

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

ANNUAL REPORT



PFBC Annual Report Executive Summary and Financial Statement Highlights of 2002

Founded in 1866, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is one of the oldest and most effective conservation agencies in the nation. The Commission is an independent agency with responsibilities for protecting and managing Pennsylvania's fishery resources and regulating recreational fishing and boating on Pennsylvania waters. The agency's mission is to "provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources."

Nearly 2 million people fish in Pennsylvania each year. In 2002, the Commission sold more than 922,000 fishing licenses and some 665,000 trout stamps. Fishing has a tremendous effect on Pennsylvania's economy, generating an economic value of more than \$1.65 billion. More than 2.5 million people boat on Pennsylvania waters each year. During 2002, more than 357,000 boats were registered in Pennsylvania. The Commission estimates that boating has a total annual economic effect of \$1.7 billion.

Members of the Fish & Boat Commission are appointed by the governor to eight-year terms with the advice and consent of the Pennsylvania Senate. Eight commissioners represent districts; two at-large (statewide) commissioners represent boating interests.

The Commission has four agency-wide goals:

- To protect, conserve and enhance all aquatic resources.
- To provide for the protection of aquatic resource users.
- To address the expectations of anglers and boaters.
- To advocate the wise, safe use of Pennsylvania's aquatic resources.

To accomplish these goals, the Commission is organized as an Executive Office that coordinates the policy and programmatic direction for the agency as established by the commissioners, and five specialized bureaus. This report includes activity highlights of the Executive Office and the bureaus during 2002.

Executive Office

Outreach was a major agency-wide focus. The Commission, in conjunction with members of the legislature, participated in a series of public meetings across the state. Called "Keep Pennsylvania Fishing," these public forums let Executive Director Peter A. Colangelo and members of the senior and technical staffs brief sportsmen on challenges and opportunities facing the agency and gather input from anglers across the state. Waterways conservation officers and other staff members reached out to organized sportsmen's clubs, attending more than 500 meetings and briefings of more than 18,000 agency constituents.

In September, the Commission also held the first-ever Pennsylvania Trout Summit. During the Trout Summit, fisheries professionals from across the nation met to exchange ideas, and Pennsylvania trout anglers participated in a series of focus groups, discussing potential new directions for the state's trout management.

The Commission's web site, as part of the Pennsylvania PowerPort on the World Wide Web, continued to attract increased use from Pennsylvania anglers and boaters. During 2002, the Commission's web site drew more than 27 million hits. When anglers and boaters need information about stocking or answers to their questions, they click on www.fish.state.pa.us for up-to-date, accurate information.

Browns Pond in Warren County was opened



Photo by Art Michaels

Coldwater Unit Fisheries Technician Bob Weber shows one of the large brown trout caught while surveying Cedar Run, Tioga County. Summer intern Susan Avau assists in recording information on each fish.

for community fishing in March. The Commission originally used this 30-acre impoundment for warmwater fish propagation, but determined that it no longer needs the impoundment for hatchery uses.

In April, Executive Director Colangelo was named president of the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Directors. The association includes fisheries and wildlife management agencies from 13 states and six Canadian provinces, as well as six related cooperatives and societies.

A comprehensive, independent review of Pennsylvania's state fish hatchery system found that the 15 facilities managed by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission are run efficiently and are well-maintained considering their age, and that their wastewater treatment compares favorably to that of other states. In looking at the future of the state hatchery system, the report recommended some \$81 million in upgrades and improvements over a period of years. At a briefing held in July, FishPro Consulting Engineers & Scientists, the Springfield, Illinois firm that conducted the review of the state-owned hatcheries, reported those findings and other information to the House Game and Fisheries Committee.

The Commission and the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced in November a cooperative agreement to raise 100,000 adult trout annually over the next five years at the Allegheny National Fish Hatchery in Warren. The brook trout raised under this program will be stocked in Pennsylvania waters designated by the Commission, including waters in the Allegheny National Forest. Under the terms of the agreement, the USFWS will begin raising the brook trout at the Allegheny National Fish Hatchery, with the first stocking of adult trout to take place in the spring of 2004. In return, the Commission will compensate the USFWS for its operational costs, provide fish feed and arrange for the fish stocking.

Bureau of Fisheries

Rick Hoopes was named the second director of the Bureau of Fisheries in February. He replaced longtime bureau director Del Graff, who retired in January after 38 years of outstanding service.

The Trout Production Division met the goal of raising more than 3.8 million adult trout for stocking in 2002. In addition, more than 1 million fingerling trout were distributed to the Cooperative Nursery Program.

The Warmwater-Coolwater Fish Production Division supplied several species for stocking in Pennsylvania waters, including muskellunge, walleyes, channel catfish, striped bass, yellow perch and several panfish species. The total production included 72 million gamefish stocked as fry or fingerlings and 1.7 million sunfish and perch. The steelhead trout program on Lake Erie was provided some 1 million fingerlings (smolt).

