Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

2010 Annual Report





Resource First

Founded in 1866, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing the Commonwealth's aquatic resources, including waterways – streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands – fish, reptile and amphibian communities and habitats of game and non-game species. From stocking waterways and measuring the health of native animal populations to patrolling lakes and restoring habitats, our employees strive to protect, manage and restore the resource, for the resource is the foundation for everything we do.

High-quality streams, clean water and good habitat ensure that we can 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 scientifically-informed decisions based on long-term conservation of aquatic resources. Resource First also sets the foundation for the agency's strategic plan.

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 State 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. Agency operations are led by the Executive Director, who serves as chief executive officer and chief waterways conservation officer. PFBC staff include 432 full-time employees and 114 temporary and seasonal employees.

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Board of Commissioners



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Brockport



Thomas C. Shetterly North Charleroi



Glade E. Squires *Downingtown*

Executive Director's Message

Every two months, I write an article entitled "Straight Talk" for our agency's flagship publication – *Pennsylvania Angler and Boater*. Former Executive Director Ralph W. Abele used the same name for his regular columns in our magazine, and I thought it would be a tribute to him to use that title again. In my first column entitled "Back to the Future," in the March/April issue, I told the readers that I also believe in straight talk, that they should expect it from me as the Executive Director, and that I expect the same from them in return.

This annual report is written in the same style. In addition to providing statistics about the agency and fishing and boating in Pennsylvania, it is designed to highlight the progress we have made over the past year in addressing specific goals.

This format is part of a continuing transition from annual reports that mainly outline activities to one that is organized along the lines of reporting on specific goals and measurements of our progress in achieving them.

There is a lot of talk both within and outside of government these days about measurement and accountability. Just like I expect from our staff in their daily jobs, this annual report focuses on progress rather than process and on results rather than aspirations. We rely almost entirely on license fees and boat registrations to do everything we do – a shortcoming that will be addressed in this report – and it is incumbent upon us to be good stewards of those dollars at the same time that we are good stewards of the resource.



John A. Arway
Executive Director

Your Director, ><(John{(°>

Top Three Priorities for 2010

Upon assuming the responsibility as Executive Director on March 2, 2010, I told the Board of Commissioners, staff, legislators and the public that I had three priorities:

- Ensure a contract for our Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) in the very near future.
- Improve agency morale and public support.
- Find a source of alternative funding for the agency for present and future generations.

I would like to begin by explaining the progress we have made on the first two fronts and the groundwork I have laid for the third.

Waterways Conservation Officers

The Commission finalized a new WCO contract in August. This was critical to ensure certainty and stability, both among the officers and for the anglers, boaters and resources served by the PFBC. In most instances, our 109 full-time WCOs and 206 Deputy WCOs are the face of the agency, enforcing fishing and boating laws and regulations, providing outreach and assistance to anglers and boaters, helping with fish stocking, and providing emergency assistance on and around the water. In 2010, we were proud to welcome six new WCOs who graduated from our agency's H. R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety and eight WCO trainees who successfully completed the Municipal Police Officers Basic Training Program at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy.

In 1909, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed a law forbidding the emptying of any waste deleterious to fish into any waters of the Commonwealth and assigned the responsibility to enforce that law to the PFBC. We take that role very seriously, investigating pollution and encroachment into waterways and wetlands, working with businesses and individuals to adhere to the law and prosecuting offenders when necessary.

In my November/December "Straight Talk" article entitled "The Right Track," I discussed the fact that we are on the "right track" and, despite the new risks posed by threats like Marcellus natural gas extraction, aquatic invasive species and urban sprawl, we have more fishable water today than when I was a child 50 years ago. It is our responsibility (theme from May/June "Straight Talk" article) to ensure that our



2010 Law Enforcement Statistics

Special activities permits for tournaments and regattas-**2,427**Onboard safety evaluations

Onboard safety evaluations conducted-**29,617**Pollution investigations-**226**

Pollution investigations pertained to Marcellus shale development-9 Warnings for violations-12,000 Crimes Code summary citations-170

Crimes Code summary citations-170
Court cases prosecuted for fishing
violations-3,900

Court cases prosecuted for fishing violations-2,663

Cases still pending from 2010-**1,547**Boating Under the Influence (BUI)
arrests-**65**

Boat accident investigations-65



During its October Commission meeting, "Top Gun" and "Outstanding Service" awards were presented to those for their efforts in investigating a 2009 fatal boating incident on the Susquehanna River. Pictured, from left, are Board President William Worobec, Detective Tom Mills from the Clinton County District Attorney's office, District Attorney Michael Salisbury, WCO David Decker, WCO Tom Nunamacher, DWCO Ronald Myers, WCO Corey Britcher and Executive Director Arway.



Approximately 2.5 million people fish and boat in Pennsylvania annually. During 2010, the Commission sold a total of 1,426,749 fishing licenses and permits.

waters are in a better condition when we pass them on to our children and grandchildren than what they were like when we inherited them from our parents and grandparents.

Agency Morale and Public Support

Last summer, we enlisted the Office of Administration's Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to administer a climate assessment survey of the agency to identify internal strengths and issues that could be built upon to maintain and improve the way the PFBC does its business. The survey yielded a remarkable 75% response rate from full-time staff, and, overall, there were more strengths than anything else. As with any

organization, there is always room for improvement, so I asked for volunteers from all segments of the agency to form workgroups to come up with strategies to address individual issues highlighted in the survey results. Staff responded enthusiastically, met throughout the fall and came up with strategies that will be implemented in 2011.

In addition to the climate assessment work, OSS also conducted a special workshop for my executive staff to help us function better as a team and also performed a separate workload analysis for our Division of Environmental Services and Bureau of Engineering and Property Services. Commissioners also benefitted from this commitment to organizational improvement during a two-day training session conducted by the Management Assistance Team, a highly respected organization that provides training and advice to commission boards across the country.

