

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



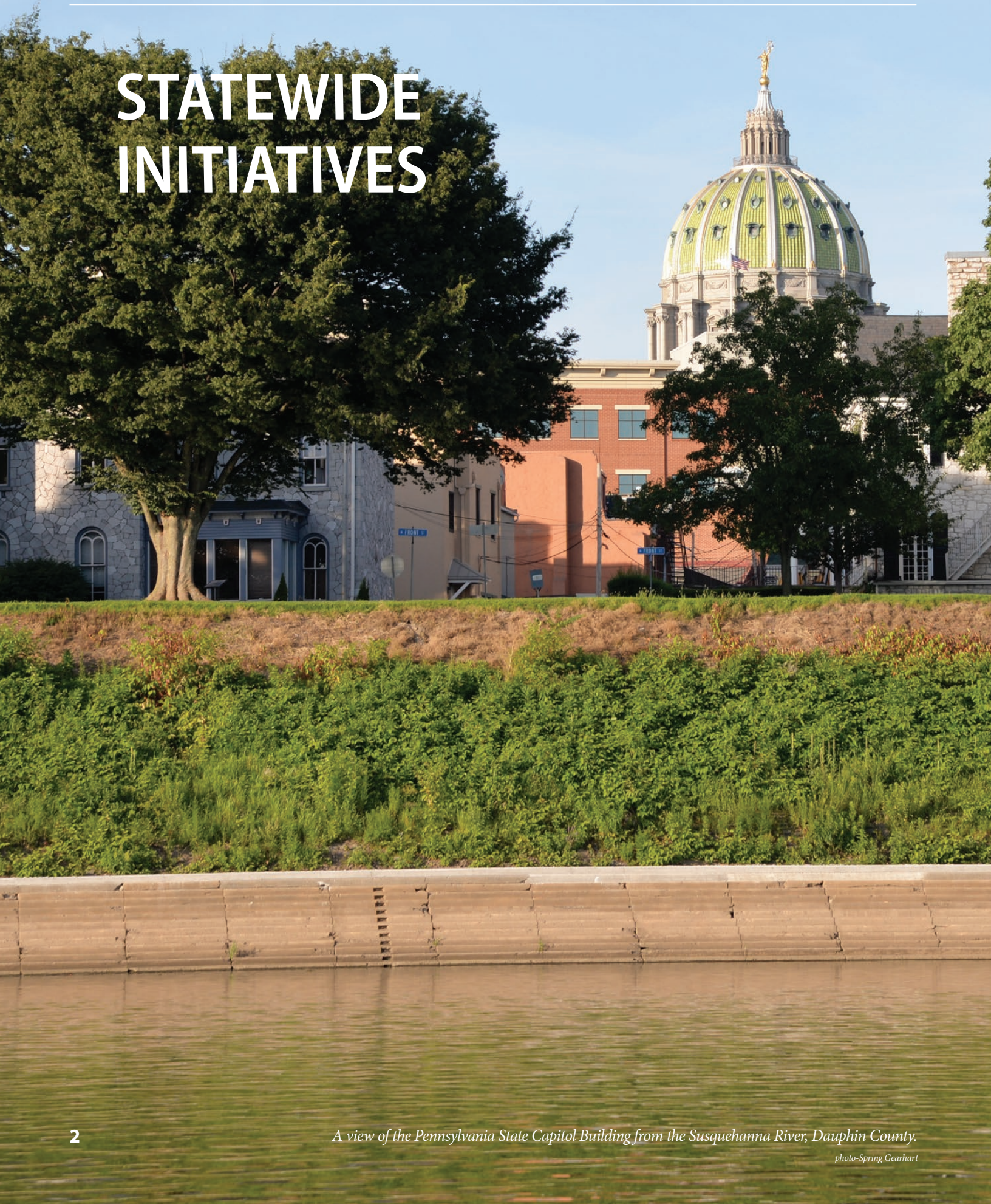
photos-PFBC archives and Terry Malloy

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

FishandBoat.com



STATEWIDE INITIATIVES



A Team Effort

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is pleased to present our 2021 Annual Report to the General Assembly. The report summarizes major initiatives and progress from the past year and captures highlights and examples from around Pennsylvania.

At the same time, we express our sincere gratitude to state and federal House and Senate members, Governor Wolf, legislative and gubernatorial staff, other state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, business partners, local first responders, and the countless volunteers with whom we interact across the Commonwealth all year long. It really is a team effort.

The core of that team is our dedicated staff. On behalf of our Board of Commissioners and Boating Advisory Board, thank you to the talented and dedicated PFBC employees who work daily (and, in many cases, nightly) in the field and behind-the-scenes for the anglers, boaters, and aquatic resources of Pennsylvania. It is a true privilege to serve alongside them as part of a collaborative team working to advance our mission to protect, conserve, and enhance aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities. They rose to meet the challenge of another trying year and came through it with a list of accomplishments far too numerous to list in this report.

One of the best parts of this job is introducing legislators and other partners to our team members who are out there delivering on the investments made possible by the purchase of fishing licenses, unpowered launch permits, and boat registrations.

Please consider this to be an open invitation to join us in the field in 2022 to help stock fish; accompany our biologists on a stream, river, or lake survey; install fish habitat structures, restore streambanks, or stabilize eroded shorelines; learn more

about efforts on behalf of species such as freshwater mussels listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan; tour a fish hatchery; attend a safe boating, water rescue, or fishing skills training that we conduct during all seasons and in all corners of the state; join an engineer on a visit to a recently rebuilt dam or refurbished access area that is the centerpiece of local fishing and boating; or ride along with a Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) to hear firsthand what it is like to be on the front lines of conservation law enforcement and public safety.

If you are like me, you will come away from the experience inspired and energized.

While all of the accomplishments in this report are worth remembering, the most important thing you can take away from the following pages is the reminder to wear your life jacket. Again, in 2021, anglers and boaters were flocking to the water in historic numbers to enjoy all that Pennsylvania has to offer. Regrettably, there were nine recreational boating fatalities last year, and seven of them were not wearing a life jacket. If the best part of this job is joining our team in the field, the worst part is seeing my phone light up on a Saturday afternoon with a message from a WCO delivering news about an avoidable tragedy.

Thank you again to everyone who played a role in 2021 to continue to build the momentum of this incredible agency on behalf of the resources, people, and places we serve. Once more, it is a team effort. Thanks for being a part of it.



WEAR IT
National Safe Boating Council
Pennsylvania



Photo: Samantha Warner

Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery Foreman Terry Emel (left) loading Rainbow Trout with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Tim Schaeffer. Manager Doug Hess (background) is “crowding” the fish to be loaded. This truck was destined for Standing Stone Creek, Huntingdon County. Tim Schaeffer assisted WCO Kyle Robinson and Fish Culturist Samantha Warner with the stocking later that same day.

SPECIAL SECTION ON INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the PFBC's Strategic Plan 2020-2023, the agency has committed to modernizing and maintaining facilities and equipment and aligning them with user needs. Infrastructure includes physical structures such as office buildings and fish hatcheries, dams, access areas, boat ramps, docks, signs, parking lots, vehicles, and other equipment; as well as virtual infrastructure including the agency website, mobile app, and online licensing portal. Modernization and improvements include new construction, remodeling, repairs, and increasing energy efficiency and sustainability in all areas.

Funding for these improvements was established through a combination of long-term strategic spending of agency reserves, and the special release of state capital project funding for major infrastructure improvements that benefit the Commonwealth beyond the scope of fishing and boating.

Dam Safety Improvements

In 2021, the PFBC began, continued, or completed 19 hazardous dam rehabilitation projects across the Commonwealth. The investment in these major infrastructure improvement efforts is part of the estimated \$150 million in total rehabilitation needs that was identified at approximately 30 PFBC-operated dams since 2012. Projects can take several years to complete and are subject to a lengthy design, permitting, and construction process. The PFBC works tirelessly to inform the public of the status of these projects through public meetings and the media. The status of each of these projects is outlined in this report by the Commissioner Districts where they are located.



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pier at Meadow Grounds Lake, Fulton County.

Facilities

Lake Erie Research Center - Design is underway for a new office building that will house staff from the Lake Erie Research Unit beginning in 2025. The facility will be located on the grounds of the Fairview State Fish Hatchery (SFH) and will include offices, a conference room, and a wet lab. Construction is estimated to cost \$1.5 million.