Fisheries Management Division staff evaluated the state's trout fisheries and presented the information at the first-ever Pennsylvania Trout Summit. Fisheries Management, in cooperation with the divisions of Trout Production and



Rainbow trout caught in a southcentral Pennsylvania stream.

Warmwater-Coolwater Fish Production, made a significant contribution to the cost/benefit analysis of Pennsylvania's fish production and fish stocking efforts.

The Research Division played a major support role for the fish production system in renewing permits and monitoring National Pollution Discharge Elimination System-permitted discharges from our fish culture station, and providing guidance for maintaining hatchery fish health.

Two new state records were established in 2002. An 8-pound, 14.8-ounce pickerel, taken by ice fisherman Dave Wilson of Honesdale, broke the second-oldest record fish category in Pennsylvania. The former mark of 8 pounds dates back to a 1937 catch from Shohola Falls, Pike County. Wilson landed the record fish in January from Long Pond, Wayne County. A 3-pound, 15.7-ounce white bass, caught by Robert H. Hornstrom of Meadville, was named a new record in December. Hornstrom caught the fish in Conneaut Lake, Crawford County.

Bureau of Boating & Education

Educational Media Services provided publications and exhibits at a substantial cost savings. Over 500 media work orders were processed and completed in 2002. Beyond producing a large volume of products, a significant improvement in 2002 was the implementation and availability of an image server, a networked library of Commission photographs and graphics.

The Commission's Aquatic Resources Education Section provided continuing professional development training for classroom educators as approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In 2002, the Commission completed the development of an amphibian and reptile education module. More than 200 teachers participated in training workshops for this new curriculum. An additional 400 teachers participated in other teacher training workshops offered by the section and its volunteers. Teachers using materials and training provided by the Commission reach more than 300,000 students each year.

The bureau also supported more than 300 volunteers and other natural resource professionals delivering angler educa-



Photo: Art Michaels

Waterways Conservation Officer Dawn Sapp checks an angler's license in southern Lancaster County.

tion programs in 2002, reaching an estimated 80,000 people. The Commission supported 18 fishing tackle loaner sites in 2002.

The Commission has one of the most effective boating safety education programs in the United States. In 2002, more than 15,000 boaters were certified as successfully completing a boating course. In addition, the Commission and its volunteers trained more than 766 students in water rescue skills and techniques.

The average number of boating accident fatalities has dramatically declined. In 2002, there were nine fatalities. From 1983 to 1992, there were an average of 18.3 fatalities per year. These dramatic decreases in boating fatalities occurred during a period when boat registrations increased from 209,000 to nearly 360,000 in 2002.

Bureau of Engineering & Development

Construction crews built a much-needed access to the Ohio River in Allegheny County north of Pittsburgh. The Kilbuck Access has a concrete launch ramp and parking for 22 car trailers and 10 single cars. Another new access was constructed on a section of the Lehigh River in Northampton County. The facility includes parking for 22 car trailers and 10 single cars.

Public accesses in the Commonwealth also received improvements. These accesses included the Sayre Access, Bradford County; the Zane Grey and Matamoras accesses, Pike County; and the Rochester Access, Beaver County.

Concentrating on the treatment of the waste material discharged from the state fish hatcheries was a priority of our engineering staff this past year. Pilot projects were instituted at the Tylersville state fish hatchery in Clinton County to test the effectiveness of waste treatment equipment on cleaning the

hatchery discharge. Designs were completed for waste storage vessels and contracts prepared for construction at the Tylersville and Bellefonte state hatcheries in Centre County. Construction of the waste treatment facility improvements was completed at the Oswayo Fish Culture Station in Potter County.

Engineers conducted 40 dam safety inspections as part of the state's dam safety program. Staff also prepared 34 emergency action plans.

The labyrinth spillway at Cloe Lake, Jefferson County, was officially dedicated in April 2002. The dam was constructed by a Commission construction crew from Pleasant Gap, Centre County. It is the Commonwealth's largest spillway of this design. Construction of the new spillway and associated facilities began in August 2000. A DEP "Growing Greener" watershed restoration grant to Jefferson County provided some \$750,000 in funding for the project. The Fish & Boat Commission voted about \$900,000 of in-kind services to the

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project.

Bureau of Administration

This bureau's duties include processing fishing license sales, boat registrations, budgeting and purchasing, and building management at the agency headquarters.

Preliminary figures for the sale of fishing licenses in 2002 show that fewer licenses were sold last year than in 2001. Resident license sales were down by about 32,000 (3.8 percent) and trout stamps by 31,000 (or 4.1 percent). Other than resident senior licenses, which decreased by 600, all other license categories showed slight gains. But the overall decline, led by resident licenses and trout stamps, resulted in a decrease in license revenue for the calendar year of about \$630,000 (3.2 percent).

In 2002, Pennsylvania had 357,434 actively registered boats. This number was a drop from the 2001 total of 359,706 and the 2000 all-time high total of 360,361. A new offering in 2002 was an unpowered boat launch permit, enabling paddlers the option of purchasing a one-year or two-year use permit in lieu of registering their watercraft. It also provided reciprocity between the Commission's use permit and DCNR's state park launch permit program. In the first year of operation, the Commission sold 5,205 use permits for a total of \$72,266. It does not appear that these sales came at the expense of registrations—during the 2002 year, registrations of non-powered boats increased from 37,548 to 38,394.

