

# Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

# 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT



photos-PFBC archives

*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**



# SPECIAL SECTION AND STATEWIDE INITIATIVES



## 2025 Snapshots

by *Timothy D. Schaeffer*  
Executive Director

One of the highlights of the winter for me is reading the first draft of our agency's annual report. Our staff who produce the report have the tough task of sifting through a year's worth of accomplishments and pulling out examples from across the Commonwealth that can be compiled into one document. That's a good problem!

As you will read in the following pages, 2025 was another busy and productive year for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and our partners. In the opening pages of the report, we highlight aquatic species restoration statewide. As you dig further into the report, you will see a sampling of select highlights from different regions, all accomplished by our dedicated staff and supported by a network of partnerships that annually grows. From restoration and monitoring of aquatic species to improvements to fishing and boating



PFBC Executive Director  
Tim Schaeffer

infrastructure at lakes and flowing waters, this report provides a snapshot of 2025.

Speaking of snapshots, just about every photo these days is taken with a smartphone. As the legislators who have recorded scores of segments with us over the last few years promoting safe boating messages and trout stockings in their districts can attest, videos are a great way to share content and get the word out. That is why we tried something new with this year's annual report. On this page, you'll notice a QR code that leads to an introductory message from me describing the contents of the report. In addition, when you get to pages 5, 8, and 19, take out your phone again and click on the QR codes to find more videos that highlight our agency's work in the field. If you like what you see, please give us a thumbs up!

I am drafting this message a few days before Groundhog Day, and we do not know whether Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow. Hopefully, he will forecast a Mentored Youth Trout Day on par with last year. Aided by gorgeous weather, a record number of youth and their adult mentors took to the water to start their trout season a week early. Notably, 2025 saw a nearly 50% increase in Mentored Youth Trout Day participation compared to just two years earlier. Please consider joining the fun and taking a kid fishing on March 28 or any other day of the year. And if you fish from a boat, please wear your life jacket.

Thank you to our partners in the General Assembly for your sustained collaboration and support in 2025 as we collectively implemented the agency's mission to protect, conserve, and enhance aquatic resources, and provide fishing and boating opportunities. On to 2026!



Keeva Keip, age 8, and her mother, Rochelle, caught this Rainbow Trout while fishing Locust Lake, Schuylkill County, on Mentored Youth Trout Day in 2025.

### Director's Message:



## SPECIAL SECTION: RESOURCE RESTORATION

The word **Resources** is a key part of the PFBC’s mission—*“To protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.”*

Among the plentiful waters and aquatic species that call Pennsylvania home, there are opportunities

### Wild Trout

Through decades of partnerships aimed at improving water quality, populations of wild trout continue to be documented in new streams across Pennsylvania each year. In 2025, stream surveys by PFBC biologists and Unassessed Waters Initiative partners resulted in the addition of 128 new waters to the list of wild trout streams and the extension of 14 waters that were already listed, thus increasing protections on 282 new miles of stream. Seventy-nine new stream sections, totaling 141 miles, were added to the Class A wild trout streams list.



Wild Brook Trout

### American Eel

In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the PFBC assists in the annual process of helping hundreds of thousands of American Eels migrate upstream in the Susquehanna River. From May through October, eels, which are unable to get past the Octoraro and Conowingo dams, are captured and relocated to upriver release sites from Harrisburg, Dauphin County, to Williamsport, Lycoming County. In 2025, approximately 400,000 eels were transported upriver, with a total of 2 million eels transported since 2008.



American Eel

to create success stories for current and future generations. This section highlights agency-wide resource restoration efforts that have benefited our waters, aquatic species, and the anglers and boaters who enjoy them.

### American Shad

Among the original missions of the PFBC dating back to 1866 was to address the decline of the American Shad fishery on the Susquehanna River. Today, the PFBC works with the USFWS and dam owners to help shad, which migrate from the ocean to their freshwater spawning grounds each spring, navigate around dams through fish ladders and lifts. In 2025, 1.1 million shad fry were raised at the PFBC’s Van Dyke Research Station, Juniata County, and stocked in the Juniata River. After imprinting on these waters, the shad will swim to the ocean to grow for 3-5 years before their instincts draw them back to their home waters to spawn. Thousands more shad were captured at lift sites and transferred upriver. While shad continue to face an uphill battle in the Susquehanna River, there is a self-sustaining population of American Shad in the Delaware River and Estuary, where annual fish migration is not impeded by dams.



Releasing American Shad

### Blue Catfish

Since 2022, the PFBC has stocked more than 100,000 juvenile Blue Catfish under the Three Rivers Blue Catfish Restoration Plan. In Pennsylvania, this large species of catfish, which can weigh 70 pounds or more, is native only to the Ohio River watershed. Once a popular sportfish around Pittsburgh, Blue Catfish were eradicated due to pollution and poor water quality. With water quality improvements over the past several decades, the PFBC aims to restore a native species to the ecosystem and eventually provide more trophy fishing opportunities to these southwestern waters. Anglers are reminded Blue Catfish are considered invasive outside of the Ohio River watershed, and it’s illegal for individuals to stock the species into any water of the Commonwealth.



A juvenile Blue Catfish stocked at Point State Park, Allegheny County, in July.

### ***Non-Game Species***

Not every success story ends with a full creel or a selfie with a trophy catch. The PFBC manages all native aquatic life, including many non-game species. From

endangered darters, rarely seen reptiles, and invertebrates, each serve a unique and often critical role in their local ecosystems.

### ***Mussels***

In 2025, more than 12,000 native mussels were raised at the PFBC's Union City Aquatic Conservation Center, Erie County, and stocked in Dunkard Creek, Greene County; Clarion River, Clarion and Jefferson counties; and Kiskiminetas River, Westmoreland County. Additionally, the PFBC and partners, through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, released hundreds of American Eels into the West Branch Susquehanna River, Clinton County. The eels, a host fish, were inoculated with mussel larvae, in hopes that the mussels will release from the eels and establish new populations.

### ***Chesapeake Logperch***

This small native darter that exists in only a few small tributaries of the lower Susquehanna River is considered threatened in Pennsylvania but has a bright future. Since 2019, the PFBC in partnership with the USFWS, Penn State University, and others has tagged and stocked thousands of juvenile logperch into streams within the species' historical home range. While poor water quality and dam obstructions contributed to the decline of the species, stocking efforts are intended to complement improvements in both areas.



*Mussel stocking*



*Chesapeake Logperch*



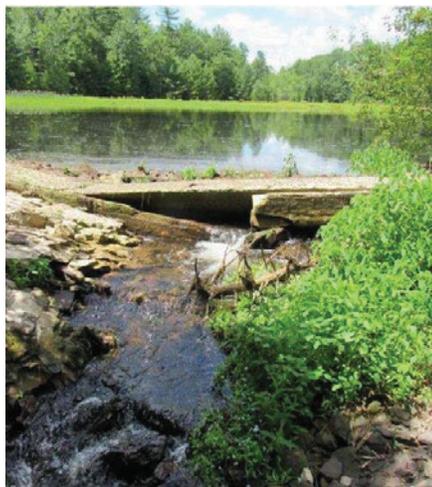
## Habitat

Through the removal of dams, erosion control, or the strategic placement of man-made habitat structures in our waterways, fish and aquatic life thrive and, in turn, benefit anglers and boaters. In 2025, the PFBC continued to make a big difference in our own backyards and for our neighbors hundreds of miles downstream.