Southwest Regional Office Storage Building, Somerset County - Engineering staff designed a new 7,500 square foot storage building for regional staff. It was completed in late fall of 2021. The total cost of the project was \$330,000.

State Fish Hatchery Improvements

The PFBC's network of 14 hatcheries is among the most vital and vulnerable infrastructure, operating 365 days a year, requiring constant maintenance. Through the operation of these hatcheries, the PFBC produces tens of millions of warmwater/coolwater fish species annually, including approximately 3.2 million adult trout that are stocked and enjoyed by anglers during the popular spring trout season. Upgrades to the hatcheries in 2021 included the addition of modern fish-rearing equipment, structural facility improvements, and cosmetic and safety enhancements to portions of the hatcheries open to free public visitation.

Corry SFH, Erie County - Hatch houses were painted, and indoor fish tanks received an epoxy coating for lasting durability.

Linesville SFH, Crawford County - Several raceway and facility structures were upgraded with durable metal roofing, and public restrooms in the Visitor Center were remodeled to become ADA compliant. New garage doors were installed on the Maintenance building, and a new sidewalk was constructed at the entrance to the Administrative Office.

Oswayo SFH, Potter County - Hatch house was painted, and floors were coated with non-slip surface.

Pleasant Gap SFH, Centre County - An ADA compliant entry ramp and retaining wall were added to the Visitor Center entrance, a rubber roof was installed on the hatch house, and an emergency backup system was added to the nursery pond recirculation pump to prevent loss of water and potential loss of fish in the event of mechanical failure. Epoxy coating was installed on garage area floor surfaces to reduce wear and extend life.

Reynoldsdale SFH, Bedford County - A refurbished forklift was placed into service that was acquired from Commonwealth surplus.

Tionesta SFH, Forest County - A well rehabilitation project resulted in increasing the water flow to benefit steelhead production in the raceways.

Union City SFH, Erie County - A new ADA compliant entrance ramp was constructed.

Vehicles and Boats

In 2021, the PFBC continued a multi-year effort to replace an aging fleet of vehicles and boats with newer, more specialized equipment. The investment in this vital equipment provides a more reliable work platform for PFBC law enforcement officers, hatchery staff, and others, which improves service to anglers and boaters across the Commonwealth.

Fish Stocking Truck Fleet - Three new stocking trucks with insulated aluminum tanks were placed into service for cool/warmwater fish stocking, and three new hybrid aluminum and fiberglass tanks were added to trucks specifically for trout stocking.



One of the new stocking trucks with insulated aluminum tanks.

Patrol Boats - New patrol vessels were placed into service in McKean and Warren counties, which include Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir. In both counties, WCOs will patrol the water from modern 2019 Pacific plate alloy aluminum center console vessels specifically designed for conservation law enforcement.



Area Access Improvements

The PFBC solely maintains more than 300 free public fishing and boating access areas across the Commonwealth. In addition to general maintenance, such as mowing and litter control, many of these areas contain large paved parking lots and concrete boat ramps, which can become dilapidated over

time and require replacement. In 2021, the PFBC continued to improve access facilities statewide through rehabilitation projects and expanded partnerships with like-minded organizations that seek to provide anglers and boaters with safe and convenient public access to the water. Many of these access improvements are highlighted in this report under the Commissioner Districts where they are located.



Commissioner Richard S. Kauffman at the reopening of Five Locks Access Area, Berks County.

Virtual Infrastructure

HuntFishPA - In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the PFBC launched HuntFishPA, a new user-friendly licensing platform for anglers, boaters, and hunters. By visiting [HuntFish.PA.gov](https://www.huntfish.pa.gov), users will experience clean, modern design and easy-to-process transactions when purchasing fishing licenses, launch permits, and boat registration renewals. Approximately 700 retail license issuing agents received training on the system prior to a successful launch in January.



STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Established

During their October meeting, the PFBC’s Board of Commissioners established a single, statewide Opening Day of Trout Season that will occur annually on the first Saturday in April, beginning in 2022.

Under this change, which will result in a longer regular season for trout for most anglers, the practice of holding a separate regional opening day for Pennsylvania’s 18 southeastern counties will no longer occur. A single, statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day will now occur one week prior to the regular statewide opening day.

Based on this announcement, anglers should plan around the following dates for the 2022 trout season:

- Saturday, March 26, 2022 - Statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day
- Saturday, April 2, 2022 - Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season

In selecting the first Saturday in April as the proposed permanent date for the statewide opening of trout season, the PFBC considered several factors such as weather, water temperature, stocking and enforcement logistics, and social impacts.



Richie Williard with his daughters Callie, age 6, and Kirah, age 11, while fishing Mahantango Creek, Schuylkill County, on opening day, 2021.



Abigail O'Donnell, age 5, with a nice Brook Trout she caught while fishing Whippoorwill Dam, Schuylkill County, on Mentored Youth Trout Day, 2021.

Fishing License Fees Remain the Same

During its July meeting, the Board of Commissioners announced that fishing license fees will remain the same for the 2022 season. Because of revenue generated by the increased number of fishing licenses sold during 2020 and 2021, and the continued strategic investment of surplus reserve funds, it was determined that a license fee increase is not currently needed. For the 2022 season, the price of a resident annual fishing license will remain \$22.97 (includes \$1.97 vendor fees), and the price of a Trout Permit will remain \$9.97 (includes \$1.97 vendor fees). Pennsylvania fishing license fees have remained the same since 2005.

2022 FISHING LICENSES

Code	Type of Fishing License or Permit	Age	Cost*
101	Resident (Annual)	16-64	\$22.97
104	Senior Resident (Annual)	65 & up	\$11.97
105	Senior Resident (Lifetime)	65 & up	\$51.97
108	1-Day Resident (not valid March 15-April 30)	16 & up	\$11.97
102	Non-Resident (Annual)	16 & up	\$52.97
113	Non-Resident PA Student (Annual)	16 & up	\$22.97
106	1-Day Tourist **(not valid March 15-April 30)	16 & up	\$26.97
103	3-Day Tourist	16 & up	\$26.97
107	7-Day Tourist	16 & up	\$34.97
110	Voluntary Youth Fishing License (Annual)	Less than 16	\$2.97
109	Mentored Youth Permit	Less than 16	\$0.00
150	Trout Permit	16 & up	\$9.97
033	3-Year Senior Lifetime Trout Permit	65 & up	\$25.97
053	5-Year Senior Lifetime Trout Permit	65 & up	\$41.97
063	10-Year Senior Lifetime Trout Permit	65 & up	\$81.97
151	Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$9.97
151SLE	Senior Lifetime Lake Erie Permit	65 & up	\$9.97
152	Combination Trout Lake Erie Permit	Any Age	\$15.97

* Includes issuing agent fee of \$1.00 and \$0.97 transaction fee. Excludes the 109 Mentored Youth Permit.
 ** Includes Trout and Lake Erie permits, not valid March 15-April 30.

Class A Wild Trout Streams Identified

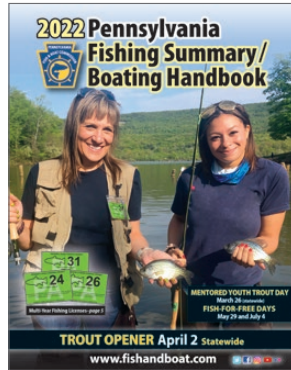
During 2021, PFBC biologists and Unassessed Waters Initiative partners continued to survey streams to identify and classify naturally reproducing populations of trout. Surveyed waters that support natural reproduction of wild trout qualify to be added to the Commission’s listing of wild trout streams and/or listing of Class A wild trout streams. In 2021, the Commission added 78 new waters to the list of wild trout streams and extended the length of 12 waters that were already listed, thus increasing the protection on 208 miles of streams. The Commission added 65 new stream sections to the Class A wild trout streams list, thus increasing the protection on 158 miles of stream.



A wild Brook Trout collected during an Unassessed Waters survey.

Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook

For fishing license year 2022, beginning December 1, 2021, the PFBC created the new *2022 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook*. The book is available free of charge at nearly 700 license issuing agents, can be viewed using the FishBoatPa mobile app, or downloaded on fishandboat.com. Along with fishing regulations, the book includes information for both powered and unpowered boat operators including basic navigation rules and safety information related to life jackets and BUI.