Fish and Boat Commission employees do tremendous work, and it is important to have them better understand and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Plus, I believe that a day on the water with a Commission partner is a great way to boost morale. So, just in time for ice fishing season, the PFBC instituted "Employee Fishing and Boating Appreciation Day." Under this voluntary program, each employee is encouraged to take one normally scheduled work day per calendar year to fish or boat with another Commission employee, a Boating Advisory Board member or a Commissioner.

Responding to a suggestion from a staff member, we added a new page to our website called "Praise an Employee." This portal allows anyone to report instances where they have received outstanding service from staff. Government agencies usually only hear about their employees in the context of a problem, and it has been refreshing to give our customers the chance to report the good things that our people are doing above and beyond the normal call of duty.

We must work together as a team – PFBC staff, Board of Commissioners and the public – to accomplish our strategic goals. Coming into this job, I also felt (and believe it now more than ever) that our staff and I needed to personally connect with the angling and boating public to let them know that we are as committed to the resource as they are. We demonstrated this commitment by organizing and participating in public events across the state, from special breakfast and evening sessions dedicated to garnering angler input on the Susquehanna smallmouth bass issue to special presentations on local and statewide Marcellus shale impacts to regular attendance at local, regional and statewide gatherings of sportsmen and women. I also brought that proactive approach to my interactions with the legislature and local public officials, initiating meetings to introduce myself and the agency.

All of these initiatives have been well-received and have helped to boost morale, public support and a recommitment to the agency's mission.

Alternative Funding

I knew coming into this job that the first two priorities, although challenging, would be easier to tackle than the third, however, I am committed to seeing the third one through. Fishing and boating continue to be big business in Pennsylvania, with a combined annual economic impact of \$3.4 billion. Yet most people do not realize that the Fish and Boat Commission relies almost entirely on fishing licenses, boat registrations and federal funding tied to fishing and boating to pay for everything

we do. The federal funds come from fees applied to fishing equipment and fuel and are distributed based on the number of licenses sold and the estimated amount of motorboat fuel usage reported by boaters in each state.

While those sources of revenue were sufficient to sustain our operations in the past, expanded expectations and responsibilities, coupled with a downward trend in license sales that gets worse and worse with every license increase, have gotten us to the point where we can no longer expect anglers and boaters to foot the bill for the services we provide to all Pennsylvanians, especially to



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industry. I wrote an article for the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs' September/October *On Target* publication entitled "The Need for Alternative Funding – Your Role in Adding a Piece to the Puzzle" which explained a plan for sportsmen and women involvement. (You can find this and all of my "Straight Talk" articles at www.fishandboat.com.)

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1,050,000

As you will read further in this report, under Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan, we spent a lot of time in 2010 drawing attention to the diverse range of activities performed by PFBC staff on behalf of all Commonwealth residents and visitors we serve and the aquatic resources we are entrusted to protect, conserve and enhance.

PFBC Strategic Plan

One of the most important things that Commissioners and staff worked on during the first half of 2010 was to complete a new five-year strategic plan for the agency.

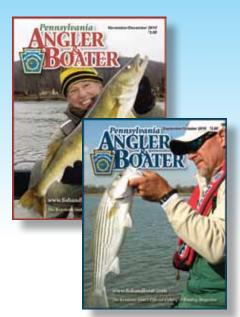
Early in the planning process, the Board of Commissioners received input from staff throughout and partners outside of the agency to identify seven important issues that they deemed to be overarching priorities for the PFBC during the next five years.

- Escalating costs of traditional services and increasing demands for activities require the development of alternative funding sources and methods.
- Current and increasing threats to our aquatic resources demand the Commission provide better resource management and protection.
- The Commission needs to better understand recent generations' disconnectedness from the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and respond to anglers' and boaters' desires for excellent recreational fishing and boating opportunities.
- The public continues to identify a need for access to the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.
- The Commission's existing data are not well-integrated and therefore not optimally used to proactively manage the aquatic resources under our jurisdiction.
- Limited financial and human resources require the Commission to more effectively manage our internal resources.
- Due to the limitations of current communications systems, technologies and processes, the Commission must improve its internal and external communication methods and systems.

With those issues as a framework, the Commissioners and staff agreed that the PFBC needed to be very deliberate about developing a plan that would not simply "sit on the shelf" as is so often the case. To that end, the Commission developed SMART (Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic and Time-bound) goals for addressing the issues.



Commission participation at statewide sportshows early in the year has always provided anglers the opportunity to purchase their fishing license before opening day of trout. While fishing license fees continue to be the agency's "backbone" of funding, declining sales require a strategy of securing alternate funding for the future of Pennsylvania's waters and recreational fishing opportunities.



In 2011, Pennsylvania Angler & Boater magazine, the Commission's flagship publication, will embark on its 80th year of bringing entertaining and informative articles and images to anglers and boaters.

Each of the goals included in the plan was put through a rigorous analysis to make sure that it met each of the five SMART criteria. Staff also completed a budgetary and personnel analysis of each goal statement to align the strategic plan with the budgeting processes, the state fiscal year and annual plans of work.

As a result, the Commission is operating with a very clear game plan for the next five years. Notably, when the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) presented the findings of its triennial audit of the Commission in September, it applauded the PFBC for its inclusive, transparent and results-oriented approach to developing the new plan.

As soon as (and, in some cases, before) the Board of Commissioners formally adopted the plan in July 2010, staff began implementing and reporting on their progress in achieving the goals.

The following narrative outlines the Commission's progress in calendar year 2010 in meeting the goals contained in the plan. The Commission intends to use a similar format for future annual reports, focusing on the work it does to advance its priorities. To review the complete PFBC strategic plan, visit the PFBC website at www.fishandboat/stplan.pdf.

Goal 1: Actively pursue innovative, as well as traditional, funding sources, compensation for services provided to all Pennsylvanians and funding for the completion of priority infrastructure projects.

