

# Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission



# 2016 Annual Report



*The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.*

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)



## Resource First

Founded in 1866, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources. This includes waterways—streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands—fish, reptile and amphibian communities and habitats of game and non-game species. From stocking fish and monitoring the health of waterways to patrolling lakes and

restoring habitats, the Commission’s employees strive to protect, conserve, and manage the resource, for the resource is the foundation for everything we do.

High-quality streams, clean water, and good habitat ensure that we can carry out the rest of the Commission’s mission, to provide recreational fishing and boating opportunities for both Pennsylvanians and out-of-state visitors.

The “Resource First” management philosophy ensures that staff will make scientifically informed decisions based on long-term conservation of aquatic resources. Resource First also sets the foundation for the agency’s strategic plan.

The PFBC is governed by a Board of Commissioners whose ten members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the majority of the Pennsylvania State Senate. Commissioners serve terms of four years. Eight Commissioners are selected based on districts, and two Commissioners, representing boating interests, have an at-large, statewide appointment. The Executive Director, who serves as chief executive officer and chief waterways conservation officer, leads agency operations. The PFBC staff includes about 376 full-time employees and 92 seasonal employees.

### Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission’s Board of Commissioners



*Rocco S. Ali,  
North Apollo*



*G. Warren Elliott,  
Chambersburg*



*Norman R. Gavlick,  
Kingston*



*Eric C. Hussar,  
Lewisburg*



*Steven M. Ketterer,  
Harrisburg*



*Leonard L. Lichvar,  
Boswell*



*Edward P.  
Mascharka III,  
Erie*



*William J. Sabatose,  
Brockport*



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## Executive Director’s Message

### Looking Back and Building for the Next 150 Years

When looking back at a year, it can be difficult to pick one day that stands out among the rest. For those of us who have spent our careers furthering the mission of the PFBC (or Commission), the highlight of 2016 came on March 30. On that day, our agency formally celebrated its 150th anniversary of protecting, conserving, and enhancing Pennsylvania’s aquatic resources and providing fishing and boating opportunities.

That evening, Governor Tom Wolf and First Lady Frances Wolf joined approximately 250 current and former staff, Commissioners, public officials, and conservation partners at a special celebration at the State Museum in Harrisburg. The night was memorable for many reasons, but the best part for me was the outpouring of laughter and smiles as old and new friends gathered to celebrate a century-and-a-half of service on behalf of Pennsylvania’s 1.1 million anglers, 3 million boaters, and aquatic resources. The guests shared their perspectives about what the agency has accomplished and what might lie ahead in the next 150 years. It was quite special to have former Deputy Executive Director and Chief Counsel Dennis Guise in attendance just a few months before he passed away.



The celebration continued throughout the year and culminated with an official state historical marker being placed at the PFBC Harrisburg headquarters on October 12. The marker commemorates the establishment of the agency in 1866 and its national leadership in environmental protection and enforcement. It will stand as a permanent reminder of our agency's 150 years of accomplishments in this special year.



Not only was 2016 a year for reflection on the incredible foundation we have built in our first 150 years, but it was also a time for the PFBC to continue its forward momentum and build for the future. A few examples show our commitment to building (and rebuilding) the physical, biological, and social infrastructure foundations that are critical to the next 150 years of fishing, boating, and aquatic resource conservation.

In the following report, you will read about the unprecedented release of capital budget dollars by Governor Wolf to match Act 89 and local contributions for the restoration of the ten current high-hazard, unsafe Commonwealth dams managed by the PFBC. These and the many other lakes we have spent nearly a decade restoring are important places where countless Pennsylvanians learned and continue to fish and boat, and it is a great legacy to repair them for future generations to enjoy.

Also on the physical infrastructure side, we welcomed the public in July to tour our new Centre Region Office building that is already housing our Northcentral Region Law Enforcement staff and will soon house over 100 local employees from seven aging facilities in Centre County. The rehabilitated building will save us nearly \$20 million in new construction costs and fulfill a long-time agency goal to consolidate and improve the office conditions for Commission staff.

Other exciting achievements from 2016 have the potential to help the PFBC and our partners do a better job than ever to conserve vulnerable non-game species under our jurisdiction. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act, based on the recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Panel of business and conservation leaders including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, would dedicate \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from oil and gas royalties to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program. The funding would provide Pennsylvania and other states with critically needed financial resources to effectively implement our new State Wildlife Action Plan and conserve 664 species in greatest need of conservation.

Our Resource First philosophy embraces the notion that the resource itself is the foundation for everything that we do. It is essential to providing fishing and boating opportunities and for waters and habitats that serve as home to healthy, sustainable aquatic resources. In 2016, the PFBC's work to restore the aquatic resources in two watersheds were particularly noteworthy.

In this report, we explain the efforts to document and spur the recovery of Dunkard Creek in southwestern Pennsylvania that was devastated by a pollution event in 2009. The restoration of Dunkard Creek will take time and will remain a priority for the PFBC in the coming years. Limestone Run in Montour and Northumberland counties saw the first investment of Save Our Susquehanna funds into a project that will reduce erosion and sediment loading to tributaries of the Susquehanna River. Smallmouth Bass will benefit in the mainstem of the river, and the Brook Trout relocated to the restored stream will be a barometer of the stream's health into the future. These are both examples of rebuilding the resource for the next 150 years.

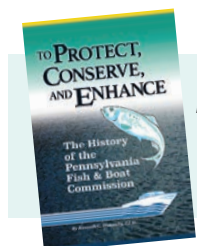
We are also firmly committed to doing everything we can to rebuild the number of anglers who enjoy Pennsylvania's waters every year. As the father of three daughters and grandfather of three granddaughters, I am especially happy that we spent part of 2016 taking a fresh look at how we can recruit, retain, and reactivate female anglers. No one can predict what the fishing rods and other equipment of 2166 will look like. What we CAN predict is that the anglers of tomorrow will include more daughters, nieces, aunts, mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers than ever before if we can figure out a way to recruit, retain, and reactivate them to enjoy (and bring others along to enjoy) Pennsylvania's rivers, lakes, and streams.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the successes of 2016 and the past 150 years, and thank you in advance to everyone for keeping an eye to the future.

Your Director,

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In conjunction with the July Board of Commissioners meeting, the PFBC offered a special evening Family Fishing Festival at Gifford Pinchot State Park, York County. Commissioners joined staff to teach fishing skills and assist anglers.



Published to coincide with the agency's 150th Anniversary, the 400-page history book entitled *To Protect, Conserve and Enhance: The History of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission* chronicles the PFBC's path and accomplishments and 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.

As part of the 150th Anniversary celebration, the PFBC offered a new series of collectible products, including metal signs, coffee mugs, t-shirts, and sweatshirts. The agency also brought back the popular PFBC calendars with vintage art from the 1930s. New products are being added at [www.ShopFishandBoat.com](http://www.ShopFishandBoat.com).



## Following the Strategic Plan

In 2016, the agency continued to implement goals of the 2014-17 strategic plan that follow the SMART format, meaning that they are Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Time-bound. Those goals and the text of this report are organized within the following four major priority issue categories:

- **Funding:** Revenues are insufficient to support the Commission's current levels of programs and services and meet increasing fixed, variable, and mandatory personnel costs.
- **Conservation:** Current and increasing threats to our aquatic resources demand the Commission provide high quality services to insure essential resource management and protection and improved fishing.
- **Recreation:** Other leisure and recreational activities are competing with fishing and boating for people's time.
- **Internal Resources:** The Commission must consistently make investments in itself to maintain its infrastructure, staff, and programs and their respective relevance.

This annual report is organized under the headings of the strategic plan. For a complete copy of the strategic plan and for quarterly reports with more detail than the summary provided in this report, please visit [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

## Funding

### Spending Reallocation Plan

**Goal 1A:** Implement a Spending Reallocation Plan that the Commission does not spend more than it generates in revenue each fiscal year and maintains agency administrative and support services necessary to deliver programs and services.

Again in 2016, the agency did not spend more than it earned in any given year, implementing a Spending Reallocation Plan that provided for the delivery of core goods and services in the face of increasing costs. To do this, the agency continued to leave a number of key positions open and do less with less.

The Commission was forced to begin using reserve funds to cover health care and pension costs in 2016, but those reserves are expected to be depleted within five years unless the PFBC receives a fishing license increase or the authority to set its own fees.

**Goal 1B:** Increase revenues.

### Authority to Establish License and Permit Fees

In January 2016, Senators John Eichelberger and John Wozniak were joined by 20 other bipartisan Senators in sponsoring Senate Bill 1168. Senate Bill 1168 would have authorized the PFBC to establish fees charged to anglers and boaters, namely fishing licenses and permits and boat registrations and titles.



In their co-sponsor memo, Senators Eichelberger and Wozniak stated the following: “As an independent administrative agency that is not supported by General Fund revenues and relies on user fees to pay for almost everything it does, the PFBC has a vested business interest in setting a fee structure that generates sufficient revenues to sustain its work on behalf of anglers, boaters, and aquatic resources while having the least possible negative impact on participation and sales.” Proponents of the bill also cited that the PFBC has consistently demonstrated a commitment to fiscal discipline and was recognized by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) for having the lowest expenditures per license among states surveyed nationwide.

The current system of establishing the PFBC's fees by legislation results in large fee increases after long periods of time that drive angler participation down due to the size of the increases necessary to offset rising costs.

Under authority delegated by SB 1168, fees would be established by regulation, offer the opportunity for public comment, and be considered by the Board of Commissioners at two separate public meetings. The General Assembly may disapprove any fee change by concurrent resolution. The PFBC would use a deliberate, business approach to setting fees that accounts for inflation since the last license increase in 2005; anticipates changing demographics; recognizes sales data patterns; and anticipates modest, incremental increases to keep up with rising costs—all while attempting to minimize the long-term impacts to customers.

In addition to the transparent process that includes public comment, existing checks and balances offer opportunities for monitoring the PFBC's responsible implementation of this authority. The PFBC is required to submit an annual report to the House and Senate Game and Fisheries and Appropriations Committees. The LBFC conducts a performance audit of the PFBC every three years. Members of the Board of Commissioners are subject to Senate confirmation.

SB 1168 included a three-year sunset provision, allowing the General Assembly to evaluate this new approach before extending the authority to the PFBC for additional years.

SB 1168 received the support of local, statewide, and national sportsmen's and conservation organizations, including the following: Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, American Sportfishing Association, National Marine Manufacturer's Association, Trout Unlimited, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania.

SB 1168 passed unanimously out of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee, received overwhelming support in passing the full Senate, and received approval of the House Game and Fisheries Committee before expiring at the end of the 2015-16 legislative session without action by the full House.

In December, Senator Eichelberger recirculated a co-sponsor memo expressing the intent to reintroduce the bill in 2017. In January 2017, the bill was reintroduced as Senate Bill 30.

## License Increase Bills to be Reintroduced

In December, Representative Bill Kortz circulated a memo asking for co-sponsors for the first fishing license increase in over a decade. Representative Kortz was joined by fellow Allegheny County legislator Senator Jim Brewster, who circulated a co-sponsor memo for an identical bill in the Senate in January 2017. Both the House and Senate bills will be updated versions of Senate Bill 1103 from the last legislative session.

After an initial increase similar to previous license bills, they would provide for incremental increases to keep up with inflation in the five subsequent years. In their co-sponsor memoranda, both legislators noted that their home county of Allegheny annually leads Pennsylvania in the number of fishing license sales and boat registrations. They emphasized the importance of maintaining the fiscal health of the agency that serves Pennsylvania's anglers, boaters, and businesses that benefit from the \$1.2 billion in statewide fishing-related expenditures each year.

Fees from fishing licenses and associated permits comprise the largest portion of annual Fish Fund revenue—nearly 70%—for the PFBC's work on behalf of anglers and aquatic resources. While Representative Kortz and Senator Brewster stressed their support for efforts of the PFBC to diversify its funding base, they recognized that the core revenue stream of license and permit sales are expected to continue to be fundamental to the agency's ability to fulfill its mission of protecting, conserving, and enhancing aquatic resources and providing fishing and boating opportunities.

## Growing Greener

Throughout 2016, the Commission remained engaged in discussions with other agencies and conservation partners about a renewed Growing Greener initiative. The following PFBC Growing Greener priorities rose to the top and were included in Senate Bill 1374 introduced by Senator Tom Killion in September:

- Improvements to public access areas owned by the Commission or grants to municipalities or organizations for the purpose of improving public access to the waters of this Commonwealth.
- Maintenance and rehabilitation of dams located at lakes owned by the Commission, including the installation of habitat enhancements and improved public access while lakes are drawn down for dam repairs.

- Upgrades and improvements to state fish hatcheries to maintain and improve water quality.

