

# Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission



# 2012 Annual Report



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



[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)



## Resource First

Founded in 1866, the Pennsylvania Fish & 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, the Commission's 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 the Commission's 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 & Boat Commission is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners who is 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. The Executive Director, who serves as chief executive officer and chief waterways conservation officer, leads agency operations. PFBC staff includes 432 full-time employees and 85 temporary and seasonal employees.



*Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Board of Commissioners: (Front row, left to right) Robert A. Bachman, Denver; Glade E. Squires, Downingtown; Norman R. Gavlick, Kingston; G. Warren Elliott (Vice President), Chambersburg. (Back row, left to right) William J. Sabatose, Brockport; Edward P. Mascharka III, Erie; Rocco S. Ali, Apollo; William R. Worobec, Williamsport; Leonard L. Lichvar, Boswell; and Steven M. Ketterer (President), Harrisburg. Not pictured: Thomas C. Shetterly (term expired October 29, 2012).*



## Executive Director's Message History in the Making

In 2012, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission embraced its history and also made new history. Late January 2012 marked a significant milestone for our 10-member Board of Commissioners with the calling to order of the Commission's 100th business meeting. Since the agency's founding in 1866, anglers and boaters have been able to rely upon generations of dedicated volunteer leaders to serve as Commissioners and set the policy direction for the agency and the resources we are entrusted to serve. It was a real thrill to join the Board for this historic event that reminded us of the unique and special role that the commission form of governance offers as part of the time-tested North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. For more information, visit [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org).



ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

Nine months after celebrating the 100th meeting milestone, the current Board of Commissioners and the rest of the PFBC family mourned the loss of one of the agency's own with the passing of former Commissioner Don Lacy. Commissioner Lacy received numerous awards for his commitment to conservation, and I am confident that he would be proud of the accomplishments highlighted in this report.

If you have been to the Commission's headquarters anytime since last July, you will have noticed a new Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker celebrating the life of former Executive Director Ralph W. Abele. On July 11, current and former Commissioners, staff and partners joined Mr. Abele's family for the dedication of the marker and a celebration of his legacy. He had a profound influence on me and many other natural resource professionals and volunteers, and it is great to have a permanent reminder of his legacy from which to draw inspiration.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor Tom Corbett also made history in 2012 with the enactment of five laws that will have a lasting impact on our agency and the anglers, boaters and aquatic resources of the Commonwealth. In my 30-plus years with the agency, I cannot remember a year in which so many bills with such benefit to the Commission became law. The legislative successes were the culmination of years of hard work by staff, Commissioners, sportsmen and legislative leaders and show what we can accomplish when we invest the Commission's time and energy in the pursuit of a common goal.

As we enter a new year and a new legislative session, I am optimistic that the Commission will again make history—this time by helping to secure the financial resources we need to continue implementing our simple mission: to protect, conserve and enhance aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities. As I explained in last year's report and have repeated ever since, the Commission will maintain internal spending limitations within which we will not spend more than we earn.

This is getting harder and harder every year as expenses grow due to factors beyond the Commission's control (e.g., inflation; health care and pension costs), and everyone should expect to see us doing "less for less" rather than trying to offer the same amount of services with a shrinking pool of resources.

That is, until we can collectively make the case and secure the funding we need to provide the level of services expected by the more than 1.1 million anglers and 3 million boaters who enjoy our waters annually and the aquatic resources that rely on the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. As the figure on the following page depicts, a Pennsylvania angler's fishing license dollar does not go as far as it once did. This fact further supports the need to find alternative revenues to fulfill our mission.

Your Director,

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Erie-area sportsman Robert Hetz was the recipient of the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award for 2012. The Abele Award is the highest recognition the Commission provides to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the cause of conservation.

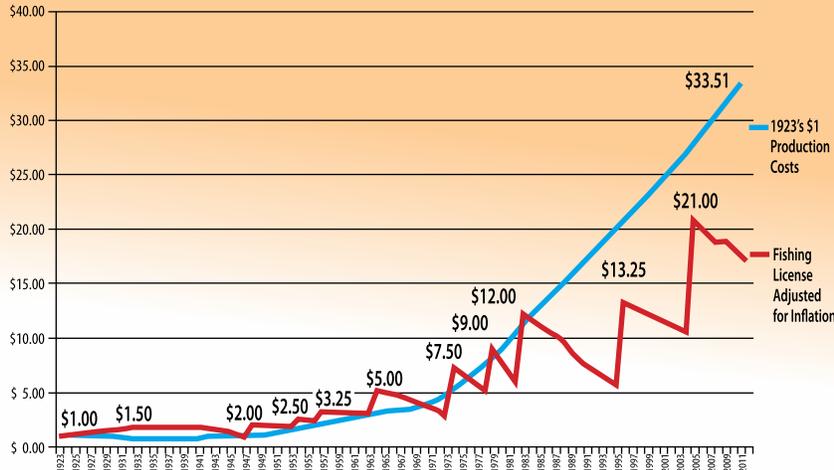
Pictured are (left to right) S.O.N.S. Lake Erie President Jerry Skrypzak, PFBC Commissioner Edward P. Mascharka, Robert Hetz, Erie County Executive Barry Grossman, Patricia Norcott Miller and PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway.



### Laws Enacted in 2012

- Act 13 – Impact Fee
- Act 66 – License Flexibility
- Act 150 – Assault of an Officer
- Act 167 – Serious Unlawful Take
- Act 211 – Title 30 Update

## PURCHASING POWER OF THE FISHING LICENSE



In 1923, a Pennsylvania fishing license cost anglers \$1.00. Since that time, the cost of producing goods has increased. Periodically, the price of a license needed to be increased to keep up with operating costs. However, the eroding effects of inflation constantly diminished the purchasing power of a dollar. This graph, using a U.S. Department of Labor's Producer Price Index (PPI), shows that it now takes \$33.51 in 2011 dollars to match a dollar's purchasing power from 1923.

## PFBC Strategic Plan Maintaining Accountability

In January, the Board of Commissioners officially approved a minor revision to the agency's five-year strategic plan after an analysis by staff to make sure that the plan was still aligned with fiscal, personnel and other realities both inside and outside of the Commission. This review and revision demonstrated the Board's and staff's commitment to having the plan as a living document that is used to guide daily and long-term decisions and actions. The updated plan and quarterly reports documenting success in implementing specific provisions of the plan are available at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

For the third consecutive year, this report is organized to correspond with the Commission's strategic plan. The seven major priorities of the plan continue to be the following:

- 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 the agency's 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.

The annual report is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all agency activities for the year; rather, it highlights major activities that helped to further the overall goals of the strategic plan.

## Title 30 Update

In November, Governor Tom Corbett signed Act 211 of 2012 into law as a package of updates to the Fish and Boat Code (Title 30 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes). The multi-faceted legislation will help improve the operations of the Commission and the services it provides to the anglers, boaters and other residents and visitors of the Commonwealth. Act 211 includes a series of technical and substantive amendments to Title 30, many of which have been under consideration for several years. Senator Richard Alloway sponsored the legislation and emphasized the value of considering the entire suite of amendments in one bill. By taking a comprehensive look at what improvements were necessary to clarify and modernize the language in the Fish and Boat Code, Act 211 streamlines and updates Title 30 in ways that will enable the agency to more efficiently carry out its legislative mandates.

The following represent some of the highlights of Act 211:

- Creates consistency with the state Crimes Code allowing for charges to be brought against accomplices involved in violating the Fish and Boat Code. This provision is complementary to Act 167 of 2012, which the Governor signed on October 24. Act 167 significantly increased the penalties for large-scale poaching operation, and Act 211 makes it clear that accomplices may also be charged for such crimes.
- Defines the unauthorized operation and use of boats and defines duties of operators involved in boating accidents consistent with the Vehicle Code.
- Eliminates the need to provide an affidavit to prove that someone had a fishing license. This is no longer necessary since the advent of the Pennsylvania Automated License system (PALS).
- Simplifies the process for issuance of institutional licenses and allows for more facilities to have access to institutional licenses to provide fishing as a therapeutic opportunity.
- Provides for an exemption for fishing licenses to participants in a structured education program involving fishing.
- Increases the penalties for damage to PFBC property and for littering on private or public property open to fishing.

## COMMISSION MARCELLUS-RELATED ACTIVITIES



**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.**

### Compensation for Marcellus Shale Work

Since the advent of the Marcellus shale boom in Pennsylvania, the Commission has been advocating to be compensated for the services it provides to the natural gas industry and other agencies.

This advocacy was rewarded with the enactment of Act 13 of 2012, which provides \$1 million annually to the Commission “for costs relating to the review of applications for

permits to drill unconventional gas wells.” The Commission is grateful to the House, Senate and Governor Corbett for acknowledging the agency’s role and allocating the funding as part of the formulas spelled out in Act 13.

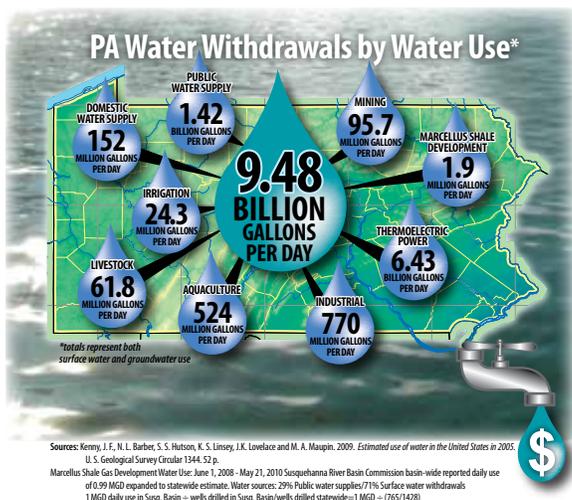
With the support of Act 13, the Commission established a new Natural Gas Section with regionally based staff dedicated to Marcellus-related activities. Each staff member is responsible for Chapter 105 Waterway Encroachment permit review, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) potential impact reviews for non-game threatened and endangered species, and water allocation docket review for projects in their region. Additionally, the Commission will collect aquatic data on unassessed waterways in areas underlain by Marcellus shale formations to better inform permit decisions.

The Commission will now be able to work with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regional staff and companies to get more involved in pre-application and project scoping field views and meetings. This will allow the agencies and applicants to discuss project details and seek clarification and gain insight into potential regulatory concerns that could delay permit issuance before permits are applied for, ultimately allowing all parties to work together to identify and implement solutions.

While the Commission advocated for funding to support law enforcement work related to Marcellus development, these costs are not eligible under Act 13.