### Dam Removal

To date, Pennsylvania has removed more than 420 dams, which is more than double the number of dams removed by any other state. Dam removal restores natural water flows and fish passage, while improving overall water quality. Over the past two years (2024-2025), the PFBC partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR), American Rivers, and others to remove 40 dams, including the 755-foot-long Oakland Dam on the North Branch Susquehanna River, Susquehanna County, which was the longest dam removal in United States history. The recent removal of the Indian Run Dam in Lehigh Gorge State Park, Carbon County, benefitted wild trout populations.



*Indian Run Dam, Carbon County*

### Streams

Eroded streambanks and lack of beneficial, natural habitat features can create harsh environments for aquatic species trying to make a comeback. The PFBC Stream Habitat Section specializes in placing artificial habitat structures along imperiled streams to restore natural water flow, increase oxygen levels, and cool water temperatures for the benefit of fish and anglers. In addition to reversing the effects of poor agricultural practices and stormwater management, the transformation created by many stream habitat projects is visually stunning and enhances public access to the water.



*Buffalo Creek, Union County, benefitted from a 200-foot streambank stabilization project in 2025.*

### Lakes

Resource restoration within our lakes can mean several things, from restoring the structural integrity of an aging dam through rehabilitation, the re-establishment of fish populations after draining and refill, or enhancing habitat. In 2025, the PFBC's Bureaus of Engineering, Fisheries, and Hatcheries, and volunteers, were among those who contributed to these achievements. Multi-year restocking plans are currently in effect at several recently refilled lakes, including Somerset Lake, Somerset County, and Lower Woods Pond, Wayne County. A notable volunteer project this year was Tucker Weidman's Eagle Scout project, which included the addition of 10 turtle basking platforms at Meadow Grounds Lake, Fulton County.



*Turtle basking platforms are constructed at Meadow Grounds Lake, Fulton County.*

## STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

### The Trout are Out

On Saturday, April 5, hundreds of thousands of anglers enjoyed the opening day of trout season. A Mentored Youth Trout Day was held on Saturday, March 29. In 2025, approximately 60% of anglers age 16 and over who purchased a fishing license also purchased a trout permit. Combined with youth angler participation, the opening day of trout season and the weeks that follow continue to be a cherished Pennsylvania tradition.

#### Important 2026 Trout Fishing Dates:

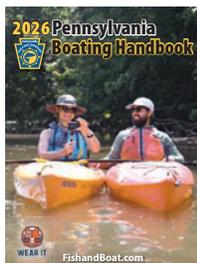
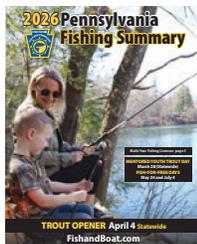
- Saturday, March 28, 2026 (Statewide) - Mentored Youth Trout Day
- Saturday, April 4, 2026 (Statewide) - Opening Day of Trout Season



Mentored Youth Trout Day 2025

### Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook

For fishing license year 2026, beginning December 1, 2025, the PFBC published the 2026 *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* and 2026 *Pennsylvania Boating Handbook*. The booklet is available free of charge at nearly 700 license issuing agents, can be viewed at [HuntFish.PA.gov](http://HuntFish.PA.gov), or downloaded at [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com). It includes fishing regulations and information for powered and unpowered boat operators including basic navigation rules, safety information, Boating Under the Influence (BUI), and how to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).



### Limited Edition Fishing License Button

In 2025, 6,441 anglers purchased a collectible fishing license button. The collectible button for 2026 features the vibrant and colorful pattern of Pennsylvania's beloved state fish, the Brook Trout. Once again, a limited edition production of 10,000 buttons will be produced, and customers will receive a randomly numbered button between 00001-10000.



### Fish-for-Free Days

The annual Fish-for-Free Days were offered again in 2025 on May 25 and July 4. The Fish and Boat Code permits the PFBC to offer two free fishing days a year. Dates are selected to coincide with the 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.

#### Fish-for-Free Days in 2026 will be:

- Sunday, May 24, 2026
- Saturday, July 4, 2026

### Notice of Stocking

After being implemented in 2024, anglers who intend to stock fish in Commonwealth waters are required to submit a Notice of Stocking (NOS). In 2025, the PFBC received more than 1,400 NOS submissions for approximately 3,500 stocking events on 1,450 different waters. Completing the NOS is a fast, free, and user-friendly process that can be completed online using the [HuntFish.PA.gov](http://HuntFish.PA.gov) website or a .pdf form and submitting it by e-mail or traditional mail.

### Cleaning up Abandoned Boats

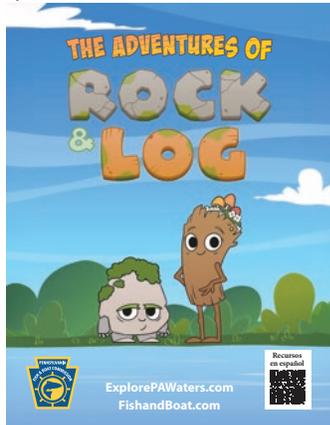
On June 30, Governor Shapiro signed into law Act 28 of 2025, which gives communities stronger tools to deal with Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV). The law creates clear definitions for “abandoned,” “at-risk,” and “derelict” boats—terms that were previously missing from state law—and gives local authorities a process to investigate and remove problem vessels. The bill also increases penalties for abandoning a boat, with more serious consequences for cases that involve significant cleanup costs.



An abandoned boat along Pittsburgh's North Shore, Allegheny County.

## Rock & Log Activity Books and Videos

In continued efforts to engage all ages and various interests, the agency developed a set of coloring sheets and activity books hosted by the PFBC's lively animated characters Rock & Log. These resources are available to legislators, educators, and other partners for use in boating safety and conservation lessons, and to educate the public about the work of the PFBC.



### Meet Rock & Log:



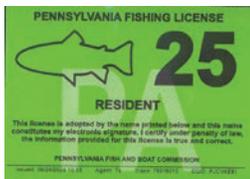
and a hatchery truck filled with trout. In addition, several educational events were held across the state on National Hunting and Fishing Day on Saturday, September 27.



The PFBC welcomed visitors at the State Capitol, Dauphin County.

## Licensing and Registration

In 2025, staff cut the wait time for boat registrations by unprecedented amounts. Historically, there has been a backlog of nearly 4,000 boat registration applications during the peak summer months, with customers waiting an average of 60 days. This year, during the peak period, the boat registration backlog peaked at 1,097 applications, which is a decrease of 73%, and the average turnaround time never exceeded five days. Currently, most boat registrations applications are being processed on the same day they are received.



