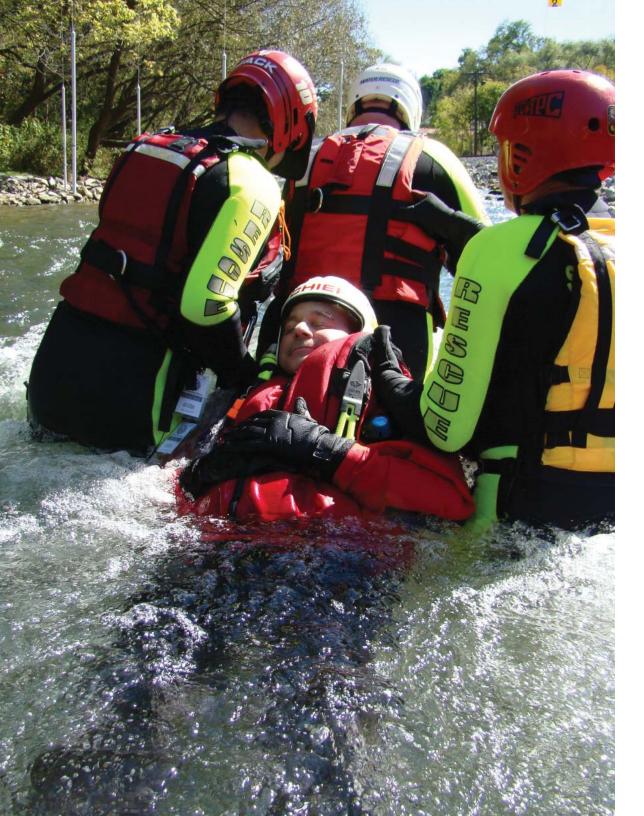


To make it easier for our customers to fish, we provide 52 fishing tackle loaner sites across the state. The sites offer fishing rods and reels and terminal tackle for loan. The loans are made to individual park visitors and to groups conducting fishing programs.



#### **Boating Education**

The Commission and volunteer instructors taught 188 Basic Boating classes, with more than 3,700 participants, and 86 Boating and Water Safety Awareness courses, reaching nearly 7,000 youth. In 2009, the Commission certified nearly 50 new boating instructors who, along with tenured instructors and Commission partners, provided over 370 instructor-led boater education programs. These programs reached more than 11,500 participants.



#### Water Rescue

The Commission's nationally acclaimed Water Rescue Program had another stellar year, certifying 1,174 students through 101 courses and marking the sixth best year on record for this valuable program. A trained volunteer instructor corps of 150 individuals provided more than 6,500 hours of training last year. The program is the largest of its kind in the U.S.

## "Successful partnerships are critical to our mission"

The Commission develops partnerships in a number of ways. One way is through the awarding of grants.

## **Boating Grant Programs**

Last year, the Boating Facility Grant Program, funded by the Commission, awarded more than \$1 million in grants to 14 entities. Applicants matched the funding with more than \$2 million. Projects include property acquisition or improvements such as concrete boat launches, canoe/kayak launches, parking lots, and access road construction.

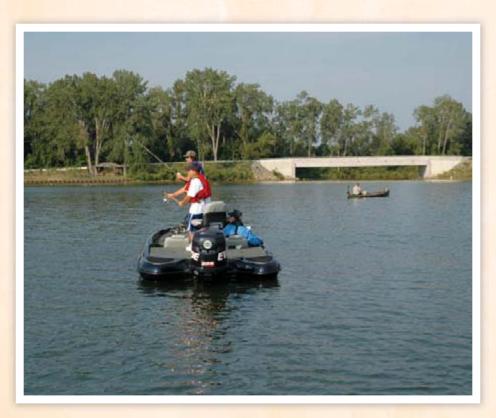
The Commission, with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, administers the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program, which funds construction, renovation and maintenance of pumpout and dump stations for boats. In 2009, this program provided more than \$44,000 for five projects on Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County, Shenango Reservoir in Mercer County, the Susquehanna River in York County and the Delaware River in Bucks County.

Through the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also provides grants for transient moorage serving recreational motorboats 26-feet and longer. The Commission worked with the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and the Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority to obtain \$2.4 million in federal funding for projects on the Allegheny River, Monongahela River, and Lake Erie respectively.