- Grants to organizations that participate in the Cooperative Nursery Program.
- Projects to improve fish habitat, including, but not limited to, instream fish habitat, riparian buffers, fish passages and the removal of small dams.



| 2016 Fishing License & Permit Types                      |                  |
|--|------------------|
| December 1, 2015 - December 31, 2016                     | Units Sold       |
| 1-Day Labor Day Resident                                 | 437              |
| 1-Day Labor Day Tourist                                  | 201              |
| 1-Day Resident   | 3,412            |
| 1-Day Tourist  | 4,635            |
| 3-Day Tourist  | 24,811           |
| 3-Year Non-Resident                                      | 498              |
| 3-Year Resident  | 12,948           |
| 3-Year Senior Resident                                   | 323              |
| 5-Year Non-Resident                                      | 91               |
| 5-Year Resident  | 4,899            |
| 5-Year Senior Resident                                   | 50               |
| 7-Day Tourist  | 7,262            |
| Discount Non-Resident                                    | 2,635            |
| Discount Resident  | 3,810            |
| Discount Senior Resident                                 | 154              |
| PA Resident National Guard/Reserve                       | 322              |
| Senior Lifetime  | 15,926           |
| Non-Resident   | 39,736           |
| POW Resident Annual                                      | 0                |
| POW Resident Lifetime                                    | 1                |
| Reduced Disabled Veteran                                 | 249              |
| Resident   | 690,777          |
| Senior Resident  | 20,738           |
| Voluntary Youth  | 7,828            |
| 3-Year Lake Erie & Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit             | 2,427            |
| 3-Year Lake Erie Permit                                  | 174              |
| 3-Year Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit                         | 8,300            |
| 5-Year Combination Lake Erie & Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit | 1,042            |
| 5-Year Lake Erie Permit                                  | 59               |
| 5-Year Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit                         | 3,088            |
| Combination Lake Erie & Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit        | 76,479           |
| Lake Erie Permit   | 20,280           |
| Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit                                | 476,178          |
| 3-Year Senior Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit                  | 1,655            |
| 5-Year Senior Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit                  | 1,254            |
| 10-Year Senior Trout/Salmon Stamp Permit                 | 578              |
| <b>Total Licenses &amp; Permits</b>                      | <b>1,433,257</b> |

## Funding Released for High-Hazard, Unsafe Dams

In August, Governor Wolf announced \$25.7 million in funding for the repair of five high-hazard, unsafe dams, and the design of two others, managed by the PFBC. High-hazard, unsafe dams have deficiencies of such a nature that if not corrected and the dams were to fail, substantial property damage and a probable loss of human life could occur.

“These lakes not only offer recreational opportunities in communities, but also provide enormous economic benefits in terms of tourism,” Governor Wolf said. “Fixing dams in desperate need of repair is an important safety measure to sustain these tourist attractions for all Pennsylvanians.”

The announcement followed months of work among the PFBC, the Governor’s Budget Office, the Department of General Services, legislators, and local partners regarding the rehabilitation of this vital Commonwealth infrastructure. With the commitment in place, the PFBC has a roadmap for restoring the current high-hazard, unsafe dams that it manages for anglers and boaters. The Commission is working diligently to implement the plans to ensure that the lakes remain as centerpieces of local and regional recreational economies. Construction funding was released for the following locations:

- Donegal Lake, Westmoreland County
- Kyle Lake, Jefferson County
- Meadow Grounds Lake, Fulton County
- Minsi Lake, Northampton County
- Somerset Lake, Somerset County

Engineering design funding was released for:

- Belmont Lake, Wayne County
- Lower Woods Pond, Wayne County

The Donegal, Kyle, Minsi, and Somerset projects have all been designed and are going through the final permitting phases, with construction expected to commence in 2017.

The funding is part of a comprehensive, multi-year plan to leverage capital budget dollars with local contributions, other support, and Oil Company Franchise Tax (OCFT) revenues authorized by Act 89 of 2013 to design and repair 10 high-hazard, unsafe dams managed by the PFBC on behalf of the Commonwealth.

The PFBC plans to use OCFT revenues for the design and construction at Miller and White Oak ponds, and plans to use future OCFT revenues for the rehabilitation of the dams at Belmont Lake and Lower Woods Pond. OCFT revenues will also be used to remediate the dam at Hankins Pond, which is no longer needed to support operations at the PFBC’s Pleasant Mount State Fish Hatchery. All five of these projects are in Wayne County.

## Penn State Business Plan

The PFBC is faced with multiple challenges that threaten its ability to continue providing services to anglers, boaters, and other stakeholders of the Commonwealth’s waterways. Trends in demographics and free-time leisure activities coincide with changes in cost structures to create a situation in which fee-derived revenues are decreasing while mandatory costs are increasing. The PFBC leadership recognized that revenues are insufficient to support current levels of programs and services and that situation will require an increase in revenues or a decrease in costs, or some combination of both.

It has been suggested that the Commission continue providing a static (or even increasing) level of goods and services even in the face of what would appear to be a declining customer base. Such a strategy would seem to be very difficult to achieve for a for-profit business, and may also be impossible for a state agency. The challenges of making this strategy work when the agency is constrained by an inability to raise prices or decrease operational costs create an even larger hurdle.

Many of the Commission’s key stakeholders may not fully understand the business-related challenges currently faced by the PFBC, and that this situation may make it nearly impossible for leadership to move the agency forward in a sustainable manner. Executive Director Arway recognized this situation and enlisted faculty and MBA candidates from Penn State’s Smeal College of Business and Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering to analyze operations and advise the agency. The goal of this project is to create a new business plan that provides evidence-based direction usable by the PFBC in developing its next strategic plan.

The PFBC worked with the Penn State team throughout 2016 and received feedback and recommendations on current and proposed marketing activities. Insight gained from Penn State’s work will be integrated into the PFBC’s strategic planning efforts in 2017.

## Voters Choose Brown Trout Button

In November, the Commission announced that its popular fishing license button will continue the trout theme, with anglers selecting the Brown Trout pattern for the 2017 fishing season.

As it has done each fall in recent years, the PFBC turned to anglers and asked them to cast their vote online for their favorite button. When the votes were counted, 30 percent picked the Brown Trout pattern. The Rainbow Trout pattern was close behind with 23 percent of votes, followed by pink camo with 18 percent of the votes. In all, more than 2,100 votes were cast.

The online survey continues to be a fun way for anglers to stay engaged. Last year, the PFBC introduced the Brook Trout pattern as a selection and anglers clearly liked it, with about 70 percent voting for it. This year, the agency added two more trout patterns and the pink camo option.



Buttons went on sale December 1 and are available for \$5 each. They can be purchased through the PFBC's online store (The Outdoor Shop), PFBC regional offices, and the network of more than 900 license issuing agents.

Individuals must purchase an annual or multi-year resident, non-resident, senior resident, or senior lifetime fishing license in order to purchase a license button. Children 15 and younger can also purchase a button if they first buy a voluntary youth license for \$1.

## Recovering America's Wildlife Act

U.S. Representatives Don Young (AK) and Debbie Dingell (MI) introduced H.R. 5650, the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016, to help promote and enhance the nation's conservation efforts and ensure the long-term health of fish and wildlife throughout the country. The legislation, based on recommendations from a panel of business and conservation leaders including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), would dedicate \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from oil and gas royalties to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program.

The funding would provide states with new, critically needed financial resources to effectively implement State Wildlife Action Plans across the country to conserve 12,000 species in greatest need of conservation while providing the public with more access to open spaces.

The PFBC collaborated with AFWA and other partners to explain the potential significance of this funding source to federal legislative staff and plans to continue advocating for its passage and implementation.

## Marketing and Promotional Activities

The Commission this year continued to partner with various outdoor retailers to highlight fishing and boating opportunities and promotional giveaways to outdoor enthusiasts.

### Catch the Value! Cabin Fever Kayak Package Giveaway

The PFBC partnered with Cabela's to sponsor a kayak package giveaway during the winter months when many anglers are either getting ready for the upcoming fishing seasons or visiting sports and outdoors shows and making plans to get out and enjoy the outdoors more in the New Year. The grand prize in this unique giveaway was an Emotion Stealth Angler 11 fishing kayak; an advanced angler tackle bag; two cool mesh life jackets; and a Fish Eagle Classic rod/reel combo. All of the prizes were donated by Cabela's. Jayme DeHart, New Cumberland, was the winner of the kayak package

### Catch the Value! Kayak Package and More Giveaway Highlighted at Pocono Raceway, Step Outdoors Events

The PFBC partnered with several organizations to sponsor a giveaway that included a fishing kayak, tickets to a NASCAR race, and tickets to a concert. Prizes to this unique giveaway were an Emotion Stealth Angler 11 kayak package, donated by Cabela's; a family four-pack of tickets to the July 31 Pennsylvania 400 NASCAR race at Pocono Raceway, donated by Pocono raceway; and a pair of tickets to see Lady Antebellum in concert at Musikfest in Bethlehem on August 13, donated by ArtsQuest. Angela Schulties, Latrobe, was the winner of the kayak package. Bill Stoner, Altoona, was the winner of the Pocono Race tickets. Kory Vannoy, Phoenixville, was the winner of the Lady Antebellum tickets.

### Catch the Value! Heat of the Summer Kayak Package Giveaway

The PFBC partnered with Cabela's to sponsor a kayak package giveaway during the heat of the summer. The grand prize in this unique giveaway was an Emotion Stealth Angler 11 fishing kayak, an advanced angler tackle bag, a cool mesh life jacket, and a Fish Eagle Classic rod/reel combo, all donated by Cabela's. Chad Martin, Allenwood, was the winner of the kayak package.

### "Fall into Fishing" Boat Package Giveaway

The PFBC partnered with Bass Pro Shops in Harrisburg to sponsor a unique fishing boat package giveaway during the fall months. The grand prize was a Tracker Boats Pro 160, Boat/Motor/Trailer package, with a 20 horsepower Mercury outboard.

### PA Hosts Fisheries Professionals

Pennsylvania hosted multiple internationally significant events for natural resource professionals in 2016. In March, the 81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference came to Pittsburgh. In September, the PFBC joined the Pennsylvania Game Commission in co-hosting the 106th Annual Meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) in Philadelphia. The AFWA Annual Meeting featured a fishing tournament on the Delaware River for state agency directors, showcasing the river's excellent fishery to conference attendees.



Erik Rourke, Glenside, was the lucky winner of the "Fall into Fishing" Boat Package Giveaway. He is pictured with his son Tom.

## PFBC Offers 50 Percent Reduction on Select Licenses

As part of its “Fall into Fishing!” campaign, the PFBC announced in October that it was cutting the price of select licenses by 50 percent through the end of the year in a move to attract new participants to the sport and encourage lapsed anglers to return. This was another way for the agency to market to a segment of the population which may be drawn to fall fishing opportunities but have not wanted to purchase a full-year license. At the same time, it was intended to be an enticing offer to lapsed anglers, allowing them to renew their interest in fishing.

Fall is the traditional hunting season, so the PFBC wanted anglers to get their rods and try hunting for their favorite species of fish. From steelhead in Lake Erie tributaries, to striped bass in Lake Raystown or to trout in the Lehigh, Upper Delaware, or local fall stocked trout waters, fall is a special time to enjoy fishing Penn’s waters.

The half-off promotion began October 1 and applied to annual resident, annual non-resident, and senior resident licenses. The licenses were valid through December 31. With the discount, annual resident licenses sold for \$12.40; annual non-resident \$27.40; and senior resident \$6.90.

As part of the “Fall into Fishing!” campaign, the PFBC also partnered with FishUSA and Simms to sponsor a fishing package giveaway during the fall months. The grand prize for this unique giveaway included waders, wading boots, fishing jacket, fishing rod and gift card. The lucky winner of the fishing package was Daniel Chapman, Harrisburg.



## Penn State Fan Festivals

During the fall, PFBC staff took part in Penn State Football’s Fan Festivals outside Beaver Stadium in University Park at all seven home football games. Being there offered an opportunity for the PFBC to invite people to come and visit the agency at the football stadium, which annually draws hundreds of thousands of fans and hosts a signature series of events in central Pennsylvania. It also gave the Commission the chance to speak with people and promote the good fishing and boating opportunities available during fall in Pennsylvania. The PFBC sold fishing licenses, distributed promotional materials, and answered questions from the public.



## CONSERVATION

### Call for Impairment Continues as Susquehanna Smallmouth Bass Population Shows Signs of Improvement

Following nearly a decade of poor recruitment due to disease affecting young-of-the-year fish, the PFBC reported in December that the Smallmouth Bass populations in the Susquehanna and lower Juniata rivers are showing signs of improvement.

Surveys conducted from 2013-2016 reveal increasing numbers of adult Smallmouth Bass compared to severely reduced numbers collected from 2005-2012. Decreased prevalence of disease in young-of-the-year Smallmouth Bass, along with the implementation of mandatory catch-and-release regulations enacted in 2011, have resulted in better recruitment of young bass to the adult populations.

