

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission



The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.



2013 Annual Report

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 include 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 (Vice President), Kingston; G. Warren Elliott (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, Harrisburg.



*PFBC Executive Director
John A. Arway*

Executive Director's Message

History in the Making

As someone who has moved up through the ranks of our agency, one of the guiding principles I brought to this job was that I would stay connected to our staff spread out across the state and let everyone know that I welcome their input and opinions about the direction of the agency. With so much in the news this past year related to funding and the legislature's renewed interest in studying the independence of the agency, it was important to me to reassure our staff that I was fully committed to them on three major fronts that follow the themes of the agency's mission to protect, conserve and enhance.

I delivered that message at a series of regionally based staff discussions during the month of August. I promised to protect our independence, anglers and boaters, and aquatic resources; conserve our financial and staff resources; and enhance our funding streams so that we can fulfill our mission. We took steps to address all of these points, but I would like to give special attention to two items that were foremost in my mind during 2013: protecting the independence of the agency and navigating our fiscal slope.

Commitment to Independence

In April, the Board of Commissioners reaffirmed their past positions from 1972, 1988 and 2003 in support of agency independence by unanimously passing the following resolution and leaving no doubt about the agency's position:

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's independent status is critical to fulfilling its unique mission. Its independence provides the flexibility to act upon the substantial challenges and opportunities it faces. The Board of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission opposes any action that will threaten or compromise the agency's independence.

I represent the Commission and more than 860,000 licensed anglers and 300,000 registered boaters in Pennsylvania at meetings of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) where the directors of fish and wildlife agencies from all 50 states get together, compare notes at a national scale and make decisions about the nation's fish and wildlife policies. I am proud to attend these national meetings with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and represent our Commonwealth in those national discussions. In fact, at my very first meeting, I observed that there were 51 seats at the Board of Directors' table, and I affirmed that Pennsylvania was there to change the nation and not have the nation change us. Many other state directors would love for their home states to go back to the days of separate agencies, since they realize that they would be more effective, and yes, even more efficient in serving the interests of anglers, boaters, hunters, trappers and the fish and wildlife that benefit from our public service.



The independence of the agency is inextricably linked to the welfare of the resources we are entrusted to protect and manage, and we spent a good part of 2013 explaining the merits of the open, transparent and collaborative approach that we employ in carrying out our mission. In my last "Straight Talk" article of 2013, I noted that my New Year's resolution was to continue to argue that wild trout and rare species designations are scientific and not political decisions. While we all know that some New Year's resolutions are hard to keep, this one will be easy for me since I have been doing it my whole career.

Fiscal Slope

There was a lot of talk at the beginning of 2013 about the federal government's so-called fiscal cliff. My first "Straight Talk" article of the year was entitled *Our Fiscal Slope* to draw attention to the fact that our situation was somewhat different than those facing decision-makers in Washington, DC. Although PFBC is an independent, administrative agency of state government, and we follow the user pays/user benefits model, we are not immune from the financial challenges that lie ahead of us. All state agencies have been told that we should prepare to absorb increases in employee pension and medical costs in the near future. Combine these costs with increases in employee wages and salaries, which must be absorbed due to "level funding," rising operating costs, and a flat or declining customer base, we could have our own fiscal cliff to contend with if we don't immediately live up to our fiduciary responsibilities.

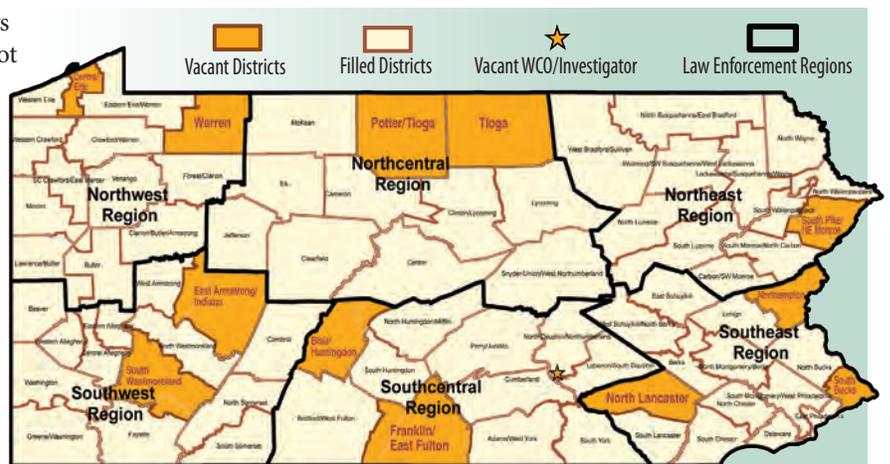
We have a few years before health care and retirement obligations fully become due, so ours is more of a fiscal slope than a fiscal cliff. We could have decided, much like the federal government did, to kick that can down the road, spend down our reserve fund and delay this decision for others to make sometime after I retire. I cannot knowingly do that given my concern about the long-term future of our agency. Therefore, we worked on a spending reallocation plan to determine what programs needed to be cut to honor our obligations and to pay new bills that will come due in 2016.

We began to take steps to implement a spending reallocation plan in 2013, and those steps are beginning to be manifested in the programs and services we deliver. Among the most notable was a decision not to run a new Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) class, since we cannot afford to fill vacant WCO positions.

Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

There was a lot of good news from 2013, which greatly outweighed any challenges we faced during the year. You will read about the tremendous legislative success of the transportation bill, a fantastic first year of multi-year license sales and significant progress on goals to benefit anglers, boaters and aquatic resources.

In perhaps the most important part of this report, we draw attention to the staff and volunteers whose fine work earned them accolades in 2013. We have mentioned awards in past annual reports, but we felt it was important to draw special attention to these individuals. There are countless things we could highlight on the following pages, but none are more significant than the people who give their time and talents to Pennsylvania's angling and boating public.



This map shows those districts without a full-time WCO as of January 17, 2014.

Your Director,
>>(John{(^o)



Strategic Plan

The realities of the spending reallocation plan prompted the Commission to undertake a revision of the strategic plan one year earlier than originally planned. The current strategic plan was scheduled to run through June 30, 2015, but staying true to the agency's commitment to link the plan with agency spending decisions required the Commission to reengage the strategic planning process in 2013. The new plan that is under development is scheduled to be in place by July 1, 2014, and run for three full fiscal years. This time line corresponds with the agency's internal spending reallocation plan and will be regularly revisited and amended as necessary to continue to line up with financial and other conditions.

That means that 2013 will be the last full calendar year for which the Commission's current strategic plan will be in place. For the fourth consecutive year, this report is organized under the headings of the 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 our jurisdiction.
- Limited financial and human resources require the Commission to more effectively manage our internal resources.
- Due to the limitations of current communications systems, technologies and processes, the Commission must improve its internal and external communication methods and systems.

This document 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. Since it was adopted in 2010, the Commission has produced quarterly reports documenting success in implementing specific provisions of the plan. The quarterly reports for 2013 (and past years of the plan) are all available at www.fishandboat.com for readers who would like details about particular agency activities of the past year. Collectively, the quarterly reports reflect the progress the agency made during calendar year 2013.

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.

Reinvesting Taxes Paid by Boaters

The biggest legislative success of 2013 came in November when the House and Senate passed and the Governor signed the landmark transportation funding bill—Act 89 of 2013.

The Commission has historically received a refund for the 12 cents per gallon of state Liquid Fuels Tax paid on gasoline consumed in the operation of motorboats or watercraft. Annually, PFBC petitions the Board of Finance and Revenue for the refund based on yearly surveys from boat registrants on the amount of fuel consumed. The PFBC invests these funds in the improvement of Commonwealth waters. Over the past 10 years, PFBC has reported an average of 15.6 million gallons per year, with an average annual refund of \$1.9 million.

This refund has ensured that Pennsylvania waters fairly benefit from taxes paid by boaters rather than having those funds directed to the repair of Pennsylvania's bridges and roadways.

Throughout 2013, the Commission made the case to the General Assembly that the same rationale should apply to the Oil Company Franchise Tax (OCFT). The OCFT was being collected on fuel used by boaters, but it was going to roads and bridges rather than benefitting boaters.

Legislative Budget and Finance Committee Triennial Audit

Every three years, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) conducts a performance audit of the Commission. In October, the LBFC released its latest triennial assessment of the agency. Coincidentally, the Commission was developing a new strategic plan as the last triennial audit was being completed. The LBFC focused its 2013 report on the new strategic plan since the time period being analyzed coincided with the implementation of the new plan.

The audit supported the Commission's own internal assessment that it made significant progress implementing the objectives laid out in the strategic plan and found that the Commission had implemented many of the recommendations from the last LBFC audit. In addition to focusing on the current strategic plan, the audit placed a heavy emphasis on the agency's financial condition and acknowledged that the strategic plan is being revised to reflect new fiscal realities.





**As of December 31, 2013,
the Commission generated
over \$7 million in revenues
through the following
agreements:**

Oil and Gas

- Donegal Lake,
Westmoreland Co.;
- Dutch Fork Lake,
Washington Co.;
- Hereford Manor, Beaver Co.;
- Rose Valley Lake,
Lycoming Co.;
- Trimble and Terrytown Accesses,
Bradford Co.

Seismic Survey

- Cloe Lake, Jefferson Co.;
- Donegal Lake,
Westmoreland Co.;
- Hemlock Lake, Indiana Co.;
- Hunters Lake, Sullivan Co.;
- Lake Nessmuk, Tioga Co.

Water Access

- Donegal Lake, Westmoreland Co.;
- Hyner Access, Clinton Co.

Pipeline

- Beechwood Lake, Tioga Co.

Act 89 of 2013 directs the portion of the OCFT that is attributable to motorboat fuel to PFBC for the systematic improvement and management of infrastructure and operations that support Pennsylvania boaters. For the first five fiscal years, the funding is required to assist with repairs to high-hazard dams managed by the Commission.

Soon after the Governor signed Act 89, the Commission was able to leverage dollars that it will receive in the coming years for the release of funding from the Capital Budget to help repair Colyer Lake, Centre County. See page 23 for more details about the status of the Commission's high-hazard, unsafe dams.

Commencing with the 2018-19 fiscal year and thereafter, the Commission may use the OCFT funds to support general boating-related programs and services. The Commission estimates that it will receive over \$3 million in the first full year that the new law is in place, climbing to over \$6 million by the fifth year.