PA Water Withdrawals by Water Use* PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY MINING 1.42
BILLION GALLONS
PER DAY 95.7 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY 152 MARCELLUS SHALE DEVELOPMENT 1.9 IRRIGATION MILLION GALLONS 24.3 PER DAY GALLONS PER DAY THERMOELECTRIC POWER LIVESTOCK AQUACULTURE 6.43
BILLION GALLONS
PER DAY 61.8 INDUSTRIAL **524** PER DAY totals represent both urface water and groundwater use Water use graphic from Director Arway's "Highway Robbery" Straight Talk column.

Throughout 2010, the Commission placed an emphasis on the need to be compensated for services it provides to all Pennsylvanians and visitors to the Commonwealth.

This need was most evident in the Commission's pursuit of support for the increased demands being placed on its staff as a result of Marcellus shale drilling and associated infrastructure development and demands on water resources.

Executive Director Arway, other staff and Commissioners publicly and repeatedly made the case throughout 2010 that the agency needs funding to put the necessary staff in place to take a proactive, collaborative approach with both the industry and the other agencies that are reviewing and advising on projects. In September, the LBFC acknowledged the Commission's role and the lack of funding to support Marcellus shale-related work, recommending that the Pennsylvania General Assembly "consider providing

additional resources to the PFBC so it can continue to make efforts to protect water resources from potential degradation by Marcellus shale drilling efforts." The LBFC emphasized that "Given this new threat, we recommend the General Assembly take action...to ensure the PFBC...has sufficient resources to carry out its mission."

At the December meeting of the Environmental Quality Board, Executive Director Arway made the case for including the Fish and Boat Commission in a proposed rulemaking to increase the fees charged by the Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) to support the Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Program. Mr. Arway explained that the PFBC plays a critical – and required – role in implementing the Chapter 105 review process to ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of our aquatic resources. However, the Commission receives no General Fund or permit fee revenues to support that work.

Support for Marcellus shale-related work, Chapter 105 reviews and other activities that implement legislatively-directed functions and support other agencies would not be the first time that the PFBC has received compensation for the services it provides to the Commonwealth. The PFBC has a successful track record of entering into memoranda of understanding (MOU) with other agencies, including DEP and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, that fund permit review and technical assistance by Commission staff.

One of the last actions taken by Mr. Arway in 2010 was to publish an article in the January/February 2011 *Pennsylvania Angler and Boater* magazine entitled "Highway Robbery." Mr. Arway argues that water is the property of all Pennsylvanians and that the Commonwealth should receive just compensation for surface and groundwater that is removed from the water cycle and for water that is used and then returned in a degraded state.

Precedent for this exists, as the Commission shares revenue with DEP for the sand and gravel extracted from the riverbeds of the Allegheny and Ohio rivers, because that material is also Commonwealth property. It is submerged lands under navigable water, and the Commonwealth gets compensated for its value through a royalty fee (which the Commission renegotiated in 2010 with a new fee schedule effective January 1, 2011). It is required by law, and the Commission uses that money to fund programs consistent with its mission.

Likening it to someone borrowing a car and returning it with a damaged fender, Mr. Arway believes that those who take or degrade our waters should be charged and that any funds should be dedicated to conserving aquatic and water resources.

In terms of traditional funding sources, the Commission is currently permitted to sell annual licenses only at the fees set by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In 2010, the Board of Commissioners and staff continued to espouse the merits of being able to charge up to the cost of a license and to be able to issue multi-year licenses. Such flexibility would allow for creative marketing, including packages such as family licenses and discounts for purchasing reduced-cost, multi-year licenses.

As has been the case in recent years, the Commission continued to pursue grant funding to supplement its core funding. Some grants support agency operations, and others are passed through to other organizations to help further mutual goals. Building the capacity of others remains a hallmark of the Commission's commitment to partnerships. During the fiscal year (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010), the Commission managed 46 federal and eight state grants with an augmented revenue return of more than \$15 million, representing more than 30% of the agency's revenue. Specifically, State Wildlife Grant revenue totaled \$1,290,576.

As an example, PFBC collaborated with the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council to obtain a \$692,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to help document and control aquatic invasive species.

Goal 2: Improve protection, conservation and enhancement of aquatic resources and habitats.

Trout Management

The Commission's new *Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania* was adopted in October 2009, and 2010 was the first full year under the plan. The following represent some of the many steps the Commission took to benefit coldwater species.

2010 Fishing License & Permit Types December 1, 2009 - December 31, 2010

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Units Sold
727,907
17,031
13,250
3,239
923
40,377
5,136
24,871
6,833
19,040
ut/
90,641
477,501
1,426,749



2010 Permit Application Review

Staff reviewed and commented on permit applications for activities that have the potential to impact the aquatic resources of the Commonwealth, including: 229 mining, 156 drawdown, 289 triploid grass carp, 1,343 aquatic herbicide, 5 hydropower, 21 water allocation, more than 2,500 threatened and endangered species, and more than 1,000 applications for Department of Environmental Protection water obstruction and encroachment permits, U.S. **Army Corps of Engineers Clean** Water Act permits, solid waste and transportation projects.



Commission fisheries biologist conducting a stream survey.

American Fisheries Society Conference

In September, fisheries professionals from around the world convened in Pittsburgh for the 140th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. More than 50 Commission staff helped to

organize and conduct this internationally acclaimed six-day event, highlighting Pittsburgh, the Three Rivers and their tributaries, and the energy and success of the region's efforts to restore and conserve Pennsylvania's waters and lands.



Streams that support wild trout populations receive added DEP regulatory protection, but the Commission has not sampled, nor does it have the capacity to survey on its own, the state's vast number of unassessed waters. Given the monumental task of surveying about 45,000 unassessed waters, the Commission decided to enlist the help of colleges and universities. In April, the Board of Commissioners authorized the Commission to provide grants of \$100,000 or less per year to qualified universities, organizations, agencies and other entities to conduct surveys on unassessed streams that are likely to contain wild trout. In 2010, the PFBC surveyed 241 waters and contracted with Lycoming College and King's College to sample another 66 waters. Of the 307 waters, 169 had wild trout present. The Commission is already using this data to formulate agency recommendations and for future decision-making. The PFBC plans to build on the program's success in 2011 and beyond.