Bacterial infections causing sores and lesions continue to be observed in young-of-the-year Smallmouth Bass, but were at the lowest rate (10%) since 2005. Other abnormal effects such as melanistic black spots and intersex conditions in adult bass, along with unprecedented nuisance algae blooms, continue to plague the smallmouth fishery. Although the agency is cautiously optimistic about the population numbers it observed over the last four years, sampling is still finding young-of-the-year Smallmouth Bass displaying clinical signs of disease.

In April, the Board of Commissioners reiterated public statements it made in 2010 and 2014 calling on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to take action on behalf of the river. Throughout 2016, Executive Director Arway continued to urge the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to list the river as impaired in its final review of the 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report submitted by DEP.

The DEP submits an updated report every two years to EPA Region 3 for approval. Adding the Susquehanna to the list as a “high priority” impaired water would trigger a two-year timeline requiring DEP to develop a comprehensive plan to identify the causes and sources of pollution and put a plan together to clean up the river consistent with the goals of the federal Clean Water Act.

DEP recommended against listing the river as impaired in the 2012, 2014, and 2016 reports. EPA is expected to review the 2016 report and issue a ruling by early 2017, either accepting the report or requiring changes. Recently, EPA Region 3 exercised its authority and added 28 stream and river segments to West Virginia’s impaired waters list.

Last year, DEP and the PFBC released findings from a multi-year Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System (CADDIS) study indicating that the most likely causes for the population decline of Smallmouth Bass in the Susquehanna River



are endocrine-disrupting chemicals and herbicides, and pathogens and parasites. The next step should be to focus on identifying the sources of the endocrine-disrupting chemicals and herbicides, which would be required with an impairment designation.

The Susquehanna River's Smallmouth Bass fishery once attracted anglers from all over the world. The PFBC is confident that the results from last year's study, along with a continued commitment by DEP to identify the causes and reduce the sources of pollution, will provide for the eventual recovery and return of that once world class recreational fishery.

## Susquehanna River, Smallmouth Bass Benefit from First S.O.S. Project

In October, the PFBC showcased its inaugural "S.O.S.—Save our Susquehanna!" project, a series of habitat improvements on Limestone Run in rural Montour and Northumberland counties designed to aid the Susquehanna River and Smallmouth Bass by reducing erosion and sediment loading in tributaries.

In all, the project will make improvements to five farm properties. As of the end of 2016, two properties were completed. Improvements included placing in-stream stabilization structures in the two stream sections and creating a cattle crossing in one.

This site represents the first location where the Commission's "S.O.S.—Save our Susquehanna!" funds have been used to improve tributary water quality that will benefit the Susquehanna River. The PFBC was extremely grateful to the individuals who donated to the campaign and were excited to be able to illustrate the work its staff and partners have completed so far.



*Habitat structures slow bank erosion, which reduces the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the stream and, ultimately, the Susquehanna River.*

Ultimately, the improvements will benefit the Susquehanna River and its Smallmouth Bass population. Habitat structures slow bank erosion, which in turn reduces the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the stream and, ultimately, the Susquehanna River. Likewise, cattle crossings provide a path for livestock to cross waterways, while fencing keeps them from walking freely throughout a creek and up and down banks. This also reduces the amount of materials entering the stream. Reducing sediment and nutrient run-off helps to control nuisance algae blooms that produce low oxygen levels and high pH conditions that are harmful to young bass.

Partners in the Limestone Run project include Montour County Conservation District; Northumberland County Conservation District; Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy; Susquehanna University; DEP; and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

As an added benefit to the project, the PFBC also released approximately 150 wild Brook Trout into the stream. The release is designed to establish a reproducing population of Pennsylvania's state fish in a stream where habitat degradation resulted in unsuitable conditions for trout.



The PFBC launched the "S.O.S.—Save Our Susquehanna" campaign in June 2015. To date, concerned individuals have contributed nearly \$70,000 to the campaign. In turn, the PFBC pledged \$50,000 in matching funds. To donate, visit [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).



### Wildlife Leadership Academy Focuses on Bass

The Wildlife Leadership Academy partnered with the PFBC to offer a new, fifth field school in June called Pennsylvania Bass, focusing on Smallmouth Bass and the Susquehanna River. Twenty-four youth leaders and four adults from 18 counties across the Commonwealth attended the program in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The Wildlife Leadership Academy, which is coordinated and administered by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education, is a year-round program that focuses on wildlife and fisheries conservation and leadership development. The mission of the Academy is to engage and empower high school age youth to become Conservation Ambassadors to ensure a sustained wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource legacy for future generations.

The Bass School offered an opportunity to share the river's story with students who have a special appreciation of the river resources and a passion for learning how to protect and conserve the Commonwealth's natural resources as the next generation of conservation leaders.

A unique program, the Academy brings the experts to the students. Students gained considerable knowledge from these experts about bass, their habitat, and the conservation issues facing the Susquehanna River. Students also developed leadership skills, engaging in team-building activities, educational presentations, and a mock "town hall" meeting on a current environmental topic. Participants were taught by and interacted with conservation professionals from the PFBC and other agencies, conservation organizations, and universities from across the state.

Following their field school experience, students fulfilled their mission as Conservation Ambassadors, returning to their communities and sharing what they learned. They completed conservation outreach that focused on environmental education, community service, media engagement, participation in the arts, and outdoor mentorship.

Learn more about the Academy at [www.picweb.org](http://www.picweb.org).

## Habitat Partnerships

The Limestone Run project is just one example of work being led by the Division of Habitat Management and project partners to provide technical assistance to landowners and watershed groups by planning, designing and managing the construction of projects to stabilize stream channels, minimize sedimentation, and enhance local water quality. Using techniques that also create fish habitat, the partners restore the natural diversity and species richness in local streams. There has been a substantial monitoring component to track streams' responses to instream habitat devices, with participation by Susquehanna University's Freshwater Research Initiative, Bucknell University, Lycoming College Clean Water Institute and DEP. The monitoring effort includes fish, aquatic insects, water temperature, and the physical changes in improved stream reaches.

## Improving Watersheds in York and Lancaster Counties

In August, the PFBC and DEP announced \$200,000 in grants to address habitat improvement and sediment reduction projects in York and Lancaster counties.

These tributary waters flow to the Susquehanna River and therefore directly affect the health of the river and the Chesapeake Bay. Reducing the amounts of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorous which enter these waterways will improve water quality and enhance the habitat for aquatic life, creating healthier streams and ultimately a healthier Susquehanna River. The anglers, boaters, and citizens of the Commonwealth who use the river for recreational activities ultimately benefit from these restoration efforts.

Funding for the grant program is provided by Exelon Generation Company as part of its 2014 DEP water quality certification to operate the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, an electric generation facility located along the Susquehanna River in Peach Bottom Township, York County, and Fulton and Dunmore townships, Lancaster County.

As part of the agreement, Exelon will mitigate impacts to aquatic resources by providing \$100,000 per year to the PFBC for as long as the Peach Bottom facility remains in operation.

The following projects were funded in 2016:

- Codorus Chapter Trout Unlimited – Codorus Creek Tributary Improvements near Jefferson Borough, York County
- Donegal Chapter Trout Unlimited – Fishing Creek Habitat Improvements at Camp Andrews, Drumore Township, Lancaster County
- Donegal Chapter Trout Unlimited – Peters Creek Habitat Improvements, Fulton Township, Lancaster County
- City of Lancaster – Wetland Creation and Storm Water Treatment at Long's Park
- The Nature Conservancy – Harnish Run Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation at Acopian Preserve, West Cocalico Township, Lancaster County

## Grants Awarded for Sinnemahoning Projects

In July, the Commission announced \$350,000 in grants to develop and implement projects that benefit fishing, boating, and aquatic resources within Cameron, Elk, Potter and McKean counties.

The funding is available through a 2007 settlement agreement with Norfolk Southern as restitution for environmental damages from a June 30, 2006, train derailment in rural Norwich Township, McKean County. Under the settlement, Norfolk Southern agreed to pay the Commonwealth \$7.35 million as restitution for environmental damages. The PFBC received \$3.675 million of the settlement.

The funds received through this damage settlement have been used to improve access, water quality, and stream health and to restore stream connectivity. The PFBC is pleased to work cooperatively with its conservation partners to make ongoing and lasting improvements to protect and enhance aquatic resources in the Sinnemahoning Creek watershed.

The projects awarded funding in 2016 include the following:

- Cameron County Conservation District – Finley 63 Passive Treatment System Construction
- McKean County Conservation District – Fish Habitat Improvement and Stream Restoration Program
- Potter County Conservation District – Fish Habitat Improvement and Stream Restoration Program



Photo: Philip Thomas

*Trout Unlimited removed a fish passage barrier through replacement of an undersized, metal pipe culvert with a bottomless arch at bankfull width on Little Lyman Run, a wild Brook Trout tributary to Cross Fork Creek, Potter County.*

- Toby Creek Watershed Association – Fourth Fish Grow-Out Tank
- Lock Haven Office of Trout Unlimited – Coldwater Habitat Improvement in Kettle Creek Watershed
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy – Sinnemahoning Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Inventory

Including the current grant announcement, the PFBC has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in grants to external partners from the Sinnemahoning Creek watershed settlement fund since the start of the grant program in 2008.

The PFBC is also using settlement funds for fish habitat improvement projects at East Branch Lake in Elk State Park and George B. Stevenson Lake in Sinnemahoning State Park while the lakes are drawn down for repairs to their dams.

## Updated Strategic Plan for Trout Management

In January, the Commission adopted an updated Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania for 2016-17. Some of the key issues addressed in the plan include the prioritized sampling of unassessed waters; protection of Class A wild trout waters; stocked trout efficiency; management of waters through fingerling stocking; in-stream flow and habitat protection and improvement; public access to trout waters; and the Lake Erie steelhead and Brown Trout stocking program.

The plan was developed based on input from a work group consisting of PFBC staff, anglers affiliated with a variety of sportsmen's organizations, and independent anglers not affiliated with a sportsmen's organization.

## Stream Habitat

In one example of habitat projects consistent with the Trout Plan, Commission staff worked on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River located within the flood control sites of North Cambria and Cherry Tree, Cambria County. The river is affected by Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), but treatment sites in the area are improving the water quality enough to yield wild Brown Trout and native Brook Trout. Habitat was lost during the construction of the flood control areas when the river was widened and fish habitat was removed to maximize the volume capacity during flood events. The PFBC staff and the Cambria County Conservation District showcased the use of in-stream habitat structures to the Army Corps of Engineers to demonstrate that fish habitat enhancement structures can restore lost habitat. Phase I of the project consisted of using in-stream habitat structures to establish a low flow meandering pattern and trout spawning sites. Redd surveys were completed in fall 2016 to monitor newly established spawning gravel that showed great success and potential. Phase II will be completed in 2017. Other partners include DEP, local townships, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.



photo-M. Sauser

*Recent completion of habitat enhancement structures at Cherry Tree, Cambria County.*

## Stocked Trout Lakes

In recent years, anglers have expressed concerns that trout in some lakes were being targeted during the period between the preseason stocking and opening day of trout season, resulting in sub-par opening day trout catches. To remedy this, the PFBC removed 15 lakes in 11 counties from the list of Approved Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing and designated them as Stocked Trout Waters. As a result of the change, the lakes will be closed to all fishing from March 1 to the opening day of trout season. The lakes have limited warmwater and coolwater fisheries and are primarily fished for trout.

## Protecting Wild Trout in Penns Creek

Moving to protect wild trout beset by high water temperatures and low stream levels during the summer, the PFBC joined the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to temporarily post two sections of Penns Creek from early August until late September to prevent fishing and disturbance of massed fish.

The prolonged combination of little rainfall and steadily climbing water temperatures left wild trout massing at two locations in Bald Eagle State Forest where mountain streams supplied needed oxygen and cooler water. The goal was to prevent additional stress by limiting angling pressure and the chances of others needlessly spooking them.

Both located in Mifflin County, not far from the Union-Centre County line, the posted areas afforded trout thermal protection along Penns Creek at the mouths of the Panther Run and Swift Run tributaries. As temperatures soared and stream levels dropped, trout increasingly sought out these tributaries' cooler waters.

This is not the first time the premier trout stream, harboring a unique, wild trout fishery that draws anglers from around the world, has been taxed by severe weather conditions. In 1999, trout were forced to congregate by the hundreds in coldwater tributary mouths along Penns Creek, and reports of harassment surfaced.

Such protective measures are reserved for rare occasions when a combination of low water flows, high air temperatures over an extended time period and a concentration of large numbers of wild trout are present.

## Monitoring Low Flows

The PFBC participated in DEP's Drought Task Force, which implemented a mid-summer drought watch in central and northern Pennsylvania that shifted east as summer gave way to fall. The Delaware River Basin Commission implemented a basin-wide drought watch in late October. The PFBC coordinated with New York Department of Environmental Conservation in evaluating temperature, flows and reservoir releases in the Delaware basin. The possible effect of low flows on fish mortality in 2016 will become evident in 2017 and 2018.