#### **Erie Access Improvement Program**

The Commission created the Erie Access Improvement Program to provide grants to county and municipal governments and non-profit organizations to improve public fishing access on the waters of the Commonwealth in the Lake Erie Watershed. The Commission and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources assisted the Lake Erie Regional Conservancy in acquiring a property in McKean Township providing 4,900 linear feet of public access to Elk Creek. Since the program's inception in 2005, 12.65 miles or 66,771 linear feet of stream frontage on Lake Erie, Twenty Mile, Crooked, Walnut, Elk and Fourmile creeks have been acquired or placed under option.

Act 40 of 2009 provides that proceeds from the sale of the permit will continue to be deposited into a restricted account until Dec. 31, 2014; extends their use to projects that protect or improve fish habitat; and expands the program to all Pennsylvania tributaries that ultimately flow into Lake Erie.





## "Last year we managed multiple infrastructure improvements at our hatcheries and access areas"

In 2009, the Commission managed multiple infrastructure improvements at the state fish hatcheries (SFH) and access areas, including major upgrades to the water treatment systems at a number of the hatcheries. The upgrades to the Bellefonte SFH were completed at a cost of \$3.1 million. A \$3.1 million upgrade to the Benner Spring SFH began in 2009, as well as a \$4.3 million upgrade to the Huntsdale SFH. Design continues on an upgrade to the Reynoldsdale SFH that is estimated to cost approximately \$7.2 million.

Design work continues on a number of major dam safety projects. In 2009, the Commission was awarded \$10.7 million in H20 PA High Hazard Dam and Flood Control Grants for Upper and Lower Hereford Manor Lake Dams, Canonsburg Lake Dam, Dutch Fork Lake Dam and Lake Nessmuk Dam. Designs are already underway for these funded critical dam upgrades, as well as for the rest of the Commission's 15 high hazard dams.

During the last week of June, a series of storms with significant rainfall in the Erie County area caused flood damage to Trout Run, which is the primary water supply for the Commission's Fairview SFH and is critical to the continued propagation of steelhead trout. Over a 17-week period, the Commission reestablished the Trout Run stream channel and its embankments above the hatchery and installed retaining walls at the mouth of Lake Erie, as well as coordinated contract work to repair concrete damage at the hatchery's water intake structures.

The Commission-owned marinas at Lake Erie also benefitted from upgrades. At the Walnut Creek Marina, crews constructed a new boat ready area, renovated the entrance road, installed security cameras, dredged the channel to allow safe passage for boats entering and exiting the marina, and installed new directional signs.

At the North East Marina, 18,985 cubic yards of sand was moved from the west beach to the east beach to allow for littoral drift and dredged the marina basin. The Commission also refurbished docks and installed water lines and new electric service.



# "Waterways Conservation Officers are a primary contact with anglers and boaters"

In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania fishing and boating laws and regulations, the Commission's waterways conservation officers actively participate in public outreach efforts, specialized boating safety efforts, pollution and encroachment investigations, fish stocking and emergency assistance during weather-related incidents. The Commission also operates an active volunteer program, utilizing a force of more than 170 deputy waterways conservation officers. In April 2009, the Commission convened a basic Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Training Class. After completing the basic training program in September 2009, 19 new officers were added to the deputy ranks.

In 2009, the Commission issued 2,482 special activities permits for fishing tournaments and regattas and conducted safety evaluations onboard 28,617 recreational boats. Additionally, the Commission conducted 141 investigations involving pollution or encroachment incidents in or along Commonwealth waters, and they expanded their environmental enforcement work regarding gas and oil drilling in the Commonwealth as a direct result of the new Marcellus Shale gas exploration and development.

There were 34,772 warnings for fishing and boating violations issued by officers and 107 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 Crimes Code citations issued.

During 2009, the Commission issued and the courts adjudicated approximately 4,039 summary citations for fishing violations and 2,413 summary citations for boating violations. Lack of personal floatation devices or improper personal flotation devices onboard boats continued to be the most common boating violations and fishing without a license and littering continued to be the most common fishing violations.

Fifty-seven arrests were made in 2009 for boating-under-the-influence (BUI). Specialized BUI enforcement details were conducted throughout the state on waterways with the highest recreational boating use. The Commission investigated a total of 62 reportable boating accidents. Unfortunately, 11 accidents resulted in 12 fatalities.



## "License sales increased by 4.6 percent"

Historically, license sales have increased during economic downturns, and 2009 was no exception. Fishing license sales increased by about 4.6 percent from 2008 levels. In 2009, the sale of trout/salmon permits, Lake Erie permits and combination trout/salmon-Lake Erie permits increased by more than 4 percent for a total of 615,520 permits. In addition, there were 338,002 boats actively registered or titled. This number represents a slight decline compared to the previous year.

