

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

ANNUAL REPORT



PFBC Annual Report Executive Summary and Financial Statement Highlights of Fiscal Year 2000-01 (July 2000 through June 2001)

The fiscal year began on a high note as the Commission began operating out of its first permanent headquarters at 1601 Elmerton Avenue. The Commissioners invited anglers and boaters to tour the facility as part of an open house July 22, held in conjunction with the summer quarterly Commission meeting, the first in the new building. "For more than 134 years, the Harrisburg offices of our agency have been housed in borrowed or rented quarters. Now we have a home that Pennsylvania's anglers and boaters can call their own. The new headquarters is a tribute to the foresight of our Commissioners and is a visible statement of the Commonwealth's faith in the future of our efforts to provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources," noted Executive Director Peter A. Colangelo at the open house.

As part of the first Commission meeting in the new headquarters, Ted R. Keir, of Athens, Bradford County, was elected Commission president. Leon H. Reed Jr., of Honesdale, Wayne County, was elected vice-president.

Two state-record catches were certified by the Commission over the summer. A monstrous black crappie from Tioga County was a new state record for the species. Richard A. Pino, of Covington, hooked the record crappie May 28 using a minnow suspended below a bobber while fishing from a boat at Hammond Lake. The fish weighed 4 pounds, 2.88 ounces and measured just over 19.25 inches long. Its girth was 15.875 inches. A 19-pound, 10-ounce brown trout landed July 4th from Walnut Creek by Fazle Buljubasic, of Erie, was also certified as a new record for that species. Buljubasic was using a minnow while casting from the shoreline wall at the Commission's Walnut Creek Access when the big fish hit. It took him about 20 minutes to land the fish, which measured 32.25 inches long with a 22-inch girth.

Commission Boating Safety Education Manager Daniel G. Martin was honored with a national award for his work. The Northern Association of Boating Administrators chose Martin, a 12-year employee of the Commission, for the 2000 Leroy Orvis Memorial Award for Excellence in Boating Education. Martin was nominated for his work in developing the Commission's boating safety programs, including creating the Pennsylvania Basic Boating Course, overseeing the agency's boating education and water rescue programs and producing the Commission's award-winning *Boating Handbook*.

Stillwater Reservoir, Susquehanna County, was opened for public fishing and boating, thanks to a cooperative effort involving the Pennsylvania-American Water Company, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. The 85-acre lake, which is home to bass,

panfish and other popular gamefish species, is located off Route 171 near Uniondale.

The Commission stocked 161 waterways across the state with 146,000 legal-sized trout as part of the 2000 Fall Trout Stocking Program. An additional 61 lakes received 95,000 adult trout as part of the annual Winter Trout Stocking Program. More than 90,000 adult trout were released into 58 waters during Late-Winter Trout Stockings. While just small parts of the Commission's overall stocking efforts, fall, winter and late-winter stockings allow stocked trout fishing to be extended throughout the year.

In January the Commission announced it had identified the first known occurrence of the pugnose minnow in Commonwealth waters, adding a new species to the list of fish inhabiting the state. The pugnose minnow is approximately 2.5 inches long, has a compressed body, small head and blunt snout with an almost vertical mouth. It occurs in sluggish, clear, vegetated waters over muddy or silty bottoms.

A 2-pound, 9-ounce yellow perch was named the new state record for the species in February. Keith Meck, of Macungie, caught the perch, which measured 16.25 inches long. He caught the perch while ice fishing at Beltzville Lake, Carbon County.

The Commission announced in spring 2001 that it must cap the number of adult trout produced in its hatchery system, beginning with trout to be stocked in 2002. The cuts are necessary to address urgent water quality and water quantity concerns at state hatcheries. Although the Commission has invested some \$10 million in hatchery improvements in the last decade, evolving water quality standards mean that even more work must be done. An estimated \$35 million in hatchery-related projects is just part of a \$90 million backlog in infrastructure projects the Commission cannot afford solely out of operating funds.

Angler use-and-harvest studies were conducted on a variety of trout-stocked lakes throughout the spring and early summer to collect information on catch, harvest and angler effort for stocked trout and select warmwater fishes. In addition, angler opinion information was also compiled. The angler opinions and data collected help the Commission better serve the angling public by providing necessary user input to further enhance angling opportunities.

Pennsylvania fishing licenses became available for online purchase for the first time in March. A quick visit to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's web site and a click on "Outdoor Shop" allowed outdoor enthusiasts to purchase fishing licenses, subscriptions and renewals to *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine and other publications and prod-

ucts. The new online service was unveiled as part of Governor Tom Ridge's initiative to provide "friction-free e-government services" for Pennsylvania.

After two decades in existence, the Commission's popular club for youth, the Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth (PLAY), made an important change in April. Membership became free. The Commission has dedicated the PLAY program to the memory of Commissioner Enoch "Inky" Moore, who died in October 2000.