## Crappies at Pymatuning and F. J. Sayers

Pymatuning Reservoir, Pennsylvania's largest inland lake, is located in Crawford County and Ashtabula County, Ohio. It is also a centerpiece of Pymatuning State Park, the Commonwealth's largest state park.

Fisheries sampling data shows that crappie abundance and average size there peaked in 2012, and has declined in the following years, yielding a fishery unsatisfactory to anglers. The PFBC held a public meeting in Linesville in April to solicit public input on a proposed regulation change for the lake that yielded overwhelming support. As a result, the PFBC designated Pymatuning Reservoir as a Panfish Enhancement Lake for crappies, which includes a 20 fish per day creel limit and 9-inch minimum size limit.

Foster Joseph Sayers Lake is in Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County. The lake is a popular crappie fishery with high angler use and harvest, but it was not reaching its full potential under existing regulations. Only about 8% of the crappies in fishery surveys meet the current legal size of 9 inches or longer. The majority of adult crappies collected during fishery surveys are in the 7-inch to 8-inch range, and anglers want to harvest some of these fish.

Under the new rules that received favorable public feedback, anglers may keep a daily creel limit of 10, of which no more than five can be equal or greater than 9 inches. The changes will allow anglers to still harvest some of the larger fish which are 9 inches or longer, as well as some of the smaller fish which are not currently available to harvest. The goal is to increase the overall numbers of 9-inch and longer crappies by reducing some of the harvest of these fish, and by thinning the numbers of 7-inch and 8-inch fish through angler harvest.

## Catfish Spawning Boxes

As part of its Catfish Plan, the PFBC partnered with several organizations to build and place Channel Catfish spawning boxes at multiple reservoirs across Pennsylvania including Sweet Arrow Lake, Schuylkill County; Beltzville Lake, Carbon County; Kyle Lake, Jefferson County; Bessemer Lake, Lawrence County; and Lake Oneida, Butler County. The spawning habitat structures are placed in lakes that have little or no natural reproduction of Channel Catfish. Extensive monitoring has shown that Channel Catfish are successfully reproducing in the boxes.



Channel Catfish Spawning Boxes

## Habitat Project Advances at Somerset County Reservoir

The Quemahoning Reservoir Fish Habitat Project, which started in 2006 and is sponsored by the Somerset County Conservation District, continued in 2016. Twenty more fish structures were built on site by volunteers and placed into the reservoir. The project has been made possible by the PFBC working along with help from the Cambria-Somerset Authority, Somerset County Sportsmen's League, and the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project. The reservoir is owned by the authority and is leased by the PFBC, which allows for public fishing and boating activity to take place.

The PFBC also continues to work with the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, Cambria County Conservation District, DCNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to stabilize soil, improve fish habitat, and increase angler access at eroded lake shorelines.



photo - Leonard L. Lechner

Quemahoning Reservoir

## Timber Rattlesnake Heads List of Species Removals and Additions

In July, the PFBC Board of Commissioners approved a final rulemaking that added the Hornyhead Chub to the PA Endangered Species list; removed the Mountain Brook Lamprey from the Threatened Species list; and removed the Ohio Lamprey, Bowfin, and Timber Rattlesnake from the Candidate Species list. The Timber Rattlesnake decision drew the most public attention.

The delisting of the Timber Rattlesnake demonstrates how protective measures and regulations can be successfully implemented to conserve a species and improve a population.

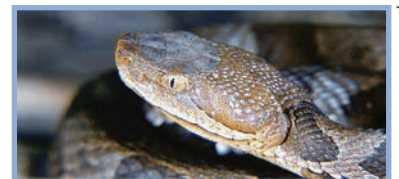


photo - Tom Diez

Timber Rattlesnake

The Commission first listed it as a candidate species in 1978 over reported population declines from overhunting and habitat loss. As part of a 12-year statewide project, the PFBC assessed more than 1,700 sites, of which 71% were occupied. The Timber Rattlesnake is now found in 51 of 67 counties. Current data indicates that the rattlesnake retains an extensive distribution across the Commonwealth, with large populations remaining in many areas, which justifies removing it from the Candidate list.

The decision to remove the Timber Rattlesnake from the Candidate Species list should be viewed as a success story for the conservation and management of a once vulnerable species of rattlesnake. However, the PFBC will maintain its efforts to insure that the Timber Rattlesnake continues to be secure across its entire range. The PFBC is working with East Stroudsburg University to develop a long-term population monitoring program to track changes and further the understanding of the conservation status of the Timber Rattlesnake.

## State Wildlife Action Plan

As of the end of 2016, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was completing its final review of the 2015 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, a non-regulatory, proactive conservation blueprint to prevent Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) from requiring federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. This approach helps reduce the costs of fish and wildlife management by decreasing expensive recoveries of species in need of critical care.

A USFWS-approved Wildlife Action Plan maintains Pennsylvania's eligibility for federal State & Tribal Wildlife Grants funding —the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. These funds help implement conservation actions recommended in the plan.

The plan is comprehensive, including a total of 664 species encompassing birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates. With their respective authorities for managing the Commonwealth's fish and wildlife, responsibility for administration and oversight of the plan was co-led by the PFBC and the Game Commission. Implementing the plan is a collaboration among the Commissions and many agencies, organizations, conservation partners, and private landowners across the state.

Pennsylvania's natural resources are the foundation of the state's beauty and cultural heritage, and the 2015 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan provides the framework to secure these resources for future generations.

The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featured the plan in the August issue of *Environmental Synopsis* and as the topic of its final Environmental Issues Forum of the year in September.

## PA Conservation Explorer Launched to Allow More Efficient Planning and Avoid Impacts

In March, the PFBC joined the DCNR and other partners in announcing the much-anticipated launch of PA Conservation Explorer to assist businesses, local governments, and citizens with conservation planning and improve the process for environmental reviews for threatened and endangered species that are required during permitting for construction and other activities.

The tool makes it easier to evaluate the impact that projects will have on threatened and endangered species so that they can be avoided through the planning and permitting processes. For the first time, species habitat information is available online, and applicants can submit projects electronically, replacing a process that required paper submissions to four different agencies.

The new tool provides conservation information on biological diversity, protected lands, streams, and other natural resources for planning purposes. It also allows users to screen a project area for potential impacts to threatened, endangered, and special concern



### By the Numbers: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Birds .....                                   | 90         |
| Mammals .....                                 | 19         |
| Amphibians .....                              | 18         |
| Reptiles .....                                | 22         |
| Fishes .....                                  | 65         |
| Invertebrates (aquatic and terrestrial) ..... | 450        |
| <b>Total.....</b>                             | <b>664</b> |



*Pictured are (left to right) Dan Brauning (PA Game Commission), Chris Urban (PFBC), Cathy Haffner (PA Game Commission), Diana Day (PFBC), PFBC Executive Director John Arway, Bryan Burhans (PA Game Commission) and Senator Scott Hutchinson*

species once they register. The tool does not list specific locations for species, but instead shows the species habitat.

To learn more about Pennsylvania’s diversity of species and natural heritage and to access PA Conservation Explorer, visit [www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us](http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us).

## Unassessed Waters

Under the Unassessed Waters Initiative, the PFBC works with partner organizations to survey waters across Pennsylvania and evaluate whether the waters contain wild trout populations. Qualified colleges and universities, research entities, and conservation organizations examine waters that have not been previously inventoried for wild trout. The outside groups sample previously unassessed waters using PFBC sampling protocols and are directed to work in watersheds determined to be high priority. The previously unassessed waters found to have wild trout are then proposed to the PFBC for official listing through an open, transparent process and subsequently receive DEP regulatory protection.

The PFBC welcomes legislators and industry representatives to join surveys in the field to see how the work is done. Knowing the locations of wild trout streams allows companies to proactively plan around and avoid conflicts with specific waters.

Based on results from about 975 waters surveyed under the Unassessed Waters Initiative, the Commission added 396 new waters to the list of wild trout streams, revised the section limits of 18 waters, removed one water from the list, and added 67 stream sections to its Class A Wild Trout streams list in 2016.

## Dunkard Creek Restoration

In September 2015, the PFBC reached a \$2.5 million settlement with Murray Energy for civil damages resulting from a devastating 2009 pollution incident in which discharges from a coal mine entered Dunkard Creek, contributing to a massive fish kill spanning nearly 30 miles of stream. The Dunkard Creek main stem begins near the town of Brave, Greene County, and meanders approximately 37 miles between Pennsylvania and West Virginia until its confluence with the Monongahela River.

Post-pollution event fish population sampling was conducted by the PFBC in cooperation with EPA, Wheeling, at two sites in 2012 and 2016 within the major fish kill zone to determine the restoration status of gamefish populations. The two sites with long term data sets (1976 to 2016) were located 22 and 29 miles downstream of the Blacksville #2 discharge pollution source.

Post-fish kill data for Smallmouth Bass include a below average index for young-of-the-year; improved abundance and quality size numbers; and lesion rates of zero prior to 2009, high in 2012, and low in 2016. Rock Bass abundance and quality size numbers were poor post-fish kill, with sampling scheduled again for 2020. Rock Bass will be supplementally stocked in 2017 and 2018.

In the fall of 2016, the PFBC conducted sampling for nongame fish, freshwater mussels, and Mudpuppies. Nongame fish diversity has shown positive signs of recovery since the fish kill, with over 30 species documented, although several large river forms and some small forage fish were missing.



*Dunkard Creek, Greene County*

augmentation, stockings, trap and transfer, and future monitoring are being prepared.



### New Yellow Perch Record Set

A Yellow Perch caught in Erie’s Presque Isle Bay in March is the new state record for the species.

Brian Clark, of Edinboro, Erie County, was fishing in about 20 feet of water in the bay when he hooked the record fish. The catch measured 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches and weighed 2 pounds, 14 ounces. The weight of the fish surpassed the previous record by 3 ounces. That fish was caught in Presque Isle Bay in March 2010 by Erie resident Jeffrey Matts.

The PFBC certifies state records based on total body weight.

Potential record fish must exceed the established mark by at least 2 ounces, as weighed on a certified scale. To be considered for state record certification, a fish must be caught using legal means, in season, from Pennsylvania waters open to the public without charge or fee. Fish taken from farm ponds, fee-fishing lakes, ponds or streams, or in waters restricted to use by club members or their guests do not qualify. Staff from the PFBC must examine the fish.

Intensive mussel sampling found the Aquatic Invasive Species Asiatic Clam as abundant, but only one native species of 14 that formerly occurred there—the Pink Heelsplitter—was detected, which had likely moved down from one of the small tributaries of Dunkard Creek after the 2009 pollution event. A freshwater mussel population augmentation pilot study was initiated: 11 common mussel species native to the drainage, comprised of approximately 500 individual mussels, were moved from the Allegheny River to five different affected reaches of Dunkard Creek. These translocated mussels will be re-assessed in the fall of 2017.

The Mudpuppy population was assessed in Dunkard Creek and two reference streams within the Monongahela River drainage. While Mudpuppies were detected in the two reference streams sampled, they were not found in the affected reaches of Dunkard Creek.

Reports detailing the assessments and recommendations on population

## Poaching Charges Filed after 18-Month Undercover Investigation

In March, the PFBC announced that an 18-month undercover investigation into the illegal purchase of reptiles and wildlife resulted in multiple charges being filed against two Pennsylvania residents and one New York man, including a felony charge against the N.Y. individual. The charges included 15 summary offenses, 12 misdemeanors, and one felony.

The individuals faced fines between \$300 and over \$10,000 as well as possible jail time if convicted. Convictions would also result in the individuals losing their hunting and fishing privileges in not only Pennsylvania but also each state that participates in the Interstate Wildlife Compact, a cooperative agreement designed to prevent poachers from moving from state to state without fear of prosecution.

The case started in July 2014 when a Pennsylvania State Trooper made a routine traffic stop on I-80 in Monroe County and observed 30 live snapping turtles in the vehicle. PFBC Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) subsequently interviewed the suspects and determined that the turtles had been sold without the required permit. Further interviews with the seller led the WCOs to believe the original suspects were interested in purchasing additional illegal wildlife. With the cooperation of the seller, PFBC undercover officers were introduced to the New York defendant.

Over the next 18 months, PFBC undercover officers made numerous illegal sales of reptiles and wildlife, including Timber Rattlesnakes, bears, beavers and bear gallbladders, to the New York suspect. Officers were assisted by law enforcement personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

State law prohibits individuals from selling and purchasing most native reptiles and amphibians, in whole or in parts, including Timber Rattlesnakes. Seasons, sizes, and creel limits are specifically designed to protect species from being over-harvested and potentially added to the threatened and endangered species lists.

## RECREATION

### Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days Continue



Following the expansion of the program to all trout waters stocked by the PFBC and managed under Commonwealth inland regulations in 2015, the popular Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days returned again in 2016 on the Saturdays before the regional and statewide opening days.