Act 89 also ensures that the Commission will continue to receive the equivalent of its traditional liquid fuels tax apportionment even though that tax will no longer be assessed directly at the consumer level.

This legislative victory is another example of the user pays/user benefits model of fish and wildlife conservation responsible for most of the agency's revenues. The Commission plans to build on the momentum of Act 89 to advocate that other moneys spent by anglers and boaters should come to the agency rather than solely being dedicated to the Commonwealth's General Fund.

Multi-Year Fishing Licenses

The year 2013 marked the first license year in which anglers could take advantage of the multi-year fishing licenses permitted by the enactment of Act 66 of 2012. The Commission began promoting and selling 3-year and 5-year fishing licenses and permits, and anglers responded positively by purchasing 60,298 multi-year licenses and permits.

Three-year fishing licenses purchased in 2013 will be valid through 2015, and 5-year licenses will be valid through 2017. Customers who bought multi-year licenses saved money by not having to pay transaction and processing fees each year. For example, a customer who bought a 5-year license with a trout/salmon permit saved \$13.60.

In an effort to generate even more excitement and value, the Commission worked with retailers to offer over \$300 in free goods and discounts to anglers who purchased 3-year or 5-year licenses. Multi-year license buyers also receive a free subscription to the digital version of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine.

One of the hallmarks of Act 66 is flexibility. In response to customer demands, the Commission added new permit options for customers who buy multi-year licenses. Beginning in December, anglers were given the option to add a single year trout/salmon permit, Lake Erie permit, or combination trout/salmon and Lake Erie permit to a multi-year license.

This will improve the multi-year fishing license experience. Some anglers said they felt limited in their fishing options, because they plan only an occasional trip to Lake Erie and its tributaries or fish for trout periodically. This new option gives anglers flexibility with their purchasing decisions. Single year permits will not affect the base multi-year fishing license, but it will print as a single individual permit. Anglers must fold the printed permit and place it in front of their multi-year base license.

Multi-year license buyers were given another choice in December with the introduction of durable, multi-year upgrade cards available through the statewide network of about 900 licensing agents or at www.GoneFishingPa.com. This plastic-card version of the multi-year license costs \$11.70 and will be delivered within 14 business days of purchase.

The Commission also established a Multi-year License and Voucher Sellers Club to highlight fishing license agents who sell a minimum of 10 multi-year fishing licenses or vouchers on an annual basis. As of the end of 2013, almost 90 agents were in this exclusive category.

Natural Gas and Water Access

In March 2011, the Commission established a non-surface use Natural Gas Program and a Water Access Program for its properties. This decision was designed to minimize environmental impacts while maximizing revenues and enhancing recreational benefits.

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 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.

In 2013, the Commission continued to identify properties under its control that are suitable for license or agreement.

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

Natural Gas Section Making a Difference

Act 13 of 2012 provides \$1 million annually to the Commission “for costs relating to the review of applications for permits to drill unconventional gas wells.” With the support of Act 13, the Commission established a new Natural Gas Section with regionally based fisheries biologists dedicated to Marcellus-related activities. Each staff member is responsible for Chapter 105 Waterway Encroachment permit reviews, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Species Impact Reviews (SIRs) for non-game threatened and endangered species and water allocation docket reviews for projects in their region.

Permit reviews are associated with the following activities that are necessary to extract and transport natural gas from unconventional gas wells: pad development, access road construction, transmission and gathering line construction, water line construction, compressor stations, water storage facilities, water withdrawals and stream crossings. In 2013, the Commission finally had the resources to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and companies to get more involved in pre-application and project scoping field views and meetings. Field views often included species of concern critical habitat evaluation and avoidance measures. This allowed the agencies and applicants to discuss project details and seek clarification earlier in the process to identify and implement timely solutions, ultimately allowing the Commission to provide technical guidance on how to avoid or minimize the proposed environmental impacts of projects to aquatic resources.

Given that many miles of currently unassessed waters occur within the deep oil and gas shale region, accurate classification of these waters was deemed essential to the permit review process and in the aiding of industry with proper development activities. In addition to the full-time staff dedicated to unconventional well permitting activities, stream assessment work conducted within the deep oil and gas shale region was conducted by other agency staff and cooperators funded by grants through the Unassessed Waters Initiative.

Prior to Act 13, it took the Commission approximately 85 days to review and comment on a natural gas line permit application and approximately 30 days to complete a Species Impact Review for a Marcellus gas-related project. Due to the dedicated funding to support the Natural Gas Section, the Commission’s natural gas project review times in 2013 decreased to approximately 10 days for pipeline projects and 15 days for Species Impact Reviews.

See page 16 for examples of Information Technology improvements that have contributed to improved permit review times.

Unassessed Waters

A new pilot program under the Unassessed Waters Initiative was launched in 2013. This initial effort is designed to involve the angling public in the program by allowing anglers to provide feedback on their observations and experience when fishing or visiting an unassessed water. Key parameters provided to the agency from anglers will be information about location, water temperature and whether or not wild trout were caught or observed.

The idea is that if an angler identifies a stream as containing wild trout, the Commission can increase its sampling priority and follow up with a survey conducted by staff or our professional partners. For the initial pilot program, two Trout Unlimited (TU) chapters (Susquehanna and Allegheny Mountain) were asked to participate. Recently summarized information from this program indicated that anglers provided PFBC feedback on 34 streams. Wild trout were reported as being seen or caught in 27 of these 34 waters. This information will be used to develop sampling priorities for 2014. Additionally, it is anticipated that this program will be expanded in 2014.

The PFBC’s Unassessed Waters Initiative, through grants provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, was able to contract with twelve universities and conservation groups to complete unassessed

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Lycoming College	41	95	92	77
Kings College	23	5	15	
Academy of Natural Sciences		6		
Duquesne University		28	47	45
Juniata College		27	25	48
Mansfield University		61	20	78
Penn State University		66	55	74
Susquehanna University		82	64	184
Trout Unlimited		20	39	21
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy		20	57	97
Allegheny College			20	20
California University			22	41
Clarion University			53	53
Keystone College			21	
Lock Haven University			20	45
DEP	24	32	35	5
Totals	88	442	585	788



Don't Flush Medications

An initiative announced by Governor Tom Corbett in December to safely dispose of unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medicine improves the health of fish. The MedReturn boxes, installed in 29 Pennsylvania counties, allow individuals to dispose of unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medication safely and anonymously.

Properly disposing medications improves overall water quality and in turn protects the health of the Commonwealth's fisheries. Research shows that once prescription drugs and other medicines end up in our waterways, fish absorb them. Low doses of these drugs can ultimately harm fish.

For example, researchers have seen a greater frequency of an intersex condition in Smallmouth Bass in the Susquehanna River, with males showing signs of eggs in their reproductive systems and having a protein in their systems that should only occur in females. The Commission and its partners have also found sores and lesions on fish, which may be due to the exposure of these fish to the unintended consequences of these drugs.

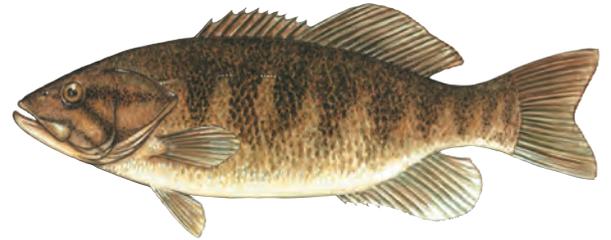
Anglers and others have always been told to flush expired medicines down the toilet or wash them down the drain, but wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove them before they get into a nearby stream. The MedReturn program now provides a much better and safer disposal option.

To find a MedReturn box in your area, please visit www.ddap.pa.gov.

waters sampling in 2013. The PFBC's Unassessed Waters Initiative, through grants provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the PFBC, was able to complete 1,064 unassessed waters samplings and surveys in 2013, which represents 2,350 miles of stream. Wild trout were documented in 52 percent of these streams.

The Continued Fight for the Susquehanna

In May, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved Pennsylvania's 2012 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, as submitted by the PA DEP, which did not include an impairment designation for the Susquehanna River.



The EPA's endorsement of the PA DEP report was extremely disappointing, since it delays action on beginning to develop a clean-up plan for the Susquehanna River for at least another two years. The Commission continues to believe that ample scientific evidence exists to demonstrate that the river is sick and needs help sooner rather than later. Smallmouth Bass are dying, and it is imperative that steps begin to clean up the river.

The recently published EPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment Survey found that over 55% of the nation's streams and rivers do not support healthy populations of aquatic life. A total of 40% of United States waters have been identified to have high levels of phosphorus, and 27% have high levels of nitrogen. Four sampling sites of the national survey were located on the Susquehanna River, and the two Pennsylvania sites rated poor for fish, periphyton, water quality and total phosphorus. Since EPA's own data corroborated PFBC's findings that the river is of poor quality, the Commission was surprised that EPA did not conclude the need to list the river as impaired and develop a plan to fix it.

Despite this setback, the Commission continued to work collaboratively with PA DEP and others in 2013 to collect the necessary data to prove by whatever measurement necessary that the river is impaired. The Commission maintains that anglers and the Smallmouth Bass that remain in the river deserve its full attention while decision-makers continue to debate their fate.

In April, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) released the report *Angling for Healthier Rivers: The Link Between Smallmouth Bass Mortality and Disease and the Need to Reduce Water Pollution in Chesapeake Bay Tributaries*. The Commission thanked and commended CBF for taking on the challenge of explaining the significance of the Smallmouth Bass fish kills in Bay tributaries and how they relate to the overall Bay problem.

Pennsylvania anglers and Commission staff first saw diseased young-of-year (YOY) Smallmouth Bass in the Susquehanna River in 2005. Since then, the Commission has worked with federal and state researchers to define the most obvious stressors that are responsible for causing the disease symptoms in both YOY and adult Smallmouth Bass. The disease has caused the population to decline to historically low levels in the section of river from Sunbury to Maryland.

More information about the problems on the Susquehanna River can be found on PFBC's website at www.fishandboat.com/susq-impairment.htm.

Penns Creek Slot Limit

Anglers visiting popular Penns Creek, Centre County, can expect to have continued high quality angling and could see larger trout in coming years as a result of action taken by the Commission in 2013. Penns Creek provides a unique opportunity to evaluate a new special regulation on a productive limestone stream. The Commission established a harvest slot limit on Section 03, which stretches from the confluence with Elk Creek downstream seven miles to 650 yards downstream of Swift Run. Under the regulation, anglers can harvest two trout per day provided the trout are at least seven inches but less than 12 inches in length. The harvest slot limit replaces the All-Tackle Trophy Trout regulations.

