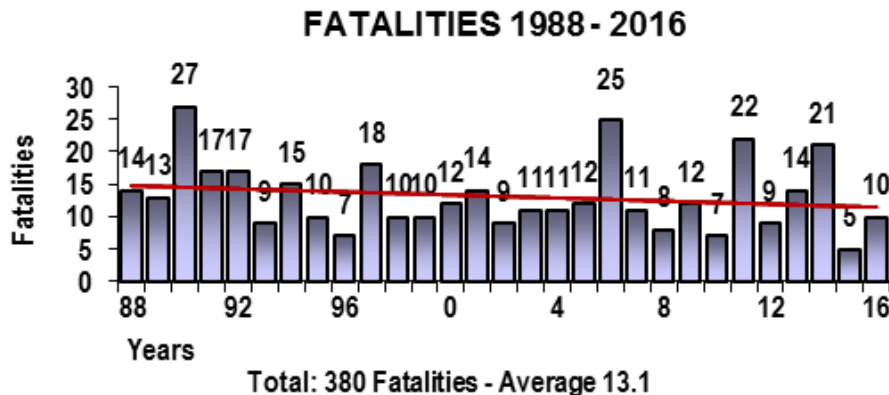


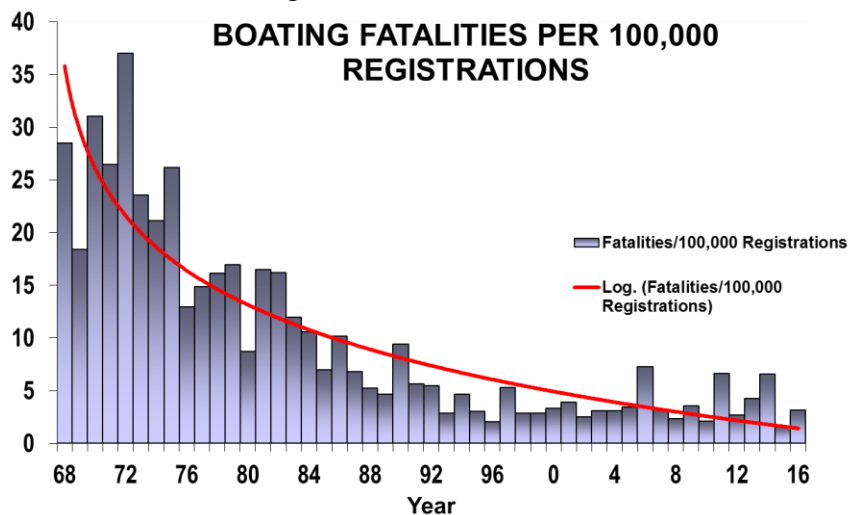
**RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM  
 PERFORMANCE REPORT  
 PART 1 C: ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

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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 2016. The average number of fatalities from 1988 through 2016 is 13.1; from 2006 through 2016 is 13.3.

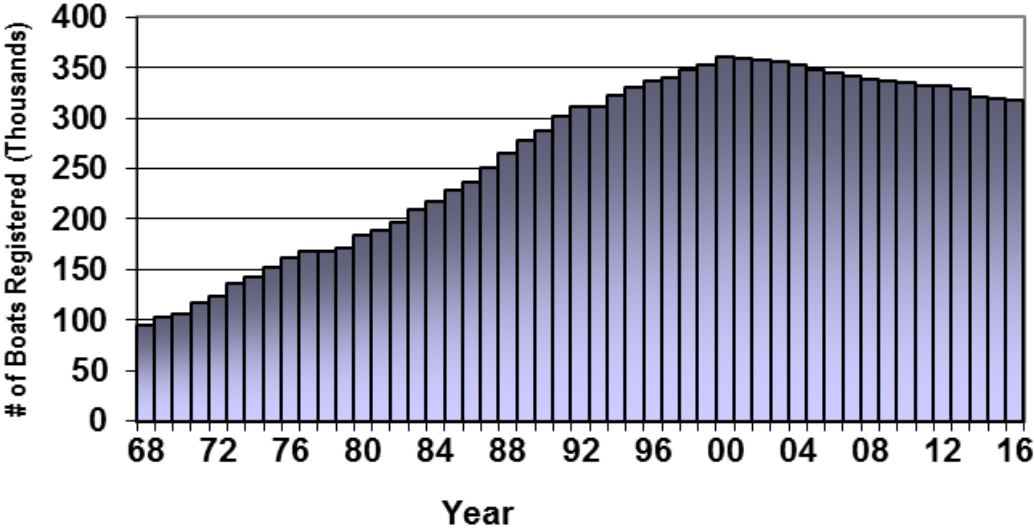


The success of the Commission’s boating safety program is illustrated by comparing the number of fatalities to the number of registered boats. These records are available for the last 49 years. The following graph shows the number of recreational boating fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. From 10/1/2015 through 9/30/2016, Pennsylvania had 317,586 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 49 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.