Without a doubt, the mentored youth program has been a huge success each year as the PFBC listens to anglers and makes changes to improve the experience. Based on the input of anglers and in an attempt to continue to improve the program, only kids were allowed to keep up to two trout on the Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days in 2016. Mentors were allowed to fish, but they could not keep any trout.

This is a very popular program designed to encourage kids to take adults fishing. Mentors can show kids that fishing is fun, and at the same time promote active, outdoor recreation. Adult mentors were encouraged to fish with the children and provide encouragement and tips but were asked to release their catch to the water unharmed.

To participate, adult anglers (16 years or older) must have a valid fishing license and trout/salmon permit and be accompanied by a youth. Youth anglers must obtain a free PFBC-issued permit or a voluntary \$1 youth fishing license.

Anglers were encouraged to visit the PFBC stocking page for an updated list so they knew which waters had been stocked in advance of the Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days. With the popularity of the program, plans are already underway to replicate this program in 2017.

### Labor Day Fishing Opportunities

The PFBC offered two special fishing opportunities to entice adults and kids to fish on Labor Day. The first was again offering a \$1 license for adult residents and non-residents. The license—good for Labor Day only—provides an easy and affordable way for everyone to enjoy a special day with family and friends while fishing on the Commonwealth's waters. It is also an opportunity for lapsed anglers to renew their interest in the sport and for first-timers to give fishing a try.

The second Labor Day opportunity was the Mentored Youth Panfish Day. This provided youth anglers who obtained a free permit or purchased a Voluntary Youth Fishing License during the spring an extra opportunity to fish on 19 lakes.

#### Voluntary Youth License Sales Continue to Grow

A total of nearly 30,000 Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses and Mentored Youth Fishing Permits were issued in 2016. For every Voluntary Youth Fishing License sold, the PFBC receives approximately \$5 in federal revenue from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Act program, which provides funds to states based on a formula that includes the number of licenses a state sells. All revenues earned from Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses are dedicated to youth fishing programs.

| Fishing/Aquatic Resource Education 2016 |        |
|---|--------|
| Family Fishing Programs (FFP)           | 89     |
| FFP Attendance                          | 3,099  |
| Other Fishing Programs                  | 71     |
| Other Fishing Attendance                | 7,500  |
| New Fishing Skills Instructors Trained  | 70     |
| Fishing Tackle Loaner Sites             | 79     |
| Teacher Training (TT) Workshops         | 4      |
| TT Attendance                           | 72     |
| Special Events                          | 8      |
| Attendance at Special Events            | 4,000  |
| Trout In the Classroom (TIC) Classrooms | 283    |
| TIC Students                            | 35,639 |

The Panfish Enhancement Lakes were chosen as mentored youth fishing opportunities, because the waters are managed to increase the number and size of fish. Panfish include Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, and Redear Sunfish (which are collectively called sunfish); Black Crappies and White Crappies; and Yellow Perch. As an added incentive, minimum size limits were lifted for kids and their mentors on this day.

These opportunities are a way to remind anglers that fishing is a sport that can be enjoyed throughout the year and does not end after trout or bass seasons or when school starts and kids return to the classroom. One of the goals of this special offering was to show families where they can go to fish and how easy it can be to fit fishing into their fall schedules.

## Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters

Under the inaugural Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program, approximately 3,200 large 14- to 20-inch trout were distributed among the eight waters in 2016. The trout were stocked at a rate of up to 250 trout per mile, which is comparable to the numbers of fish in Pennsylvania’s best wild trout waters.

The eight waters included:

- Chester County, Middle Branch White Clay Creek, Section 3 (1.67 miles)
- Dauphin County, Wiconisco Creek, Section 3 (0.74 miles)
- Lackawanna/Wyoming Counties, South Branch Tunkhannock Creek, Section 4 (0.99 miles)
- Lawrence County, Neshannock Creek, Section 3 (2.67 miles)
- Lycoming County, Loyalsock Creek, Section 5 (1.49 miles)
- Potter County, First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek, Section 4 (1.67 miles)
- Somerset County, Laurel Hill Creek, Section 3 (2.33 miles)
- Westmoreland County, Loyalhanna Creek, Section 3 (1.67 miles)



This new program added an element of excitement to trout fishing and at the same time reminded anglers that the trout season can extend well into the summer. The waters are regulated under Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) regulations, which are open to fishing year-round. Anglers may harvest trout only between June 15 and Labor Day, and the trout have to be a minimum of 9 inches. From the day after Labor Day until June 15, these waters are managed on a catch-and-release-only basis and the creel limit is zero. Tackle is limited to artificial lures and flies.

The program was very popular and will be offered again in 2017, with expansion to six additional waters.

## Fish-for-Free Days

The popular annual Fish-for-Free Days were offered again on May 29 and July 4. The Fish and Boat Code permits the PFBC to offer two free fishing days a year. The 2016 dates were picked to coincide with Memorial Day and Independence Day weekends when families and friends were already together visiting popular outdoor spots across Pennsylvania.

Fish-for-Free Days allow anyone—residents and non-residents—to legally fish in Pennsylvania without a fishing license. From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on both days, no fishing license is needed to fish in Pennsylvania’s waterways. All other fishing regulations apply.

Fish-for-Free Days offer an easy, convenient way to introduce friends and family to the sport of fishing, or to reconnect someone with the sport who has not fished in some time. Many families already spend the holiday weekends at lakes and parks throughout the state, and these special days allow them to try fishing at no cost.



## Family Fishing Festivals

The PFBC conducted a series of six Family Fishing Festivals in May and June leading up to the two statewide Fish-for-Free Days.

During these educational events, the PFBC waives the fishing license requirement for registered Family Fishing Festival participants age 16 and older. The program is open to all ages. The PFBC provides equipment, bait, and tackle, and staff are present to teach skills and assist those who fish. Participants learn basic fishing skills and have an opportunity to practice skills while fishing during the program. Once people try it, particularly kids, they see that fishing is a great recreational activity, and they want to do it more often.



The Commission also provides a great deal of information for beginning anglers on its Fishing Fundamentals Web Page.



## Fishing Tackle Loaner Program

To make the fishing experience more convenient, interested anglers may borrow equipment from locations across Pennsylvania. The Commission's Fishing Tackle Loaner Program (FTLP) provides partner organizations fishing rods, reels, and equipped tackle boxes. The partners loan this equipment to individuals or groups, enabling them to enjoy fishing without having to buy gear themselves. The PFBC purchases the equipment directly from manufacturers at discount pricing.



At the end of 2016, there were 79 FTLP sites, located in 44 counties. Current partner organizations include community libraries and state, county, and local parks. Organizations with an interest in becoming a FTLP site should send an e-mail to [ra-be@pa.gov](mailto:ra-be@pa.gov), with FTLP in the subject line. A map of FTLP sites is available at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).



## Trout In the Classroom

The PFBC continues to provide new opportunities through the Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program, which is a joint interdisciplinary program that introduces coldwater conservation education in Pennsylvania schools by raising Brook Trout from eggs to fingerlings. It is a partnership between the PFBC, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, local Trout Unlimited chapters, schools, and other local partners.

Each summer, the PFBC provides teachers with curriculum and training. TIC classrooms receive Brook Trout eggs from the PFBC's Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery in the fall, and fingerlings are released in April or May. Teachers use curriculum and materials, as well as a 55-gallon aquarium, to teach about fish ecology and management, and the value of protecting, conserving and managing coldwater resources. The program helps foster awareness of coldwater conservation in students in grades K-12 and encourages participation in coldwater resource projects and recreation programs.

The program continues to grow. For the 2015-2016 school year, there were 283 TIC classrooms, representing 199 school districts across Pennsylvania. Nearly 40 percent of all public school districts in Pennsylvania and more than 35,000 students participated in TIC in 2015-2016. On average, each classroom started with 270 eggs and released 92 fingerlings ranging in size from 2- to 4-inches. In total, teachers received 73,000 viable eggs and released 25,000 fingerling Brook Trout. TIC subjects taught throughout the school year include fish ecology, habitat, watersheds, conservation, fish management and more. In 2015-2016, TIC teachers reported over 10,600 TIC teaching hours.

## Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) of Female Anglers

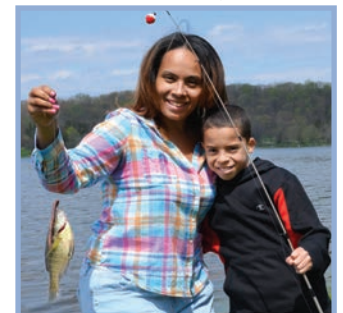
Women comprise 49% of Pennsylvanians age 16-64, but only 18% of fishing license buyers are female. The 18% is encouraging, since only 16% of Pennsylvanians surveyed identify themselves as anglers.

The relatively low participation by females is compounded by the fact that 56% of women who buy a license fail to do so the following year. They drop out of fishing at a higher rate than male anglers. This is part of what the PFBC calls its "churn rate" and is the target of retention and reactivation efforts. In terms of youth participation, girls participate at a lower rate than boys for all age groups. This difference is even more significant for ages 13-19, where the female participation rate is half of that for males.

Recognizing that there is the potential for significantly growing the ranks of female anglers, the PFBC launched a formal effort aimed at the recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) of women with the desired outcome of increasing female participation in Pennsylvania.

The agency convened a Female R3 Workgroup of 10 women employees with varying levels of interest and fishing expertise who represented target audiences. The workgroup met monthly, identified barriers to participation, and developed a set of recommendations that were presented at the fall Board of Commissioners meeting in Erie. The recommendations included the following:

- Develop and implement guiding principles of a female-focused initiative.
- Develop a formal framework to provide social support.
- Increase the amount of content that appeals to females.
- Increase female-led educational programs for women of all ages.
- Increase the programming directed at females with families.
- Increase social media interactions.
- Contract with an advertising agency to develop a comprehensive campaign targeting females.



To help move this initiative forward, the PFBC created the position of Youth and Women’s Program Coordinator. The position will be responsible for advancing programs specifically designed for youth and women. Part of the responsibility will be related to cultivating and managing the ideas that have emerged from the Female R3 Workgroup and acting as a mentor to the Governor’s Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation.

## PFBC Launches Instagram Site, YouTube Videos Showcase Events

The PFBC added to its growing social media presence by launching an official Instagram site. The PFBC also maintains a Twitter site with more than 5,800 followers and a Facebook page. Anglers and boaters may catch up on recent events they may have missed by visiting the PFBC’s YouTube site. Highlighted videos include the graduation ceremony of the 21st Class of Waterways Conservation Officers and a description of the Family Fishing Programs.

## 2,500 Attend Linesville Open House

An estimated 2,500 visitors attended the annual Linesville Open House on April 2. This event is always popular, and attendance in 2016 was up over the previous year. Commission staff set trap nets for the annual Walleye spawn, explained the spawning process, and demonstrated how to fillet and cook fish. Children practiced their casting skills and got to create fish-print t-shirts. Displays and exhibits were also set up inside the hatchery.



*Linesville Open House*

## Water Rescue Training

The Commission certified 2,561 students through the Water Rescue Program, which meets or exceeds various levels (Awareness, Operations, Technician) of NFPA 1670 Standards. The Commission also conducted three Instructor Trainer Courses which certify individuals to deliver the PFBC Water Rescue Curriculum so they can provide training to Commonwealth first responders. The Commission has a trained volunteer instructor corps of 186 individuals who provided more than 11,000 hours of training in 2016. The PFBC’s Water Rescue program is the largest of its kind in the United States.



The PFBC conducted nine Swiftwater Volunteer Service Recognition Inspections in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and Pennsylvania Department of Health for Team Typing, bringing the total number of credentialed swiftwater teams in the Commonwealth to 34.

The PFBC participated in the International Association of Water Rescue Professionals Conference and presented the Commonwealth’s Water Rescue Program and provided a general session topic on the Dynamics of Water – The Foundation of Water Rescue Operations.

## Emergency Response

The Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PA-HART) was requested to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. Through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request from South Carolina, one National Guard UH-60 airframe and four PFBC Rescue Technicians were dispatched and assisted local resources in South Carolina. The EMAC process allows states that have exhausted local resources to request assistance from other states. The requesting state reimburses expenses for any assets that are deployed. Through this process, affected states can get the help they need and responding states can help their neighbors in a time of crisis.

Three PFBC Swiftwater Emergency Response Team boat packages were deployed during flooding in Sullivan, Lycoming, and Centre counties. These state assets from the PFBC were on hand to assist or relieve overburdened county agencies.

## Operation Dry Water

Commission Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) again participated in Operation Dry Water 2016 during the last weekend in June. During this national campaign to remove impaired boat operators from the water, Pennsylvania officers interacted with 3,405 boaters. During these interactions, citations were issued for 226 boating infractions, with another 852 warnings for minor infractions.