## Hunting and Fishing Day in Pennsylvania

The PFBC partnered with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) in September to promote fall outdoor activities and give visitors to the State Capitol, Harrisburg, a chance to meet Waterways Conservation Officers, Game Wardens, and state fish hatchery staff. Informational and interactive displays included casting and archery target practice, a license sales station,

## Mission Mondays

During February and March, the PFBC offered this eight-part online educational series, highlighting various fishing, boating, and conservation topics. Each Monday at noon, participants joined a live, 30-minute webinar presentation with PFBC staff to learn about motorboat operation, paddling, freshwater mussels, Lake Erie perch and Walleyes, wild trout, amphibians and reptiles, and more. Mission Mondays attracted an average of 98 participants per program.

## R3 Grants

In 2025, \$190,000 in grant funding was awarded to support 16 education projects in 10 counties that foster interest in fishing and boating in Pennsylvania through the R3 (recruitment, retention, and reactivation) Education Grant Program. Another round of grants opened in fall 2025, with awardees to be announced in spring 2026.

## Trout In the Classroom (TIC)

Momentum for this popular program continued to grow in 2025. Under the instruction of their teachers, 57,012 students in 436 classrooms across 62 counties raised Rainbow Trout from eggs to fingerlings in aquariums as part of their curriculum. Of the 35 states that offer TIC, Pennsylvania has the third largest program, accounting for more than 12,556 hours of education. Ensuring that the program has room to grow even more, 70 new educators were trained through two virtual TIC workshops.



TIC egg packing

## Law Enforcement Awards

Each year, WCOs are honored with a variety of awards that recognize outstanding service and excellence in the field. In 2025, awards were presented in the following categories:

- **2024 Officer of the Year:** WCO Chad A. Lauer (Tioga County)
- **NASBLA Boating Law Officer of the Year (PA):** WCO Zachary M. Rudd (Northampton County)
- **Top Gun Award:** WCO Kyle R. Robinson (Mifflin and Northern Huntingdon counties)
- **Gerald L. Greiner Environmental Protection Award:** WCO Charles H. Shoemaker (Lycoming County)
- **Deputy of the Year Award:** Carl E. Freeman (Southcentral Region)

## WCOs Graduation

In July, 19 members of the 26th Class of WCOs graduated during a ceremony at the State Capitol and reported for duty in their new districts. In August, the next class of WCO Trainees reported to the PFBC's H.R. Stackhouse Training School, Centre County, where they completed basic orientation and boating safety training. In September, the class then reported to Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, Mansfield, Tioga County, to learn basic principles of law enforcement. The next class of WCOs is expected to graduate in summer 2026.



26th WCO Class graduation

## Honoring the Service of Veterans

Under Act 21 of 2025, veterans with a 100% disability can now renew their free fishing license through [HuntFish.Pa.gov](https://www.huntfish.pa.gov), rather than applying each year at a County Treasurer office. The law also offers \$1 annual fishing licenses to veterans with a 60-99% disability rating, and members of the Pennsylvania National Guard and reserves who have been deployed for at least 60 days within the past 24 months or whose deployment was ended early due to injury or disease.

## Law Enforcement Fleet Replacement

The effort to upgrade the PFBC's fleet of patrol boats expanded in 2025 with the addition of four new boats. A 21-foot Boston Whaler was assigned to the Southwest Region, a 19-foot G3 was issued to the Southcentral Region, and both the Northeast and Southeast regions received new 17-foot G3 boats. The addition of these boats continues a multi-year plan to replace aging vessels with modern equipment suited for law enforcement. In the past four years, 30 new patrol boats have been added to the fleet.



One of the new 17-foot G3 boats used by law enforcement in the Northeast Region.

## Operation Dry Water

The PFBC Bureau of Law Enforcement and other conservation law enforcement agencies across the country conduct enhanced BUI enforcement around the Fourth of July holiday weekend. In Pennsylvania, it's unlawful to operate any boat while intoxicated with a blood alcohol content of .08% or above, and BUI offenders face similar fines and penalties as those who drive a motor vehicle on the roadway while impaired. In 2025, 70 WCOs and 26 Deputy WCOs conducted 1,852 hours of BUI patrols, contacting 4,653 boaters, issuing 931 safety warnings, and arresting 9 individuals for BUI. Among those arrested was a boat operator with a blood alcohol content of .198%, which is approximately two-and-a-half times the legal limit.

# 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 and was reappointed in October 2023.

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

## FIRST DISTRICT

### Lake Erie Research Unit Facility

In September, the PFBC celebrated the opening of the new Lake Erie Research Unit facility in Fairview, Erie County. The 2,800 square-foot building, located on the grounds of the Fairview State Fish Hatchery, contains a research laboratory, library, conference room, and modern office space for three full-time biologists, seasonal biologist aides, and a Waterways Conservation Officer.



*Staff cut the ribbon on the Lake Erie Research Unit Facility, Erie County.*

### North East Marina

Ownership of the North East Marina, Erie County, was transferred to the North East Community Marina Authority. The PFBC entered into an agreement for a five-year lease with the Authority for boater access at the Marina and retained a recreation easement on a portion of the property, so it stays open to the public in perpetuity.

### “Historic” Stocking at Drake Well

The PFBC teamed up with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to tour the Drake Well Museum and Park, Crawford County, and stock 1,500 Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout into Oil Creek, Venango County. Beyond stocking, the two agencies are exploring plans to increase fishing access around the Drake Well site and develop a canoe and kayak launch nearby.



*PHMC Executive Director Andrea Lowery stocks trout into Oil Creek, Venango County.*

### Lake Erie Walleye Fishing Update

The Walleye fishery in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie was outstanding for the ninth consecutive year, and 2025 was no exception for the incredible fishing tied for the highest catch rate, (2017), in the time series. The harvest rate of 1.3 fish per hour was also the highest on record. Overall, 52% of Walleye trips harvested the creel limit of six Walleyes (15 inches or longer) per angler. The age composition of the harvest was 43% age 4, 16% age 6, and 10% age 10. The average length of all harvested Walleye samples was approximately 20 inches, with the longest measuring 29.5 inches.

### Steelhead Spawn

From November through February, several steelhead spawning operations are held at Trout Run, the PFBC's nursery water in Fairview, Erie County. Hundreds of thousands of fertilized eggs are taken to be raised at the nearby Fairview State Fish Hatchery. Annually, the goal is to raise and stock approximately 1 million year-old steelhead smolts into Lake Erie tributaries. Due to biosecurity concerns and hatchery capacity



*A steelhead collected during spawning operations in November.*

limits, steelhead production has been reduced in recent years. The PFBC continues to work with other states to secure additional fish and engage local stakeholders on the efforts to return to historic production levels.

### Linesville Open House

More than 2,000 visitors attended the annual open house event at the Linesville State Fish Hatchery, Crawford County. The event featured live amphibian and reptile displays, Walleye spawning, fish filleting and cooking demonstrations, and t-shirt making.

