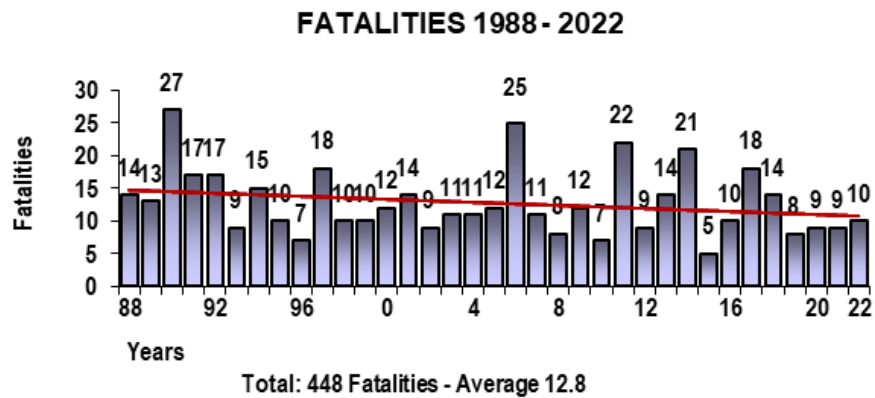
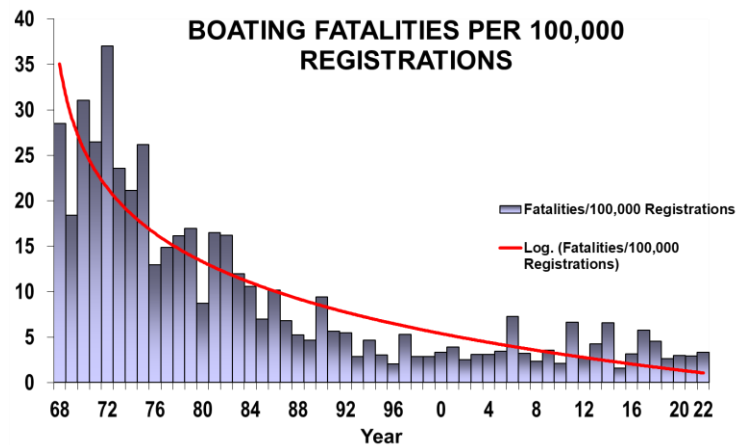


**RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM
 PERFORMANCE REPORT
 PART 1 C: ACCOMPLISHMENTS
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

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. In FFY22, Pennsylvania reported 36 recreational boating accidents, an all-time historical low (since beginning recordkeeping in 1988). 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 2022. The average number of fatalities from 1988 through 2022 is 12.8. The most recent ten-year average (2013 through 2022) is 11.8.

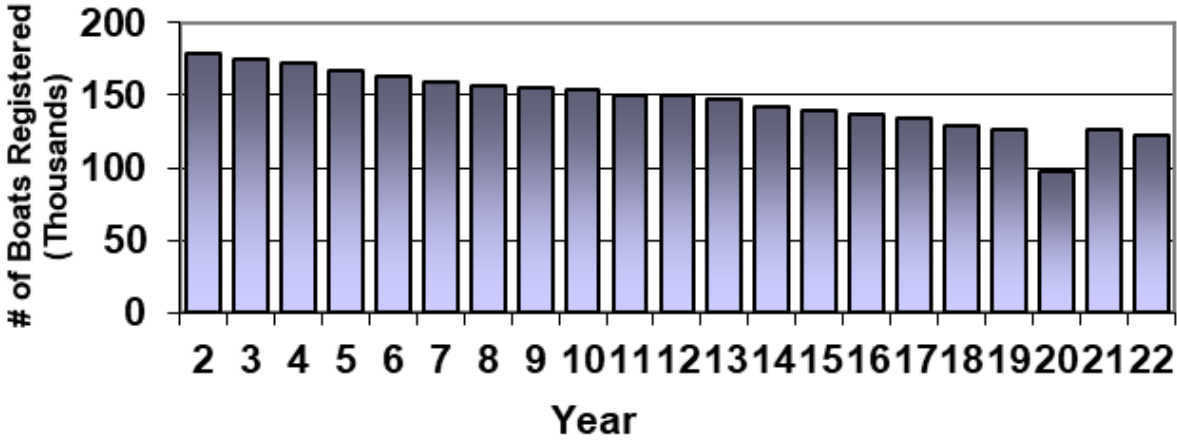


The success of the Commission’s boating safety program is illustrated by comparing the number of fatalities to the number of registered boats. These records are available for the last 55 years. The following graph shows the number of recreational boating fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. From October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, Pennsylvania had 298,715 registered watercraft and reported 10 fatalities which equates to three fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. The number of boats registered in the Commonwealth over the last 55 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.