The productive nature of Penns Creek provides ideal conditions to allow for a favorable response of the wild Brown Trout population to trend toward larger sizes than had been occurring under the existing regulations. The new regulation will direct limited harvest to intermediate-sized fish while protecting larger fish in the population. The regulation strives to meet the biological objectives for the fishery as well as the preferences of anglers and landowners. The change is designed to improve the size structure of the wild trout population in this section.

The regulation took effect on January 1, 2014, for a seven-year period ending December 31, 2020. The regulation will apply from opening day of trout season through Labor Day, with catch and release for the remainder of the year. All tackle is permitted. During the seven-year period, the trout population will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the regulation at meeting biological and social objectives for the Penns Creek fishery.

Pine Creek

The Commission took action in 2013 to improve angling on another of Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters (see page 15) when it approved the designation of Sections 10 and 12 of Pine Creek as Approved Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing, effective January 1, 2014. This designation provides additional angling opportunities by allowing anglers to fish from March 1 through the opening day of trout season on a catch and release basis. Currently, both stream sections are managed under Approved Trout Waters regulations and stocked trout angling opportunities are limited to about a 7 to 8 week period between the opening day of trout season and early June when water temperatures often become too warm for trout.

As part of the fisheries management plan for Pine Creek, PFBC staff identified ways to improve angling opportunities. The plan identifies Sections 10 and 12 as excellent candidates for the year-round program, because the stream sections are popular with anglers and tend to warm quickly due to their large size, with temperatures often becoming marginal for trout by early June. This change would increase recreational angling opportunities for stocked trout on this water by an additional 4 to 5 weeks. This time period often provides excellent fishing, including some of the stream's best insect hatches for fly fishing.

Clearfield and Elk County Streams to See Increased Stocking after Water Quality Improves

The health of three streams in northcentral Pennsylvania has improved to the point that the Commission announced in November that it will increase stocking of adult trout in two of them and has upgraded a third to Class A Wild Trout status.

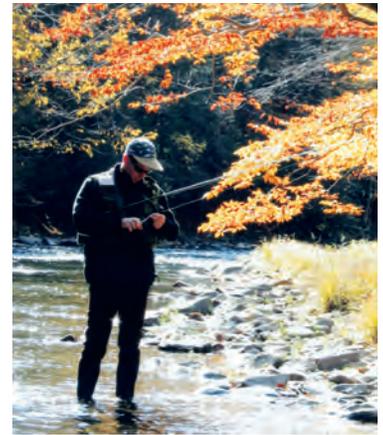
Beginning with the 2014 season, the Commission will stock adult trout in the West Branch Susquehanna River from the confluence with Anderson Creek in Curwensville downstream to the SR 2024 crossing at Porters Bridge, Clearfield County. The 2.8-mile section will receive trout during a preseason stocking in late March or early April. The stocking will be in addition to the reach between Hyde and Clearfield that is already stocked.

The Commission will also stock adult trout in the Bennett Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek from the Jay/Benezette Township line downstream to approximately 985 feet downstream of the T-434 (Station Road) Bridge in Benezette, Elk County. This will be a preseason stocking and will be in addition to the reach between the confluence with South Branch Bennett Branch and the confluence with Wilson Run in Penfield that is already stocked.

This is great news for anglers in this area. Both of these waters had been affected historically by acid mine drainage, but through remediation efforts and habitat improvements, the water quality has improved to the point that they can be stocked with trout.

The Commission could not have reached this point without the help of all of its partners, including the Bennett Branch Watershed Association and PA DEPs Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Cooperative nurseries and local groups will also stock the West Branch and Bennett Branch after trout season opens.

A third stream, Rattlesnake Creek, has two popular sections, which run through Elk and Jefferson counties. During recent surveys, Commission biologists documented that a Class A wild brook trout population exists in Section 01, which stretches approximately 4.28 miles from the headwaters downstream to approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ mile upstream of the T-574 Bridge. The downstream section which extends for a distance of 3.97 miles from approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ mile upstream of the T-574 Bridge downstream to the mouth will continue to be stocked with adult Brook Trout and Brown Trout.



Penns Creek, Centre County



Pine Creek, Lycoming County



Water quality and stream conditions have improved in three northcentral Pennsylvania streams for supporting a long-term and rewarding sport fishery.

Hatchery Staff Produces Banner Year for Walleye Stocking

PFBC hatcheries produced a banner year for Walleye fingerlings, raising more than 2.25 million at the Tionesta, Benner Springs, Union City, Linesville and Pleasant Mount state fish hatcheries. The target for each year is about 1.5 million fingerlings. As a result, all of the waters with Walleye requests were stocked, and over 34 waters received extra fingerlings, with some even receiving double stockings.

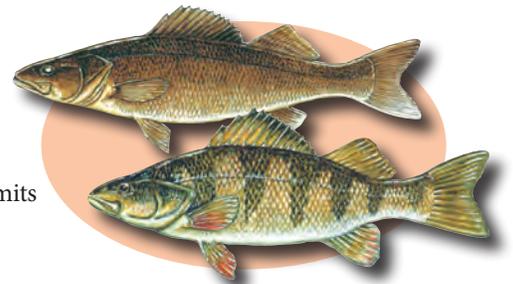
Class A streams represent the best of the Commonwealth's naturally reproducing wild trout populations. This means that the water quality and stream conditions are optimal for supporting a long-term and rewarding sport fishery. The Board of Commissioners approved the Class A designation for Section 01 of Rattlesnake Creek in October. Because Class A streams support a self-sustaining trout population, PFBC does not stock these waters. This is the only stream in Jefferson County to obtain a Class A designation.

PFBC Sets 2013 Walleye and Yellow Perch Limits

The PFBC adopted a new regulation in 2012 establishing adaptive creel limits for Walleye and Yellow Perch based on the annual quotas established by the Lake Erie Committee, which consists of fisheries managers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Michigan and Ontario, Canada. Under the regulation, PFBC sets daily creel limits for these species by April 15 each year.

Adaptive fishing regulations are based on the most recent fishery assessment results and are better aligned with the current status of the Yellow Perch and Walleye stocks. This regulatory flexibility gave fisheries managers the ability to change daily harvest limits prior to the onset of the summer boat fishing season on Lake Erie.

The Commission implemented the new regulation in April, when it announced that the 2013 creel limit for Lake Erie Yellow Perch will remain at 30 per day and the creel limit for Walleye will stay at six per day. Assessments showed that both Yellow Perch and Walleye populations remain stable, so the 2012 creel limits were maintained.



Ecosystem Flow Studies

In 2013, the Commission completed work with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to provide recommendations for flows that support ecological processes, animals and plants in the watersheds of the Delaware, Potomac, Ohio, and Susquehanna rivers and Lake Erie. The agency's role was to help characterize stream types and specific life stages and functions of aquatic life, reptiles and amphibians that may be affected by various components of seasonal flows and indicate anticipated impacts of flow alteration.

Agencies and scientists use the flow recommendations to preserve ecological functions of different stream types by minimizing effects of flow alteration at key times. For example, recommendations from the research were used to develop the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's revised Low Flow Protection Policy, adopted in December 2012.

With the completion of the Delaware project, all major river basins in Pennsylvania have been studied and TNC has produced appropriate ecosystem flow recommendations, fulfilling a strategic goal the agency first outlined in 2010.

Lehigh River Fish Passage Improvement Feasibility Study

The Commission teamed with the Wildlands Conservancy to complete the Lehigh River Fish Passage Improvement Feasibility Study in 2013. The study was funded by a grant from the American Rivers and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program and funds from the Palmerton Superfund settlement account. More than 70 stakeholder groups and agencies were invited to participate in the study process.

The objective of the project was to investigate options for improving fish passage, while providing a mechanism to sustain water flow into the Lehigh and Delaware Canals, which are currently watered by the two dams. Although there are currently fishways on the Easton Dam, the Chain Dam, and the next dam upstream, the Hamilton Street Dam in Allentown, they have proven to be very inefficient for passing migrating shad. It was concluded that the only feasible way to allow fish migration into the river in substantial enough numbers to allow populations to recover is to remove the dams.

Upon the completion of the study, a process began to evaluate the risks, costs and benefits associated with either dam removal or the "no action" alternative, which would result in the current fishways continuing to operate in an inefficient manner.



Anglers enjoy a good day of fishing along the Lehigh River.

Before the dams were constructed, shad were an extremely abundant and very critical component of the Lehigh River ecosystem. Creation of the dams stopped shad migration into the Lehigh River. Removing dams would allow shad and other migratory fish to return to the Lehigh and allow resident fish to move freely throughout the river. Restoration of American Shad was the primary impetus for undertaking this project, but the many potential social and environmental benefits that could result would extend far beyond fish.

Qualified Surveyors

In July, the Board of Commissioners voted to codify a long-standing policy into a regulation that establishes a set of requirements consultants must meet to become a qualified surveyor for threatened and endangered species and their habitats. In addition to ultimately benefitting the species, the new requirements will also provide prospective surveyors with identified, objective criteria that they need to meet. The regulation went into effect on January 1, 2014.

The Commission routinely comments during the permit review process on development projects that may adversely impact threatened and endangered species. Commission staff provide technical assistance to project proponents by reviewing projects in or near waterways or other areas that may be occupied by these rare species. Site-specific surveys are a component of the project review phase when a project activity potentially conflicts with an threatened and endangered species and its habitat.

It is essential that individuals who conduct surveys for threatened and endangered species in connection with these projects be qualified to search for and successfully find and correctly identify these species and their habitats. To ensure that individuals conducting these surveys are qualified, surveyors will need to show that they meet general and, when applicable, taxonomic-specific surveyor requirements. If an applicant meets all of the requirements, the Commission will deem him or her to be qualified and will place his or her name on the Commission's qualified surveyor list for the species described in the application.

Threatened and Endangered Species Conservation

The Commission lists and delists threatened and endangered (T&E) species pursuant to authority included in the Fish and Boat Code. The executive and legislative branches have always looked to the Commission for its scientific and professional expertise, vesting the agency with the responsibility to look after the welfare of our waters and to conserve Pennsylvania's fish, reptiles, amphibians and other aquatic organisms.

