

VOLUNTARY PERMITS



Beginning with the 2019 fishing license sales year, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) initiated a voluntary species permit program designed to generate funding to support key, fishing-related programs. Like other licenses and permits the PFBC offers for sale, purchasers may choose to buy these voluntary permits in 1, 3, 5, and 10-year durations. Funds collected are tracked and maintained in their respective categories. These funds may be used to wholly fund projects or matched with other funds to maximize their use, which will be aligned to their namesake categories.

The public response was strong with approximately \$129,000 being collected during the 2019 fishing license sales year, which ended on November 30, 2019. Fourteen

projects were funded and expended \$127,600 of the \$129,850 collected in 2019.

Donations increased in 2020 and \$289,940 was collected as of November 30, 2020. The breakdown of contributions for funds collected in 2020 was: Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters (\$115,750), Bass (\$88,360), Habitat/Waterways Conservation (\$53,000), and Musky (\$32,830).

In 2021, 18 projects as follows were funded in 11 counties, 2 regions (southeast and southcentral), and multiple projects will have statewide benefits. The breakdown of funds distribution is Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters: \$107,800, Bass: \$88,000, Habitat/Waterways Conservation: \$50,000, and Musky: \$38,960. The total to expend for 2021 is \$284,760

Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit

Annual Permit Cost: \$25 plus \$1.97 issuing agent/transaction fee

This permit benefits wild trout and will not be used on stocked trout programs or projects.

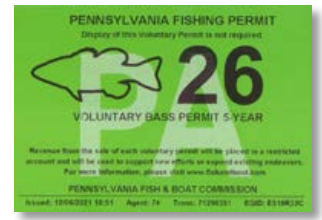
- **West Branch Susquehanna River, Cambria County, stream habitat improvement (\$25,000)**
 - A stream habitat improvement plan started with the removal of a low-head dam in 2019 and design plans were completed in 2020 to restore stream habitat on 700 linear feet of stream in the former dam impoundment. Stream habitat improvement devices were designed. Project partners include West Branch Susquehanna Rescue, Cambria County Conservation District, local landowners, and American Rivers.
- **Spring Creek, Centre County, stream habitat improvement (\$10,000)**
 - Stream habitat improvement plans were developed for two Commission properties in the Spring Creek Watershed. Grant funding (\$16,710) has been obtained to complete a portion of these plans, but additional funding is needed to complete and enhance the projects. If funding is available, construction will begin in 2022. Project partners include Spring Creek Chapter Trout Unlimited (TU) and ClearWater Conservancy.
- **Unassessed Waters Initiative (UWI), cooperating partner funding (\$22,000)**
 - Funding for the UWI restricts cooperating partners from sampling outside of geographic areas in the western and northcentral regions of Pennsylvania. High priority watersheds in the eastern and southcentral regions of the state have been identified. Up to 75 unassessed waters will be sampled.
- **East Branch Hicks Run, Cameron County, culvert removal (\$4,000)**
 - East Branch Hicks Run supports a Class A wild Brook Trout population. Removal would open 10 plus miles of stream. The stone surrounding the culvert would be reconfigured to provide a stabilized ford that allows fish passage until the lease for the state forest cabin expires. The ford would then be removed. Cameron County Conservation District and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) would be project partners.
- **Little Portage Creek, Potter County (\$46,800)**
 - Little Portage Creek supports a Class A trout population and is a tributary to Freeman Run. A private driveway bridge (Bittersweet Lane) located in the lower reaches of the stream is in disrepair. The bridge creates shallow sheet flow, which reduces wild trout movement and aquatic organism passage. If funded, Potter County Conservation District will replace the bridge, reestablish the stream channel, and open approximately 6 miles of habitat to fish passage. Located upstream of the bridge, stream bank erosion is occurring, and there is a reach with limited adult trout habitat that is recommended for habitat work. This project will be partially funded by the PFBC Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program.



Voluntary Bass Permit

Annual Permit Cost: \$10 plus \$1.97 issuing agent/transaction fee

Permit funds support the Commission's efforts related to the management of black bass fisheries.