The Commission’s front line of Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) have been seeing changes in the types of projects characterizing the Marcellus industry and also in terms of associated environmental violations. Initially, violations were occurring around well pad sites, with run off problems during the construction process and as drilling was occurring on the sites. Currently, many well sites are in production and the focus has turned to other infrastructure. Pipeline construction and maintenance became the primary sources for many of the violations investigated by WCOs in 2012.

The idea of compensating the Commission for the services it provides to industry rather than asking anglers and boaters to foot the bill for work they do not create is not new. The Commission has done the same thing for years in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for reviews related to roads and bridges and with DEP for coal mining projects.



Going forward, the Commission plans to advocate that those entities creating work for agency staff compensate the Commission for its work as a cost of doing business. The General Assembly and Governor agreed that anglers and boaters should not subsidize permit reviews for the Marcellus industry, and the Commission will look for ways to require other industries to follow the same model.

## Multi-Year Fishing Licenses

In June, Governor Corbett signed Senate Bill 1049 sponsored by Senator Richard Kasunic into law as Act 66, after the House and Senate unanimously approved the bill. For the first time ever, Act 66 gives the Commission the ability to sell multi-year fishing licenses and to develop creative marketing packages in which reduced-cost licenses could be offered as an incentive to anglers. States around the country are looking to the new law as a model for how to overcome the “churn rate” that sees anglers drop into and out of the sport. This has resulted in a declining trend in licenses sales here in Pennsylvania over the last 20 years.

As a result of the flexibility offered by Act 66, the Commission began selling 3-year and 5-year fishing licenses on December 1 in addition to the annual licenses it traditionally sells. Anglers can select from a variety of rods, reels and equipment, so it only makes sense that they should have the ability to purchase a license, which is good for several years. Act 66 allows for this convenience. A 3-year fishing license is valid through 2015, and a 5-year license is valid through 2017. Customers who buy multi-year licenses save money by not having to pay transaction and processing fees each year. For example, a customer who buys a 5-year license will save \$6.80. Anglers can also purchase multi-year trout/salmon, Lake Erie, and combo permits and experience similar savings. Associated incentives and marketing efforts are described subsequently in this report under Goal 7.

## Protecting the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Fund

National news during the final months of 2012 was dominated by negotiations to avoid the “fiscal cliff.”

Commissioners and staff spent considerable time explaining to Members of Congress and their staff that nearly a million dollars of contributions made by anglers and boaters specifically to conserve aquatic resources, offer public access to waterways and provide boating safety education would be withheld from the Commission by the federal government if Congress failed to act. As of the printing of this report, the issue had yet to be resolved in Washington, D.C. If Congress cannot reach a lasting resolution, the federal government will breach trust with America’s anglers and boaters by sequestering their contributions from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Funds.

The Trust Funds are raised through excise taxes levied on fishing tackle and equipment and motorboat fuel that industry pays quarterly to the federal government. Sportsmen and women buy the excise-taxable items, and those revenues, combined with their purchases of fishing licenses and boat registrations, largely determine how much funding is allocated annually to state agencies like the Commission. The accompanying chart illustrates that the Trust Funds collectively comprise about a quarter of the agency’s annual budget.

The projected financial impact of losing 7.6 percent of Pennsylvania’s annual portion of the Trust Funds—\$859,000—means that the Commission would have to reduce services to Pennsylvania anglers and boaters.

The Trust Funds are the lifeblood of the Commission’s day-to-day efforts to restore and manage fisheries and their habitats; open and maintain recreational access for all; and keep the public safe by providing boating safety education. The agency would have to make tough decisions now and down the road, potentially reducing services like fish stocking, access area maintenance, boating education and safety, and other programs which Pennsylvania’s anglers and boaters care about deeply.

The Sport Fish Restoration Program was established in 1950 to restore fish populations, and the Boating Safety Trust Fund followed in 1984. These programs have proven track

## 2012 Fishing License & Permit Types

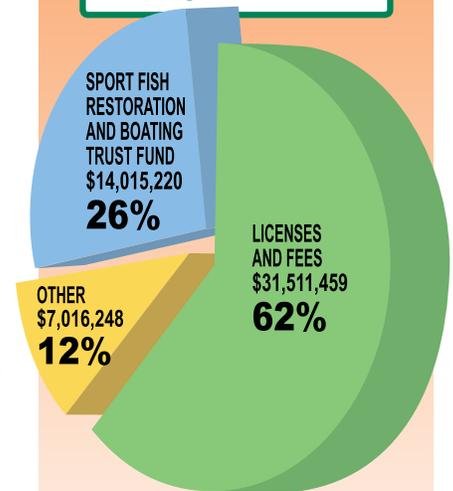
December 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Resident	736,867
Senior Resident	18,529
Senior Lifetime	17,228
1-Day Resident	3,483
PA Resident	
National Guard/Reserve	529
Non-Resident	40,083
1-Day Tourist	5,168
3-Day Tourist	24,081
7-Day Tourist	6,976
Lake Erie Permit	19,571
Combination Lake Erie & Trout/ Salmon Stamp Permit	90,419
Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit	487,611
<b>Total Licenses &amp; Permits</b>	<b>1,450,545</b>

Total Active Registered Boats - 332,699

1-year Launch Permits - 10,825

2-year Launch Permits - 29,837



**As of June 30, 2012, the Commission generated \$5.2 million in revenues through the following agreements:**

***Oil and Gas***

Donegal Lake,  
Westmoreland County;  
Dutch Fork Lake,  
Washington County;  
Rose Valley Lake,  
Lycoming County

***Seismic Survey Licenses***

Dutch Fork Lake,  
Washington County;  
Donegal Lake,  
Westmoreland County;  
Hunters Lake,  
Sullivan County;  
Lake Nessmuk, Tioga County

***Water Access Licenses***

Donegal Lake,  
Westmoreland County;  
Hyner Access, Clinton County

records of entrusting state agencies as the recipients of the nation's users-pay, public-benefits funding system for fish and wildlife conservation. Over the last 62 years, sportsmen and women have always been willing to pay a little extra for the excise-taxable gear, knowing that their purchases would directly support conservation along with fishing, boating and other wildlife-related activities.

## **Natural Gas and Water Access Program**

In March 2011, the Commission established a non-developmental Natural Gas Leasing Program and a Water Access Program on properties it controls. This decision is designed to minimize environmental impacts while maximizing revenues and enhancing benefits for all users of the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.

Under the two programs, projects may be approved on lands or waters when the projects are designed and implemented in such a way that they have little or no negative impact on the resource or property use. The Commission will not enter into natural gas leasing projects (where it controls the gas rights) which are developmental in nature, meaning it will not permit the installation or use of production wells or any other type of natural gas production equipment on its properties. Under the Water Access Program, the Commission will consider requests to use its property to access, acquire or transport water resources.

Revenues generated from these projects are to be used to fund programs and projects that support the agency's mission in the form of capital infrastructure improvements, with priority being given to the repair and restoration of Commonwealth-owned high hazard dams managed by the Commission.

This effort is particularly significant for the long-term viability of the recreational assets managed by the Commission, since the agency receives no funding from the state's general fund and relies on fishing licenses, boat registrations and federal funding tied to fishing and boating to support everything it does.

In 2012, the Commission continued to identify properties under its control that are suitable for lease, license or agreement under the programs and negotiated the terms of agreements with the oil and gas industry.

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

### **The Susquehanna: Sick Fish, Sick River**

Once considered a world-class bass fishery, the Susquehanna River continued to be plagued with disease in 2012 that has been killing young-of-year (yoy) smallmouth bass for almost a decade and has most recently resulted in unsightly lesions and open sores on adult bass. In addition, wide-scale evidence of endocrine disruption exists in the smallmouth bass population of the Susquehanna River, with male smallmouth bass exhibiting signs of producing eggs.

Throughout 2012, the Commission publicly made the case that DEP needs to acknowledge the facts and add the river to the federal list of impaired waters, commonly known as the 303(d) list.

Adding the Susquehanna River to the list as a "high priority" impaired water would trigger a two-year timeline under federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations for state regulators to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up the river by reducing the amount of pollutants from contributing sources. This pollution diet is called a total maximum daily load (TMDL) and is already in place on 6,490 miles of impaired streams and rivers in the state and will be developed on another 9,801 miles, according to DEP's draft 2012 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

In an August 31, 2011 letter to DEP, the Commission, along with Penn Future, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, American Rivers and PA Trout Unlimited, formally requested an impairment designation on the Susquehanna River. As part of the request, the Commission submitted evidence showing dissolved oxygen levels had fallen below impairment thresholds. Like humans, fish need oxygen to survive. When oxygen levels drop, fish can become sick and die.



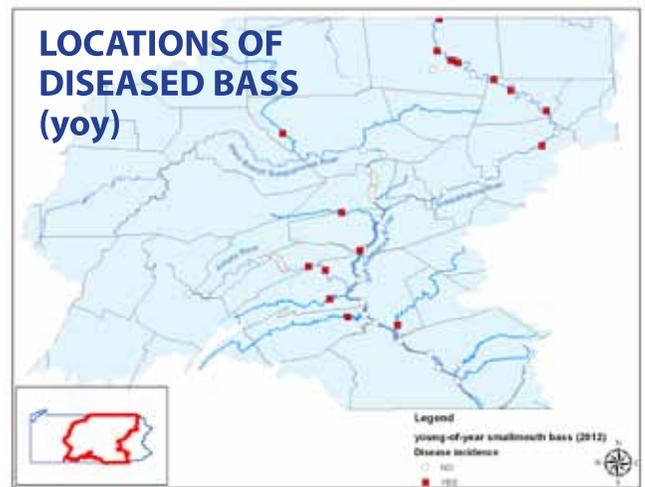
*Lesions and open sores have been plaguing adult bass in the Susquehanna River.*

Unfortunately, the Susquehanna River was not on the impaired list when DEP released its draft 2012 Assessment Report in April. The Commission encouraged anglers, boaters and anyone else who cares about the river to submit comments to DEP supporting the PFBC's request to add the Susquehanna to the 303(d) list. The Commission's outreach resulted in increased attention to the issue, with national publications such as *Bass Times* covering the story and newspapers like the *Harrisburg Patriot-News* and *Sunbury Daily Item* calling for answers and actions.

Since 2005, approximately \$1.37 million has been spent by state and federal agencies on water quality and fish health studies, with about half being provided by the Commission. These contributions are vital and welcome. However, additional action is needed.