Limited Edition Fishing License Button

For the 2022 license year, customers can once again purchase a collectible fishing license button. This year's button features a vintage design with a blue and yellow PFBC logo. The 2022 fishing license buttons are a limited-edition offering of 10,000 buttons, which will be numbered between 00001-10000.



Combatting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

In 2021, the PFBC continued efforts to combat the growing threat of AIS. As a member of the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council (PISC), PFBC staff is active in implementing the *PISC Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan*, developing specific control plans for each prioritized AIS and maintaining an up-to-date Pennsylvania AIS inventory. The PFBC used strategic outreach and communications to inform the public about emerging AIS threats, including the discovery of Zebra Mussels at Raystown Lake, Huntingdon County, in March.



Zebra Mussels at Raystown Lake, Huntingdon County.

R3 Education Grant Program

In June, the PFBC awarded \$158,945 through its R3 Education Grant Program to support eight education projects in eight counties, and one statewide effort. Recipients of the grants, including local governments and eligible nonprofit groups, will focus on efforts to recruit new anglers and boaters, retain existing participants in these activities, and reactivate former anglers and boaters who may have lapsed in participation.

Fish-for-Free Days

The annual Fish-for-Free Days were offered again in 2021 on May 30 and July 4. The Fish and Boat Code permits the

PFBC to offer two free fishing days a year. The 2021 dates were picked to coincide with Memorial Day and Independence Day weekends. 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.

Virtual Fisheries Summit

On February 20, the PFBC held its first of its kind online event, streamed live on Facebook, providing an interactive platform for biologists to showcase Pennsylvania's diverse fishing opportunities, including black bass, catfish, inland reservoir Striped Bass, panfish, trout, Northern Pike, and Walleye. Other presentations included Lake Erie's fishery, migratory fishes, as well as Pennsylvania's most overlooked fisheries including Bowfin, Burbot, and Longnose Gar. The Summit was archived on YouTube.

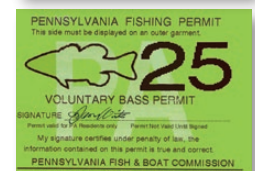
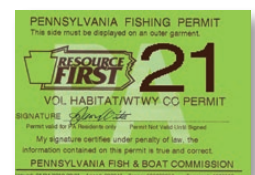
Virtual Outdoor Expo

From February 8-12, in the absence of many of the popular outdoor shows and expos that were cancelled in winter 2021, PFBC experts and special guests hosted a week of interactive virtual sessions, streamed live on Facebook, to discuss a wide range of fishing and boating topics. Sessions included a virtual tour of the Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery in Centre County, Q&A with WCOs and the Executive Director, and discussions on the PFBC steelhead program, kayak fishing, and employment with the PFBC. The Expo was archived on YouTube.

Voluntary Permit Projects

Since 2019, the PFBC's Voluntary Permit Program has successfully generated funding to support key fishing-related programs. Permit categories include Bass (\$10), Habitat/Waterways Conservation (\$10), Musky (\$10), and Wild Trout and Enhanced Waters (\$25). A \$1.00 issuing agent fee and a \$0.97 transaction fee are added to each purchase. Purchasers can buy Voluntary Permits in 1, 3, 5, and 10-year durations. Funds are tracked and maintained in their respective categories and used to wholly fund projects or matched with other funds.

Sales of voluntary permits continued to strengthen in 2020. Approximately \$290,000 was collected to be used for projects in 11 counties in 2021, with multiple projects having statewide benefits.



WCO Classes

On June 25, 2021, 6 members of the 23rd Class of WCOs graduated during a ceremony at the PFBC's Centre Region Office. To expedite the progression of the class, for the first time, trainees were required to already possess Municipal Police Officers Basic Training (Act 120) certification. During their conservation law enforcement careers, the officers' duties will be multifaceted and include patrolling streams, rivers, and lakes in their regions; assisting with investigations; participating in public outreach events; and stocking waterways with fish. Another class of WCOs began training in July 2021 and will graduate in the summer of 2022. Recruitment for an additional WCO class is currently underway, and successful applicants will begin training in July 2022.



23rd Class of WCOs

Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE) Special Investigations

There were 68 documented incidents investigated during 2021, resulting in 36 official Incident Reports being filed by the PFBC. These reports resulted in two misdemeanor criminal complaints, 22 summary charges, and 11 warnings for violations of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code (Title 30). Charges included misdemeanor possession of an endangered species, sale of a native species, fishing without a license, guiding and conducting charter boat operations without proper licenses, and possession over the lawful creel limit.

Additionally, eight cases were referred to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and conservation law enforcement agencies in neighboring states.

Notable incidents included illegal possession of endangered Bog Turtles, possession and sale of an endangered Coastal Plains Leopard Frog, illegal sale of 29 Gray Treefrogs, and a tri-state joint investigation between Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia, and USFWS to apprehend and federally charge a Kentucky resident who was illegally selling Woodland Box Turtles to overseas markets.

Lake Habitat Management

In 2021, the PFBC's Lake Habitat Section completed several projects for the benefit of fish and other aquatic species in impoundments across the Commonwealth. Lake habitat projects include enhanced shoreline stabilization to prevent erosion; the placement of submerged wooden habitat structures for the benefit of bass, panfish, and macroinvertebrates; and the construction of wood and rock rubble habitat structures on dry lakebeds while the lakes are drawn down during dam rehabilitation projects. Many lake habitat projects are funded through the sale of PFBC Voluntary Bass Permits and Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permits, as well as contributions from public and private conservation partners.



Streambank stabilization at Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, Butler County.

Law Enforcement Awards

Each year, the PFBC's BLE honors its WCOs with a variety of awards that recognize outstanding service and excellence in the field. In 2021, awards were presented in the following categories:

The Top Gun Award was presented to WCO Eric B. Davis (Greene/Southern Washington counties) for his Boating Under the Influence (BUI) enforcement.

The Gerald L. Greiner Environmental Protection Award was presented to WCO Ronald J. Evancho (Delaware County) for his environmental work.

The 2020 Officer of the Year Award was presented to WCO Rachael L. Thurner-Diaz (Adams/Western York counties) for her well-rounded efforts in the Southcentral Region.

Water Rescue Training

In 2021, the PFBC certified 3,021 students through in-person and virtual water rescue training options. The Commission has a trained in-state volunteer instructor corps of 206 individuals who provided more than 7,500 hours of training in 2021. Since 1983, the PFBC has trained more than 75,000 students in water rescue operations and is the largest non-profit, public water and ice rescue training program in the United States.

Black Bass Young-of-the-Year (YOY) Sampling

PFBC biologists annually sample near-shore river habitats during summer to evaluate Smallmouth Bass natural reproduction. Assessments of both YOY and adult populations enable the PFBC to proactively maintain and preserve an abundance of black bass to ensure quality fishing opportunities. Sampling sites include the Ohio, Susquehanna, and Delaware rivers. The annual abundance of each Smallmouth Bass year class varies widely due to natural variation in water flow and temperature at critical periods from incubation and hatching to attainment of fingerling size (April to June).

Statewide Statistics

Non-game Permits
Species Impact/PNDI Reviews – 1,976
Scientific Collector Permits/Amendments – 368
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Permits – 70
Biological Opinions/T&E Take Permits – 5
Non-game Special Permits – 31
Organized Reptile and Amphibian Hunt Permits – 6
Venomous Snake Permits – 2,341
Commercial Snapping Turtle Permits – 23

Bureau of Law Enforcement
Citations – 3,386
Crimes Codes – 27
Warnings for Violations – 19,763
Total Boats Boarded – 24,522
Boating Safety Education Certificates Issued – 18,685
Special Activities – 2,395
Water Rescue Certificates – 3,021
Pollutions Investigated – 122
Boating Under the Influence – 49
Lake Erie Commercial Permits – 19

Boating Accidents
Each year, on average, 700 people die in boating-related accidents nationwide. Nearly 85% of the victims were not wearing life jackets.
Last year, there were 53 recreational boating accidents that resulted in 9 fatalities. Only two of the 9 victims were wearing life jackets at the time of the accidents. Alcohol or drugs were believed to have been a factor in three of the fatal accidents.

