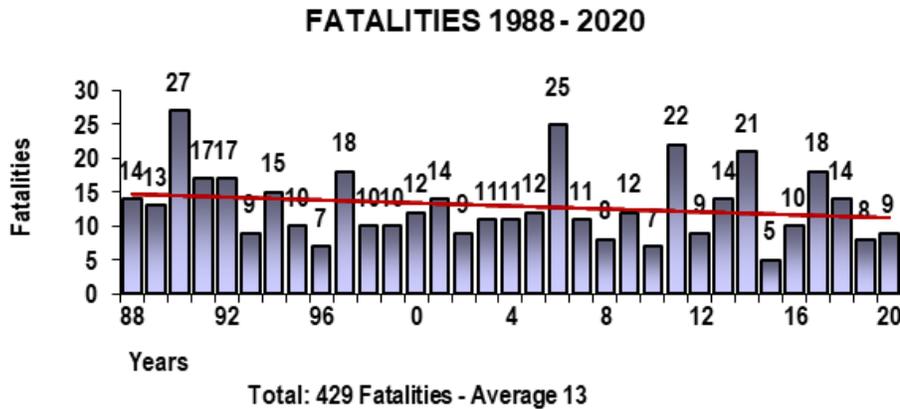
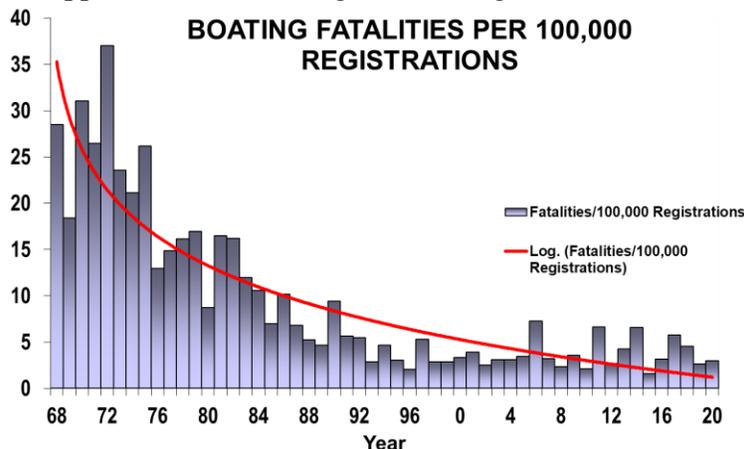


**RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM
 PERFORMANCE REPORT
 PART 1 C: ACCOMPLISHMENTS
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

The Recreational Boating Program in Pennsylvania, which is administered by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Commission), is dependent on the infusion of funds from the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program grant to be successful. One way to measure the success of Pennsylvania’s boating safety program is the number of recreational boaters injured or killed in boating accidents. Because of variables such as the weather and other factors that are impossible or difficult to control, the trend in boating accident fatalities is the most common statistic used for evaluating program success. The following graph shows boating fatalities in Pennsylvania from 1988 through 2020. The average number of fatalities from 1988 through 2020 is 13. The most recent ten-year average (2010 through 2020) is 12.5.

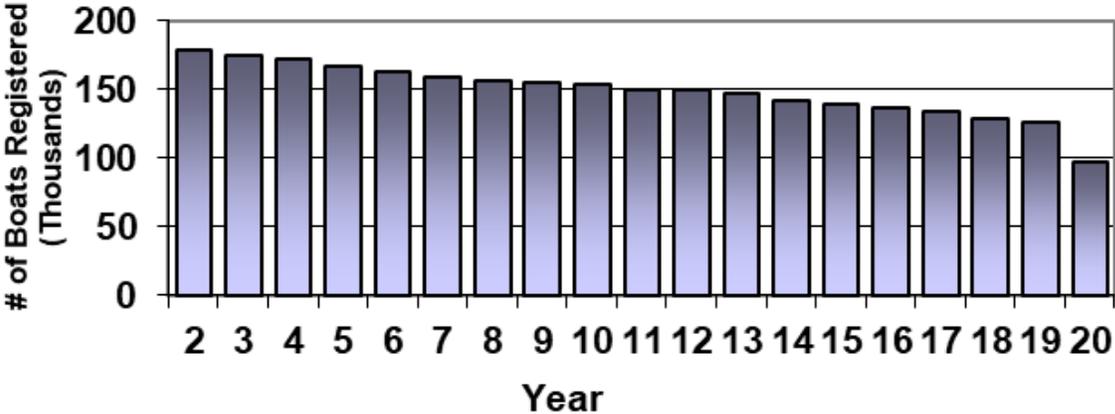


The success of the Commission’s boating safety program is illustrated by comparing the number of fatalities to the number of registered boats. These records are available for the last 53 years. The following graph shows the number of recreational boating fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, Pennsylvania had 301,450 registered watercraft and reported 9 fatalities which equates to three fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. The number of boats registered in the Commonwealth over the last 53 years has been matched by a commensurate increase in boating safety. This would not have been possible without the support of the RBS Program funding.