In 1974, the General Assembly had the foresight to empower the Commission to "promulgate rules and regulations governing the taking, catching, killing and possession of endangered species within the classifications of fish, amphibians and reptiles." This action was Pennsylvania's necessary follow-up to the 1973 enactment of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). In 1980, the General Assembly adopted the current definitions of threatened and endangered species in the Fish and Boat Code. The state legislation is even more important than the federal ESA, since protecting species at the state level is the most proactive way for us to prevent their extinction.

Effectively conserving species at the state level prevents regional and range-wide declines that require federal listings. It is important to provide state protection, because most state-listed species are located on the edges of their respective ranges. Many experts believe that if the states properly protected the rare species within their borders, there would be no need for the federal ESA.

The Commission takes its responsibility to protect T&E species very seriously and is committed to determining the appropriate listing levels for all species under our jurisdiction. In fulfilling this charge, the agency is constantly refining the lists based on sound scientific data. This leads to removing as well as adding species. During the last five years, the Commission added 13 new species and delisted 11 species from the state threatened, endangered and candidate species lists.

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey

Launched in June, the Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS) is an important atlas project to help determine the distribution and status of amphibians and reptiles (herps) throughout Pennsylvania, building upon previous atlas efforts and combining modern technology with an army of citizen scientists known as "herpers." The project is a joint venture between the Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation (MACHAC), with funding assistance from the United

2013 Fishing License & Permit Types

Dec. 1, 2012 - Dec. 31, 2013 Units Sold

1-Day Resident.....	3,969
1-Day Tourist.....	5,373
3-Day Tourist.....	24,669
3-year Non-Resident.....	643
3-year Resident.....	20,752
3-year Senior.....	447
5-year Non-Resident.....	169
5-year Resident.....	10,710
5-year Senior.....	73
7-Day Tourist.....	7,174
PA Resident National Guard/Reserve....	516
Senior Lifetime.....	17,004
Non-Resident.....	39,115
Resident.....	711,463
Senior Resident.....	17,786
3-year Combination Lake Erie & Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit.....	3,951
3-year Lake Erie Permit.....	318
3-year Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit.....	13,695
5-year Combination Lake Erie & Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit.....	2,702
5-year Lake Erie Permit.....	132
5-year Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit.....	6,706
Combination Lake Erie & Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit.....	81,976
Lake Erie Permit.....	19,366
Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit.....	477,668

Total Licenses & Permits 1,466,377



States Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grants Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Wildlife Resources Conservation Program.

Amphibians and reptiles are important species found in just about every Pennsylvania landscape. Very little information about Pennsylvania's herps has been collected through the years when compared to other groups of organisms. This is unfortunate, since herps are important indicators of the health of our natural places and the very presence of certain species can tell us a lot about an area.

After six months, PARS had approximately 650 volunteer participants who had submitted over 6,600 new amphibian and reptile records using a new interactive website (www.paherpsurvey.org/). As of the end of 2013, over 162,000 amphibian and reptile collection records had been compiled from museums, universities and other institutions.



Loyalhanna Creek,
Westmoreland County



Transporting porcupine cribs at
Presque Isle Bay, Erie County



Big Spring Creek,
Cumberland County

Habitat Management

In 2013, the Commission continued moving towards a large-scale approach with its habitat work. This approach focuses on larger sections of streams or watersheds than on the smaller scale at which the Commission has historically worked. The results of this work will be measured through evaluations of habitat, water quality or fish population changes. The following are a few examples of habitat projects from 2013.

The Commission teamed up with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) to complete phase 2 (of 3) of a habitat improvement project on the Loyalhanna Creek near Ligonier, Westmoreland County. This phase consisted of building and installing 173 stream habitat devices, which improved 4,950 feet of the creek. Habitat structures are used to enhance the fishery and recreational opportunities as well as to stabilize eroding banks. The project took 17 days to construct. Phase 3 will be completed in the summer of 2014.

A new habitat project in Presque Isle Bay was completed to provide woody cover for fish, while also serving as a research project for area scientists. Commission staff and volunteers placed 20 porcupine cribs at two locations in the bay. The project was built as part of a partnership with Pennsylvania Sea Grant, DCNR, Presque Isle State Park and the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie. Also, researchers from Sea Grant and Penn State Behrend will use underwater cameras to view the cribs as part of a project to study fish movement. In an effort to explain the relevance of the project to the public, the Commission organized a tour of the project with local media.

Trout anglers visiting Big Spring Creek in Newville, Cumberland County, will be able to enjoy casting into a second restored stream section, this one approximately 0.4 miles long. In 2013, the Commission worked with the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited to build the project, which is part of an overall fisheries plan to improve the self-sustaining wild trout population in the limestone spring stream. Designed by Rivers Unlimited, the project involved narrowing the stream, planting riparian buffers and inserting habitat structures, which provide shelter for spawning fish and slow bank erosion by reducing the water's velocity and funneling water into the center of the stream. The project was funded by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, which provided funds to mitigate impacts from the reconstruction and widening of the toll road in the county. It is just downstream from a section between the former Piper Mill and Thomas Fish Hatchery dams, which was restored in 2010.

The Commission continued to be a leader in small dam removal, partnering to remove 13 dams on the following streams in the following counties in 2013: Big Run, Clearfield; Great Trough Creek, Huntingdon; Monacacy Creek, Northampton; Skinner Creek and Sherwood Hollow, McKean; Wetmore Run and Right Branch Wetmore Run, Potter; Little Lehigh Creek and Jordan Creek, Lehigh. In addition, the Commission assisted in the completion of fish habitat enhancement and bank stabilization work at eight sites at which dams had been removed in previous years.

In 2013, the Commission also managed 11 large-scale fish habitat projects in lakes across the Commonwealth. This included four offshore habitat projects and seven shoreline stabilization fish habitat projects. These projects helped to stabilize 3,630 feet of eroded lake shoreline. Projects included the following lakes in the following counties: F.J. Sayers Reservoir, Centre; Canoe Creek Lake, Blair; Hills Creek Lake, Hammond Lake and Cowanesque Lake, Tioga; Raystown Lake, Huntingdon; Marsh Creek Lake, Chester; Lake Arthur, Butler; Beltzville Lake, Carbon; Keystone Lake, Westmoreland.

Stream Habitat

- 1,346 structures were placed in Commonwealth streams with PFBC assistance.
- Of the 7.67 miles of stream that were improved, 5.18 miles (68%) were on priority waters.
- For every \$1 the PFBC invested in habitat projects, \$19.39 was contributed from outside sources.

Unwelcome News About Aquatic Invasive Species

In October, the Commission confirmed the presence of the aquatic invasive species (AIS) known as New Zealand Mudsail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) in Spring Creek, Centre County and reminded anglers and boaters that cleaning their gear is the easiest, most effective means of preventing its spread to other waters. New Zealand Mudsails are small, measuring less than ¼ inch, with a long, narrow, coiled shell with deep grooves. Like other aquatic invasive species, they disrupt ecosystems by rapidly multiplying and competing with native species for space and food. As with many aquatic invasive species, they are nearly impossible to eradicate once established. This is even more difficult with the mudsail, because it usually takes only one small snail to be able to produce offspring.

In November, the Commission joined the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources in confirming that environmental DNA (eDNA) from the invasive Asian Silver Carp had been found in two water samples collected from the Ohio River. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) tested 200 water samples collected from the upper Ohio River between Wheeling, WV, and Pittsburgh on October 21-22. The tests found eDNA in one Pennsylvania sample taken from the Ohio River in Aliquippa, Beaver County, about six miles upstream of the confluence with the Beaver River. A second positive eDNA result was found in a West Virginia sample near Chester, Hancock County. None of the samples tested positive for Bighead Carp.

Researchers use eDNA analysis as a tool for the early detection of Asian Carp, which include silver and bighead carp. The findings indicate the presence of genetic material left behind by the species, such as scales, excrement or mucous. But eDNA does not provide physical proof of the presence of live or dead Asian Carp.

Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia have been cooperatively working over the last two years to address Asian Carp upstream migrations in the Ohio River. These efforts have focused on fishing down these species at the population's leading edge by using contracted commercial fishermen. The main reach of this effort has centered in the Meldahl and Greenup navigation pools that span the river between Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. This cooperative effort will continue in 2014.

Once in a waterway, Asian Carp devour much of the microscopic algae and animals that other species rely on for food, effectively decimating other species. This can harm local economies, which rely on the revenue generated from sport fishing and boating.

The Commission urges anglers and boaters to thoroughly clean gear and boats before entering new waters. To learn how to identify AIS and to report AIS sightings, visit www.fishandboat.com/ais-reporting.htm.

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

Passenger Carrying Area

Among its many activities in pursuit of boating safety, the Commission adopted a change in its boating regulations intended to provide additional safety to passengers when a motorboat is operating at greater than slow, no-wake speeds. In these instances, the regulation prohibits individuals from riding outside the passenger carrying area or from riding on bow decking, gunwales, transoms or motor covers. The amendment became effective January 1, 2014.

National Safe Boating Week

The importance of flotation devices and other watercraft safety tips were the focus of the 2013 National Safe Boating Week in May. During National Safe Boating Week, and throughout the entire boating season, the Commission reminded boaters to practice safe and responsible boating, always wear a life jacket and be alert while on the water. By practicing these simple steps, boaters can save their lives as well as the lives of the people boating with them.

Each year, on average, 700 people die in boating-related accidents nationwide. Nearly 80 percent of the victims were not wearing a life jacket. In Pennsylvania, 17 boaters died in 2013 as a result of recreational boating accidents and only two of them were wearing a life jacket at the time of the accident.



New Zealand Mudsails



www.ProtectYourWaters.net

The Boating Advisory Board (BAB) advises the Commission regarding matters relating to boating, including recommendations with respect to proposed boating rules and regulations. The BAB's advice assists the Commission with establishing a boating program that ensures the safe and enjoyable operation of boats. In 2013, the BAB reviewed and approved four regulatory amendments to be advanced for the Commission's consideration on the mooring period on Commission properties, operator-submitted boating accident reports, duties and penalties for operators involved in accidents and riding outside of the passenger carrying area of boats.

Boaters can demonstrate their personal commitment to wearing a life jacket by visiting PFBC's website and submitting the online "Wear It Pennsylvania!" pledge form. In addition, boaters can send in their life-saving stories on how they were "Saved By the Jacket" to www.fishandboat.com/savelives.



www.WearItPennsylvania.com

As part of its safe boating campaign, PFBC has created a media resource web page containing web banners and high resolution photos for graphic artists and reporters to use in stories or as additional images on websites. The page also provides 15- and 30-second public service announcements for radio stations to use. Visit www.fishandboat.com/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm.