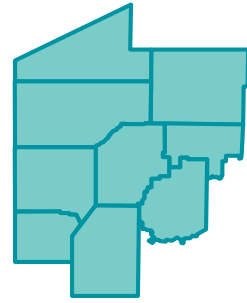
Education Activity	Count	Participants
2020-2021 Trout In the Classroom Teachers	379	19,143
Aquatic Resource Education Programs	11	360
Paddling and Boating Programs	6	44
Shows and Events (Outreach)	8	1,291
Instructor Training Courses	10	119
Recreational Fishing Programs		
100% Virtual	18	337
Hybrid (programs provided in two parts: 50% virtual and 50% in-person)	4	24
100% In-Person	98	1,861
Total	534	23,179

2021 Fishing License Types	
December 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021	Units Sold
1-Day Labor Day Resident	79
1-Day Labor Day Tourist	57
1-Day Resident	2,909
1-Day Tourist	5,635
10-year Non-Resident	15
10-Year Resident	1,117
3-Day Tourist	23,936
3-Year Non-Resident	538
3-Year Resident	16,639
3-Year Senior Resident	885
5-Year Non-Resident	112
5-Year Resident	5,112
5-Year Senior Resident	120
7-Day Tourist	8,086
PA Resident National Guard/Reserve	90
Senior Lifetime	21,156
Non-Resident	53,531
Non-Resident PA Student	1,103
POW Resident Annual	0
POW Resident Lifetime	0
Reduced Disabled Veteran	505
Resident	684,330
Senior Resident	29,014
Voluntary Youth	11,004
Total Licenses	865,973

2021 Fishing Permit Types	
December 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021	Units Sold
3-Year Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	2,732
3-Year Lake Erie Permit	229
3-Year Trout Permit	14,100
5-Year Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	1,048
5-Year Lake Erie Permit	60
5-Year Trout Permit	5,466
10-Year Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	313
10-Year Lake Erie Permit	8
10-Year Trout Permit	1,494
Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	85,214
Lake Erie Permit	23,947
Trout Permit	500,305
Total Permits	634,916

FIRST DISTRICT

Commissioner Daniel J. Pastore



Commissioner Daniel J. Pastore, Fairview, Erie County, represents the First District of the PFBC. He was appointed in June 2019.

The First District includes **Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties.**

FIRST DISTRICT

Erie Access Improvement Program

In 2021, the PFBC awarded more than \$800,000 in grants through this program, which is funded through proceeds from the sale of Lake Erie permits.

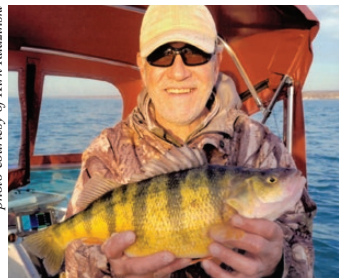
Act 56 of 2020, a comprehensive update to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code, allowed for the expanded use of proceeds from the sale of Lake Erie permits to include public amenities such as fish cleaning stations, which benefit anglers on Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay, and their tributaries. Prior to the legislation, use of permit dollars was restricted to projects that provided public fishing access or protected or improved fish habitat.

New Fish Cleaning Stations Opened

On October 6, the PFBC opened two new, 900-square-foot fish cleaning stations at the Walnut Creek Access Area and North East Marina. The facilities are free and open to the public and were funded by anglers through the sale of Lake Erie permits. Project partners include the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, Pennsylvania Steelhead Association, and Erie Pa Charter Boat Association.

State Record Yellow Perch

On the afternoon of April 9, 2021, angler Kirk Rudzinski, Erie, made history with his 3-pound catch on Lake Erie.



Kirk Rudzinski, Erie, caught this 3-pound Yellow Perch while fishing in Lake Erie, Erie County.

Rudzinski was fishing with friends near the Sunoco Cribs. He was using live Emerald Shiners as bait on a casting rod fitted with 10-pound-test braided line, an 8-pound monofilament leader, and a pair of size 4 hooks. The new record beat the previous record for Yellow Perch, set in 2016, by two ounces.

Women's Fishing Programs

The PFBC offered three Intro to Steelhead Fishing Programs during the first weekend of November. Thirty participants attended virtual education sessions and in-person fishing clinics on the Lake Erie tributaries. Partners included the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Pennsylvania Steelhead Association, and Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited.

Mussel Propagation

The PFBC's Union City State Fish Hatchery, Erie County, continued to refine efforts to grow Pennsylvania native mussel species to support and augment species recovery efforts in historically degraded watersheds. Eventually, mussels propagated at Union City State Fish Hatchery will be used to support ongoing restoration efforts in Dunkard Creek and the Clarion, Shenango, and Beaver rivers.

Lake Erie Sportfishing Update

The Walleye fishery in Lake Erie was exceptional for the fifth consecutive year, and 2021 was the sixth consecutive year with above average Walleye angler catch rates. The 2021 fishing season provided the fourth highest Walleye angler catch rate in the 26-year survey period, with harvested Walleye averaging 19 inches long and trophy-size fish up to 28 inches long. Most harvested Walleyes were age 3 (38%) and age 6 (31%). Spawning success and juvenile survival of Walleyes in Lake Erie has been outstanding since 2015, resulting in a high-quality fishery that will provide excellent fishing for years to come.

The steelhead tributary fishery continues to perform above expectations. Below average precipitation in the Erie basin contributed to a moderate decrease in tributary angler catch rate during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 season, but the target catch rate of 0.30 steelhead/angler hour was exceeded for the eighth consecutive year. Similarly, the open lake boat angler catch rate in 2021 for steelhead exceeded the long-term average catch rate for the eighth time in the last decade. The PFBC increased the quality and size of the stocked juvenile steelhead in 2013, which improved survival while maintaining the agency stocking objective of 1 million smolt annually. Pennsylvania provides one of the best steelhead trout fisheries on the Great Lakes.

Assessment of Walleye Stocking in Pymatuning Reservoir

Pymatuning Reservoir, Crawford County, is stocked annually by both the PFBC and the Ohio Division of Wildlife with about 593,000 Walleye fingerlings and 4 million Walleye fry. Fall surveys to index Walleye fingerling survival revealed that the 2019- and 2020-year classes were the best documented in the lake since 1997 (1.59 and 1.64 YOY Walleyes per minute of electrofishing, respectively). The 2019 year class will attain legal harvestable length in 2022, and the 2020 year class will attain legal harvestable length in 2023, which means excellent Walleye fishing in Pymatuning Reservoir for the next several years.

Dam Safety Improvements

Kahle Lake Dam, Clarion and Venango Counties - Currently in the design phase, this proposed \$6 million construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity, spillway integrity, and dam embankment stability.

Access Area and Marina Improvements

Walnut Creek Marina, Erie County - The access roadway and parking lot were repaved to provide safe and convenient public access to Lake Erie.

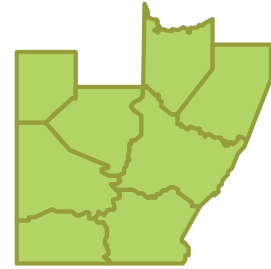
Gilmore Farm Access, Erie County - A new parking area was constructed to allow public fishing access to Elk Creek.

Elk Creek Access Area, Erie County - The access roadway and parking lot was rehabilitated with 60 tons of crushed stone to provide safer and convenient entry to the facility.

Canadota Lake, Crawford County - Courtesy dock decking material was replaced with new, composite decking boards for lasting durability.

SECOND DISTRICT

Commissioner Rocco S. Ali



Commissioner Rocco S. Ali, North Apollo, Armstrong County, represents the Second District of the PFBC. He was appointed in October 2012. His term expired in December 2021.

The Second District includes **Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.**

SECOND DISTRICT

State Record Walleye

On the evening of October 28, 2021, angler Richard E. Nicholson, Connellsville, made history with his 18-pound, 1-ounce Walleye catch on Youghiogheny River. Nicholson was fishing from the bank of the river near the Crawford Street bridge,



Richard E. Nicholson, Fayette County, caught this 18-pound, 1-ounce Walleye while fishing from the bank of the Youghiogheny River.

using a spinning reel equipped with 6-pound-test line and a live Creek Chub attached to a number two hook, weighted down with bb-size splitshot and a slip sinker. The new record beat the previous record for Walleye, set in 1980, by 8 ounces.

Dam Safety Improvements

Virgin Run Lake, Fayette County - Currently in the early design phase, this \$3.3 million proposed construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity, spillway stability, and dam embankment stability. Construction is expected to be complete in summer 2026.

Hemlock Lake, Indiana County - Currently in the early design phase, this \$3.49 million proposed construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity, spillway stability, and dam embankment stability. Construction is expected to be complete in summer 2026.