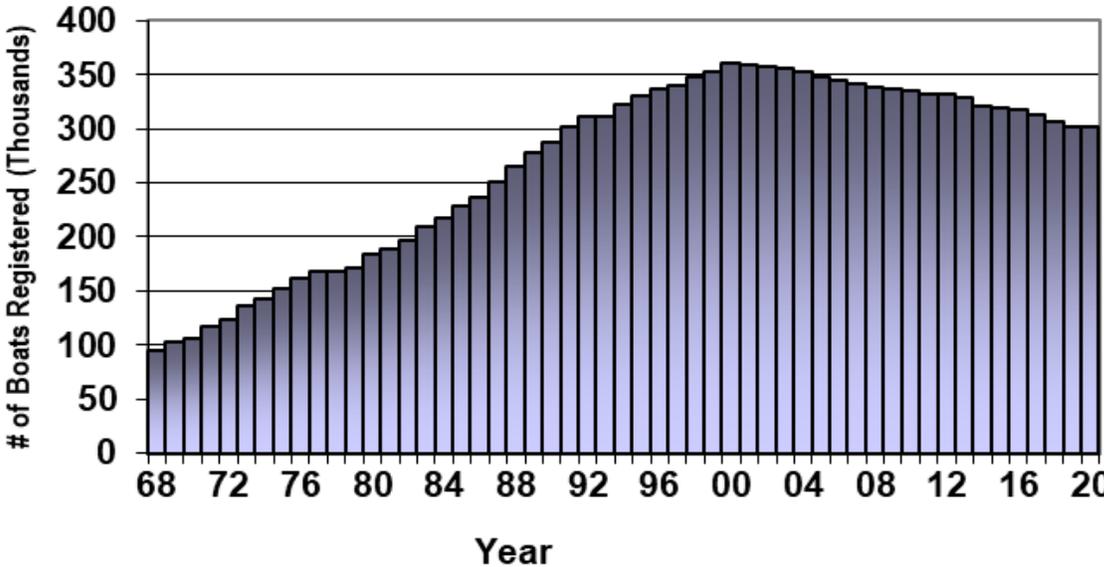


Pennsylvania experienced an increase of 163 boat registrations in 2020 over 2019. This increase is significant because boat registrations until this year have continued to decrease over the past eighteen years. During the period of 2000-2020, boat registrations have declined in all but two years (2012, 2020). The highest number of registrations was in year 2000 with 360,361 registered boats. There is still a decline in one class of boats. The numbers of motorboats less than 16 feet in length that are registered in Pennsylvania have continued to decline steadily since 2000 (see chart below).

MOTORBOATS <16 FT. REGISTRATIONS



BOAT REGISTRATIONS 1968 - 2020



	2020 BOAT REG STATS	2019 BOAT REG STATS	2018 BOAT REG STATS	2017 BOAT REG STATS	2016 BOAT REG STATS	2015 BOAT REG STATS	2014 BOAT REG STATS
Total Active Registrations:	301,450	301,287	306,781	313,590	317,586	319,028	322,454
Total Unpowered Vessels:	35,430	36,254	37,911	37,425	39,454	51,351	38,874
Total Active PWCs:	28,329	27,644	27,310	27,392	27,404	27,250	27,547
Less than 16 Ft.	96,822	125,736	129,212	133,783	136,963	139,629	142,042
16 Ft. to 25 Ft.	133,784	132,137	132,483	133,653	133,778	134,160	133,933
26 Ft. to 39 Ft.	6,482	6,499	6,534	6,698	6,744	6,723	6,689
40 Ft. to 65 Ft.	565	589	604	613	609	623	619
Boats > 65 Ft.	38	36	37	39	38	36	38
Rowboats	1,783	1,871	1,892	1,790	1,711	1,652	1,599
Sailboats	1,020	1,110	1,233	1,270	1,339	1,445	1,065
Paddlecraft: Canoes Kayaks/ Other Boats	32,627	36,254	57,680	49,899	47,515	48,254	16,486
19,724							

The Commission set the following goals and objectives for the 2020 RBS Program grant year:

GOALS

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

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide technical guidance and support for the development and enhancement of public access to fishing and boating opportunities. This effort includes cooperation with Federal and state government agencies, non-profit groups, and private businesses and landowners.
2. Maintain an efficient and cost-effective method of registering and titling boats, ensuring that Pennsylvania receives and deposits the fees expeditiously and that the boat owner receives

- title and registration certificates promptly and courteously.
3. Provide an adequate level of control over and distribution of aids to navigation and floating structures.
 4. Provide training opportunities, educational materials and support to boating education partners so all recreational boaters will be knowledgeable of the boating regulations and the principals of boating safety.
 5. Provide water rescue training upon request to police, fire and rescue personnel to prevent water-related fatalities due to an inadequate understanding of the forces of water and how to handle water emergencies.
 6. Provide a law enforcement effort that ensures an acceptable level of compliance with boating laws and regulations.
 7. Provide necessary vehicles, boats and other related equipment that Waterways Conservation Officers need for the efficient and effective performance of their duties.
 8. Maintain a liaison between the Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons and other boating safety organizations.
 9. Provide grants to local governments and non-profits for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion and rehabilitation of public boating facilities located on the waters of Pennsylvania.

ADMINISTRATION

1. **Maintain liaison with representatives of the boating industry, clubs and organizations, private citizens, and federal, state, and local officials to inform them of and engage them in portions of Pennsylvania’s Boating Program.**
 Staff met with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Pennsylvania Water Trail Partnership, Pittsburgh Safe Boating Council, Erie Safe Boating Task Force, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, Pennsylvania National Guard, and numerous individual sportsmen’s clubs, water trail managers, and others.
2. **Conduct a minimum of one Boating Advisory Board and four Commission meetings to formulate appropriate regulations and approaches to improve boating safety in Pennsylvania.**

The Boating Advisory Board (BAB) met on June 23, 2020. During their meeting, the BAB approved recommending the following items to the Commission:

Amendment to Section 111.6 (Berks County).

* * *

(a) *Blue Marsh Lake.*

* * *

(3) **[A boat may not tow more than one water-skier.]**

Amendment to Section 111.43 (Mercer County).

(a) *Shenango River Lake.*

(1) The use of motors in excess of **[10] 20** horsepower is prohibited in the area west of the Penn Central Railroad (Levittsburg) causeway to the Ohio line.

* * *

The Commission held four Board meetings during the FFY 2020.

