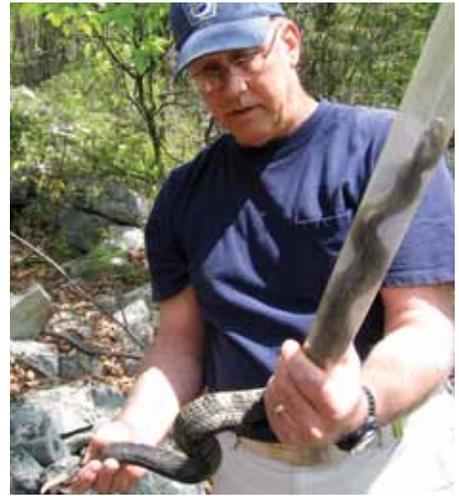


Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

2011 Annual Report



Our Mission:
protect, conserve
and enhance the
Commonwealth's
aquatic resources
and provide fishing
and boating
opportunities.



www.fishandboat.com



Resource First

Founded in 1866, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources, including waterways – streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands – fish, reptile and amphibian communities and habitats of game and non-game species. From stocking waterways and measuring the health of native animal populations to patrolling lakes and restoring habitats, our employees strive to protect, manage and restore the resource, for the resource is the foundation for everything we do.

High-quality streams, clean water and good habitat ensure that we can carry out the other part of our mission, to provide recreational fishing and boating opportunities for both Pennsylvanians and out-of-state visitors.

The “Resource First” management philosophy ensures that staff will make scientifically-informed decisions based on long-term conservation of aquatic resources. Resource First also sets the foundation for the agency’s strategic plan.

The Fish and Boat Commission is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the majority of the Pennsylvania State Senate. Commissioners serve terms of eight years. Eight Commissioners are selected based on districts, and two Commissioners, representing boating interests, have an at-large, statewide appointment. Agency operations are led by the Executive Director, who serves as chief executive officer and chief waterways conservation officer. PFBC staff include 432 full-time employees and 95 temporary and seasonal employees.



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Board of Commissioners



Robert A. Bachman
President
Denver



Steven M. Ketterer
Vice President
Harrisburg



G. Warren Elliott
Chambersburg



Norman R. Gavlick
Kingston



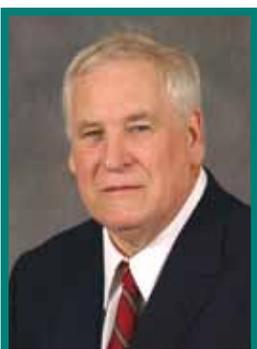
Leonard L. Lichvar
Boswell



Edward P. Mascharka III
Erie



William J. Sabatose
Brockport



Thomas C. Shetterly
North Charleroi



Glade E. Squires
Downingtown



William R. Worobec
Williamsport

Executive Director's Message

Agency Reorganization

2011 marked the first full calendar year during which we operated under our new strategic plan. When the Board of Commissioners approved the strategic plan in July 2010, they endorsed Goal 6.A.1. That goal directed the following: "By July 2010, gain a better understanding of the climate of the commission's workforce and implement strategies for improvement."

As I noted in last year's annual report, tackling that goal and staff morale have been two of my top priorities. As Executive Director, this goal is particularly important to me, since I want to better understand our organizational structure so that we can determine whether there is anything we can do to improve the efficiency of our operations. I compare this to changing the oil and spark plugs in a car versus an entire engine replacement. The vehicle may have gotten you to where you wanted to go, but a tune-up sure helps you get there more quickly and efficiently by using less gasoline. As part of an Agency Organization Assessment that I requested, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) independently observed that "A well constructed organization sets the stage for the ability to succeed in carrying out mission-related activities." This is all about Resource First!

OSS conducted a rigorous analysis during which they researched and evaluated structures of similar fish and wildlife agencies in other states to determine what was best for the Commission. They also conducted six focus group interviews involving 35 staff and 30 personal interviews of all Bureau Directors, Division Chiefs and Regional Law Enforcement Managers. They ultimately recommended three levels of change – slight, moderate and significant. Their review also identified strengths and weaknesses of the existing agency operation. I personally evaluated each option and hybridized them into my own personal version. I am very excited about this change and believe that it will improve staff morale in addition to creating a more efficient and cost-effective operation. The organization chart on the following page provides a high-level overview of the new structure.

We all know that if you really love what you do for a living, you will never have to work a day in your entire life. I believe that this agency structure will cause us to be more efficient with the excellent staff resources and expertise we already have in order to move forward to meet future challenges.

Fiscal Discipline

Despite our best efforts to reverse the trend, the national decline in fishing license sales continued to play out in Pennsylvania in 2011, with total sales falling by 4 percent. While we will maintain the various efforts described in this report, I don't believe that we can ask the General Assembly for a fishing license increase, since we know that this will cause fewer people to fish and boat.

One of the main things within our control as an independent administrative agency is the amount of money we spend each year. To that end, we instituted a set of internal spending limitations that are even more conservative than our approved budget. These are designed to ensure that Commission expenditures don't exceed Commission revenues and ensure that Fish Fund and Boat Fund end-of-year unrestricted and uncommitted balances will not decline. Adhering to these limitations allows us to maintain a sound financial condition for the agency while we attempt to secure long-term, dedicated alternative funding. This is where we need the help and support of our angling and boating public and the legislature.

The historical trends are clear – increase fees and we will lose 8 to 10 percent of our anglers who will quit fishing. Can we reverse this trend by decreasing the price of a fishing license? We won't know unless we try!

In concert with these fiscal constraints and acknowledging changing realities both within and outside of the Commission, staff embarked on a detailed, 18-month review of the strategic plan to make sure that the goals and subgoals driving the agency's activities were still SMART – Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic and Time-bound. To date, we had focused on budgetary, *not spending*, limitations when determining whether we felt a subgoal was realistic (the "R" in the SMART acronym). This is a fundamental difference in how we have been approaching the strategic plan goal analysis. Based upon this analysis, staff recommended a number of relatively minor mid-course corrections to the plan to ensure that it remains a living document.

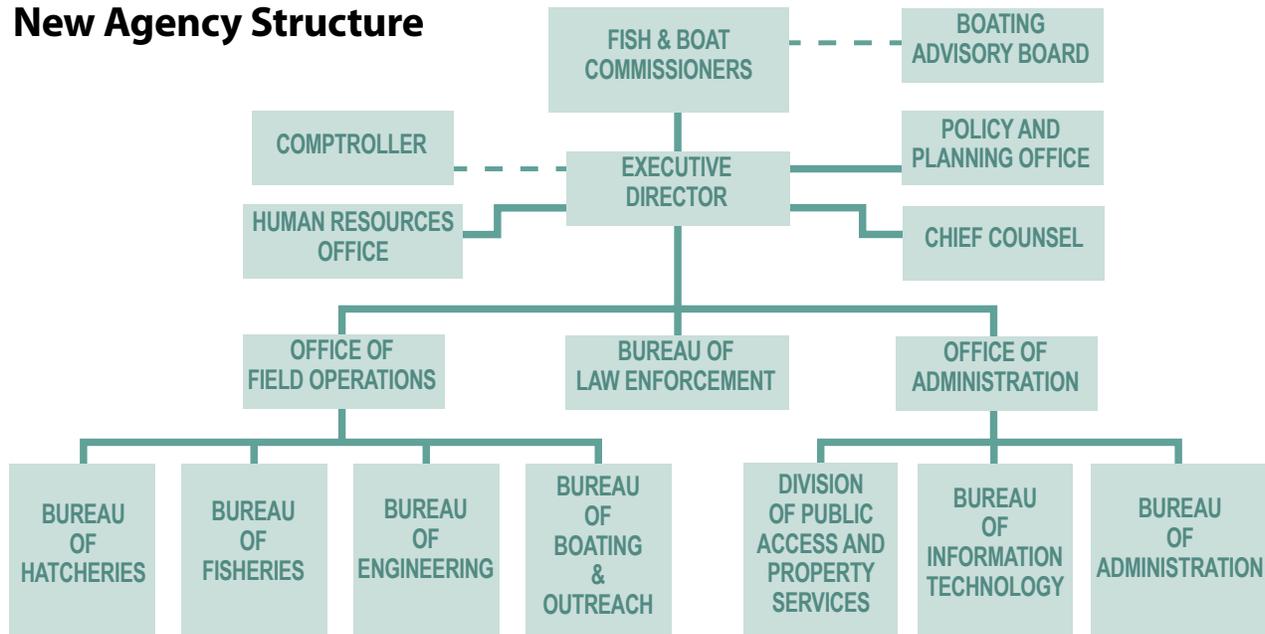


John A. Arway
Executive Director

John Arway
Your Director,
>>(John{(!>

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

New Agency Structure



PFBC Strategic Plan Accountability and Measuring Success

In 2011, the Commission was diligent about using the strategic plan to guide decision-making and continued to adhere to the seven major priorities laid out in the plan:

- Escalating costs of traditional services and increasing demands for activities require the development of alternative funding sources and methods.
- Current and increasing threats to our aquatic resources demand the Commission provide better resource management and protection.
- The Commission needs to better understand recent generations' disconnectedness from the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and respond to anglers' and boaters' desires for excellent recreational fishing and boating opportunities.
- The public continues to identify a need for access to the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.
- The Commission's existing data are not well-integrated and therefore not optimally used to proactively manage the aquatic resources under our jurisdiction.
- Limited financial and human resources require the Commission to more effectively manage our internal resources.
- Due to the limitations of current communications systems, technologies and processes, the Commission must improve its internal and external communication methods and systems.