The Bureau of Administration was intensively involved in the Commonwealth's transition to a new system of business processes collectively referred to as ImaginePA. The bureau's role included project design, role mapping, training, coordination and implementation. Several thousand employee-hours have been devoted to this transformation. Eventually, every Commission employee will be involved with this project.

Bureau of Law Enforcement

Waterways conservation officers and their deputies were involved in a wide variety of Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission activities. A large part of their time was devoted to law enforcement activities, ensuring compliance with current laws and regulations. Improved training and tools for our officers resulted in a record number of 70 BUI (boating under the influence) cases prosecuted last year. That's an increase of 23 percent over the previous year's record number of BUI cases, 54 in 2001, and the highest number of BUI arrests made since the passage of this law in 1985.

During 2002, officers issued 4,131 citations and 17,816 warnings for violations of fishing laws and regulations. In addition, officers issued 4,060 citations and 19,005 warnings for violations of the boating laws and regulations. The most common violations detected included fishing without a license, insufficient safety equipment on board boats and littering.

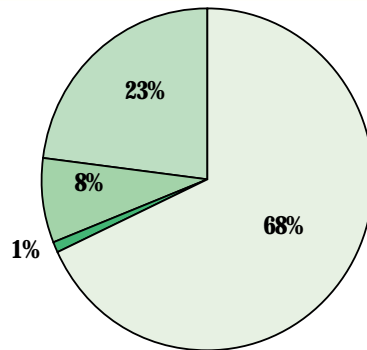
The Bureau of Law Enforcement issued 2,153 special activity permits for fishing and boating events during 2002. The six regional offices processed 1,681 transactions involving boat registrations, launch/use permits and fishing license sales.

The 2002 Basic Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer School resulted in 24 new deputies.

During the past year, officers assisted in several details involving homeland security. Officers worked closely with Three Mile Island security to provide on-the-water patrols. Several officers were involved in providing security during either presidential or vice-presidential visits to Pennsylvania. Officers in the Philadelphia area assisted the U.S. Coast Guard in providing Philadelphia port security when needed.

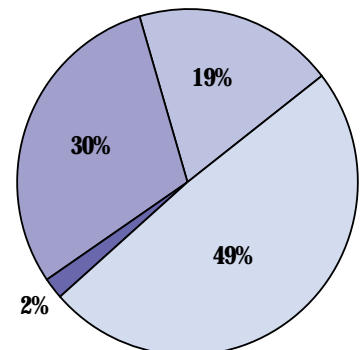
Waterways conservation officers and regional staff spent a considerable amount of time on informational and educational efforts, attending sportsmen's club meetings, sports shows, envirothons and other public events. Officers attended more than 1,700 various meetings throughout the year. ☐

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2001-02 (July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002) Ross E. Starner, Comptroller



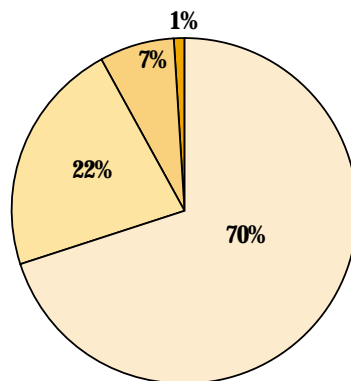
FISH FUND

Total Fish Fund Revenue	\$28,464,966	100%
Licenses and Fees	\$19,302,403	68%
Fines and Penalties	\$446,228	1%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,287,133	8%
Augmentations, Restricted Revenue	\$6,429,202	23%



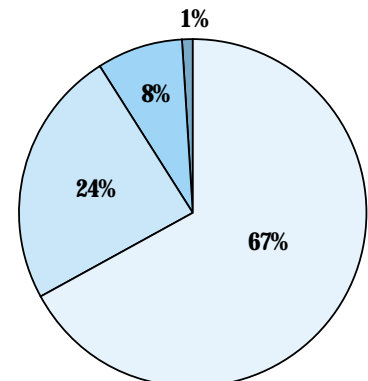
BOAT FUND

Boat Fund Total Boat Fund Revenue	\$10,550,159	100%
Licenses and Fees	\$5,130,246	49%
Fines and Penalties	\$243,420	2%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,139,179	30%
Augmentations	\$2,037,314	19%



FISH FUND

Total Fish Fund Expenditures	\$29,014,379	100%
Personnel Services	\$20,282,839	70%
Operational Expenses	\$6,326,898	22%
Fixed Assets/Capital Improvements	\$2,100,080	7%
Grants, Subsidies, Refunds	\$304,561	1%



BOAT FUND

Total Boat Fund Expenditures	\$8,752,610	100%
Personnel Services	\$5,861,263	67%
Operational Expenses	\$2,133,209	24%
Fixed Assets/Capital Improvements	\$698,687	8%
Grants and Subsidies, Adjustments	\$59,452	1%