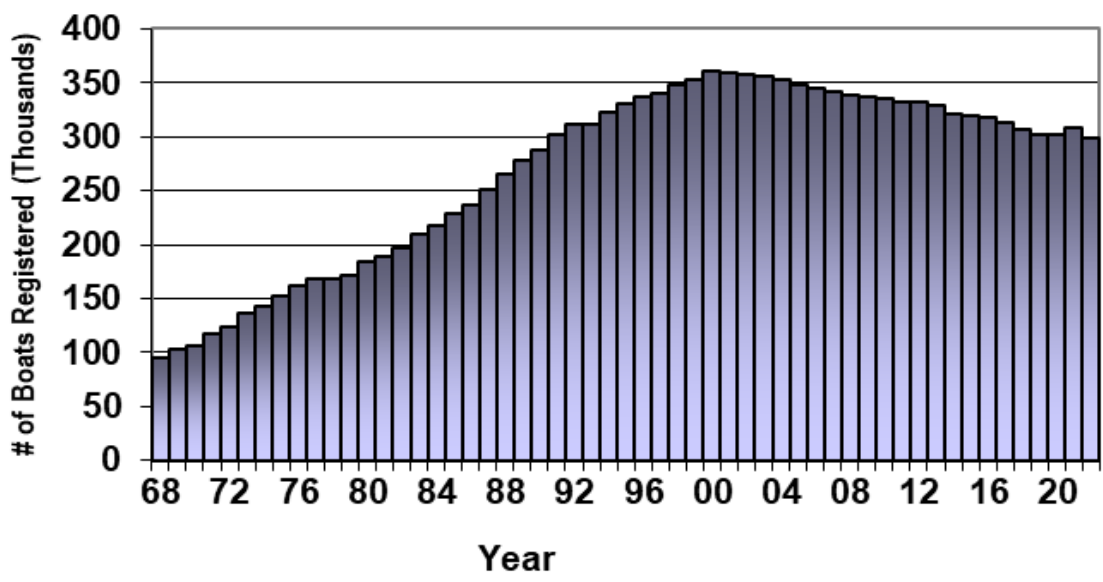


Pennsylvania experienced a decrease of 9,387 boat registrations in 2022 over 2021. During the period of 2000-2022, boat registrations have declined in all but three years (2012, 2020, 2021). The highest number of registrations was in 2000 with 360,361 registered boats. There was also a decrease in numbers of motorboats less than 16 feet in length that are registered in Pennsylvania (see chart below).

MOTORBOATS <16 FT. REGISTRATIONS



BOAT REGISTRATIONS 1968 - 2022



	2022 BOAT REG STATS	2021 BOAT REG STATS	2020 BOAT REG STATS	2019 BOAT REG STATS	2018 BOAT REG STATS	2017 BOAT REG STATS
Total Active Registrations:	298,715	308,102	301,450	301,287	306,781	313,590
Total Unpowered Registrations:	33,596	35,427	35,430	36,254	37,911	37,425
Total Active PWCs:	29,108	29,697	28,329	27,644	27,310	27,392
Less than 16 Ft.	92,637	126,840	96,822	125,736	129,212	133,783
16 Ft. to 25 Ft.	136,060	138,403	133,784	132,137	132,483	133,653
26 Ft. to 39 Ft.	6,686	6,804	6,482	6,499	6,534	6,698
40 Ft. to 65 Ft.	588	588	565	589	604	613
Boats > 65 Ft.	40	40	38	36	37	39
Rowboats	1,686	1,820	1,783	1,871	1,892	1,790
Sailboats	932	972	1,020	1,110	1,233	1,270
Paddlecraft: Canoes, Kayaks, Other Similar Boats	30,978	34,596	32,627	36,254	57,680	49,899

The Commission set the following goals and objectives for the 2022 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 February 7, 2022 and June 21, 2022. During their meeting, the BAB voted to recommend the following items to the Commission. The Commission held five Board meetings during the FFY 2022. During its quarterly meetings, the Commission approved all of the recommendations as approved and/or final rulemaking.

§ 97.2. Fire extinguishers.

* * * * *

(c) Fire extinguishers carried in compliance with this section shall be maintained in [a usable condition] “good and serviceable” working condition and [shall be charged] in compliance with the specifications on the manufacturer’s certification label, meaning: [Gauges shall be operable and nozzles shall be free of obstruction. In prosecutions for violations of this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that a fire extinguisher is not usable if its gauge shows that the extinguisher is discharged.]

(i) It has a pressure gauge reading or indicator in the operable range or position, if there is one;

- (ii) The lock pin is firmly in place;
- (iii) The discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction; and
- (iv) The portable fire extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

In prosecutions for violations of this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that a fire extinguisher is not usable if its gauge shows that the extinguisher is discharged.

§ 111.20. Crawford County.

* * * * *

(e) Woodcock Creek Lake.

- (1) The use of motors in excess of [10]20 horsepower is prohibited.

* * * * *

§ 109.4. Waterskiing [, aquaplaning, kiteskiing, and similar activities] **and other boat-towed watersports.**

(a) *Definitions.* The following words and terms, when used in this section, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Boat-towed device—An inflatable tube or other device designed to be sat, stood, kneeled, or laid upon while being towed through or on water behind a boat. The term includes water skis, aquaplanes, kneeboards, in able hot dogs, air mattress, parasails, kite skis, and similar devices.

Boat-towed watersports—Activities that involve being towed by a boat or riding in or on the wake of a boat such as, but not limited to, waterskiing, wake surfing, and tubing

Competent observer—A person who has the ability to assess when a [skier] person being towed behind a boat is in trouble, knows and understands the waterskiing hand signals, and is capable of helping [a skier] a person being towed.

PFD—Personal Flotation Device as defined in § 97.1.

Trick-skier—A water-skier who can be identified by body movements and skiing positions, which readily differentiate the trick-skier from the ordinary “forward” skier engaged in straight skiing or slalom and jump events, and also by the following:

(a) Skis. Short (38 inches—40 inches) and wide (8 inches—9 inches) with no keels on bottom.

(b) Speed of tow. Slow (12—18 miles per hour).

(c) Rope. Short (40 to 50 feet) and often with toehold strap attached to handle.

Wake surfing—A competitive or recreational water sport in which a person on a wake board or similar style board rides in or on the wake of a motorboat.

Water ski—A [device] single or pair of long flat runners designed to be used by a person [to be towed through or on] for planing over water while being towed behind a boat. [The term includes conventional water skis, aquaplanes, kneeboards, inner tubes, inflatable hot dogs, air mattress, parasails, kite skis and similar devices.]

