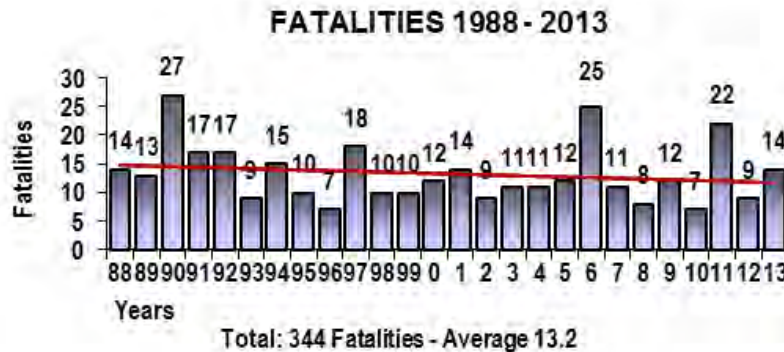


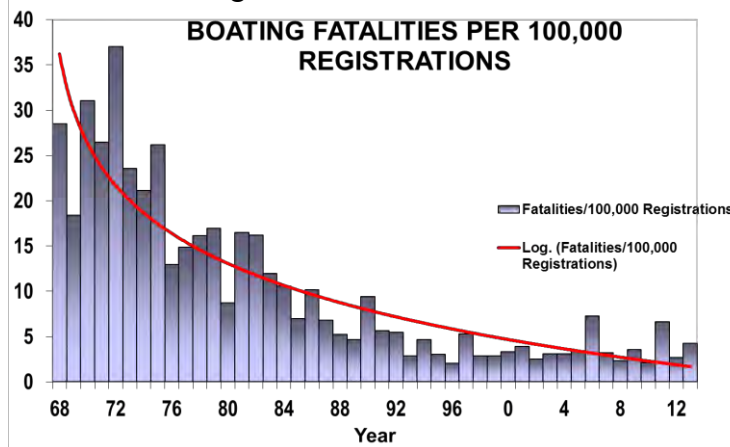
**RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM  
 PERFORMANCE REPORT  
 PART 1 C: ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2013**

---

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 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 2013. The average number of fatalities from 1988 through 2013 is 13.2; the past ten-year average from 2003 through 2013 is 14.2.



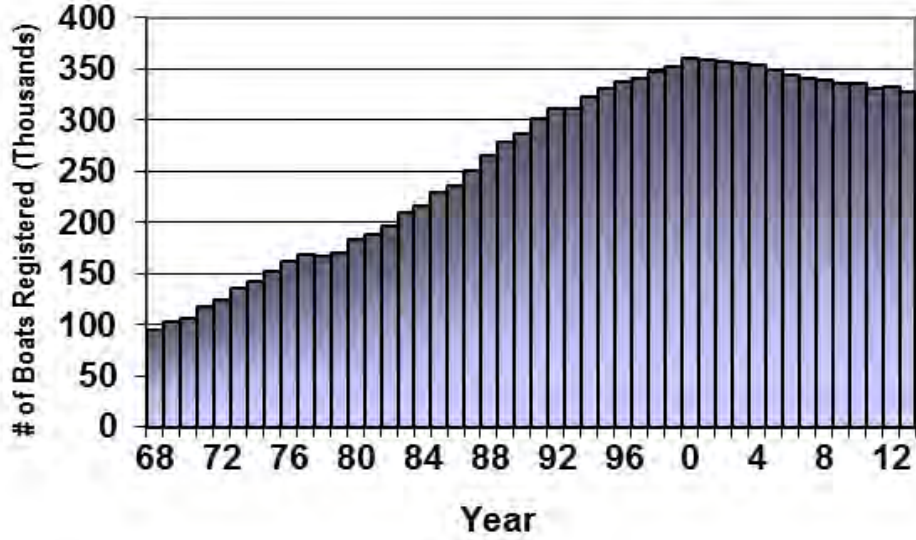
The success of the Commission’s boating safety program is illustrated by comparing the number of fatalities to the number of registered boats. These records are available for the last 46 years. The following graph shows the number of recreational boating fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. From 10/1/2012 through 9/30/2013, Pennsylvania had 329,598 registered watercraft and reported 14 fatalities which equates to four fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. The increase in the number of boats registered in the Commonwealth over the last 45 years has been matched by a commensurate increase in boating safety. This would not have been possible without the support of Coast Guard RBS funding.