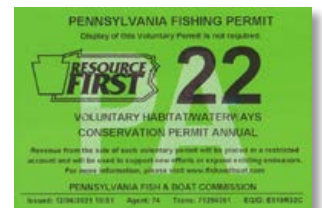


- **Donegal Lake, Westmoreland County, submerged lake habitat (\$15,000)**
 - Donegal Lake is a 90-acre reservoir owned and managed by the Commonwealth. It was recently refilled in 2020 after dam rehabilitation. The previous fishery supported a quality Largemouth Bass population. This is a partnership project with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and a local high school producing structures in shop class.
- **Somerset Lake, Somerset County, submerged lake habitat (\$20,000)**
 - Somerset Lake is a 253-acre impoundment owned and managed by the Commonwealth and was drawdown for dam reconstruction. Previously, this lake supported a desirable Largemouth Bass fishery. Habitat was placed during drawdown. This was a partnership project with Somerset County Sportsmen's League and Somerset Lake Action Committee. Materials were donated from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and Shaffer Block.
- **Wilmore Dam, Cambria County, submerged lake habitat (\$5,000)**
 - Wilmore Dam is a 195-acre impoundment owned by the Cambria Somerset Authority. The lake contains a healthy Largemouth Bass fishery. This is a partnership project with the Cambria County Conservation District. There is \$1,000 in matching funds from the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership.
- **Lake Wallenpaupack, Pike and Wayne Counties, submerged lake habitat (\$10,000)**
 - Lake Wallenpaupack is a 5,700-acre impoundment owned by Brookfield Renewable. The bass fishery includes Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Striped Bass. This is a partnership project with the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District.
- **Yellow Creek Lake, Indiana County, lake shoreline stabilization (\$30,000)**
 - Yellow Creek Lake is a 720-acre impoundment owned by PA DCNR. The bass fishery includes both Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass. This shoreline stabilization and angler access project is a partnership with Yellow Creek State Park. There is \$30,000 in matching funds provided by PA DCNR Resource Section. Plan and permits are in place.
- **Lake Arthur, Butler County (\$8,000)**
 - Shoreline stabilization and fishing access project at the Route 528 access. The \$8,000 voluntary bass permits funds will be matched with \$20,000 of PA DCNR Resource Management funding to stabilize eroding lake shoreline and expand angler access.

Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit

Annual Permit Cost: \$10 plus \$1.97 issuing agent/transaction fee

Revenue from this permit is used to make improvements to stream, river, lake, and wetland habitats.

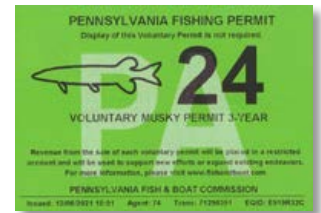


- **Kinzua Creek, McKean County, Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters, stream habitat (\$25,000)**
 - Project designs were completed in the spring of 2021 and will improve 2,000 feet by installing 50 habitat structures. If funding is available, construction will begin in 2022. The voluntary permit funds will be used as match towards additional grants. Total construction cost is estimated at \$140,000. Project partners include McKean County Conservation District, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, TU, and the Allegheny National Forest Service.
- **East Branch Clarion River, Elk County, Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only, stream habitat (\$25,000)**
 - This section produces high-quality, cold water fishing year-round. Project designs were completed in the fall of 2019 and will improve 1,000 feet by installing 20 habitat structures. If funding is available, construction will begin in 2022. The voluntary permit funds will be used as match towards additional grants. Total construction cost is estimated at \$100,000. Project partners include Elk County Conservation District, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, TU, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Voluntary Musky Permit

Annual Permit Cost: \$10 plus \$1.97 issuing agent/transaction fee

Revenue from this permit will be used to provide additional support to the Commission's efforts to expand musky fishing.