Waterskiing—A competitive or recreational water sport in which a person is towed across the water’s surface behind a boat in any fashion on a water ski as defined in this subsection or on [his] their bare feet.

(1) **[Skiing hours] Hours. [Ski activities] Waterskiing and other boat-towed watersports** are prohibited between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

(2) *Observer required.* The following conditions apply:

(a) *General rule.* Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, it is unlawful for a person to operate a boat towing or otherwise assisting a person on water skis **or other boat-towed watersports** unless there is at least one competent observer in the boat in addition to the operator of the boat. The observer shall be positioned in the boat to observe the progress of the person being towed. It is unlawful for a person to water ski **or ride a towed device** being towed by a watercraft or device not containing an operator and observer as required by this subsection.

(b) *Special conditions.* The Executive Director, or a designee, may issue a permit to allow a limited exception to paragraph (1). A permit issued under this paragraph will permit operation of a boat towing a **[water skier] water-skier** without an observer, in addition to the operator, on board the boat. These operations will be permitted only under the following conditions:

(d) Both the operator of the boat and the **[water skier] water-skier** meet safety training requirements as evidenced by documented completion of a safe boating course and active membership in a State or National waterskiing organization, which provides members with information on waterskiing safety.

(e) The operator fulfills the definition of a “competent observer” as set forth in this section, wears an approved PFD and is a person 18 years of age or older.

(f) The boat is equipped with the following:

(3) A rearview mirror which is at least 5 inches by 10 inches configured so that the operator may at all times observe the progress of the person being towed.

(4) A ski platform.

(5) A boom, towing eye, or pylon mounted permanently inside the hull of the boat to which the towing rope is secured.

(c) Only one person is being towed.

(d) The water skis **[or other device]** on which the person is riding are attached only to the person and not to the boat.

(e) Conditions, including weather, other boating activities, and congestion in the vicinity of the proposed operation, do not impede safe and prudent boat or waterskiing operations.

(f) The waterskiing takes place before the hour of 10 a.m. on a day other than a weekend or holiday. The Executive Director, for good cause shown, may permit waterskiing under this section on a Saturday or Sunday before the hour of 10 a.m. if the Executive Director finds that other boating activities on the waters at the same time will not interfere with the **[water-skiing] waterskiing**.

(g) The waterskiing takes place on waters described and approved for the operations in the permit.

(h) The waterskiing takes place when the Executive Director or a designee indicates in the permit.

(i) The boat towing the **[water skier] water-skier** displays a special water ski flag of a size and design approved by the Commission.

(i) The permittee carries the permit onboard while operating the boat towing a [**water skier**] **water-skier** without an observer.

(d) *Umbilical or remote controls.* A person may not operate a device which is controlled by a person connected to the power source by means of an umbilical or remote control, or both, which tows the person on or through the water.

(e) [**Ski tow**] **Tow ropes.** [**Ski tow**] **Tow** ropes may not exceed the following lengths:

(1) Conventional water skis and similar devices—80 feet.

(2) Nonreleasable kite ski – 150 feet.

(3) Releasable kite ski—500 feet.

(4) Parasails—300 feet.

(5) Commercial winch boat parasails—600 feet.

(f) *PFDs.* It is unlawful for a person to operate a boat on the waters of this Commonwealth for:

(i) Waterskiing **and other boat-towed watersports (except wake surfing)** unless each person being towed is wearing a United States Coast Guard approved wearable PFD in accordance with § 97.1 (relating to personal flotation devices). Inflatable PFDs may not be used to meet this requirement.

(ii) Wake surfing unless the wake surfer is wearing a United States Coast Guard approved wearable PFD in accordance with § 97.1 or water ski wetsuit as defined in subsection (g). Inflatable PFDs may not be used to meet this requirement.

(g) *Water ski wetsuits.* A person engaged in slalom skiing on a marked course or a person engaged in barefoot, jump or trick skiing, or wake surfing may elect to wear a wetsuit designed specifically for the activity in lieu of the United States Coast Guard approved wearable PFD required in § 97.1. A United States Coast Guard approved wearable [**PDF**] **PFD** described in § 97.1 shall be carried in the tow boat for each skier electing to wear a water ski wetsuit. The nonapproved water ski wetsuit device shall meet the following criteria:

(1) The device shall be marked by the manufacturer as a water ski wetsuit.

(2) The device shall be constructed of nylon covered neoprene or similar material and may have either long or short sleeves or be sleeveless. The device may have legs.

(k) The device shall be equipped with additional flotation padding material of a close cell nonabsorptive type such as PVC foam or Ensolite®. This flotation/padding shall be sewn into the device according to the following:

- On the front extending from the clavicle to the top of the pelvis vertically and covering the front rib cage area and covering as much of the side area as feasible. A maximum gap between padded areas on the side of the suit under the arm is 4 inches.
- On the rear of the device, padding/flotation material shall cover the area from the top of the shoulder blade to the top of the pelvis and span the entire width of the back.
- Padding/flotation shall be at least 1/2-inch thick. This thickness excludes the thickness of covering material.

(h) *Starting and returning from shore or dock.* Notwithstanding the slow, no wake restrictions contained in § 103.3(b) (relating to restriction for special areas), skiers are permitted to start from the shore or dock if the traffic situation permits this to be done safely and in accordance with other water ski regulations. A [**water skier**] **water-skier** is not permitted to be returned to dock or shore under power. The skier shall release outside the 100-foot limit. The skier may then coast

or glide toward the shore or dock, if the skier does not endanger life and property in so doing and steers clear of swimmers, docks and boats.

