



Laws and Regulations

The *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* provides a summary of laws and regulations for fishing and boating. These laws and regulations are in place to protect the resource, to provide special fishing and boating opportunities and to help ensure the safety of anglers and boaters.

Laws are the result of the Governor signing a bill passed by the General Assembly. There are fishing laws that set requirements for a license and set its price. There is a Commonwealth law giving

PFBC authority to make fishing and boating regulations. This process is called **rulemaking**.

The PFBC Board of Commissioners makes official Commission rulemaking. During their quarterly meetings, commissioners hear recommendations from PFBC staff and take action on proposed rules and final adoption of rules already proposed. The Commission's website, www.fishandboat.com, shows a calendar of upcoming meetings. The public is welcome to attend Commission meetings. The website also includes the records from previous meetings.

Steps in Rulemaking

- 1** Commissioners vote on an idea to propose it as rulemaking. The proposal may change an existing regulation or establish a new regulation. This vote occurs at a public Commission meeting.
- 2** Notice of proposed rulemaking is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. The *Pennsylvania Bulletin* is a weekly publication showing rules and regulations being considered by Pennsylvania state agencies.
- 3** Comments from the public are accepted by PFBC for at least 30 days.
- 4** After the public comment period, the Commission considers adopting the proposed change and takes a vote on final rulemaking. This vote occurs at a public Commission meeting.
- 5** If adopted on final rulemaking, the new or changed regulation becomes effective on the date of publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* or on another date specified by the Commission.

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