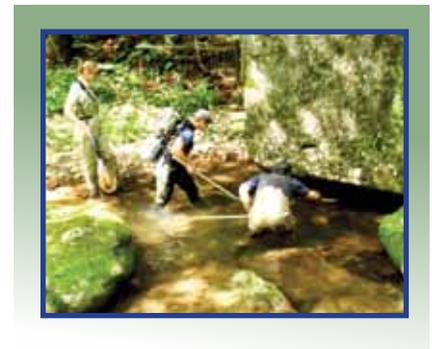
As part of the public case to save the river, the Commission began asking anglers in December to share their stories about fishing the river and their concerns about the changes that are occurring. Anglers were invited to submit personal stories to the agency's website about how they remember the river and how it compares to what they see today. The Commission is maintaining a special page with the latest news and reports from the Susquehanna at [www.fishandboat.com/susq-impairment.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/susq-impairment.htm).

Days before the release of this report, DEP announced its list of impaired waters and it did not include the Susquehanna. The Commission will continue to make the case for acknowledging the problem and fixing the river.



## Unassessed Waters Initiative

In 2012, the Commission added 73 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 over 3,600. The changes resulted from stream surveys undertaken in 2011 as part of the PFBC's Unassessed Waters Initiative, a collaborative effort among the agency, colleges and universities and conservation groups to survey the Commonwealth's nearly 60,000 remaining unassessed waterways. During 2012, the Unassessed Waters Initiative completed 748 stream surveys for which the information is currently being compiled. The wild trout stream designation has regulatory significance, because wetlands that are located in or along the flood plain of the reach of a wild trout stream are considered exceptional value wetlands by DEP and are entitled to the highest level of protection. See Goal 5 for more information.



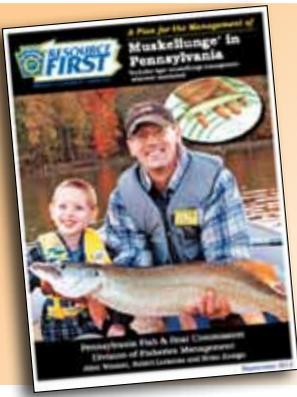
## Stocking Changes

Two decisions were made in 2012 that will have an impact on the Commission's trout stocking program.

Beginning with the 2013 season, the Early Season Trout-Stocked Waters Program was removed, and all 45 waters formerly managed under this program were re-designated as Approved Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing. The rationale for removing this program was to eliminate stocking trips in January or February on these waters (these stocking trips will be removed in 2014, as the 2013 January/February stockings had already been scheduled), to eliminate the period of closure to fishing from April 1 to opening day and to free-up the stocking trips that were used to provide a preseason stocking on these waters in the short time frame between April 1 and opening day. The benefits from this change include the saving of 25 distribution trips that were required to stock these waters in January or February, the addition of approximately two weeks of angling opportunity by allowing fishing to occur on a year-round basis and making approximately 50 distribution trips available in April that could be better used on waters that need to be stocked closer to the opening day of trout season.

### Number of Unassessed Waters Surveyed by Agency Partners

	2010	2011	2012
Lycoming College	41	95	92
Susquehanna University		82	64
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy		20	57
Penn State University		66	55
Clarion University			53
Duquesne University		28	47
Trout Unlimited		20	39
Juniata College		27	25
California University			22
Keystone College			21
Mansfield University		61	20
Allegheny College			20
Lock Haven University			20
DEP	24	32	20
Kings College	23	5	15
Academy of Natural Sciences		6	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>570</b>



In regards to the removal of fall stockings, a total of 52 stream sections will be removed from the fall stocking program in 2013. Most of the trout allocated to these waters during the fall will be moved to the spring stocking period. The rationale for this change was to make better use of the Commission's hatchery trout by stocking the fish during a period of higher angler use in the spring. The benefits from this change will result in the a better use of the agency's hatchery trout and a savings of some distribution trips that occurred during the fall.

## Musky Management Plan

The Commission intensively manages muskellunge and tiger muskellunge in numerous lakes and rivers across the Commonwealth. This management effort is dependent both on hatchery stocking and harvest restrictions to sustain density and protect vestige wild stocks.

In November, the Commission held a Musky Summit in southwest Pennsylvania where it unveiled its fisheries management plan for inland muskellunge to interested anglers and stakeholders. The plan describes the history of muskellunge fisheries management, identifies the challenges to improving muskellunge populations throughout Pennsylvania, prioritizes 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. The PFBC welcomed and appreciated anglers taking time to review the plan and provide their comments. The 101 page plan is available on the Commission's website. The goal of the plan is to identify and rehabilitate where practical, natural reproducing populations of muskellunge in Pennsylvania and provide high quality angling opportunities for these popular sportfish through the efficient and effective use of hatchery culture techniques, stocking practices, regulations and angler involvement. This will be accomplished through determining levels of natural reproduction throughout the musky's native range, assessing waters where musky population is relatively poor and deciding if these waters should remain in the stocking program, determining survival rates of varying sizes of stocked muskellunge and tiger muskellunge to ensure the best survival to adult sizes and evaluating recently enacted regulation changes designed to improve the quality of muskellunge populations statewide.



*At the 56th annual banquet of the Somerset County Sportsmen's League, representatives from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Lake Habitat Section received a plaque for their contributions to fish habitat projects at multiple Somerset County lakes. Pictured are, front row, (left to right) Keith Beamer, Mike Swartz and Phil Thomas and, back row, (left to right) PFBC Executive Director John Arway, Don Anderson, Bob Miller of Dalton King, Mark Shaffer of Shaffer Block and Rich Berkley.*



*On July 25, Andrew Shiels, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) Deputy Director for Field Operations, presented the Stanley Long Outstanding Volunteer Service Award to John Maddas of the Dunbar Sportsmen's Club, Fayette County. Pictured are (left to right) Keith Beamer, PFBC Habitat Manager; Andrew Shiels; John Maddas; Dave Keller, PFBC Habitat Manager; Karl Lutz, PFBC Stream Section Chief; and Mark Sauser, PFBC Habitat Manager.*

## Fisheries Management Plan for Pine Creek

After reviewing numerous public comments and suggestions, the Commission finalized its fisheries management plan for Pine Creek, an 87-mile long stream, which originates in Potter County and flows through Tioga, Lycoming and Clinton counties.

Completed in March, the plan describes the history of fisheries management on Pine Creek, identifies the factors affecting the biological health of the stream and outlines future fisheries management plans. The plan is designed to guide future actions by the Commission and aid other stakeholders by providing information and information needs about these valuable resources.

Pine Creek supports a diverse fishery of cold- and warm-water species, has two Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only sections where special regulations apply and offers paddling experiences for beginners and more experienced boaters.

## Big Spring Creek

Another one of Pennsylvania's most famous trout streams was also in the news. In November, the Commission held an informational meeting to discuss the agency's habitat and fisheries management plan for Cumberland County's Big Spring Creek. Largescale habitat management improvements for Big Spring Creek have been made possible using funds provided by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission as mitigation for environmental impacts associated with one of their planned construction projects in Cumberland County. The habitat project will be part of long-term efforts to improve Big Spring Creek's trout.

## Habitat Management

In 2012, the Commission began moving towards a large-scale approach with its habitat work. This approach will focus on larger sections of water or watersheds than the smaller scale at which the Commission has historically worked. The majority of future projects will include specific, measurable objectives developed by Area Fisheries Managers working closely with staff in the Division of Habitat Management. The results of this work will be measured through evaluations of habitat, water quality or fish population changes.

## Conservation Issues Forum

In May, the Commission teamed up with Lycoming College, the Susquehanna Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies and Trout Unlimited for a Conservation Issues Forum at Lycoming College. The event started with an overview of the Commission's Natural Gas and Water Access Program and a discussion about the problems plaguing the Susquehanna River. The bulk of the evening focused on offering an ecological perspective on the emotional issue of stream channel clean up that has been a major topic of discussion and debate in northcentral Pennsylvania since heavy flooding and resulting property damage in September 2011. Speakers and attendees turned the discussion from one of channelization to one that focused on how habitats that support healthy aquatic communities can be compatible with long-term flood minimization.

Subsequently, agency staff led a tour for local legislators explaining the role of habitat structures and their main benefit of sediment transportation and secondary benefit of aquatic organism habitat. At both the evening session and during the field visit, Commission staff explained the disadvantages of routine stream dredging, such as perpetual maintenance dredging, lack of aquatic organism habitat and impediments to aquatic organism passage, loss of riparian property and potential damage to bridges and transportation corridors. Such outreach events emphasize how local stakeholders need to work together to treat streams and floodplains together as parts of larger functioning ecosystems.

## Rivers

Throughout the year, Commission staff remained focused on the interplay of water flows and the health of the Commonwealth's rivers, with particular attention to interstate efforts to improve flows and associated ecological conditions in the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers. The Commission valued the opportunity to work collaboratively with the respective River Basin Commissions and other stakeholders to maximize the potential for these waters to meet the needs of businesses and individuals without compromising aquatic resources. Fish passage also continued to play prominently in the Commission's work on the Commonwealth's major rivers.

In 2012, the Commission continued to focus on feasibility of improved fish passage as a way to help restore American shad to the Lehigh River. While there has been some success in establishing a shad population imprinted to the Lehigh River, the fish passage efforts have been less than successful using the current constructed fish ladders located on both the Easton and Chain Dams. Fish passage at both Lehigh River dams is currently estimated at 30 percent or less and is considered insufficient to support a self-sustaining American shad population even after years of restoration efforts. The Commission has set a minimum target of 80 percent as a goal for fish passage for Lehigh River dams. In 2013, the Commission will use the findings of a Lehigh River Fish Passage Improvement Feasibility Study to determine its next step towards restoring American shad runs to this river. The feasibility study is being finalized as of the printing of this report.

On the Susquehanna River, Commission staff continued to be active participants in cooperative settlement negotiations with the power companies and other natural resource stakeholders at York Haven and Conowingo Dams and at Muddy Run Pumped Storage Project to ensure that those projects achieve better fish passage and address other environmental impacts as part of the renewal of their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licenses that expire in August of 2014.

## Non-Game Species

A number of status assessments were completed and species were taken through the regulatory process to be formally listed as threatened and endangered or taken off the lists. The 10-year status assessment of the timber rattlesnake and 3-year assessment of the eastern spadefoot were completed. Staff also developed regulation and criteria to become qualified to conduct threatened and endangered species surveys.