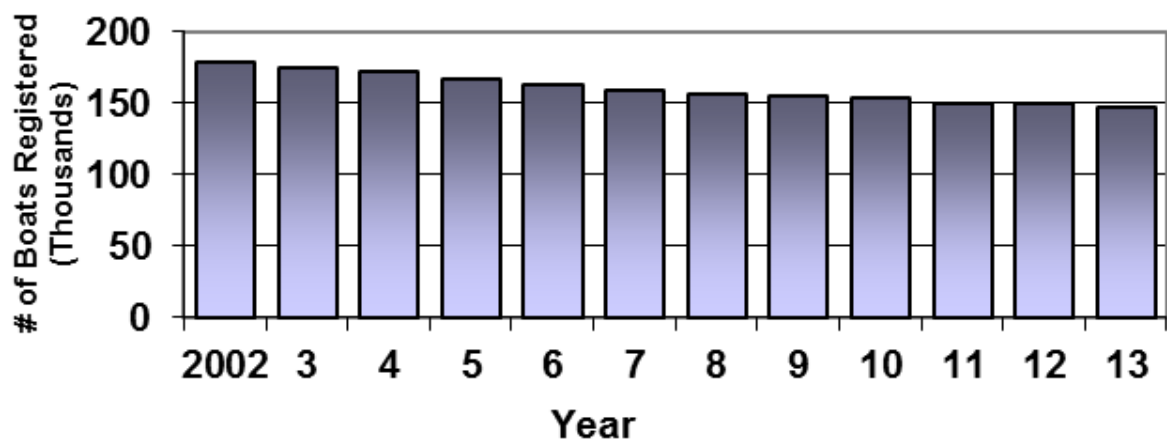
Pennsylvania experienced a slight decrease in boat registrations in 2013. This represents a decrease of 3,101 boats from the previous year. This decrease is small but is significant because

boat registrations until the previous year have continued to decrease over the past eleven years. During the period of 2000-2011, boat registrations have declined but in 2012 the trend was broken with a slight increase. 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).

**BOAT REGISTRATIONS 1968 - 2013**



**MOTORBOATS <16 FT. REGISTRATIONS**



	<b>2013 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2012 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2011 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2010 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2009 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2008 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2007 BOAT REG STATS</b>
Total Active Registrations:	329,598	332,699	331,590	335,408	336,347	338,192	341,239
Total Unpowered Vessels:	39,360	39,450	38,924	39,130	39,006	39,165	39,193
Total Active PWCs:	27,904	28,178	28,041	27,864	27,309	27,058	23,167
Less than 16 Ft.	147,031	149,541	150,414	153,688	155,285	156,784	159,505
16 Ft. to 25 Ft.	135,796	136,067	135,057	135,570	134,913	135,204	135,864
26 Ft. to 39 Ft.	6,714	6,715	6,560	6,415	6,258	6,180	6,073
40 Ft. to 65 Ft.	626	610	589	564	575	575	571
Boats > 65 Ft.	51	48	46	41	38	34	33
Rowboats	1,631	1,666	1,589	1,724	1,755	1,881	1,941
Sailboats	1,137	1,158	1,151	1,253	1,307	1,386	1,469
Canoes	17,385	17,998	18,426	19,338	19,908	20,735	21,395
Kayaks/ Other Boats	19,207	18,628	17,758	16,815	16,016	15,163	14,388