In March, the PFBC joined Pennsylvania Trout, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds in awarding more than \$42,000 in Coldwater Heritage Partnership grants to seven organizations to develop conservation plans that provide a better understanding of coldwater streams, identify challenges and form strategies that engage local communities in addressing these issues. The partnership helps local groups protect and conserve Pennsylvania's best coldwater stream habitats — waterways that are critical to the health of the state's wild trout fisheries.

The Commission itself performed a great deal of work to benefit both wild and stocked trout and other fisheries. This included completing or assisting with 19 small dam removals and partnering with over 25 entities to complete more than 40 habitat enhancement projects for streams, including 20 habitat enhancement projects that benefit wild trout. At the same time, the PFBC monitored more than 25 waters to evaluate the impact of habitat treatments, including 10 projects to evaluate the impact of habitat treatments on wild trout. Commission biologists also continued to monitor the results of fingerling stockings, including those on sections of the Little Juniata River.

The August 2010 examination of the Little Juniata River documented a healthy Class A wild brown trout population, indicating that that fingerling plants are not required or needed to provide recreational angling opportunities or to maintain a high-quality fishery for brown trout in that specific portion of the river. As such, the Little Juniata will be managed as a wild brown trout fishery with no plants of hatchery-reared fish.

Improving habitat and water quality were also the focus of recommendations made by the Commission in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in January. In a report entitled Recommended Improvements to the Flexible Flow Management Program for Coldwater Ecosystem Protection in the Delaware River Tailwaters, the two agencies set management recommendations and objectives for Delaware River tributaries downstream of New York City's water supply reservoirs in upstate New York. The PFBC believes the recommendations embody a strong statement for sound aquatic resource management which, if implemented, will be a significant step forward in managing Delaware River water for down-basin uses.

At the same time that the Commission was collaborating with colleges to help document wild trout, it also maintained its commitment to its partners at Pennsylvania's cooperative trout nurseries. Cooperative nurseries again added more than one million fish to Commonwealth waterways in 2010, supplementing the Commission's trout stocking program and increasing fishing opportunities in local communities. In

2010 Cooperative Nursery 50- and 75-Year Award Certificates

75-Year Award Certificate

Windber Sportsmen Association, Somerset County (1932)

50-Year Award Certificates

Bald Eagle Sportsmen Club, Blair Co. (1956)
Eldred Conservation Club, McKean Co. (1956)
Heath Township Sportsmen Club, Jefferson Co. (1955)
Hi La Sportsmen Association, Elk Co. (1952)
Jenner Community Sportsmen, Somerset Co. (1957)
Lititz Sportsmen Association, Lancaster Co. (1956)
Millcreek Rod & Gun Club, Lebanon Co. (1951)
Mohnton Fish & Game Association, Berks Co. (1956)
Norwich Township Sportsmen Association, McKean Co. (1959)
Potter County Anglers Club, Potter Co. (1960)
Queen City Trout Rearing Committee, Lehigh Co. (1951)
Saint Marys Sportsmen Club, Elk Co. (1959)
Springside Sportsmen Club, Lehigh Co. (1955)
Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Clinton Co. (1951)

July, the Commission recognized these efforts by presenting appreciation awards to clubs for service of 50 or more years.

Susquehanna River Smallmouth Bass



In one of its first actions of 2010, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution urging the DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to expand efforts to determine the sources of pollution which are contributing to the demise of the Susquehanna River's smallmouth bass fishery. The PFBC continued to work with partners such as the United States Geological Survey, DEP and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to try to determine the cause of persistent disease among young smallmouth bass on the Juniata and Susquehanna rivers. In addition to ongoing data collection and analysis, the Commission reached out to anglers for their input at a series of public meetings within the watershed. In October, following years of declining numbers of smallmouth bass in the Juniata and lower Susquehanna rivers, the Commission moved to



protect the fisheries by placing catch-andrelease regulations on sections of the two waterways which are currently regulated under the Big Bass Program. The Board of Commissioners voted to approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the proposed regulations. Pending a final vote by the board

at a subsequent quarterly meeting, Executive Director Arway signed a temporary emergency order which allowed the changes to become effective on January 1, 2011.

Panfish Management

Each year, the American Fisheries Society (AFS) recognizes outstanding fisheries projects completed with federal Sport Fish Restoration funds. Awards are given in three categories: Sport Fishery Development and Management, Research and Surveys, and Aquatic Education. In 2010, AFS recognized the Commission for its work on a decades-long research project which demonstrated that restrictive harvest regulations can increase panfish populations while creating a positive fishing experience for anglers targeting these popular fish. Because they are widely available and generally taste good, panfish are one of the most popular fish targeted by anglers. In fact, PFBC surveys have shown that nearly half of all fishing time is spent pursuing them. And because panfish are easy to catch, they play a key role in introducing new and young anglers to the sport.



