CHAPTER 6: RESOURCE PROTECTION

• Law Enforcement
• PFBC Lakes and Access Areas
• Permits
• Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD)
• Littering and Pollution
• Aquatic Invasive Species
Enforcement of boating laws and regulations, along with providing for safety on Pennsylvania waters, is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission’s Waterways Conservation Officers.
LAW ENFORCEMENT – ADDITIONAL PATROL AGENCIES

- Bureau of State Parks
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- National Park Service
- Other
WHAT TO DO WHEN APPROACHED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE WATER

Boaters approached by a patrol boat with its blue light flashing must reduce speed to slow no-wake and yield the right of way to the patrol boat.

OPERATOR SHALL STOP WHEN REQUESTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT
WHAT TO DO WHEN APPROACHED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE WATER

Violation of boating laws and regulations are subject to:

ARREST – FINE – JAIL

Revoke, suspended or deny boating privileges
PFBC LAKES AND ACCESS AREAS

Any boat, powered or unpowered, using a PFBC lake or access area, must display a current registration or launch permit.

Inflatable boats less than 7’ in length or which are not constructed of durable fabric and do not have at least two separate buoyancy chambers are prohibited.
PFBC LAKES AND ACCESS AREAS

Overnight mooring is permitted if the boat has the current registration. Boats may be moored from March 1 through November 30 at designated areas. Launch permits do not allow these same privileges.
FOLLOWING PROHIBITED ON PFBC PROPERTY
While on Commission property, dogs must be licensed and under control.

When the dog is on a lawn area, trail or parking lot, it must be on a leash not to exceed 6 feet in length.
DOGS ON COMMISSION PROPERTY

The maximum number of dogs that an owner or handler is permitted to have on Commission property at one time is two.

Droppings must be immediately scooped and disposed of off Commission property.
DOGS ON COMMISSION PROPERTY

Owner or handler is responsible for the conduct of the dog!
PERMITS

All tournaments, regattas, races, parades and exhibitions must be authorized by the Fish & Boat Commission or Coast Guard.

An application must be filed with the Commission at least 60 days prior to such event.
Floating structures, including ski ramps, must have a permit from the Commission to be placed on any waters.
PERMITS

Waterway markers, including signs and buoys, must have a permit from the Commission to be placed on any waters.
MARINE SANITATION DEVICES (MSD)

The Water Quality Act of 1987 requires the installation of an MSD on all vessels with installed toilet systems operating in the navigational waters of the United States. Marine toilets are a source of pollution if not designed correctly.
MARINE SANITATION DEVICES (MSD)

Must be sealed construction and USCG approved.

Note – portable toilets are not considered installed toilets.
MARINE SANITATION DEVICES (MSD)

Direct overboard discharge of portable toilet waste is a violation of state water regulations!
If your watercraft is equipped with an installed toilet system, it must be removed, sealed or drained into a holding tank, which can be carried or pumped ashore for disposal at an approved sewage treatment system.
LITTERING AND POLLUTION

Plastic bags, discarded fishing line and other garbage kill fish, waterfowl and wildlife.
In Pennsylvania, it is unlawful for any person to litter. If something blows out of your boat, go back and remove the object(s) from the water.
If you see any source or indication of pollution, such as dead fish, call the PFBC’s Pollution Hotline at 1-855-FISH-KIL, or the Department of Environmental Protection at 1-800-541-2050, or the appropriate PFBC regional office.

During after-hours, weekends and holidays, call the Department of Environmental Protection at 717-787-4343.
It is illegal to discharge sewage or other human waste, oil or trash into any state or federally controlled waters.
PROBLEMS CAUSED....

✓ Diseases

✓ Harm to people, wildlife and the environment

✓ Damage to engines
DISCHARGE OF OIL AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

DISCHARGE OF OIL PROHIBITED
The Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibits the discharge of oil or oily waste upon or into any navigable waters of the U.S. The prohibition includes any discharge, which causes a film or discoloration of the surface of the water or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water. Violator's are subject to substantial civil and/or criminal sanctions including fines and imprisonment.
Discharge of oil or hazardous substances is prohibited. The penalty for illegal discharge may be a fine of up to $10,000.

Dumping oil into the bilge of vessel without means for proper disposal is also prohibited. Fuel spills can be removed using absorbent bilge pads.
Oil waste must be disposed at an approved reception facility. On recreational vessels, a bucket or bailer is adequate for temporary storage prior to disposing of the oil waste at an approved facility.
Notify Coast Guard immediately if your vessel discharges oil or a hazardous substance into the water. Call toll-free 1-800-424-8802.

Report the discharge’s location, color, source, substances, size and time observed. You must also call the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and report the discharge.
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Anglers and boaters may unknowingly introduce AIS into new areas!
STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Check your equipment, boat, fishing gear before leaving any body of water.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Help reduce the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species
STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

REMOVE

- Visible plants
- Fish or other aquatic animals
- Mud and dirt
STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Drain water from all equipment before leaving the area you are visiting.

Some species may live for months in water that has not been removed.
STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Before going to another body of water, clean anything that came in contact with the water.
STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

✓ Do not transport any plants, fish or other aquatic life from one body of water to another.

✓ Do not release unused bait into the waters you are fishing. Dump unused bait in a trash can.
PFBC LAW ENFORCEMENT REGIONAL OFFICES

Have questions or need more information, please contact............