During its quarterly meetings, the Commission approved the following regulatory item as final rulemaking:

Amendment to §119.8 Enforcement:

(a) An officer authorized to enforce this chapter who has reason to believe that a **[vessel] motorboat** is being operated in excess of the noise levels established in this chapter may direct the operator of the **[vessel] motorboat** to submit the **[vessel] motorboat** to an onsite test to measure noise levels. If the **[vessel] motorboat** exceeds the decibel levels established by this chapter, the officer may direct the operator to take immediate and reasonable measures to correct the violation, including returning the **[vessel] motorboat** to a mooring and keeping the **[vessel] motorboat** at the mooring until the violation is corrected or ceases.

(b) Any law enforcement officer who conducts motorboat noise level tests as provided in this chapter shall be qualified in motorboat noise testing by the Commission. Such qualifications shall include but are not limited to the selection of the measurement site, and the calibration and use of noise testing equipment.

(c) Measurements for either a Stationary or Pass-by Test will be made by a sound level meter which satisfies ANSI-S 1.4-1983, Type 2 or equivalent.

3. Advocate for the passage of laws that benefit boaters, particularly bills that address boating under the influence.

In FY20 the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacted as follows:

Amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in dams, bar racks and migration devices, further providing for marking of dams.

Section 1. Section 3510(h)(1) and (2) and (i) of Title 30 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended and subsection (h) is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

§ 3510. Marking of dams.

* * *

(h) Penalties.--

(1) Any person who fails to comply with subsection (a) or (b) [shall forfeit and pay a civil penalty of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000. The penalty shall be recovered by civil suit or process in the name of the Commonwealth] **commits a summary offense of the first degree for the first offense and a misdemeanor of the third degree for a subsequent offense.** Each [calendar year] **month** of noncompliance shall constitute a separate violation.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with subsection (c) [shall forfeit and pay a civil penalty of not less than \$250 nor more than \$5,000. The penalty shall be recovered by civil suit or process in the name of the Commonwealth] **commits a summary offense of the second degree for the first offense and a summary offense of the first degree for a subsequent offense.** Each [calendar year] **month** of noncompliance shall constitute a

separate violation.

* * *

(5) THE PROVISIONS OF 18 PA.C.S. (RELATING TO CRIMES AND OFFENSES) AND SECTION 923 (RELATING TO CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES AND PENALTIES), IN SO FAR AS THEY RELATE TO IMPRISONMENT FOR CONVICTIONS OF SUMMARY AND MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES, ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS SECTION.

(i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of the Commonwealth.

"Owner." The person who owns a run-of-the-river dam regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act.

"Permit." A permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act.

"Permittee." The person who has been issued a permit by the Department of Environmental Protection to maintain a run-of-the-river dam.

"Run-of-the-river dam." A manmade structure which:

(1) is **a dam** regulated [or permitted] by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act;

(2) is built across a [river or stream for the purposes of impounding water where the impoundment at normal flow levels is completely within the banks and all flow passes directly] **watercourse and certain flows pass** over the entire dam structure [within the banks], excluding abutments, to a natural channel downstream; and

(3) the department determines to have hydraulic characteristics such that at certain flows persons [entering the area immediately below the dam may be caught in the backwash] **may be caught in the hydraulic roller or boil immediately below the dam.**

Amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in property and waters, further providing for the offense of damage to property; in protection of property and waters, further providing for the offense of littering; IN FISHING LICENSES, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR FORM AND EXPIRATION OF LICENSES; in preliminary provisions relating to boats and boating, further providing for boating education; and, in operation of boats, further providing for the offense of operating watercraft under influence of alcohol or controlled substance and providing for the offense of aggravated assault by watercraft.

Section 2. Section 5103(a) and (j) of Title 30 are amended.

§ 5103. Boating education.

(a) Mandatory program of boater education.--Except as otherwise provided in this section, [on or after January 1, 2003,] any person born on or after January 1, 1982, shall not operate, on the waters of this Commonwealth, a motorboat without first obtaining a certificate of boating safety education.

* * *

(j) Penalty.--[On or after January 1, 2003, a person who is subject to the provisions of subsection (a) and who operates, on waters of this Commonwealth, a motorboat in violation of any requirement of this section commits a summary offense of the second degree.]

(1) A person who is subject to the provisions of subsection (a) and who operates a motorboat on waters of this Commonwealth without first obtaining a certificate of

boating safety education commits a summary offense of the second degree.

(2) A person who is subject to the provisions of subsection (a) and who operates a motorboat on waters of this Commonwealth without having a valid certificate of boating safety education in the person's possession commits a summary offense of the fourth degree.

* * *

(l) Boating without a certificate on board.--If a person who is subject to the provisions of subsection (a) is operating a motorboat without a certificate of boating safety education in the person's possession and claims that the person has obtained a certificate of boating safety education, the waterways conservation officer or other law enforcement officer shall give the operator seven days to produce the original certificate. If it is inconvenient for the operator to produce the certificate in person, the officer may permit the operator to mail the original certificate to the officer for verification. If the operator fails to send the original certificate within the seven-day period, the officer may institute summary proceeding against the operator in the manner prescribed by law.

Section 3. Sections 5502(b), (b.1), (b.2), (c), (c.1), (d), (g), (j), (m) and (n) of Title 30 are amended to read:

§ 5502. Operating watercraft under influence of alcohol or controlled substance.

* * *

(b) Authorized use not a defense.--The fact that any [person] **individual** charged with violating this section is or has been legally entitled to use alcohol or controlled substances is not a defense to a charge of violating this section.

(b.1) Certain arrests authorized.--In addition to any other powers of arrest, an officer authorized to enforce this title is hereby authorized to arrest without a warrant any [person] **individual** who the officer has probable cause to believe has violated the provisions of this section, regardless of whether the alleged violation was committed in the presence of such officer. This authority to arrest extends to any hospital or other medical treatment facility located beyond the territorial limits of the officer's political subdivision where the [person] **individual** to be arrested is found or was taken for purposes of emergency treatment, examination or evaluation, provided there is probable cause to believe that the violation of this section occurred within the police officer's political subdivision.