### Spring Creek Wild Trout Survey

Biologists surveyed Spring Creek, Section 03, Warren County. This section, which was classified as a Class A wild trout stream in 1999, recently became more accessible to the public through a land purchase by the PGC. The section, which is now within the new State Game Lands 291, contained wild Brown Trout up to 22 inches long. The PFBC and partners are now collaborating on future habitat projects to benefit the wild trout population in Spring Creek.

# SECOND DISTRICT

## Commissioner John Mahn Jr.



Commissioner John Mahn Jr., Charleroi, Washington County, represents the Second District of the PFBC. He was appointed in December 2021.

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

## SECOND DISTRICT

### Keystone Lake Habitat Improvement

The PFBC partnered with PA DCNR to complete a shoreline fish habitat project at Keystone Lake, Westmoreland County. The project included stabilizing 540 feet of eroded shoreline, the construction of 20 stone-framed deflectors, and 50 rock rubble humps. The new shoreline fish habitat structures will benefit fish and macroinvertebrates and improve angler access.

### Donegal Lake Fishery Assessment

In April and May, biologists surveyed Donegal Lake, Westmoreland County, to assess the fish population. The lake, which was drained in 2016 for a dam rehabilitation project, was refilled in 2020 and restocked with various warm-water species. The survey revealed abundant populations of Largemouth Bass, crappies, Bluegills, and Channel Catfish. Several Largemouth Bass measured over 15 inches long and weighed between 4 and 5 pounds. Beginning in 2026, catch and release regulations will be removed at the lake, and it will be managed under the Big Bass Program Special Regulations and Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations program for crappies. All other fish species will be managed with Commonwealth Inland Waters fishing regulations.



*Donegal Lake survey*

### Safe Boating Message

To celebrate National Safe Boating Week from May 17-23, the PFBC visited Smitty's Marina along the Monongahela River, Fayette County. Along with delivering safe boating messages, the PFBC announced a partnership with the marina to host a free, in-person Boating Safety Education Course in June for up to 60 boaters who could earn their Boating Safety Education Certificate.



*Smitty's Marina media event*

### Access Improvements

The PFBC Bureau of Engineering completed multiple improvement projects in District 2, including:

- **Monongahela Access, Washington County:** A ramp extension was added to accommodate lower river levels due to a recent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project.
- **Jockey Hollow Access, Fayette County:** The entrance road and parking area were paved, seal coated, and lined.
- **Deer Creek Access, Allegheny County:** Drainage improvements and paving were completed in the parking area.



*Monongahela Access, Washington County*

### Rare Mussels Discovered

The discovery of the Elephant Ear, a native freshwater mussel that hasn't been documented since 1919, was among the highlights of Allegheny River mussel surveys in 2025. PFBC biologists focused in the impounded portion of the lower Allegheny River to update population records, add protections to these mussel species when threatened by projects that may disrupt their habitat, and prioritize species recovery efforts. Between Pools 6 and 7, nearly 50 different mussel species were observed, including several species that are threatened or endangered.



*A rare Elephant Ear mussel was discovered in the Allegheny River.*

# 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

### Timber Rattlesnake Survey

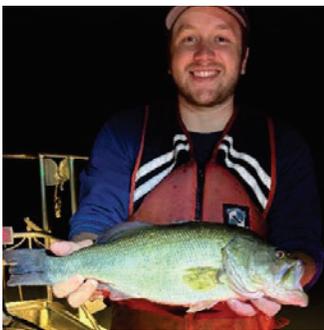
In May, trainees with the 26th Class of WCOs conducted a Timber Rattlesnake survey in Clearfield County. From late April through September, pregnant female rattlesnakes bask in sunlight for 8 to 10 hours a day to prepare to give birth to live young. In addition to gathering valuable data, new WCOs are able to handle one of Pennsylvania's three native venomous snake species, which currently live in 51 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.



*Rattlesnake training*

### Kyle Lake Fishery Assessment

During spring 2025, biologists surveyed Kyle Lake, Jefferson County, to assess the fish population. The lake, which was drained in 2016 for a dam rehabilitation project, was refilled in 2020 and restocked with various warm-water species. Bluegills were the most abundant panfish captured with 57% being 6 inches or more long. Largemouth Bass were also found to be thriving, with 320 fish captured ranging from 3-18 inches long. Beginning in 2026, catch and release regulations will be removed at the lake, and it will be managed under the Big Bass Program Special Regulations and Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations program for crappies and sunfish. All other fish species will be managed with Commonwealth Inland Waters fishing regulations.



*A Largemouth Bass from Kyle Lake, Jefferson County.*

### West Branch Susquehanna River Mussel Restoration

As part of the USFWS Chesapeake WILD grant, the PFBC is working to restore freshwater mussel populations upstream of the low-head dam on the West Branch Susquehanna River in Lock Haven, Clinton County. Juvenile Yellow Lampmussels were obtained from the

Maryland Department of Natural Resources and placed in mussel silos at six sites between the mouth of Kettle Creek and Lock Haven. The mussel silos will be checked monthly to assess growth and survival prior to full-scale restoration efforts. Sixty previously tagged mussels in the same area showed less than 5% mortality.

In addition to the silo study, approximately 6,700 American Eels, a host fish for Eastern Elliptio mussels, were inoculated with mussel larvae and released at six sites in the West Branch Susquehanna River.

### Hatchery and Habitat Showcase

In July, the PFBC led federal partners on a tour of the Tylersville State Fish Hatchery, offering an inside look at operations and the ongoing partnership between the PFBC and USFWS's Northeast Fishery Center in Lamar, Clinton County. The informational showcase ended with a tour of a recently completed stream habitat project on Fishing Creek, Clinton County.



*The stream habitat project on Fishing Creek, Clinton County.*

### Teaming Up with Penn State Students

The PFBC teamed up with Penn State University's Joe Humphreys Fly Fishing Program to offer Good Habitat = Good Fishing programs at Colyer Lake, Centre County. A total of 125 PSU students learned about the importance of lake habitat, construction of porcupine crib structures, and fly fishing.

### Women's Mentor Retreat

In May, the PFBC joined Trout Unlimited (TU) Women's Committee to host 45 women, representing 16 TU chapters, for an annual mentor retreat. The three-day event held in Port Matilda, Centre County, was filled with fly fishing education, community networking, and conservation-related volunteer opportunities. Attendees represented 23 Pennsylvania counties and one county from Maryland.

# 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 and was reappointed in April 2023.

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

## FOURTH DISTRICT

### VPA-HIP Program

The PFBC acquired six additional easements on properties throughout the state under the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). These collective acquisitions form more than four miles of perpetual public access to trout streams and are 100% funded by a federal grant in the Farm Bill for the purpose of increasing the public's ability to access private lands. In addition, PFBC funds were used for parking improvements. A pair of significant easements for fishing access were acquired in the Fourth District:

- **West Branch Susquehanna River, Cambria County:** Access to 5,925 linear feet of stream including designated parking areas. This branch provides significant Class A Wild Brown Trout fishing opportunities.
- **North Branch Blacklick Creek, Cambria County:** 2,440 linear feet of stream with designated parking areas.