Fishing and Boating Education Programs

In August, the PFBC teamed with Canonsburg Lake Restoration and Improvement Association to host an Intro to Kayak Fishing Program at Canonsburg Lake, Washington County. Participants learned about legal requirements, proper life jacket wear, water hazards, and basic paddling skills.

In September, an Adult-Only Fishing Meet-Up was held at North Park, Allegheny County. Participants were taught basic fishing skills including safety, regulations, knot tying, bait and tackle selection, and casting prior to fishing.

Protecting Southern Redbelly Dace

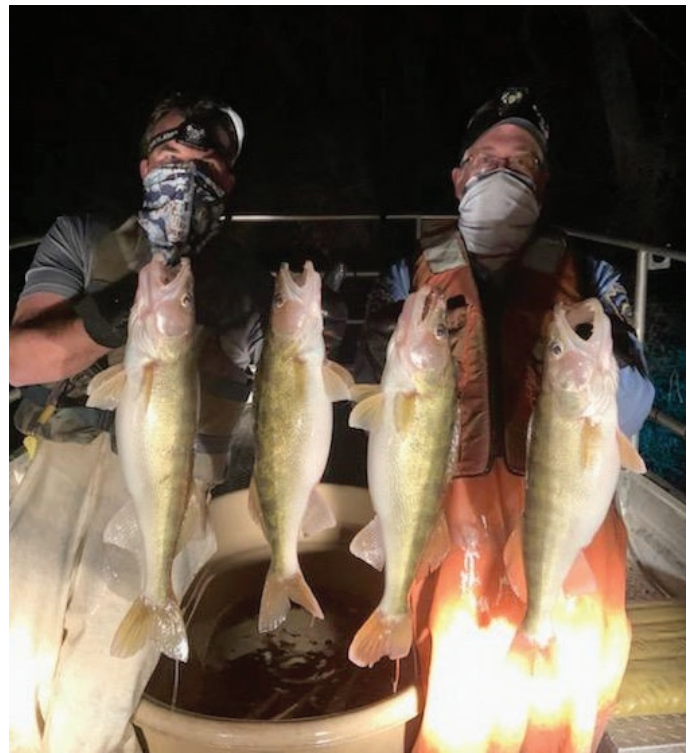
The PFBC worked with an energy provider on a responsible plan to withdraw water from the North Fork Big Sewickley and Big Sewickley creeks, while not disrupting habitat for the Southern Redbelly Dace, a state threatened species. The agreement maintains necessary water flow year-round and prohibits water extraction during the species' spawning season.

Three Rivers Walleye and Sauger Populations

PFBC biologists evaluated the Walleye and Sauger populations in the tailwaters of Locks and Dams (LD) on the Three Rivers by surveying at various times throughout the year. During 2021, PFBC biologists surveyed the Allegheny River tailwaters of Lock 8 (Templeton), Lock 7 (Kittanning), C. W. Bill Young Lock 3 (Acmetonia), and Lock 2 (Sharpsburg). Walleyes are by far the most abundant of the two species in the Allegheny River, with Saugers providing little to no fishery in the upper tailwaters. Catch rates were highest at the upper two tailwaters for overall numbers of fish, but few legal-sized fish were present. The Three Rivers have a reputation for producing trophy-sized Walleyes, with the lower Allegheny River probably the most well-known spot. Our surveys on the lower Allegheny River, particularly the early spring surveys, confirmed this reputation, with big fish being captured frequently.

The Monongahela River tailwaters of Grays Landing LD and Braddock LD were surveyed during 2021. In most surveys, legal-sized Saugers were more prevalent than legal-sized Walleyes. Generally, legal-sized Saugers are present throughout the year, while legal-sized Walleyes are typically encountered during the early spring surveys, when larger fish are preparing to spawn.

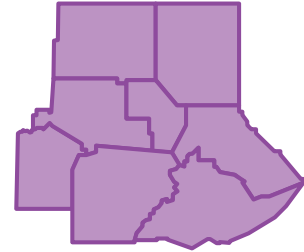
Like the Monongahela River, the Ohio River contains good populations of both Walleyes and Saugers. Walleyes exhibited good growth rates in the Ohio River, with fish often reaching legal size at age 2.



PFBC biologists holding Walleyes from the Allegheny River survey.

THIRD DISTRICT

Commissioner William C. Brock



Commissioner William C. Brock, St. Marys, Elk County, represents the Third District of the PFBC. He was appointed in July 2017 and was reappointed in January 2022.

The Third District includes **Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter counties.**

THIRD DISTRICT

Dam Safety Improvements

Cloe Lake, Jefferson County – Currently in the early design phase, this \$525,000 proposed construction project will address dam embankment drainage deficiencies. Construction is estimated to begin in summer or fall 2025 and be complete in winter 2025.



photo-Jeff London (Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau VisitPAGO.com)

Cloe Lake, Jefferson County

Fishing and Boating Education

Throughout the summer, the PFBC conducted in-person and hybrid model education programs in Centre County, including an Intro to Kayak Fishing Program at Bald Eagle State Park; fly casting instruction at the Wildlife For Everyone Great Outdoor Picnic at Penn's Cave; and Women's Intro to Fly Fishing Programs at Fisherman's Paradise and Bald Eagle State Park in partnership with Spring Creek Trout Unlimited (TU).



Kayak fishing at Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County.

Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Grant

In July, the PFBC awarded nearly \$380,000 in grants to develop and implement projects that benefit fishing, boating, and aquatic resources in 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

through the settlement and created the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program.

The funds received through this damage settlement have been used to improve public fishing and boating access, fish habitat, water quality, and stream health and to restore stream connectivity through the removal of barriers to fish movement such as dams and culverts.

Fall Trout Stocking

A fall trout stocking was held at Poe Valley State Park, Centre County. From October through December, the PFBC stocked about 130,000 trout into some of the most popular lakes and creeks, providing a chance to enjoy fishing amid cool temperatures, beautiful fall scenery, and with fewer crowds of competing anglers. The stocked trout will enhance ice fishing opportunities into early 2022.



Fall trout stocking at Poe Valley State Park, Centre County.

Colyer Lake Sportfish Assessment

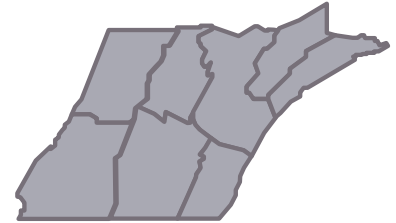
During 2021, PFBC biologists sampled Colyer Lake, Centre County, to determine the status of sportfish population following dam repairs that occurred in 2016. Results suggest sportfish populations (e.g., Black Crappie, Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed, and Yellow Perch) have re-established and improved to levels where populations can now sustain limited harvest. To provide optimal fishing while providing adequate protection to the fish populations, the lake will be managed under Panfish Enhancement regulations for crappies and sunfish, Big Bass regulations for Largemouth Bass, and Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations for all other species.



Bluegill caught at Colyer Lake, Centre County.

FOURTH DISTRICT

Commissioner Donald K. Anderson



Commissioner Donald K. Anderson, Meyersdale, Somerset County, represents the Fourth District of the PFBC. He was appointed in October 2018.

The Fourth District includes **Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, and Somerset counties.**

FOURTH DISTRICT

Dam Safety Improvements

Meadow Grounds Lake Dam, Fulton County - Construction was completed on this \$3.7 million dam rehabilitation project in the winter of 2021. Reservoir re-filling operations began in the spring of 2021.

Somerset Lake Dam, Somerset County - Construction was completed on this \$7.5 million rehabilitation project in the fall of 2021. Reservoir re-filling operations are scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022.

High Point Lake, Somerset County - The proposed \$5.5 million construction project remains in the design phase of construction. The project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity, spillway integrity and dam embankment stability.

Operation Dry Water

Ahead of the busy Fourth of July holiday weekend, the PFBC partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to host a news conference promoting safe and sober summer boating. Each year, the PFBC participates in Operation Dry Water, a nationally coordinated effort between law enforcement agencies, to conduct enhanced BUI enforcement.

Canoe Lake Muskellunge Survey

The PFBC's 2021 survey of this 155-acre lake, Blair County, yielded a total of 28 Muskellunge ranging from 27- to 47-inches long. Recent changes in Muskellunge stocking practices, including stocking larger yearling fish every other year, will help maintain a high-quality fishery. As a result, Canoe Lake will be added to the list of Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters, offering exceptional fishing opportunities for Muskellunge.