**Boating Advisory Board**

The Boating Advisory Board (BAB) advises the Commission regarding matters relating to boating, including recommendations with respect to proposed boating rules and regulations. The BAB’s advice assists the Commission with establishing a boating program that ensures the safe and enjoyable operation of boats.

**2016 Boating Safety Education**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Boating Safety Education Certificates (BSEC) Issued..... | 14,747 |
| BSEC Distance Learning.....                              | 13,292 |
| BSEC Classroom Courses .....                             | 97     |
| Boating and Water Safety Awareness (BWSA) Courses.....   | 22     |
| BWSA Students.....                                       | 312    |
| Basic Boating (BB) Classroom Course.....                 | 75     |
| BB Students.....   | 788    |

As a result of the initiative, seven individuals were apprehended for Boating Under the Influence (BUI). Of those apprehended, six were under the influence of alcohol, and one was under the influence of a controlled substance.

The dates for Operation Dry Water 2017 have been established to coincide with the July 4 holiday weekend.

## Life Jackets Focus of National Safe Boating Week

The importance of flotation devices and other watercraft safety tips were the focus of the 2016 National Safe Boating Week, May 21-27.

During National Safe Boating Week, and throughout the entire boating season, the Commission reminded boaters to practice safe and responsible boating, always wear their life jackets, and be alert while on the water. Each year, on average, 700 people die in boating-related accidents nationwide. Nearly 80 percent of the victims were not wearing life jackets.

People tend to think of boating accidents in terms of collisions. However, capsizing and falls overboard are the most common type of reportable boating accident in Pennsylvania. Accidents where fatalities occur usually are the ones where somebody falls overboard, or is swamped in a small boat and drowns. Those are precisely the accidents where a life jacket can make all the difference.

Life jackets are more comfortable, convenient, and lightweight than ever. They come in a variety of sizes and styles to fit every person and recreational opportunity. Inflatable life jackets are gaining in popularity, because they fit easily over any clothing, can be worn as a vest or belt-pack, and can be another option in addition to more traditional buoyant life jackets.

National Safe Boating Week is scheduled each year as the first full week before Memorial Day weekend, which is often thought of as the unofficial start of warm weather and the boating season in Pennsylvania.

Boats must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket on board for each person. Children 12 years of age and younger must wear their life jackets while underway on any boat 20 feet or less in length and on all canoes and kayaks.

From November 1 through April 30, all boaters 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 on all Pennsylvania waters. A disproportionate number of the fatalities occur during the months of November through April. During these cold weather months, boaters are especially at risk due to the water temperature and the risk of sudden cold water immersion.

Boaters can demonstrate their personal commitment to wearing a life jacket by visiting the PFBC website and submitting the online “Wear It Pennsylvania!” pledge form at [www.fishandboat.com/wear-it-message.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/wear-it-message.htm). In addition to taking the life jacket pledge, boaters can send in their life-saving stories on how they were “Saved By the Jacket.”



### Boating Accidents

In Pennsylvania, 11 boaters died as a result of recreational boating accidents in 2016. This is an increase of seven fatalities from the record-low number of four in 2015, but it is below the most recent 10-year average of 13.3 victims. Consistent with the national statistics, only three of the victims were wearing life jackets at the time of the accidents. Alcohol or drugs were believed to have been a factor in six of the fatal accidents.

## Construction Project at Erie’s Walnut Creek Marina

In April, the PFBC commenced a construction project to rebuild the supporting sidewalls at the Walnut Creek Marina in Fairview, Erie County, expected to take 12 to 15 months to complete, with in-stream work suspended during the steelhead migration from late fall to early spring.

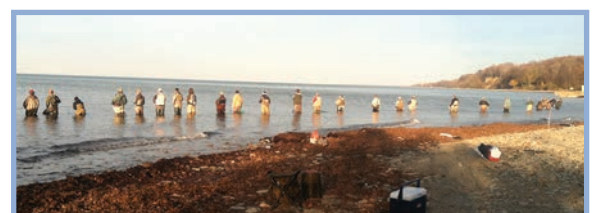
The first phase of the project involved constructing a new 800-foot concrete panel wall encasing the existing, deteriorated channel wall on the east bank. The wall will connect to a new fishing pier that meets standards for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The second phase involved removing approximately 850 feet of rock riprap slope protection along the west bank and replacing it with a permanent underwater keyway and rock platform, which will be used for future maintenance and dredging of the creek bottom. The new structure will also provide improved slope protection for the stream bank. The final phase will be completed in the spring of 2017 with the construction of the remaining concrete sidewalk along the shoreline.

The marina and access area provides lighted and paved parking lots, a building with PFBC staff, a weigh station, and restrooms. Licenses can also be purchased at the marina.

## Erie Access Improvements

The steelhead fishery in Lake Erie and its tributaries is a popular destination for anglers and generates tremendous economic benefits to the region. Pennsylvania’s Fishing and Boating Access Strategy ranks this watershed as the top priority for access improvement statewide.



In 2016, the PFBC purchased three easements and one property along Erie County’s Elk Creek, further expanding the public fishing corridor along the popular steelhead stream. To date, the PFBC has acquired more than 20 miles of public fishing access in the Lake Erie Watershed through easements and land purchases under the Erie Access Improvement Program.

## Statewide Fishing and Boating Access

The Commission approved a 25-year lease agreement with Freeport Borough, Armstrong County, for the Freeport Access site. The site is located on Buffalo Creek and provides access to the Allegheny River, which is approximately 500 feet downstream. The borough had previously taken care of the routine maintenance, operation, and surveillance of the site since 1991.

The Commission approved an \$80,000 grant to the Wildlands Conservancy as part of a \$413,000 project to construct two boat launch facilities on the Lehigh River water trail and provide signage along the entire length of the trail. The sites are known as the Walnutport access in Walnutport, Northampton County, and the Treichler’s Bridge access in North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County.

The PFBC previously awarded the conservancy a \$270,000 grant in 2012 for the project. Additional funding has been committed by the DCNR, Walnutport Borough, and Lehigh County. The grant is being provided from a 2009 settlement of natural resources damages stemming from the release of hazardous substances at the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund site in Carbon County.

## Perry County Access Area Reopens

In June, the PFBC reopened the Howe Township access area in Perry County following an eight-week construction project to make improvements at the site. The access area is located north of Harrisburg off of US-322 and PA-34 and provides access to the Juniata River and is an important point along the water trail system.

The project included the widening and resurfacing of the entrance roadway and parking area; construction of a new launch ramp for boats, canoes and kayaks; construction of an access ramp and a boarding dock which meet standards for the ADA; and improvements to storm water structures.

The project was funded with a grant from the National Park Service through their Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Program.

## Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery Renovations

The renovations at the Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery in Bedford County were completed in 2016, and the facility is full of fish once again. The PFBC has been spawning and rearing fish in anticipation of the upcoming 2017 spring stocking season. Some of the changes at the facility include new concrete raceways, oxygenation systems to improve fish health, netting to protect the fish from bird predation, and a water treatment system to clean the water before it leaves the site. The hatchery is open to visitors, and the public is encouraged to stop by to check out the raceways and the visitors center display tank.



*Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery*

The Commission hosted a special open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 30 to mark the major infrastructure upgrades. Bedford County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Kellie Goodman Shaffer opened the event, with remarks from PFBC Executive Director John Arway, PFBC Commissioner Lenny Lichvar, Senator John Eichelberger, and Representative Jesse Topper.

The event was very well-attended, with an estimated 600 children and adults enjoying amphibian and reptile displays, “Touch-A-Truck” opportunities, hands-on activities, light refreshments, and tours of the hatchery and Visitor’s Center.

## Fish Production

The trophy trout being raised for the Keystone Select Waters and other stocking sites grew well during 2016 and are looking great for 2017. Anglers should be very pleased with these fish and take advantage of angling opportunities to catch these huge trout.

The warm and cool water hatcheries have once again produced a bumper crop of large fingerlings for stocking lakes and rivers. The Muskellunge fingerlings produced in 2016 were the largest ever stocked by our PFBC hatcheries. The average size was over 10 inches, and some were up to 14 inches.



The PFBC’s warm water hatcheries produce game fish to be stocked into lakes that were previously drained and are now refilled and ready for a new crop of fish. These stocked fingerlings will rapidly grow and become a great fishery in a few years. Largemouth Bass are one of the species stocked and some very large fingerlings were placed in waters such as Colyer Lake.



*Muskellunge fingerling*

## INTERNAL RESOURCES

### Redesigned Website

Fulfilling another strategic plan goal, PFBC redesigned its website in 2016, with the new site going live in October. A refresh was long overdue, since the site was last overhauled in 2006. A lot has changed in web practices and standards over the past ten years, and the redesign allowed PFBC to catch up with those changes and to put its site at the forefront.



*Largemouth Bass fingerling*

Other than just being a refresh, a key reason for the redesign was to make the site more adaptive and responsive. Website use on mobile devices (e.g., smartphones, tablets) continues to grow. The new site formats web pages based on the size of the screen where they are being viewed, whether it is on a desktop, tablet, or smartphone.

Navigation was reorganized to reflect the site’s most popular pages and to better present the agency’s initiatives and goals. Interactive maps were completely redone to improve usability and to provide additional functionality.

The Content Management System (CMS) being used to administer the site allows individual Commission employees to maintain their subject matter areas rather than having to go through the webmaster, resulting in fresher content that is easier to keep up-to-date. The CMS is part of the Commonwealth’s “pa.gov” umbrella, resulting in a more consistent look and feel with other state agencies and departments.

Site-wide updates are easier to implement under the new platform, since some changes previously had to be updated page-by-page in a time-consuming process. Technological changes and trends in web design will also be easier to implement going forward.

The site maintains its simple and easily remembered address: [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

### FishBoatPA Mobile App Downloads Approach 60,000

Less than two years after it was launched, nearly 60,000 users had downloaded the Commission’s first mobile smartphone application—called FishBoatPA—as of the end of 2016. This tremendous growth shows that the app has been a hit with anglers who, like much of the general public, are increasingly using smartphones. In this case, they can use the app to see things like which waters have been stocked with trout and driving directions using a phone’s GPS coordinates.

The PFBC’s goal is always to find ways to improve the fishing and boating experience for anglers and boaters, and this app does just that, allowing customers to spend less time looking for information and more time outside fishing and boating. The FishBoatPA app is available for free on both Google’s Play Store and Apple’s App Store.

On the PFBC website, the stocking page is the most visited by far, with anglers generating more than 1.2 million visits to the page each year. When the FishBoatPA app opens, one of the first items anglers see is an “Upcoming Trout Stocking” link, which updates in real-time.

Users can sort stocking schedules by county. The app is tied directly into the PFBC’s online stocking schedule, so anglers can see past and upcoming stockings and the type of trout placed in a water. GIS coordinates use mapping apps installed on phones to get directions to their favorite stocking site.

The “Near Me” feature uses a phone’s GIS coordinates to locate and display trout waters within 5, 15, 25, and 50 miles of the user.

Another option is a “My Trophies” section where anglers can post pictures to share with others using the app. Users can add a title, fish weight and length, the date they landed the fish, and their comments, like the type of lure they used. They can then share their trophies by email, text message, or through social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Twitter.

Another prominent feature on the app home page is the link “Get a license today.” This enables users to find an issuing agent near them and to see pricing options for licenses.

The app also links to a “Fish ID” guide with color pictures; a “Learn” section with links to helpful information like tying knots and learning how to properly handle fish; and to PFBC rules and regulations.



Since its initial release in April 2015, the following features have been added:

- Ability to provide regionalized content so anglers and boaters can get information pertinent to their current location.
- A number of “Near Me” categories, including Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters, Best Fishing Waters, and Lake Erie Steelhead.
- Mapping (Near Me) for issuing agents of Fishing Licenses, Boat Registrations, and Launch Permits.
- Links to PFBC social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

## PFBC Agency Video

A team of staff from throughout the agency worked together in 2016 to develop an informational video about the PFBC. This cross section of Commission employees provided input into the basic message, script, filming locales, and content of the video and helped to identify distribution outlets for final product. Additional PFBC staff members were identified and selected by the video team to appear within the video, to both personalize the video and to tell the story of the agency and the work it accomplishes to serve the boaters and anglers of the Commonwealth.

This video provides a concise overview of the fishing and boating opportunities available in Pennsylvania and what is provided by the PFBC. In addition, the full version of the video covers the Commission’s role in aquatic resource management and concludes with an invitational message from the PFBC’s executive director. For new staff, it serves as an amazing educational tool and helps new employees to understand the nuances of the PFBC that they may not be exposed to immediately upon hire. For existing staff, it helps reinforce the importance of the work that the agency does, and helps put together the puzzle pieces about how all of its jobs fit together to support the mission of the agency and protect the resource.