The Commission set the following goals and objectives for the 2013 recreational boating safety 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, assuring 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 assures 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 the Pennsylvania's Boating Program**  
Staff met with the PA Boating Association, 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 Army 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 (Board) met on February 7, 2013 and May 8, 2013. During their meeting, the Board recommended the following items to the Commission:

1. Amendment to §53.8 (Boats)..

Commission property regulations permit the overnight mooring of boats at designated mooring areas from April 1 to November 30. This regulation prohibits trout anglers and others using boats from mooring their boats on Commission property for the early regional opening day of trout season or to take advantage of the year-round fishing designation during winter and early spring. Staff recommended that the Commission's property regulations be amended to allow for mooring of boats on Commission property at the beginning of March to increase fishing and boating opportunities and encourage greater participation in these two regulatory fishing programs.

2. Amendment to §101.6 (Investigation Reports by Commission Officers)..

§101.6(b) states that Commission personnel will complete a boating accident investigation report without referring to the boating accident report (PFBC 260) submitted by the owner or operator of the boat. However, there are limited occasions where an investigating officer may need to reference information contained in the operator-submitted form (PFBC 260). These limited references by the officer are meant to assist with the completion of the investigation, not to supplant any step in the investigation process or supplement any information gained in the investigative process.

3. Amendment to §101.8 (Duties of Operators Involved in Boating Accidents). In 2012, Act 211 was passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and signed by Governor Corbett which updates Title 30, the Fish and Boat Code. In particular, Section 5507 (Duties of operators involved in boating accidents) (Exhibit B) was created to be consistent with the Vehicle Code requirements and penalties for operators involved in motor vehicle accidents.

§101.8 of the Commission's regulations currently details the duties of operators involved in boating accidents. Penalty for violation of this section is a summary of the second degree. Act 211 increases the penalty for violation to a misdemeanor of the first degree, and if a victim of an accident dies, the violator commits a felony of the third degree.

Since the duties detailed in §101.8 are now law, and to bring the penalties in the Commission's regulations into conformance, staff proposed that §101.8 be deleted in its entirety.

4. Amendment to §105.3 (Unacceptable Boating Practices). In 2009, the Commission amended its regulations to prohibit passengers from riding outside the normal passenger carrying area of pontoon boats when the boat is travelling at any speed. Tragic boat accidents proved that riding outside of the passenger carrying area on a pontoon boat at any speed was an unsafe practice because the passenger can very easily fall overboard and will most likely be struck by the boat's propeller.

Waterways conservation officers encounter as many, if not more, boats travelling at high speeds with persons – most frequently children - riding on closed bow decking with ornamental railings or railings intended for use during docking, mooring or rafting. These railings are not intended to protect a passenger from falling overboard; however, there Commission currently had no regulations to prohibit passengers from riding in this area of the boat at high speeds. Although fortunately the Commission has not had to investigate any accidents of this nature, staff proposed that the Commission take a proactive approach to prohibiting this activity before a tragedy occurs.

Amendment to §93.2 (Permanent and Temporary Registration) and §93.13 (Issuing Agents) to Eliminate Temporary Validation Decals. Currently, the Commission and authorized issuing agents issue temporary boat registrations to persons applying for the registration of boats in Pennsylvania. Temporary boat registration is used for boats that are new or were not previously registered in Pennsylvania, boats being transferred between owners, and boats currently registered in Pennsylvania as unpowered that are being changed to a power boat registration status. Under current regulations, applicants complete form REV-336, *Application for Pennsylvania Boat Registration and/or Title*, and are issued a Temporary Validation Decal (T-decal) to affix to the boat. Annual cost to the Commission to produce, distribute and

account for the T-decals is estimated to be \$42,000. The Commission proposed to eliminate the use of the T-decal in order to save approximately \$42,000 annually in decal production costs, postage for mailing decals to issuing agents and personnel costs associated with accounting and inventorying of the decals. Elimination of the T-decals will also result in a time and cost savings to issuing agents in that they will no longer have to issue T-decals, maintain a supply or pay \$52.00 for each lost decal..