- **Equipment for Statewide Muskellunge Passive Integrated Transponder Study (\$5,700)**
 - The purchasing of this equipment will allow evaluation of stocking strategies, length limit, and creel limit changes.
- **Purchase an inline, water heating system for Linesville State Fish Hatchery musky production (\$15,285)**
 - One heater was purchased in 2020 and provided an additional 30-35 gallons per minute of heated water for musky culture at the Linesville State Fish Hatchery. With this additional funding, staff will purchase an identical second water heater that will work with the previously purchased heater to provide a total of 60 gallons per minute of heated water. This will allow the muskies to be raised in ideal flows and temperatures to maximize growth and survival.
- **Snap feeders for musky culture (\$8,750)**
 - These feeders are elongated in shape with a length of 10 feet and can be set up to distribute feed to all the fish in a tank at the same time. Linesville State Fish Hatchery staff have found that these feeders increase the number of fish they can convert to dry feed, and cannibalism is reduced.
- **Purchase minnows to feed PFBC hatchery-produced muskellunge fingerlings (\$5,000)**
 - Hatchery-reared musky fingerlings are initially fed pelleted-food diets then shifted to a combination of pellets and minnows. The PFBC's pond space for minnow production is limited. Recently, the PFBC shifted to holding (and feeding) musky fingerlings an extra 6 months prior to stocking to produce larger fingerlings with better survival rates. The PFBC will cover the shipping costs, so the \$5,000 will purchase approximately 1,000 pounds of minnows, providing better feeding for approximately 30,000 musky fingerlings.
- **Purchase fingerlings to reestablish Shawnee Lake, Bedford County, musky fishery (\$4,225)**
 - Shawnee Lake is a 451-acre impoundment historically stocked with fingerling Muskellunge. Muskellunge stocking was discontinued in 2005, because the lake was experiencing issues related to frequent water level fluctuations/drawdowns and algae blooms that negatively impacted the sportfish fishery.
 - Biological conditions have improved at the lake, and there is an abundance of Gizzard Shad and Yellow Perch to provide a forage base. Additionally, physical habitat has improved.
 - Stocking Muskellunge at 0.75 fish/acre at 451 acres, equals 338 yearling Muskellunge every other year. Cost to purchase a 12- to 14-inch Muskellunge is approximately \$12.50 per fish. Cost to stock at 0.75 fish/acre would total \$4,225.



There are four Voluntary Permits available. These optional permits provide anglers with an opportunity to provide financial support to specific programs and projects. Each is available as an annual, 3-year, 5-year, or 10-year permit. Revenue from the sales of each permit will be placed in a restricted account and will be used to support new efforts or expand existing endeavors. To learn more about the Voluntary Permit Program, go to www.fishandboat.com.

2022 VOLUNTARY PERMITS

LICENSE YEAR

Voluntary Permits are designed to help maintain funding levels for several key fishing-related programs. Revenues generated from the sale of these permits will be reinvested into their respective program.



Code	Type of Voluntary Permits	Age	Cost*
073	Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$11.97
077	3-Year Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$31.97
081	5-Year Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$51.97
085	10-Year Voluntary Bass Permit	Any	\$101.97
071	Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$11.97
075	3-Year Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$31.97
079	5-Year Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$51.97
083	10-Year Voluntary Musky Permit	Any	\$101.97
070	Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$11.97
074	3-Year Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$31.97
078	5-Year Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$51.97
082	10-Year Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit	Any	\$101.97
072	Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$26.97
076	3-Year Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$76.97
080	5-Year Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$126.97
084	10-Year Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit	Any	\$251.97

* Includes issuing agent fee of \$1.00 and \$0.97 transaction fee.

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MENTORED YOUTH FISHING PERMITS AND VOLUNTARY YOUTH FISHING LICENSES

The Mentored Youth Fishing Permit is free, and the Voluntary Youth Fishing License is \$2.97 (including fees).

For each Voluntary Youth Fishing License purchased for \$2.97 (or voucher once it is redeemed), the PFBC receives \$5 back in funding as a federal reimbursement. These funds are dedicated to be used in youth outreach and education programs. The PFBC receives no federal reimbursement for Mentored Youth Permits.

While both the permit and the Voluntary Youth Fishing License provide the opportunity for youth to fish on Mentored Youth Fishing Days, the Voluntary Youth Fishing License provides an extended return for both Pennsylvania's youth and the Commission. The Commission encourages anglers to purchase either a Voluntary Youth Fishing License or a Voluntary Youth Fishing License Voucher for the future of fishing.

Youth permits, voluntary licenses, and vouchers are available at www.HuntFish.PA.gov or at PFBC licensing agents.



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