The video is available in multiple formats at [www.pfbc.pa.gov/FishBoatOpportunities.htm](http://www.pfbc.pa.gov/FishBoatOpportunities.htm). Full versions of the 11-minute, 14-second video are available, as well as shorter topic-related segments of the video for custom presentations. In addition, a 30-minute agency video with employee interviews is also available in a variety of formats, screen sizes, and downloads. Both 11-minute and 30-minute video versions are available through the PFBC YouTube channel.

## Leadership Development

Commission staff were selected for various leadership development opportunities offered to state government employees.

- Jared Sayers, Foreman from the Linesville State Fish Hatchery, participated in the Governor’s Office of Administration’s Emerging Leaders Program.
- Heather Smiles, Biologist in the Act 13 Permit Review Section of the Bureau of Fisheries, participated in the Governor’s Office of Administration’s Leadership Development Institute.
- Deb Stump (mentee) from the Human Resource Office and Michele Jacoby (mentor), Director of the Bureau of Engineering, participated in the Governor’s Office of Administration’s Mentoring Program.

The PFBC supports each of these programs, which require dedication and commitment on the parts of the employees. Support from supervisory staff is also a crucial aspect in successful graduation from the programs.

## Recognition and Awards

The Commission maintained its commitment to acknowledge the exemplary work done by its staff and volunteers. In addition to congratulating employees on years of service to the agency and offering anyone the opportunity to praise an employee through the Fishing Hole, the Commission formally recognized a number of individuals in 2016. The following are some of the people and programs who received commendation in the past year.

### Wave of Excellence Award

The Wave of Excellence award is an opportunity for PFBC employees to nominate one of their own for extraordinary workplace contributions. This award is for employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in performing their work or who have provided extraordinary customer service for the good of the agency. Winners of the award in 2016 were Liz Ebeling, Administrative Officer in the Bureau of Fisheries, and Daniel Donato, Manager of Corry State Fish Hatchery and Union City State Fish Hatchery in the Bureau of Hatcheries. Both Liz Ebeling and Daniel Donato are known to put “we” (the PFBC) above “me.”



*Pictured are (left to right) PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway; Liz Ebeling; PFBC Commissioner Edward P. Mascharka; and Katie Brashear.*



*Pictured are (left to right) PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway; Daniel Donato; Liz Ebeling; and former PFBC Commissioner Glade E. Squires.*

## Lifesaving Awards

After completing stocking efforts on a local stream on April 14, 2016, WCO Terry Crecraft stopped at a local restaurant with some stocking assistants. After a short time, WCO Crecraft noticed that one of the assistants was choking and unable to breath. He performed the Heimlich maneuver, successfully clearing the obstruction. WCO Crecraft called the individual later that night to check on his welfare and was informed of a full recovery.

During a boating safety detail on July 2, 2016, WCOs Matthew Kauffman and Michael Johnson responded to an assistance call for an individual who attempted to flee officers by jumping into the Allegheny River. Shortly after entering the river, the suspect began having difficulties. Upon arriving on the scene, WCO Kauffman threw the man a throwable personal flotation device, but he was unable to grab it and went under the water's surface. While WCO Johnson maneuvered the patrol boat in close proximity of the individual, WCO Kauffman entered the water, rescued the man, and returned him to the patrol boat.

On July 13, 2016, WCOs Matthew Kauffman and Daniel Wilson encountered an unconscious victim while on patrol in a rural and secluded location in Westmoreland County. They responded with decisive actions and professional competence, saving the victim's life.

## Appreciation Award

At the fall quarterly business meeting in Erie, the PFBC recognized the Pymatuning Lake Association for their efforts to protect the resource and promote fishing and boating in Pennsylvania through habitat projects, fishing tournaments, and kids fishing derbies.

## Resource First Award

In July, the PFBC presented Curwensville resident Patrick Domico, founder of Squirrel Tails for Trout, with the agency's Resource First Award.

Domico's efforts to stock trout and promote fishing in the Clearfield County area was rewarded in 2014 when the PFBC added another section of the West Branch to its stocking list, creating a 13-mile stocked stream section from Curwensville to below Clearfield.

Mr. Domico has been instrumental in raising funds for stocking numerous streams, rivers, and lakes in Clearfield County, including the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, Curwensville Lake, and Parker Dam. For over 40 years, he has served as the host of the Kid's Fishing Derby at Parker Dam State Park, and he has raised funds to stock thousands of trout in the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from Curwensville to the Clearfield area.

## Confluence Award

The PFBC presented its *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* Confluence Award to Ed Shenk in July. The award recognizes contributors to *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine who have exhibited a long-term commitment to promoting recreational fishing or boating, within the pages of the magazine and beyond. It is with this commitment that those receiving this award are acknowledged for both angler and boater recruitment, and helping to assure success and enjoyment with their guidance and knowledge. Mr. Shenk was recommended for the award by Commissioner and fellow outdoor writer Lenny Lichvar.

In 1962, Mr. Shenk's first article, "Tying Flies," appeared in the April issue of the then *Pennsylvania Angler*. Between 1962 and 1988, he contributed a total of six *Pennsylvania Angler* articles, all related to fly fishing in Pennsylvania. His writing has been published in multiple other publications, and he published the book *Fly Rod Trouting* in 1989.

Mr. Shenk has tied flies for over 75 years and originated the LeTort Cricket, Flat Wing LeTort Hopper, Shenk Cress Bug, and Shenk Sculpin and popularized the dubbing loop or fur chenille method. Mr. Shenk was inducted into the Catskill International Fly Fishing Museum Hall of Fame in 2012 and was also initiated into the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum at Allenberry in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, where a display features his accomplishments.



*Pictured are (left to right) former PFBC Commissioner Glade E. Squires; Dewey Forsythe; Celene Brooks; and PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway.*



*Pictured are (left to right) PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway; Patrick Domico; and former PFBC Commissioner Glade E. Squires*



*Pictured are (left to right) former PFBC Commissioner Glade E. Squires; PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway; Ed Shenk; and Commissioner Leonard L. Lichvar*

## Heroes of Water Rescue

In July, the PFBC presented a Heroes of Water Rescue award to Virgil Chambers, who was one of the founding fathers of and an employee in the agency’s boating safety and water rescue programs. The award recognizes individuals who make a significant, lasting and continuous impact in the field of water rescue.

Through his past efforts to increase awareness about the need for swiftwater and flood rescue training, Mr. Chambers inspired other individuals and organizations to embrace the Water Rescue Program. Additionally, the relationships he built with organizations over the years have had a long-lasting impact and helped to establish the level of professionalism and credibility with which the program is viewed today. The success of the Commission’s water rescue program is a direct result of Virgil’s vision and hard work. Without his early effort, the program would not be where it is today.



## New Waterways Conservation Officers

In June, 18 WCOs graduated from the agency’s H.R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety and started working in their assigned regions across the state. The 21st Class graduation ceremony took place at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The new WCOs, their hometowns, and assigned regions are:

- Jacob Bennett, Middleburg, Snyder County. Assigned to Snyder, Union, Montour, and western Northumberland counties.
- Michael Blair, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County. Assigned to southern Bucks County.
- Justin Boatwright, Muncy, Lycoming County. Assigned to Potter County.
- Matthew Colian, Cresson, Cambria County. Assigned to eastern Armstrong and Indiana counties.
- Thomas Csuri, Glen Rock, York County. Assigned to Clearfield County.
- Timothy Haas, Glenshaw, Allegheny County. Assigned to Lawrence and Butler counties.
- Nathan Hancock, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County. Assigned to southern Montgomery and western Philadelphia counties.
- Chad Lauer, Jersey Shore, Lycoming County. Assigned to Tioga County.
- Troy Merrell, Shartlesville, Berks County. Assigned to Berks County.
- Travis Miller, New Ringgold, Schuylkill County. Assigned to Lehigh County.
- Jeremy Ney, Halifax, Dauphin County. Assigned to Franklin and eastern Fulton counties.
- Matthew Raetsch, Malvern, Chester County. Assigned to western Allegheny County.
- David Raulfs, Jr., Allentown, Lehigh County. Assigned to Washington County.
- Zachary Rudd, Bloomsburg, Columbia County. Assigned to Northampton County.
- Tyler Soety, Corry, Erie County. Assigned to eastern Erie County. WCO Soety also received the Edward W. Manhart Academic Achievement Award.
- Rachael Thurner-Diaz, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County. Assigned to Adams and western York counties.
- Joseph Underdonk, Sr., Elizabethtown, Lancaster County. Assigned to Warren County.
- Daniel Wilson, Dravosburg, Allegheny County. Assigned to southern Westmoreland County

Before graduating, officers undergo an extensive 52-week training program. They completed Municipal Police Officers Basic Training in December 2015. The training course, held at the Pennsylvania State Police Northwest Training Center in Meadville, Crawford County, covered all phases of police work, from the Vehicle and Crimes codes to use of firearms and conducting criminal investigations. Officers then completed seven months of on-the-job training with seasoned WCOs, including assisting with investigations, patrolling regions, participating in public outreach events and stocking waterways.

| 2016 Bureau of Law Enforcement |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Citations                      | – 6,981  |
| Crimes Codes                   | – 76     |
| Warnings for Violations        | – 34,798 |
| On Board Safety                | – 30,532 |
| Special Activities             | – 2,580  |
| Snake Permits                  | – 1,262  |
| Turtle Permits                 | – 34     |
| Water Rescue Certificates      | – 2,705  |
| Pollutions Investigated        | – 107    |
| Boating Under the Influence    | – 87     |
| Lake Erie Commercial Permits   | – 37     |



21st WCO Class

## HIGH-HAZARD, UNSAFE DAM REHABILITATION

### Habitat Work

In the early months of 2016, the PFBC completed large scale fish habitat work at Colyer Lake in Centre County. The Save Colyer Lake citizens group, in coordination with Potter Township, the lessee of the park property, assisted in purchasing, constructing and installing underwater fish habitat and a fresh bed of lime. Additionally, they purchased new ADA-compliant kayak docks for both launch sites and are in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to construct a walking trail around the perimeter of the lake.



The large scale fish habitat improvement project is a part of the PFBC's plan to incorporate fish habitat projects into each high-hazard, unsafe dam project while the lakes are drawn down for repairs. As funding and grants permit, plans and permits continue to be developed for habitat projects at Donegal, Kyle, Meadow Grounds, Minsi, and Somerset lakes in anticipation of the dams being rehabilitated. Similar efforts are expected to take place at Belmont Lake and Lower Woods, Miller, and White Oak Ponds as those projects move forward.

In collaboration with Save Colyer Lake, the PFBC commemorated the reopening of the lake on June 12. The PFBC drained the lake in late 2014 after determining that the dam was unsafe and needed to be rebuilt. The project was completed late in 2015 and refilled in the spring of 2016. While the lake is currently open for canoeing and kayaking, fishing opportunities will be limited as the fishery is reestablished, a process that typically takes 3 to 5 years. During this time, fishing at Colyer Lake will continue to be managed under catch and release regulations.

## Restoration of Washington County Lake

In January, the Canonsburg Lake Restoration and Improvement Committee and the PFBC announced the commencement of a long-awaited project to improve the aquatic ecosystem of Washington County's Canonsburg Lake, which has been adversely impacted in recent years by sediment buildup.

Sediment and vegetation buildup affects aquatic wildlife by reducing oxygen levels. Silt accumulation also impacts boating by reducing the pool depth. The upper end of the lake has become shallow and difficult if not impossible to navigate boats. Additional project phases will begin as more funds are raised. Plans call for enlarging the forebay to capture more sediment and dredging upstream of McDowell Lane.

Canonsburg Lake is a 76-acre Commonwealth-owned impoundment located south of Pittsburgh in Peter's and North Strabane townships, Washington County, and is very popular with outdoor recreation enthusiasts in southwestern Pennsylvania.



Pictured are (left to right) State Representative Kerry Benninghoff; PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway; and Judge Thomas Kistler.

## Fish Salvages at Donegal and Kyle Lakes

In advance of drawing down the lakes, the Commission lifted all seasons, sizes, and creel limits at Donegal and Kyle lakes—meaning that anglers could use any legal means to harvest as many fish as possible, regardless of size.

Following public meetings to explain the projects, the Commission conducted fish salvages at Kyle Lake, Jefferson County, in October and at Donegal Lake, Westmoreland County, in November as part of the preparations for the construction to rebuild each facility's dam.

During the salvages, Commission staff collected as many fish as possible and moved them to other lakes open to public fishing. The fish from Kyle Lake were taken to Cloe Lake, and the fish from Donegal Lake were relocated to Acme Dam, Mammoth Lake, and Bridgeport Reservoir in Westmoreland County and Green Lick Reservoir in Fayette County.

Construction for both is expected to start in late spring or early summer 2017 and last through 2018. Both lakes are expected to be refilled and open for public use again in spring 2019.

Photo - Commissioner Leonard L. Liechvar



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Area 8 Fisheries Manager Rick Lorson with a recovered Muskellunge.