(g) *Ski ramps and jumps.* Ski ramps or jumps, authorized in accordance with § 113.10 (relating to permits for installation and lighting of floats, ski ramps and other floating structures) shall have attached on each side a sign which will be evidence that the installation is authorized and warn boaters against mooring or drifting within 100 feet of the jump while it is in use.

(h) *Kiteskiing and parasailing.* The following additional restrictions are applicable to kiteskiing and parasailing:

(1) Kiteskiing and parasailing is prohibited on waters where waterskiing is prohibited or is subject to special regulation.

(2) Kiteskiing or parasailing is prohibited on water when other boating activities or congestion impedes safe and prudent operations.

(3) Kite skiers and parasailers may not fly over or under overhead obstructions such as power and telephone lines or bridges; nor may they fly over dams, locks, docks, launching ramps, swim areas, marinas, or congested areas.

(k) *Wake surfing.* Boats engaged in the activity of wake surfing are limited to slow, no wake speed when within 200 feet of the following:

- (1) Shore line.
- (2) Docks.
- (3) Launching ramps.
- (4) Swimmers or downed skiers.
- (5) Persons wading in the water.
- (6) Anchored, moored, or drifting boats.
- (7) Floats, except for ski jumps and ski landing floats.
- (8) Other marked areas.

* * * * *

§ 103.3. Restriction for special areas.

(a) Boats are limited to slow, no wake speed when within 100 feet of the shoreline; docks; launching ramps; swimmers or downed skiers, **or other boat-towed watersports participants;** persons wading in the water; anchored, moored, or drifting boats; floats, except for ski jumps and ski landing floats; or other areas so marked. This subsection does not apply in a zoned ski area or authorized ski return areas when those areas are found within the areas described in this subsection.

* * * * *

§ 105.1. Conditions requiring immediate corrective action.

A condition requiring immediate corrective actions shall exist when a boat:

* * * * *

(8) Is pulling a [water skier] **water-skier or other boat-towed watersports participant** without the required observer aboard.

* * * * *

§ 105.3. Unacceptable boating practices. It is unlawful to:

* * * * *

(8) Operate within 100 feet of a water-skier **or other boat-towed watersports participant** being towed by another boat.

* * * * *

(11) Operate a motorboat at any speed when towing a person on waterskis or other **boat-towed** devices using a tow rope of 20 feet or less as measured from the transom of the boat. This prohibition does not apply to wake surfing as defined in § 109.4 (relating to waterskiing [, **aquaplaning, kiteskiing and similar activities**] **and other boat-towed watersports**).

* * * * *

§ 111.2. Allegheny County.

(a) *Allegheny River*. The following special regulations apply to the Allegheny River:

* * * * *

(2) The area behind Nine Mile Island, Mile 10.0 to Mile 10.4 is a designated ski zone. Boats not actively engaged in towing [**water skiers**] **water-skiers or other boat-towed watersport participants** are limited to slow, no wake speed.

(b) *Monongahela River*. Waterskiing [**is**] **and other boat-towed watersports are** prohibited from the Glassport Bridge (Mile 19.4) to the Union Railroad Bridge (Mile 21.1) at Clairton.

* * * * *

§ 111.3. Armstrong County.

(a) *Crooked Creek Lake*.

(1) A boat may not tow more than one [**water-skier**] **boat-towed device** on weekends and holidays from the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Labor Day.

* * * * *

§ 111.6. Berks County.

(a) *Blue Marsh Lake*.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

§ 111.13. Carbon County.

(a) *Beltzville Lake—Beltzville State Park*.

* * * * *

(3) Waterskiing [**is**] **and other boat-towed watersports are** prohibited except between sunrise and sunset in the designated ski zone. Boats in this zoned area shall operate in a counter-clockwise direction. Boats not engaged in waterskiing **and other boat-towed watersports** shall remain outside the ski zone area while waterskiing [**is**] **and other boat-towed watersports are** in progress. A boat may not tow more than one [**water ski**] **boat-towed device** on weekends and holidays from the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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§ 111.58. Susquehanna County.

* * * * *

(d) *Laurel Lake*.

* * * * *

(i) *Restrictions on operation of boats powered by internal combustion motors*. Operation of boats powered by internal combustion motors is subject to the following restrictions:

(1) **[Ski]Towed devices.** A boat may not tow more than one **[water ski] boat-towed** device.

(2) *Upper Lake.* Boat speed is limited to slow, no wake speed except that, during the period from noon until 6 p.m., no more than two boats powered by internal combustion motors may, at any one time, operate at speeds greater than slow, no wake speed in the marked boat operating zone. Boats operating in the marked zone shall circle in a counter- clockwise direction and shall be subject to the restrictions in this subsection and the code and this subpart. It is unlawful to water ski **or tow any other boat-towed device** or to operate a boat at greater than slow, no wake speed at any location on the upper lake from 6 p.m. until noon of the following day.

(iii) *Lower Lake.* It is unlawful to water ski **or tow any other boat-towed device** or to operate a boat at greater than slow, no wake speed at any time at any location on the lower lake.

* * * * *

§ 111.64. Wayne County.

(a) *Duck Harbor Pond.*

* * * * *

(2) A boat may not tow more than one **[water ski] boat-towed** device on weekends and holidays from the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Labor Day.

* * * * *

(b) *Long Pond.*

* * * * *

(a) Waterskiing **[is] and other boat-towed watersports are** permitted from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays and from 10 a.m. until sunset on weekdays other than holidays.

(b) A boat may not tow more than one **[water ski] boat-towed device** on weekends and holidays from the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Labor Day.

* * * * *

§ 111.66. Wyoming County.

Lake Winola.

* * * * *

(2) A boat may not tow more than one **[water ski] boat-towed** device on weekends and holidays from the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Labor Day.

* * * * *

§ 107.1. Horsepower restrictions.

