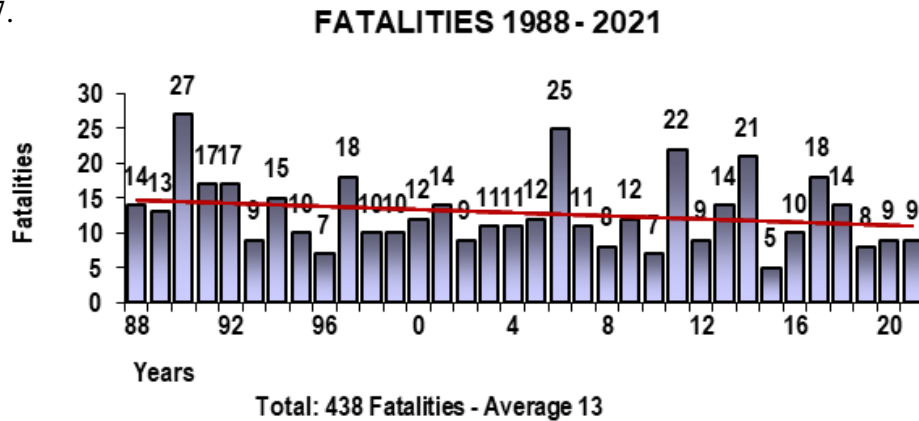
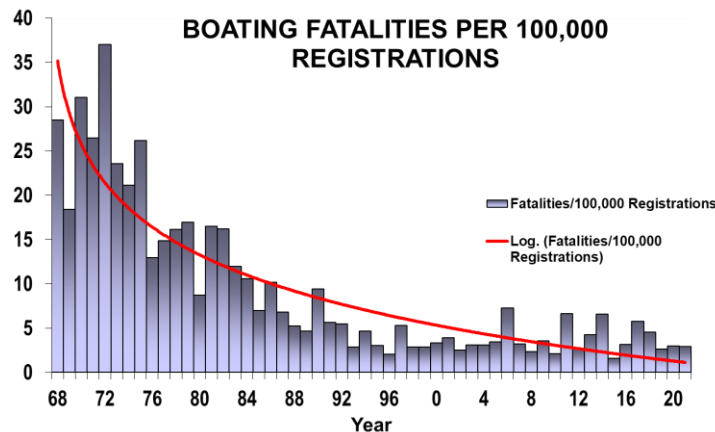


**RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) PROGRAM
 PERFORMANCE REPORT
 PART 1 C: ACCOMPLISHMENTS
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

The Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program in Pennsylvania, which is administered by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Commission), is dependent on the infusion of funds from the U.S. Coast Guard’s Recreational Boating Safety grant program to be successful. One way to measure the success of Pennsylvania’s boating safety program is the number of recreational boaters injured or killed in boating accidents. Because of variables such as the weather and other factors that are impossible or difficult to control, the trend in boating accident fatalities is the most common statistic used for evaluating program success. The following graph shows boating fatalities in Pennsylvania from 1988 through 2021. The average number of fatalities from 1988 through 2021 is 12.9. The most recent ten-year average (2012 through 2021) is 11.7.