A Muskellunge survey at Canoe Lake, Blair County.

Access Area and Marina Improvements

Thompsontown Access Area, Juniata County - The parking lot and access road were repaved, providing added safety and convenience for anglers and boaters.

Franklinville Access Area, Huntingdon County - Engineering staff performed design and permitting in preparation to build a new parking area for anglers to access

Spruce Creek and to demolish the existing structures on the property previously known as Indian Caverns. Construction will be ongoing through 2022.

Somerset Lake Access Area, Somerset County - A rehabilitation project included a new boat launch ramp and the addition of a boarding dock bulkhead.

Tree Planting Along Juniata River

During Earth Week in April, the PFBC hosted partners, including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Juniata County Conservation District, Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, and

Juniata Watershed Alliance, to plant a 7.5-acre streamside forest buffer at the Walker Access in Mifflintown. The addition of these trees will improve the water quality of the Juniata River and eventually the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.



Tree planting along the Juniata River, Juniata County.

Trout Stocking at Whipple Lake, Huntingdon County

In March 11, 2021, the PFBC stocked approximately 4,000 Brook Trout and Brown Trout into Whipple Lake, located within Whipple Dam State Park, in Huntingdon County. This was the first trout stocking at the lake since May of 2019, prior to a dredging project that closed the lake to fishing for all of 2020.



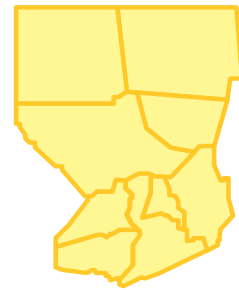
WCO Kyle Robinson stocks trout at Whipple Lake, Huntingdon County.

Education Programs

On August 14, 2021, PFBC staff hosted an Intro to Kayak Fishing Program at the Quemahoning Reservoir, Somerset County. Sixteen participants learned about legal requirements, proper life jacket wear, water hazards, and basic paddling skills.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Commissioner Eric C. Hussar



Commissioner Eric C. Hussar, Lewisburg, Union County, represents the Fifth District of the PFBC. He was appointed in October 2014 and reappointed in June 2019.

The Fifth District includes **Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union counties.**



FIFTH DISTRICT

Dam Safety Improvements

Beechwood Lake Dam, Tioga County - In the late design phase, this project will provide dam safety improvements to address spillway capacity and dam embankment stability.

Rose Valley Lake, Lycoming County - In the design phase, this proposed \$5.57 million construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity, spillway integrity, and dam embankment stability.

Hunters Lake, Sullivan County - In the design phase, this proposed \$2.8 million construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway integrity and dam embankment stability.

Photo-Cindy Meixel (Pennsylvania College of Technology)



Rose Valley Lake, Lycoming County

Habitat Improvements

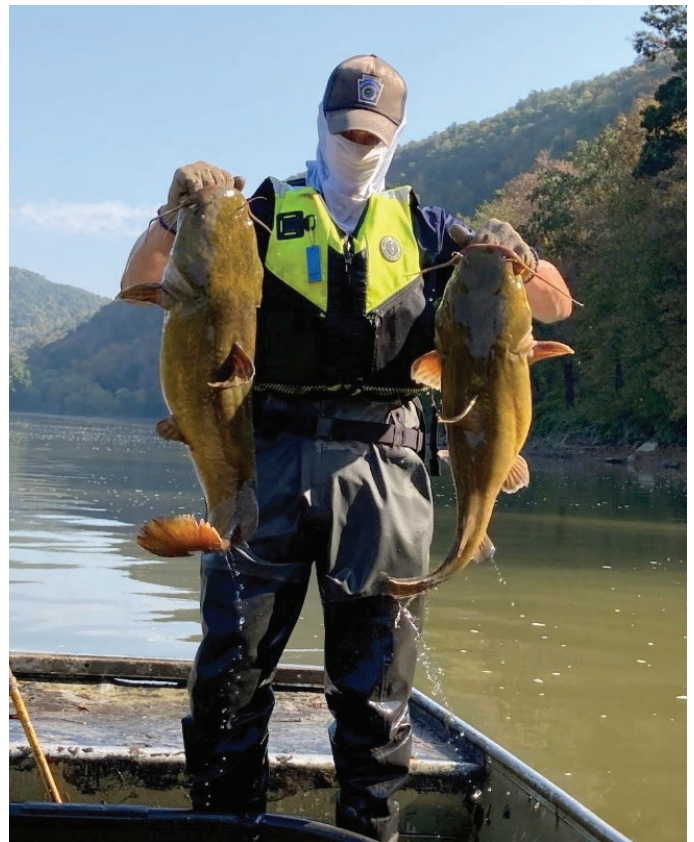
The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Habitat Unit completed a project on Buffalo Creek, Union County, during August 2021. Project funding was made possible by the generous contributions of anglers from across the state who purchased a Voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permit. This project saw its fair share of challenges including two flooding events. One of those was Hurricane Ida, which came the night after the project was completed. In the end, the project restored 600 feet of stream on a “Children’s/Handicap Fishing Area.” The project consisted of several structures including log frame cross vanes, which create pool habitat to optimize fishing opportunities.



Buffalo Creek, Union County, before and after habitat improvement structures were installed.

North Branch Susquehanna River Flathead Catfish Survey

In 2021, the PFBC surveys revealed further expansion of Flathead Catfish in the North Branch Susquehanna River. This large catfish species, native to the Ohio River basin, were first documented in the lower reaches of the Susquehanna River in the early 2000s, and first captured in the North Branch Susquehanna River by PFBC biologists in 2014. In 2014, Flathead Catfish were captured near Berwick, Columbia County, upstream to Kingston, Luzerne County. Sampling in 2020 conducted at West Falls, Wyoming County, documented an upstream population expansion of approximately 20 miles. Additional sampling in 2021 documented Flathead Catfish near Wysox, Bradford County, and Bloomsburg, Columbia County. Flathead Catfish have now been documented in 117 river miles of the North Branch Susquehanna River.



Flathead Catfish on the North Branch Susquehanna River.

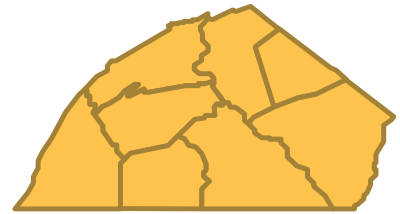
Education Programs

The PFBC partnered with local organizations to host a Family Fishing Program at Rose Valley Lake, Lycoming County. Sponsors provided children with a free fishing rod and tackle box.

During the winter, a virtual Women’s Intro to Ice Fishing Program reached 47 participants, many of who later traveled to Tioga County to try out their new skills.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Commissioner Robert B.J. Small



Commissioner Robert B.J. Small, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, represents the Sixth District of the PFBC. He was appointed in July 2017 and was reappointed in January 2022.

The Sixth District includes **Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties.**

SIXTH DISTRICT

Dam Safety Improvements

Children's Lake, Cumberland County - Currently in the permitting process, construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022 and will be complete in the spring of 2023. The project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity and embankment stability.

Access Area Improvements

Greenwood Access Area, Perry County - Engineering staff coordinated construction and provided quality assurance oversight for the paving of the access area parking lot and access road that needed repair. The total cost of the project is approximately \$193,871.

Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery Tour

In July, the PFBC hosted members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Game and Fisheries Committee for a tour of the Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery near Carlisle, Cumberland County. The Hatchery, which is one of 14 PFBC hatcheries statewide, raises more than 465,000 adult trout each year that contribute to the approximately 3.2 million trout stocked annually in public waterways. During this visit, PFBC staff demonstrated the spawning process of Rainbow Trout, which involves collecting eggs from three-year-old female trout.



A tour group at the Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery, Cumberland County.

Gifford Pinchot State Park Hybrid Striped Bass Stocking

In September, the PFBC stocked 2,000 hybrid Striped Bass into Pinchot Lake at Gifford Pinchot State Park, York County. This mix between a Striped Bass and White Bass are sterile, so the stocked fish will not reproduce and overpopulate the waters bass are stocked into. These fish are voracious feeders and grow quickly to lengths of 20 inches or more and provide great fishing opportunities.



A hybrid Striped Bass at Gifford Pinchot State Park, York County.