Last year, 486 resident and 81 non-resident guide permits were issued. The Commission also coordinated the administration of sand and gravel royalties program.

#### 2009 Fishing License & Permit Types

¥	
Dec 1, 2008 – Nov 30, 2009	Units Sold
Resident	758,434
Senior Resident	18,587
Senior Lifetime	14,494
1-Day Resident	3,259
PA Resident National Guard/Reserve	741
Non-Resident	41,259
1-Day Tourist	5,670
3-Day Tourist	25,934
7-Day Tourist	7,382
Lake Erie Permit	19,542
Combination Lake Erie &	92,645
Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit	
Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit	503,333
Total Licenses & Permits	1,491,280

#### Federally Funded Projects

In 2009, the Commission managed approximately 71 state and federal grant-funded projects (36 of which are State Wildlife Grants), which returned more than \$12.5 million in federal revenue to the agency. While the majority of federal funds were received from the U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, other federal agencies provided the Commission with financial support. The combined total of all federal revenue comprised about 25 percent of the Commission's revenue in the fiscal year.



Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Report: Actual expenditures charged from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009

#### Expenditures

	Fish Fund	
Personnel	22,373,439	63%
Operating	9,649,606	27%
Fixed assets	1,407,149	4%
Grants	1,124,715	3%
Payments to	1,124,602	3%
state agencies		
Fish Fund total	35,679,511	100%

	Boat Fund	
Personnel	8,149,859	66%
Operating	2,986,443	24%
Fixed assets	796,230	6%
Grants	517,981	4%
Payments to state agencies	1,249	0%
Boat Fund total	12,451,761	100%

Fish Fund, Boat	t Fund Total	
Personnel	30,523,298	64%
Operating	12,63 <mark>6,04</mark> 9	26%
Fixed assets	2,203,379	5%
Grants	1,642,696	3%
Payments to state agencies	1,125,850	2%
Fish Fund, Boat Fund total	48,131,272	100%

Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Report: Actual revenue deposited from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009

#### Revenue

Fish Total		
Licenses, fees	26,480,992	72%
Fines, penalties	460,332	1%
Miscellaneous	1,131,627	3%
Augmentations	8,588,673	24%
Fish Fund total	36,661,624	100%

Boat Total		
Licenses, fees	6,898,316	53%
Fines, penalties	235,788	2%
Miscellaneous	1,990,002	15%
Augmentations	4,002,916	30%
Boat Fund total	13,127,022	100%

Fish Fund,	Boat Fund Total	
Licenses, fees	33,379,308	67%
Fines, penalties	696,121	2%
Miscellaneous	3,121,628	6%
Augmentations	12,591,589	25%
Fish Fund,		
Boat Fund total	49,788,646	100%

## Phone Directory

Service Numbers	
Fishing Licenses	717.705.7930
Boat Registration and Titling	866.262.8734 866.BoatReg 717.705.7940
Boating Safety Education Courses	888.723.4741 888.PaFish1
Commission Headquarters	717.705.7800
Executive Office	
Executive Director	717.705.7801
Office of Chief Counsel	717.705.7810
The second s	
Bureau of Fisheries	
Environmental Services	814.359.5147
Fisheries Management	814.359.5110
Fish Production	814.359.5222
Habitat Management	814.359.5124
Three Rivers Ecological Research Center (Pittsburgh)	412.381.1297
Bureau of Law Enforcement	717.705.7861
Northeast Region	570.477.5717
Southeast Region	717.626.0228
Northcentral Region	814.359.5250 717.486.7087
Southcentral Region Northwest Region	814.337.0444
Southwest Region	814.445.8974
Southwest Region	017.775.0777
Bureau of Policy, Planning & Communications	
Education & Outreach	717.705.7848
Legislative Liaison	717.705.7816
Press Office	717.705.7806

Office of Administration, Boating & Engineering Deputy Director	717.705.7900
Bureau of Administration Human Resources Information Systems	717.705.7900 717.705.7820 717.705.7904
Bureau of Boating & Access	717.705.7834
Bureau of Engineering & Property Services Construction and Maintenance	814.359.5128
Addresses	
Commission Headquarters 1601 Elmerton Avenue PO Box 67000 Harrisburg, PA 17106.7000 717.705.7800	
Pleasant Gap Offices 450 Robinson Lane Bellefonte, PA 16823.9620	



## Mission Statement

To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities

PA Fish & Boat Commission

1601 Elmerton Avenue | P.O. Box 67000 Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000