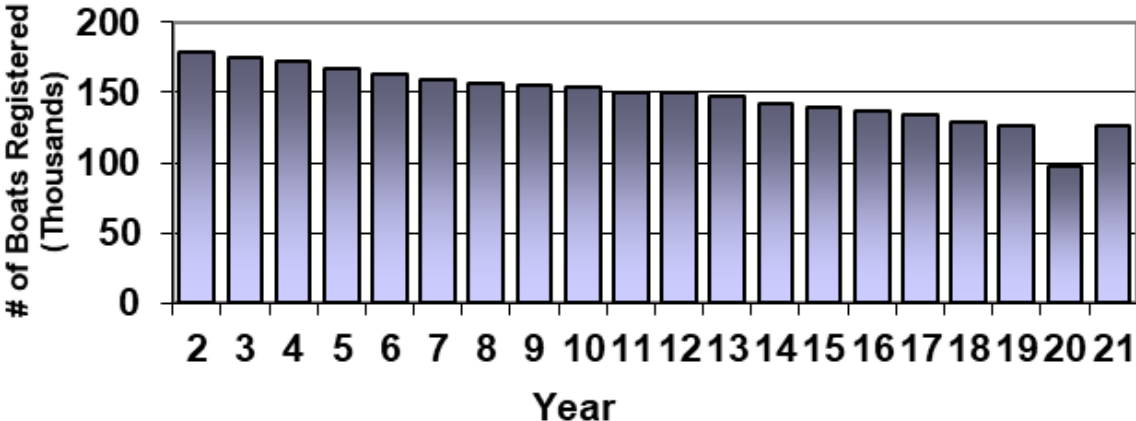


The success of the Commission’s boating safety program is illustrated by comparing the number of fatalities to the number of registered boats. These records are available for the last 54 years. The following graph shows the number of recreational boating fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. From October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 (FFY21), Pennsylvania had 308,102 registered watercraft and reported 9 fatalities which equates to three fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. The number of boats registered in the Commonwealth over the last 54 years has been matched by a commensurate increase in boating safety. This would not have been possible without the support of the RBS Program funding.

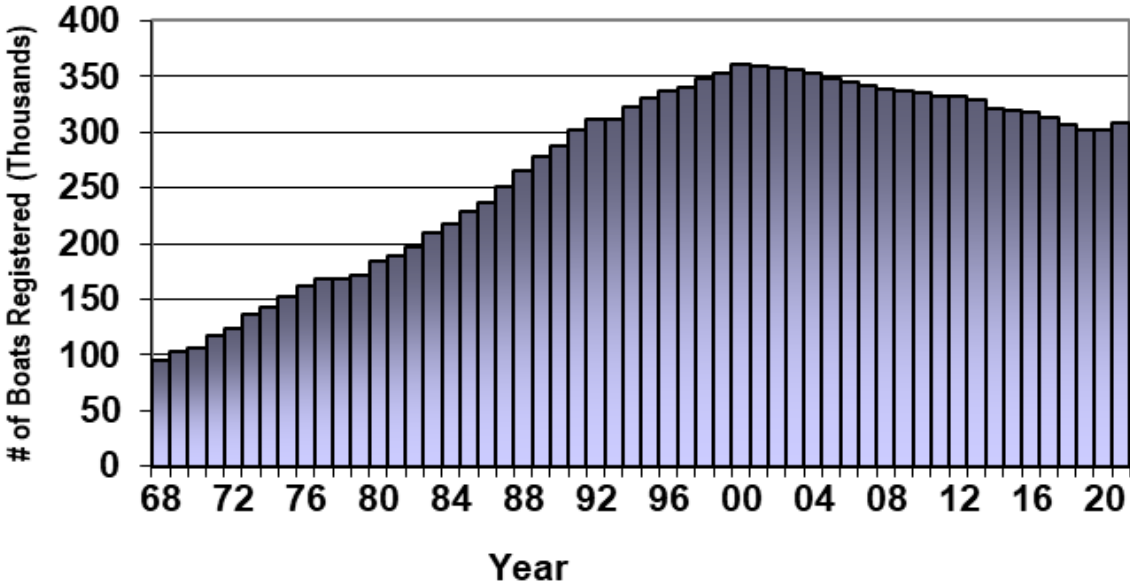


Pennsylvania experienced an increase of 6,652 boat registrations in 2021 over 2020. This increase is significant because boat registrations until this year have continued to decrease over the past eighteen years. During the period of 2000-2021, boat registrations have declined in all but three years (2012, 2020, 2021). The highest number of registrations was in year 2000 with 360,361 registered boats. There was also an increase in numbers of motorboats less than 16 feet in length that are registered in Pennsylvania (see chart below).

MOTORBOATS <16 FT. REGISTRATIONS



BOAT REGISTRATIONS 1968 - 2021



	2021 BOAT REG STATS	2020 BOAT REG STATS	2019 BOAT REG STATS	2018 BOAT REG STATS	2017 BOAT REG STATS	2016 BOAT REG STATS
Total Active Registrations:	308,102	301,450	301,287	306,781	313,590	317,586
Total Unpowered Registrations:	35,427	35,430	36,254	37,911	37,425	39,454
Total Active PWCs:	29,697	28,329	27,644	27,310	27,392	27,404
Less than 16 Ft.	126,840	96,822	125,736	129,212	133,783	136,963
16 Ft. to 25 Ft.	138,403	133,784	132,137	132,483	133,653	133,778
26 Ft. to 39 Ft.	6,804	6,482	6,499	6,534	6,698	6,744
40 Ft. to 65 Ft.	588	565	589	604	613	609
Boats > 65 Ft.	40	38	36	37	39	38
Rowboats	1,820	1,783	1,871	1,892	1,790	1,711
Sailboats	972	1,020	1,110	1,233	1,270	1,339
Paddlecraft: Canoes Kayaks/ Other Boats	34,596	32,627	36,254	57,680	49,899	47,515