Bog Turtle Conservation

The PFBC, in cooperation with other states, was awarded a Competitive State Wildlife Grant for a regional project to protect and maintain the northern population of the Bog Turtle and its habitat in the northeast United States. Special conservation practices will be implemented at priority sites for this vulnerable species. Funding will continue through 2025.



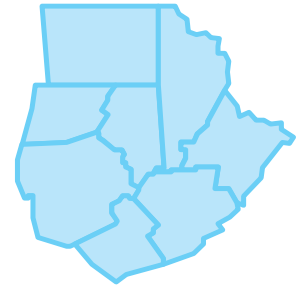
Bog Turtle

Education Programs

The PFBC partnered with Muddy Creek TU, Lancaster Fly Girls, Donegal TU, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to host a Women's Intro to Fly Fishing Program on September 18, 2021. Sixteen women participated in the program and learned about macroinvertebrates, fly casting, knot tying, fly tying, and fly fishing. Many participants caught their first fish on a fly in Muddy Creek, Lancaster County.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Commissioner William J. Gibney



Commissioner William J. Gibney, Honesdale, Wayne County, represents the Seventh District of the PFBC. He was appointed in June 2019.

The Seventh District includes **Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming** counties.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Dam Safety Improvements

Lower Woods Pond Dam, Wayne County - In November, the PFBC broke ground on the long-awaited dam rehabilitation project at Lower Woods Pond in Lebanon Township, Wayne County. The \$2.6 million project will include the reconstruction of three dams and a spillway at the 91-acre lake. Construction is expected to last approximately one year, with the lake refilled and ready to enjoy by the end of 2023. Lower Woods Pond was dewatered in 2012 following the discovery of a leak in the aging dam structures, which presented a safety hazard.



Pictured from left to right are PFBC Commissioner William J. Gibney; Gary Linde, Leeward Construction, Inc.; Representative Jonathan Fritz; Senator Lisa Baker; and PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer.

Belmont Lake Dam, Wayne County - In the permitting process, this \$3.1 million rehabilitation project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity and dam embankment stability.

White Oak Pond Dam and Miller Pond Dam, Wayne County - In the design phase, the total cost to rehabilitate both dam structures is estimated to be \$6.5 million and will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity and dam embankment stability.

Harris Pond, Luzerne County - In the design phase, this proposed \$1.96 million construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity, spillway integrity, and dam embankment stability.

Stevens Lake, Wyoming County - In the design phase, this proposed \$1.68 million construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity, spillway integrity, and dam embankment stability.

Fords Lake, Lackawanna County - In the design phase, this proposed \$2.7 million construction project will address dam safety deficiencies related to spillway capacity.

Access Area Improvements

Lake Wallenpaupack Access Area, Wayne County - A repaving project renewed the access area parking lot that was in a state of disrepair.

Darbytown Access Area (Narrowsburg), Wayne County - A repaving project renewed the parking lot and access road, and bollards were added for additional safety.

Quaker Lake Access Area, Susquehanna County - A repaving project renewed the access area parking lot that was in a state of disrepair.

Lake Wallenpaupack Access Area, Wayne County - Maintenance staff constructed and installed new boarding docks with composite decking boards.

Harveys Lake Access Area, Luzerne County - Maintenance staff constructed and installed new boarding docks with composite decking boards to replace antiquated docks.

Hatcheries and Facilities

Northeast Region Office (Sweet Valley), Luzerne County - Design of the new 7,500-square-foot regional office began in the fall of 2021. The new facility is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million and construction is estimated to be complete in 2025.

Safe Summer Boating Event

In June, at Lake Wallenpaupack, the PFBC partnered with Brookfield Renewable and PennDOT to promote safe and sober boating and driving ahead of the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The event was part of Operation Dry Water, a nationally coordinated effort to conduct enhanced BUI enforcement.



WCO Matthew Dietrich on Lake Wallenpaupack, Pike and Wayne counties.

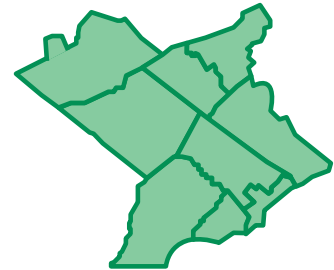
Education Programs

PFBC educators provided Fishing Skills Instructor training to 10 staff members of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and recruited them as a new Fishing Tackle Loaner site partner.

During the summer, the PFBC conducted 16 fly fishing meet-up programs at Ricketts Glen State Park (Columbia, Luzerne, and Sullivan counties) and hosted three kayak fishing meet-up programs, and five fly fishing meet-up programs at Lackawanna State Park, Lackawanna County.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Commissioner Richard S. Kauffman



Commissioner Richard S. Kauffman, Leesport, Berks County, represents the Eighth District for the PFBC. He was appointed in July 2017 and reappointed in June 2019.

The Eighth District includes **Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill counties.**

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Five Locks Access Opening

On May 21, 2021, the PFBC held a ribbon-cutting event at the newly reopened Five Locks Access Area along the Schuylkill River near Hamburg, Berks County. This location provides convenient public access to the Schuylkill River for unpowered boats, such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. The access area had been closed since 2007 due to the discovery of lead contamination in the soil, and a successful lead contamination remediation project occurred.



The PFBC held a ribbon-cutting event at Five Locks Access, Berks County.

Access Area Improvements

Yardley Access Area, Bucks County - The access road and parking lot were repaved to provide safer, more convenient access to anglers and boaters.

Minsi Lake Dam, Northampton County - Pathways constructed of crushed stone were added to the dam for more convenient access for anglers.



Minsi Lake Dam, Northampton County

Sands Eddy Access Area, Northampton County - The access road and parking lot were repaved to provide safer, more convenient access to anglers and boaters.



Sands Eddy Access Area, Northampton County

Safe Summer Boating Event

In June, as part of Operation Dry Water enhanced BUI enforcement, the PFBC partnered with PennDOT, United States Coast Guard, AAA Mid-Atlantic, and the Ridley Township Police Department to promote safe and sober boating and driving ahead of the Fourth of July holiday weekend.



WCO Evancho at Ridley Township Marina, Delaware County.

Education Programs

Education Staff provided loaner rods, tackle, bait, and fishing skills instruction for participants in the Philly Fun Fishing Fest held on Saturday, September 11 along the banks of the Schuylkill River around the area of the Walnut Street Bridge. Partners included the City of Philadelphia and Schuylkill River Development Corporation.



Participants in the Philly Fun Fishing Fest.

Photo: Schuylkill Banks

Bilingual Education and Outreach

The PFBC continued efforts to reach more diverse audiences, including Hispanic and Spanish-speaking communities. Anneli Frank Langer, a bilingual education and outreach specialist hired in 2020, has continued to provide introductory fishing and boating programs. The PFBC has created various social media posts in Spanish to more effectively reach anglers and boaters with education and safety messages.

BOATING-AT-LARGE

Bureau of Boating

In 2021, the PFBC established and fully staffed its new Bureau of Boating. Bureau staff serve as the liaison with the United States Coast Guard for administration of all aspects of the state's Recreational Boating Safety Program including waterways and marinas management as well as boating and watercraft safety.

NASBLA Annual Conference

The PFBC hosted the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) annual conference in Pittsburgh from September 26-29. The PFBC was recognized for achieving Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Accreditation, which will expand training opportunities internally and with agency partners.

Boating Facility Grant Program

In 2021, the PFBC awarded grants that will support 22 projects involving the planning, acquisition, development, expansion, and rehabilitation of public boating facilities located on the waters of the Commonwealth.

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under the auspices of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, the PFBC gave special consideration to proposed boating facility projects within the Delaware River Watershed, resulting in \$1.9 million being dedicated for seven impactful projects.

Funds for the Boating Facility Grant Program are derived primarily from boat registration fees, state motorboat fuels tax, and restricted revenue accounts, if applicable. In certain instances, federal aid is also used, if appropriate.

In October, the PFBC sought applicants for an additional round of grants, expected to be awarded in spring of 2022.

Cold Water Life Jacket Safety Videos

Throughout the fall season, the PFBC produced more than 30 public service announcements featuring state legislators who reminded boaters about basic cold water boating safety tips including wearing a life jacket. Videos were shared in district newsletters and across social media.

Boating-At-Large Commissioners

Two members of the Commission serve at-large and are experienced in boating and water safety education.