On waters where horsepower limitations are prescribed, as set forth in Chapter 111 (relating to special regulations counties), **[boats with motors larger than the maximum horsepower shall be permitted but the motors may not be used] the use of internal combustion motors in excess of the prescribed horsepower limitation is prohibited.**

§ 107.2. Electric motors.

Except as otherwise specified in Chapter 111 (relating to special regulations counties):

(j) Electric motors are permitted on Commission owned or controlled lakes and on State Park lakes where boating is permitted.

(k) Boats propelled by electric motors on Commission owned or controlled lakes, State Park lakes and water bodies shall not be operated at greater than slow, no-wake speed.

(2) (3) On Commission and State Park owned or controlled lakes, internal combustion motors attached to or installed in boats need not be removed, but the operation of engines is specifically prohibited.

(3) (4) Officers authorized to enforce the code and this part and, in the case of State Park lakes, officers and officials of the Bureau of State Parks and operators of emergency vessels may operate boats powered by internal combustion motors in the performance of their official duties on waters otherwise restricted to electric motors only.

§ 111.17. Clearfield County.

(a) *Treasure Lake.*

* * * * *

(3) Boats longer than **[25] 26** feet in length are prohibited.

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

Senate Bill 403 was passed in FFY22 and signed into law as Act 28 of 2022 on June 27, 2022. It amended Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, § 5308 relating to registration and titling of boats. The Act establishes a calendar-year boat registration cycle that is valid from January 1 through December 31 (the current cycle is April 1 through March 31). The Act is designed to improve customer service and provide more clarity for the boating public. As required by the Act, the Commission is currently promulgating regulations to implement the amendment and modify its business practices to align with calendar-year boat registration.

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 conducted a “Partner with a Payer” event on April 12th in northcentral PA. This event connected Pennsylvania-based fishing tackle industry representatives with Commission staff and special guests to demonstrate how excise taxes paid by fishing tackle and boating industries along with motorboat fuel taxes paid by boaters—allocated to states via the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund—are administered through Commission programs that benefit anglers and boaters. The USFWS’s Partner with a Payer website features the “Pennsylvania Partnerships” video from this event which is a useful tool for legislative outreach. The event is being replicated on December 13th and 14th in northwestern PA.

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, International Association for Water Rescue Professionals, 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. Developed in 2020, HuntFish.pa.gov allows boat owners to process boat registration renewals on-line. In addition, boaters can purchase duplicate registration cards and update their addresses via this application.

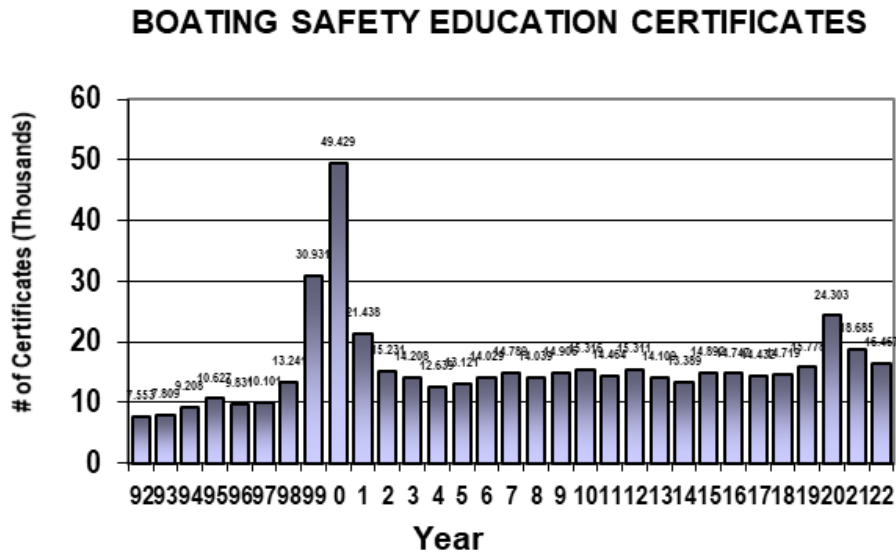
EDUCATION

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

The Commission certified 16,467 students in National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)-approved boating courses from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This is a decrease of 2,218 certificates from FFY 2021. The number of boating safety education certificates being issued annually is generally stable with only minor fluctuations over the past 20 years.

The Commission issued boating safety education certificates to 772 students who successfully completed a PA Basic Boating classroom course, which is an increase of 194 certificates than in the previous year. Not everyone who completed a boating course applied for a boating safety education certificate. The agency and its instructors taught 65 PA Basic Boating classroom courses.

Instructors and staff taught 10 Boating & Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) courses in FFY 2022, with 170 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.

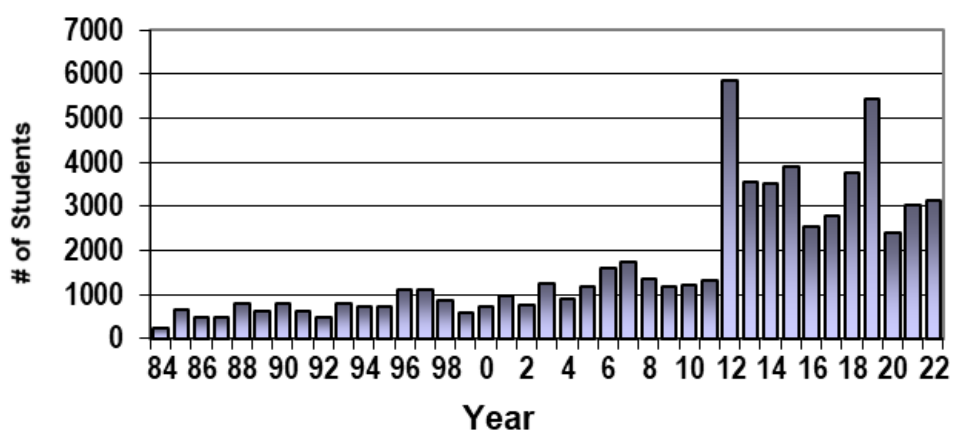


The Commission continues to be very successful with the distance learning courses and has received requests for our Commission-established course criteria from others states. In FFY 2022, the Commission issued 15,302 boating education certificates to students for successfully completing these long-distance (internet) learning courses, a decrease of 2,470 from FFY 2021.

