

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Report

John Arway
Executive Director



www.fish.state.pa.us



The Need for Alternative Funding—Your Role in Adding A Piece to the Puzzle

If you have been reading my articles or following the news stories about my appointment, you have already heard that one of my priorities is to diversify our agency's funding base through other alternative funding methods. This is money from sources other than our traditional fishing license sales and boat registration fees and the associated federal funding that we receive because of them. We need to start thinking about ways to support agency operations and programs that you and others have come to expect without pricing ourselves out of the market.

We know that when we increase license fees, we see an immediate reduction in the number of licenses we sell. We have seen this ever since we began selling fishing licenses in 1924 when they cost \$1.00. In the past we have been able to recover from the initial drop in license sales by the immediate increase in revenue; however, as you see by the trends in Figure 1, we do not regain sales like we used to and the declining trend is disturbing. Therefore, we have to try different ways to increase participation and one way would be to reduce license fees. I discussed the concept in my last *Pennsylvania Angler and Boater* magazine Straight Talk Article which I encourage

you to read on-line at <http://www.fishandboat.com/straighttalk.pdf>.

Did you ever imagine you would hear a Director of any agency talk about lowering the cost of a license?

Now that I have your attention, I would like to talk to you about a real opportunity that we have to get funding for conservation programs.



John with his grandson Xander

We have an industry that has recently come to our Commonwealth in full force which needs to be watched and regulated since we already have examples of degraded streams and water supplies. In 1909, our General Assembly passed a law forbidding the emptying into any waters of the Commonwealth any waste deleterious to fish. This is one of the first water pollution laws of our nation and the PA Fish and Boat Commission still takes our responsibility very seriously. You call us and the PA Department of

Environmental Protection when pollution happens and we expect you to. That is a very important part of our job, and, as Chief Waterways Conservation Officer, I can promise you that our Law Enforcement staff will do everything possible in their response to insure that our waters are protected and will use their enforcement powers to punish those who violate our laws. However, we were not prepared to deal with this rush to develop a new natural gas field (called the Marcellus formation) and we could use funding to help the industry plan their operations in an environmentally responsible way and patrol our waterways to find pollution sources before they damage our fish and aquatic life. We have developed three key messages that follow:

- Fulfill the commitment to enact the severance tax.
- Allocate a portion of the severance tax to conservation.
- Dedicate funding to the PFBC to make sure that natural gas is developed with as little impact as possible to aquatic resources, fishing and boating.

If you are reading this newsletter it means that you are most likely interested in the protection, conservation and enhancement (our definition of Resource First) of
(Continued Next Page)

Edward Mascharka III Sworn in as District 1 Commissioner

our fish and wildlife resources and willing to contribute to the cause by being a member of the PFSC. Therefore I have a favor to ask. You are not the one I need to be talking to about this message since you already understand it. I would ask that you pass this article along to your friends and colleagues that may not be as familiar with the issues and ask them to discuss it with others who also care about the future of our resources.

Most importantly, talk to your legislators since they have pledged their intent to enact a severance tax by October 1st. This is what networking is all about and this is the only way we are going to make a difference. Historically, the Federation was the hub of the networking circle and had spokes that radiated to all public interest points throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Let's make this happen and let's do it together for the future of our fish and wildlife resources.

Your Director,
><(John{°>

Edward P Mascharka III, of Erie County, has been sworn in as the District 1 Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), representing Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties.

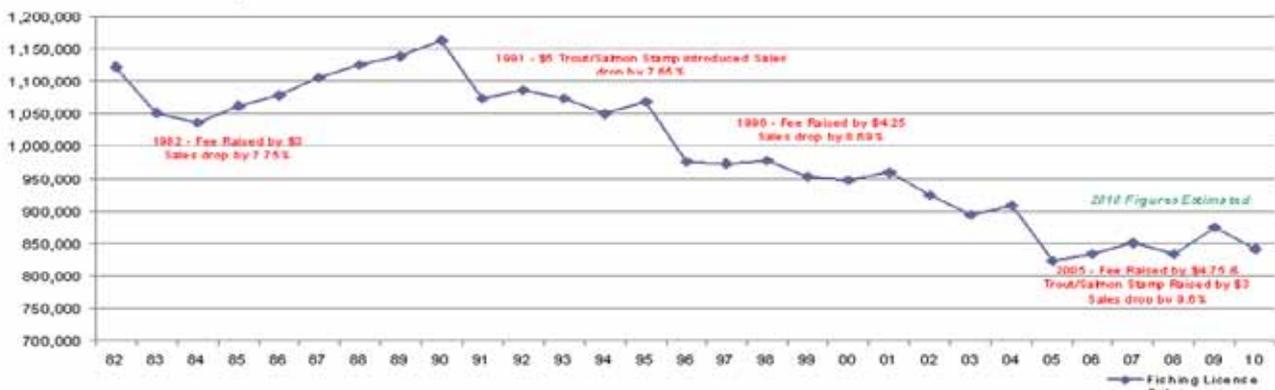
Commissioner Mascharka was nominated by Gov. Edward Rendell in late March and was confirmed by the Senate on June 21. Commissioners serve eight-year terms and are not compensated for their services. Commissioner Mascharka's eight-year term expires on June 21, 2018.

A lifelong outdoor, hunting and fishing enthusiast, Commissioner Mascharka is the President and CEO of Janitors Supply Company, Inc., a family business spanning all of Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, Western New York, Northern West Virginia, and Western Maryland. He is a graduate of Mercyhurst College in Erie with Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Computer Science.

Commissioner Mascharka is currently a member of the Presque Isle Advisory Board, and a committee member for Ducks Unlimited. Additionally, he is a team coach for the youth shooting squad at the Erie Skeet Club. He has served as a board member of the Erie Yacht Club, Bayfront East Side Task Force, and as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation. He is also a member of the PA Land Owners Associations, S.O.N.'s of Lake Erie, NW PA Duck Hunter Association, Erie Skeet Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and several other conservation organizations.

Commissioner Mascharka and his wife Jane reside in Erie and have four children, five grandchildren and a black Labrador retriever.

Fishing License Sales Since 1982



Senate Delays Action on Climate Bill

After a meeting of Senate Democrats July 22, party leaders said they had abandoned hope of passing a comprehensive energy bill this summer and would pursue a more limited measure focused primarily on responding to the Gulf oil spill and include some tightening of energy efficiency standards.