The Commission set the following goals and objectives for the 2021 RBS Program grant year:

GOALS

1. Provide effective education programs and informational material to the boating public.
2. Further reduce the number of boating accidents, fatalities and boater conflicts.
3. Provide adequate, effective and efficient enforcement of the boating laws and regulations.
4. Develop and maintain a liaison with other boating organizations and agencies.
5. Administer a boat registration system that is responsive to the needs of the Commission and the boating public, efficiently collects the revenues needed to run the boating program and identifies legal ownership of recreational boats.
6. Provide recreational boaters with the highest quality boating facilities on all navigable water bodies of the state.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide technical guidance and support for the development and enhancement of public access to fishing and boating opportunities. This effort includes cooperation with Federal and state government agencies, non-profit groups, and private businesses and landowners.
2. Maintain an efficient and cost-effective method of registering and titling boats, ensuring that Pennsylvania receives and deposits the fees expeditiously and that the boat owner receives

- title and registration certificates promptly and courteously.
3. Provide an adequate level of control over and distribution of aids to navigation and floating structures.
 4. Provide training opportunities, educational materials and support to boating education partners so all recreational boaters will be knowledgeable of the boating regulations and the principals of boating safety.
 5. Provide water rescue training upon request to police, fire and rescue personnel to prevent water-related fatalities due to an inadequate understanding of the forces of water and how to handle water emergencies.
 6. Provide a law enforcement effort that ensures an acceptable level of compliance with boating laws and regulations.
 7. Provide necessary vehicles, boats and other related equipment that Waterways Conservation Officers need for the efficient and effective performance of their duties.
 8. Maintain a liaison between the Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons and other boating safety organizations.
 9. Provide grants to local governments and non-profits for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion and rehabilitation of public boating facilities located on the waters of Pennsylvania.

ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Maintain liaison with representatives of the boating industry, clubs and organizations, private citizens, and federal, state, and local officials to inform them of and engage them in portions of Pennsylvania's Boating Program.**

Staff met with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Pennsylvania Water Trail Partnership, Pittsburgh Safe Boating Council, Erie Safe Boating Task Force, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, Pennsylvania National Guard, and numerous individual sportsmen's clubs, water trail managers, and others.

- 2. Conduct a minimum of one Boating Advisory Board and four Commission meetings to formulate appropriate regulations and approaches to improve boating safety in Pennsylvania.**

The Boating Advisory Board (BAB) met on June 14, 2021. Minutes from this meeting are available on the [Commission's website](#).

The Commission held four Board meetings during the FFY21. During its quarterly meetings, the Commission approved two regulatory items as final rulemaking. Minutes from these meetings are available on the [Commission's website](#).

- 3. Advocate for the passage of laws that benefit boaters, particularly bills that address boating under the influence.**

[Senate Bill 403](#) was introduced and voted favorably through committees in FFY21. This bill amends Title 30 (Fish and Boat Code) to align the boat registration period with the calendar year. Previously in FFY20, there were amendments to Title 30 for dams, bar racks and migration devices, further providing for marking of dams.

4. Inform U.S. Congressmen and State Legislators of projects and programs funded by Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund allocations to Pennsylvania.

The Commission's Director of Policy & Planning and Legislative Liaison are actively engaged throughout the year in informing Legislators of programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

5. Participate in training and development opportunities to improve staff's knowledge and skills in boating safety, water rescue, grants management, access development, national education standards and outreach campaigns.

Commission staff participated in out-service training consisting of boating conferences, meetings, and trainings offered by various organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard, National Safe Boating Council, National Water Safety Congress, International Association for Water Rescue Professionals, and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

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

The Commission ensured timely reporting of accidents and proper investigation. The Commission continues with ongoing updates to its computer-based boating accident reporting system for the officers in the field which aids in collecting the appropriate information to be reported to the Coast Guard. The Commission also reviewed and streamlined its internal review process and workflow for boating accident reports and investigation reports.

BOAT REGISTRATION

1. Provide an effective and cost-efficient method of registering and titling boats, ensuring that Pennsylvania receives and deposits its revenues expeditiously and that the boat owner receives registration and titling certificates promptly and courteously.

The Commission utilizes a computer-based Registration and Titling System to process new boat registrations and maintain all boat registration data. The new HuntFishPA program allows boat owners to process boat registration renewals on-line. In addition, boaters can purchase duplicate registration cards and update their address and other account information via the website.

