

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Report



John A. Arway, Executive Director

www.fishandboat.com



Holiday Gift Ideas for the Angler and Boater on Your List

As usual, this year has flown by. It seems like only yesterday that we were kicking off the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) year-long 150th anniversary celebration. We have enjoyed telling the story of a century-and-a-half of protecting, conserving, and enhancing Pennsylvania's aquatic resources and providing fishing and boating opportunities to the more than 1 million anglers and 3 million boaters who enjoy the Commonwealth's waters each year.

In particular, it was a real thrill for me to explain the significance of our history to national and international audiences who gathered in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia for the year's preeminent fish and wildlife management conferences. We put an exclamation point on the celebration in October with the erection of a Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission historical marker outside of our office in Harrisburg.

With the days growing shorter and chilly mornings sparking thoughts of the coming ice fishing season, I am happy to



16 PFSC On Target

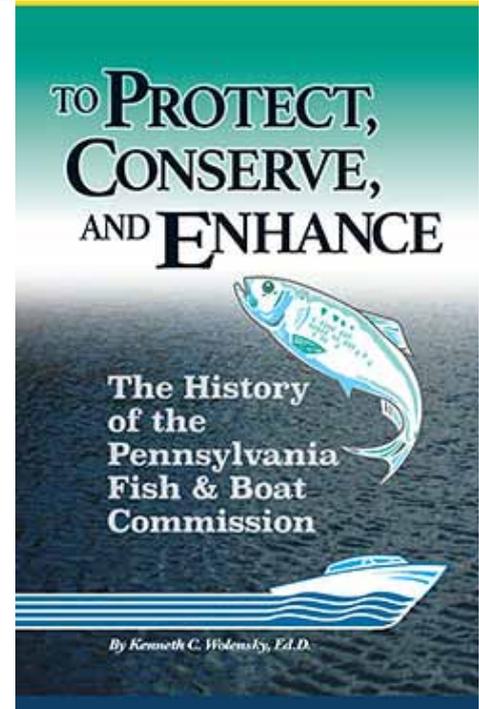
have a few gifts already picked out for my family and friends. To save you some time and make your holiday shopping a little easier, I thought I would share the ideas with you so you can spend more time thinking about where to set up on the opening day of rifle season or where to drill your first hole in the ice this winter.

History Book

Since 1866, the PFBC has maintained its philosophy of Resource First for the both the conservation of our aquatic resources and providing recreational fishing and boating opportunities. Our 400-page history book entitled *To Protect, Conserve and Enhance: The History of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission* not only chronicles the PFBC's path and accomplishments; it also serves as a history of the emergence of Pennsylvania fishing and boating as we know it today. Written by esteemed Pennsylvania historian Kenneth C. Wolensky, Ed.D., this book is rich with documented history and a visual archive that equates to approximately half of the book's content. Vintage photographs and stunning artwork from the PFBC's archives provide a wonderfully entertaining complement to the text. Whether your friends and family are fans of fishing history or Pennsylvania history in general, they will want this book for their personal libraries.

Collectibles, Calendars, and More

We are also offering a new series of collectible products that are a must for every angler. While we know that you will want these for yourself, remember that they also make fantastic gifts. Imagine the attractive reminder of dropping a line into your favorite fishing spot with a metal sign adorning your home or office. A cup of your favorite hot beverage will most assuredly taste better in a PFBC mug. And, who



can resist wearing a t-shirt or sweatshirt with our 150th anniversary logo or Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters logo? We have also brought back the popular PFBC calendars with vintage art from the 1930's. They have plenty of space for reminders about reserving time for your next fishing trip! New products are always being added, so be sure to check out the selections at ShopFishandBoat.com.

Fishing License Gift Certificates

And if you really want to make it simple, you can just give the gift of fishing. Fishing license gift vouchers make great presents and stocking stuffers for family members and friends. Purchasing a fishing license gift voucher is easy and convenient. They are essentially a gift certificate and require only a method of payment. The recipient then redeems the voucher for a fishing license.