The Commission continued its second year of implementation of Species Action Plans for threatened and endangered species and aquatic invasive species. Through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Commission was able to conduct habitat



*Commission Fisheries Biologist Tom Shervinskie (far right) discusses stream habitat with (left to right) Commissioner William Worobec; Senator Gene Yaw; and Representatives Rick Mirabito and Garth Everett.*

*Every five years, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) publishes the results of the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. According to preliminary estimates from the latest survey, over 1.1 million resident and nonresidents ages 16 and older fished in Pennsylvania in 2011. The USFWS report also includes estimates of the economic impact of outdoor activities like fishing. As of the printing of this report, final updated economic impact data were not available.*

*The United States Coast Guard (USCG) tracks similar data for recreational boating. In its most recent National Recreational Boating Survey, the USCG reported that over 3 million people (adults and children combined) participated in recreational boating in 2011 on Pennsylvania waters.*



*Wood Turtle*

## 2012 Nongame Permits and Reviews

Species Impact Review/  
PNDI Reviews: 2,422

Venomous Snake Permits: 850

Organized Reptile and Amphibian  
Hunts: 6

Commercial Snapping Turtle  
Permits: 51

Scientific Collectors' Permits: 393

Threatened and Endangered Species  
Special Permits: 68



In partnership with Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Commission staff played a major technical role in the completion of the first-of-its-kind *Pennsylvania's Field Guide To Aquatic Invasive Species*. This important new publication will be a valuable tool for anglers, boaters, natural resource professionals and others to identify and help slow the spread of new infestations in Pennsylvania waterways. The guide may be accessed electronically at: [www.paseagrant.org/projects/pennsylvanias-field-guide-to-aquatic-invasive-species/](http://www.paseagrant.org/projects/pennsylvanias-field-guide-to-aquatic-invasive-species/).

management work, bog turtle surveys and assist with the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program by writing management plans. The Commission is also working with the NRCS on a new initiative through the Wetlands Reserve Program, designed to help protect and restore the endangered eastern massasauga habitat through conservation easements and habitat management. New State Wildlife Grant projects were initiated on Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile survey (new atlas project), Fish Data compilation and a massasauga habitat restoration and monitoring project. Regarding aquatic invasive species, the Commission conducted water chestnut surveys and found that areas in waterways that were formerly infested with water chestnut were significantly reduced through active management by the Perkiomen Creek Watershed Association.

The Commission worked with neighboring states on regionally-specific projects focused on the Blanding's turtle, wood turtle and northern riffleshell, and we worked closely with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to assist with re-introduction efforts of the gilt darter into the upper Allegheny River in New York. Staff also facilitated and assisted northern riffleshell and clubshell national recovery efforts.

Staff developed the groundwork for the Commission to consider sustainable propagation for state-threatened and endangered mussel species. This effort included drafting proposals for funding consideration and a controlled propagation plan for obtaining a USFWS Section 10 recovery permit which would authorize the Commission to propagate federally endangered mussel species.

## Creative Mussel Conservation

A joint effort between federal and state agencies, including the Commission, resulted in the successful collection and relocation of approximately 4,000 state and federal endangered northern riffleshell mussels from a site on the Allegheny River along the border of Forest and Venango counties.

The mussels—collected over a two-day period in August—were expected to be adversely affected by the Hunter Station Bridge replacement project, located along State Route 62 in Tionesta, Forest County. These actions would likely have killed thousands of the mussels, but the salvage efforts were able to save the resource and put it to use in other states.

Some of the mussels were transported to Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia, where they will be used to strengthen existing northern riffleshell populations and establish new populations in some of the waterways where they historically occurred. Relatively few went to other states. These efforts are being monitored carefully to ensure that reintroductions are successful, and the information gathered will be used to further species recovery efforts in the future.

The middle Allegheny River contains the world's most extensive known population of northern riffleshell. Though it is listed as an endangered species in Pennsylvania, the population at this site has been identified as a source of animals for species recovery efforts due to the planned replacement of the Hunters Station Bridge.

The USFWS led the recovery effort through its field offices in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia and its Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Other partners included the Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's Freshwater Mussel Conservation Facility, Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

## Getting Ahead of Asian Carp

In 2012, the Commission played an active role on the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee that was established to create a sustainable program to prevent the establishment of an Asian carp population in the Great Lakes. Commission staff also helped to coordinate sampling efforts among other Lake Erie states and Ontario after the discovery of Asian carp eDNA in the lake.

The Commission assumed a role as a national leader in efforts to draw attention to and enlist action to slow the spread and minimize the impact of Asian carp in the Ohio River. If the fish attain the same abundances in the upper Ohio River sub-basin (including Pennsylvania's Three Rivers and their tributaries) as the downstream Ohio River sub-basin, their economic impacts to tourism, recreational boating and aquatic ecology could be severe.

Preventing a self-sustaining population from establishing in the upper Ohio River requires immediate, coordinated actions with all Ohio River basin states.

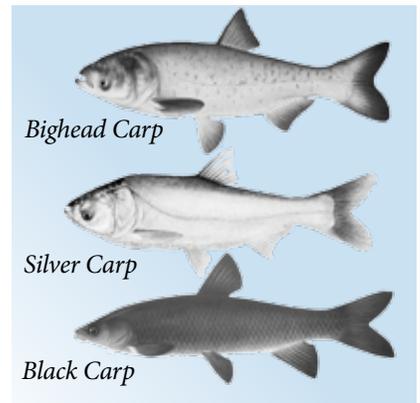
To that end, in June, the Commission convened over 60 individuals representing statewide, regional and national agencies and non-profits to begin to develop an interstate strategy for the Ohio River Watershed. Under the auspices of the Ohio River Fish Management Team, states from throughout the watershed are finalizing an Asian Carp Action Plan for the Ohio River Basin.

The Commission also worked closely with federal elected officials to try to bring national resources to the problem. In November, Senator Pat Toomey announced the introduction of a Senate bill calling for coordinated action on the Ohio River. This bill mirrors one that was introduced in the House earlier in the year. Both bills were reintroduced in January 2013, with Senator Toomey and Representative Mike Kelly as lead sponsors. The Commission will be working with the new Congress and other partners to bring the necessary resources to bear on this impending threat to Pennsylvania waters.

## Getting Tough on Poachers

Act 167 of 2012 increases the maximum fine for illegally harvesting fish from \$200 to \$5,000 and extends the period the Commission can revoke fishing and boating privileges from two to five years. This new law had an immediate impact on the Commission's ability to deter large-scale poachers from illegally taking fish. These are the individuals who deliberately come in after dark and take large amounts of gamefish, often by using illegal methods such as netting or spearing in the streams. In the past, poaching was subject to a \$200 maximum fine. Now, the Commission can hit violators with up to \$5,000 in fines, as well as the cost of replacing the fish they illegally harvest.

The Commission worked with Representative Michael Peifer to develop the legislation in response to weak laws that made waterways extremely vulnerable to poaching, with highly sought-after trophy species of fish repeatedly stolen from Pennsylvania waterways and sold on the black market.



*Thirty-one steelhead were seized from violators on Trout Run, Erie County. Violators were charged with Serious Unlawful Take due to three or more times the daily limit of three steelhead.*

### Individuals who fish, boat or hunt from a boat in fall or winter are encouraged to follow these cold water survival safety tips:

- Always wear a life jacket, even when not required. Many models also offer insulation from cold air. Read the life jacket's approval label to be sure it's appropriate for your boating activity.
- Never boat alone.
- Leave a float plan with family or friends and know the waters you plan to boat.
- Bring a fully charged cell phone with you in case of emergency.
- Wear clothing that still insulates when wet, such as fleece, polypropylene or other synthetics.
- If you are about to fall into cold water, cover your mouth and nose with your hands. This will reduce the likelihood of inhaling water.
- If possible, stay with the boat. Get back into or climb on top of the boat.
- While in cold water, do not remove your clothing.
- If you can't get out of the water, get into the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP). In this position, individuals bring their knees to their chest and hug them with their arms.
- Once out of the water, remove wet clothes and warm up as soon as possible.
- Seek medical attention when necessary. Some effects of exposure to cold temperatures can be delayed.

### To learn more about life jacket wear and cold water survival, visit:

- PFBC website at [www.fishandboat.com/safety.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/safety.htm)
- Coldwater Boot Camp website at [www.coldwaterbootcamp.com/pages/home.html](http://www.coldwaterbootcamp.com/pages/home.html)
- Safe Boating Campaigns website at [www.safeboatingcampaign.com/new-jacket-pages/angling-hunting-jackets.htm](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/new-jacket-pages/angling-hunting-jackets.htm)

### Boating Safety Education

**Boating Safety Education Certificates Issued (BSEC): 15,305**  
**BSEC - Distance learning: 12,736**  
**BSEC - Classroom courses: 2,569**  
**Boating and Water Safety Awareness Courses (BSWA, youth): 52**  
**BWSA students: 1,109**  
**BWSA BSEC issued: 405**  
**Basic Boating Classroom Courses (BB): 137**  
**BB students: 2,291**  
**BB BSEC issued: 1,472**  
**New boating course instructors: 93**  
**Paddle PA event/training attendance: 286**

### Fishing/Aquatic Resource Education

**Family Fishing Programs (FFP): 91**  
**FFP attendance: 2,435**  
**Other fishing programs scheduled: 30**  
**Other fishing program attendance: 1,634**  
**New Fishing Skills Instructors trained: 69**  
**Fishing Tackle Loaner Sites: 75**  
**Teacher training workshops (TT): 4**  
**TT attendance: 121**  
**Program requests: 673**  
**Programs presented: 545**  
**Trout in the Classroom classrooms: 225**



A single steelhead was taken by unlawful methods, Erie County. The violator was charged with the new Taking of Possession by Illegal Methods section of Title 30.



Boaters are now required 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.



PFBC is the lead agency for swift water rescue training in Pennsylvania and coordinates this rescue training for the PA-HART program.

The law creates a new section in the Fish and Boat code for “serious unlawful take,” which increases the penalty for harvesting more than the legal daily limit of fish from a summary offense of the first degree to a misdemeanor of the second degree. It also allows the Commission to collect from violators the costs to replace the poached fish, and it increases the amount of time a violator can be sentenced to prison from a maximum of 90 days to two years.

The law will be particularly beneficial in the Erie watershed, where the annual steelhead season was just beginning as the law was enacted. Annually, waterways conservation officers apprehend and cite 5 to 6 individuals for large cases of poaching. These individuals typically have in their possession dozens of fish over the legal creel limit.

The law also substantially increases the penalties for individuals who fish while their license is suspended. Previously, that violation was a summary offense of the first degree, subject to a \$200 fine. The penalty is now a third degree misdemeanor, subject to a fine up to \$5,000.