In keeping with the new format introduced last year, this report includes highlights of activities related to implementation of each of the seven major goals laid out in the plan. Staff provided detailed reports to the Board of Commissioners in advance of each quarterly Commission meeting in 2011, and those reports are available at www.fishandboat.com.



Goal 1: Actively pursue innovative, as well as traditional, funding sources, compensation for services provided to all Pennsylvanians, and funding for the completion of priority infrastructure projects.

License Flexibility

The decline in fishing license sales in Pennsylvania and across the nation has been well-documented. Since peaking at nearly 1.2 million anglers in 1990, Pennsylvania is now down to a little over 800,000 license buyers.

What was less understood until the advent of the Pennsylvania Automated License System (PALS) and similar electronic databases across the country were the license buying patterns of individual anglers. Anglers had simply been viewed as one type – those dedicated individuals who bought a license every year. However, the latest research now reveals that only about 10 percent of anglers purchase a license every year for five consecutive years.

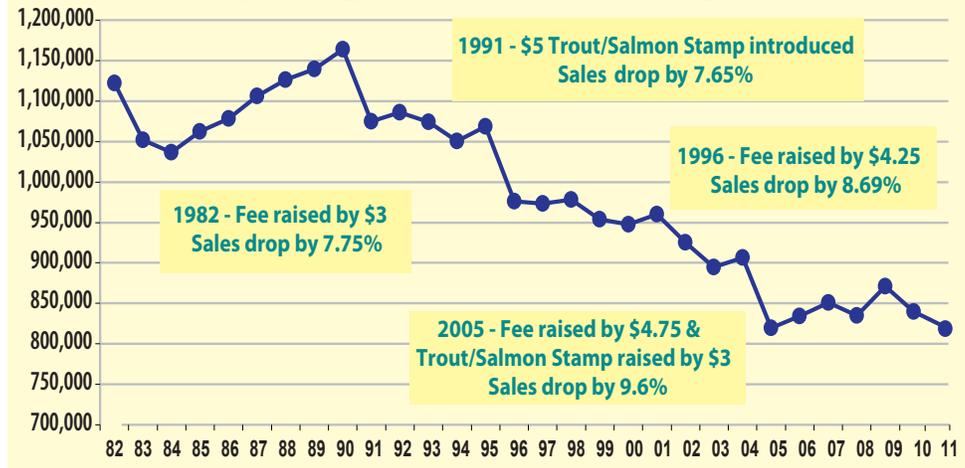
This “churn rate” of anglers coming into and out of the sport has negative long-term ramifications for both those license buyers – once they drop out, they might not come back – and for the next generation of anglers. The key to recruitment is retention. That is, current anglers help create future anglers. Surveys conducted nationally and in Pennsylvania have shown that for a majority of kids, parents and other adults play a key role in whether they fish.

The cold, rainy spring of 2011 also reemphasized how weather can impact license sales, as license sales were down dramatically during the normally busy weeks surrounding the opening days of trout season.

In response to these realities, and recognizing the ever-increasing importance of making things easy and convenient in a busy world, the Commission worked with Senator Richard Kasunic and Senator Richard Alloway to develop Senate Bill (SB) 1049. As of the end of 2011, SB 1049 had passed out of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee and received first consideration in the full Senate. Poised to be enacted in 2012 and potentially be implemented in the 2013 license year, SB 1049 takes the innovative approach of allowing PFBC to sell multi-year fishing licenses and experiment with creative marketing packages. The advantages to the angler include the convenience of not having to buy a license every year, the chance to save on transaction fees and locking in a license at the current rate. The angler could also benefit from other innovative packages and pricing options afforded by the legislation.

The advantages to the Commission include greater revenue stability and predictability. PFBC receives no General Fund money, and the vast majority of the funds available to serve anglers originate with our angling public. This also has implications for federal funding since while about 55 percent of the agency’s revenues come from licenses and fees and about 25 percent are attributed to federal funds that are tied to the sale of fishing licenses. (See fiscal year expenditure and revenue charts on page 18.)

Annual License Sales Since 1982



2011 Fishing License & Permit Types

December 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011

	Units Sold
Resident	698,737
Senior Resident	16,769
Senior Lifetime	13,993
1-Day Resident	3,338
PA Resident	
National Guard/Reserve	721
Non-Resident	38,052
1-Day Tourist	4,752
3-Day Tourist	22,984
7-Day Tourist	6,812
Lake Erie Permit	18,537
Combination Lake Erie & Trout/ Salmon Stamp Permit	87,181
Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit	455,696
Total Licenses & Permits	1,367,572

2011

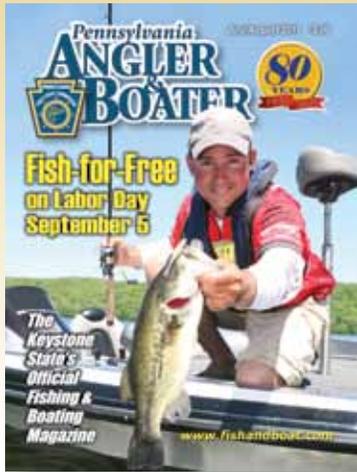
Total Active Registered Boats-**331,856**

1-year Launch Permits- **8,832**

2-year Launch Permits- **23,204**



Senator Richard Alloway (left) and Senator Richard Kasunic (right) presiding over a hearing held in September for Senate Bill (SB) 1049.

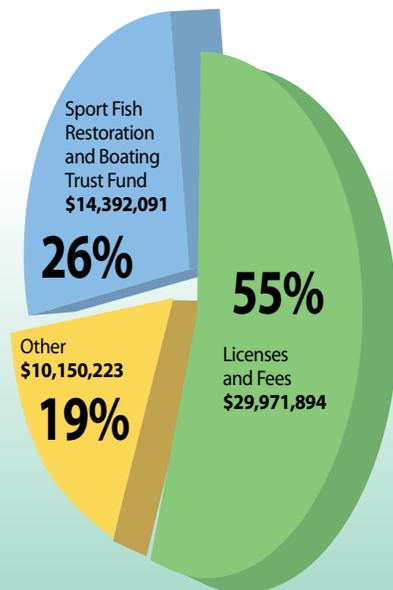


Pennsylvania Angler & Boater magazine celebrated its 80th year of publishing in 2011.



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities

Fish Fund and Boat Fund Revenue Fiscal Year 2010-2011



The advantages to the entire Commonwealth are that we will have a greater likelihood of keeping those people angling, with many of them introducing the next generation to the sport and an ethic of conservation. And a thriving fishing and boating public is good for Pennsylvania's bottom line. Combined, anglers and boaters contribute \$3.4 billion to the Pennsylvania economy each year, supporting nearly 18,000 jobs and generating about \$120 million in annual state and local tax revenues.

Compensation for Marcellus Shale-Related Work

The other major statewide funding initiative of 2011 was the pursuit of compensation for the services the Commission is providing to the burgeoning Marcellus shale industry. Throughout the year, staff and Commissioners repeatedly explained PFBC's Marcellus-related roles and presented the case for being included in the proposed impact fee or severance tax.

Marcellus-related reviews have grown to comprise nearly 25 percent of all of the statewide species impact permit application reviews we conduct as part of our ongoing role in the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. Perhaps even more telling was the fact that by mid-summer, PFBC had already quadrupled the number of Marcellus-related Chapter 105 waterway encroachment and wetland reviews it conducted for Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2010. This number is especially significant since one permit review does not equal one encroachment; rather, one pipeline project might cover four counties and include 300 individual waterway encroachments. Marcellus reviews have also come to overwhelmingly dominate the water withdrawal reviews PFBC conducts on an ongoing basis for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

The Commission also enforces water pollution laws with our network of locally based Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) and advises businesses and industries on how they can minimize or prevent the impacts of their operations, including an increasing number of issues related to erosion and sedimentation, on local aquatic resource communities. As with permit reviews, Marcellus-related enforcement activity required increased attention from our WCOs.