VPA-HIP North Branch Blacklick Creek parking area and path

### Pennsylvania Envirothon

PFBC staff administered the Aquatics testing at the Pennsylvania Envirothon competition, held at Windber Recreation Park, Somerset County. More than 60 teams of high school students participated in the event, which coincided with National Safe Boating Week. A photo booth promoted proper life jacket wear, and life jackets were awarded to winning team members.



The Pennsylvania Envirothon winning team members.

### Adult Smallmouth Bass Assessment

In September and October, biologists conducted Smallmouth Bass surveys along the Juniata River. A total of 675 Smallmouth Bass were captured at four sampling locations from Mapleton, Huntingdon County, to Millerstown, Perry County. Overall, the Smallmouth Bass fishery remains excellent, with the number of large fish 15 inches or longer exceeding long-term historic benchmarks by more than double.

### Hungry Run Stream Improvement

A total of 550 feet of Hungry Run, Mifflin County, a naturally reproducing trout stream, was enhanced with fish habitat structures to create riffles and pool habitat. The PFBC partnered with Mifflin County Conservation District and the Borough of Burnham for the Countywide Action Plan grant-funded project, which aims to reduce erosion from agriculture and urbanization. This section of Hungry Run is within a borough park and is the second phase of a three-phase project that will eventually enhance and protect 2,050 continuous feet of Hungry Run.



Hungry Run habitat project, Mifflin County

### Raystown Branch Dam Removals

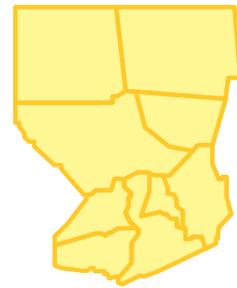
Two dams, located on the Raystown Branch Juniata River in the vicinity of Bedford, Bedford County, were removed through a partnership with American Rivers. PFBC staff helped identify the projects and assemble the removal team. The dam removals were funded, in part, through the National Fish Passage Program administered by the USFWS.

### Cooperative Nursery Grant

The Salisbury-Ellick Hunting Club, Somerset County, received a Cooperative Nursery Grant to improve its trout nursery facility. Improvements will include 10 stream habitat structures to reduce erosion and improve aquatic habitat, as well as repairs to the water intake system used for trout rearing.

# 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 was reappointed in June 2019 and October 2023.

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



## FIFTH DISTRICT

### Mahantango Access Improvements

Access to the Susquehanna River received an upgrade with the construction of a new concrete boat launch at the PFBC's Mahantango Access, Snyder County. The poured concrete launch for powered and unpowered boats replaces an aging concrete plank launch that reached the end of its lifespan.



### North Branch Catfish Survey

Surveys continue on the North Branch Susquehanna River to monitor both native Channel Catfish and Flathead Catfish, a species that's invasive to the watershed and was first detected in 2014. In 2025, sampling of this branch revealed lower catch rates of Channel Catfish than previous surveys and an increase of Flathead Catfish. However, large Channel Catfish continued to be abundant, with 21% of those captured exceeding 25 inches long. Only four Flathead Catfish were captured in the survey, with the length ranging between 25-30 inches.



Channel Catfish

### Ice Fishing Education

PFBC Education and Fisheries staff led 12 in-person ice fishing instruction programs in 2025, including several sessions at Nessmuk Lake, Tioga County. In all, 111 anglers participated in programs over five winter weekends, learning basic ice fishing techniques such as drilling holes, preparing lines, and even setting up ice huts. Four online, virtual ice fishing introductory sessions were also offered, attracting 82 participants.

### Boone's Dam Removal

In coordination with PFBC Habitat staff, this low-head dam on Fishing Creek near Bloomsburg, Columbia County, was removed by the local water authority in summer 2025. The dam was the first barrier upstream of the confluence with the Susquehanna River, and its removal will greatly improve fish passage. Prior to the removal of the dam, PFBC Environmental Services staff also assisted with the salvage of more than 12 Eastern Hellbenders from Fishing Creek and safely returned them to their habitat following the project.



### Dedication of Naturalistic Fish Passage

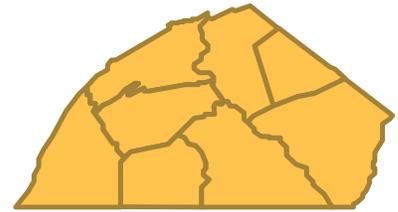
More than 4,000 miles of new upstream habitat has been opened for aquatic species in the Susquehanna River following the installation of this structure, allowing fish to navigate around the Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam in Sunbury. PFBC staff assisted in the long-term planning of this PA DCNR project and celebrated its dedication in June. The 900-foot-long naturalistic fish passage is one of the largest on the East Coast and mimics a real stream flowing around the inflatable dam on the western shore of the river.



The naturalistic fish passage below the Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam, Northumberland County.

# 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

### Lifesaving Award

Craig Stoudt and his sons, Colton and Christian, Middletown, Dauphin County, received a PFBC Lifesaving Award. On April 20, while fishing from their boat on the Susquehanna River in Harrisburg, the Stoudts saw two kayakers frantically paddling as they headed dangerously close to the Dock Street Dam. The family's quick action to toss a flotation cushion to the kayakers and pull them from the water is credited with saving their lives.



*The Stoudt Family received a Lifesaving Award.*

### Ice Rescue Training

PFBC ice rescue instructors provided training to both WCOs and PGC Game Wardens on a frozen pond in Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County. During the winter months, law enforcement members with both agencies encounter ice anglers or hunters stranded on the ice, and this training prepares them for safely navigating the ice and conducting a rescue or self-rescue if necessary.



*Ice rescue training*

### Fall Trout Stocking

In October, the PFBC stocked adult trout into 93 waters statewide, including 53 lakes and 40 stream sections. At Little Buffalo State Park, Perry County, a crowd gathered to watch Rainbow Trout be stocked into Holman Lake. Fishing during the fall can offer lighter crowds, beautiful scenery, and cooler temperatures that keep fish active.



*WCO Seth J. Strawser stocked Rainbow Trout at Little Buffalo State Park, Perry County.*

### Italian Lake Fishing Event

A free family fishing event was held at Italian Lake in partnership with the City of Harrisburg. More than 300 people attended and had the chance to learn fishing techniques while catching catfish stocked by the City. PFBC education staff assisted new anglers and led a catfish cooking demonstration.



*Italian Lake fishing event*

### Hatchery Improvements

As part of ongoing renovations at several PFBC state fish hatcheries, the visitors center at Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery, Cumberland County, got a fresh look. The popular visitors center features fish, reptile, and amphibian educational exhibits. It also has an indoor pond with live trout.



*Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery improvements*

### Letort Spring Run Wild Brown Trout

A wild Brown Trout population survey at Letort Spring Run, Cumberland County, yielded a catch of 469 Brown Trout ranging from 2-25 inches long, including 24 trout exceeding 20 inches long. Assessments from 2017 through 2025 continue to show a stable biomass for wild trout in this world-renowned Class A wild trout fishery.