Distributed to Cooperative Nurseries			
Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount	
Brook Trout	Adult	648,850	
	Fingerling	451,478	
	Fingerling to Coops	494,525	
Brown Trout	Adult	938,534	
	Fingerling	1,040,126	
	Fingerling to Coops	304,877	
Rainbow Trout	Adult	1,661,028	
	Fingerling	968,569	
	Fingerling to Coops	444,465	
Golden Rainbow Trout	Adult	10,586	
	Fingerling to Coops	12,015	
Total Trout Species		6,975,053	

2010 Warmwater/Coolwater Fish Production and Stocking

Species	Lifestage	Amount
American Shad	Fry	5,561,751
American Shad	Fingerling	2,500
Black Crappie	Fingerling	72,425
Bluegill	Fingerling	2,400
Bluegill	Adult	599
Brown Trout (Lake Erie)	Fingerling	41,059
Brown Trout (Lake Erie)	Adult	200
Channel Catfish	Fingerling	249,025
Channel Catfish	Yearling	6,675
Channel Catfish	Adult	300
Golden Shiner	Fingerling	12,000
Golden Shiner	Adult	44,325
Lake Trout	Fingerling	79,900
Lake Trout Lake Trout	Yearling Adult	104,786 709
Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	34,370
Muskellunge	Small Fingerling	118,699
Muskellunge Muskellunge	Fingerling Yearling	145,245 1,518
Northern Pike	Fingerling	4,777
Paddlefish	Fingerling	12,993
Rainbow Trout/Steelhead	Small Fingerling	18,000
Rainbow Trout/Steelhead	Yearling	1,023,369
Smallmouth Bass	Fingerling	16,226
Striped Bass	Fry	6,650,000
Striped Bass	Phase 1 Fingerling	233,679
Tiger Muskellunge	Small Fingerling	14,061
Tiger Muskellunge	Fingerling	64,020
Tiger Muskellunge	Yearling	5,200
Walleye	Fry	32,015,000
Walleye	Phase 1 Fingerling	1,232,576
White Crappie	Fingerling	96,611
White/Striped Bass	Fingerling	31,090
Yellow Perch	Fry	520,000

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Boa Turtle

2010 Nongame Permits and Reviews

Species Impact Reviews: 2,580 Rattlesnake Site Assessments: 127 Scientific Collector Permits: 373 Threatened and Endangered Species

Special Permits: 45



Round Goby



During 2010, the
Commission removed a
total of 19 dams in Berks,
Cambria, Centre, Delaware,
Elk, Erie, Fayette, Franklin,
Greene, Lackawanna,
Lancaster, Lawrence,
Northampton and
Westmoreland counties

Nongame Species Management

In the PFBC Strategic Plan, the Commission identified the need to take action on specific nongame species. To that end, implementation work began for management plans on private property for the benefit of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes and bog turtles, and for vernal pool and stream habitats that are required by multiple species.

In August, the Commission finalized a contract for a major three-year, \$594,000 project grant for bog turtle recovery and habitat. Half of the funding is from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the other half is from multiple matching sources. Designed to address bog turtle habitat restoration needs, this project will bring together diverse entities to develop a more coordinated and comprehensive approach for bog turtle recovery and management in Pennsylvania. This project capitalizes on the special skills and existing resources of the PFBC and a variety of partners to coordinate and improve bog turtle population information, outreach services to private landowners, and on-the-ground habitat protection and manipulation designed to address bog turtle life-history requirements.

Aquatic Invasive Species

The Commission took multiple steps inside the agency and with partners to help control the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). This was particularly timely given the national attention to the threat posed by Asian carp, which have come to account for as much as 80% of the biomass in the Illinois River and seem poised to enter the Great Lakes and Pennsylvania's Ohio River Watershed.

These steps include:

- Implemented biosecurity protocols at Commission facilities.
- Designed an AIS and biosecurity training program for staff that will be implemented in 2011.
- Worked with Pennsylvania Sea Grant to install "Clean Your Gear" signs at approximately 400 boat launches across the Commonwealth.
- Integrated invasive species messages into agency programs and publications.
- Developed action plans for specific species, including Asian carp and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS).
- Coordinated a billboard campaign with Wildlife Forever targeting steelhead anglers.

Fish Passage

In addition to the small dam removals described above, the Commission spent considerable time on fish passage efforts on the Susquehanna and Lehigh rivers. On the lower Susquehanna, staff helped complete the updated *Susquehanna River Migratory Fish Restoration Plan* to ensure incorporation of provisions for timely and effective upstream and downstream fish passage at the four major hydroelectric dams consistent with American shad, river herring, and American eel restoration goals and resident fish needs. This is part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing of the four dams. The Commission also worked with local partners to promote the need for and investigate the feasibility of improved fish passage on the Lehigh River.

Reinvesting in the Resource

In October, the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center, which manages the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, awarded federal and state natural resource trustees \$27.5 million to restore conditions for fish, birds, sensitive habitats, wildlife and recreational use of the Delaware River areas impacted in 2004 by an oil spill from the vessel *Athos I* that dumped more than 250,000 gallons of crude oil into the river. The Commission will receive approximately \$1.3 million under this award to restore habitat on Darby Creek. The

Commission will use this money to remove three dams and a remnant bridge pier, restore nearby riparian areas and enhance in-stream habitat.

In an action before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Commission, DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/U.S. Department of Justice and JBS Souderton settled various pollution events and fish kills on Skippack Creek, Montgomery County. Under the settlement, JBS Souderton paid the Commission \$100,000.

The Palmerton Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment was released to the public. It provides options for restoration of resources damaged by the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund Site. The restoration plan is a milestone in the 15-year PFBC involvement in this case. It follows a \$21.4 million property and monetary settlement with CBS Operations. It includes restoration for lost fishing trips and impacts to wetlands and aquatic life.

Goal 3: Improve the Commission's knowledge of its users in order to better direct Commission programs and services.

Education Programs and Grants

Returning to the theme of partnerships, the Commission supported sport fishing, boating and aquatic resource education programs conducted by others by awarding educational grants totaling more than \$87,000. Twenty-three organizations received education grants from the PFBC to develop or expand programs that teach fishing and boating skills or educate participants about waterways and the organisms that live within them. As of the printing of this report, budget constraints are predicted to preclude an education grant round for 2011.

Measurement

Just as it relies upon scientific data to guide its resource management decisions, the Commission realizes the value of collecting and using information about anglers, boaters and other participants to improve the services, programs and recreational fishing and boating opportunities offered to Pennsylvania residents and visitors.