Currently, boaters must remove any previously issued or expired registration decals from the boat. With the elimination of the T-decals, an empty space following the registration number sequence on the hull of the boat will indicate that the boat may have a temporary registration status. Upon request by a Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO), a boater will be required to produce the green customer copy of form Rev-336 as proof of the temporary registration. Elimination of the T-decal will not change the current requirement to carry and produce the customer copy of form REV-336. It is also expected that elimination of the T-decal may increase customer contact between boaters and WCOs and provide WCOs with an opportunity to share additional educational information with boaters.

The Commissioners held four Board meetings during the FFY 2013 (four annual meetings).

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

1. Amendment to §93.2 (Permanent and Temporary Registration) and §93.13 (Issuing Agent) as set forth in the notice of proposed rulemaking.
2. Amendment to Chapter 99 (Capacity Plates), §93.3 (Application for Boat Registration) and §93.102 (Application for Procedure and Contents of Applications for Certificates of Title) as set forth in the notice of proposed rulemaking.
3. Amendment to §97.1 (Personal flotation devices)  
In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities related to coldwater immersion, the Commission amends §97.1, as set forth in the notice of proposed rulemaking, to require life jackets to be worn on small and unstable boats during the period most noted for cold water temperatures, *i.e.*, November 1 through April 30. The Commission therefore amended §97.1 to read as set forth in the notice of proposed rulemaking.
4. Amendment to §115 (Boats Carrying Passengers for Hire) as set forth in the notice of proposed rulemaking.
5. Amendment to §105.3 (Unacceptable Boating Practices) and §109.4 (Waterskiing, Aquaplaning, Kite Skiing, and Similar Activities) as set forth in the notice of proposed rulemaking.

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

No legislation was passed into law that would benefit or hinder boaters from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

**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. The Commission provided law enforcement and education staff to assist with trip planning and logistics, and accompany the Governor of Pennsylvania on two kayaking trips. Staff also provided him with insights into the Commission's water rescue and boating safety programs.

**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.**

The Commission approved out-service training for staff to attend and/or present at boating conferences, meetings, and trainings offered by various organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard, National Safe Boating Council, National Water Safety Congress, 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 Bureau of Boating & Outreach and the Bureau of Law Enforcement worked closely to ensure 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 work flow for boating accident reports and investigation reports.

## **BOAT REGISTRATION**

**1. Provide an effective and cost-efficient method of registering and titling boats, assuring 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. Boaters are provided with a 60-day temporary registration which allows them to use their boat on the water immediately.

## **EDUCATION**

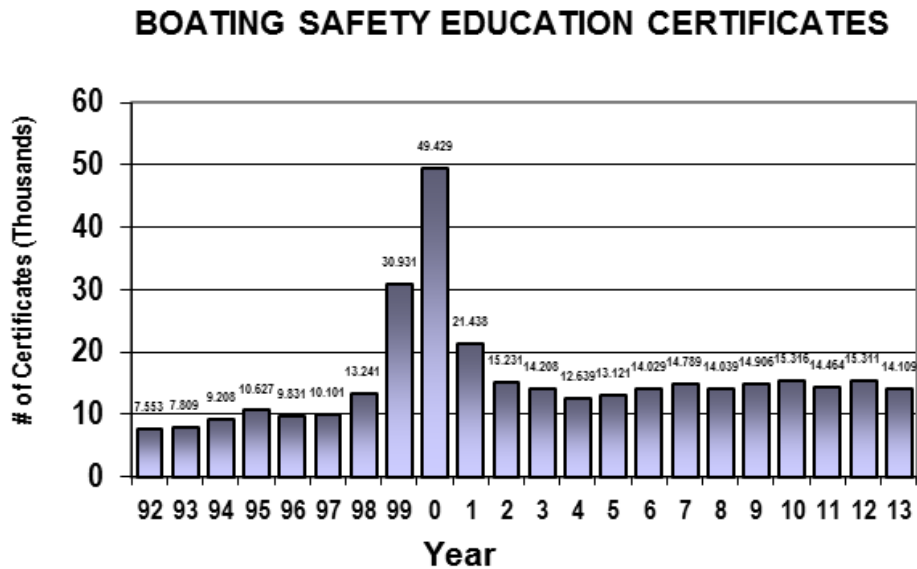
**1. Continue to offer courses necessary for boat operators to obtain a NASBLA-approved Boating Safety Education Certificate.**