Vouchers may be purchased for an annual license or for 3-year, 5-year, and – new for 2017 – 10-year licenses. Multi-year licenses are great for anglers who want to be ready to fish for years to come.

They have been a popular choice because of the convenience, and customers save money by avoiding transaction and processing fees each year. A 3-year resident license can be purchased for \$64.90, a 5-year for \$106.90, and a 10-year for \$211.90. Anglers can also buy multi-year trout/salmon, Lake Erie, and combo permits and expe-

rience similar savings. A resident annual fishing license costs \$22.90.

Vouchers and licenses are available online at GoneFishingPa.com, at more than 900 issuing agents (<http://fishandboat.com/flagent.htm>), at county treasurers' offices, and PFBC regional locations.

With your holiday gift decisions out of

the way, now you can focus on enjoying all that Pennsylvania's waters and woods have to offer this winter.

Hope to see you on the ice,

><(John {°>

Do Your Duty and Fear No One.....

R. W. Abele

PFBC

Sportfishing and Boating Community Launches Campaign to Increase Angling Participation

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) and National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) unveiled a campaign called "60-in-60" during a policy briefing on Capitol Hill this morning, hosted by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). This campaign aims to increase numbers of anglers in the United States from 46 million to 60 million in 60 months by 2021.

Representatives from the angling and boating community as well as Members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) attended the policy briefing to learn about the campaign, focusing on ways to reassess the nation's approach to recruiting, retaining, and reactivating anglers, especially younger segments of the population. While angler numbers have remained relatively stable, the average age of those who buy a fishing license is getting older.

CSC Co-Chair Congressman Rob Wittman (VA) and Vice-Chair Congressman Gene Green (TX) introduced the importance of this initiative. "ASA and NMMA are organizations that represent everyone

from the industry side to individual members of the sportfishing community," said Rep. Wittman. "This initiative is about expanding the reach of the recreational angling community,"

"These briefings, like the one today, give us the opportunity to educate CSC Members and talk about something we all really love - hunting and fishing," said Rep. Green.

"Because of the current angler demographic between ages 52 and 70, we risk declining participation rates in the next decade," said CSF President Jeff Crane. "In order to effectively recruit enough anglers to sustain the industry's economic impact in the country, as well as the significant contribution anglers and boaters make to conservation, we need a new approach to get people reconnected with one of the nation's most enduring pastimes - fishing."

The Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (Trust Fund), a program first established by Congress in 1950, generates revenue for state natural resource agencies through excise taxes paid by an-

glers and boaters on fishing tackle, marine electronics and motorboat fuels. Currently, the Trust Fund distributes \$600 million annually to all 50 states for fisheries management, habitat improvement projects, boating access, and aquatic education.

"CSC Members understand that clean water, abundant fish and access to both are crucial to outdoor recreation overall and getting people out on the water," said Vice President of ASA Scott Gudes. "This new initiative is focused on what the sportfishing community needs to do to be more customer-focused and develop the next generation of anglers."

"Boating and fishing are two of the most popular activities in America, and our industries have a significant economic impact throughout the country," said NMMA President Thom Dammrich. "'60-in-60' is about recruitment, retention and reactivation. It's about partnerships between the industry, state governments, and anglers to focus on what we can do better to grow the sport and improve the fishing experience."

<http://sportsmenslink.org/>

Life Jackets Save Lives Follow Safety Tips in Cold Weather

When sunny days tempt the boater in you, don't forget about your life jacket, especially if you are planning to use a canoe, kayak or similar small boat. Beginning Nov. 1 and lasting through April 30, individuals are required to wear a life jacket while underway or at anchor

on boats less than 16 feet in length or on any canoe or kayak. The requirement applies to all PA waters.

To learn more about life jackets and cold water survival, visit

<http://fishandboat.com/safety.htm> and www.wearitpennsylvania.com.