(b.2) Certain disposition prohibited.--The attorney for the Commonwealth shall not submit a charge brought under this section for Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition if:

(1) The defendant has been found guilty of or accepted Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition of a charge brought under this section **or 75 Pa.C.S. § 3802 (relating to driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance)** within [seven] **10** years of the date of the current offense **unless the charge was for an ungraded misdemeanor under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3802(a)(2) and was the defendant's first offense under this section or 75 Pa.C.S. § 3802.**

(2) An accident occurred in connection with the events surrounding the current offense and any [person] **individual** other than the defendant was killed or seriously injured as a result of the accident.

(3) There was a passenger under 14 years of age in the watercraft the defendant was operating.

(c) Grading.--

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2):

(i) An individual who violates subsection (a) and who has no more than one prior offense commits a misdemeanor for which the individual may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not more than six months and to pay a fine under

subsection (c.1).

(ii) An individual who violates subsection (a) and who has more than one prior offense commits a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(2) (i) An individual who violates subsection (a)(1) where there was an accident resulting in bodily injury, serious bodily injury or death of any [person] **individual** or in damage to a watercraft or other property and who has no more than one prior offense commits a misdemeanor for which the individual may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not more than six months and to pay a fine under subsection (c.1).

(ii) An individual who violates subsection (a.1) or (a.4) and who has no more than one prior offense commits a misdemeanor for which the individual may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not more than six months and to pay a fine under subsection (c.1).

(iii) An individual who violates subsection (a)(1) where the individual refused testing of blood or breath and who has no prior offenses commits a misdemeanor for which the individual may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not more than six months and to pay a fine under subsection (c.1).

(iv) An individual who violates subsection (a.2) or (a.3) and who has no prior offenses commits a misdemeanor for which the individual may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not more than six months and to pay a fine under subsection (c.1).

(v) An individual who violates subsection (a)(1) where there was an accident resulting in bodily injury, serious bodily injury or death of any [person] **individual** or in damage to a watercraft or other property and who has more than one prior offense commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(vi) An individual who violates subsection (a.1) or (a.4) and who has more than one prior offense commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(vii) An individual who violates subsection (a)(1) where the individual refused testing of blood or breath and who has one or more prior offenses commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(viii) An individual who violates subsection (a.2) or (a.3) and who has one or more prior offenses commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(ix) An individual who violates this section when a minor under 18 years of age was a passenger in the watercraft when the violation occurred commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(c.1) Penalties.--

(1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), (3) [or], (4) **or (5)**, an individual who violates subsection (a) shall be sentenced as follows:

(i) For a first offense, to undergo a mandatory minimum term of six months' probation and to pay a fine of \$300 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(ii) For a second offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than five days and to pay a fine of not less than \$300 nor more than \$2,500 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(iii) For a third or subsequent offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than ten days and to pay a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(2) Except as set forth in paragraph (3) or (4), an individual who violates subsection (a)(1) where there was an accident resulting in bodily injury, serious bodily injury or death

of any [person] **individual** or damage to a watercraft or other property or who violates subsection (a.1) or (a.4) shall be sentenced as follows:

(i) For a first offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than 48 consecutive hours and to pay a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(ii) For a second offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than 30 days and to pay a fine of not less than \$750 nor more than \$5,000 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(iii) For a third offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than 90 days and to pay a fine of not less than \$1,500 nor more than \$10,000 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(iv) For a fourth or subsequent offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than one year and to pay a fine of not less than \$1,500 nor more than \$10,000 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(3) Except as set forth in paragraph (4), an individual who violates subsection (a)(1) and refused testing of blood or breath or an individual who violates subsection (a.2) or (a.3) shall be sentenced as follows:

(i) For a first offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than 72 consecutive hours and to pay a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(ii) For a second offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than 90 days and to pay a fine of not less than \$1,500 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(iii) For a third or subsequent offense, to undergo imprisonment for not less than one year and to pay a fine of not less than \$2,500 and successfully complete an approved boating safety course.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection relating to mandatory minimum sentences, if the court makes a finding that the county jail population exceeds its capacity, the court may allow an individual who violated this section and is serving a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be released on parole to serve some or all of the individual's term of imprisonment on house arrest with electronic surveillance. This shall not apply to an individual who violates subsection (a)(1) where there was an accident resulting in serious bodily injury or the death of any [person] **individual**.

(5) An individual who violates this section when a minor under 18 years of age was a passenger in the watercraft when the violation occurred, in addition to any penalty imposed under this section, shall be sentenced as follows:

(i) For the first offense:

(A) Pay a fine of not less than \$1,000.

(B) Complete 100 hours of community service.

(ii) For a second offense:

(A) Pay a fine of not less than \$2,500.

(B) Undergo imprisonment for not less than one month nor more than six months.

(iii) For a third or subsequent offense, undergo imprisonment for not less than six months nor more than two years.

(d) Subsequent conviction.--Acceptance of Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition, an adjudication of delinquency or a consent decree under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 or any other form of preliminary disposition of any charge brought under this section or a conviction or guilty plea under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3802 [(relating to driving under influence of alcohol or controlled

substance)] shall be considered a first conviction for the purpose of computing whether a subsequent conviction of a violation of this section shall be considered a second, third or subsequent conviction.

* * *

§ 5502.4. Aggravated assault by watercraft.

(a) Offense defined.--An individual who recklessly or with gross negligence causes serious bodily injury to another person while engaged in the violation of a provision of this title or regulations promulgated under this title applying to the operation or equipment of boats or watercraft, except section 5502 (relating to operating watercraft under influence of alcohol or controlled substance), commits aggravated assault by watercraft, a felony of the third degree, when the violation is the cause of the injury.