The Commission certified 14,109 students in National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)-approved boating courses from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. This is a decrease of 1,202 certificates from FFY 2012 (see chart on

following page). The number of boating safety education certificates being issued is generally stable with only minor fluctuations over the past 12 years.

The Commission issued boating safety education certificates to 1,173 students who successfully completed a PA Basic Boating classroom course, which is 424 less 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 122 PA Basic Boating classroom courses.

Instructors and staff taught 38 Boating & Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) courses in FFY 2013, with 770 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. Some 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.

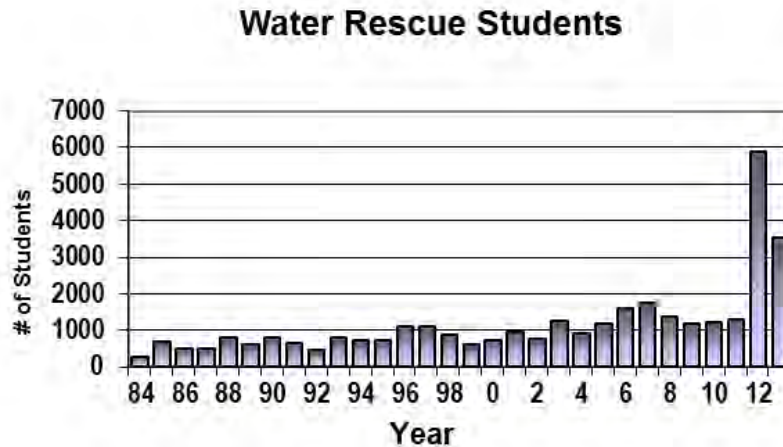


The Commission continues to be very successful with the distance learning courses and has received requests for our Commission-established course criteria from others states. In FFY 2013, 188 people completed the video correspondence course and 11,978 students successfully completed internet courses. The Commission issued 12,166 boating education certificates to students for successfully completing these long-distance learning courses, a decrease of 1,901 from FFY 2012.



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

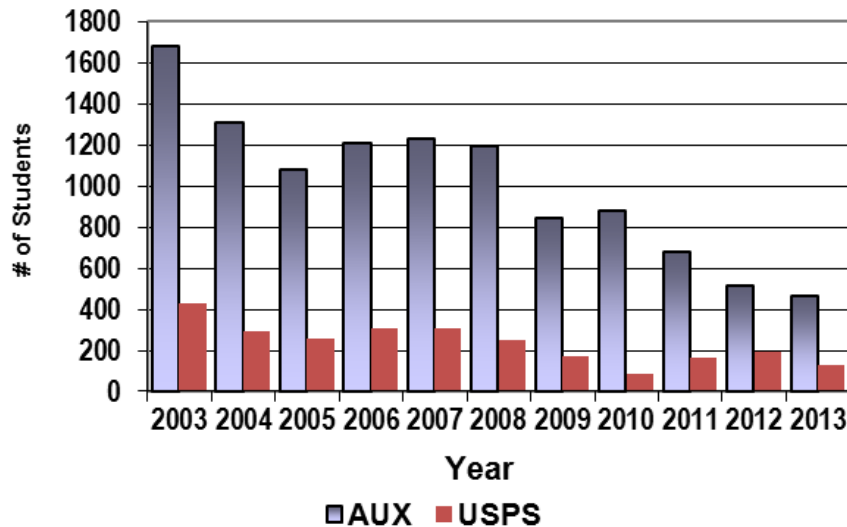
In FFY 2013 the Commission certified 3,545 students through the Water Rescue Program which meets or exceeds various levels (Awareness, Operations, Technician) of NFPA 1670 Standards. This is a decrease of 2,320 students from FFY 2012 but still the second highest year on record for this program. In another second best record, 1,707 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 155 individuals who provided more than 10,500 hours of training this past year. The Commission’s Water Rescue program is the largest of its kind in the United States.