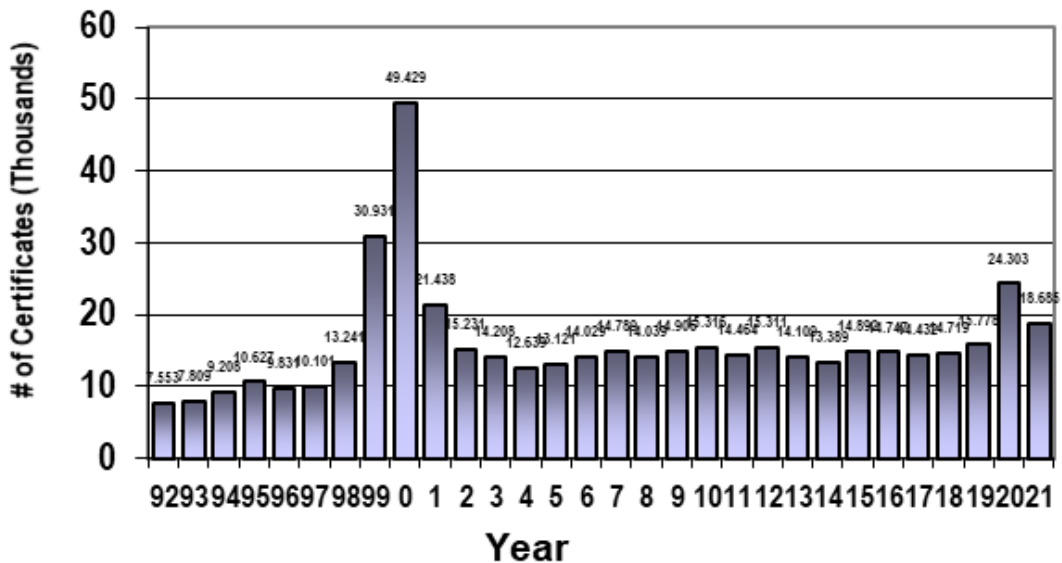
EDUCATION

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

The Commission certified 18,685 students in National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)-approved boating courses from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This is a decrease of 5,618 certificates from FFY20. The number of boating safety education certificates issued annually has generally been stable over the past 20 years. The Commission saw a marked increase in certificates issued in 2020 and 2021, consistent with increased outdoor recreation trends attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commission staff and instructors taught 55 PA Basic Boating classroom courses in FFY21 resulting in the issuance of 578 boating safety education certificates, a decrease of 13 certificates from the previous year. Instructors and staff taught 9 Boating & Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) courses in FFY21, with 126 of those students obtaining a boating safety education certificate. Not all students who complete a classroom or in-water course apply to the Commission for a boating safety education certificate. Students may complete the course but do not want or are not required by law to have the certification. Several instructors indicate they teach most, but not all, of the BWSA curriculum. That is, they teach components and/or specific skills but not the complete course which precludes students from applying for certification.

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATES

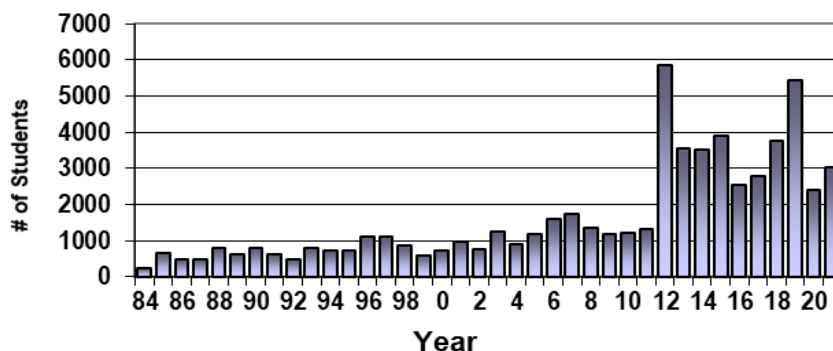


The Commission continues to be very successful with its distance learning (internet-based) courses and has received requests for our Commission-established course criteria from others states. In FFY21, the Commission issued 17,772 boating education certificates to students for successfully completing these internet learning courses, a decrease of 5,641 from FFY20.

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

In FFY21, the Commission certified 3,021 students through the Water Rescue Program which meets or exceeds various levels (Awareness, Operations, Technician) of NFPA 1670 Standards. This is an increase of 629 students from the previous reporting term. In FFY21, 1,412 students were certified in the Commission’s 2½-hour Water Rescue for the First Responder NFPA 1670 Awareness level program. The Commission has a trained in-state volunteer instructor corps of 206 individuals who provided more than 7,500 hours of training this past year. The Commission’s Water Rescue program is the largest of its kind in the United States.