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

#### Coldwater Life Jacket Regulation Effective November 1

An important new safety regulation went into effect in 2012 as cold weather enthusiasts took to the water. Beginning November 1 and lasting through April 30 each year, boaters are required to wear a life jacket while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak.

Life jackets are the most important piece of safety equipment on a boat. According to Pennsylvania’s boating accident reports, almost 80 percent of all boating fatalities happen to boaters not wearing a life jacket. A disproportionate number of the fatalities occur during the months of November through April. During these cold weather months, boaters are especially at risk due to the water temperature and the risk of sudden cold water immersion.

When a person is unexpectedly plunged into cold water below 70°F, the body’s first response is usually an involuntary gasp. Without a life jacket, a victim may inhale while under water and drown without coming back to the surface. If an individual does make it back to the surface, his ability to swim is usually restricted because of a shortness of breath or hyperventilation.

The new regulation applies to all Pennsylvania waters.

#### Water Rescue Program

In 2012, the Commission certified 5,865 students through its Water Rescue Program which meets or exceeds various levels (Awareness, Operations, Technician) of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. This is an increase of 4,458 students, or more than 300%, from 2011, and is the best year on record for this program. The Commission has a trained volunteer instructor corps of 149 individuals who provided more than 15,000 hours of training this past year. An unprecedented 4,221 students were certified in the Commission’s 2½-hour Water Rescue for the First Responder NFPA 1670 Awareness level program. That is an increase of 2,676 from 2011, up more than 173% from the previous year. The Commission’s Water Rescue program is the largest of its kind in the United States.

#### Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team

Pennsylvania has joined a select group of states with the implementation of the Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PA-HART). Other states with helicopter water rescue capabilities include Texas, North Carolina, Maryland and California.

The Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team is a partnership among the Commission, Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, along with civilian rescue specialists. This highly specialized aerial search and rescue team provides an air asset for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the nation to respond to natural and manmade disaster incidents. This initiative mirrors the National Incident Management System and provides team members with technical training

that prepares them to engage in hostile environmental conditions in both urban and wilderness settings. The Commission is the lead agency for swift water rescue training in Pennsylvania and coordinates this rescue training for the PA-HART program.

The Johnstown 169th Aviation Division of the National Guard is the main supporting unit for the team and was trained through the Commission's Water Rescue Program in 2006 when the initiative began. Additional resources come from the Pennsylvania National Guard's joint headquarters at Fort Indiantown Gap.

In Pennsylvania, where the majority of large-scale natural disasters involve flooding, helicopter based rescue may be the only option. PA-HART will be that asset. Ultimately, through the teams' planning and preparation, they will save time, money, and lives.

## Trout in the Classroom

PA Trout in the Classroom (PA TIC) introduces students in grades 3 through 12 to coldwater conservation through the experience of raising brook trout from egg to fingerling stage. Each year, a participating classroom receives approximately 200 to 300 brook trout eggs, trout food and classroom resources. Eggs spawned and prepared by staff at Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery are shipped to participating classrooms during the first week of November. The students care for the trout and participate in learning activities until May when the fingerling trout are released into an approved trout waterway.

Thanks to the support of the partnership, PA TIC has grown from 187 classrooms in 2010-2011 to 225 classrooms in the current school year and has reached more than 80,000 students statewide. In 2012, the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education awarded their Government Partner award to PA TIC's team comprised of the Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The organizations were recognized for their unique partnership and work in providing and supporting PA TIC in classrooms across the Commonwealth.

## Three Rivers Challenge Pro Charity Event

The Three Rivers Challenge fishing tournament in September left a lasting impression on the Pittsburgh region and beyond. The Commission registered 480 people in the family fishing program offered in conjunction with the event—the Commission's largest event of this kind. Hundreds of fishing rods were distributed during the family fishing portion of the event and helped to create a rewarding fishing experience for numerous families throughout the Pittsburgh area. The additional equipment (fishing rods and life jackets) provided by the Marcellus Shale Coalition's generous grant will be used across the Commonwealth to provide and promote fishing and boating opportunities, a key component of the Commission's mission. The event also provided media exposure for the Commission and fishing on the Three Rivers. It is difficult to quantify, but it is likely that anglers and boaters will subsequently travel to the region, driven by what they have seen and heard about the tournament through widespread media coverage.

## Fisheries Management Media Days

From April through October, the Commission held a series of six interdisciplinary fisheries management field days across Pennsylvania to help explain the agency's work to protect, conserve and enhance aquatic resources. The events offered the public a unique opportunity to interact with local and regional Commission staff, including biologists who explained fish sampling techniques, other tools of the trade and life history information on fish species caught during live demonstrations. Hatchery staff participated to answer questions about production and stocking, and outreach staff distributed publications or answered general questions about the agency. Attendees left with an increased awareness about the ecology of local fisheries and better information about area fishing amenities.

## Paddle PA Programs

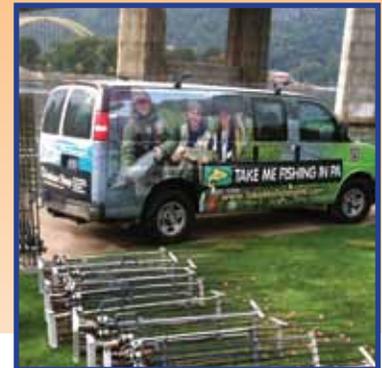
In response to the growing interest in paddle sports, the Commission held 12 canoe/kayak programs and events. These sessions provided an opportunity to



*In 2012, the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education awarded their Government Partner award to PA TIC's team.*



PRESENTED BY 





Lake Wallenpaupak is a good place for walleye fishing.



learn basic skills and water safety and the chance to paddle a canoe or kayak. More than 280 people participated in these programs in 2012. This includes 126 who participated in two programs offered as part of the Stonycreek River of the Year Celebration.

## PA's Best Fishing Waters

Touting it as a holiday gift to anglers, the Commission released a list of waters in December comprising its newly established Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters program. The program highlights the state's best fishing locations for species such as trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, bullhead and channel catfish, panfish (yellow perch, crappie, bluegill and pumpkinseed), muskellunge, striped bass and striped bass hybrid and walleye.

The Commonwealth's waters have always provided outstanding fishing opportunities for a wide variety of popular fish. While these species are distributed and available throughout Pennsylvania, some waters are superior to others in their ability to provide better fishing experiences. In the past, when anglers had more free time to investigate individual waters, through trial and error, they discovered which waters provided better fishing. With free time being at a premium, everyone has less time to weed out the less productive waters and search for ways to increase their fishing success. Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters is a program intended to serve as a valuable reference as anglers plan their fishing trips.

Commission staff strive to provide the very best for Pennsylvania's anglers. Through recognizing which waters provide the highest catch rates, combined with widely available public access, anglers and boaters will know they are receiving the best recommendations that will help them ensure more successful trips and memorable experiences. The Commission evaluated the applicable waters to ensure that anglers are fishing high-quality fisheries, which can support an increase in use without jeopardizing the physical and environmental conditions of the waterway.

Another benefit with this program is the added convenience. In studies examining ways to increase public participation in fishing, increasing the convenience and ease-of-access for anglers were critical factors. While it is no secret that fishing in Pennsylvania is a great value and tradition, the Commission also wants the destinations of the state's top fishing spots not to be a secret.

To review Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters, visit [www.fishandboat.com/aBestFishing.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/aBestFishing.htm).

## Mentored Youth Trout Day

In October, the Commission previewed a mentored youth pilot program it will launch in 2013 on the Saturday preceding the southeast regional opening day of trout season. It is a program agency leaders believe will generate excitement with kids and their parents, ultimately drawing more participants to the sport and increasing license sales.

Research shows that children who fish typically learn from their parents or other family members and that the positive experience from a mentoring program creates a big influence on kids and their adult mentors, making it more likely that they will continue in the sport.

Under the program, kids under the age of 16 will register for the program and join a mentor angler, who must have a current fishing license and trout permit. They will then be able to fish on the Saturday before the southeast opener on select waters within the 18-county area. The waters will be stocked to ensure a plentiful supply of fish to catch for the youth day and the regular season to follow.

Mentoring opportunities differ from educational programs in that they go beyond one instructional period. Mentors talk to the kids as they plan the trip, show them how to fish during the day and follow up with them again when they day is over. Special youth opportunities engage both youth and their parents or other mentors.

Registration is free, and youth will have the opportunity to receive a free one-year subscription to the *Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth (PLAY)* newsletter. The *PLAY* newsletter is written for young anglers and includes articles and activities on fish, fishing and aquatic resources published four times each year.

In December, the Commission identified the 12 waters (by county) that will be part of the new program.

- Adams—Waynesboro Reservoir
- Berks—Antietam Lake
- Berks—Scotts Run Lake
- Bucks—Levittown Lake
- Cumberland—Children's Lake
- Cumberland—Doubling Gap Lake
- Dauphin—Middletown Reservoir
- Lancaster—Muddy Run Recreational Lake
- Lebanon—Lions Lake
- Lehigh—Lehigh Canal, Section 8
- Montgomery—Deep Creek Dam/Green Lake
- Schuylkill—Locust Lake

Each person will be permitted to keep a combined species total of two fish and the fish must be at least 7 inches in length. Other Commonwealth inland regulations will apply on this day.

The Commission is piloting the Mentored Youth Trout Day as part of its goal to keep young anglers and their families fishing. The pilot program gives staff the opportunity to gauge interest and to determine the feasibility of expanding the program across the state.

The regional trout season for southeastern counties was introduced in 2007 and opens at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 30. The 18 counties include Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York.

## Special Family Paddling and Amphibian and Reptile Programs

For the second year in a row, the Commission conducted a special evening session in the field in conjunction with the July meeting of the Board of Commissioners. On the evening of the first day of the Commissioners' two-day meeting, staff welcomed the public to two special programs at Little Buffalo State Park in Perry County.

Kayaks and canoes have been surging in popularity, and the Commonwealth's waters are prime destinations of choice for paddlers. Just as families are engaged in fishing, a growing number have ventured into recreational paddling but need to know best practices and current boating safety to be ready for the water. To help meet that need, the Commission offered a free Family Paddling Program for families with children ages six and older who were curious about paddling, were thinking about buying a kayak or wanted a proper introduction to paddlesports. Each session included a brief on-land introduction to regulations, equipment, safety and paddling skills, followed by time on the water to practice skills. The Commission provided all canoes, kayaks, paddles, life jackets and safety equipment.