Additional media resources are also available on the website for the National Safe Boating campaign at www.safeboatingcampaign.com/presskit.htm. For more information about the National Safe Boating campaign, visit www.safeboatingcampaign.com/welcome.htm.

For more information on boating safety, including information on taking a boating safety education course, visit PFBC's website at www.fishandboat.com.

People tend to think of boating accidents in terms of collisions—and that is the most common type of reportable boating accident in Pennsylvania. But, the accidents where there are fatalities are the ones where somebody falls overboard or is swamped in a small boat and then ends up drowning. Those are precisely the accidents where a life jacket can save lives.

National Safe Boating Week is scheduled each year as the first full week before Memorial Day weekend, which is often thought of as the unofficial start of warm weather and the boating season in Pennsylvania. Boaters were reminded that

- Boats must have a United States Coast Guard approved wearable (Type I, II, III or V) life jacket on board for each person.
- Children 12 years of age and younger must wear their life jackets while underway on any boat 20 feet or less in length and on all canoes and kayaks.
- The regulation requiring mandatory life jacket use during cold weather months begin November 1. Boaters must wear a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet in length or on any canoe or kayak during the cold weather months from November 1 through April 30.

Operation Dry Water

Before the July 4 holiday, the Commission reminded vacationers that boating under the influence (BUI) is a serious crime and a threat to public safety. Boating under the influence is no different than driving a car after someone's been drinking. Alcohol impairs an individual's ability to operate a vehicle safely.



Many boaters may not know that the threshold for BUI is the same as with motor vehicles—0.08 percent. If convicted of BUI, operators could face fines and jail time. Commission WCOs regularly patrol waterways and have an increased presence around holidays that traditionally see heavy boating activity.

Operation Dry Water, a nationwide event sponsored by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), was held June 28-30. The goal was to focus attention on the dangers of BUI as well as apprehending offenders. There were 422 agencies involved in this year's event, represented were all 50 states, four territories and British Columbia, Canada. This was the first year that the Commission took part in the operation.

In Pennsylvania, much of the activity was hampered by poor weather conditions. However, officers were able to board 689 vessels. Through these contacts five BUI suspects were apprehended. Additionally, 142 citations and numerous warnings were issued for boating safety violations. Several agencies assisted the Commission, including the Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Game Commission, several municipal police departments and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

In 2013, 88 individuals were charged with BUI. Commission WCOs prosecuted 72 individuals in 2012 and 62 in 2011 for BUI. The Commission attributes the jump in BUI prosecutions to better training over the last two years, with a major emphasis on equipping all officers with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and NASBLA seated SFST for use on the water.

Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day

On March 23, 2013, the Commission piloted a Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day on 12 waters in the regional opening day zone, covering 18 southcentral and southeast counties. To participate, anglers 16 years of age or older (adult anglers) were required to possess a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and current trout/salmon permit and be accompanied by a youth (less than 16 years of age) who had registered with the Commission. Youth anglers must have been registered with the Commission and accompanied by an adult angler in order to participate.

Boating Safety Education - 2013

Boating Safety Education Certificates Issued (BSEC)	14,027
BSEC Distance Learning	11,523
BSEC Classroom Courses	195
Boating and Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) Courses.....	33
BWSA Students	1,721
Basic Boating (BB) Classroom Course	112
BB Students	1,744
New Boating Course Instructors ...	39
Paddle PA Programs	5
Paddle PA Attendance	235



During the Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day, the minimum size limit for trout was 7 inches and the creel limit was two trout per day (combined species). Other Commonwealth inland regulations applied.

A total of 5,110 youth registered to participate in the Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day pilot, accompanied by 3,846 adult mentors. A survey of mentors conducted by the Commission showed that 90% of the registered youth participated, resulting in an estimated 7,300 youth and their mentors. These anglers fished an estimated 22,000 hours and released nearly 15,000 trout while harvesting slightly more than 6,000. Public, partner and staff feedback received before, during and immediately after the day was predominantly positive.

In October, the Commission announced that the results of the 2013 pilot program supported expansion of the program to create additional opportunities for parents and mentors to take the children in their lives fishing as a way to re-activate anglers of all ages. Specific details of future mentored youth fishing opportunities were being finalized as of the printing of this report.



2013 Mentored Youth Trout Day Waters

(by county)

Adams/Waynesboro Reservoir
Berks/Antietam Lake,
Scotts Run Lake
Bucks/Levittown Lake
Cumberland/Children's Lake,
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

The Value of Mentoring

Most often, parents or guardians are the source of both instruction and serve as mentors to young anglers and hunters. The role of a mentor is that of long-term development and socialization. An instructor can teach someone to fish, while a mentor helps him or her become an angler (Duda M.D., 2010). That is, while proper instruction is important, it alone does not guarantee adoption. This is especially true if a mentor or other social support is absent.

Benefits of these mentored experiences also extend to the parents or mentors. A 2007 survey of Pennsylvania's trout anglers showed that 98% of those surveyed would go trout fishing more if asked by a child (Responsive Management, 2008). Of that number, 84% indicated that being asked by a child to take them fishing was a strong encouragement to go trout fishing more in Pennsylvania.

Mentored opportunities differ from educational programs significantly in that mentored experiences extend beyond the instructional period. Mentors plan and discuss the trip with the apprentice before, during and after. An instructor only has contact with the young angler during the presentation.

Trout Fishing Seminar

In conjunction with its quarterly business meeting in January at its Harrisburg headquarters, the Commission hosted a free trout fishing seminar. Drawing analogies to baseball players reporting to spring training, the Commission touted that it is never too early for anglers to begin preparations for the upcoming trout season. When it comes to trout fishing in Pennsylvania, the focus is often on the traditional opening day, or "home opener," occurring in the spring. However, like baseball, there is a lot of trout action occurring pre-season.

Presentations focused on fishing opportunities, techniques and strategies, as well as sharing tips for taking children trout fishing. Youth anglers were welcomed, and several trout-related organizations had displays and information available.

Fish-for-Free Days

Families and friends visiting Pennsylvania's popular outdoor spots over holiday weekends in 2013 enjoyed two days of free fishing: Memorial Day on May 27 and Independence Day on July 4. Fish-for-Free Days allow anyone—residents and non-residents—to legally fish in Pennsylvania. From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on both days, no fishing license was needed to fish in Pennsylvania's waterways. All other fishing regulations applied.

Fish-for-Free Days are an easy way to introduce friends and family to the sport of fishing. Many families spend the day at lakes and parks throughout the state, and this allows them to try fishing at no cost.

Family Fishing Festivals

In advance of the free fishing days, the Commission again hosted a series of free Family Fishing Festivals at which families were given the opportunity to learn basic skills. Family



Fishing/Aquatic Resource Education - 2013

Family Fishing Programs	107
FFP Attendance	2,738
Other Fishing Programs.....	18
Other Fishing Attendance.....	1,711
New Fishing Skills Instructors	
Trained	95
Fishing Tackle Loaner Sites	75
Teacher Training Workshops	4
TT Attendance	88
Program Requests	656
Programs Presented	517
TIC Classrooms	247



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 225 classrooms in 2011-2012 to 247 classrooms in the current school year and has reached more than 80,000 students statewide.

Fishing Festivals 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 and June events called more attention to the importance of fishing in the lives of many Pennsylvania families. Through the events, former and new anglers can try fishing at no cost. The Commission knows that once people try it, particularly kids, they will see that fishing is a great recreational activity, and they will want to do it more.

Family Fishing Festivals are educational events designed for families with little or no fishing experience to have fun fishing together. Families learn basic fishing skills and have an opportunity to practice those skills while fishing during the program.

The Commission waived the fishing license requirement during the program for registered Family Fishing Festival participants 16 and older. The programs were open to all ages, including children ages 5 and up. The Commission provided equipment, bait and tackle, and staff were present to teach skills and offer assistance.

Fly Fishing Programs a Hit

Since 2010, nearly 600 individuals have participated in one of the Commission's Family Fly Fishing and Ladies Fly Fishing programs. These popular programs introduce individuals to the fundamentals of fly fishing, including knot tying, casting techniques and on-water skills, and also provide participants with fly fishing resources to help develop their skills. The programs are free and participants do not need a fishing license. The Commission provides all equipment.

Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters

In 2013, the Commission launched a website for the new Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters program (www.PaBestFishing.com) that includes selected prime fishing waters for 11 fish species categories. 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 convenient, valuable reference as anglers plan their fishing trips.



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.

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

Fishing Access

The Commission pursued easements for public fishing, boating, and riparian and fishery management on the following waters, which include the stream corridor and extend 35 feet back from the top of the bank.

Caldwell Creek: The Commission continued to try to match access opportunities with the Pennsylvania Fishing and Boating Access Strategy. Consistent with that strategy, the Commission acquired five public fishing access and conservation easements over approximately 15,578 linear feet (2.95 miles) along Caldwell Creek in Southwest Township, Warren County. The Middle Allegheny Tionesta Watershed ranks 10th in the Access Strategy, which identifies portions of Caldwell Creek needing additional public access. The easements include the Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only section and a portion of the Approved Trout Waters section of Caldwell Creek.

Bennett's Branch: In Elk County, the Board of Commissioners approved the acquisition of approximately 2,400 linear feet of access along the Bennett's Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek in Benezette Township. The access area is part of 24 acres purchased last year by WPC with a \$50,000 Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration grant from the Commission. As part of the purchase, WPC agreed to grant the easement to the Commission. The Bennett's Branch had historically been affected by acid mine drainage, but through remediation efforts, the water quality has improved to the point that trout were stocked in this section in the spring of 2013.

Yellow Creek: In Bedford County, the Commission acquired two public fishing access and conservation easements along Yellow Creek. These two easements provide approximately 3,425 linear feet of access along the Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only Section of Yellow Creek.

Lake Erie Watershed: In Erie County, the Board approved the acquisition of an easement that will provide 6,295 linear feet along the East Branch of Conneaut Creek in Albion Borough. The agreement also provides easements for parking and a footpath. This is a worthwhile investment, because the East Branch provides significant steelhead fishing opportunities, and The Access Strategy identified a need for more access on this section of Conneaut Creek. The project is being funded with proceeds from the special permit to fish in Lake Erie and its tributaries. To date, the Commission has acquired properties or easements that provide public fishing access to approximately 92,254 linear feet or 17.47 miles of stream with the support of the special permit.