*Letort Spring Run wild Brown Trout*

# SEVENTH DISTRICT

## Commissioner William J. Gibney



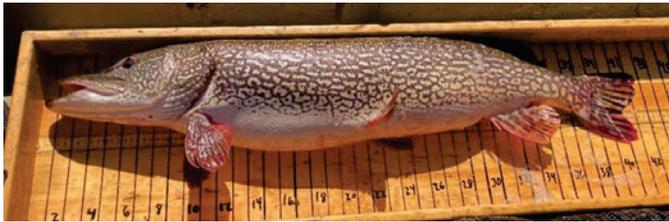
Commissioner William J. Gibney, Honesdale, Wayne County, represents the Seventh District of the PFBC. He was appointed in June 2019 and was reappointed in October 2023.

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

## SEVENTH DISTRICT

### Lily Lake Fisheries Survey

Lily Lake, Luzerne County, was surveyed during the weeks of March 17, 2025, and April 28, 2025, to assess the Northern Pike and panfish populations. A total of 50 Northern Pike were captured with the largest measuring 40.2 inches long and weighing 20.1 pounds. All but two of the Northern Pike captured were legal size (greater than 24 inches). Panfish numbers and sizes were also impressive. Of the 836 Black Crappies caught, 96% were at least 8 inches long, and 23% were at least 12 inches long.



A Northern Pike captured during a survey of Lily Lake, Luzerne County.

### Lower Woods Pond Fishery Survey

This Wayne County impoundment remains a catch and release fishery after being refilled in spring 2024 following a dam rehabilitation project. Because of dam deficiencies, in 2012, Lower Woods Pond was drawn down by approximately 50%. A 2025 survey focused on panfish, black bass, and Walleyes, with all species being well represented with various ages of fish including spawning age adults and young-of-



A Lower Woods Pond Walleye

the-year. Several Walleyes greater than 25 inches long were captured, as well as Chain Pickerel and bullhead catfish. While the survey was encouraging, populations are not yet highly abundant, and monitoring will continue.

### Completion of Lackawaxen River Trail

In October, the PFBC and partners cut the ribbon on Indian Orchard River Access, Wayne County. This access is the midpoint of the 10-mile-long Lackawaxen River Trail from Honesdale to Hawley. Along with two other projects—White Mills and Sycamore Point Park in Honesdale—Indian Orchard is the third access to be completed in the last three years, completing the river trail. The three projects were funded through the PFBC's Boating Facility Grant Program and local fundraising. In recent years, the PFBC received additional funding to develop public access to the water within the Delaware River Watershed from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the USFWS's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund.

### 'Pennsylvania Outdoor Life' Recognition

In July, the PFBC honored Don Jacobs, the long-time host of 'Pennsylvania Outdoor Life' on WNEP-TV. Jacobs, a native of West Pittston, Luzerne County, hosted the weekly outdoor magazine for 35 years and featured hundred of fishing and boating adventures, including annual tours of PFBC hatcheries to promote the opening day of trout season. 'PA Outdoor Life' aired its final episode in March 2025.



Don Jacobs and his family.

### Belmont Lake Dam Rehabilitation

A major dam rehabilitation project at Belmont Lake, Wayne County, began in March 2025. The \$5.6 million project will include the reconstruction of the auxiliary spillway and drainage improvements within the embankment. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2026, followed by refill and a multi-year restocking plan to restore the native fish population.



Dam construction at Belmont Lake, Wayne 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 was reappointed in June 2019 and October 2023.

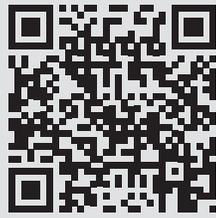
The Eighth District includes **Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill counties.**

## EIGHTH DISTRICT

### Partner with a Payer

In April, the PFBC and USFWS partnered for a special event with American Fishing Wire (AFW), a fishing tackle company based in Coatesville, Chester County. Through the Partner with a Payer program, fish and wildlife agencies across the country connect with manufacturers who pay federal excise taxes, and through the Sport Fish Restoration Fund, support conservation, hatchery operations, and public access to America's waterways. For this event, PFBC and AFW staff toured the Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery, Cumberland County, before stocking trout in Octoraro Creek, Chester County, and touring the AFW factory.

#### Partner with a Payer:



Staff before stocking trout in Octoraro Creek, Chester County.

### Pioneer Grove Park Groundbreaking

The PFBC awarded a Boating Facility Grant to Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, to construct a new unpowered boat launch at Pioneer Park. The launch will accommodate unpowered boats such as canoes and kayaks, as well as small, motorized watercraft used by local emergency responders on the Schuylkill River



Pioneer Grove, Berks County, groundbreaking ceremony

### Leaser Lake Panfish Survey

A trap net survey of Leaser Lake, Lehigh County, targeted the lake's panfish populations. The most abundant species were Bluegills and Yellow Perch with 77% of Bluegills measuring at least 7 inches long. During a nighttime boat electrofishing survey, 58 Pumpkinseeds were captured, and 59% were at least 7 inches long. Leaser Lake is managed under Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations for crappies, sunfish, and Yellow Perch.



A Pumpkinseed caught during a survey at Leaser Lake, Lehigh County.

### Mussel Stocking in Bushkill Creek

For the second year, the PFBC and partners reintroduced thousands of native freshwater mussels to Bushkill Creek, Northampton County. More than 6,000 Alewife Floaters, Eastern Pondmussels, and Yellow Lampmussels were stocked across four sites that have experienced improved fish passage due to recent dam removals. Mussel stocking and fish passage improvements were funded, in part, by a settlement from a 2005 environmental incident and intended to offset damage to aquatic resources.



Thousands of freshwater mussels are stocked in Bushkill Creek, Northampton County.

# BOATING-AT-LARGE



## 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 and was reappointed in October 2023.



### 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:

Rocco S. Ali, *Chair*  
*North Apollo*

Steven M. Ketterer, *Vice Chair*  
*Harrisburg*

Teresa Guerrein  
*Harborcreek*

Brian Kane  
*Lincoln University*

Loren Lustig  
*Biglerville*

#### Ex Officio Members

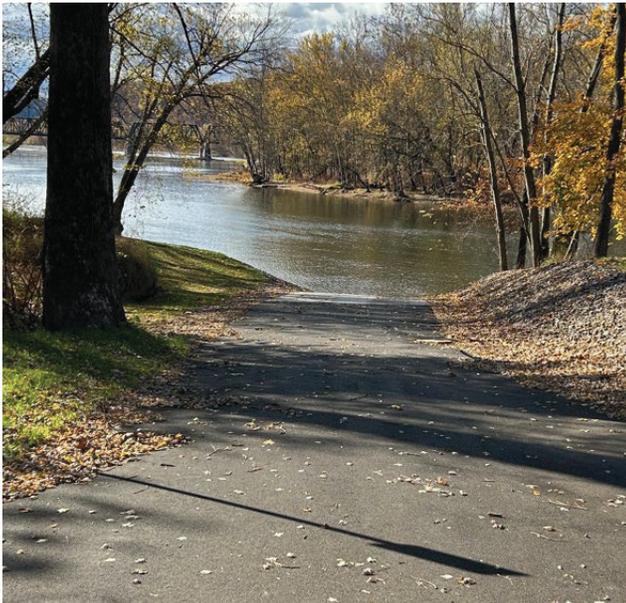
Charles Charlesworth,  
*Boating At-Large Commissioner*

Richard Lewis,  
*Boating At-Large Commissioner*

Ryan Dysinger,  
*Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources*

## Boating Facility Grants

This popular program was created to provide grants for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion, and rehabilitation of public boating facilities in Pennsylvania, and ensure recreational boaters have the highest quality boating facilities. Grants awarded in 2025 will benefit 16 impactful projects in the Delaware, Lake Erie, Ohio, and Susquehanna River watersheds. Funds for this program are derived primarily from boat registration fees, state motorboat fuels tax, and restricted revenue accounts. In some instances, federal aid is also used.