The PFBC instituted new online systems for registering for programs and also began collecting data about participants at the actual events. Coupled with the power of the Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS), the Commission will be in a better position than ever to tailor, market and package programs and services in more meaningful and effective ways for its customers. The Commission also worked with the nationally recognized firm Responsive Management to help measure the effectiveness of initiatives like the PFBC's Family Fishing Program on participation, recruitment and retention.

Boating Safety

Promoting safe boating has long been a hallmark of the Commission. In 2010, staff continued to analyze accident and fatality trends and offered regulatory amendments to improve boating safety. This work was coupled with a revision and expansion of the *Pennsylvania Boating Handbook* to meet the education standards of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators



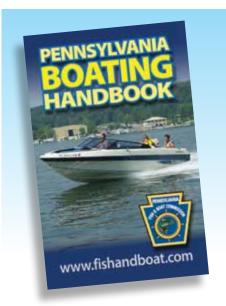
Education and Outreach in 2010

- Approximately 200 teachers participated in six resource education training workshops conducted by staff.
- Trout in the Classroom (TIC) continued to expand with 168 schools across Pennsylvania registered and receiving eyed eggs from Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery.
- More than 80 Family Fishing Programs (FFP) were scheduled, reaching nearly 1,100 people.
 An additional 450 people participated in an ice fishing FFP.
- Commission staff certified 60 new Fishing Skills Instructors. Commission instructors trained more than 1,400 youth in I'm a SMART Angler courses.
- Staff trained 85 new Boating Course Instructors, with most of these certified in Boating and Water Safety Awareness, and boating instructors taught 222 classroom boater education courses. These programs reached more than 4,500 participants.
- In total, from classroom, Internet and video correspondence courses, the Commission issued more than 15,000 boating safety education certificates.
- Staff instructed three Family Paddling Programs.
 Forty-one participants attended these new six-hour pilot programs designed for families new to paddling.

Water Rescue Program

The Commission's nationally-acclaimed Water Rescue Program certified 1,203 students through 96 courses in 2010. A trained volunteer instructor corps of more than 150 individuals provided in excess of 6,200 hours of training last year. The Commission's 2½-hour Water Rescue for the First Responder (Awareness) Course was presented in more than 76 courses with a student enrollment greater than 2,058. The Commission's Water Rescue Program is the largest of its kind in the U.S.

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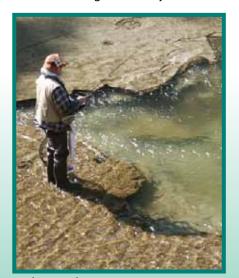


Boating Facility Grant Program

In 2010, the Commission approved \$767,637 in grant funds for eight projects, however, due to budget issues beyond the Commission's control, the Commission postponed executing the contracts for \$672,000 worth of these projects (or six of the grant awards) until it is determined if funding is available later in the fiscal year.

Fishing Access Improvement Program

In 2010, approximately 2 miles of stream access were acquired under the Erie Access Improvement Program. During 2010, the Commission also acquired 11,293 linear feet of public fishing easements on the Little Juniata River in Huntingdon County.



Walnut Creek access, Erie County

and to have the manual be more user-friendly. Noting that about 80% of boating fatalities were not wearing a life jacket, the Commission also recommitted to the Wear It Pennsylvania! campaign to promote wearing life jackets.

Goal 4: Retain and add new access to fishing and boating opportunities.

Pennsylvania's lakes, reservoirs, ponds, rivers and streams provide exceptional recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Designated fishing and boating access sites help to maintain open green space in communities and provide opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors and the Commonwealth's aquatic resources. The Commission owns or controls nearly 300 fishing and boating access sites – roughly half of the state's access that is open to the public (also see access improvements in Goal 6). Nevertheless, public access to waterways is at risk due to land development, landowner posting, changes in ownership, privatization and limited funding for acquisition.

After a two-year public engagement process to gauge the angling and boating public's satisfaction with and need for access, April 2010 saw the completion of *Pennsylvania's Fishing and Boating Access Strategy*. Local fishing and



boating clubs, municipalities and other partners identified more than 600 specific sites or stretches of streams for access development or improvement that form the foundation of the strategy. With the strategy in place, the PFBC has better information, tools and criteria to make sound decisions on the discovery and selection of priority access points; acquisitions of key properties; the design, development and improvement of new and existing facilities; and the identification and allocation of financial resources for fishing and boating access.

The strategy identifies 51 subwatersheds in which the Commission will direct its access activities, with the Juniata River and Lake Erie watersheds ranking among the highest.

Since the Erie Access Improvement Program was established in 2005, with the help of many partners, the Commission has acquired permanent fishing easements or outright ownership of over 14.5 miles of Lake Erie tributary streams. Pennsylvania's steelhead fishery is nationally recognized, and this program shows how dedicated funding for access can be leveraged to connect people with the resource.

The following three goals focus primarily on the need to constantly evaluate and improve agency operations – from internal business practices and the management of our properties and other infrastructure to maximizing the potential of our human resources. Indeed, those human resources are the parts of the equation that put resource management into action and include our dedicated staff and the more than 2.5 million anglers and boaters who take to the waters each year and who are consistently regarded as among the Commonwealth's first conservationists.

Goal 5: Optimize agency operations through integrated information systems management.

Information technology is integral to the PFBC's operations. Nearly every aspect of the agency relies on up-to-date technology to collect, store, protect, access, analyze and use valuable data for protection, conservation and enhancement of the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and management and development of recreational fishing and boating opportunities. The Commission must stay current

with information technologies to help safeguard the integrity of our data and maintain and make available information for collaborative use, as appropriate.

Many of the activities undertaken in 2010 were internal steps necessary to lay the framework for implementing information technology modernization in the near future. One area that saw immediate progress in 2010 was in the use of geographic information systems (GIS). In a good example of intra-agency cooperation, the Commission used GIS to improve river mile calculations for 1,938 sections of water. These changes have the potential to impact fisheries management decisions on those waters.