Boating Access

Juniata River: In April, the Board of Commissioners voted to accept the donation of a 4-acre parcel along State Route 1015 in Howe Township, Perry County, at River Mile 9.8 along the lower section of the Juniata River. The site is part of the Juniata River Water Trail and includes 1,000 feet of river frontage. Howe Township owned the land and donated it to the Commission. The Commission plans to develop a single lane concrete plank boat launch ramp, expand the parking area and improve the access drive. The improvements will be made with a \$54,775 grant the Commission received from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. The Commission hopes to complete the improvements in 2015.

Delaware River: The Commission is also happy to serve as a conduit for federal money to flow to worthwhile projects. In keeping with similar projects in the past, the Commission facilitated a federal pass-through grant of \$1.49 million to the Borough of Bristol, Bucks County, for the construction of 25 dock spaces for transient boaters and day dockage users with large, non-trailerable boats over 26 feet in length. The project will provide these boaters access to the historic Bristol waterfront along the Delaware River. The Commission worked with the borough to secure the funding through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Boating Infrastructure Grant Program.

In Philadelphia County, PFBC agreed to lease PFBC's Frankford Arsenal and Tacony access areas to the City of Philadelphia for a 25-year period. Once finalized, the city will manage the properties through its Parks and Recreation Department as a key component of the Kensington and Tacony (K&T) trail, which is a two-mile trail section of a planned continuous eight-mile riverfront trail system. The properties will be managed as public, open park space and will continue to be open to public fishing and boating.

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

IT Modernization

As part of the agency's ongoing efforts to modernize its Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, Act 13 funding was utilized to modernize and improve PFBC's Encroachment Permitting, Species Impact Review (SIR) Tracking and Scientific Collectors databases and processes. These key program applications were redesigned to meet the current business needs. During the requirements gathering phase for these applications, current business processes were analyzed to determine what was being done and why. This analysis allowed the IT modernization team to evaluate and modify business processes and eliminate redundancy. While the Scientific Collectors application is scheduled to go live in early 2014, examples of process improvements deployed as part of the Encroachment and SIR Tracking applications are 1) E-mails and supporting documentation can now be saved directly to the permit application file, creating a one-stop shop for the reviewing biologist; 2) a link was created to the PNDI system that allows PNDI information to be automatically populated into the SIR record, thereby eliminating redundant data entry; 3) standard responses have been assembled for correspondence creation; 4) SIR correspondence letters are now created through a workflow process and can now be sent through email from the application; 5) an electronic inbox was created so that the biologist knows exactly which SIRs are pending action; 6) reporting options have been created that allow PFBC biologists to access and filter all data in the application to meet needs; 7) reporting is now available to track and compare compliance of review times and pull down all



2013 Bureau of Law Enforcement

Court cases prosecuted: **7,100***
 Warnings for violations: **36,000***
 On board safety evaluations: **26,000***
 Crimes codes: **26**
 Pollutions investigated: **176**
 Boating Under the Influence: **88**
 Marcellus Shale (MS) investigated: **9**
 MS cases pending: **1**
 MS cases closed: **8**
 MS cases settlement money: **\$8,694.00**
 Snake permits: **909**
 Turtle permits: **49**
 Special Activity permits: **2,100***
 Lake Erie Net permits: **70**

**approximations*

events recorded on a SIR for legal purposes; 8) PFBC biologists can now track species and actions assigned to species; 9) mapping features allow PFBC biologists to see other SIRs in the area of the current project location; 10) for the Encroachment application, PFBC biologists can now add multiple waters and locations to a permit application; and 11) reporting capabilities are now available to track and compare Encroachment application review time compliance.

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



Opossum Lake, Cumberland County



Meadow Grounds Lake, Fulton County

Three Lakes Restored, Two Lakes Drawn Down

In 2013, the Commission was pleased to resume trout stocking and welcome anglers back to three popular lakes after the completion of repairs to unsafe, high-hazard dams.

The restoration of Dutch Fork, Washington County; Leaser Lake, Lehigh County; and Opossum Lake, Cumberland County, was great news for the anglers, boaters and outdoor enthusiasts who patiently waited for years for their lakes to return. The Commission was happy to be able to stock the lakes in time to reopen them for the regional opening days of trout season after the lakes had time to refill.

Damage caused by Hurricane Ivan to the auxiliary spillway led to the draining of Dutch Fork Lake in 2004. Repairs totaling \$4.4 million were completed in July 2012.

The 117-acre Leaser Lake was drained in 2008-09 in order to rebuild the dam and spillway. The \$3.5 million project began in fall 2010 and was completed in June 2012.

Opossum Lake's 59 acres were drained in late 2008 after routine inspections discovered that the dam's spillway had cracks and was leaking. The Commission rebuilt the spillway over a two-year period from May 2010 to February 2012 at a cost of \$3.3 million.

At the same time that the Commission and local partners were celebrating the restoration of three lakes, safety concerns forced the draining of two other popular lakes in 2013.

In February, the Commission announced that it would drain Meadow Grounds Lake because of deficiencies in the lake's dam. The 204-acre lake is located on State Game Lands 53, Fulton County. The Pennsylvania Game Commission leases the dam and the lake areas to PFBC. During an inspection in December 2012, the Commission and PA DEP

found that existing seepage in the dam had become more severe. The drawdown began in March, at which time the Commission temporarily lifted all seasons, sizes and creel limits on the lake to reduce the number of fish in the lake in anticipation of the fish salvage prior to a complete drawdown of the lake. Lifting limits is a common practice before a drawdown, so anglers may fish the water and make good use of as many fish as they can.

This was followed by the March announcement that deficiencies in the dam at Centre County's 77-acre Colyer Lake prompted the agency to initiate plans to lower the reservoir until the dam can be rehabilitated to meet current engineering and safety standards. Commission engineers and the PA DEP found during a routine inspection that the existing undermining beneath the dam's spillway has become more severe. The condition of the spillway's structural integrity necessitated that a drawdown of the lake be performed so that further testing and analyses could be conducted. Unlike Meadow Grounds, the conditions at Colyer Lake permitted it to remain open to public use while partially drawn down.

For a complete summary of the Commission's high-hazard, unsafe dams, including a description of the status and funding sources for each project, please refer to the inside back cover of this report. As noted on page 4, Act 89 will provide an important new source of funding that the Commission can leverage to help restore additional lakes as local and regional recreational assets.

Leadership Development

Three Commission staff completed leadership-training programs conducted by the Office of Administration. Area Fisheries Manager (AFM) Kris Kuhn participated in the Leadership Development Institute, and Legislative Liaison Devin DeMario and AFM Jason Detar participated in the Emerging Leaders Program. In addition, Craig Miller from the Human Resource Office was nominated to attend the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program, which is designed for agency leaders who will benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of the varied roles and influence consumptive wildlife use, such as fishing and hunting, has on conservation.

2013 Permit Numbers

Mining	145
Drawdowns	116
Aquatic Herbicide	1,363
Triploid Grass Carp	205
Blasting	327
Hydropower	1
Water Allocation	101
Waterway Encroachment	376
Thermal, Impingement and Entrainment	3
Species Impact Reviews	2,195
Venomous Snake Permits	909
Organized Reptile and Amphibian Hunts	6
Commercial Snapping Turtle Permits	49
Scientific Collectors	493
Threatened and Endangered Species Special Permits	77

Training

The agency continued to offer development opportunities for staff, including courses such as Safe Lifting, Ergonomics, Suicide Prevention, Labor Relations, Fundamentals of Supervision, Employee Performance Review, State Employees Assistance Program/ Fitness for Duty and Workplace Violence.

Staff Recognition

The Wave of Excellence Award program is now in its second year of existence. The goal of the Wave of Excellence Award program is to have a method by which PFBC employees can recognize other PFBC employees who work in another. This award is for employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in performing their work or who have provided extraordinary customer service for the good of the agency. Winners of the award in 2013 were Teresa Erdman, Executive Secretary; and Sue Hoopsick, Clerical Supervisor in the Division of Environmental Services.

In addition, 2013 marked the second year that the Commission celebrated “Commonwealth years of service.” Employees receive a pin and are recognized for five-year employment anniversaries.

Staff continued to participate in and enjoy the Employee Fishing and Boating Day program, which allows employees to experience networking with coworkers while gaining valuable knowledge and insights into the mission of the agency.

On Employee Recognition Day, activities took place to let staff know that they are appreciated.

Awards

The Commission’s staff and volunteers are frequently recognized for outstanding achievements in their respective fields. At its 2013 quarterly meetings, the Commission took time to congratulate those individuals and groups whose hard work and dedication contribute to Pennsylvania’s exemplary fishing, boating and aquatic resource conservation programs. The following are some of the people whose fine work was called out in 2013.

Resource First Award: The Commission presented its inaugural Resource First Award to Rod Cross, a resident of Chambersburg, Franklin County. Rod is committed to conservation ethics, youth education, habitat improvement, partnerships and, most of all, to the resource. He has devoted his life to partnering with and leading conservation groups for the improvement and protection of natural resources, both for public recreation and the environment.

Lifesaving Award: The Commission presented a Lifesaving Award to employee Russell “Rusty” Rupp for heroic efforts. On June 11, 2012, Rusty assisted Pennsylvania State Police during a fatal accident in Penn Township, Cumberland County. Rusty helped a man who had a severe arm injury, saving the man’s arm and his life. Through the turmoil of the accident, he took the initiative to help the injured. Rusty is a seasonal employee at the PFBC’s maintenance area in Lancaster County.

2012 Regional Dam Safety Award: The Commission’s Engineering Section received the 2012 Northeast Regional Award of Merit from the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO). The awardees included employees Gerald Woomer, Jason Anderson, and Paul Urbanik and former employee Jack Rokavec. Each year, the ASDSO selects one candidate from each of its four regions across the country to receive its Regional Award of Merit. ASDSO’s Northeast Region is comprised of 11 states, plus the United States Virgin Islands. The award is given to individuals, companies, organizations, municipalities or other entities working in the dam safety field that have made outstanding contributions to dam safety on a regional level.

Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Confluence Award: Linda and Bob Steiner were the recipients of the second *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Confluence Award*. This award recognizes contributors to the magazine who have exhibited a long-term commitment to promoting recreational fishing or boating within the pages of the magazine and beyond.

Heroes of Water Rescue Award Presented to Steven Ketterer: The Heroes of Water Rescue Award recognizes individuals who make a significant, lasting and continuous impact in the field of water rescue. The award is based on an extraordinary long-term commitment to the Water Rescue program rather than an individual life-saving act. In April, the award was presented to Commissioner Steven Ketterer.