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

In FFY 2022, the Commission certified 3,149 students through the Water Rescue Program which meets or exceeds various levels (Awareness, Operations, Technician) of NFPA 1670 Standards. This is an increase of 128 students from FFY 2021. In FFY 2022, 1,717 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 186 individuals who provided more than 7,000 hours of training this past year. The Commission’s Water Rescue program is the largest of its kind in the United States.

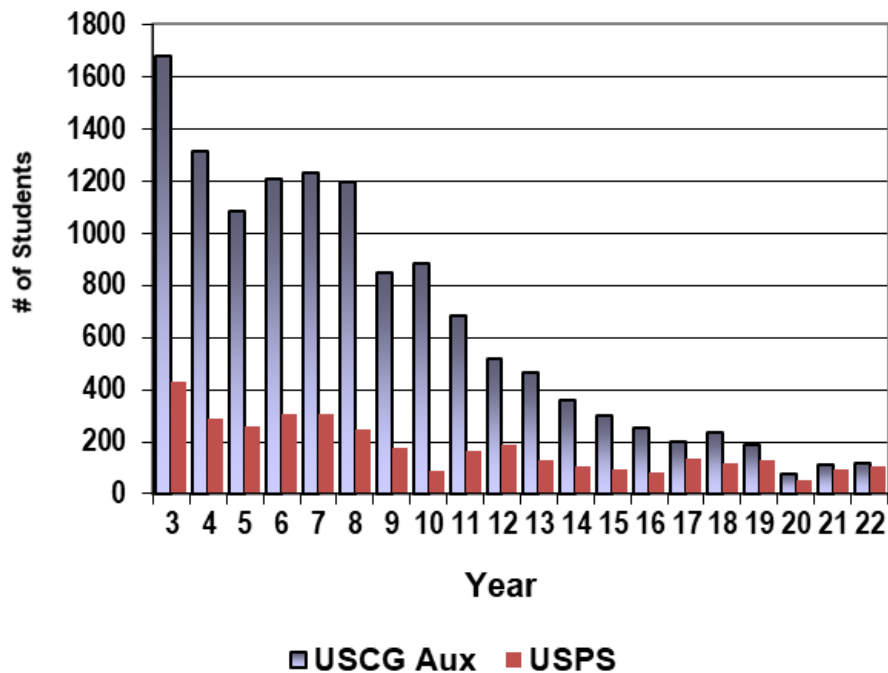
Water Rescue Students



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.

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 attendance at the Commission’s Boating Advisory Board meetings in 2022. The Commission issued awards and certificates to outstanding Flotillas and Auxiliarists in the 5th Northern District in Pennsylvania. Successful students in Auxiliary courses submitted 115 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2022, an increase of 1 certificate from FFY 2021. USPS course students submitted 108 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2022, an increase of 15 certificates. The chart below 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 Certified Students
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Power Squadrons
2003 - 2022**



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, Commission staff conducted 10 in-person non-certification paddlesports safety programs reaching 1,022 participants. These programs provided instruction on legal requirements and basic skills, and many provided an on-water experience. A significant portion of these programs was spent teaching boating safety education and basic paddling skills. (These numbers are lower than previous years due to the continued decline in attendance at post-pandemic in-person programs.)

Additionally, PFBC staff conducted 9 in-person kayak fishing programs to 92 participants, in which instruction on legal requirements, boating safety education, and basic paddling skills was provided. In-person programs also provided an on-water experience. (These numbers were also lower than previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

During the reporting period, we continued to provide virtual boating, paddling, kayak fishing, and water safety education programs. To offset the decrease of in-person programming, we increased our virtual presence and offered 5 programs that reached 127 participants.

We also provided two Boating and Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) Instructor Training courses and certified 18 new instructors.

The PFBC reached nearly 600,000 anglers and boaters with its full-page, full-color, safe boating messaging in the annual *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook* (600,000 print copies produced), *Boating Regulation Recap* brochures (100,000 produced), *2022 Pocket Guide* (75,000 produced), and in the subscription-based agency magazine, *Pennsylvania Angler &*

Boater (distributed six times a year to 7,414 subscribers). Specifically, with the May/June 2022 printed issue of the magazine and in its digital version, 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 *Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook* and *Regulation Recap* brochure.

PFBC distributed free boating safety literature and publications at PFBC-staffed shows and expos (see Item #4 below). During the reporting period, PFBC also processed 30 requests in-house 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 <https://www.fishandboat.com>, including an enhanced version of the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook*, water trails maps, and information on required safety equipment for boaters. In addition, the Commission has a "Wear It!" resource page at <https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingRegulations/Pages/WearItPennsylvania.aspx> which includes videos, frequently asked questions and specific information about life jackets. 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 79,626 page-views during the period:

- <https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/Boating/Pages/default.aspx>
 - **3,012 sessions**
 - 68% (2,036) were new users
 - Average session duration was almost 1:41
- <https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingCourses/Pages/default.aspx>
 - **46,489 sessions**
 - 57% (26,306) were new users
 - Average session duration was 1:28

Additionally, the Paddlesports webpage provides boating and water safety messaging specifically to paddlesport enthusiasts (<https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/Pages/Paddlesports.aspx>). The Commission's Activities and Education Portal offers an expanded compilation of resources on a variety of topics.