(b) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "serious bodily injury" means any bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes serious permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

4. Inform U.S. Congressmen and State Legislators of projects and programs funded by Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund allocations to Pennsylvania.

The Commission has a legislative liaison to inform Legislators of programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

5. Participate in training and development opportunities to improve staff's knowledge and skills in boating safety, water rescue, grants management, access development, national education standards and outreach campaigns.

Commission staff participated in out-service training consisting of boating conferences, meetings, and trainings offered by various organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard, National Safe Boating Council, National Water Safety Congress, International Association for Water Rescue Professionals, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Conference, National Association for Search & Rescue and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

6. Improve internal computer-based boating accident reporting systems to ensure accuracy of information collected and enhanced submission, review and transmittal to the U.S. Coast Guard in a timely manner.

The Commission ensured timely reporting of accidents and proper investigation. The Commission continues with ongoing updates to its computer-based boating accident reporting system for the officers in the field which aids in collecting the appropriate information to be reported to the Coast Guard. The Commission also reviewed and streamlined its internal review process and workflow for boating accident reports and investigation reports.

BOAT REGISTRATION

1. Provide an effective and cost-efficient method of registering and titling boats, ensuring that Pennsylvania receives and deposits its revenues expeditiously and that the boat owner receives registration and titling certificates promptly and courteously.

The Commission utilizes a computer-based Registration and Titling System to process new boat registrations and maintain all boat registration data. The Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System allows boat owners to process boat registration renewals on-line. In

addition, boaters can purchase duplicate registration cards and update their addresses via the website.

EDUCATION

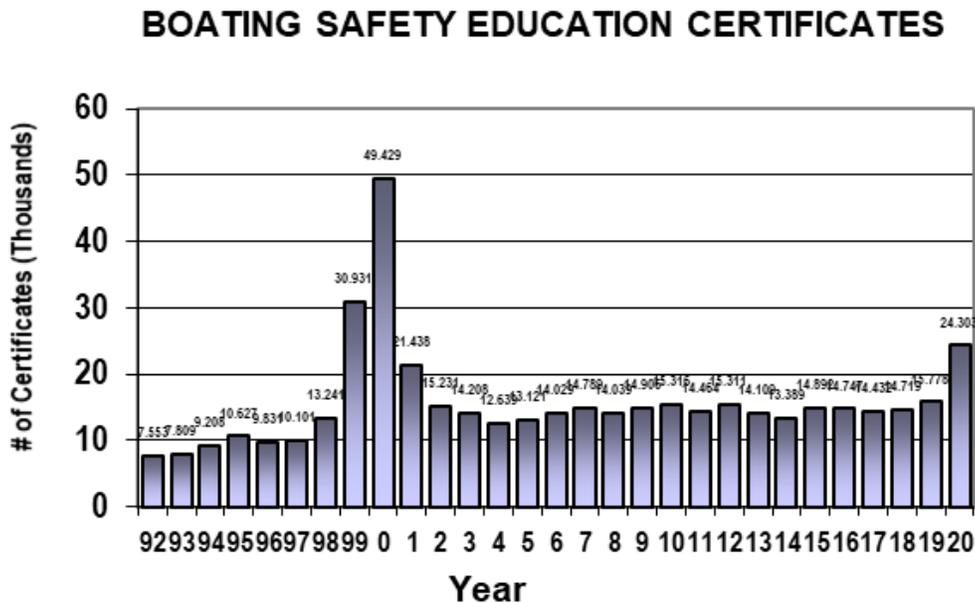
1. Continue to offer courses necessary for boat operators to obtain a NASBLA-approved Boating Safety Education Certificate.

The Commission certified 24,303 students in National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)-approved boating courses from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. This is an increase of 8,525 certificates from FFY 2019. The number of boating safety education certificates being issued annually is generally stable with only minor fluctuations over the past 20 years, however, this year had a non-typical increase.

The Commission issued boating safety education certificates to 591 students who successfully completed a PA Basic Boating classroom course, which is a decrease of 396 certificates than in the previous year. Not everyone who completed a boating course applied for a boating safety education certificate. The agency and its volunteers taught 46 PA Basic Boating classroom courses.

Instructors and staff taught 11 Boating & Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) courses in FFY 2020, with 168 of those students obtaining a boating safety education certificate.

Approximately 50% of students successfully completing the course apply to the Commission for a boating safety education certificate. Students may complete the course but do not want or are not required by law to have the certification. Several instructors indicate they teach most, but not all, of the BWSA curriculum. That is, they teach components and/or specific skills but not the complete course which precludes students from applying for certification.



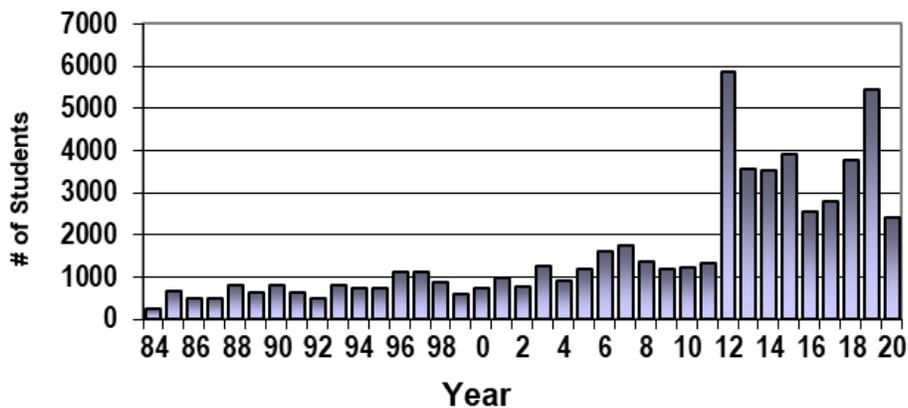
The Commission continues to be very successful with the distance learning courses and has received requests for our Commission-established course criteria from others states. In FFY 2020, the Commission issued 23,413 boating education certificates to students for

successfully completing these long-distance (internet/video) learning courses, an increase of 9,574 from FFY 2019.