The Commission also used GIS to prioritize unassessed waters work. Specifically, the PFBC mapped wild streams in conjunction with data layers for both human population from the United States Census (to see where development is occurring) and with data on where Marcellus shale drilling operations have been permitted or where they are likely to be in the future. Doing so helped to flag vulnerable watersheds.

The Commission also used GIS to update water trail access data for inclusion in the regional fishing and boating maps and website and continued to update information for the Lake Erie Access Improvement Program. In a strong endorsement of the utility of the Commission's data, and despite being a relatively small state agency, PFBC's map services ranked second on the list of most frequently requested data on the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access website (www.pasda.psu.edu), the official public access geospatial information clearinghouse for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

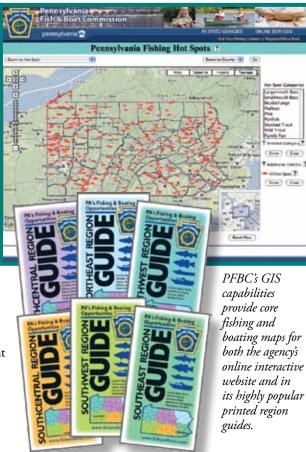
Goal 6: Optimize agency efficiency and ensure continuity of operations through infrastructure planning and employee development.

Infrastructure Planning

The Commission's infrastructure includes a vast network of facilities and properties. The PFBC owns, operates and maintains 14 state fish hatcheries, more than 60 dams and levees, two marinas, nearly 300 fishing and boating access areas, and numerous buildings and properties across the Commonwealth. Accordingly, the Commission is faced with an enormous backlog of capital improvement requirements and an extensive list of long-term maintenance needs that require a coordinated and deliberate approach for planning, funding and implementation.

Consistent with both the strategic plan and the recommendations of the LBFC, the Commission commenced a full review of state fish hatcheries to identify strategies for promoting cost savings with the least adverse effects on services to the angling public. On an even bigger scale, the PFBC began developing a comprehensive, multi-year infrastructure plan for the entire agency for the engineering, maintenance and development of its hatcheries, marinas, dams, accesses and administrative buildings. While work began in 2010, both of these complex, multi-faceted analyses and are scheduled for completion in 2011.

As these detailed planning efforts were underway, the Commission continued to maintain and service its infrastructure in 2010. In important steps forward for two high-profile projects,



2010 Infrastructure Improvements

- The Commission managed infrastructure improvements at state fish hatcheries (SFH), Commonwealth-owned dams and access areas. The highlighted improvements include:
- \$3.1 million upgrade of effluent and related infrastructure improvements at Benner Spring SFH and a \$4.3 million upgrade at Huntsdale SFH were completed in 2010. Other smaller hatchery-related projects were completed for Corry SFH, Oswayo SFH, Reynoldsdale SFH and Tylersville SFH.
- The Commission's public access areas benefitted from renovations at Canadohta Access, Crawford Co.; Mill Creek Access, Clarion Co.; Mauch Chunk Lake Access, Carbon Co.; Greenwood Access, Perry Co.; Wallenpaupack Access, Wayne Co.; Granville Access, Mifflin Co.; Monongahela Access, Washington Co.; and Terrytown Access, Bradford Co.. Also, significant repairs were done to the pier system at the Frankford Arsenal Access, Philadelphia Co.
- At the Commission-owned North East Marina in Erie Co., construction crews moved 22,745 cubic yards of sand from the west beach to the east beach to allow for littoral drift and dredged the marina. Construction crews also finished a major rehabilitation of the docks for the marina.



Opossum Lake, Cumberland County

work commenced on the dam rehabilitation projects for Leaser Lake, Lehigh County, in September and Opossum Lake, Cumberland County, in November. Both projects have been marked by significant local and legislative support for their completion.

Employee Development

The PFBC prides itself on its dedicated and productive workforce, and its employees are the Commission's largest investment, comprising more than 60% of its annual expenditures. Over the lifespan of the five-year strategic plan, more than one-

quarter of the Commission's employees will retire or become eligible for retirement. In 2010, the Commission took steps to maintain and improve programs and services and, at the same time, prepare for this potential high rate of retirements through a focused employee development program.

In addition to the climate assessment described in the Executive Director's opening remarks, the PFBC also surveyed its supervisors to help identify training recommendations for both themselves and their employees. This baseline assessment was necessary to lay the foundation for specific, targeted employee training. The Commission also improved the accessibility of training opportunities to staff and Commissioners, conducted specific training courses and workshops, and offered assistance to help employees develop and utilize leadership skills.



Goal 7: Improve internal and external communications systems to develop an informed and engaged workforce and increase the public's access to and use of Commission information.

In June, the Commission launched "The Fishing Hole" on its website to make it easier for visitors to find information about fishing, boating and aquatic resources. "The Fishing Hole" directs readers to lists of frequently asked questions about a variety of topics to help them understand, connect to and conserve Pennsylvania's waterways, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other aquatic resources. If someone does not find what they are looking for, or if they have a comment or question, they are encouraged to contact the PFBC through electronic forms at the site.

In addition to issuing press releases through its online e-mail distribution system, the Commission began issuing instant messages to reach the rapidly expanding base of anglers and boaters who use cell and smart phones.

The Commission expanded the breadth and sophistication of the online interactive maps to help anglers and boaters connect with Commonwealth waters. In addition to being able to access the information from their personal computers, Commission staff explained and demonstrated the online services at special stations at the many outdoor recreation and sport shows at which they interacted with tens of thousands of visitors. These maps continue to be updated and improved as technology moves forward and more and more electronic information becomes available to improve and inform fishing and boating experiences.

The Board of Commissioners meets four times a year to conduct formal business, discuss priority issues with staff and receive input from the public. In a break from tradition, special evening sessions were added to the quarterly agendas at the July and October meetings. In July, the Commission hosted a program focused on the health of the Susquehanna River at its headquarters in Harrisburg, and, in October, welcomed a panel of experts who addressed the interplay of Marcellus shale development and water quality at the Commission's first-ever meeting in Williamsport. These events were open to the public and are part of a concerted effort to engage more directly and often with anglers, boaters and other conservationists.