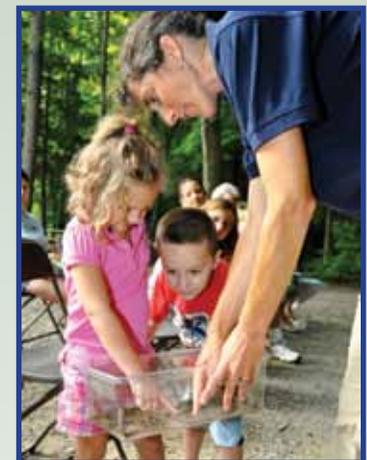
Throughout the Commonwealth, amphibians and reptiles are everywhere, from forests to urban areas. To help explain which turtles, snakes, salamanders, lizards, frogs and toads live in Pennsylvania—as well as the opportunity to see these creatures live—the Commission held a program during which participants rotated through a series of stations where PFBC biologists gave brief presentations with live specimens. As an added bonus, each person received a free copy of PFBC's *Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles* book (a \$10 value).

The Commission plans to continue to offer special programs in conjunction with certain quarterly Board of Commissioners meetings as yet another way to connect and interact with the public it serves.

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

### Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentives Program

In 2012, the Commission received a grant through the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentives Program that is administered through the United States Department of Agriculture and the Farm Service Agency. The grant program provides funds to states and tribal governments to encourage landowners and operators of privately owned farms, ranches and forest lands to voluntarily make the land available for public access, including hunting, fishing and wildlife dependent recreation under programs administered by state governments. This is a competitive grant program that is available to all states and tribal governments. Most states used the funding to improve public access and habitat for hunting on lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).



Participants at PFBC-sponsored programs at Little Buffalo State Park



*Sailing at Presque Isle Bay,  
Erie County.*



### **2012 Cooperative Nursery 50+ and 75+ Year Award Certificates**

**50-year** (Established 1962)

**Oswayo Valley Rod and Gun Club**  
Northcentral

**55-year** (Established 1957)

**Jenner Community Sportsmen Assoc.**  
Southwest

**60-year** (Established 1952)

**Hi-La Sportsmen Assoc.**  
Northcentral

**80-year** (Established 1932)

**Windber Sportsmens Assoc.**  
Southwest

The Commission received \$260,000 from the program and used the funding to acquire permanent public fishing access and conservation easements on a number of streams in the Commonwealth. The Commission acquired easements from landowners along the Little Juniata River in Huntingdon County, Yellow Creek in Bedford County and Caldwell Creek in Warren County. Grant funds are also being utilized for a habitat improvement project on Caldwell Creek. The total amount of stream frontage opened for public access is almost six miles. The Commission is the only agency in the country that used this funding to acquire permanent public access on private lands. For more information about the Voluntary Public Access and Incentive Program, visit the Farm Service Agency's website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/vpa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/vpa).

## **Presque Isle Named Among Nation's Top State Parks for Fishing and Boating**

In August, anglers and boaters named Presque Isle State Park among the nation's best state parks for fishing and boating in a national competition sponsored by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. Presque Isle State Park is a 3,200-acre sandy peninsula that arches into Lake Erie. As Pennsylvania's only "seashore," Presque Isle offers its visitors a beautiful coastline and many recreational activities.

Pennsylvanians and out-of-state tourists have long enjoyed the beauty of Presque Isle State Park and the wide range of family-friendly fishing and boating opportunities it offers. The contest demonstrated what the Commission always knew—that Presque Isle ranks among the nation's best state parks for outdoor recreation.

Sponsored as part of its "Take Me Fishing" campaign, the foundation hosted the eight-week-long promotion, "Nature's Waterpark Showdown," to boost state park awareness and participation in the boating and fishing they offer. Presque Isle State Park led the Northeast sector.

Boaters find four free park launches at Presque Isle. The launches, along with abundant piers and miles of beach and other shoreline, offer easy access to Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay and their populations of bass, walleye, muskellunge, northern pike, steelhead and other trout, and a wide variety of panfish.

## **Economic Impact of Water Trails**

Results of a survey conducted by ICF International on behalf of the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee showed that visitors to four Pennsylvania water trails during the summer of 2012 generated almost three-quarters of a million dollars in economic activity and supported 11 full-time jobs. The data were gathered from 352 interviews of water trail visitors from July to September on four of the Commonwealth's 21 water trails: the Schuylkill, Susquehanna—North Branch, Juniata and Three Rivers. While this study only covered a short period of time and a small number of trails, it is a good indication that water trails do have an important economic impact in nearby communities and are a great source of recreation that is close to home for many visitors.

Water trails include access points, boat launches, day use sites and some overnight camping sites on or along waterways. The Pennsylvania Water Trails Program is a partnership of the Commission, DCNR, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the National Park Service to expand and connect the system of water trails and better market and promote them.

Water trails make it easier for both powered and non-powered boaters to participate in the sport. They provide safe access to, and information about, waterways while also providing connections to the diverse history, ecology, geology, heritage and wildlife of Pennsylvania.

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

### Wild Trout Streams on the Web

In March, the Commission launched a new page on its website listing streams that have been sampled by the agency and cooperating partners as part of its statewide initiative to document previously un-surveyed waterways supporting naturally reproducing wild trout. The wild trout designation is a biological classification, which indicates that a stream is producing and sustaining a natural trout population. It is important because streams with this designation, and their associated wetlands, are entitled to greater regulatory protection.

The webpage contains three lists—streams being considered, streams officially proposed for listing and streams officially listed as wild trout waters. Preliminary results from the surveys indicate that the streams on the list may be eligible for consideration as wild trout waters. They may also support wild trout populations sufficient to designate a stream section as a Class A wild trout stream. The appearance on this list does not guarantee that a stream will be brought before the Commission for official listing as a wild trout stream or a Class A wild trout stream. It simply means the stream is under consideration until the preliminary data can be verified.

Before a stream is officially presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration, the public has 30 days to provide comments. The comment period begins at least 60 days before the Board takes action at a quarterly meeting. The comment period begins when the proposed stream designation is listed in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Individuals interested in making a public comment on any of the waters on this list should review the Pennsylvania Bulletin on a regular basis to determine if and when a particular stream is being considered for action or visit the Commission's Proposed & Recent Regulations webpage, which lists all agency notices.

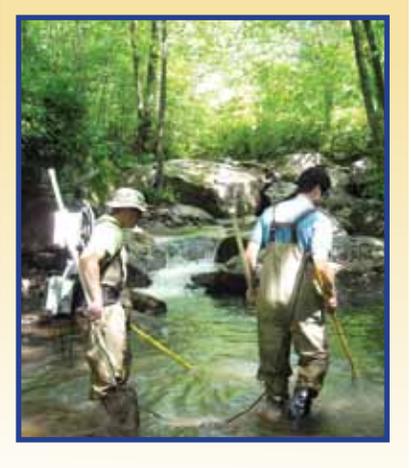
### IT Modernization

The Commission continued its efforts in 2012 to modernize 12 of its Microsoft Access-based core applications to a more technologically advanced intranet platform to provide a new user-friendly interface and a more efficient way of utilizing data to make sound business decisions for the Commission, as well as incorporate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to improve data integrity. Although most of the applications are scheduled for implementation in December 2013, one application has been implemented to support Marcellus Shale permitting initiatives, with a second to be released in the first quarter of 2013. The migration of these applications 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.

### High-hazard, Unsafe Dams

The summary on the back inside cover of this report outlines the current status of high-hazard, unsafe dams owned by the Commonwealth and managed by the Commission. The year 2012 was an extremely busy year for dealing with these facilities—with new dams joining the list of those with problems, some beginning the process of being refilled, and funding being secured to start others on the road to recovery. While each project is different, one common element is the lack of agency resources to fix the problems and the need to work with outside partners to raise the money to get the lakes back in the business of providing recreational fishing and boating opportunities and resuming their status as treasured assets.



*The Commission offered high resolution graphics for download on the agency's website at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com). The images will continue to be updated throughout 2013 and be available to anyone who would like to use them.*

## 2012 PFBC Website

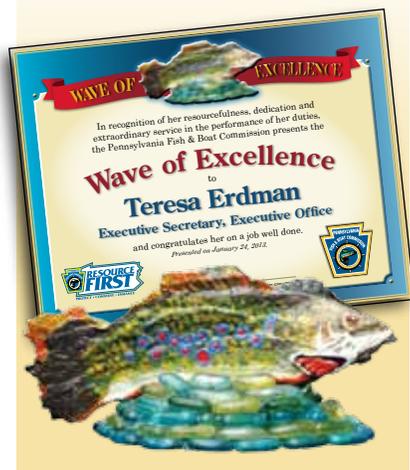
Top Ten pages by page view  
(2012 monthly averages):

1. Home page = 138,239
2. Trout stocking schedule = 31,766
3. Buy a license = 23,506
4. County guide = 21,319
5. Fishing near you = 18,357
6. Stocking overview = 16,000
7. Register a boat = 14,793
8. Fishing regulations = 13,587
9. Trout fast facts = 13,579
10. FAQ fishing licenses = 13,022

PFBC Website totals

(2012 monthly averages)

Visits - 275,892



During the summer, the General Assembly announced the release of funds from the state capital budget for Speedwell Forge Lake. In November, the Commonwealth Financing Authority awarded an \$11.9 million grant from the H2O PA Program for Tamarack Lake.

In August, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Appropriations Committee convened a special meeting at which Commission staff briefed members on the magnitude and challenges of the high-hazard dam issue. With \$28.1 million in remaining funding needs for six facilities currently listed as high-hazard, unsafe and others likely to be added to the list, the Commission will continue to work with local, state and federal sources to enlist creative funding packages.

The following illustrate some of the major high-hazard, unsafe dam milestones from 2012.

- Leaser Lake—Repairs completed. Refill commenced and expected to be complete by spring 2013.
- Opossum Lake—Repairs completed. Refill commenced and expected to be complete by spring 2013.
- Dutch Fork Lake—Repairs completed. Refill expected to commence in winter 2013 and be completed in summer 2013.
- Hereford Manor Lakes (Upper and Lower Dams)—Breach completed.
- Canonsburg Lake Dam—Dam rehabilitation project completed.
- Speedwell Forge Lake Dam—Dam breached. Design is underway.
- Tamarack A&B Dams—Drawdowns completed.
- Mountain Springs—Drawdown commenced.
- Lower Woods—Drawdown commenced.

## Employee Appreciation and Performance

In 2012, the Wave of Excellence Award program was developed to recognize PFBC employees from other bureaus who have provided extraordinary service for the good of the agency. The Years of Service Recognition pin program has been brought back by popular demand. Employees receive a pin commemorating their years of commonwealth service on five-year employment anniversaries.