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

In FFY 2020, the Commission certified 2,392 students through the Water Rescue Program which meets or exceeds various levels (Awareness, Operations, Technician) of NFPA 1670 Standards. This is a decrease of 3,048 students from FFY 2019. In FFY 2020, 1,483 students were certified in the Commission’s 2½-hour Water Rescue for the First Responder NFPA 1670 Awareness level program. The Commission has a trained in-state volunteer instructor corps of 196 individuals who provided more than 7,300 hours of training this past year. The Commission’s Water Rescue program is the largest of its kind in the United States.

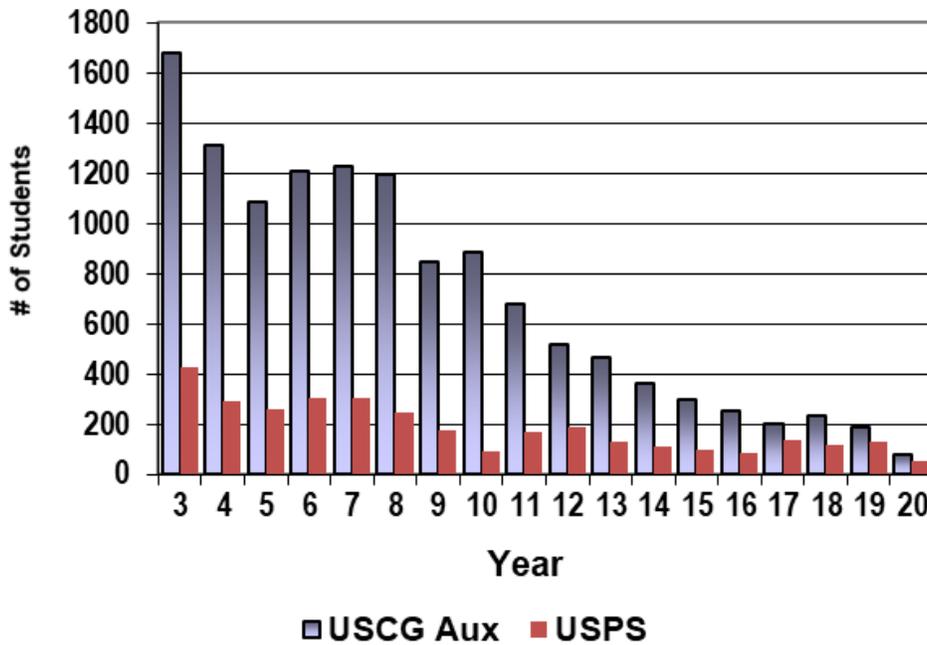
Water Rescue Students



3. Continue to foster a close working relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron’s education programs for boater safety certification. Invite key representatives to Boating Advisory Board meetings and provide updated instructor information to all Auxiliary Flotillas and U.S. Power Squadrons in Pennsylvania.

The Commission issued awards and certificates to outstanding Flotillas and Auxiliarists in the 5th Northern District in Pennsylvania. Successful students in Auxiliary courses submitted 78 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2020, a decrease of 108 certificates from FFY 2019. USPS course students submitted 52 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2020, a decrease of 79 certificates. The chart on the following page clearly indicates a long-term decrease in the number of students being certified by the Commission in USCG Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadron Courses. This is most likely due to the competition from online courses and a reduction in demand for classroom courses. All Commission, Auxiliary, Power Squadron and other approved courses are listed on the Commission’s website. Course information is available from the Commission’s toll-free telephone number. Commission representatives continue to attend USPS and USCG Auxiliary conferences, workshops, and (on request) teach the legal requirements section for their courses. Representatives from the USCG, USCG Auxiliary, and USPS were in virtual attendance at the Commission’s Boating Advisory Board meetings in 2020.

**Commission Certified Students
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Power Squadrons
2003 - 2020**



4. Develop non-certification paddlesports safety education program, corresponding curriculum and instructor training. Produce and distribute boating safety literature; incorporate the “Wear It Pennsylvania” message into all boating safety materials distributed by the Commission.

During the period, PFBC staff conducted 3 non-certification paddlesports safety programs reaching 11 participants. These programs provided instruction on legal requirements and basic skills, and most provided an on-water experience; a significant portion of this half-day program is spent teaching boating safety education and basic paddling skills. (These numbers are considerably lower than previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

Throughout the year, the PFBC used its suite of printed publications to further promote safe boating with full-page, full-color messaging in its annual Pennsylvania Fishing Summary (450,000 copies produced), *Boating Regulation Recap* brochures (100,000 produced), 2020 *Pocket Guide* (75,000 produced), and in its subscription-based agency magazine, *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* (distributed six times a year). Specifically, with the May/June printed issue of the magazine (distribution of 9,400 copies), and in its digital version of the magazine (72,032 subscribers), a full-page advertisement was included which promoted National Safe Boating Week. In addition, students completing the PA Basic Boating Course, or the Boating and Water Safety Awareness Course, received a copy of the *Boating Handbook* (100,000 copies produced in 2019) and *Regulation Recap* brochure. The Commission distributed boating safety literature, paid or free publications, at all boat and sports shows where it had a presence, throughout its January through March season. The Commission processed 53 requests for boating safety education materials.

