

Follow the path
step by step
to learn all about

Laws and

Everyone who buys a fishing license or registers a boat gets a booklet that summarizes current fishing and boating regulations and laws. Do you know the difference between a law and a regulation? Do you know how a law becomes a law, or how regulations get passed? After playing this game, you will. Visit the PA Fish & Boat Commission's web site, www.fish.state.pa.us, to view the current summaries of fishing and boating regulations and laws.

Laws are made by the state legislature when the governor signs them. One example of a law that affects anglers is the law that sets fishing license costs. Fishing license fees increase about every five years. Pennsylvania law gives the Fish & Boat Commission the authority to pass rules called regulations to protect and manage resources and keep boaters safe. One example of a regulation is the creel limit.

Creel limit for trout

4.

4. The Commission later considers the comments and additional input from staff. When the Commission considers adopting a proposed regulation, it's called final rulemaking. Sometimes minor changes must be made before final adoption.

Regulations

Note to teachers and parents: This issue includes information to help you teach material in the PA Department of Education's Ecology and Environment Standard 4.9.4 (Environmental Laws and Regulations) and Civics and Government 5.3.3 and 5.3.6 standards.

... signs approval to a bill. ... says how much a fishing ... years. ... authority to make regulations, ... ns that the Commission can ... sources, and keep anglers and ... mit for trout.



1.

1. Regulations often set when, how and where we can fish and boat. Ideas for regulations or changes to current regulations come from Commission staff or anglers and boaters.

2.

The 10-member board of commissioners reviews the information about the idea. If they accept it at this step, it becomes proposed rulemaking, the first formal step in the process.

3.

3. Public comment. The public is given a chance to provide comments on the proposed regulation. People are invited to send letters or email their comments to the Commission. Sometimes the Commission conducts public meetings to obtain public input.

5.

5. New regulations in place. Anglers and boaters see the effects of the new regulation as they fish and boat. They must do their part and abide by that regulation. In our example, the creel limit for trout is changed to five a day. So when this regulation took effect, anglers could keep only five trout legally.