2012 Officer of the Year Award Presented to WCO Brook Tolbert: WCO Brook Tolbert received the 2012 PFBC Officer of the Year award. The PFBC Bureau of Law Enforcement reviews nominations for this award in cooperation with the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chief’s Association. Law enforcement activities, public relations and outreach, environmental protection, professional skills, job performance and special accomplishments are key aspects in determining the award winner.



Pictured are (left to right) Commissioner Steven M. Ketterer; Teresa G. Erdman, PFBC Executive Secretary; Susan R. Hoopsick, PFBC Division of Environmental Services Clerical Supervisor; and PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway.



Pictured are (left to right) Judy Cross, Commissioner Steven M. Ketterer, Rod Cross and PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway.



During the April Commission meeting, Commissioner Steven M. Ketterer was awarded the Heroes of Water Rescue Award. Pictured are (left to right) PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway, Commissioner Steven M. Ketterer and Commission President G. Warren Elliott.



WCO Sean Sauserman (left) was awarded the 2012 PFBC Top Gun Award. Pictured with him is Colonel Corey L. Britcher.

2012 Top Gun Award Presented to WCO Sean Sauserman: The Top Gun award recognizes an officer's outstanding effort in detecting and apprehending impaired boaters during the past year. WCO Sean Sauserman received the 2012 Top Gun Award for his consistent efforts in BUI education and enforcement.

2012 Outstanding Community Recreation Professional Awarded to Carl Richardson: Education Section Manager Carl Richardson was presented with the 2012 Outstanding Community Recreation Professional Award, which recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding contributions in the areas of physical education, health, recreation, dance, coaching or contributions to women's sports. The Pennsylvania State Association presents the award for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

2013 Media Award Presented to Media Productions Section: The International Boating and Water Safety Summit, the premier boating and water safety education and training conference, hosted by the National Safe Boating Council and the National Water Safety Congress, recognized the Commission's Media Production Section for three recent projects. The PFBC received recognition for the following: Honorable Mention (Poster/Signs), "Cold Water Kills" poster; Honorable Mention (Booklet/Brochure), "Hazards on the Water"; and 3rd Place (Booklet/Brochure), *Pennsylvania Boating Handbook*.

Oil City Fire Department Receives Life Saving Award for Water Rescue: Members of the Oil City Fire Department in Venango County were recognized for their efforts in saving a canoeist

who had capsized in the Allegheny River in late August. The individual was in an area known as the Oil City rapids when she capsized and her leg became trapped between large rocks and the canoe. Members of the fire department responded and were on the scene within 11 minutes of receiving the 911 call. The individual was safely rescued and received no injuries. For their effort, members of the fire department were presented with the Life Saving Award.

PFBC Volunteer Receives Award for SMART Angler Fishing Program: Sam Consylman, PFBC fishing skills instructor and volunteer, received the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania award

for Special Event of the Year. The award was given for a SMART Angler stream study trip that he provided to the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center (LCYIC). This year's program included a stream study of Mill Creek through a partnership with Lancaster County Parks Department and the Shuts Environmental Center.

Certified fishing skills instructors teach SMART Angler classes and Family Fishing Programs. "SMART" is the acronym for Safety first, Manners are important, Appreciate clean water, Release your catch and Teach others.

Sam has volunteered at the LCYIC for 10 years, where he visits twice a month to speak and interact with residents. He coordinates their fishing trips during the summer months. Sam was first trained as a fishing skills instructor in 1991, and he then became a volunteer. He provides more than 60 hours of educational programming each year.

Stanley Long Award: Scott Grahn was selected to receive the 2013 Stanley Long Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. The award identifies and honors the most exemplary and inspiring volunteer. For Mr. Grahn, it recognizes his 13 years of contributions made to the Commission's water rescue training program, which in turn benefits countless boaters and anglers across the Commonwealth.

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.

Marketing Plan

In keeping with its customer-focused approach of operating like a business, the Commission has recognized the need for increased planning and resources directed towards agency product marketing. To that end, the Commission employed a contracted marketing specialist and its own internal marketing workgroup in 2013 to formulate a schedule-based, task-specific action plan to assist in increasing fishing license sales. This plan provides both guidance and concurrence



Members of the Oil City Fire Department, Venango County, were presented with a Life Saving Award for Water Rescue.

In 2013, the Commission again offered high resolution graphics for download on the agency's website at www.fishandboat.com. The images were popular among those who use them for their own websites, enabling users to easily create eye-catching links to Commission resources like the ever-popular online trout stocking schedules.



for adopted principles, allocation of resources, assignment of responsibilities and recognition of sales goals for defined products.

To assist in identifying one-time and cyclic actions and allocated resources, the action plan has been segmented to outline 1) Marketing Infrastructure, 2) Marketing Strategy, 3) Marketing Implementation and 4) Marketing Accountability. The action plan provides a strategic, staged approach towards an agreed goal, and it is positioned to be responsive and fluid to future agency needs. Scheduled target dates for completion of each action are based upon availability of resources and completion of preliminary actions.

Pennsylvania Again Ranks First in “Fish for Millions” Contest

For the third consecutive year since the start of the national contest, Pennsylvania was the top state for angler participation in Cabela’s 2013 “Fish for Millions” tagged fish contest. The contest started May 4 and concluded July 7 with more than 71,000 registered anglers nationally, and more than 9,000 of them from Pennsylvania. More than 1,500-tagged fish were available in 22 states, where the contest was held with 313-tagged fish caught for a total of more than \$250,000 in prizes.

The Commission has partnered with Cabela’s for all three years to bring the contest to the Commonwealth, as added value and fun for Pennsylvania anglers. The Commission is responsible for waters selection and tag distribution throughout the state. Division of Fisheries Management biologists selected the fish species and performed the on-sight tagging of the fish just prior to the contest start in May.

From among these 12 contest waters, 33 winning tagged fish were caught from Blue Marsh Lake, Foster Joseph Sayers Lake, Gifford Pinchot Lake, Keystone Lake, Lackawanna Lake, Lake Arthur, Lake Wallenpaupack, Pine Creek, Presque Isle Bay and the Monongahela River (Emsworth Pool). Prizes ranged from \$100 Cabela’s gift certificates to the top Pennsylvania prize, a \$60,000 Ranger bass boat awarded from a tagged Largemouth Bass caught in Keystone Lake, Keystone State Park. While the million-dollar fish was not caught, Cabela’s confirmed that the tagged fish did reside in a Connecticut lake.

Philadelphia Union Soccer and Pittsburgh Pirates

Building on the a concept that started with the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Commission and the Philadelphia Union of Major League Soccer collaborated to provide an excellent opportunity for current Pennsylvania fishing license holders to purchase discounted game tickets for home games at PPL Park along the Delaware River in Chester, Delaware County. Midfield, sideline and corner seat categories were discounted \$5 off regular price exclusively for Pennsylvania fishing license holders. Similarly, the Commission and the Pittsburgh Pirates teamed up to offer free limited-edition Pirates hats and outfield box tickets for \$25.

Outdoors Night with the Harrisburg Senators

The Commission and the Harrisburg Senators of baseball’s Eastern League teamed up to provide a special night at Metro Bank Park in June 21. Titled “Outdoors Night,” it provided baseball fans with an opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor activities within the park that evening. The evening event provided an opportunity for baseball fans to learn more about what the Commission does, fishing and boating and the resources under the jurisdiction of the agency. Located on City Island in the middle of the Susquehanna River, the stadium presented an ideal location for the event.

In addition to activities and information from PFBC staff at the park, Pennsylvania fishing license holders were eligible for a ticket discount for select games during the 2013 baseball season.

“Fishing’s Fun in PA” Sweepstakes

As part of the Commission’s ongoing marketing strategies and to help promote 3- and 5-year fishing licenses, the “Fishing’s Fun Sweepstakes” was promoted in 2013 to build excitement for the sport and offer anglers a chance at winning fishing trips with expert anglers across the state and fish for all types of fish species. The sweepstakes was open to the public with no purchase necessary to enter. Weekly drawings were conducted through May 5.

Among the trip prizes were two fishing trips on Lake Erie, trout and bass fishing trips, and a float fishing trip on the Delaware River. Some trips even included overnight

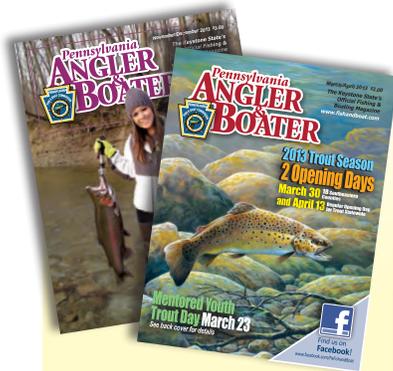


Pictured are (left to right) Cabela’s Hamburg store sales manager Harold Luther and Raymond Biddle Jr. during the award presentations.

In August, Hamburg store events manager Harold Luther presented the two top prize winners their awards at the Berks County store location. In addition to being the Commonwealth’s only Cabela’s store, the Hamburg store has the accolade of being the sales leader for all Cabela’s stores in the nation. Luther presented the top prize of a Ranger bass boat to Raymond Biddle Jr. of Jefferson Hills, Pa., and a check for a \$5,000 shopping spree to Wayne Ziegler of Butler, Pa. Ziegler caught a prize-winning tagged crappie at Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park.



PFBC Education Specialist Amidea Daniel provided casting instruction to young anglers during “Outdoors Night” at Harrisburg’s Metro Bank Park.



Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Magazine

The Commission maintained its tradition of offering customers in depth, relevant and valuable information in its flagship *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine, proudly offering the printed publication for the 82nd year. In addition, all multi-year license holders are provided complimentary online subscriptions as an added perk of purchasing their fishing licenses.

www.GoneFishingPa.com

To provide a more effective marketing portal, the Commission launched [GoneFishingPa.com](http://www.GoneFishingPa.com) in 2013. This website not only provides an easy-to-remember web address for multi-year license promotion and sweepstakes, it provides a direct link for visitors to more quickly access PFBC's e-commerce solution, the Outdoor Shop. [GoneFishingPa.com](http://www.GoneFishingPa.com) was used in online, radio, newspaper and print advertisement, generating more than 5 million ad impressions.

Classic Fishing License Buttons Return

What was old is new again. Anglers yearning for the nostalgic vintage fishing license buttons, first introduced by PFBC in 1923, can now add to their collection. At its October meeting in Erie, the Commission announced that it would be reintroducing annual fishing license display buttons as an alternative to displaying the current paper licenses for the 2014 license year.