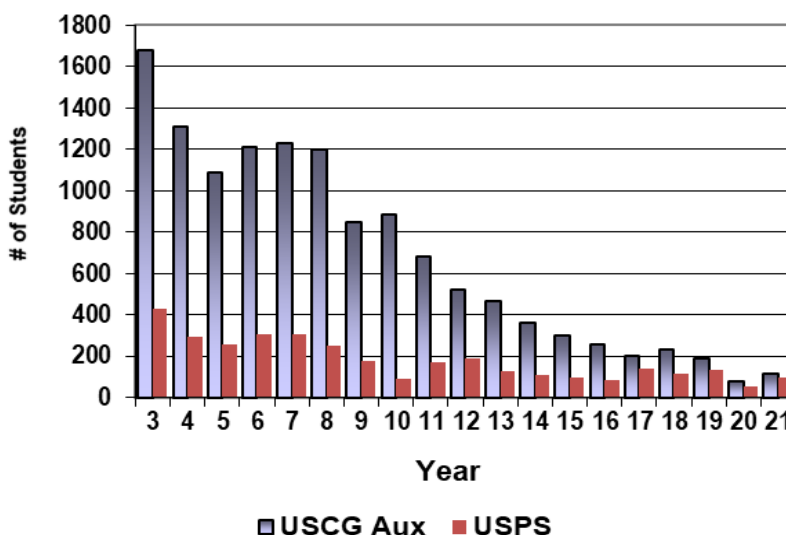
Water Rescue Students



- Continue to foster a close working relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron’s education programs for boater safety certification. Invite key representatives to Boating Advisory Board meetings and provide updated instructor information to all Auxiliary Flotillas and U.S. Power Squadrons in Pennsylvania.**

The Commission issued awards and certificates to outstanding Flotillas and Auxiliaries in the 5th Northern District in Pennsylvania. Successful students in Auxiliary courses submitted 114 applications to the Commission for boating safety certification in FFY21, an increase of 36 certificates from FFY20. USPS course students submitted 93 applications to the Commission for certification in FFY21, an increase of 41 certificates. The chart below clearly indicates a long-term decrease in the number of students being certified by the Commission in USCG Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadron Courses. This is most likely due to the competition from online courses and a reduction in demand for classroom courses. All Commission, Auxiliary, Power Squadron and other approved courses are listed on the Commission’s website. Course information is available from the Commission’s toll-free telephone number. Commission representatives continue to attend USPS and USCG Auxiliary conferences, workshops, and (on request) teach the legal requirements section for their courses. Representatives from the USCG, USCG Auxiliary, and USPS were in virtual attendance at the Commission’s Boating Advisory Board meetings in 2021.

**Commission Certified Students
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Power Squadrons
2003 - 2021**



4. Develop non-certification paddlesports safety education program, corresponding curriculum and instructor training. Produce and distribute boating safety literature; incorporate the “Wear It Pennsylvania” message into all boating safety materials distributed by the Commission.

During the period, PFBC staff conducted 7 non-certification paddlesports safety programs reaching 116 participants. These in-person programs provided instruction on legal requirements and basic skills, and most provided an on-water experience; a significant portion of this half-day program is spent teaching boating safety education and basic paddling skills. (These numbers are considerably lower than previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

Additionally, PFBC staff conducted 8 kayak fishing programs to 89 participants, in which instruction on legal requirements, boating safety education, and basic paddling skills was provided. In-person programs also provided an on-water experience. (These numbers are also considerably lower than previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

New in 2021 was the development and implementation of virtual boating, paddling, kayak fishing, and water safety education programs. To offset the decrease of in-person programming, we increased our virtual presence and offered 8 programs that reached 93 participants.

Throughout the year, the PFBC used its suite of printed publications to further promote safe boating with full-page, full-color messaging in its first-ever combined Pennsylvania Fishing Summary and Boating Handbook (550,000 copies produced), *Boating Regulation Recap* brochures (100,000 produced), 2021 *Pocket Guide* (75,000 produced), and in its subscription-based agency magazine, *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* (distributed six times a year). Specifically, with the May/June 2021 printed issue of the magazine (72,032 subscribers), and in its digital version of the magazine, a full-page advertisement was included which promoted National Safe Boating Week. In addition, students completing the PA Basic Boating Course, or the Boating and Water Safety Awareness Course, received a copy of the *Boating Handbook* (9,775 copies produced in 2021) and *Regulation Recap* brochure.