The Commission takes the authorities and responsibilities in the Fish and Boat Code very seriously, and accounting for our needs and the long-term health of aquatic resources are fundamentally a cost of doing business for which the industry should be paying. As of the end of 2011, PFBC was included in numerous impact fee and severance tax proposals being considered by the General Assembly. In 2012, staff and Commissioners will continue to advocate for compensation for the work being created for the agency by the Marcellus industry.

Federal Funding: Cycles of Success

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund

The Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (SFRBTF) serves as the backbone for fisheries conservation funding in the United States. It is a critical funding pool for a diverse set of important state and national recreational fishing and boating programs. Taxes on fishing tackle and equipment, motorboat fuel, small engines, imported boats and fishing equipment are pooled together to create this fund of about \$650 million a year. In turn, the money is allocated to federal and state programs for recreational boating safety, fisheries management, habitat conservation, vessel pump-out stations, water and boating access infrastructure, and aquatic resource education.

In the Commonwealth, PFBC relies on the program for about one-fourth of the annual revenue used to implement its mission to protect, conserve and enhance aquatic resource and provide fishing and boating opportunities. In fiscal year 2010-2011, the Commission received over \$14,392,091 million in support

from the program, totaling 26 percent of agency revenues that directly benefit anglers, boaters and the species it is entrusted to serve. The amount of funding Pennsylvania receives each year is based upon formulas that include fishing license sales and motorboat fuel usage. So, the more fishing and boating activity there is in Pennsylvania, the more our anglers and boaters benefit, thus emphasizing the user pays/user benefits model.

During the summer of 2011, PFBC hosted Members of Congress at boating access areas around Pennsylvania so the legislators could get a first-hand look at the important infrastructure facilities that have been funded by the SFRBTF. In some cases, the Congressmen joined Commission staff for a ride on the water and were able to view, experience and enjoy the access areas in the same ways that our boaters do throughout the year.

In 2011, Congress passed several extensions of transportation program spending authorities which use federal gasoline excise tax receipts, including continuing authorization for distributing the gas tax receipts attributable from outboard motors and small engines into the SFRBTF. The latest extension continues spending authority through March 2012. Congress will need to comprehensively reauthorize these transportation programs, or provide further extension of spending authority by March 31, 2012.

State Wildlife Grants

With the help of State Wildlife Grants (SWG), PFBC has been able to become much more proactive in gathering and using data about rare species. This includes adding and removing species from the state threatened and endangered species lists as a result of increased knowledge about the distribution and abundance of species for which we previously had minimal data. This result is both good for the species and good for businesses, since it is more cost-effective to work around common species than to deal with them once they are threatened or endangered. Before State Wildlife Grants, the Commission simply did not have the resources necessary to devote adequate attention to non-game species; we cannot afford to lose that support now. PFBC has received approximately \$11.77 million since 2000, which has been leveraged with at least an additional \$9.9 million – nearly doubling Congressional investments for over \$21 million in timely, meaningful conservation work.

Unfortunately, State Wildlife Grants have faced both proposed and real cuts in recent years. In 2011, Commission staff maintained a nationally significant leadership role in explaining the importance and value of SWG. As a result, Pennsylvania Congressman Todd Platts stepped forward in 2011 as one of only four legislators nationwide to be a lead signatory of a letter to other Members of Congress in support of State Wildlife Grants. While other legislators have signed on to coalition efforts in support of SWG in the past, this marked the first time that a Pennsylvania legislator took such a prominent stand for the program.

Goal 2: Improve protection, conservation and enhancement of aquatic resources and habitats.

West Branch Susquehanna River

In October, PFBC joined Trout Unlimited (TU), DEP and other partners in celebrating improvements to the West Branch Susquehanna River and its many tributaries. The overall health of the watershed has improved greatly as compared to 25 years ago, as is evidenced by increased fish and insect populations. Scientists collected data at 90 sites across the watershed to evaluate how abandoned mine restoration has affected the river and its tributaries. PFBC biologists assisted with the study by conducting fish surveys at nine sites on the river. There were increases in the numbers and variety of fish species found at the sites. The most substantial improvement was found at Hyner, where the amount of fish caught increased by more than 3,000 percent when compared to a similar survey conducted just 10 years ago.



Congressmen Pat Meehan (top middle) and Charlie Dent (bottom right) saw the benefits of SFRBTF first-hand last summer.



Another record crowd of more than 4,000 attended the Linesville State Fish Hatchery Open House on April 2.



In attendance at the at Trout Unlimited event for the West Branch Susquehanna River held on October 24 were Executive Director John Arway; Dave Kristine, Area 3 Fisheries Biologist; and Jason Detar, Area 3 Fisheries Manager.

2011 Permit Application Review

Staff reviewed and commented on permit applications for activities that have the potential to impact the aquatic resources of the Commonwealth, including: **199 mining, 138 drawdown, 271 triploid grass carp, 1,391 aquatic herbicide, 2 hydropower, 102 water allocation and more than 1,000 applications for Department of Environmental Protection water obstruction and encroachment permits, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act permits, solid waste and transportation projects.**



2011 Unassessed Waters Initiative

Total Number of waters worked: 36
Sampled by PFBC Staff: 305
Sampled by DEP Staff: 32
Sampled by contracted partners: 399
Number of waters with wild trout present: 347
Number of dry streams: 108
Waters surveyed containing wild trout: 47%
Waters surveyed containing wild trout: 55% (excluding dry streams)
New waters to be added to the wild trout list: 164
Waters to be removed from the wild trout list: 20

2011 Contracted Partners:

Lycoming College, Kings College, Juniata College, Susquehanna University, Mansfield University, Duquesne University, Penn State University, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Trout Unlimited-Eastern Abandoned Mine Program.

At the celebration, PFBC Executive Director John Arway declared that, “Today marks a milestone in the recovery of the West Branch. This reach of the Susquehanna River has been long considered polluted and beyond repair, a casualty of acid mine drainage. It has taken decades of remediation driven by volunteer groups like TU, state and federal government agencies that provide the funding, and industry which now treats wastewater to today’s standards. As a result, the West Branch has responded, and I am pleased to declare that it is now fishable again.” Director Arway used the event as an opportunity to say that protection of water and fishery resources from future sources of potential pollution, such as Marcellus shale natural gas drilling, should be a statewide priority as the West Branch Susquehanna River and other waterways are restored from historic sources of pollution from coal mining.

Unassessed Waters Initiative

In May, the Commission added 99 new waters to the state’s list of wild trout streams, raising the total number of documented waterways which support naturally reproducing populations of trout to nearly 3,650. The changes resulted from recent stream surveys undertaken as part of PFBC’s Unassessed Waters Initiative, a collaborative effort among the agency, local colleges and universities, and conservation groups to survey the Commonwealth’s nearly 45,000 remaining unassessed waterways. The wild trout stream designation has regulatory significance, because wetlands that are located in or along the floodplain of the reach of a wild trout stream are considered exceptional value wetlands by DEP and are entitled to the highest level of protection.

Aquatic Invasive Species

In an effort to lead by example, PFBC worked with Pennsylvania Sea Grant to develop an online course for Commission employees explaining the relevance of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and the steps that we should take to help to minimize the spread of invasives. All PFBC staff are now required to either take the course or receive equivalent training to make sure that our own actions do not lead to the unintended infection of additional waters or Commission facilities. The course is part of the Commonwealth’s E-LMS system and is available to all state agencies.

Sea Grant also assisted PFBC in developing and administering technical AIS training modules for PFBC work units – WCOs, Fish Production, Fish Management, Habitat, Environmental Services, Engineering and Property Services, and Outreach and Education.

Additional efforts to combat AIS included the completion and implementation of action plans for priority species: Asian carp (silver carp, black carp, bighead carp), didymo, golden algae and water chestnut. These plans complement the measures that were already underway to keep Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) out of Commonwealth waters and PFBC hatcheries.

In addition to completing AIS action plans, Commission staff also completed planning efforts for priority non-game species identified in the strategic plan: Eastern pearlshell mussel, bog turtle, eastern spadefoot toad, eastern massasauga rattlesnake and timber rattlesnake. The plans provide initial five-year blueprints for the actions needed to attain near-term and, ultimately, long-term goals for the conservation and recovery of the species. The action plans are living documents and will be updated as needed to reflect progress toward those goals and to incorporate new information as it becomes available.

Rivers

Maintaining our commitment to Pennsylvania’s major river systems, the Commission published river management plans for the Delaware River, Susquehanna River, and Three Rivers in Western Pennsylvania. The plans were unveiled after



extensive work by Commission staff and multiple opportunities for public comment, including seven public meetings held late last winter. At each public meeting, PFBC biologists described the history of fish management on the particular river, identified the factors affecting the biological health of the river, prioritized the future needs relative to fisheries management and explained the nature of the plans.