Safety training courses such as defensive driving and creating a Culture of Safety have been offered. The executive management team met and planned leadership development training for agency staff, using low- to no-cost training options, such as the Governor's Office of Administration Keystone Academy of Learning.

The Human Resources team developed new training for supervisors in Classification and Pay, State Employees Assistance and Fitness for Duty, and Workplace Violence. This training provided a significant cost savings to the agency, as internal resources were used and travel costs were curtailed.

About 25 percent of PFBC staff participated in the Employee Fishing and Boating Day program, allowing employees to enjoy networking with coworkers while gaining valuable knowledge and insights into the mission of PFBC.

## 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.

### Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Magazine

Pennsylvania's flagship *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine continued to be a highly valued publication for its readers again in 2012. In an effort to deliver meaningful, relevant information, the Commission featured a number of stories highlighting the work of the agency in fulfilling its Resource First mission. The following are among the topics featured throughout the past year.



## January/February

Coldweather Life Jacket Wear; Spring Creek Canyon Cooperative Management Area; Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass Catch and Release; Paddlefish Restoration; Passive Integrated Transponder Tagging Project

## March/April

Stocking Program Changes; Why You Should Care About Mussels; Unassessed Water Program Update; Pleasant Mount Hatchery is a Local Treasure; Hidden in Plain Sight: Spring Creek Canyon Opens to the Public

## May/June

Take Me Fishing in PA Month; Fishing Tackle Loaner Program; PA Water Trails; Family Fishing Festivals; Commission's Lake Habitat Section Helps Fish and Anglers; Trout In the Classroom

## July/August

Fish for Free Days: Your True Holidays; Family Fishing Festivals; PA Water Rescue Program; Warmwater Fisheries

## September/October

The Last Bass ("Straight Talk")/Fish Story: Memories of the Susquehanna; Historical Marker Honoring Ralph Abele Unveiled; Clawed Invaders Spell Trouble for Pennsylvania's Waterways; Protecting Our Coldwater Resources; PFBC Channel Catfish Survey Trapping Techniques

## November/December

Fishing License Gift Vouchers; Multi-year Licenses; PA's Best Fishing Waters; Mentored Youth Trout Day; Fun Family Fishing, Always an Adventure; State Wildlife Action Plan

## Limited Edition Ned Smith Prints

For the first time in its 81-year history, *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* provided a limited-edition series of fine art prints by acclaimed wildlife artist Ned Smith. The prints featured Commonwealth fish species and were included in the magazine as part of its regular offering to readers. Starting with the July/August 2012 edition and proceeding through to the May/June 2013 edition, the Commission will provide a series of six prints featuring American shad, smallmouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, bluegill and brook trout. In the early 1980s, the Commission first distributed the original drawings by Smith as a special print portfolio.

Given the limited exposure for this series of fish drawings decades ago, the Commission saw this 2012 series release as an excellent opportunity to reveal them to a new generation of its valued readership. Ned Smith began his distinguished art career by painting a cover for the January 1940 edition of *Pennsylvania Angler*, the forerunner of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*. His love of nature and for the Commonwealth's fish species was evident in his paintings of gamefish, as well as the countless hours that he spent fishing Pennsylvania's waters. From his personal journals through to his polished gems of artwork, Smith's observations, attention to detail, personal experiences and tremendous artistic talent proved to be a combination that produced fine art sought by many—from those who enjoy the outdoors to fine art gallery enthusiasts.

This print series will be a limited edition. The quantities for these high-quality prints on heavyweight paper are being strictly limited to the quantities of magazine copies ordered by the Commission. Whether as a magazine subscriber or with a separate purchase of the editions, readers will be collecting a piece of Pennsylvania's angling heritage, as captured by one of the world's most gifted wildlife artists.

## Take Me Fishing in PA Month

May was highlighted as a prime month to get out and enjoy fishing. As part of that celebration, the Commission hosted three Family Fishing Festivals on Saturdays in May. Family Fishing Festivals are educational events designed for families with little or no fishing experience. Families learn basic fishing skills and have an opportunity to practice those skills while fishing together during the program.



TAKE ME FISHING





Pittsburgh Pirates/PFBC exclusive baseball cap offer

Family Fishing events are a convenient way to introduce friends and family to the sport of fishing. While the Commission offers Family Fishing Programs throughout the year, the May events called more attention to the importance of fishing in the lives of many Pennsylvania families. Through the events, former and new anglers were able to try fishing at no cost, since the Commission waived the fishing license requirement during the program for registered participants ages 16 and older. The Commission provided equipment, bait and tackle, and staff were present to teach skills and assist those who fish.

The events led up to the Memorial Day holiday, which served as the first of the two statewide Fish-for-Free Days. The other Fish-for-Free Day was Labor Day.

## Baseball and Fishing

The Pittsburgh Pirates and the Commission teamed up to offer an exclusive discount to Pirates fans with fishing licenses. During the baseball season, 2012 fishing license holders were eligible to purchase discounted tickets and receive a free custom, limited-edition Pirates ball cap with each PNC Park game ticket. The offer was good for outfield box tickets on any day of baseball, with the exception of opening day and Saturday games.

Each fan who took advantage of the offer received an outfield box ticket and a limited-edition ball cap for only \$21, a \$3 discount. Each ticket was good for one high-quality, blue camouflage pattern cap made especially for the Commission.

## Marketing Initiatives

In conjunction with the new fishing license year beginning December 1, the Commission launched a comprehensive marketing plan to retain anglers, entice lapsed anglers back to the sport and encourage new anglers to join the sport. The first new product unveiled by the Commission was a multi-year fishing license, with anglers able to purchase either a 3-year or a 5-year fishing license.

As part of this marketing initiative, the Commission also began offering a number of rewards exclusively for customers who buy a multi-year license, including a free online subscription to *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine, along with various offers from popular retailers. Other incentives being offered include various pieces of fishing equipment and several discount coupons, which can be used at sporting goods stores.

Also starting December 1, the Commission launched a fishing sweepstakes contest to give away a series of fishing trips across the state for many of Pennsylvania's popular gamefish. Interested anglers may register for the sweepstakes at [www.gonefishingpa.com](http://www.gonefishingpa.com).

## Governor Kayaks the Upper Delaware

During the summer, Commission staff again gave considerable logistical support to Governor Corbett as he resumed his series of kayak trips down Pennsylvania rivers. In July, he paddled down the Allegheny and Conemaugh rivers in visiting Forest, Venango and Warren counties, Johnstown and Pittsburgh. In August, he toured the Upper Delaware River through Wayne, Pike and Monroe counties to promote the region's natural resources and learn about this critical waterway.

While on the water, Governor Corbett learned more about how recent preservation projects and economic development initiatives have conserved the Commonwealth's natural beauty while enhancing the quality of life for residents. At the conclusion of the Delaware River trip, the Governor followed up presentations by agency staff on regional water resources issues by pledging to clean his boat before using it on other waters as a way to help prevent the spread of the aquatic invasive species didymo that has become established in the Delaware River and other Commonwealth waters.

The Governor's kayak trips have become a tradition, beginning in the summer of 2011 when he paddled the Susquehanna River.

**NEW FOR 2013**  
AVAILABLE Dec. 1, 2012

**Carefree and Convenient Fishing at Your Fingertips!**

Three or five years of fishing in one purchase.

[www.GoneFishingPa.com](http://www.GoneFishingPa.com)

**FISHING'S FUN SWEEPSTAKES**

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Report

*Actual Expenditures charged from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012*

### EXPENDITURES

#### Fish Fund

Personnel	\$23,601,157	65%
Operating	\$9,943,563	28%
Fixed Assets	\$658,926	2%
Grants	\$1,735,446	5%
Payments to State Agencies	\$55,657	0%
<b>Fish Fund Total</b>	<b>\$35,994,749</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Boat Fund

Personnel	\$8,817,565	58%
Operating	\$3,271,286	21%
Fixed Assets	\$456,132	3%
Grants	\$1,161,686	8%
Payments to State Agencies	\$1,480,700	10%
<b>Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$15,187,369</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Personnel	\$32,418,722	63%
Operating	\$13,214,849	26%
Fixed Assets	\$1,115,057	2%
Grants	\$2,897,133	6%
Payments to State Agencies	\$1,536,357	3%
<b>Fish &amp; Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$51,182,118</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Report

*Actual Revenue Deposited from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012*

### REVENUE

#### Fish Fund

Licenses & Fees	\$26,529,986	68%
Fines & Penalties	\$362,623	1%
Miscellaneous	\$2,616,919	7%
Augmentations	\$9,254,974	24%
<b>Fish Fund Total</b>	<b>\$38,764,502</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Boat Fund

Licenses & Fees	\$7,399,176	46%
Fines & Penalties	\$181,933	1%
Miscellaneous	\$3,854,773	24%
Augmentations	\$4,760,246	29%
<b>Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$16,196,128</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Licenses & Fees	\$33,929,162	62%
Fines & Penalties	\$544,555	1%
Miscellaneous	\$6,471,693	11%
Augmentations	\$14,015,220	26%
<b>Fish &amp; Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$54,960,630</b>	<b>100%</b>

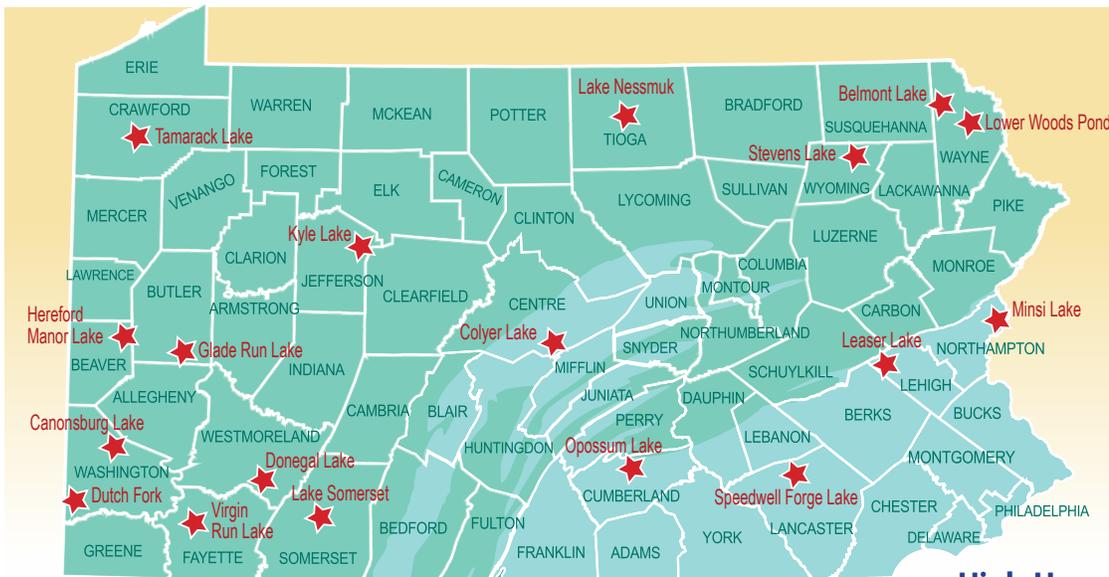
## Trout Stocked and Distributed to Cooperative Nurseries

Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount
Brook Trout	Adult	635,419
	Fingerling	348,200
	Fingerling to Coops.	378,625
Brown Trout	Adult	761,108
	Fingerling	567,735
	Fingerling to Coops.	223,810
Rainbow Trout	Adult	1,733,587
	Fingerling	265,700
	Fingerling to Coops.	408,655
Golden Rainbow Trout	Adult	9,442
	Fingerling to Coops.	10,590
<b>Total Trout Species</b>		<b>5,342,871</b>

## Warmwater/Coolwater Fish Production and Stocking

Species	Lifestage	Amount
American Shad	Fry	3,992,739
American Shad	Fingerling	9,083
Black Crappie	Fingerling	18,576
Bluegill	Fingerling	41,749
Brown Trout-Lake Erie	Fingerling	26,350
Brown Trout-Lake Erie	Yearling	33,037
Channel Catfish	Fingerling	203,189
Channel Catfish	Yearling	47,270
Flathead Catfish	Adult	7
Golden Shiner	Fingerling	3,029
Golden Shiner	Adult	1,330
Lake Trout	Yearling	52,969
Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	111,744
Muskellunge	Fingerling	69,728
Muskellunge	Yearling	1,590
Muskellunge	Adult	5
Northern Pike	Fingerling	14,304
Paddlefish	Fingerling	6,021
Rainbow Trout Steelhead	Yearling	1,000,100
Striped Bass	Fry	1,720,000
Striped Bass	Phase 1 Fingerling	278,997
Striped Bass Hybrid	Fingerling	82,497
Tiger Muskellunge	Fingerling	80,654
Walleye	Fry	22,030,000
Walleye	Phase 1 Fingerling	817,096
Walleye	Adult	30
White Crappie	Fingerling	19,353
Yellow Perch	Fry	520,000
<b>Grand Total of all Species</b>		<b>31,181,447</b>

## Pennsylvania's High-Hazard, Unsafe Dams



### High-Hazard, Unsafe Dam Program Facts

As of November 19, 2012

- The Fish & Boat Commission manages 19 dams that are currently or previously classified as High-hazard and Unsafe.
- High-hazard, unsafe dams have deficiencies of such a nature that if not corrected and the dams were to fail, substantial property damage and a probable loss of human life could occur.
- 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 and construction activities are complete; three (3) projects are 100% funded with design or repair work expected to begin in 2013; and two (2) projects are scheduled for design and repairs in 2014 and 2015 respectively using PFBC forces and PFBC allocated GG2 Funds, leaving six (6) projects unfunded.
- Estimated construction funding of \$28.1 million is needed to address six high-hazard, unsafe dams, and \$15 million more is needed for phase 2 of the Hereford Manor Lakes dam replacement project, for a total need of \$43.1 million.

Name of Dam	County	Est. Construction Costs (Million)	Funding Status
Belmont Lake	Wayne	\$1.4	PFBC - GG2 Funds <i>Project Status: PFBC engineering staff to design repairs. PFBC construction crews to perform modifications.</i>
Speedwell Forge Lake*	Lancaster	\$6.4	Unfunded <i>Project Status: Dam upgrades currently under design and permitting phase with construction activities expected to begin in 2013.</i>
Donegal Lake*	Westmoreland	\$4.7	Unfunded <i>Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>
Lake Nessmuk	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. Work scheduled to begin during spring of 2013.</i>
Minsi Lake*	Northampton	\$3.1	Unfunded <i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>
Lower Woods Pond	Wayne	\$1.8	PFBC - GG2 Funds <i>Project Status: PFBC engineering staff to design repairs. PFBC construction crews to perform modifications.</i>
Canonsburg Lake*	Washington	\$2.216	100% funded 1. H2o PA - \$2.216 million <i>Project Status: Work Completed.</i>
Lake Somerset*	Somerset	\$5.0	Unfunded <i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>
Glade Run Lake*	Butler	\$4.3	Unfunded <i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>
Dutch Fork Lake*	Washington	\$4.4	100% funded 1. H2o PA - \$4.284 million 2. PFBC GG2 - \$114,556.04 <i>Project Status: Work completed.</i>
Stevens Lake	Wyoming	\$1.8	\$0.00 Dam removed from HH unsafe list. <i>Project Status: Calculations certified by DEP that dam has capacity to manage 52% of Probable Maximum Precipitation.</i>
Kyle Lake*	Jefferson	\$4.2	Unfunded <i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>
Colyer Lake*	Centre	\$6.8	Unfunded <i>Project Status: Repair work not scheduled.</i>
Virgin Run Lake	Fayette	\$4.2	\$125,000 Dam removed from HH unsafe list. <i>Funding provided by PFBC for the acquisition of a downstream house. Project Status: Family moved and PFBC researching flowage easements to eliminate future development downstream from dam.</i>
Hereford Manor Lake	Beaver	Phase 1 - \$3.1 - Complete Phase 2 - \$15.0 - Unfunded	Phase 2 - \$15.0 - Unfunded <i>Project Status: Phase 1 breach complete. H2o PA - \$3.1 mil. Phase 2: Funding not yet identified for replacement. PFBC and local groups developed Phase 2 plans for construction of single replacement dam concept - \$15 mil.</i>
Opossum Lake	Cumberland	\$3.3	100% funded 1. GBO - \$1.45 million (Vance); 2. Cumberland County/DEP GG2 - \$609,000; 3. Lower Frankford Twp. - \$90,000; 4. PFBC - \$1.25million GG2 <i>Project Status: Work completed.</i>
Leaser Lake	Lehigh	\$3.5	100% funded 1. GBO - \$1.45 million; 2. PFBC/GG2 - \$316,000; 3. DCNR/GG2 - \$750,000; 4. DEP/GG2 - \$500,000; 5. Lehigh County - \$500,000 <i>Project Status: Work completed.</i>
Tamarack Lake	Crawford	\$11.9	100% funded 1. H2o PA - \$11.9 million grant award covers design, permitting & construction costs. <i>Project Status: Grant awarded in November 2012, project work has not been scheduled.</i>

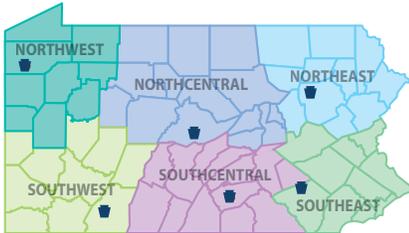
\*Indicates engineering and design fees funded by the Governor's Budget Office (GBO). Final fees based on 20% of estimated construction costs.



## The Outdoor Shop

Purchase fishing licenses, trout stamps, subscriptions, launch permits and more— All Online!

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)



**iFish**  
a menu of fishing resources from PFBC



<http://fishandboat.com/ifish.htm>

**iBoat**  
a menu of boating resources from PFBC



<http://fishandboat.com/iboat.htm>

Use your smartphone (with a QR code app) and the QR codes above to access 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

450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Phone: (814) 359-5100  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION COURSES

Phone: (888) 723-4741

### FISHING LICENSES:

Phone: (877) 707-4085

### BOAT REGISTRATION/TITLING:

Phone: (866) 262-8734

### PUBLICATIONS:

Phone: (717) 705-7835

## 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

11528 SH 98, Meadville, PA 16335  
*Law Enforcement:* (814) 337-0444  
*Education:* (814) 336-2426  
Fax (814) 337-0579 Fax (814) 337-0579  
Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren

### SOUTHWEST REGION

236 Lake Road, Somerset, PA 15501  
*Law Enforcement:* (814) 445-8974  
*Education:* (814) 443-9841  
Fax (814) 445-3497 Fax (814) 445-3497  
Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland

### NORTHCENTRAL REGION

1150 Spring Creek Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
*Law Enforcement:* (814) 359-5250  
*Education:* (814) 359-5193  
Fax (814) 359-5254 Fax (814) 359-5153  
Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union

### SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241  
*Law Enforcement:* (717) 486-7087  
*Education:* (717) 486-7352  
Fax (717) 486-8227 Fax (717) 486-8227  
Counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York

### NORTHEAST REGION

5566 Main Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656  
*Law Enforcement:* (570) 477-5717  
*Education:* (570) 477-2206  
Fax (570) 477-3221 Fax (570) 477-2621  
Counties: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

### SOUTHEAST REGION

P.O. Box 9, Elm, PA 17521  
*Law Enforcement:* (717) 626-0228  
*Education:* (717) 626-9081  
Fax (717) 626-0486 Fax (717) 626-0486  
Counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill

## STATE FISH HATCHERIES

### BELLEFONTE\*

1115 Spring Creek Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
(814) 355-3371

### CORRY\*

13365 Route 6  
Corry, PA 16407  
(814) 664-2122

### FAIRVIEW

2000 Lohrer Road  
Fairview, PA 16415  
(814) 474-1514

### BENNER SPRING RESEARCH STATION

1735 Shiloh Road  
State College, PA 16801  
(814) 355-4837

### HUNTSDALE\*

195 Lebo Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
(717) 486-3419

### LINESVILLE\*

13300 Hartstown Road  
Linesville, PA 16424  
(814) 683-4451

### OSWAYO\*

96 State Route 244 East  
Coudersport, PA 16915  
(814) 698-2102

### PLEASANT GAP\*

450 Robinson Lane  
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823  
(814) 359-5121

### PLEASANT MOUNT\*

229 Grent Bend Turnpike  
Pleasant Mount, PA  
18453  
(570) 448-2101

### REYNOLDSDALE\*

162 Fish Hatchery Road  
New Paris, PA 15554  
(814) 839-2211

### TIONESTA\*

172 Fish Hatchery Lane  
Tionesta, PA 16353  
(814) 755-3524

### TYLERSVILLE

43 Hatchery Lane  
Loganton, PA 17747  
(570) 725-3965

### UNION CITY

9450 Route 6  
Union City, PA 16438  
(814) 664-2122

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

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)