The Commission distributed free boating safety literature and publications at all shows and events where it had a presence (see Item #4 below). The Commission also processed 42 requests in-house for boating safety education materials during the reporting period.

The Commission’s website is a major source of boating safety information. There is a wide array of boating and water safety materials at <http://www.fishandboat.com>. Everything from an enhanced version of the *PA Boating Handbook*, to water trails maps, to information on where to find a personal flotation device (PFD), is included (<http://fishandboat.com/Boat/Boating>). Links to the Commission’s boating safety partners enhance the site. In addition, the Commission has a “Wear It!” resource page at: <https://pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>, which includes a video with a “Wear It Pennsylvania!” message from the Commission’s Executive Director, in addition to audio clips, press releases, and web banners. Web visitation to boating (see URL above) and boating safety education (<https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingCourses/Pages/default.aspx>) pages resulted in a total of 60,025 page-views during the period:

- <http://fishandboat.com/Boat/Boating>
 - **5,562 sessions**
 - 66% (3,680) were new users
 - Average session duration was almost 2 minutes
- <https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingCourses/Pages/default.aspx>
 - **54,463 sessions**
 - 63% (34,419) were new users
 - Average session duration was 1 minute, 30 seconds

New, in 2020, was the development of a Paddlesports webpage to provide boating and water safety messaging specifically to paddlesport enthusiasts (<https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/Pages/Paddlesports.aspx>). Also new was the creation of an Activities and Education Portal which offers an expanded compilation of resources on a variety of topics including Boating and Water Safety (<https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/BoatingWaterSafety/Pages/default.aspx>), Paddlesports (<https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/Paddle-sports/Pages/default.aspx>), and Kayak Fishing (<https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/KayakFishing/Pages/default.aspx>). Those pages resulted in a total of 30,196 page-views during the period:

- <https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/Pages/Paddlesports.aspx>
 - 29,691 sessions
 - 76.7% (23,105) were new users
 - Average session duration was just over 1 minute
- <https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/BoatingWaterSafety/Pages/default.aspx>
 - 177 sessions
 - 66.7% (118) were new users
 - Average session duration was just over 2 minutes
- <https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/Paddle-sports/Pages/default.aspx>
 - 63 sessions
 - 73% (54) were new users
 - Average session was 2 minutes, 20 seconds
- <https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/KayakFishing/Pages/default.aspx>
 - 265 sessions
 - 69% (196) were new users
 - Average session was 1 minute, 45 seconds

An important part of the Commission's digital communications is its social media presence. Its Twitter (<http://twitter.com/fishandboat>), Facebook (<http://facebook.com/PaFishandBoat>), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/pafishandboat/>), and YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/PAfishandboat>) accounts garner an exceptional amount of viewer/visitor attention with postings and videos that reinforce life jacket wear, boating education certificates, and particularly, the agency's mandated cold-weather life jacket regulation, occurring from November 1 through April 30.

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

Use of the library diminished each year, as the availability of on-line resources continued to increase. As a result, the PFBC has phased out its video library. In addition to the on-line resources available, each PFBC instructor is provided a copy of, or has access to, the Boat America DVD produced by Kalkomey Enterprises and a Basic Boating PowerPoint presentation produced by staff.

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

The Commission enhanced its adoption of the “Wear It!” campaign through its website with select and updated web pages (<http://pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>), placement of web banners on its home page, and other pages on the site with links to USCG and National Safe Boating Council resources throughout National Safe Boating Week and the rest of the year. To increase ease-of-access, the Commission also maintains a separate website domain (www.WearItPennsylvania.com) as a promotional URL to effectively redirect visitors to useful life jacket information in conjunction with the “Wear It Pennsylvania!” branding and campaign efforts.

To great success, use of postings and videos supporting these events occurred through the Commission’s social media portals (as per above detailed in Item #1 and again in Item #4 below). For example:

Facebook:

- 21 posts about National Safe Boating Week
 - Reached 148,891 people
 - 151,351 people saw our message
- 11 additional posts Memorial Day Weekend
 - Reached 84,740 people
 - 85,267 people saw our message
- National Safe Boating Week video on Facebook (data from airing date of 5/22/21 through 6/1/21):
 - Reaches - 8,666
 - Impressions - 9,078
 - Engaged Users - 215
 - Number of times the video was watched for more than 3 seconds - 2,010
 - Total average length of time that the video was watched - 1 minute and 29 seconds
 - Total amount of time that the video was watched - 20 hours