2011 will mark the first full calendar year under the Commission's new strategic plan. As was the case in 2010, Commissioners and staff will use the plan to help establish plans of work, formulate budgets, and guide agency actions and decision-making. Among the top priorities for 2011 will be the pursuit of alternative funding to compensate the Commonwealth for the consumptive use and



degradation of water resources, reimburse the Commission for the services it provides to all Pennsylvanians and businesses, repair priority infrastructure and allow for the issuance of creative license packages designed to retain and recruit anglers. This is all consistent with Executive Director John Arway's long-term priority to find alternative sources of revenue to maintain programs, offset declining license revenues and potentially reduce the cost of a fishing license.

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Report Actual expenditures charged from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

EXPENDITURES

Fish Fund

Personnel	\$23,039,989	64%
Operating	\$9,195,505	25%
Fixed Assets	\$2,229,934	6%
Grants	\$1,922,517	5%
Payments to		
State Agencies	\$27,357	0%
Fish Fund Total	\$36,415,302	100%

Boat Fund

Boat Fund Total	\$13,165,393	100%
State Agencies	\$32,513	0%
Payments to		
Grants	\$759,915	6%
Fixed Assets	\$1,133,345	9%
Operating	\$2,901,274	22%
Personnel	\$8,338,346	63%

Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Personnel	\$31,378,335	63%
Operating	\$12,096,779	24%
Fixed Assets	\$3,363,279	7%
Grants	\$2,682,432	6%
Payments to		
State Agencies	\$59,870	0%
Fish & Boat Fund Total	\$49,580,695	100%

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Report Actual revenue deposited from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

REVENUE

Fish Fund

Fish Fund Total	\$38,655,566	100%
Augmentations	\$11,090,715	29%
Miscellaneous	\$1,598,417	4%
Fines & Penalties	\$414,432	1%
Licenses & Fees	\$25,552,002	66%

Boat Fund

Boat Fund Total	\$12,360,990	100%
Augmentations	\$4,316,982	35%
Miscellaneous	\$1,872,087	15%
Fines & Penalties	\$182,463	2%
Licenses & Fees	\$5,989,458	48%

Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Fish & Roat Fund Total	\$51,016,556	100%
Augmentations	\$15,407,697	30%
Miscellaneous	\$3,470,504	7%
Fines & Penalties	\$596,895	1%
Licenses & Fees	\$31,541,460	62%



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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

Phone: (717) 705-7800 Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

PLEASANT GAP COMPLEX

450 Robinson Lane Bellefonte, PA 16823 Phone: (814) 359-5100 Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION COURSES

Phone: (888) 723-4741

FISHING LICENSES:

Phone: (877) 707-4085

BOAT REGISTRATION/TITLING:

Phone: (866) 262-8734

PUBLICATIONS:

Phone: (717) 705-7835







REGION OFFICES: LAW ENFORCEMENT/EDUCATION

Contact Law Enforcement for information about regulations and fishing and boating opportunities. Contact **Education** for information about fishing and boating programs and boating safety education.

NORTHWEST REGION

11528 SH 98. Meadville, PA 16335 Law Enforcement: Education: (814) 337-0444 (814) 336-2426 Fax (814) 337-0579 Fax (814) 337-0579 Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren

SOUTHWEST REGION

236 Lake Road, Somerset, PA 15501 Law Enforcement: Education: (814) 443-9841 (814) 445-8974 Fax (814) 445-3497 Fax (814) 445-3497 Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

1150 Spring Creek Road Bellefonte, PA 16823 Law Enforcement: Education:

(814) 359-5193 (814) 359-5250 Fax (814) 359-5254 Fax (814) 359-5153 Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241 Law Enforcement: Education: (717) 486-7087 (717) 705-7850 Fax (717) 486-8227 Fax (717) 705-7831 Counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York

NORTHEAST REGION

5566 Main Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656 Law Enforcement: Education: (570) 477-5717 (570) 477-2206 Fax (570) 477-3221 (570) 477-2621 Counties: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

SOUTHEAST REGION

P.O. Box 9, Elm, PA 17521

Law Enforcement: Education: (717) 626-0228 (717) 626-9081 (717) 626-0486 Fax (717) 626-0486 Counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill

STATE FISH HATCHERIES

BELLEFONTE*

1115 Spring Creek Road Bellefonte, PA 16823 (814) 355-3371

BIG SPRING

844 Big Spring Road Newville, PA 17241 (717) 776-3170

CORRY*

13365 Route 6 Corry, PA 16407 (814) 664-2122

FAIRVIEW

2000 Lohrer Road Fairview, PA 16415 (814) 474-1514

BENNER SPRING RESEARCH STATION

1225 Shiloh Road State College, PA 16801 (814) 355-4837

HUNTSDALE*

195 Lebo Road Carlisle, PA 17013 (717) 486-3419

LINESVILLE*

13300 Hartstown Road Linesville, PA 16424 (814) 683-4451

OSWAYO*

96 State Route 244 East Coudersport, PA 16915 (814) 698-2102

PLEASANT GAP*

450 Robinson Lane Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 (814) 359-5121

PLEASANT MOUNT*

PO Box 3 Pleasant Mount, PA 18453 (570) 448-2101

* Includes visitor center. Visitors are welcome from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Groups should make advance arrangements.

REYNOLDSDALE*

162 Fish Hatchery Road New Paris, PA 15554 (814) 839-2211

TIONESTA*

172 Fish Hatchery Lane Tionesta, PA 16353 (814) 755-3524

TYLERSVILLE

43 Hatchery Lane Loganton, PA 17747 (570) 725-3965

UNION CITY

9450 Route 6 Union City, PA 16438 (814) 664-2122