*A Boating Facility Grant project along Fishing Creek in Bloomsburg, Columbia County, was completed in fall 2025.*

## Boating Safety Education

Approximately 19,345 boating safety education certificates were issued in 2025 to students who completed an approved boating safety course.

## Solutions for Abandoned Boats

The Bureau of Boating partnered with graduate students at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, on a joint project to brainstorm solutions for dealing with ADVs. The ongoing project includes research methods for potential reuse of unwanted fiberglass boats and other methods for reducing the number of ADVs in the greater Three Rivers area.

## Boat Fuel Usage Survey

A survey of registered motorboat owners estimated 21,387,044 gallons of fuel were purchased and/or consumed for recreational boating in Pennsylvania in 2024. The taxes paid on motorboat fuel were refunded to the PFBC, on behalf of boaters, in the amount of \$12,356,484 to be used for high-hazard dam repair and programs and services that benefit boaters.

## National Safe Boating Week

From May 17-23, the PFBC, in partnership with the National Safe Boating Council, held several events across the Commonwealth to encourage boaters to stay safe and sober during the summer boating season. Along with a statewide kickoff at the PFBC's Fort Hunter Access in Harrisburg, special events were held in Berks and Fayette counties. Additionally, the PFBC produced more than 30 safe boating public service announcements with state legislators and hosted six boating safety, water safety, and paddling skills programs, reaching 78 participants during the week.



*National Safe Boating Week at Fort Hunter Access, Harrisburg.*

## Water Rescue

In 2025, the PFBC Bureau of Boating's Division of Boating and Watercraft Safety certified 52 new volunteer water rescue instructors across Ice Rescue, Water Rescue, Boat Operations, and Advanced Line Systems Rescue disciplines. Instructor-level courses were held in Centre, Butler, Dauphin, and Montgomery counties, strengthening statewide training capacity and deepening volunteer engagement.

## Statewide Statistics

Non-game Permits
Species Impact/PNDI Reviews – 2,365
Scientific Collector Permits/Amendments – 376
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Permits – 73
Biological Opinions/T&E Take Permits – 5
Non-game Special Permits – 36
Organized Reptile and Amphibian Hunt Permits – 6
Venomous Snake Permits – 2,233
Commercial Snapping Turtle Permits – 20

Bureau of Law Enforcement
Citations – 3,860
Crimes Codes – 26
Warnings for Violations – 12,412
Total Boats Boarded – 17,034
Special Activities Permits Issued – 2,531
Pollutions Investigated – 81
Pollution and Disturbances Investigated – 311
Boating Under the Influence – 27
Lake Erie Commercial Permits – 13
School Programs – 241

Boating Incidents
In 2025, there were 37 recreational boating incidents that resulted in 10 fatalities. Only 2 of the 10 victims were wearing life jackets at the time of the incidents. Alcohol or drugs were believed to have been a factor in 3 of the fatal incidents.

Program Type	Count	Participants
Trout In the Classroom Teachers	436	57,012
Aquatic Resource Education Programs	47	2,637
Paddling and Boating Programs	16	245
Instructor Training Courses	18	232
Shows and Events	24	20,590 (*Direct Contacts)
Sport Fishing	162	5,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>86,305</b>

\*Direct Contacts are interactions with the public at the agency show and expo booth. This typically involves providing publications and answering questions.

2025 Cooperative Nursery 50 Year Award Certificates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chester Valley Sportsmen</li> <li>• Community Rod &amp; Gun Club</li> <li>• Island Run Sportsmen Association</li> <li>• McSherrystown Fish &amp; Game Association</li> <li>• New Baltimore Sportsmen Club</li> <li>• Pine Grove Sportsmen Club</li> <li>• Robesonia Fish &amp; Game Association</li> <li>• Kennells Mills Sportsmen Club</li> </ul>

2025 Fishing License Types	
December 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	Licenses Issued
1-Day Resident	4,438
Resident	587,850
3-Year Resident	12,959
5-Year Resident	3,282
10-Year Resident	653
Senior Resident	34,329
3-Year Senior Resident	1,595
5-Year Senior Resident	225
Senior Lifetime	14,392
<b>Total Resident Fishing Licenses</b>	<b>659,723</b>
1-Day Tourist	5,467
3-Day Tourist	24,212
7-Day Tourist	7,973
Non-Resident	49,283
Non-Resident PA Student	1,153
3-Year Non-Resident	509
5-Year Non-Resident	86
10-year Non-Resident	11
<b>Total Tourist and Non-Resident Fishing Licenses</b>	<b>88,694</b>
POW Resident Annual	0
POW Resident Lifetime	1
Reduced Disabled Veteran Annual	1,070
Reduced Disabled Veteran Senior Lifetime	4
PA Resident National Guard/Reserve	79
Voluntary Youth	9,227
<b>Total Other Fishing Licenses</b>	<b>10,381</b>
<b>Total Fishing Licenses</b>	<b>758,798</b>
2025 Fishing Permit Types	
December 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	Permits Sold
Trout Permit	421,251
3-Year Trout Permit	11,656
5-Year Trout Permit	3,743
10-Year Trout Permit	786
<b>Total Trout Permits</b>	<b>437,436</b>
Lake Erie Permit	24,942
3-Year Lake Erie Permit	240
5-Year Lake Erie Permit	54
10-Year Lake Erie Permit	13
<b>Total Lake Erie Permits</b>	<b>25,249</b>
Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	70,342
3-Year Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	2,236
5-Year Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	652
10-Year Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit	131
<b>Total Combination Lake Erie and Trout Permit</b>	<b>73,361</b>
<b>Total Permits</b>	<b>536,046</b>

## Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Report (unaudited)

### EXPENDITURES

#### Fish Fund

Personnel	\$32,927,723
Operating	\$16,205,369
Fixed Assets	\$1,775,420
Grants	\$636,230
<b>Fish Fund Total</b>	<b>\$51,544,742</b>

#### Boat Fund

Personnel	\$15,932,926
Operating	\$7,746,811
Fixed Assets	\$1,571,980
Grants	\$281,836
<b>Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$25,533,553</b>