Twitter:

- 18 tweets about National Safe Boating Week
 - Reached 274 people
 - 20,723 people saw our message
- 8 additional tweets Memorial Day Weekend
 - Reached 108 people
 - 6,878 people saw our message

YouTube:

- There were 9 total boating-related videos posted in May 2021; 8 of them were posted during NSBW.
- National Safe Boating Week video on YouTube (data from airing date of 5/22/21 through 6/1/21):
 - Impressions- 139,804
 - Engagement (Views)- 19,714
 - Total Watch-time of all videos (cannot pull out individual videos) - 843.1 hours
 - Click-thru Rate - 5% (percentage of people that clicked on a link in the video descriptions)
 - Average View Duration - 2 minutes, 33 seconds
 - Unique Views - 15,100

7. Promote boating safety through special events, news releases, radio messages, public service announcements, radio and TV interviews and the Commission’s web page.

In FFY21, the Commission used several forms of media to promote its “Wear It Pennsylvania!” brand. This included a boat registration renewal mailing with safe boating messaging sent to 147,239 boat owners. And, as part of the mailed boat registration decals fulfilled during the term of this report, additional boating safety information (including reminders about life jacket wear) were part of the mailer package which were sent to more than 182,599 purchased boat registrations and duplicate boat registrations. Boating Safety brochures were also sent out to purchasers of 151,104 launch permits.

PFBC’s website (www.fishandboat.com) promoted the “Wear It!” campaign with select and updated web pages (<http://www.pfbc.pa.gov/media-resources/wear-it-media/wear-it-media.htm>), placement of web banners on the home page, and other pages on the site with links to USCG and National Safe Boating Council resources. During May, PFBC’s website received a substantial increase in visitation.

The Commission also issued 12 press releases on safe boating practices throughout the period.

Finally, the Commission used several special events to deliver the “Wear It!” safe boating and life jacket-wear message during the reporting period. Those events are listed in the table below. Although in previous years, boating safety courses were offered to those attending certain events, the COVID-19 pandemic caused organizers to cancel those offerings. However, the PFBC’s “Wear It Pennsylvania!” exhibit graphic was used extensively, and several different boating and water safety publications were distributed.

Show/Event
Pennsylvania Farm Show – Virtual
Wildlife for Everyone – Great Outdoor Picnic
Yellow Breeches ACA Nursery Open House

Senator Jake Corman’s Senior Expo
Altoona Curves: Brookies Baseball Weekend
State Rep. Frank Burn’s Senior Fair
National Night Out
Safe Summer-Fort Hunter Event
Operation Dry Water
Reopening of Five Locks Access Area Event

AIDS-TO-NAVIGATION

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

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

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

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

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

The Coast Guard Auxiliary provides a valuable service to the Commission in verification of ATONm. While on patrols, they observe ATON and verify positions on reports provided by the Commission. Those aids that are missing, damaged, or off-station are reported directly to program staff or via a new online report form, and corrective action is taken. This system has resulted in greater reliability of aids in Pennsylvania waters.

4. Include use and identification of aids through the distribution of the PA Boating Handbook.

ATON identification and use descriptions are contained in the PA Boating Handbook which the Coast Guard Auxiliary, USPS, Commission boating education instructors and others distribute as part of boating education classes. In addition, ATON articles and other resources appear on the PFBC website.

5. Place information and warning signs (as necessary) at Commission access sites and hazardous areas.

Aluminum/fiberboard (4' x 4') warning signs are routinely placed at public launch sites to provide boaters with necessary regulatory and safety warnings as part of the Commission's ATON program.

6. Review ATON plans for bridge construction projects for state agencies and local governments.

The Commission reviews all ATON plans for rehabilitation or replacement of bridge projects on waterways. Technical guidance is provided to engineering firms and PA Department of Transportation for plans to place signage and buoys around bridge projects to avoid accidents and allow for continued safe navigation through construction areas. In FFY21, the Commission updated its ATON Manual and guidelines which are available on its website.

7. Evaluate and, if necessary, procure the use of private organizations to place, maintain and remove aids to navigation through contract or agreement.

The Commission awarded contracts in FFY21 for the placement, maintenance and removal of Commission-owned ATON. These contracts allow the Commission to better utilize Waterways Conservation Officers' time for primary safety and enforcement duties, rather than placing buoys.

8. Review and process all requests to install floating structures on State waters submitted by state, local governments, organizations and individuals.