**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 Auxiliaries in the 5NR in Pennsylvania. Successful students in Auxiliary courses submitted 467 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2013, a decrease of 53 certificates from FFY 2012. USPS course students submitted 127 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2013, an decrease of 64 certificates. The chart on the following page clearly indicates a long term decrease in the number of students being certified by the Commission in U.S.C.G. 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 attendance at the Commission’s Boating Advisory Board meeting in February 2013.

**Commission Certified Students  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
U.S. Power Squadrons  
2003 - 2013**



**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.**

Work continued in the development and piloting of a non-certification paddlesports program. As part of pilot testing Commission staff conducted 5 Paddle PA programs during the period. Approximately 150 people participated in these programs. The programs provided an opportunity for further testing of program formats:

- Introductory program - 45 minutes or less
- 3-hour/half-day program
- 6-hour/full-day program

Instructor level training was not conducted for this program, however three skills-based training workshops were provided to education/recreation professionals. These sessions provided an opportunity to advance paddlesports skills of professionals engaged in delivering recreation programming. It is expected that in the future those completing these sessions will receive training as Paddle PA instructors.

Throughout the year, the PFBC utilized its suite of printed publications to further promote safe boating with full-page, full-color messaging in its annual Pennsylvania Fishing Summary (1 million copies produced), its Boating Handbook (100,000 copies produced), Boating Regulation Recap brochures (100,000 produced), 2013 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 issue of the magazine (distribution of 25,000 copies), 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 and Regulation Recap. The Commission distributed boating safety literature, paid or free publications, at all boat and sports shows where it had a presence, for a total of 87 show days.

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 our Boating Handbook to water trails to information on where to find a personal flotation device (PFD) is included (<http://fishandboat.com/boaters/pfd/mfgs.htm>). Links to the Commission's boating safety partners enhance the site. In addition, the Commission has a "Wear It!" resource page at: <http://fishandboat.com/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 release, and web banners.

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

The Bureau of Boating and Outreach received and filled 25 requests for boating and water safety video loans. These videos are most often used in boating courses, however some are used as part of other water safety related training or presentations. Use of the video library has decreased over the years while the use of streaming & on-line video has expanded.

**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://www.fishandboat.com/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](http://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. In conjunction with NASBLA's 2013 Operation Dry Water campaign, Commission Waterways Conservation Officers distributed Pennsylvania-customized posters which warned of the consequences of boating under the influence (BUI).

**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 2013, the Commission launched its safe boating radio public service announcement (PSA) campaign during a four-week period (before and during National Safe Boating Week in May) which focused on promoting life jacket wear. Through 56 radio stations, 700 messages were delivered with a projected listener outreach of 828,000 impressions. This radio outreach was part of an expansive agency media presence during National Safe Boating Week. Other media included a boat registration renewal mailing with safe boating messaging sent to approximately 175,000 boat owners. Also, safe boating portable exhibits promoting life jacket wear were displayed at a number of outdoor and boating show venues from January through March 2013. PFBC's website ([www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)) promoted the "Wear It!" campaign with select and updated web pages (<http://www.fishandboat.com/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 attracted 310,606