#### Fish Fund and Boat Fund Total

Personnel	\$48,860,649
Operating	\$23,952,180
Fixed Assets	\$3,347,400
Grants	\$918,066
<b>Fish Fund and Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$77,078,295*</b>

## Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Report (unaudited)

### REVENUE

#### Fish Fund

Licenses and Fees	\$32,474,414
Fines and Penalties	\$190,572
Miscellaneous	\$6,013,312
Federal and State Grants	\$11,711,287
<b>Fish Fund Total</b>	<b>\$50,389,585</b>

#### Boat Fund

Licenses and Fees	\$8,904,274
Fines and Penalties	\$159,454
Miscellaneous	\$9,367,857
Federal and State Grants	\$4,112,603
<b>Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$22,544,188</b>

#### Fish Fund and Boat Fund Total

Licenses and Fees	\$41,378,688
Fines and Penalties	\$350,026
Miscellaneous	\$15,381,169
Federal and State Grants	\$15,823,890
<b>Fish Fund and Boat Fund Total</b>	<b>\$72,933,773*</b>

\*Increases in expenditures include personnel costs associated with salary, wage, and benefit increases that resulted from new labor agreements. Increased operating costs include planned infrastructure improvements.

Overall revenues remained comparable to the previous fiscal year. The decline in Boat Fund revenue reflects decreases in the receipt of federal funds as well as the Oil Company Franchise Tax (boat fuel tax) refund, reduced interest on deposits, and miscellaneous declines in sales.

The difference between revenues and expenditures is also a function of the timing of cash flow, federal reimbursements, and expenditure commitments. It was offset utilizing Fish Fund and Boat Fund structural reserves.

## Trout Stocked by PFBC

Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount
Brook Trout	Adult	165,964
	Fingerling	102,095
Brown Trout	Adult	678,150
	Fingerling	328,900
Rainbow Trout	Adult	2,366,391
	Fingerling	415,996
Golden Rainbow Trout	Adult	15,795
<b>Total Trout Stocked by PFBC</b>		<b>4,073,291</b>

## Trout Distributed to Cooperative Nurseries

Trout Species	Lifestage	Amount
Brook Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	92,900
Brown Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	275,525
Rainbow Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	670,899
Golden Rainbow Trout	Fingerling to Coops.	15,363
<b>Total Trout Distributed to Coops.</b>		<b>1,054,687</b>

**Total Trout Species (Stocked and Distributed) 5,127,978**

## Warmwater/Coolwater Fish Production and Stocking

Species	Lifestage	Amount
American Shad	Fry	1,091,122
Black Crappie	Fingerling	18,600
Blue Catfish	Fingerling	11,500
Blue Catfish	Yearling	10,000
Bluegill	Fingerling	30,000
Brown Trout - ERIE	Yearling	19,784
Channel Catfish	Fingerling	7,200
Channel Catfish	Yearling	99,575
Fathead Minnow	Adult	6,000
Golden Shiner	Fingerling	42,100
Lake Trout	Fingerling	18,000
Lake Trout	Yearling	54,600
Largemouth Bass	Fingerling	2,500
Largemouth Bass	Adv. Fingerling	5,900
Muskellunge	Yearling	37,547
Northern Pike	Fingerling	2,200
Rainbow Trout - Steelhead	Yearling	439,488
Spottail Shiner	Adult	1,000
Striped Bass	PH1	112,750
Striped Bass hybrid	Fingerling	129,434
Tiger Muskellunge	Yearling	6,110
Walleye	Fry	17,375,000
Walleye	Fingerling	2,126,134
White Crappie	Fingerling	4,980
Yellow Perch	Fingerling	68,500
<b>Grand Total of all Species</b>		<b>21,720,024</b>

## Website Statistics

### Top 10 Pages by Page View

1. Buy A Fishing License – 1,017,266
2. Homepage – 529,967
3. Trout Stocking – 397,469
4. Fishing Regulations – 163,248
5. Buy a Launch Permit – 141,163
6. Newsroom – 127,703
7. Licensing Agents – 107,784
8. Renew Boat Registration – 101,332
9. Register/Title a Boat – 100,328
10. Seasons, Sizes and Creel Limits – 90,766

### Total Page Views

4,973,198

### Page Views by State

1. Pennsylvania – 3,565,351
2. New York – 269,269
3. New Jersey – 191,427
4. Virginia – 169,216
5. Ohio – 155,365
6. Maryland – 94,132
7. West Virginia – 80,030
8. Delaware – 51,753
9. Florida – 27,695
10. North Carolina – 26,065

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission migrated to a new [pa.gov](http://pa.gov) website and content management system in 2025. Website analytics and data are reported from this new system.

## Social Media 2025

(1/1/25 to 12/31/25)

Facebook	
Followers	142,718
Posts	433
Impressions	28,105,515
Engagements	142,253
Engagement Rate	3.64%
X	
Followers	13,457
Posts	271
Impressions	121,260
Engagements	1,389
Engagement Rate	3.71%
Instagram	
Followers	27,557
Posts	467
Impressions	2,463,062
Engagements	80,585
Engagement Rate	5.03%
YouTube	
Followers	6,136
Posts	42
Impressions	1,500,000
Views	415,637
Watch Time (Hours)	8,822
LinkedIn	
Followers	1,962
Posts	232
Impressions	75,507
Engagements	2,601
Engagement Rate	7.07%

## For More Information:

### Headquarters

1601 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-7000  
Phone: 717-705-7800  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### Boating Safety Education Courses

Phone: 888-723-4741

### 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: 1-800-838-4431

### Boat Registration/Titling:

Phone: 866-262-8734

### Publications:

Phone: 717-705-7835



@PAFishAndBoat #FishPA  
#PAFishAndBoat #WearIt

## Region Offices: Law Enforcement/Outreach and 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

### 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

### 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

*Office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you see anything suspected to be a pollution, a disturbance, or poaching on any waterway, regardless of how seemingly insignificant, report it immediately by calling the local PFBC Region Law Enforcement office listed above during business hours or call the PFBC toll-free hotline: 855-Fish-Kil to leave a message. A pollution or disturbance may also be reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection at 1-800-541-2050 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).*

### Southcentral Region

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241  
*Law Enforcement:* 717-486-7087  
*Outreach and Education:* 717-705-7919  
Fax 717-486-8227 Fax 717-705-7831  
*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 and Education:* 570-477-2206  
Fax 570-477-3221  
*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 and Education:* 215-968-3631  
Fax 717-626-0486  
*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
- **Benner Spring**  
1735 Shiloh Road  
State College, PA 16801  
814-355-4837
- **Oswayo**  
96 State Route 244 East  
Coudersport, PA 16915  
814-698-2102
- **Reynoldsdale\***  
162 Fish Hatchery Road  
New Paris, PA 15554  
814-839-2211
- **Corry\***  
13365 Route 6  
Corry, PA 16407  
814-664-2122
- **Huntsdale\***  
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  
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

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

# FishandBoat.com