The Commission's website is a major source of boating safety information. There is a wide array of boating and water safety materials at <http://www.fishandboat.com>. Everything from an enhanced version of the *PA Boating Handbook*, to water trails maps, to information on where to find a personal flotation device (PFD), is included (<http://fishandboat.com/Boat/Boating>). Links to the Commission's boating safety partners enhance the site. In addition, the Commission has a "Wear It!" resource page at: <https://pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>, which includes a video with a "Wear It Pennsylvania!" message from the Commission's Executive Director, in addition to audio clips, press releases, and web banners. Web visitation to boating (see URL above) and boating safety education (<https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingCourses/Pages/default.aspx>) pages resulted in a total of 92,286-page views during the period.

New, in 2020, was the development of a paddlesports webpage to provide boating and water safety messaging specifically to paddlesport enthusiasts (<https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/Pages/Paddlesports.aspx>). Also new was the creation of an Activities and Education Portal which offers an expanded compilation of resources on a variety of topics including Boating and Water Safety (<https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/BoatingWaterSafety/Pages/default.aspx>), Paddlesports (<https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/Paddlesports/Pages/default.aspx>), and Kayak Fishing (<https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/KayakFishing/Pages/default.aspx>).

An important part of the Commission's media extension of the "Wear It!" branding and other boating safety messaging is with its social media presence. Through its Twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/fishandboat>), its Facebook page (<http://facebook.com/PaFishandBoat>), its Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/pafishandboat/>), and its YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/PAfishandboat>), the PFBC has garnered an exceptional amount of viewer/visitor attention with its postings and videos which reinforce life jacket wear, boating education certificates, and particularly, the agency's mandated cold-weather life jacket regulation, occurring from November 1 through April 30.

New in 2020 was the creation of Boating and Water Safety, Paddlesports, and Kayak Fishing Video Playlists on our Facebook and YouTube platforms, several Paddlesports Video Series on Facebook, and the development of an Instagram TV (IGTV) channel to increase our social media presence and allow our audience to more easily find information pertinent to boating requirements, regulations, education, drowning prevention, and especially the importance of wearing a life jacket.

5. Maintain a video library available to boating safety instructors, various organizations, clubs and individuals from across Pennsylvania.

Use of the library diminishes each year, as the availability of on-line resources continues to increase. As a result, the PFBC is phasing out the video library. In addition to the on-line resources available, each PFBC instructor is provided a copy of or has access to the Boat America DVD produced by Kalkomey Enterprises.

6. Participate in Operation Dry Water, "Wear It!" campaign, "Ready, Set, Wear It!"

events, and National Safe Boating Week events to promote boating safety and life jacket wear.

The Commission enhanced its adoption of the “Wear It!” campaign through its website with select and updated web pages (<http://pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>), placement of web banners on its home page, and other pages on the site with links to USCG and National Safe Boating Council resources throughout National Safe Boating Week and the rest of the year. To increase ease-of-access, the Commission also maintains a separate website domain (www.WearItPennsylvania.com) as a promotional URL to effectively redirect visitors to useful life jacket information in conjunction with the “Wear It Pennsylvania!” branding and campaign efforts.

To great success, use of postings and videos supporting these events occurred through the Commission’s social media portals (as per above detailed in Item #1 and again in Item #4 below).

7. Promote boating safety through special events, news releases, radio messages, public service announcements, radio and TV interviews and the Commission’s web page.

In FFY 2020, the Commission used several forms of media to promote its “Wear It Pennsylvania!” brand. This included a boat registration renewal mailing with safe boating messaging sent to 149,336 boat owners. And, as part of the mailed boat registration decals fulfilled during the term of this report, additional boating safety information (including reminders about life jacket wear) were part of the mailer package which were sent to more than 162,793 purchased boat registrations and duplicate boat registrations. Boating Safety brochures were also sent out to purchasers of 166,077 launch permits. Also, safe boating portable exhibits promoting life jacket wear were displayed at multiple outdoor and boating show venues during the period. PFBC’s website (www.fishandboat.com) promoted the “Wear It!” campaign with select and updated web pages (<http://www.pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>), placement of web banners on the home page and other pages on the site with links to USCG and National Safe Boating Council resources. During May, PFBC’s website received a substantial increase in visitation. The Commission also issued several press releases on safe boating practices through the year.

The Commission used several special events to deliver the “Wear It!” safe boating message. Those events are listed in the table below. At several of these events, boating safety courses were offered to those attending the event. The PFBC’s “Wear It Pennsylvania!” exhibit graphic was used extensively, and several different boating and water safety publications were distributed.

Start Date	End Date	Show/Event
1/04/20	1/11/20	Pennsylvania Farm Show
1/16/20	1/19/20	Pittsburgh Boat Show
1/23/20	1/26/20	Early Bird Sport Show

2/01/20	2/09/20	Great American Outdoor Show
2/14/20	2/16/20	Allegheny Sports Travel and Outdoor Show
2/21/20	2/23/20	Philadelphia Fishing Show
2/28/20	3/01/20	Erie Sport and Travel Show
03/06/20	3/08/20	Greater Philadelphia Boat Show

AIDS-TO-NAVIGATION

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

The Commission maintains accurate, up-to-date computerized records of all aids-to-navigation on Pennsylvania waters. The inventory is managed by the waterway programs manager and is kept current through the ATON Program with the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, federal and state agencies, and the Commission's WCOs.

- 2. Continue to maintain a numbering system for all aids with emphasis on determining the exact location of each aid and purpose.**

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

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

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

- 4. Include use and identification of aids through the distribution of the PA Boating Handbook.**

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, USPS, Commission boating education instructors and others distribute the PA Boating Handbook as part of boating education classes. In addition, short articles on ATON appeared in the *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine and PFBC website.

5. Place information and warning signs (as necessary) at Commission access sites and hazardous areas.

Aluminum/fiberboard (4' x 4') warning signs are routinely placed at public launch sites to provide boaters with necessary regulatory and safety warnings as part of the Commission's overall Aids to Navigation Program.

