

1866-1941: Launching the Agency

The Civil War had just ended, and conservation and migrating fish became important. In the beginning, the Commissioner worked hard to convince people of the importance of conservation and fishways for migrating American Shad. He spent a lot of time travelling to meetings talking about American Shad and other fish, often travelling by train.

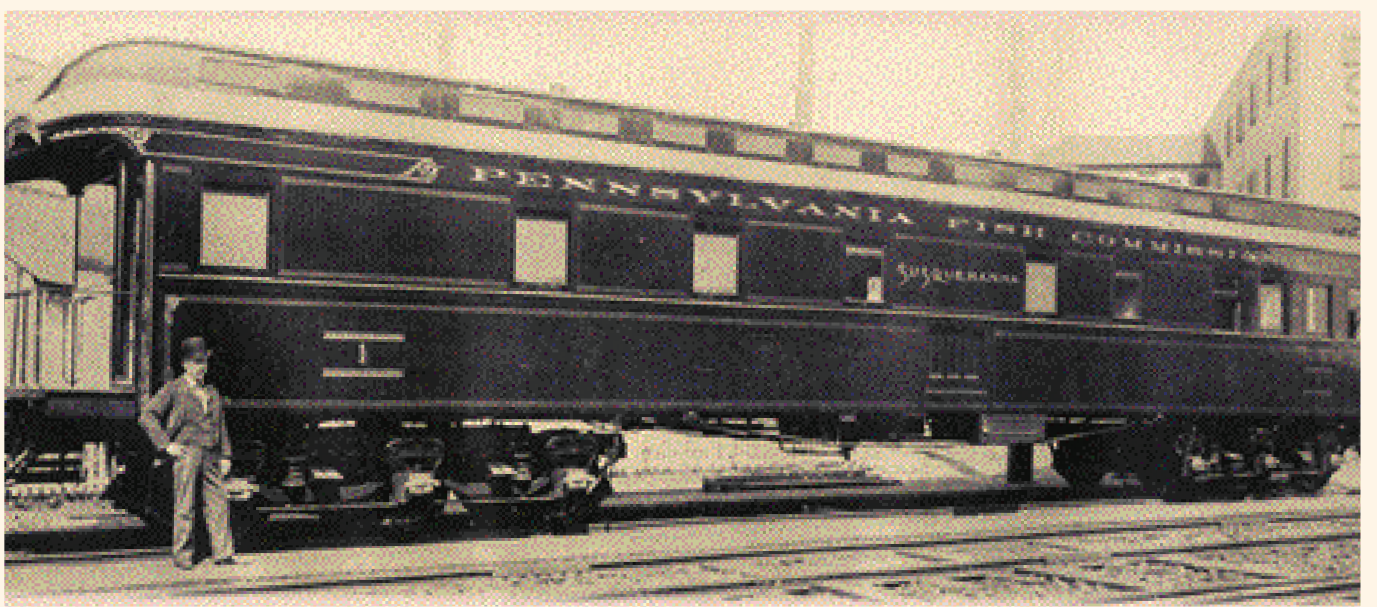
In 1892, the agency built a special railcar, named the "Susquehanna." It was used to haul fish that were stocked in waters around Pennsylvania. In 1893, it was used to carry live fish and displays to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Then, it went to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The railcar was in operation through 1914.



American Shad being netted by commercial fishermen, Susquehanna Flats, Maryland, 1900.



The PFBC's exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893



The "Susquehanna"

In 1912, the Commission used displays in schools. The displays helped people learn about fish and clean water. The Commission started using motion picture films to help tell that story in the 1930s. In 1931, the Commission produced a magazine called *Pennsylvania Angler*. Articles in the magazine were about Commission efforts and ways to be a better angler. The magazine continues today as *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*.

Highlights from PFBC History

- 1908-A tugboat, named the *Commodore Perry*, was built to help with law enforcement and fish and water studies on Lake Erie.
- 1923-The first license button was issued.
- 1925-A Board of Commissioners was established.



Moving trout in milk cans for stocking from the hatch house, Pleasant Gap State Fish Hatchery, circa 1920.



A vintage fishing license button



The Commission's tugboat, the Commodore Perry