As part of the final touches on the work to restore Glade Run Lake in Butler County, the local contractor finished the habitat improvement plan in August by excavating a channel from the middle of the lake to the upper end. The crew also added gravel spawning beds adjacent to the channel. Drone video of the project, including aerial views of the improved fishing access areas and habitat features, may be viewed on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZSJWZ2rsY0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZSJWZ2rsY0).

## Minsi and Somerset Drawdowns Scheduled for 2017

Season, size, and creel limits were also lifted at Minsi and Somerset lakes in 2016 in anticipation of them being drawn down in 2017.

The water level at Minsi Lake was lowered by approximately three feet in May 2013 and has remained at that level since. The 117-acre lake is



Glade Run Lake, Butler County

expected to be fully drained early in the summer of 2017. A fish salvage will then be conducted to move as many fish as possible to other waters. As was explained at a public meeting in October, the construction project is expected to start in summer 2017 and last through 2018. The lake is expected to be refilled and open again for public use in spring 2019. Stocked trout angling should also return to Minsi Lake in 2019.

Somerset Lake was lowered six feet in January 2012 to reduce pressure on the earthen dam after state dam-safety inspectors documented excessive seepage. Under the current timeline, the lake will be fully drained next fall. A fish salvage will then be conducted to move fish to other waters. The construction project is expected to take two years to complete, with the lake reopened for public use in spring of 2020. The PFBC will hold a public meeting in advance of the drawdown and fish salvage. A date has not yet been established.

## New Centre Region Office



The PFBC shared the continuing progress at the new Centre Region Office (CRO) when it welcomed the public to an open house at the facility on July 23. Following Northcentral Region Law Enforcement staff moving in during November 2015, final design plans were approved by the Department of Labor and Industry in January 2016. Construction materials were purchased and staff began constructing interior office space to house over 100 local employees from seven aging facilities in the county. Major construction is expected to be completed in early 2017, with only an outside HVAC contract pending thereafter.

Rehabilitating this large, 104,000 square-foot warehouse into office, garage, and storage space for regional staff is estimated to have saved the Commission \$16-20 million over what would have been incurred to construct a new building. Most importantly, it will bring employees into a modern facility that meets current safety and energy efficient standards.

The CRO fulfills a long-time agency goal to consolidate and improve the office conditions

for Commission staff in Centre County, offer enhanced public accessibility, and provide indoor and outdoor storage space for agency equipment and vehicles. The facility is expected to be fully operational in 2017.



The PFBC welcomed the public to an open house at the new Centre Region Office on July 23. The facility is expected to be fully operational in 2017.

| Social Media 2016                     |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| PFBC Facebook Posts                   | 1,200     |
| Facebook Followers (73% Increase)     | 39,000    |
| Users Reached by Facebook Posts       | 5,700,000 |
| User Action on Facebook Posts         | 513,000   |
| Facebook Posts that included Video    | 62        |
| Users Reached by Facebook Video Posts | 1,000,000 |
| User Who Viewed Video Posts           | 500,000   |

## 2016 Website Statistics

| Top Ten Pages by Page View |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.                         | Home Page=86,959                |
| 2.                         | Trout Stocking Schedules=75,891 |
| 3.                         | Buy a License=34,883            |
| 4.                         | Outdoor Shop-Redirect=33,895    |
| 5.                         | Trout Season Overview=27,602    |
| 6.                         | Inland Regulations=26,412       |
| 7.                         | County Guide=26,199             |
| 8.                         | Register a Boat=25,663          |
| 9.                         | Stocking Overview=24,407        |
| 10.                        | Fishing=24,328                  |

| Total Web Page Visits |
|-----------------------|
| 3,510,142             |



| Web Page Visits by State     |
|------------------------------|
| Pennsylvania=2,450,744       |
| New York=166,264             |
| District of Columbia=157,757 |
| New Jersey=118,487           |
| Ohio=81,242                  |
| Michigan=76,801              |
| Texas=46,121                 |
| Maryland=44,092              |
| Virginia=33,413              |
| California=32,523            |

**Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Report**  
*as of December 31, 2016 (unaudited)*

**EXPENDITURES**

**Fish Fund**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel              | \$26,747,048        |
| Operating              | \$9,098,546         |
| Fixed Assets           | \$669,319           |
| Grants                 | \$1,318,110         |
| <b>Fish Fund Total</b> | <b>\$37,833,023</b> |

**Boat Fund**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel              | \$10,162,253        |
| Operating              | \$3,494,665         |
| Fixed Assets           | \$491,663           |
| Grants                 | \$217,378           |
| <b>Boat Fund Total</b> | <b>\$14,365,959</b> |

**Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total**

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel                         | \$36,909,300        |
| Operating                         | \$12,593,212        |
| Fixed Assets                      | \$1,160,982         |
| Grants                            | \$1,535,487         |
| <b>Fish &amp; Boat Fund Total</b> | <b>\$52,198,981</b> |

**Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Report**  
*as of December 31, 2016 (unaudited)*

**REVENUE**

**Fish Fund**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Licenses & Fees        | \$26,181,382        |
| Fines & Penalties      | \$450,604           |
| Miscellaneous          | \$2,224,443         |
| Federal & State Grants | \$10,465,744        |
| <b>Fish Fund Total</b> | <b>\$39,322,173</b> |

**Boat Fund**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Licenses & Fees        | \$7,964,718         |
| Fines & Penalties      | \$268,583           |
| Miscellaneous          | \$2,232,571         |
| Federal & State Grants | \$3,409,563         |
| <b>Boat Fund Total</b> | <b>\$13,875,435</b> |

**Fish Fund & Boat Fund Total**

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Licenses & Fees                   | \$34,146,100        |
| Fines & Penalties                 | \$719,187           |
| Miscellaneous                     | \$4,457,014         |
| Federal & State Grants            | \$13,875,307        |
| <b>Fish &amp; Boat Fund Total</b> | <b>\$53,197,608</b> |

**Trout Stocked and Distributed to Cooperative Nurseries**

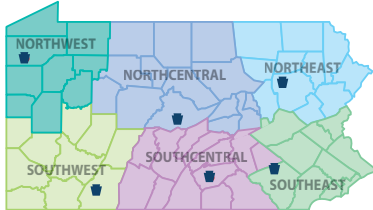
| Trout Species              | Lifestage            | Amount           |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Brook Trout                | Adult                | 560,965          |
|                            | Fingerling           | 117,350          |
|                            | Fingerling to Coops. | 333,400          |
| Brown Trout                | Adult                | 680,271          |
|                            | Fingerling           | 322,135          |
|                            | Fingerling to Coops. | 192,575          |
| Rainbow Trout              | Adult                | 1,735,197        |
|                            | Fingerling           | 545,000          |
|                            | Fingerling to Coops. | 427,675          |
| Golden Rainbow Trout       | Adult                | 10,471           |
|                            | Fingerling to Coops. | 47,523           |
| <b>Total Trout Species</b> |                      | <b>4,972,562</b> |

**2016 Cooperative Nursery 50 Year Award Certificates**

- 3 CU Trout Association
- Donegal Fish & Conservation Association
- Hopewell Fish & Game Association
- Morris Rod & Gun Club
- South Gibson Conservation Club
- Waynesboro Fish & Game Protective Association

**Warmwater/Coolwater Fish Production and Stocking**

| Species                           | Lifestage  | Amount            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| American Shad                     | Fry        | 2,244,873         |
| Black Crappie                     | Fingerling | 11,700            |
| Bluegill                          | Fingerling | 17,050            |
| Brown Bullhead                    | Fingerling | 4,582             |
| Chain Pickerel                    | Fingerling | 733               |
| Channel Catfish                   | Fingerling | 241,145           |
| Channel Catfish                   | Yearling   | 2,600             |
| Fathead Minnow                    | Adult      | 141,000           |
| Golden Shiner                     | Fingerling | 11,600            |
| Lake Trout                        | Fingerling | 53,000            |
| Lake Trout                        | Yearling   | 29,335            |
| Lake Trout                        | Adult      | 2,400             |
| Largemouth Bass                   | Fingerling | 77,236            |
| Muskellunge                       | Fingerling | 98,562            |
| Muskellunge                       | Yearling   | 1,590             |
| Northern Pike                     | Fingerling | 2,770             |
| Rainbow Trout Steelhead           | Yearling   | 1,002,763         |
| Striped Bass                      | Fingerling | 200,650           |
| Striped Bass Hybrid               | Fingerling | 240,200           |
| Tiger Muskellunge                 | Fingerling | 56,717            |
| Walleye                           | Fry        | 45,154,000        |
| Walleye                           | Fingerling | 1,789,925         |
| White Crappie                     | Fingerling | 53,100            |
| Yellow Perch                      | Fingerling | 5,800             |
| <b>Grand Total of all Species</b> |            | <b>51,443,331</b> |



Online Summary Book:  
[www.fishinpa.com](http://www.fishinpa.com)

To purchase fishing licenses online:  
[www.GoneFishingPa.com](http://www.GoneFishingPa.com)



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Twitter: @fishandboat

Mobile App: [www.fishandboat.com/mobile.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/mobile.htm)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

### STATE HEADQUARTERS

1601 Elmeron Avenue  
P.O. Box 67000  
Harrisburg, PA 17106  
Phone: (717) 705-7800  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### WEBSITE:

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)

### PLEASANT GAP COMPLEX

450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Phone: (814) 359-5110  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION COURSES

Phone: (888) 723-4741

### FISHING LICENSES:

Phone: (877) 707-4085

### BOAT REGISTRATION/TITLING:

Phone: (866) 262-8734

### PUBLICATIONS:

Phone: (717) 705-7835

## REGION OFFICES: LAW ENFORCEMENT/EDUCATION

Contact **Law Enforcement** for information about regulations and fishing and boating opportunities.  
Contact **Education** for information about fishing and boating programs and boating safety education.

### NORTHWEST REGION

11528 SH 98, Meadville, PA 16335  
*Law Enforcement:* (814) 337-0444  
*Outreach & Education:* (814) 336-2426  
Fax (814) 337-0579 Fax (814) 337-0579  
Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie,  
Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren

### SOUTHWEST REGION

236 Lake Road, Somerset, PA 15501  
*Law Enforcement:* (814) 445-8974  
*Outreach & Education:* (814) 443-9841  
Fax (814) 445-3497 Fax (814) 445-3497  
Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver,  
Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset,  
Washington, Westmoreland

### NORTHCENTRAL REGION

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
*Law Enforcement:* (814) 359-5250  
*Outreach & Education:* (814) 359-5127  
Fax (814) 359-5254 Fax (814) 359-5153  
Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield,  
Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean,  
Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder,  
Tioga, Union

*Office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday*

### SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241  
*Law Enforcement:* (717) 486-7087  
*Outreach & Education:* (717) 486-7352  
Fax (717) 486-8227 Fax (717) 486-8227  
Counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland,  
Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon,  
Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York

### NORTHEAST REGION

5566 Main Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656  
*Law Enforcement:* (570) 477-5717  
*Outreach & Education:* (570) 477-2206  
Fax (570) 477-3221 Fax (570) 477-2621  
Counties: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia,  
Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan,  
Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

### SOUTHEAST REGION

P.O. Box 9, Elm, PA 17521  
*Law Enforcement:* (717) 626-0228  
*Outreach & Education:* (215) 968-3631  
Fax (717) 626-0486 Fax (215) 968-1610  
Counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware,  
Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton,  
Philadelphia, Schuylkill

## STATE FISH HATCHERIES

### BELLEFONTE\*

1115 Spring Creek Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
(814) 355-3371

### CORRY\*

13365 Route 6  
Corry, PA 16407  
(814) 664-2122

### FAIRVIEW

2000 Lohrer Road  
Fairview, PA 16415  
(814) 474-1514

### BENNER SPRING

1735 Shiloh Road  
State College, PA 16801  
(814) 355-4837

### HUNTSDALE\*

195 Lebo Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
(717) 486-3419

### LINESVILLE\*

13300 Hartstown Road  
Linesville, PA 16424  
(814) 683-4451

### OSWAYO\*

96 State Route 244 East  
Coudersport, PA 16915  
(814) 698-2102

### PLEASANT GAP\*

450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
(814) 359-5121

### PLEASANT MOUNT\*

229 Great Bend Turnpike  
Pleasant Mount, PA 18453  
(570) 448-2101

### REYNOLDSDALE\*

162 Fish Hatchery Road  
New Paris, PA 15554  
(814) 839-2211

### TIONESTA\*

172 Fish Hatchery Lane  
Tionesta, PA 16353  
(814) 755-3524

### TYLERSVILLE

43 Hatchery Lane  
Loganton, PA 17747  
(570) 725-3965

### UNION CITY

9450 Route 6  
Union City, PA 16438  
(814) 438-2222

\* Includes visitor center. Visitors are welcome  
from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.  
Groups should make advance arrangements.

# [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)