6. Review ATON plans for bridge construction projects for state agencies and local governments.

The Commission reviews all ATON plans for rehabilitation or replacement of bridge projects on waterways. Technical guidance is provided to engineering firms and PA Department of Transportation for plans to place signage and buoys around bridge projects to avoid accidents and allow for continued safe navigation through construction areas.

7. Evaluate and, if necessary, procure the use of private organizations to place, maintain and remove aids to navigation through contract or agreement.

The Commission awarded contracts in FFY 2020 for the placement, maintenance and removal of aids-to-navigation. The contracts for these Commission-owned aids-to-navigation are part of our Boating Safety Program. These contracts allow conservation officers to focus on primary safety and enforcement duties.

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

The Commission reviewed, approved and assigned a permit number for the installation of floating structures on Commonwealth waters in FFY 2020. These permits constitute a total of 1,693 structures, a decrease of 5,581 from FFY 2019 (see graph below for details). The majority of new ATON continues to be associated with increased bridge construction activity. The majority of decreases are associated with either (a) earlier construction project that have been completed or (b) privately owned structures no longer in use.

Float Permit ATON Quantities Report:

Type	Quantity	Type	Quantity
Channel	29	Boom	0
Controlled Area	590	Mooring	323
Float	114	Race Course	8
Floating Dock	154	Restricted Area	162
Hazard	153	Ski Ramp	0
Information	23	Slalom Course	12
Jet Ski Course	0	Other	125
TOTAL 1,693			

9. Conduct site visits to ensure compliance with Chapter 113 of Title 58, Pennsylvania Code (Aids to Navigation and Obstructions to Navigation).

The Commission's corps of Waterways Conservation Officers routinely checks the placement of regulatory ATON. ATON is also checked to ensure placement and serviceability by the USCG Auxiliary.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. **Conduct law enforcement patrols to ensure boaters' compliance with existing laws and regulations regarding recreational boating.**

Enforcement of Pennsylvania's boating laws and regulations is performed primarily by a current complement of 86 Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs), which include supervisory staff, and over 57 part-time Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers (DWCOs). The Fish and Boat Code also provides enforcement authority to state and local police and other enforcement agencies specifically authorized by the Commission, although the amount of this activity is minimal. WCOs and their DWCOs perform other duties beyond boat law enforcement, such as fish law enforcement, public relations, water pollution investigation, fish stocking, equipment maintenance and, of course, the teaching of boating safety classes. In FFY 2020, WCOs issued, and the courts adjudicated, 1,694 summary citations for boating violations. Lack of personal flotation devices or improper personal flotation devices onboard boats continued to be the most common boating violations. There were 13,014 warnings for boating violations issued by WCOs.

WCOs also conducted 30,114 safety boardings on recreational boats. Patrols are conducted by vehicle and on foot, but primarily with the Commission's more than 115 patrol craft. Investigating boating accidents and boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs cases consume a large portion of field officers' time. Sixty-one arrests were made in FFY 2020 for boating-under-the-influence (BUI). Specialized BUI enforcement details were conducted throughout the state on waterways with the highest recreational boating use, including Presque Isle Bay, Allegheny River, Ohio River, Monongahela River, Lake Wallenpaupack, Raystown Lake, Delaware River, Blue Marsh Lake, and several boating pools on the Susquehanna River. WCOs investigated several high-profile boating accidents that involved serious injury or fatalities on Commonwealth waters and investigated a total of 64 reportable boating accidents.

2. **Provide necessary training, vehicles and boats for law enforcement personnel.**

The Commission continues to train and employ high quality WCOs. Training in various disciplines was conducted at the state, region, and district levels during the FFY 2020. Training conducted was mandatory in-service law enforcement as well as water rescue based. The Swift Water Emergency Response Team (SWERT) and the Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PAHART) continued to train and hone their skills during this past year. We deployed these water rescue assets several times throughout the Commonwealth. Fifteen patrol vehicles and five patrol boats were purchased and upgrades (outboard motors) were made to several patrol boats.

BOATING FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM

1. **Facilitate funding to local governments and organizations for the acquisition, planning, engineering, development, expansion and major rehabilitation of public recreational boat access facilities.**

In 2020, the Commission awarded 12 grants under the Boating Facility Grant Program. The Commission provided funding for the grants that ranged from \$1,000 to \$99,000. The total amount of funding awarded under the 2020 round of Boating Facility Grants was \$511,017. The total estimated costs for all of the project was \$1,699,134.

2. Implement Fishing and Boating Access Strategy that identifies and prioritizes public fishing and boating facility needs throughout Pennsylvania. Encourage use of the plan as rating criteria for various partners' grant programs and implementation of recommended improvements.

Commission staff completed a statewide fishing and boating access plan in FFY 2009. The plan identifies current access areas, areas where additional access is needed, existing conditions of the facilities and makes recommendations for improving access throughout the state. The plan divides the state into 52 HUC-8 watersheds and prioritizes them according to the need for additional access. Based on the information in the access plan, the Commission pursues opportunities and coordinates with partners for the development of new fishing and boating access. During FFY 2020, the Commission continued to provide technical support and guidance within high priority watersheds identified in the fishing and boating access plan.

3. Provide technical guidance for the development or enhancement of public fishing and boating access sites.

The Commission continues to provide technical assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations for the development and enhancement of public fishing and boating access sites. The Commission does this by providing technical guidance and site inspections for potential access improvements or developments.

4. Review bridge construction project plans to recommend boating access improvement opportunities.

The Commission coordinates with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to recommend or require boating access maintenance or improvement opportunities for bridge rehabilitation or replacement projects on waterways. The Commission provides technical guidance to engineering firms and the Department for boating access design upon request.