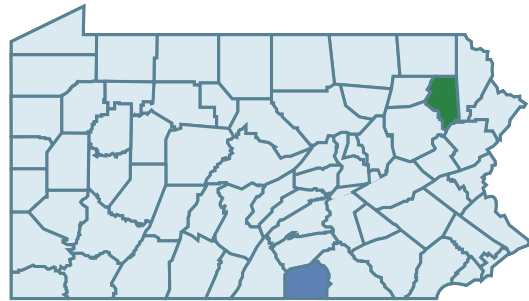
Charles J. Charlesworth

Commissioner Charles J. Charlesworth, Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County, was appointed as an at-large boating commissioner in June 2019.



Richard Lewis

Commissioner Richard Lewis, Gettysburg, Adams County, was appointed as an at-large boating commissioner in July 2017 and was reappointed in January 2022.



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.

BAB Members:

Loren Lustig, *Chairperson*
Biglerville

Scott Ballantyne
Fleetwood

*John Mahn Jr.
Charleroi

Michael Murray
Philadelphia

Elizabeth Winand
Wrightsville

**Appointed as District 2 Commissioner in December 2021.*

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Report (unaudited)

EXPENDITURES

Fish Fund

Personnel	\$25,966,521
Operating	\$11,802,560
Fixed Assets	\$1,452,211
Grants	\$776,409
Fish Fund Total	\$39,997,701

Boat Fund

Personnel	\$12,032,633
Operating	\$4,685,245
Fixed Assets	\$1,466,773
Grants	\$119,198
Boat Fund Total	\$18,303,849

Fish Fund and Boat Fund Total

Personnel	\$37,999,154
Operating	\$16,487,805
Fixed Assets	\$2,918,984
Grants	\$895,607
Fish and Boat Fund Total	\$58,301,550

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Report (unaudited)

REVENUE

Fish Fund

Licenses and Fees	\$29,839,374
Fines and Penalties	\$357,630
Miscellaneous	\$2,756,990
Federal and State Grants	\$8,713,906
Fish Fund Total	\$41,667,900

Boat Fund

Licenses and Fees	\$10,760,358
Fines and Penalties	\$237,581
Miscellaneous	\$8,492,031
Federal and State Grants	\$3,972,675
Boat Fund Total	\$23,462,645

Fish Fund and Boat Fund Total

Licenses and Fees	\$40,599,732
Fines and Penalties	\$595,211
Miscellaneous	\$11,249,021
Federal and State Grants	\$12,686,581
Fish and Boat Fund Total	\$65,130,545

2021 Cooperative Nursery 50 Year Award Certificates

- C.V. Anglers Club
- Cedarbrook Sportsmen Club
- Chambersburg Rod & Gun Club
- Farnsworth Trout Club
- Fort Indiantown Gap Fish & Game
- Paradise Sportsmen's Association
- Rabbit Run Fish & Game Association
- Richfield Sportsmen Club
- Southern Lancaster Farmer Sportsmen's Association
- West Caln Sportsmen Club

Trout Stocked by PFBC

Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount
Brook Trout	Adult	371,811
	Fingerling	104,920
Brown Trout	Adult	744,180
	Fingerling	399,782
Rainbow Trout	Adult	2,062,387
	Fingerling	324,000
Golden Rainbow Trout	Adult	15,147
Total Trout Stocked by PFBC		4,022,227

Trout Distributed to Cooperative Nurseries

Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount
Brook Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	75,200
Brown Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	224,175
Rainbow Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	354,328
Golden Rainbow Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	9,580
Total Trout Distributed to Coops.		663,283

Total Trout Species (Stocked and Distributed) 4,685,510

Warmwater/Coolwater Fish Production and Stocking

Species	Lifestage	Amount
American Shad	Fry	65,977
Black Crappie	Fingerling	15,344
Bluegill	Fingerling	67,400
Brown Trout - Erie	Adult	632
Brown Trout - Erie	Yearling	30,173
Channel Catfish	Fingerling	79,590
Channel Catfish	Yearling	10,493
Fathead Minnow	Adult	13,400
Golden Shiner	Fingerling	162,400
Lake Trout	Fingerling	37,728
Lake Trout	Yearling	61,080
Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	18,190
Muskellunge	Fingerling	9,650
Muskellunge	Yearling	40,631
Northern Pike	Fingerling	4,227
Rainbow Trout - Steelhead	Yearling	1,015,986
Spottail Shiner	Adult	250
Striped Bass	Fingerling	377,603
hybrid Striped Bass	Fingerling	1,986
Tiger Muskellunge	Fingerling	7,175
Tiger Muskellunge	Yearling	12,218
Walleye	Fry	12,875,000
Walleye	Fingerling	2,081,360
White Crappie	Adult	23
White Crappie	Fingerling	11,805
Yellow Perch	Fingerling	35,100
Grand Total of all Species		17,035,421

Website Statistics

Top Ten Pages by Page View

- Buy a Fishing License - 860,355
- Homepage - 851,842
- Register/Title a Boat - 516,984
- Trout Stocking Calendar - 507,229
- Stocking - 284,453
- Trout - PA Fishes - 181,966
- Trout Season Overview - 175,820
- Fishing Regulations - 167,533
- Boat Registration FAQ - 157,031
- Best Fishing Waters - 133,982

Total Sessions

3,719,341

Total Users

2,331,857

Web Page Visits by State

- Pennsylvania - 1,707,049
- New York - 159,073
- District of Columbia - 102,278
- New Jersey - 84,076
- Ohio - 73,879
- Maryland - 33,306
- Virginia - 28,780
- Florida - 18,355
- Texas - 17,447
- Michigan - 16,468

Social Media 2021

(1/1/21 to 12/31/21)

Facebook

Followers (6% increase)	111,455
Posts	977
Impressions	15,307,474
Engagements	437,973
Engagement Rate	1.08%

Twitter

Followers (2% increase)	12,569
Tweets	835
Impressions	935,305
Engagements	36,905
Engagement Rate	0.80%

Instagram

Followers (11% increase)	20,121
Posts	789
Impressions	4,893,988
Engagements	133,573
Engagement Rate	1.82%

YouTube

Subscribers (64% increase)	2,643
Videos	165
Impressions	1,517,146
Engagements	225,073
Engagement Rate	23.33%

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1601 Elmerton Avenue
P.O. Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000
Phone: (717) 705-7800
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

CENTRE REGION OFFICE

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Lobby Phone: (814) 359-5124
Fisheries Admin. Phone:
(814) 359-5110
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

FISHING LICENSES:

Phone: (877) 707-4085

BOAT REGISTRATION/TITLING:

Phone: (866) 262-8734

PUBLICATIONS:

Phone: (717) 705-7835

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION COURSES

Phone: (888) 723-4741

THE PFBC WEBSITE:

fishandboat.com



fishandboat.com/socialmedia

REGION OFFICES: LAW ENFORCEMENT/EDUCATION

Contact **Law Enforcement** for information about regulations and fishing and boating opportunities.

Contact **Outreach and Education** for information about fishing and boating programs and boating safety education.

NORTHWEST REGION

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

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241
Law Enforcement: (717) 486-7087
Outreach and 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

SOUTHWEST REGION

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

NORTHEAST REGION

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

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Law Enforcement: (814) 359-5250
Outreach and 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

SOUTHEAST REGION

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

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

STATE FISH HATCHERIES

- **BELLEFONTE***
1115 Spring Creek Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-3371
- **BENNER SPRING**
1735 Shiloh Road
State College, PA 16801
(814) 355-4837
- **OSWAYO***
96 State Route 244 East
Coudersport, PA 16915
(814) 698-2102
- **REYNOLDS DALE***
162 Fish Hatchery Road
New Paris, PA 15554
(814) 839-2211
- **CORRY***
13365 Route 6
Corry, PA 16407
(814) 664-2122
- **HUNTS DALE***
195 Lebo Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 486-3419
- **PLEASANT GAP***
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 359-5132
- **TIONESTA***
172 Fish Hatchery Lane
Tionesta, PA 16353
(814) 755-3524
- **FAIRVIEW**
2000 Lohrer Road
P.O. Box 531
Fairview, PA 16415
(814) 474-1514
- **LINESVILLE***
13300 Hartstown Road
Linesville, PA 16424
(814) 683-4451
- **PLEASANT MOUNT***
229 Great Bend Turnpike
Pleasant Mount, PA 18453
(570) 448-2101
- **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.

The Visitor Center at Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery is currently closed due to repairs.

FishandBoat.com