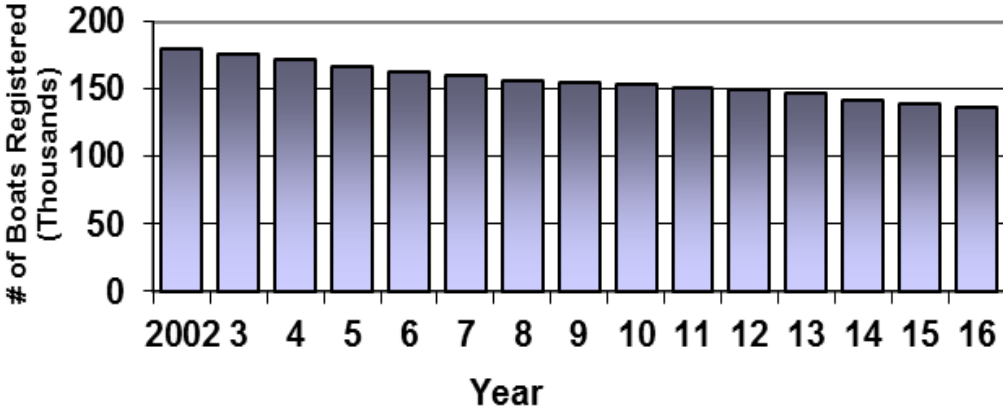


Pennsylvania experienced a decrease in boat registrations in 2016. This represents a decrease of 1,442 boats from the previous year. This decrease is significant because boat registrations have continued to decrease over the past fourteen years. During the period of 2000-2016, boat registrations have declined in all but one year (2012). 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 - 2016**



**MOTORBOATS <16 FT. REGISTRATIONS**



	<b>2016 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2015 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2014 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2013 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2012 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2011 BOAT REG STATS</b>	<b>2010 BOAT REG STATS</b>
Total Active Registrations:	317,586	319,028	322,454	329,598	332,699	331,590	335,408
Total Unpowered Vessels:	39,454	51,351	38,874	39,360	39,450	38,924	39,130
Total Active PWCs:	27,404	27,250	27,547	27,904	28,178	28,041	27,864
Less than 16 Ft.	136,963	139,629	142,042	147,031	149,541	150,414	153,688
16 Ft. to 25 Ft.	133,778	134,160	133,933	135,796	136,067	135,057	135,570
26 Ft. to 39 Ft.	6,744	6,723	6,689	6,714	6,715	6,560	6,415
40 Ft. to 65 Ft.	609	623	619	626	610	589	564
Boats > 65 Ft.	38	36	38	51	48	46	41
Rowboats	1,711	1,652	1,599	1,631	1,666	1,589	1,724
Sailboats	1,339	1,445	1,065	1,137	1,158	1,151	1,253
Paddlecraft: Canoes			16,486	17,385	17,998	18,426	19,338
Kayaks/ Other Boats	47,515	48,254	19,724	19,207	18,628	17,758	16,815

The Commission set the following goals and objectives for the 2016 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 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 25, 2016. During their meeting, the Board recommended the following items to the Commission:

Boating Advisory Board February 25, 2016 Meeting:

### **A. Amendments to Sections 93.3 (Application for Boat Registration) and 93.102 (Application Procedure and Contents of Applications for Certificates of Title).**

Staff propose the following changes to §93.3 and §93.102:

§ 93.3. Application for boat registration.

(a) New registration. Application for a boat registration for a new boat or a used boat

that was not previously registered in this Commonwealth shall conform with the following:

(1) Forms. The owner of a boat desiring registration shall apply on Form REV-336, provided by the Commission. The completed form shall be forwarded to the Fish and Boat Commission, Division of Licensing and Registration.