The Commission reviewed, approved and assigned permit numbers for installation of floating structures on Commonwealth waters in FFY21. These permits constitute a total of 8,051 structures, an increase of 6,358 from FFY20 (see graph below for details). The majority of new ATON continues to be associated with increased bridge construction activity. The majority of decreases are associated with either (a) earlier construction project that have been completed or (b) privately owned structures no longer in use.

Float Permit ATON Quantities Report:

Type	Quantity	Type	Quantity
Channel	484	Boom	2
Controlled Area	1693	Mooring	1411
Float	1254	Race Course	56
Floating Dock	1347	Restricted Area	698
Hazard	704	Ski Ramp	1
Information	51	Slalom Course	30
Jet Ski Course	0	Other	320
TOTAL 8,051			

9. Conduct site visits to ensure compliance with Chapter 113 of Title 58, Pennsylvania Code (Aids to Navigation and Obstructions to Navigation).

The Commission's corps of Waterways Conservation Officers routinely check the placement of regulatory ATON. ATON is also checked to ensure placement and serviceability by the USCG Auxiliary.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Conduct law enforcement patrols to ensure boaters' compliance with existing laws and regulations regarding recreational boating.

Enforcement of Pennsylvania's boating laws and regulations is performed primarily by Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) and part-time Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers (DWCOs). WCOs and DWCOs perform other duties beyond boat law enforcement, such as fish law enforcement, public relations, water pollution investigation, fish stocking, equipment maintenance and, of course, the teaching of boating safety classes.

In FFY21, WCOs issued, and the courts adjudicated, 1,398 summary citations for boating violations. Lack of personal flotation devices or improper personal flotation devices onboard boats continued to be the most common boating violations. There were 12,262 warnings for boating violations issued by WCOs.

WCOs also conducted 25,921 safety boardings on recreational boats. Patrols are conducted by vehicle and on foot, but primarily with the Commission's more than 120 patrol craft. Investigating boating accidents and boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs cases consume a large portion of field officers' time. Forty-nine arrests were made in FFY21 for boating-under-the-influence (BUI). Specialized BUI enforcement details were conducted throughout the state on waterways with the highest recreational boating use, including Presque Isle Bay, Allegheny River, Ohio River, Monongahela River, Lake Wallenpaupack, Raystown Lake, Delaware River, Blue Marsh Lake, and several boating pools on the Susquehanna River. WCOs investigated several high-profile boating accidents that involved serious injury or fatalities on Commonwealth waters and investigated a total of 64 reportable boating accidents.

2. Provide necessary training, vehicles and boats for law enforcement personnel.

In FFY21, the Commission trained and employed 87 full-time Waterways Conservation Officers including supervisory staff, and 50 part-time volunteer DWCOs. Training in various disciplines was conducted at the state, regional, and district levels including mandatory in-service and out-service law enforcement as well as water rescue training.

BOATING FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM

1. Facilitate funding to local governments and organizations for the acquisition, planning, engineering, development, expansion and major rehabilitation of public recreational boat access facilities.

In 2021, the Commission awarded 22 grants under the Boating Facility Grant Program. The Commission provided funding for the grants that ranged from \$10,700 to \$210,800. The

total amount of funding awarded under the 2021 round of Boating Facility Grants was \$1,732,117. The total estimated costs for all projects was \$7,051,585.

2. Implement Fishing and Boating Access Strategy that identifies and prioritizes public fishing and boating facility needs throughout Pennsylvania. Encourage use of the plan as rating criteria for various partners' grant programs and implementation of recommended improvements.

Commission staff completed a statewide fishing and boating access plan in FFY09. The plan identifies current access areas, areas where additional access is needed, existing conditions of the facilities and makes recommendations for improving access throughout the state. The plan is organized into 52 HUC-8 watersheds and prioritizes them according to the need for additional access. Based on the information in the access plan, the Commission pursues opportunities and coordinates with partners for the development of new fishing and boating access. During FFY21, the Commission continued to provide technical support and guidance within high priority watersheds identified in the fishing and boating access plan, and initiated a revision to the plan.

3. Provide technical guidance for the development or enhancement of public fishing and boating access sites.

The Commission continues to provide technical assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations for the development and enhancement of public fishing and boating access sites. The Commission does this by providing technical guidance and site inspections for potential access improvements or developments.

4. Review bridge construction project plans to recommend boating access improvement opportunities.

The Commission coordinates with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration to recommend or require boating access development or improvement for bridge rehabilitation or replacement projects on waterways. The Commission provides technical guidance to engineering firms and the Department for boating access design, upon request.