In the Delaware River Watershed, the Commission represented Pennsylvania fisheries interests on the Delaware River Decree Party Workgroup that successfully negotiated fisheries management objectives and improved releases from New York City reservoirs in a one-year agreement that replaced the Flexible Flow Management Plan, which expired May 31, 2011. The Commission's leadership in Delaware River flow issues was recognized by being awarded the Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) Partnership Award the with New York Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources for completion of the Joint Fisheries White Paper which guided negotiations and received widespread conservation group support.

The Commission placed permanent catch-and-immediate-release regulations on smallmouth and largemouth bass in portions of the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers, a move designed to protect the rivers' existing bass population. Commissioners also voted to close bass fishing on the same river segments during the spawning season and extend the catch-and-immediate-release regulations into tributaries to a point one-half mile upstream beginning in 2012. Deteriorating water quality is a significant factor contributing to the decline of the smallmouth bass population in portions of these rivers, and the Commission continued to work with other state agencies and conservation groups on the issue in 2011. The new regulations are the primary step that the Commission can take to protect the existing bass population by reducing angling pressure.

In August, the Commission also took an unprecedented step in partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, American Rivers and the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited to submit supporting data to the DEP to place the middle and lower Susquehanna River on the 303(d) list of impaired waters.

Walleye Plan

In December, PFBC unveiled its final fisheries management plan for inland walleye. The plan describes the history of walleye fish management, identifies the factors affecting the biological health of walleye, prioritizes the future needs relative to fisheries management and outlines the agency's future plans. Part of the process of developing the plan involved soliciting public input, and PFBC welcomed and appreciated anglers taking the time to review the plan and provide their comments. The 73-page plan is available on the Commission's website. The following are the plan's four priorities:

- Determine the levels of walleye natural reproduction in major river sections that were formerly stocked with walleye.
- Assess "last chance" waters and decide if the waters should remain in the stocking programs. These are waters which have not yet yielded catches that meet the minimum standards in the plan.
- Update existing infrastructure and fish culture techniques to increase walleye fingerling production to exceed two million per year; and
- Perform creel surveys and angler opinion surveys to determine how definitions of high-quality walleye fisheries conform to anglers' experiences and opinions.

As part of the Commission's commitment to using the best and latest data, Commissioners approved a proposal to allow for adaptive creel limits for walleye and yellow perch based on the annual quotas established each spring by the Lake Erie Committee, which consists of fisheries managers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Michigan and Ontario, Canada. Under the new rules, PFBC will set



2011 Nongame Permits and Reviews

Species Impact/PNDI Reviews: 2,434

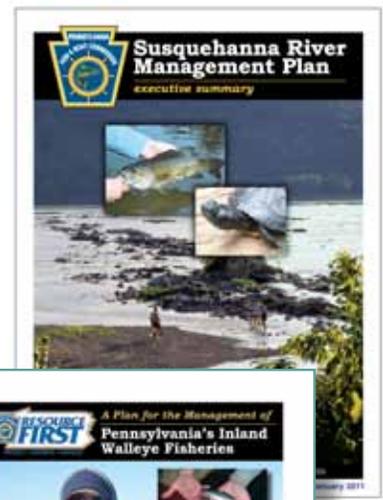
Venomous Snake Permits: 713

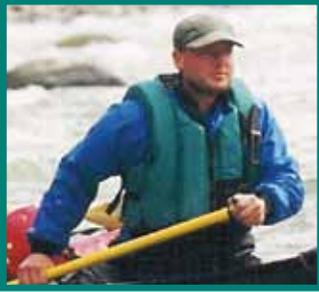
Organized Reptile and

Amphibian Hunts: 6

Threatened and Endangered Species

Special Permits: 55





At its September meeting, the Commission approved a regulation that requires boaters to wear a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak during the cold weather months from November 1 through April 30. This new regulation is effective November 1, 2012.



2011 Law Enforcement Statistics

Special activities permits for tournaments and regattas: **2,206**
 Onboard safety evaluations: **28,638**
 Pollution investigations: **249**
 Pollution investigations pertained to Marcellus shale development: **67**
 Warnings for violations: **33,400**
 Crimes Code summary citations: **103**
 Court cases prosecuted for fishing: violations: **3,350**
 Court cases prosecuted for boating: violations: **2,500**
 Cases still pending from 2010: **1,346**
 Boating Under the Influence (BUI) arrests: **62**
 Boat accident investigations: **91**



daily limits by April 15 of each year, before the onset of each fishing season. The change will allow PFBC to apply regulations in a timely manner, synchronized with the condition of fish stocks.

Law Enforcement Pollution Hotline

Anglers and boaters have always been among the most active eyes and ears when it comes to policing Pennsylvania's waters. To make it easier for anyone who cares about water quality to quickly report suspected pollution incidents, PFBC introduced a new toll-free hotline – 1-855-FISH-KIL (1-855-347-4545). Timely notification is the number one critical factor in dealing with suspected pollution cases and protecting aquatic resources. The sooner the Commission knows about an incident, the sooner it can evaluate the situation and respond. As more time passes between an incident and our evaluation, chances of clearly indentifying the source of a suspected pollutant are reduced.

The number is to be used only for reporting suspected cases of pollution or fish kills and is not meant for general inquires related to license sales, boat registrations or other agency issues. Callers using the hotline are directed to PFBC's Bureau of Law Enforcement in Harrisburg, where staff answer calls from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Calls received after hours or on weekends are sent to a voice mailbox where the caller can leave a message. PFBC staff review the voice messages and respond as soon as possible. If someone spots a suspected incident and believes it is an immediate threat to public safety or the environment, they should dial 911 or the DEP's emergency number at 1-800-541-2050.

New Waterways Conservation Officers

In August, PFBC welcomed seven new Waterways Conservation Officers (WCO) to its ranks upon their graduation from the agency's H. R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety, and the WCOs started working in their assigned regions across the state. Before graduating, officers undergo an extensive 52-week training program, including Municipal Police Officers Basic Training. The training course, held at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey, covered all phases of police work, from the Vehicle and Crimes codes to use of firearms and conducting criminal investigations. Officers then completed seven months of on-the-job training with seasoned WCOs, including assisting with investigations, patrolling regions, participating in public outreach events and stocking waterways.

The new waterways conservation officers, their hometowns and assigned regions are:

- Corey Girt, Summerville, Clarion County. Assigned to Mifflin and northern Huntingdon counties. WCO Girt also received the Edward W. Manhart Academic Achievement Award;
- Michael Johnson, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. Assigned to southern Bucks County;
- Matthew Kauffman, Johnstown, Somerset County Assigned to southern Pike and northeast Monroe counties;
- Chad McKenrick, Punxsutawney, Jefferson County. Assigned to northern Susquehanna and eastern Bradford counties;
- Chase Rhoades, Emlenton, Clarion County. Assigned to northern Montgomery County;
- Dan Sharer, Downingtown, Chester County. Assigned to southwestern Montgomery and western Philadelphia counties; and
- Jeremy Yohe, Bradford, McKean County. Assigned to western Bradford and Sullivan counties.

Fish Habitat

The Commission kept up its commitment to improving fish habitat. As part of the high hazard dam repair work described *on page 19*, Commission staff also took advantage of dry lake beds at Leaser Lake and Opossum Lake to install fish habitat structures to enhance the conditions for the restoration and long-term sustainability of fish populations once the lakes are refilled and open to the public again.

Statewide, PFBC led or assisted lake and stream habitat projects in all corners of Pennsylvania that leveraged \$5 in augmenting revenue for every dollar invested by the Commission. These projects improved approximately 225 acres of lake habitat and 6.2 stream miles. In addition, PFBC completed 10 dam removals and three fishway projects.

The Commission's habitat management efforts again received national and regional attention. As one example, PFBC-led project at Foster Joseph Sayers Reservoir in Bald Eagle State Park was one of only four nationwide to receive a grant from the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. In awarding the grant, the Partnership was particularly impressed with the cooperation among PFBC, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

In September, the Commission sued Consol Energy for civil damages resulting from the devastating 2009 pollution incident on Dunkard Creek that caused a massive fish kill spanning nearly 30 miles of stream in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The lawsuit seeks compensatory damages for lost fish, mussels and amphibians, as well as lost fishing opportunities for Pennsylvania anglers and punitive damages to deter future pollution.

Goal 3: Improve the Commission's knowledge of its users in order to better direct Commission programs and services.