A 20-pound, 3-ounce steelhead caught April 1 was named the new Pennsylvania state record for the species. No fooling—Corey T. Brown, of Osterburg, landed the 36.5-inch fish while fly fishing in Walnut Creek, Erie County.

A painting of a hungry brown trout lurking beneath a sunken log won the Commission's 2002 Trout Stamp Art Competition, held in May. The winning scene was painted by Larry Tucci of Rochester Hills, Michigan. Brown trout were last depicted on the stamp and prints in 1992.

The Commission hosted a series of public meetings to discuss the future of fishing in Pennsylvania, with a particular focus on one of the state's most prized game fish, trout. The sessions included briefings on the subjects of fish consumption advisories, the urgent need for upgrades to state hatcheries, planned caps on stocked trout production for 2002 and future funding needs. Meetings were held in Doylestown, Wilkes-Barre, Monroeville, Williamsport and York. All in all, through these meetings and other gatherings of sportsmen's organizations, the Commission was able to gather input from hundreds of anglers statewide.

In June, the Commission announced it was temporarily ending trout production at the Big Spring Fish Culture Station. Trout production will not resume at Big Spring until appropriate funding is secured for installation of a major upgrade including recirculation technology, subject to review and approval by the Department of Environmental Protection.

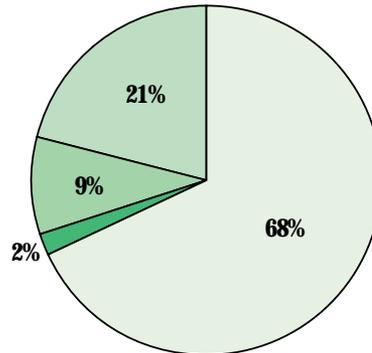
The fiscal year ended with the appointment of Rozell A. Stidd, of Huntingdon, as the newest member of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. Nominated by Governor Tom Ridge and confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate, Stidd represents the Fourth District as a member of the 10-member board. Also reconfirmed at the same time as Commissioner Stidd were: Commissioner Samuel M. Concilla, of North East, representing the First District; Commissioner Howard E. ("Gary") Pflugfelder, Jr., of New Cumberland, representing the Sixth District; Commissioner Leon H. Reed of Honesdale, representing the Seventh District; and Commissioner Donald K. Anderson, of Meyersdale, as a boating commissioner (at large).

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2000-01

(July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001)

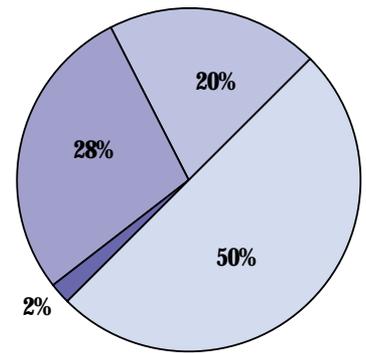
Ross E. Starner, Comptroller

*Amounts are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.
Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.*



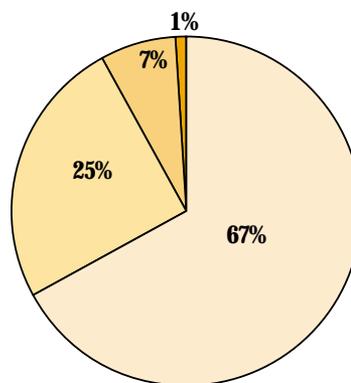
F I S H F U N D

Total Fish Fund Revenue	\$28,888,793	100%
Licenses and Fees	\$19,607,839	68%
Fine and Penalties	\$480,690	2%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,774,667	9%
Augmentations	\$6,025,597	21%



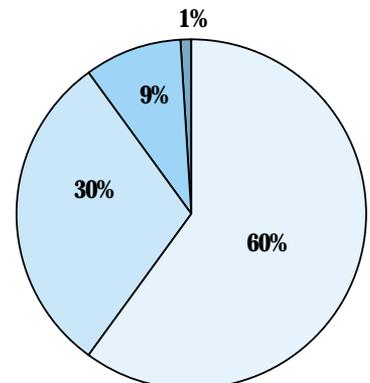
B O A T F U N D

Total Boat Fund Revenue	\$10,925,653	100%
Licenses and Fees	\$5,461,471	50%
Fine and Penalties	\$241,450	2%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,081,057	28%
Augmentations	\$2,141,675	20%



F I S H F U N D

Total Fish Fund Expenditures	\$29,687,579	100%
Personnel Services	\$19,896,800	67%
Operational Expenses	\$7,319,118	25%
Fixed Assets/Capital Improvements	2,114,240	7%
Grants, Subsidies, Refunds	\$357,421	1%



B O A T F U N D

Total Boat Fund Expenditures	\$9,267,841	100%
Personnel Services	\$5,583,130	60%
Operational Expenses	\$2,744,009	30%
Fixed Assets/Capital Improvements	\$875,919	9%
Grants, Subsidies, Adjustments	\$64,783	1%