Those pages resulted in a total of 21,263 page-views during the period:

- Paddlesports
 - <https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/Pages/Paddlesports.aspx>
 - **8,517 sessions**
 - 67% (5,746) were new users
 - Average session duration was 2:26
- Boating and Water Safety
 - <https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/BoatingWaterSafety/Pages/default.aspx>
 - **256 sessions**
 - 84% (216) were new users
 - Average session duration was 1:17
- Paddling
 - <https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/Paddle-sports/Pages/default.aspx>
 - **39 sessions**
 - 54% (21) were new users
 - Average session was 2:50

- Kayak Fishing
 - <https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/KayakFishing/Pages/default.aspx>
 - **175 sessions**
 - 71% (124) were new users
 - Average session was 1:44

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 our Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/pafishandboat>), Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/PaFishandBoat>), Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/pafishandboat/>), and YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PAfishandboat>), the PFBC has garnered an exceptional amount of viewer/visitor attention with postings and videos that 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.

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

In addition to the on-line resources available, which have been previously mentioned, each PFBC instructor is provided a copy of, or has access to, the Boat America DVD produced by Kalkomey Enterprises. PFBC has phased out our video library.

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.

For National Safe Boating Week, Commission staff premiered five new videos highlighting safe boating topics including life jacket wear testimonials, what to expect when encountering a WCO on the water, paddling safety and etiquette, cold water shock, and more. Two customized e-newsletters containing boating safety information were sent to 1.2 million subscribers throughout the week. The PFBC created 51 social media posts reaching more than 202,000 unique users. The e-newsletters and social media posts drove visitation to the PFBC website and safe boating resources. In conjunction with state legislators, the PFBC produced 28 videos promoting National Safe Boating Week, including one video in Spanish. PFBC staff appeared in six radio broadcasts, 7 television broadcasts, and numerous newspaper feature articles in major media markets across the state. Three in-person safe boating expos were offered at prime boating locations in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Army Corps of Engineers, and local community organizations. Locations included Walnut Creek Marina (Erie County), Lake Raystown (Huntingdon County), and Blue Marsh Lake (Berks County).

The Commission launched Operation Dry Water with state agency partners including the PA Department of Transportation, PA State Police, and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Commission’s Bureau of Law Enforcement conducted 2,266 hours of patrols during Operation Dry Water weekend. Nearly 5,500 boaters were contacted, 297 citations were issued, and 12 BUI violations were reported during the weekend. Waterways Conservation Officers participated in a number of interviews with local media to highlight the importance of safe and sober boating.

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 2022, the Commission used several forms of media to promote the “Wear It Pennsylvania!” brand. This included a boat registration renewal mailing with safe boating messaging sent to 150,527 boat owners. 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 166,464 purchased boat registrations and duplicate boat registrations. Boating Safety brochures were also sent out to purchasers of 153,893 launch permits.

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 2 news releases fully devoted to safe boating practices, as well as 10 news releases which included safe boating messaging, during the reporting period.

Finally, besides the programs and special events held specifically during National Safe Boating Week, the Commission used 32 other special events to deliver the "Wear It!" safe boating and life jacket-wear message to approximately 17,723 attendees during the reporting period. At some sportshows, boating safety courses were offered to those attending. At most shows, the PFBC's "Wear It Pennsylvania!" exhibit graphic was used extensively, and several different boating and water safety publications were distributed.

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 Commission has requested Coast Guard Auxiliary assistance with observing and verifying ATON. While on patrols, the Auxiliary observes aids and verifies positions on reports provided to 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 *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/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 2022 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 2022. These permits constitute a total of 6,764 structures, a decrease of 1,287 from FFY 2021 (see graph below for details). The majority of new ATON continues to be associated with bridge construction activity. The majority of decreases are associated with either earlier construction projects that have been completed or privately-owned structures no longer in use.

Float Permit ATON Quantities Report:

Type	Quantity	Type	Quantity
Channel	175	Boom	10
Controlled Area	1,302	Mooring	1,331
Float	1,198	Race Course	17
Floating Dock	1,363	Restricted Area	658
Hazard	473	Ski Ramp	1
Information	44	Slalom Course	21
Jet Ski Course	0	Other	171
TOTAL 6,764			

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 Waterways Conservation Officers routinely check 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 87 Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) including supervisory staff, and 59 part-time Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers (DWCOs). WCOs and DWCOs perform other duties beyond boat law enforcement, such as incident investigation, fish law enforcement, public relations, water pollution investigation, fish stocking, equipment maintenance and, of course, the teaching of boating safety classes. In FFY 2022, WCOs issued, and the courts adjudicated, 902 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 17,759 warnings for boating violations issued by WCOs.

WCOs also conducted 20,651 safety boardings on recreational boats. Patrols are conducted by vehicle, on foot, and primarily with the Commission's more than 120 patrol craft. Investigating boating accidents and boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs cases consume a large portion of field officers' time. WCOs made 44 arrests in FFY 2022 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 36 reportable boating accidents, *the lowest number of accidents on record in Pennsylvania.*

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 FFY 2022. Training included mandatory in-service law enforcement as well as water rescue. Eight WCOs were trained as instructors in the NASBLA Inland Boat Operators and Marine Patrol Fundamentals Course and all field officers received instruction in the course as part of their annual Experienced Officer Training program in FFY 2022.

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 2022, the Commission awarded 12 grants under the Boating Facility Grant Program, ranging from \$13,500 to \$250,000 each. The total amount of funding awarded under the 2022 round of Boating Facility Grants was \$1,393,578 with a total estimated cost of \$3,617,038 for all of the projects.