unique visitors (an increase from the prior year) with 1,130,472 page views accessed. 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
05-Jan-13	12-Jan-13	Pennsylvania Farm Show
24-Jan-13	27-Jan-13	Pittsburgh Boat Show
16-Feb-13	17-Feb-13	Allegheny Sports Travel and Outdoor Show
01-Mar-13	03-Mar-13	Erie Sport and Travel Expo
08-Mar-13	10-Mar-13	Greater Philadelphia Boat Show
06-Jun-13	06-Jun-13	Blue Marsh Water Safety Festival
21-Jun-13	21-Jun-13	Harrisburg Senators baseball game, Outdoors Night Out
15-July-13	16-July-13	Commission Evening Event at Little Buffalo State Park

A youth life jacket give-away occurred on February 16 and 17, 2013 at the Allegheny Sports, Travel and Outdoor Show. Parents registered youth during the day of the giveaway and were required to attend a life jacket presentation in order to receive a free youth sized life jacket. The presentation covered proper use, care, and fitting of life jackets. At the conclusion of the presentation, 100 youth were fitted a life jacket that they kept. Law Enforcement Officers from the PFBC, U.S. Coast Guard, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and local sheriff’s office staff assisted. Cabela’s, Port of Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers Regatta sponsored the give-away.

PFBC staff participated in several grassroots safe boating efforts, the most notable being the Pittsburgh Safe Boating Council. This council meets at regular intervals and their primary purpose is to provide information to the boating public on boating safety and coordinate cooperation between agencies and other stakeholders. Other smaller scale organizations also sponsor boating and water safety events throughout the boating season at other specific waterways.

## **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 report 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 2013 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 551 floating structures on Commonwealth waters in FFY 2013. These permits constitute a total of 4,546 structures, an increase of 205 from FFY 2012 (see graph below for details).

**Float Permit ATON Quantities Report:**

Type	Quantity	Type	Quantity
Channel	368	Boom	1
Controlled Area	1672	Mooring	423
Float	193	Race Course	14
Floating Dock	98	Restricted Area	1141
7Hazard	452	Ski Ramp	3
Information	24	Slalom Course	38
Jet Ski Course	0	Other	143
TOTAL 4,546			

**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 100 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 deputies 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 2013, Conservation officers issued and the courts adjudicated 1,878 summary citations for boating violations. Lack of personal floatation devices or improper personal flotation devices onboard boats continued to be the most common boating violations. There were 13,200 warnings for boating violations issued by officers.

Officers also conducted 24,995 safety boardings on recreational boats. Patrols are conducted by vehicle and on foot, but primarily with the Commission's more than 130 patrol craft. Investigating boating accidents and boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs cases consumes a large portion of field officers' time. Sixty-eight arrests were made in FFY 2013 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. Officers investigated several high profile boating accidents that involved serious injury or fatalities on Commonwealth waters. Officers investigated a total of 67 reportable boating accidents.

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

The Commission continues to train and employ high quality conservation officers. The training school for a new class of Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers (DWCO) concluded on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and 12 deputy officers were commissioned. WCOs are an integral part of education and enforcement efforts to enhance the recreational boating experience. During the annual in-service training, all officers received training from the Pennsylvania State Police and were certified to access Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN). Officers are able to query the network while in the field for boat registration information, motor vehicle and operator's information and eventually fishing license information. Officers also attended a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Boating Accident Investigator's Training and BUI training. The Bureau continued to replace aging patrol boats within the limits of available funding. Several new law enforcement patrol boats were placed into service and others were re-powered. Surplus boats, motors and trailers were sold to the general public using a new online internet auction capability.

## **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 2013, the Commission did not award any grants under the Boating Facility Grant Program. The did not have operational funds available to support this program. The Commission is pursuing alternative sources of funding for the program.

**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 a scoring/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 2013, the Commission continued to provide

technical support and guidance within high priority watershed 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 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.