(2) Required information. The applicant shall provide the following information on the application (REV-336) for a boat registration:

(i) The name, mailing address, residence address, phone number, county and zip code of the owner. If there is more than one owner, the principal owner shall be listed first.

(ii) If the owner is an individual, the driver's license number, if any. If the owner is a manufacturer, jobber or dealer, the tax identification number.

(iii) The name of the person from whom the boat was purchased.

[(iii)] (iv) The State registration number, if any, currently assigned to the boat.

(v) Make and model.

[(iv)] (vi) The hull material, such as, wood, steel, aluminum, plastic, [or] fiberglass, rubber/vinyl/canvas or other.

[(v)] (vii) The full Hull Identification Number (HIN).

[(vi)] (viii) The [make, model and] year built, if known.

[(vii)] (ix) The length of the boat in feet and inches.

(x) The type of boat, such as, air boat, auxiliary sail, cabin motorboat, houseboat, inflatable boat, open motorboat, paddlecraft, personal watercraft, pontoon boat, rowboat, sail only or other.

[(viii)] (xi) The type of [propulsion] engine drive, such as, outboard, inboard, sterndrive, pod drive or [unpowered] other.

[(ix)] (xii) The type of fuel, such as, gas, diesel, electric or other.

(xiii) The type of propulsion, such as, propeller, waterjet, air thrust, manual, sail or other.

[(x)] (xiv) The temporary validation [decal number] expiration date, if one was

[(xi)] (xv) The primary [usage] operation such as, pleasure, rental/livery, manufacturer/dealer/jobber, commercial passenger, charter fishing, commercial fishing, other commercial operation, and the like.

[(xii)] (xvi) A certificate of ownership. For initial registration in this Commonwealth this shall be supported by title, bill of sale, a complete Form PFBC-734 "Affidavit of Purchase/Ownership" or other positive proof of ownership.

[(xiii)] (xvii) The date the applicant completed the form.

[(xiv)] (xviii) The signature of the owners and certification, under penalty of law, that they are the owners of the boat and that the information contained in the application is true and correct.

[(xv)] (xix) Complete Sales and Use Tax information.

[(xvi)] (xx) The date of birth of the primary registrant and co-registrant.

(1) Manufacturers, jobbers or dealers. Paragraph (2)[(iv) — (x)] (vi) – xiv) and [(xvi)] (xx) do not apply to manufacturers, jobbers or dealers.

(2) Boat rental business. Paragraph (2)[(viii)] xi and [(ix)] (xii) does not apply to a boat rental business if a motor is not rented with the boat.

(3) Incomplete or incorrect applications. Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be processed until completed and may be returned by the Commission to the applicant or issuing agent.

§ 93.102. Application procedure and contents of applications for certificates of title.

(a) Boat owners shall apply for a certificate of title on Form REV-336, provided by the Commission. The completed form shall be forwarded to the Commission at the address listed on the application.

(b) The applicant shall provide the following information on the application (REV-336) for a title:

(1) The name, mailing address, residence address, phone number and zip code of the owner. If there are co-owners, the applicants shall provide information relating to both owners and indicate whether the boat is owned as joint tenants with right of survivorship or as tenants in common.

(2) The date of birth of the primary purchaser and co-owner.

(3) The name of the person from whom the boat was purchased.

(4) The State registration number, if any, currently assigned to the boat.

(5) The hull material, such as wood, steel, aluminum, plastic, fiberglass, rubber/vinyl/canvas or other.

- (6) The full Hull Identification Number (HIN).
- (7) The make, model and year built, if known.
- (8) The length of the boat in feet and inches.
- (9) The type of boat, such as, air boat, auxiliary sail, cabin motorboat, houseboat, inflatable boat, open motorboat, paddlecraft, personal watercraft, pontoon boat, rowboat, sail only or other.
- (10) The type of [propulsion] engine drive, such as, outboard, inboard, sterndrive, pod drive or [unpowered] other.
- [(10)] (11) The type of fuel, such as, gas, diesel, electric or [unpowered] other.
- (12) The type of propulsion, such as, propeller, waterjet, air thrust, manual, sail or other.
- [(11)] (13) The primary [usage] operation such as, pleasure, rental/livery, manufacturer/dealer/jobber, commercial passenger, charter fishing, commercial fishing, other commercial operation, and the like.
- [(12)] (14) For boats with outboard internal combustion motors, the serial number, the manufacturer's name and the horsepower rating. If there are two motors, the applicant shall provide information for both motors.
- [(13)] (15) The names and addresses of each lienholder (in the order of priority).
- [(14)] (16) The date of lien encumbrance.
- [(15)] (17) The date applicant completed the form.
- [(16)] (18) The signature of the owner.
- [(17)] (19) Complete Sales and Use Tax information.

**B. Amendment to Section 111.9 (Bucks County).**

Staff propose the following changes to § 111.9:

§111.9. Bucks County.

(d) Delaware River.

(1) Boats are limited to slow, no wake speed in the following areas:

[(ii) From the mouth of Paunacussing Creek, approximately 3,000 feet to a point in the vicinity of Green Hill Road, effective from 12:01 a.m. on the Friday before Memorial Day until midnight on Labor Day.]

(3) [The requirements in this subsection that affect waters of joint jurisdiction with New Jersey are effective May 1, 1997.]

The Commission held four Board meetings during the FFY 2016 (four annual meetings).

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

1. The amendments to §§ 97.1 (relating to personal flotation devices), 109.3 (relating to personal watercraft), 109.4 (relating to waterskiing, aquaplaning, kiteskiing and similar activities) and 115.11 (relating to personal flotation devices) are published under the statutory authority of section 5123 of the code (relating to general boating regulations). The amendments to Chapter 111 are published under the statutory authority of section 5124 of the code (relating to particular areas of water).
2. The amendment to § 53.8 (relating to boats) is published under the statutory authority of section 741 of the code (relating to control of property). The amendment to § 105.4 (relating to overloading and improper loading) is published under the statutory authority of section 5123 of the code (relating to general boating regulations). The amendment to § 111.40 (relating to Luzerne County) is published under the statutory authority of section 5124 of the code (relating to particular areas of water).
3. **Advocate for the passage of laws that benefit boaters, particularly bills that address boating under the influence.**  
No new legislation was passed in FFY16. Previously in FFY14, Act 211 was passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and signed by Governor Corbett. This act updates the Fish and Boat Code. In particular, section 5507 (relating to duties of operators involved in boating accidents) was added to be consistent with the Vehicle Code requirements and penalties for operators involved in motor vehicle accidents.
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, International Association for Water Rescue Professionals, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Conference, National Association for Search & Rescue and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

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

The Bureau of Law Enforcement 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 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.

## **EDUCATION**

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

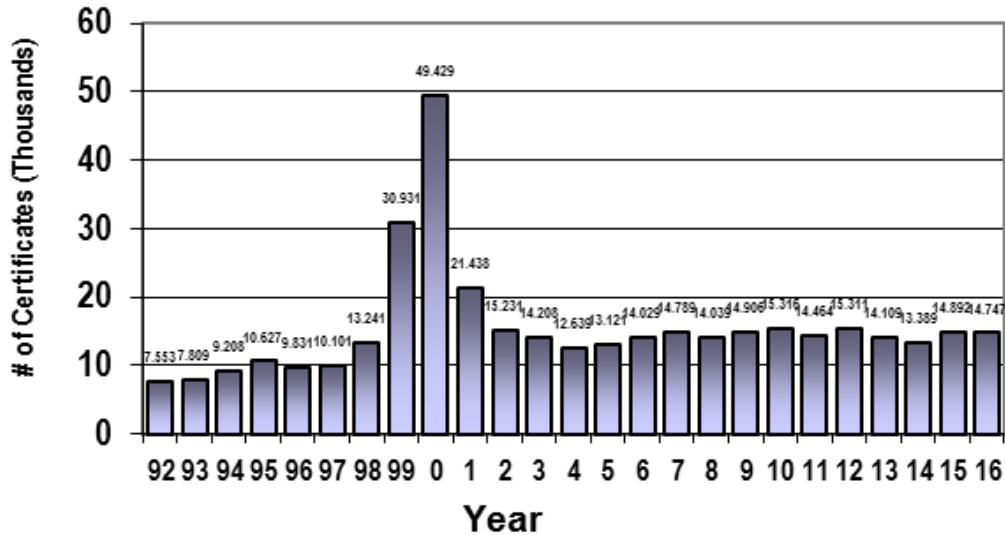
The Commission certified 14,747 students in National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)-approved boating courses from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. This is a decrease of 145 certificates from FFY 2015 (see chart on following page). The number of boating safety education certificates being issued is generally stable with only minor fluctuations over the past 16 years.

The Commission issued boating safety education certificates to 788 students who successfully completed a PA Basic Boating classroom course, which is a decrease of 189 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 75 PA Basic Boating classroom courses.

Instructors and staff taught 22 Boating & Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) courses in FFY 2016, with 312 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.

### BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATES

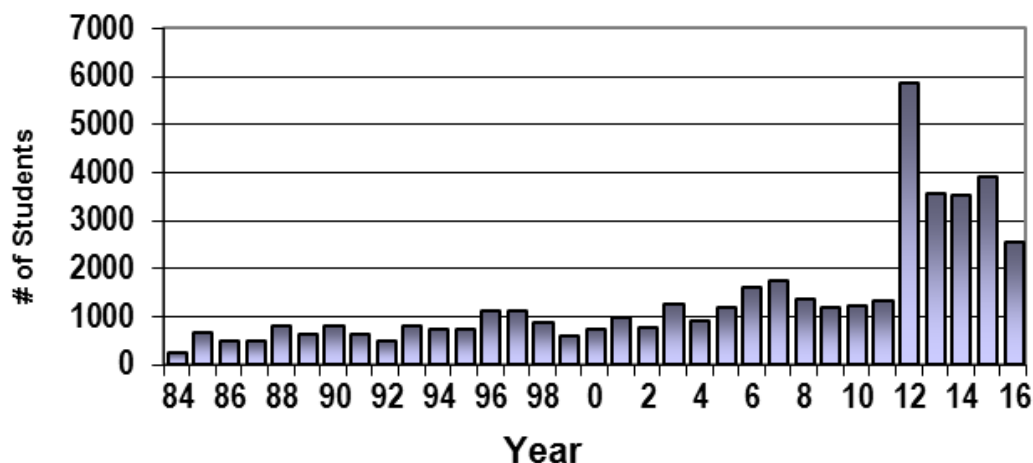


The Commission continues to be very successful with the distance learning courses and has received requests for our Commission-established course criteria from other states. In FFY 2016, 114 people completed the video correspondence course and 13,178 students successfully completed internet courses. The Commission issued 13,292 boating education certificates to students for successfully completing these long-distance learning courses, an increase of 352 from FFY 2015.

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

In FFY 2016 the Commission certified 2,561 students through the Water Rescue Program which meets or exceeds various levels (Awareness, Operations, Technician) of NFPA 1670 Standards. This is a decrease of 1,346 students from FFY 2015, which was the second highest year on record for this program. In FFY 2016, 1,578 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 11,000 hours of training this past year. The Commission’s Water Rescue program is the largest of its kind in the United States.

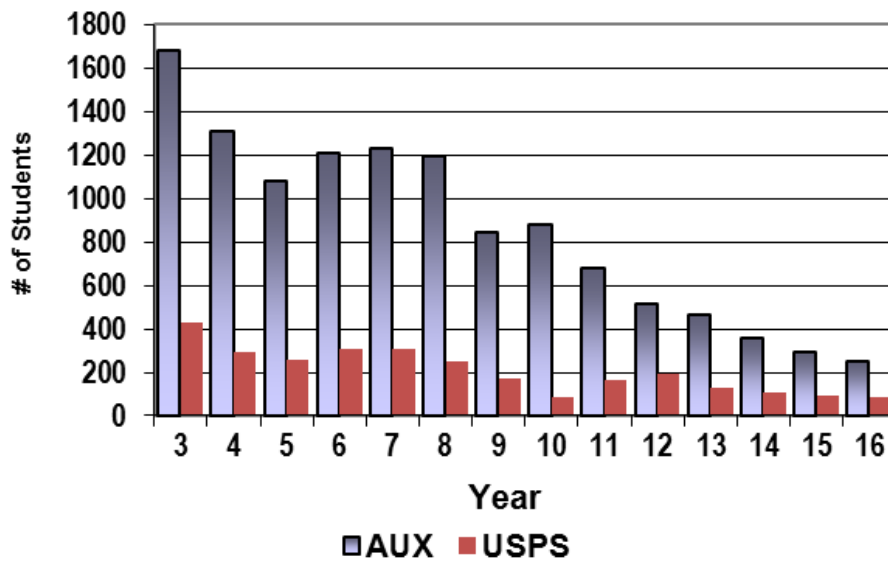
## Water Rescue Students



- 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.**

The Commission issued awards and certificates to outstanding Flotillas and Auxiliarists in the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern District in Pennsylvania. Successful students in Auxiliary courses submitted 253 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2016, a decrease of 55 certificates from FFY 2015. USPS course students submitted 85 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY 2016, a decrease of 10 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 meetings in 2016.

**Commission Certified Students  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
U.S. Power Squadrons  
2003 - 2016**



**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.**

No progress was made in the development of instructor-level programming for non-certification paddlesports and water safety program.

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), Boating Regulation Recap brochures (60,000 produced), 2016 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 15,000 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, throughout its January through March season. The Commission processed 112 requests for boating safety education materials.

The Commission’s website is a major source of boating safety information. There is a wide array of boating and water safety materials at <http://www.fishandboat.com>. Everything from an enhanced version of the PA Boating Handbook to water trails to information on where to find a personal flotation device (PFD) is included (<http://fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingPages/default.aspx>). Links to the Commission’s boating safety partners enhance the site. In addition, the Commission has a “Wear It!” resource page at: <http://pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm> which includes a video with a “Wear It Pennsylvania!” message from the Commission’s Executive Director in addition to audio clips, press release, and web banners.

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

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

The Bureau of Outreach, Education and Marketing processed 10 requests for boating and water safety video loans. Use of the video library declines steadily each year, with the increased use of on-line/streaming video sources. The PFBC also issues active instructors a copy of the Boat America DVD; and includes references to segments on the DVD within the PFBC course lesson plans.

**6. Participate in Operation Dry Water, "Wear It!" campaign, "Ready, Set, Wear It!" events, and National Safe Boating Week events to promote boating safety and life jacket wear.**

The Commission enhanced its adoption of the "Wear It!" campaign through its website with select and updated web pages (<http://pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>), placement of web banners on its home page and other pages on the site with links to USCG and National Safe Boating Council resources throughout National Safe Boating Week and the rest of the year. To increase ease-of-access, the Commission also maintains a separate website domain ([www.WearItPennsylvania.com](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.

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

**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 2016 the Commission used several forms of media to promote its "Wear It Pennsylvania!" brand. This included a boat registration renewal mailing with safe boating messaging sent to 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 2016. PFBC's website ([www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)) promoted the "Wear It!" campaign with select and updated web pages (<http://www.pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>), placement of web banners on the home page and other pages on the site with links to USCG and National Safe Boating Council resources. During May, PFBC's website received a substantial increase in visitation. The Commission also issued several press releases on safe boating practices through the year.

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

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Show/Event</b>
1/9/2016	1/16/2016	Pennsylvania Farm Show
2/15/2016	2/17/2016	Pittsburgh Boat Show
2/6/2016	2/14/2016	Great American Outdoor Show
2/17/2016	2/21/2016	Allegheny Sports Travel and Outdoor Show
3/11/2016	3/15/2016	Greater Philadelphia Boat Show

## **AIDS-TO-NAVIGATION**

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

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

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

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

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

The Coast Guard Auxiliary provides a very valuable service to the Commission in the Aids-to-Navigation Verification Program. While on patrols, they observe aids-to-navigation and

verify positions on 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 2016 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 637 floating structures on Commonwealth waters in FFY 2016, an increase of 61 from FFY 2015. These permits constitute a total of 6,994 structures, an increase of 34 from FFY 2015 (see graph below for details). The majority of new ATON continues to be associated with increased bridge construction activity. Numerous previously approved permits were removed due to an agreement with PPL which consolidated Lake Wallenpaupack permits, previously held by individuals, into a single permit held by power company.

### Float Permit ATON Quantities Report:

Type	Quantity	Type	Quantity
Channel	336	Boom	4
Controlled Area	1379	Mooring	1407
Float	1189	Race Course	10
Floating Dock	1237	Restricted Area	759
Hazard	484	Ski Ramp	1
Information	33	Slalom Course	23
Jet Ski Course	0	Other	132
TOTAL 6,994			

#### 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 87 Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs), which include supervisory staff, and over 72 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 2015, Conservation officers issued and the courts adjudicated 2,162 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 14,380 warnings for boating violations issued by officers.

Officers also conducted 31,197 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 consume a large portion of field officers' time. Eighty-five arrests were made in FFY 2015 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 53 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 21<sup>st</sup> WCO Class graduated on June 24, 2016. The 18 new WCO's were assigned to cover vacancies throughout the Commonwealth. WCOs are an integral part of education and enforcement efforts to enhance the recreational boating experience. The Commission's water rescue program continues to grow; in 2016 five full time WCO's were added to the compliment of volunteer instructor trainers. The Swift Water Emergency Response Team and the Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team continued to train and hone their skills during this past year. The PA HART team fulfilled an EMAC request from South Carolina after the devastation from hurricane Matthew. One Army National Guard UH-60 airframe and four PFBC rescue technicians worked with SC rescue personnel. Within the Commonwealth, three SWERT boat packages were dispatched to assist county rescue personnel with severe flooding in Sullivan, Lycoming, and Centre counties. The Bureau continued to replace aging patrol boats within the limits of available funding.

## **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 2016, the Commission did not award any grants under the Boating Facility Grant Program. The Commission 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 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 2016, 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.

# 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,   2015   to September 30,   2016  

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>    72    </u>	c. RBS Other <u>    0    </u>
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3. Number of Officers Who Successfully Completed Training In:
 

a. Basic RBS Officer Training (anytime during their career)	<u>    159    </u>
b. Accident Investigation Training (State/NASBLA) (within the FY)	<u>    18    </u>
c. BUI/OUI/Drug Recognition Training (State/NASBLA) (within the FY)	<u>    18    </u>
d. Navigation Rules Training (within the FY)	<u>    18    </u>
e. Other in-service RBS training not specified above (within the FY)	<u>    18    </u>
  
4. Total RBS Activity Hours (to include SAR, LE, education, court prep, investigations, etc)     29,158    
  - a. On-the-Water RBS Mission Hours (subset of above)     17,494
  
5. Equipment available for LE Patrol and SAR Response
 

	Total #		% Employed for RBS
a. Number of boats radio equipped	<u>    86    </u>		<u>    90.0%    </u>
b. Number of boats non-radio equipped	<u>    44    </u>		<u>    90.0%    </u>
c. Number of aircraft	<u>    0    </u>		<u>            </u>
d. Number of other patrol vehicles (trucks, cars, SUV, ATV)	<u>   113   </u>		<u>    40.0%    </u>

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

6. Do you have a RBS Law Enforcement Coordinator? Y/N     Y
  
7. Safety Equipment Carriage Requirements
 

	<u>Citations/ Arrests</u>	<u>Warnings</u>
Wearable PFDs .....	<u>    759    </u>	<u>   1,038   </u>
Type IV PFD .....	<u>    54    </u>	<u>   1,067   </u>
Fire Extinguisher .....	<u>    55    </u>	<u>    680    </u>
Visual Distress Signals .....	<u>    6    </u>	<u>    18    </u>
Sound Producing Device .....	<u>    2    </u>	<u>   3,509   </u>
  
8. BUI/OUI .....
9. Careless/Negligent/Reckless Operation .....
10. Navigation Rules .....
11. Mandatory PFD Wear .....
12. Registration/Numbering Violations .....

NOTE: Totals do not have to equal the breakdown of items 7) through 12).

1) Total Citations/Arrests .....	<u>   2,349   </u>
2) Total Warnings .....	<u>  14,380  </u>

# 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 .....	31,197
14. Number of Search and Rescue/Recovery (SAR) Cases (does not include disaster response)	13
15. Number of Persons Assisted (Enter if Available) .....	N/A
16. Number of Vessels Assisted (Enter if Available) .....	155

### 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 .....	1,100	253	85	
b. Home Study .....	114	N/A	N/A	
c. Internet .....	UNK	N/A	0	
19. Persons Successfully Completing a State/NASBLA-Approved Course and receives a NASBLA Certificate.				
	State	CGAux	USPS	
a. Classroom .....	1,100	253	85	
b. Home Study .....	114	N/A	N/A	
c. Internet .....	13,178	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		450,000
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 .....				77
<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)				96
24. Number of Volunteer RBS Instructors for NASBLA Approved Courses				537
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 .....	6,994
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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: