CHAPTER 1: BOATING IN PENNSYLVANIA

Boating Opportunities

Water Trails

Boat Motors and Hull Types

Boating Terminology
PFBC MISSION

To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources, and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Promote fishing and boating
Regulate and enforce fishing and boating laws

Funded by PA boaters and anglers’ registration fees and fishing license revenue
BOATING OPPORTUNITIES

85,000 miles of rivers and streams

76 natural lakes (5,266 acres of flat water)

2,300 constructed impoundments (200,000 acres of flat water)

Lake Erie – 63 plus miles of shoreline (735 square miles of water in PA)

Delaware River – 56 miles of tidal waters and access to the Atlantic Ocean
1982 – 200,000 registered boats
Today over 300,000+
Over half are less than 16’ in length
Many other kinds and sizes
Water trails are recreational corridors between specific locations.

- Access points
- Boat launches
- Day use sites
- Overnight camping opportunities
- Diverse opportunities
- Maps available
BOAT MOTORS AND HULL TYPES

MOTORS – four primary types

1. **Outboard** – vary in size and attach to transom
2. **Inboard/outboard (sterndrive)** – bolted inboard
3. **Inboard** – mounted lower in boat – rudder used to steer
4. **Jet** – use an engine to pump water through a nozzle at the stern

*Know the motor type and horsepower limitation of the lake!*
HULL TYPES – two basic types

- **Planing**: flat-bottomed and skim across the water
- **Displacement**: round bottoms and plow through the water. More stable but not as fast as planing hull
BOAT TERMINOLOGY

- **Aft** – near or at the stern
- **Beam** – width of a boat, also the direction at right angles to the centerline of a vessel
- **Bilge** – lowest point of a boat’s interior hull
- **Bow** – front part of a boat
- **Draft** – waterline to lowest part of boat - minimum depth to float boat
BOAT TERMINOLOGY

- **Forward** – aboard a boat, the direction to the front, to the bow
- **Freeboard** – waterline to the gunwale
- **Gunwale** – upper edge of side of boat
- **Hull** – structural body of boat
- **Keel** – lateral area beneath the hull to provide stability and reduce sideways drift
BOAT TERMINOLOGY

- **Life Jacket** – a personal flotation device (PFD), vest or preserver
- **Port** – looking towards the bow, left side of boat
- **Starboard** – looking towards the bow, right side of the boat.
- **Stern** – aft (back or rear) portion of the boat
BOAT TERMINOLOGY

- **Transom** – the transverse part of the stern (where an outboard motor is attached)

- **Waterline** – the intersection of a boat’s hull and the water’s surface.

- **USCG** – United States Coast Guard – [web link](#)

- **USPS** – United States Power Squadrons – [web link](#)
CHAPTER 1: BOATING IN PENNSYLVANIA - CONCLUSION

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