Anglers must first purchase a 2014 license before adding an optional display button, which are expected to be available by March. The button will be 1.75 inches in diameter and retain the vintage look of previous Pennsylvania fishing license buttons. Anglers will be required to carry their paper licenses on their person and produce it if requested by WCOs.

All valid annual, multi-year and lifetime fishing licenses (resident and non-resident) qualify anglers to purchase the buttons. One-day resident and tourist licenses are excluded. Buttons will be mailed directly to the requestor from a contracted vendor. License buttons were originally sold from 1923 until 1960. They were briefly produced again in 1974 and 1975.



accommodations. These statewide trip prizes not only highlighted the great fishing opportunities the Commonwealth waters offer; they also showed how the agency could partner with anglers who donated guided trips to showcase fisheries across the state.

In addition to these fishing trips, Cabela's made a very generous donation to the total sweepstakes prize package with \$5,000 worth of \$500 gift cards.

Vouchers

At the end of 2012 and into 2013, the Commission marketed its fishing license vouchers more than ever before. This contributed to record numbers of vouchers being sold in 2013.

Vouchers are like gift certificates in that someone may buy a voucher, give it to a friend or relative, and then the recipient redeems it for the value of the voucher.



Commission Meetings Videotaped

Continuing the Commission's ongoing commitment to connect directly with anglers and boaters, the Commission began videotaping the quarterly meetings of the Board of Commissioners in January. Videos from all four meetings are posted online at www.fishandboat.com/videos.htm.

To create real-time access, the Commission also started live streaming video from meetings held at the Commission's headquarters in Harrisburg. By law, the January and July Board of Commissioners meetings are required to be held in Harrisburg. These practices will continue in 2014.

Currents Electronic Newsletter Introduced

In September, the Commission launched the inaugural issue of CURRENTS, a new monthly electronic newsletter. The goal is to highlight various Commission projects and initiatives which are newsworthy to its customers, colleagues and partners, but which may not always appear in local news outlets. Recognizing the volume of information that people receive through electronic devices, the newsletter items are kept short, with links to additional information.

To sign up for CURRENTS, please visit www.fishandboat.com/newsreleases/edelivery.htm. To share a copy, simply use the "Forward to a Friend" link in the footer. A link to a sign-up page will do the rest.



Press Releases, Twitter and E-Mail

For those individuals wanting more up-to-date information on Commission-related activities, agency staff continued to add subscribers to lists to receive press releases, Twitter feeds and regular e-mail messages. In conjunction with the Commission's marketing and communication efforts, e-mails were generated at least once per month to more than 200,000 recipients. The Commission realizes that different people like to receive their information in different formats and is continually looking for ways to deliver its message in ways that are relevant, timely and useful.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Report as of December 31, 2013

EXPENDITURES

Fish Fund

Personnel	\$23,698,927	64.40%
Operating	\$10,646,911	28.90%
Fixed Assets	\$1,396,887	3.80%
Grants	\$1,072,968	2.90%
Fish Fund Total	\$36,815,693	100.00%

Boat Fund

Personnel	\$8,829,152	66.72%
Operating	\$3,668,129	27.72%
Fixed Assets	\$731,646	5.53%
Grants	\$3,307	0.03%
Boat Fund Total	\$13,232,234	100.00%

Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Personnel	\$32,528,079	65.00%
Operating	\$14,315,040	28.60%
Fixed Assets	\$2,128,533	4.25%
Grants	\$1,076,275	2.15%
Fish & Boat Fund Total	\$50,047,927	100.00%

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Report as of December 31, 2013

REVENUE

Fish Fund

Licenses & Fees	\$25,068,627	67.03%
Fines & Penalties	\$378,261	1.01%
Miscellaneous	\$1,963,921	5.25%
Augmentations	\$9,990,988	26.71%
Fish Fund Total	\$37,401,797	100.00%

Boat Fund

Licenses & Fees	\$7,140,784	53.86%
Fines & Penalties	\$187,995	1.42%
Miscellaneous	\$2,165,354	16.33%
Augmentations	\$3,764,863	28.39%
Boat Fund Total	\$13,258,996	100.00%

Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total

Licenses & Fees	\$32,209,411	63.58%
Fines & Penalties	\$566,256	1.12%
Miscellaneous	\$4,129,275	8.15%
Augmentations	\$13,755,851	27.15%
Fish & Boat Fund Total	\$50,660,793	100.00%

Trout Stocked and Distributed to Cooperative Nurseries

Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount
Brook Trout	Adult	617,093
	Fingerling	119,000
	Fingerling to Coops.	244,013
Brown Trout	Adult	937,398
	Fingerling	244,013
	Fingerling to Coops.	241,763
Rainbow Trout	Adult	1,616,638
	Fingerling	340,800
	Fingerling to Coops.	438,565
Golden Rainbow Trout	Adult	10,289
	Fingerling to Coops.	11,092
Total Trout Species		4,820,664

Warmwater/Coolwater Fish Production and Stocking

Species	Lifestage	Amount
American Shad	Fry	3,312,674
Black Crappie	Fingerling	8,240
Bluegill	Fingerling	16,480
Brown Bullhead	Fingerling	4,744
Brown Trout-Lake Erie	Fingerling	30,766
Chain Pickerel	Fingerling	418
Channel Catfish	Fingerling	181,854
Flathead Minnow	Adult	23,000
Golden Shiner	Fingerling	29,395
Lake Trout	Fingerling	3,000
Lake Trout	Yearling	49,650
Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	33,340
Muskellunge	Fingerling	119,031
Muskellunge	Yearling	1,336
Northern Pike	Fingerling	3,870
Rainbow Trout Steelhead	Fingerling	185,100
Rainbow Trout Steelhead	Yearling	989,409
Striped Bass	Fry	1,966,763
Striped Bass	Fingerling	255,980
Striped Bass Hybrid	Fingerling	46,382
Tiger Muskellunge	Fingerling	168,756
Walleye	Fry	39,354,160
Walleye	Fingerling	2,252,824
White Crappie	Fingerling	22,518
Yellow Perch	Fingerling	20,300
Grand Total of all Species		49,079,990



Pennsylvania's High-Hazard, Unsafe Dams

High-Hazard, Unsafe Dam Revitalization Program Update

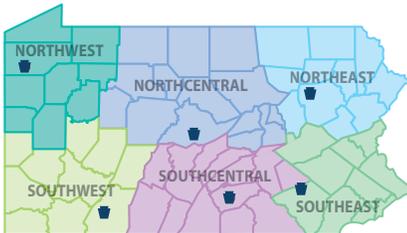
As of January 31, 2014

- The PFBC manages 20 Commonwealth-owned dams that were, or currently are, considered as high-hazard, 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 probable loss of human life could occur.
- Two projects have been removed from high hazard status; six projects are 100% funded and construction activities are complete; and four projects are 100% funded with design or repair work expected to begin in 2013-2014.
- **Estimated construction funding of \$35.8 million is needed to address eight high-hazard, unsafe dams, and an estimated \$15-20 million is needed for phase 2 of the Hereford Manor Lakes dam replacement project.**

Name of Dam	County	Construction Costs <i>Red=Estimated/Black=Actual</i> (Millions)	Construction Funding Status
Meadow Grounds Lake	Fulton	\$4.0	Unidentified
Glade Run Lake	Butler	\$4.3	Unidentified
Donegal Lake	Westmoreland	\$4.7	Unidentified
Belmont Lake	Wayne	\$3.5	Unidentified
Minsi Lake	Northampton	\$3.1	Unidentified
Lake Somerset	Somerset	\$7.0	Unidentified
Kyle Lake	Jefferson	\$4.2	Unidentified
Lower Woods Pond	Wayne	\$5.0	Unidentified
Hereford Manor Lake	Beaver	\$15.0-20.0	Phase 2 Rebuild Unidentified
Speedwell Forge Lake	Lancaster	\$6.4	100% funded • Capital Budget - \$5.0 million • PFBC/FEMA - \$1.4 million
Nessmuk Lake	Tioga	\$1.0	100% funded • H2o PA - \$1.0 million
Canonsburg Lake	Washington	\$2.216	100% funded • H2o PA - \$2.216 million
Dutch Fork Lake	Washington	\$4.4	100% funded • H2o PA - \$4.284 million • PFBC GG2 - \$114,556.04
Stevens Lake	Wyoming	\$3.5	Removed from unsafe list
Colyer Lake	Centre	\$7.2	100% funded • Capital Budget - \$5.85 million • Save Colyer Lake Inc. - \$100,000 • PFBC - \$1.25 million in Act 89 funding
Virgin Run Lake	Fayette	\$4.2	Removed from unsafe list • PFBC - \$125,000
Lower Hereford Manor Lake Upper Hereford Manor Lake	Beaver	\$3.1	100% funded Phase I Breach • H2o PA - \$3.1
Opossum Lake	Cumberland	\$3.3	100% funded • Capital Budget - \$1.45 million • Cumberland Co./DEP GG2 - \$609,000 • Lower Frankford Twp. \$90,000 • PFBC - \$1.25 million GG2
Leaser Lake	Lehigh	\$3.5	100% funded • Capital Budget - \$1.45 million • PFBC/GG2 - \$316,000 • DCNR/GG2 - \$750,000 • DEP/GG2 - \$500,000 • Lehigh County - \$500,000
Tamarack Lake	Crawford	\$11.9	100% funded • H2o PA - \$11.9 million. Grant award covers design, permitting and construction costs.



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

PFBC WEBSITE:
www.fishandboat.com

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



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REGION OFFICES: LAW ENFORCEMENT/EDUCATION

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

NORTHWEST REGION

11528 SH 98, Meadville, PA 16335
Law Enforcement: (814) 337-0444
Fax (814) 337-0579
Education: (814) 336-2426
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
Fax (814) 445-3497
Education: (814) 443-9841
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
Fax (814) 359-5254
Education: (814) 359-5193
Fax (814) 359-5153
Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union

Office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241
Law Enforcement: (717) 486-7087
Fax (717) 486-8227
Education: (717) 486-7352
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
Fax (570) 477-3221
Education: (570) 477-2206
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
Fax (717) 626-0486
Education: (717) 626-9081
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

1225 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*

P.O. Box 3
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
Loganport, PA 17747
(570) 725-3965

UNION CITY

9450 Route 6
Union City, PA 16438
(814) 438-2222

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

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