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.

The Commission's current statewide fishing and boating access plan was developed 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 uses the 52 HUC-8 watersheds and assesses them according to several criteria to assist with prioritizing access funding.

The Commission and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources began development of a new PA Fishing and Access Strategy in 2021 to provide improved consistency, guidance, resources and tools to communities and organizations interested in developing new or enhancing existing public access. The new Access Strategy is on track to be finalized and rolled out to partners in the coming year.

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.

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM

Performance Report Part II - Statistical Data

(Used to report Activities funded with RBS Program Dollars)

STATE OF : Pennsylvania
 For the Period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

Note: Definitions are provided as Attachment A to the report form.
All fields are required unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Do you have an assigned Boating Law Administrator responsible for the administration and fiscal control of the RBS program? Y/N Y
2. State or Local - Commissioned or Sworn RBS Officers
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| a. RBS Full Time <u> 87 </u> | b. RBS Part Time/Seasonal <u> 59 </u> | c. RBS Other <u> 0 </u> |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
3. Number of Officers Who Successfully Completed Training In:
- | | |
|--|----|
| a. Basic RBS Officer Training (anytime during their career) | 88 |
| b. Accident Investigation Training (State/NASBLA) (within the FY) | 18 |
| c. BUI/OUI/Drug Recognition Training (State/NASBLA) (within the FY) | 18 |
| d. Navigation Rules Training (within the FY) | 18 |
| e. Other in-service RBS training not specified above (within the FY) | 70 |
4. Total RBS Activity Hours (to include SAR, LE, education, court prep, investigations, etc)
- | | |
|---|--------|
| a. On-the-Water RBS Mission Hours (subset of above) | 32,469 |
| | 26,527 |
5. Equipment available for LE Patrol and SAR Response
- | | Total # | | % Employed for RBS |
|---|---------|--|--------------------|
| a. Number of boats radio equipped | 84 | | 98.0% |
| b. Number of boats non-radio equipped | 0 | | |
| c. Number of aircraft | 0 | | |
| d. Number of other patrol vehicles (trucks, cars, SUV, ATV) | 121 | | 50.0% |

LAW ENFORCEMENT

6. Do you have a RBS Law Enforcement Coordinator? Y/N Y
- | | Citations/
Arrests | Warnings |
|--|-----------------------|----------|
| 7. Safety Equipment Carriage Requirements | | |
| Wearable PFDs | 327 | 998 |
| Type IV PFD | 27 | 766 |
| Fire Extinguisher | 33 | 496 |
| Visual Distress Signals | 0 | 52 |
| Sound Producing Device | 2 | 2,350 |
| 8. BUI/OUI | 44 | 0 |
| 9. Careless/Negligent/Reckless Operation | 7 | 35 |
| 10. Navigation Rules | 92 | 1,127 |
| 11. Mandatory PFD Wear | 59 | 676 |
| 12. Registration/Numbering Violations | 80 | 2,370 |
| NOTE: Totals do not have to equal the breakdown of items 7) through 12). | | |
| 1) Total Citations/Arrests | 902 | |
| 2) Total Warnings | | 17,759 |

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM

Performance Report Part II - Statistical Data (Pg. 2)

Used to report Activities funded with RBS Program Dollars

13. Total RBS Compliance Inspections/Checks	20,880
14. Number of Search and Rescue/Recovery (SAR) Cases (does not include disaster response)	23
15. Number of Persons Assisted (Enter if Available)	N/A
16. Number of Vessels Assisted (Enter if Available)	103

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

17. Do you have a boating safety education coordinator?	Y/N	<u>Y</u>	% time dedicated	50.0%
18. Persons attending a State/NASBLA-approved course				
	State	CGAux	USPS	
a. Classroom	942	115	108	
b. Home Study	0	N/A	N/A	
c. Internet	15,302	N/A	0	
19. Persons Successfully Completing a State/NASBLA-Approved Course and receives a NASBLA Certificate.				
	State	CGAux	USPS	
a. Classroom	942	115	108	
b. Home Study	0	N/A	N/A	
c. Internet	15,302	N/A	0	
20. Other education and outreach programs				
a. Dealer Cooperative Programs (to include boat dealers, marine suppliers, etc.)		Y/N		Y
b. School Based Programs (K-12)		Y/N		Y
c. Distribution of RBS Materials (to include booklets, pamphlets, flyers, trinkets, etc.)		# of pieces		425,000
21. Public Service Announcements produced, aired, or published				
a. PSA - TV (including social marketing components)		Y/N	<u>Y</u>	
b. PSA - Radio (including social marketing components)		Y/N	<u>Y</u>	
c. PSA - Newspaper/Magazine (including social marketing component)		Y/N	<u>Y</u>	
22. Number of State Employees whose duties include boater education				95
<i>(Developed Boater Education Materials, Scheduled Classes, Graded Tests, Issued Certificates, etc.)</i>				
<i>(NOTE: Includes general outreach/awareness materials. Does not include instructors.)</i>				
23. Number of State RBS Instructors for NASBLA Approved Courses (Employees or other paid instructors)				95
24. Number of Volunteer RBS Instructors for NASBLA Approved Courses				87
25. Number of Volunteer RBS hours to include instructors, materials development, etc.				UNK

NAVIGATION AIDS (NAVAIDS)

26. Total Number of Navigation Aids Placed/Maintained By the State	6,764
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RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM

Performance Report Part II - Statistical Data (Pg. 3)

Used to report Activities funded with RBS Program Dollars

EXCEPTIONS/DISCREPANCIES

Explain any exceptions or discrepancies in the information reported: