



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

I am delighted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Established in 1866 after a convention held in Harrisburg to investigate water pollution and the halting of American Shad runs by dams on the Susquehanna River, the Commission has evolved from a one-man operation supported solely by the general fund to a professional agency funded primarily by anglers and boaters through license and registration fees and the federal excise taxes on fishing and boating equipment.

Now in its 150th year, the agency protects, conserves, and enhances the commonwealth's aquatic resources while providing some of the best fishing and boating opportunities in the United States. An estimated 1.1 million anglers and over 3 million boaters enjoy Pennsylvania's waters each year, generating \$1.2 billion in annual fishing-related expenditures. With more than 86,000 miles of streams and nearly 4,000 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in the state, the commonwealth's aquatic resources are extensive, rich, and diverse.

As outlined in the Pennsylvania Constitution, the people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, and historic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is essential in this mission.

As Governor, and on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission on its 150th anniversary. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor
March 30, 2016