2011 Fish-for-Free Days

In an effort to bring attention to fishing among Pennsylvanians and visitors to the Commonwealth while they were outdoors enjoying long holiday weekends, PFBC shifted its Fish-for-Free Days to Memorial Day and Labor Day. Fish-for-Free Days allow anyone (resident or non-resident) to legally fish, as no fishing license is required on these days. On Memorial Day, the Commission hosted events at six popular waters at which staff loaned out fishing equipment, provided free fishing tips, provided demonstrations, staffed exhibits, and passed out free publications at the six selected sites.

The Memorial Day event coincided with Cabela's national "Wanna Go Fishing for Millions?" contest, which ran from May 14 until July 14. As part of the contest, PFBC staff tagged fish in eight waters, some of which carried a prize. Pennsylvania emerged as the leading state in contest participation. This opportunity to catch fish worth millions of dollars in cash and prizes was gladly accepted by a nationwide total of 94,957 registered anglers, with Pennsylvania registering 17,063. Although no grand prize was won, \$60,000 in prizes was awarded with 149 official winners.

Taking what it learned from the Memorial Day events, PFBC coordinated six regional Family Fishing Festivals on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Family participation was encouraged, and registrants learned about the fundamentals of fishing through educational stations with an extended period of time at the close of the program for on-site fishing.

As part of the Labor Day weekend events, PFBC had participants register in advance. This was in keeping with agency's move toward more on-line registration. In 2011, the Commission initiated roll-out of its web-based program registration system. Instructors, volunteers, and other partners received a mailing providing



Both the Commission's Stream Habitat Section (above) and Lake Habitat Section (below) were award-winning in 2011.



Fish-for-Free Days on Memorial Day and Labor Day attracted a wide range of participants at statewide locations.



instructions on how to enter programs and events, use of on-line participant registration system, and other features. Expanded use of the web-based system also included teacher training workshops. As a result, contact information has been obtained on more than half of the individuals age 16 and older participating in PFBC angler education programs and events.

Pennsylvania Saltwater Angler Registry

The Commission entered into an agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) exempting Pennsylvania anglers from the National Saltwater Angler Registry. Until this exemption was in place, Pennsylvania anglers who targeted or caught shad, striped bass and river herring from the Delaware River below Trenton Falls or in the Delaware Estuary were required to register with NOAA, unless they met one of a number of exemption criteria outlined at the registry website at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.

Instead, the Board of Commissioners voted in July to adopt a new rule that allows anglers to avoid having to register with NOAA and pay the \$15 national fee by registering for free through a new online system administered by the Commission. With support from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, PFBC built an online tool that allows anglers to register with PFBC for free, after which the Commission shares relevant data with NOAA for their survey purposes. PFBC is committed to working with NOAA to provide angler data that will help federal policy-makers manage the long-term sustainability of our ocean and coastal fisheries, including those species that spend parts of their lives in Pennsylvania waters.



"Ready, Set, Inflate!" life jacket event held at the State Capitol Complex in May.



Wear It Pennsylvania!

The Commission maintained its focus on safe boating in 2011. While safety was again woven as a theme into all boating programs and materials, a number of significant things stood out from the past year. In May, PFBC coordinated events related to National Safe Boating Week, including a "Ready, Set, Inflate!" event at the State Capitol building featuring legislators and other guests inflating life jackets as part of a national effort to highlight the importance and ease of wearing life jackets. Executive Director John Arway also delivered a special message and demonstration on the agency's website as a part of expanded outreach efforts surrounding the Wear It! Pennsylvania theme.

At its September meeting, the Board of Commissioners took a significant step to promote safe boating that will take effect on November 1, 2012. The Commissioners approved a new regulation requiring boaters to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket during the cold-weather months from November 1 through April 30 while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak. Cold water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities when water temperatures are less than 70 degrees F, and a disproportionate number of fatalities occur during the months of November through April. Cold water shock causes an involuntary gasp (often resulting in aspiration of water), hyperventilation, breathlessness and a reduced ability to control breathing and swim. A life jacket greatly increases chances for survival in cold water. It also increases the amount of time for a boater to be rescued.

Pennsylvania Water Rescue

Pennsylvania's nationally renowned Water Rescue Program took center stage in Pittsburgh this past November. The City of Pittsburgh is creating one of the best water rescue response plans in the nation, by having approximately 1,600 police officers, firefighters and paramedics go through PFBC's Water Rescue for the First Responder (NFPA 1670 Awareness level) program. Approximately 500 of those personnel will go on to receive NFPA 1670 Operations level training by taking the Commission's Water Rescue and Emergency Response course. After that, about

Water Rescue Program

The Commission's nationally recognized Water Rescue Program certified 1,307 students through 96 courses in 2011. This is the fourth best year on record since 1983. A trained volunteer instructor corps of more than 140 individuals provided in excess of 6,200 hours of training this past year. The Commission's two-hour Water Rescue for the First Responder (NFPA 1670 Awareness level) course was presented more than 68 times with a total student enrollment of 1,545. The Commission's Water Rescue Program continues to be the largest of its kind in the United States.

300 personnel will continue on and receive NFPA 1670 Technician level training in the Commission's Advanced Line Systems Rescue, Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue, and Ice Rescue and Emergency Response courses. Commission staff and water rescue volunteer instructor trainers trained sixteen city employees in its November Instructor Training course. Those city personnel are now certified to teach Water Rescue for the First Responder and Water Rescue and Emergency Response to other City employees on demand. When the time comes in 2012, Commission staff and water rescue volunteer instructor trainers will provide additional instructor level training for Operations and Technician level courses.

Anglers' Legacy

PFBC has been an active participant in the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's "Take Me Fishing" campaign. As part of the campaign, the Commission encouraged anglers to promise to introduce children and adults to fishing and to take the Anglers' Legacy Pledge: "As an Anglers' Legacy Ambassador, I pledge to share my love of fishing with at least one new person each year; to pass on traditional skills and earned knowledge; to pay forward the thrill of fishing with friends and family, my love of the great outdoors and my commitment to a healthy environment; and to give back what someone once gave to me—the special gift of fishing."

During a special evening session at their quarterly meeting in January, the Board of Commissioners collectively signed the pledge, setting a model for the 90,000 Pennsylvanians who signed the pledge thus far. Pennsylvania ranked second nationally (only Colorado was higher) for the number of Anglers' Legacy participants. In 2012, the Commission will reach out to these ambassadors as mentors for special fishing programs like the family fishing festivals in advance of Fish-for-Free Days.

Goal 4: Retain and add new access to fishing and boating opportunities.

Spring Creek Canyon

In September, the Spring Creek Canyon Cooperative Management Area Coalition unveiled signs and an informational kiosk to greet visitors to more than 1,800 acres being jointly managed by PFBC, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Pennsylvania State University and Benner Township. Previously part of the Department of Corrections' Rockview State Correctional Institution, much of the property had been closed to the public. However, Act 55 of 2010 enabled the land and water to be open to the public and to be jointly managed by the coalition. A 4.4-mile main trail provides access to many previously unseen views of Spring Creek, and the property offers recreational opportunities such as fishing, boating, hunting, hiking and biking.

Also last fall, PFBC partnered with Pennsylvania American Water Company in announcing the opening of five Pennsylvania American Water reservoirs in Lackawanna County for public fishing. The five new reservoirs open to the public are Curtis, Dunmore #1, Elmhurst, Griffin and Maple Lake.

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission received \$985,991 dollars in federal funding through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. BIG provides federal funds for projects designed to accommodate transient, recreational motorboats that are 26 feet in length or longer. BIG funds awarded to the Commission were used to construct transient docks on the Allegheny River along the Convention Center Riverfront Park in Pittsburgh. The facility consists of docking space for 26 large boats, of which,



Boating Safety Education

Boating Safety Education Certificates

Issued (BSEC): 14,211

BSEC—Distance learning: 11,101

BSEC—Classroom courses: 3,110

Boating and Water Safety Awareness

Courses (BWSA,youth): 40

BWSA students: 1,924

BWSA BSEC issued: 475

Basic Boating Classroom Courses

(BB): 104

BB students: 1,665

BB BSEC issued: 1,868

New boating course instructors: 23

Paddle PA event/training attendance: 83

Fishing/Aquatic Resource Education

Family Fishing Programs (FFP): 75

FFP attendance: 1,694

Fish for Free Day (FFFD) events: 12

FFFD event attendance: 878

New Fishing Skills Instructors trained: 41

Fishing Tackle Loaner Sites: 61

Teacher training workshops (TT): 9

TT attendance: 147

Program requests: 600

Programs presented: 465

Trout in the Classroom classrooms: 187



SPRING CREEK CANYON

Cooperative Management Area

Above, representatives of the Spring Creek Management Area Coalition were present for the area's ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 30.



Boating Facility Grant Program

In 2011, the Commission worked with grant recipients to complete the construction of seven projects to improve boating access in the state. The total amount of grant funding used for these projects was \$522,060. In addition, the Commission approved \$246,000 in grant funds for two projects to improve boating access in the Commonwealth.

Fishing Access Improvement Program

- In 2011, the Commission approved options to acquire two easements that will provide approximately two miles of stream access under the Erie access Improvement Program. The Commission also completed an easement under the Erie Access Improvement Program that provides 0.5 miles of stream access along Elk Creek.
- The Commission acquired a 27-acre property on Clarks Valley Road in Middle Paxton Township, Dauphin County. The property provides over 5,000 linear feet of access to Clarks Creek. The property was acquired with the assistance of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The landowner also donated a portion of the land value to facilitate the transfer of the property to the Commission.
- The Commission completed the acquisition of public fishing access conservation easements on 12,513 linear feet along the Little Juniata River in Porter Township, Huntingdon County.

16 are for transient boaters and day-dockage uses. The purpose of the park is to provide transient recreational boaters with access to the Convention Center, as well as the Cultural District, the Strip District, the North Shore and other venues. At a special event in May, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted to open the area to the public. The project is part of a larger \$8.5 million redevelopment effort by the Sports and Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and is located between the Rachel Carson Bridge and the Fort Wayne Railroad Bridge along the Allegheny River in downtown Pittsburgh.

American Fisheries Society Acknowledgement

Each year, the Fisheries Administration Section of the American Fisheries Society acknowledges the top projects in the country that highlight the importance and effectiveness of the Sport Fish Restoration program and recognize excellence in fisheries management, research and education. The 2011 Outstanding Project Award in the category of Sport Fishery Development and Management went to the Nesbitt Park Access Rehabilitation Project – a joint effort among Luzerne County, DCNR and PFBC. As the only public boat launch facility for the City of Wilkes-Barre and surrounding communities, this project helps to meet the increasing demand for public boating access along this portion of the Susquehanna River and improves access to the river for search and rescue operations.

Lake Erie Access Improvement Program

The Lake Erie and Lower Susquehanna-Swatawa Watersheds rank first and second, respectively, statewide in Pennsylvania's Fishing and Boating Access Strategy.

As part of its highly successful Lake Erie Access Improvement Program, PFBC explained and promoted the benefits of public fishing access and conservation easements to private landowners who own stream frontage on Four Mile, Conneaut, Crooked, Elk, Walnut and Twenty Mile Creeks. A public fishing easement is a voluntary and permanent legal contract between the landowner and the Fish and Boat Commission. The easement typically provides a 35-foot corridor along a stream bank that allows the public to wade in or walk along the stream bank for the purpose of fishing. The landowner continues to own and control the land.



A section of the property acquired along Clarks Creek.

Goal 5: Optimize agency operations through integrated information systems management.

The Commission continued its efforts to modernize twelve of its Microsoft Access-based core applications to a more technologically advanced intranet platform. The unification of disparate back-end databases, coupled with up-to-date web-based technology, will provide both a more user-friendly interface, as well as a more efficient way of entering, analyzing, sharing and retrieving data to make sound business decisions for the Commission. The incorporation of geographic information systems (GIS) capabilities wherever possible will ensure improved integrity of Commission data moving forward, in addition to providing users with the tools needed to more effectively perform Commission business in a web-based environment. Enhancements, both in security and application functionality, will allow for a fresh, new and innovative way for Commission staff to conduct business in this age of rapidly changing technology.

Goal 6: Optimize agency efficiency and ensure continuity of operations through infrastructure planning and employee development.

State Fish Hatchery Operations and Infrastructure

The Commission's system of 14 state fish hatcheries comprises a major part of the infrastructure that serves Pennsylvania anglers. In its 2010 triennial audit of PFBC, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LB&FC), recommended that the Commission create a broad-based working-group with the primary responsibility to identify strategies for promoting cost savings in the operation of the state fish hatcheries with the least adverse effects on services to the angling public. This recommendation was also incorporated into the agency's strategic plan. Accordingly, a PFBC work group examined cost savings opportunities through assessing hatchery consolidation opportunities, varying fish production options, and various cost savings and revenue generating ideas. *The Hatchery Cost Savings Work Group Report* was released in late August, and staff briefed the General Assembly about its findings and recommendations in a special hearing conducted by the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee in October. Several of the strategies proposed within the report may be accomplished in a relatively short time frame, while others will require more long-term planning and input by Commissioners and anglers.

Other significant components of PFBC's infrastructure are the more than 60 dams managed by the Commission on behalf of the Commonwealth. In particular, 2011 brought a number of challenges related to the Commission's high hazard, unsafe dams, in response to which PFBC performed extensive planning and work in the field.

Safety concerns led the complete drawdown of Glade Run, Herford Manor, and Speedwell Forge Lakes and the partial drawdown of Tamarack Lake. While the Commission was busy alleviating the safety concerns at these facilities, progress was made on others, as ground was broken on the repair of the dams at Canonsburg and Dutch Fork Lakes, and completion neared on the projects at Leaser Lake and Opossum Lakes.

As of the end of 2011, an estimated \$34.0 million was still needed in construction funding to repair the Commission's current list of high hazard, unsafe dams. (See page 19.)

Employee Appreciation and Performance

In 2010, PFBC enlisted the Office of Administration's (OA) Office of Strategic Services to conduct a climate assessment for the agency. The purpose of the climate assessment was essentially to do an internal evaluation of staff regarding what is working well within the Commission, along with identifying what areas need improvement. Regardless of the particular work environment or agency, there are always opportunities to make things better and even more efficient. The results

PFBC staff on Penns Creek during their Employee Appreciation Day in May.



2011 Infrastructure Improvements:

The Commission managed infrastructure improvements at Commonwealth-owned dams, access areas and State Fish Hatcheries (SFH).

Highlighted improvements include:

- Spillway reconstruction and drainage improvements at Leaser Lake Dam, Lehigh County \$2.7M.
- Spillway reconstruction and drainage improvements at Opossum Lake Dam, Cumberland County, \$3.4M. A major renovation of the boat access area to the lake was also undertaken, including the addition of an ADA accessible fishing pier.
- A \$4 million project was started to reconstruct the spillway and armor the dam at Dutch Fork Lake Dam, Washington County.
- A \$2.2 million project was begun for the removal of both the Upper and Lower Herford Manor Dams in Beaver County.
- \$2.1 million project was also begun to anchor the concrete dam to the bedrock at Canonsburg Lake Dam, Washington County.

The Commission's public access areas benefited from improvements at:

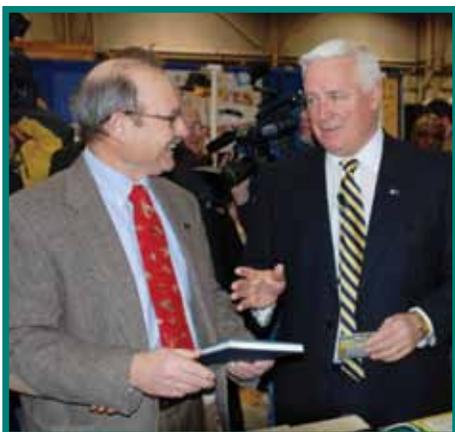
- North East Marina- marina dredging, sand movement and the installation of a new dock
- Walnut Creek- benefited from creek and marina dredging.
- Wallenpaupack- A new concrete slab was placed at the bottom of the access to increase the length of the launch.

Other improvements:

- Huntsdale SFH went through multiple electrical renovations as well as the implementation of a French Drain.
- Pleasant Mount SFH had a water main replaced and a complete restoration of the porch attached to the administrative building.
- Safety Improvements were made to the Pistol Range at Stackhouse.
- Maintenance crews responded to flood damage at PFBC accesses caused by Tropical Storms Lee and Irene.



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commissioners taking the “Anglers’ Legacy” pledge during the January Commission meeting evening presentation.



Executive Director John Arway with Governor Tom Corbett at the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show when Governor Corbett purchased his fishing license.



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commissioners with Lt. Governor Jim Cawley taking the “Wear It Pennsylvania!” pledge during July’s Paddle Program at Memorial Lake.

of the climate assessment were tabulated and, in the winter of 2010, work groups were formed to tackle the issues that appeared to need improvement.

A number of accomplishments flowing out of the climate assessment occurred in 2011, including PFBC’s structural reorganization as an agency; extensive, mandatory supervisory trainings for all supervisors and managers; several new rewards programs; updating and review of agency administrative policies and standard operating procedures; team building and communications activities; enhanced communication with the Executive Director; and an Employee Fishing and Boating Appreciation Day for staff to enjoy the resources they are charged with conserving. Climate assessment groups continue to evolve and meet, as improvement is always a work in progress.

The Employee Performance Review (EPR) process is an important element in managing the PFBC’s most valuable resource – its employees. This process provides one way to thank employees who are excelling at their jobs and supporting the mission of the Commission. The EPR process also provides a tool to assist and guide employees in order to achieve the best performance possible. The completion of performance evaluations in a timely manner ensures that all employees know what is expected of them, and it is an important and worthwhile process.

Each calendar year, agencies must complete an EPR timeliness and completion report. In 2011, PFBC ranked first for timeliness along with just one other agency in state government and joined four other agencies in achieving a 100 percent completion rate. This was a remarkable accomplishment and is a testament of the agency’s commitment to the development of its employees.

The Commission also continued to maximize the training opportunities afforded to its employees. This emphasis on employee development included promotion and implementation of the Keystone Academy of Learning course series, Supervisory Development training, Absence Management training, Workforce and Succession Planning courses, EPR training for supervisors and managers, and participation in OA’s Leadership Development Institute and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Mentoring Program. During each training session, staff were provided information about future additional training opportunities and encouraged to take advantage of these offers both for themselves and their employees.

Goal 7: Improve internal and external communications systems to develop an informed and engaged workforce and increase the public’s access to and use of Commission information.

Special Events and Presentations

The oldest way of communicating with people is face-to-face, and the Commission proactively engaged with anglers and boaters in public sessions throughout 2011. The commission kicked off the year with a special evening session dedicated to ice fishing at the January Commission meeting. This program was part of an on-going effort to offer fun, informational sessions during the evenings of the Board of Commissioners’ regular quarterly meetings. The January ice fishing event was followed by a special “Paddle with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission” evening at Memorial Lake State Park in Lebanon County in conjunction with the July Commission meeting.

Throughout the winter sport show season, PFBC took to the road to brief attendees at some of the major shows about Commission priorities, including presentations about the new river management plans. Other public

meetings were held throughout the year, including major events to answer residents' questions about PFBC's activities at Donegal Lake in Westmoreland County and Speedwell Forge Lake in Lancaster County.

In May, the Commission hosted the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee for a special hearing at the H. R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety during which staff briefed legislators and their staff and answered questions on a number of topics, including Commission's calls for alternative revenues.

Governor's Kayak Trip

In August, staff helped coordinate a multi-day kayak trip on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River for Governor Corbett and invited guests. The trip drew statewide attention to the economic impact of Pennsylvania's \$3.4 billion fishing and boating industry and the Commonwealth's renowned system of water trails. Early in the year, PFBC rolled out a new series of six region guides that provide more information than ever about regional fishing and boating opportunities and safety tips on one side of the guide and detailed information about local water trails on the other side. Governor Corbett also participated in a second kayak trip, in August, on the main stem of the Susquehanna River

To help reporters, legislators and other partners who want to help promote agency messages and events, PFBC created a media resources page at <http://www.fishandboat.com/newsrel.htm> containing high-resolution photos, images and videos. The first set of images were posted in March and helped promote the opening of the 2011 trout season. Throughout the year, additional media resources were added for the Wear It Pennsylvania! life jacket message, the 1-855-FISH-KIL pollution hotline, the Wanna Go Fishing For Millions? contest and Fish-for-Free Days.

Improved Technology

Recognizing the increasing popularity and use of smartphone devices, PFBC also started utilizing QR (Quick Response) codes on many major publications, including *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*, region guides, maps and posters. These codes, combined with a QR application, are scanned with smartphones to quickly direct visitors to a website destination. PFBC has used this technology to efficiently introduce users to topic-oriented landing pages and educational videos. As use and public awareness of QR codes increase, PFBC will implement these as a means to extend the usefulness and content of our print publications and exhibits.

The Commission also established "iFish" and "iBoat." These are web pages formatted for use on mobile devices which contain a menu of topic-related PFBC web links.

- iFish = <http://www.fishandboat.com/ifish.htm>
- iBoat = <http://www.fishandboat.com/iboat.htm>

With the end of the year came the publishing of the *2012 Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws*. The new summary book is put out at the end of November each year to coincide with the beginning of the new fishing license year, which lasts for thirteen months – from December 1 of one year until December 31 of the following year. In a more business-minded approach, the Commission amended the vendor contract with the publisher of the summary book to include development of a .com website (www.fishinpa.com, hosted by the vendor) where summary book regulatory information is displayed with solicited advertisements. The website is intended to support the printed publications by offering web advertising to prospective advertisers as a "valued-added" option to their ad placement in the printed summary. The goal with this strategy is to increase overall ad revenue and provide a non-print, revenue-generating option for the summary book.

2011 PFBC Website

**Top ten pages by page view
(2011 monthly averages):**

1. Home page = 128,529
2. Trout stocking schedule = 30,315
3. Buy a license = 22,726
4. County guide = 19,434
5. Stocking overview = 16,565
6. Register a boat = 13,586
7. Fishing near you = 13,050
8. Trout stocking overview = 12,097
9. Fishing licenses FAQ = 12,097
10. Fishing regulations = 10,989

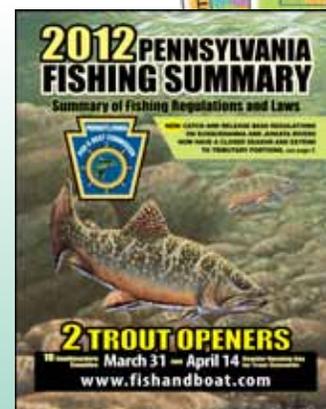
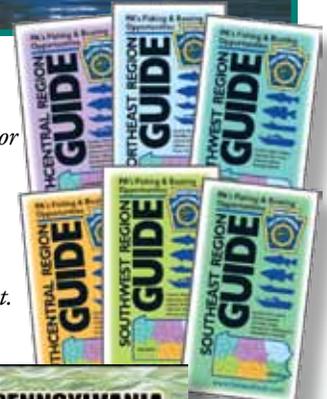
PFBC Website totals

(2011 monthly averages):

- Visits = 238,481**
Unique visitors = 168,288
Page views = 647,983



Above, Governor Tom Corbett on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River in August.



Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Report

Actual Expenditures charged from July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011

EXPENDITURES

Fish Fund

Personnel	\$23,597,534	67.06%
Operating	\$9,813,810	27.89%
Fixed Assets	\$609,285	1.73%
Grants	\$1,167,955	3.32%
Payments to State Agencies	\$0	0.00%
Fish Fund Total	\$35,188,584	100.00%

Boat Fund

Personnel	\$8,597,219	66.57%
Operating	\$2,920,304	22.61%
Fixed Assets	\$517,168	4.01%
Grants	\$564,419	4.37%
Payments to State Agencies	\$315,237	2.44%
Boat Fund Total	\$12,914,347	100.00%

Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Personnel	\$32,194,753	66.93%
Operating	\$12,734,114	26.47%
Fixed Assets	\$1,126,453	2.34%
Grants	\$1,732,374	3.60%
Payments to State Agencies	\$315,237	0.66%
Fish & Boat Fund Total	\$48,102,931	100.00%

Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Report

Actual Revenue Deposited from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

REVENUE

Fish Fund

Licenses & Fees	\$23,992,129	58.73%
Fines & Penalties	\$352,143	0.86%
Miscellaneous	\$6,392,138	15.65%
Augmentations	\$10,116,132	24.76%
Fish Fund Total	\$40,852,542	100.00%

Boat Fund

Licenses & Fees	\$5,979,765	43.77%
Fines & Penalties	\$189,405	1.39%
Miscellaneous	\$3,216,537	23.54%
Augmentations	\$4,275,959	31.30%
Boat Fund Total	\$13,661,666	100.00%

Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Licenses & Fees	\$29,971,894	54.98%
Fines & Penalties	\$541,548	0.99%
Miscellaneous	\$9,608,675	17.63%
Augmentations	\$14,392,091	26.40%
Fish & Boat Fund Total	\$54,514,208	100.00%



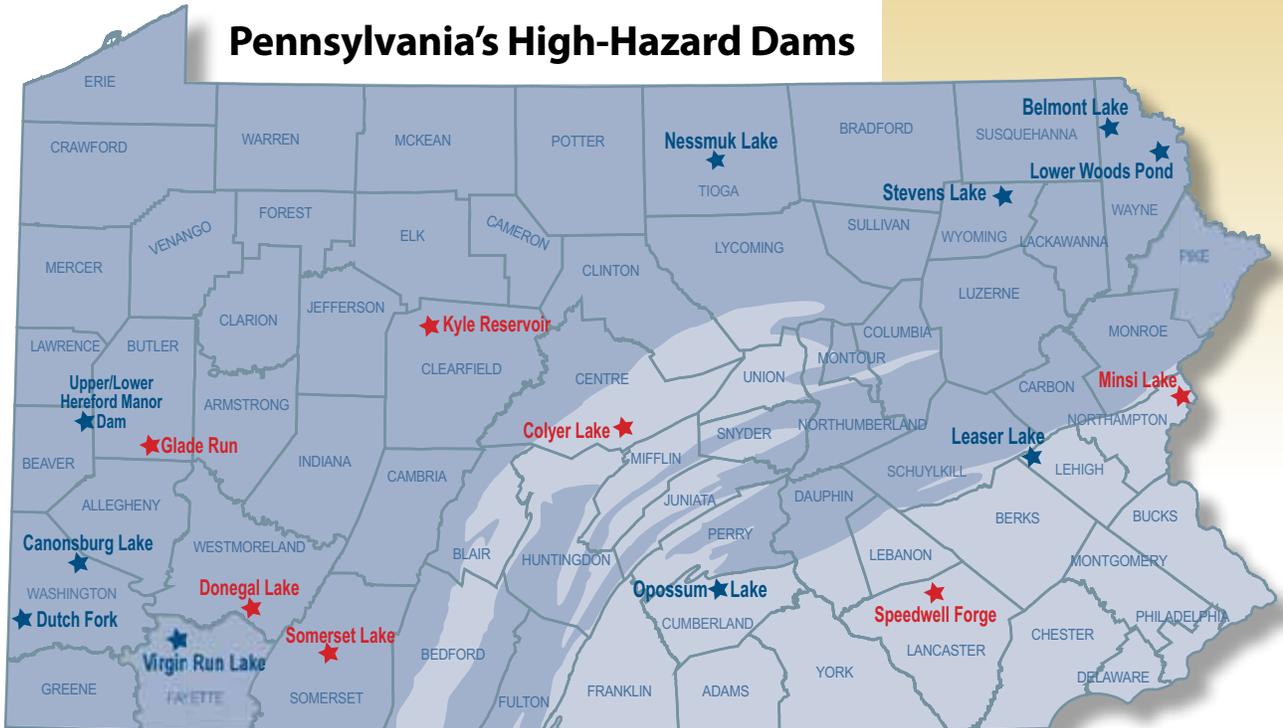
2011 Trout Stocked and Distributed to Cooperative Nurseries

Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount
Brook Trout	Adult	596,219
	Fingerling	110,500
	Fingerling to Coops	460,075
Brown Trout	Adult	873,007
	Fingerling	624,135
	Fingerling to Coops	237,610
Rainbow Trout	Adult	1,755,168
	Fingerling	410,100
	Fingerling to Coops	492,005
Golden Rainbow Trout	Adult	10,102
	Fingerling to Coops	13,015
Total Trout Species		5,581,936

2011 Warmwater/Coolwater Fish Production and Stocking

Species	Lifestage	Amount
American Shad	Fingerling	9,083
Black Crappie	Fingerling	18,576
Bluegill	Fingerling	41,749
Channel Catfish	Fingerling	203,189
Channel Catfish	Yearling	10,630
Golden Shiner	Fingerling	3,029
Golden Shiner	Adult	1,330
Hickory Shad	Fry	3,614,532
Lake Trout	Fingerling	3,135
Lake Trout	Yearling	2,178
Lake Trout	Adult	439
Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	43,657
Muskellunge	Fry	54,000
Muskellunge	Fingerling	69,728
Muskellunge	Yearling	1,379
Northern Pike	Fingerling	6,524
Paddlefish	Fingerling	6,021
Rainbow Trout/Steelhead	Yearling	1,010,100
Striped Bass	Fry	950,000
Striped Bass	Phase 1 Fingerling	233,126
Tiger Muskellunge	Fingerling	80,654
Walleye	Fry	23,665,000
Walleye	Phase 1 Fingerling	1,137,917
White Crappie	Fingerling	19,353
White/Striped Bass	Fingerling	42,500
Yellow Perch	Fry	520,000

Pennsylvania's High-Hazard Dams



Name of Dam	County	Est. Construction Costs (Million)	Funding Status
Belmont Lake	Wayne	\$1.3	PFBC - GG2 Funds
<i>Project Status: PFBC engineering staff to design repairs. PFBC construction crews to perform modifications.</i>			
Speedwell Forge Lake*	Lancaster	\$6.3	Unfunded
<i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>			
Donegal Lake*	Westmoreland	\$4.3	Unfunded
<i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>			
Nessmuk Lake	Tioga	\$1.0	100% funded 1. H2o PA - \$1.0 million
<i>Project Status: PFBC engineering staff to design repairs. PFBC construction crews to perform modifications.</i>			
Minsi Lake*	Northampton	\$3.6	Unfunded
<i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>			
Lower Woods Pond	Wayne	\$1.6	PFBC - GG2 Funds
<i>Project Status: PFBC engineering staff to design repairs. PFBC construction crews to perform modifications.</i>			
Canonsburg Lake*	Washington	\$2.215	100% funded 1. H2o PA - \$2.215 million
<i>Project Status: Contract for repairs awarded.</i>			
Somerset Lake*	Somerset	\$4.7	Unfunded
<i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>			
Glade Run Lake*	Butler	\$4.5	Unfunded
<i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>			
Dutch Fork Lake*	Washington	\$4.0	100% funded 1. H2o PA - \$4.0 million
<i>Project Status: Contract for repairs awarded.</i>			
Stevens Lake	Wyoming	\$1.8	\$0.00 Dam removed from HH list.
<i>Project Status: Calculations certified by DEP that dam has capacity to manage maximum rainfall event.</i>			
Kyle Lake*	Jefferson	\$4.2	Unfunded
<i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>			
Colyer Lake*	Centre	\$6.3	Unfunded
<i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>			
Virgin Run Lake	Fayette	\$4.2	\$125,000
Funding provided by PFBC for the acquisition of a downstream house.			
<i>Project Status: Family moved and PFBC researching flowage easements to eliminate future development downstream from dam.</i>			
Lower Hereford Manor Lake*	Beaver	\$12.0	100% funded Phase 1 1. H2o PA - \$3.1
Upper Hereford Manor Lake*			
<i>Project Status: Dams to be permanently breached as phase 1 of proposed future replacement project. Contract for breaching/repairs awarded. Funding not yet identified for Phase 2 replacement. PFBC and local groups developed Phase 2 plans for the construction of a single replacement dam concept - \$12 million.</i>			
Opossum Lake	Cumberland	\$3.4	100% funded
1. GBO - \$1.45 million (Vance); 2. DEP GG2 - \$609,000; 3. Lower Frankford Twp. - \$90,000; 4. PFBC - \$1.25million GG2			
<i>Project Status: Contract for repairs awarded. Project is 85% complete.</i>			
Leaser Lake	Lehigh	\$3.6	100 % funded
1. GBO - \$1.8 million; 2. DCNR/GG2 - \$750,000; 3. DEP/GG2 - \$500,000; 4. Lehigh County - \$500,000			
<i>Project Status: Contract for repairs awarded. Project is 85% complete.</i>			

*Indicates engineering and design fees funded by the Governor's Budget Office (GBO). Final fees based on 20% of estimated construction costs.

High-Hazard Dam Program Facts

As of November 14, 2011

- The Fish & Boat Commission manages 18 dams that are currently or previously classified as High-hazard and Unsafe.
- High-hazard, unsafe dams are considered unsafe because they cannot handle 50% of the estimated maximum precipitation an area could receive in a 24-hour period, and if the dams were to fail significant risk of property damage and loss of life could occur.
- Original estimate of \$86 million in funding needed.
- Criteria used to identify the highest priority dam repairs include the number of people impacted by any potential failure, cost of repairs, immediacy of needed repairs, contributions and funding commitments by local partners, economic impact of the dam structure, recreational fishing and boating opportunities, and other variables or identified benefits.
- Two (2) projects have been removed from high hazard status; six (6) projects are 100% funded with construction activities underway; one (1) project is 100% funded with repair work expected to begin in early 2012; and two (2) projects are scheduled for design and repairs in 2013 and 2014 using PFBC forces and PFBC allocated GG2 Funds, leaving seven (7) projects un-funded.
- **Estimated \$34.0 million still needed in construction funding to address high hazard dams.**



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 PFBC web pages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1601 Elmerton Avenue
 P.O. Box 67000
 Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000
 Phone: (717) 705-7800
 Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Monday through Friday

PLEASANT GAP COMPLEX

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REGION OFFICES: LAW ENFORCEMENT/EDUCATION

Contact **Law Enforcement** for information about regulations and fishing and boating opportunities.
 Contact **Education** for information about fishing and boating programs and boating safety education.

NORTHWEST REGION

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 Fax (814) 337-0579 Fax (814) 337-0579
 Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie,
 Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren

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STATE FISH HATCHERIES

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 Union City, PA 16438
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* Includes visitor center. Visitors are welcome from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.
 Groups should make advance arrangements.

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