

# Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Report

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## Ring in the 2014 Fishing License Year

As I write this article, the December 1st start to our fishing license year is upon us. Every year, hundreds of thousands of anglers begin the journey toward the upcoming fishing seasons by making their license purchase. For this, we are thankful! The revenue generated by license sales breathes life into the PA Fish and Boat Commission and gives us the resources to stay focused on our mission.

Last year we began to offer multi-year licenses – 3 year and 5 year – in an effort to lock-in anglers and offer convenience for this extended period purchase. In the first year we sold more than 32,000 of these multi-year licenses. A resounding success by any measure and we appreciate the commitment made by these license holders!

This license year we will continue to offer multi-year licenses, and will add single year permits for those who bought a multi-year license, but did not buy multi-year trout/salmon, Lake Erie, or Lake Erie combo permit. So, if you currently hold a multi-year license, and decide to expand your horizons into a different angling experience, you have the flexibility to do so.

Also for the multi-year license holders, we are offering an upgrade card – a durable plastic version of the multi-year license. This upgrade will cost \$11.70.

Beginning in early 2014 we will be bringing back the nostalgic “fishing license” buttons that were first sold in 1923 and last sold in 1997 as a way to commemorate the 75th anniversary of residential fishing licenses in the state. These buttons will be 1.75 inches in diameter and will strongly resemble the highly collectable buttons of years past. These buttons will meet the display requirement, as they will have the CID emblazoned on the button, but anglers will still need to have their paper license and a suitable form of identification with them while angling. They will be an optional purchase and we are working with a 3rd party vendor to finalize the details on cost and distribution.

As we move towards the start of trout season, please consider buying a fishing license voucher as a gift to give. There’s nothing better than giving the gift of fishing to a family member, loved one, co-worker, friend or neighbor. Expand the num-



ber of potential fishing buddies you’ll have in the upcoming seasons through gift giving.

Last year we offered a mentored youth trout day in 16 Southeastern counties. It was a resounding success! This year, with the approval and consent of our Board of Commissioners, we are expanding the mentored youth trout experience statewide, and will be having two separate days – one each in advance of the regional and statewide opening days of trout. These dates have been set for March 22nd in the Southeast; and April 5th for the State-wide opener. Selected waters and additional information will be available soon!

This year on the opening days of trout season we will be taking time to thank anglers for their purchase of a fishing license. Additional PA Fish and Boat Commission staff will be deployed to pass the message on, and additional “thank you” for Pennsylvania’s anglers will be announced in the upcoming months. We truly appreciate everyone who makes the purchase of a fishing license and their commitment to fishing, boating and conservation in Pennsylvania.

Please take the time to get out fishing in the New Year. In fact, every year I make the same resolution – to get out and enjoy more of what Pennsylvania has to offer. I don’t plan on breaking my resolution. My grandson Xander won’t let that happen.



*Director Arway releasing a steelhead back into 20 Mile Creek in Erie County.*

*Photo credit: Andy Shiels*