

**FISHING LICENSES**

Fishing licenses are sold by license issuing agents through an electronic point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system. This system brings increased efficiency, more options, and easier upgrades for anglers. Internet fishing licenses are sold online at: [www.pa.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.pa.wildlifelicense.com).

A current license, signed in ink, is required of persons age 16 and over to fish or angle for any species of fish and to take fishbait, baitfish and species of amphibians and reptiles from Commonwealth waters by those legal methods described in this booklet.

FISHING is defined as the act of angling, or to catch, take, kill or remove, or the attempt to catch, take, kill or remove, from any waters or other areas within or bordering this Commonwealth any fish by any means or method for any purpose whatsoever. CASTING and/or RETRIEVING, whether by rod, reel and line, or by handline, for oneself or for others, requires a current license, unless specifically exempted by law. See "Assistance to Children" on page 33 for specifics on when a license is required when assisting a child (12 years of age and under).

LICENSE YEAR	Type of Fishing License or Permit	Age	Cost*
<p>Annual licenses are valid from December 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012. WHILE FISHING, your license must be signed in ink and must be displayed on an outer garment. In addition, anglers must be prepared to furnish positive proof of identification.</p> <p>* Includes issuing agent fee of \$1.00 and \$0.70 electronic processing fee.</p>	<b>Resident</b> (Annual)	<b>16-64</b>	<b>\$22.70</b>
	<b>Senior Resident</b> (Annual)	<b>65 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$11.70</b>
	<b>Senior Resident</b> (Lifetime)	<b>65 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$51.70</b>
	<b>1-Day Resident</b> (not valid March 15 - April 30)	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$11.70</b>
	<b>Non-Resident</b> (Annual)	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$52.70</b>
	<b>1-Day Tourist</b> (includes all privileges, not valid March 15 - April 30)	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$26.70</b>
	<b>3-Day Tourist</b>	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$26.70</b>
	<b>7-Day Tourist</b>	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$34.70</b>
	<b>Trout-Salmon Permit</b>	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$9.70</b>
	<b>Lake Erie Permit</b>	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$9.70</b>
	<b>Combination Trout-Salmon/Lake Erie Permit</b>	<b>16 &amp; up</b>	<b>\$15.70</b>

**OBTAIN YOUR LICENSE:**

- a) at more than 900 license-issuing agents
- b) at county treasurers offices
- c) at Fish & Boat Commission offices
- d) on the Internet at [www.pa.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.pa.wildlifelicense.com).

A lost fishing license or replacements – Replacement licenses include all permits or privileges previously purchased by the customer. The total cost for a replacement license and all previously purchased permits or privileges is \$6.70. Customers may purchase additional permits.

You qualify for a RESIDENT fishing license if you are a bona fide resident of Pennsylvania. When purchasing a resident fishing license, you must show positive proof of permanent residency by presenting one of the following documents:

- a) valid PA driver's license
- b) a valid non-driver photo identification card
- c) a previous year's PA state income tax return showing proof of payment of personal income tax as a resident of PA
- d) a previous year's local earned income tax return showing tax paid to a PA municipality
- e) a current PA voter registration card.

National Guard & Armed Forces Reserve licenses and Prisoner of War (POW) licenses are available only at Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and county treasurer offices.

National Guard & Armed Forces Reserve licenses are available to those persons who provide documentation that within the previous 24 months the person was deployed overseas as a member of the reserve component of the armed forces for a period of 180 consecutive days or more or was released early from service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty.

Prisoner of War (POW) licenses are available to persons who provide military documentation stating the person is a former prisoner of war.

Senior resident and senior lifetime licenses are available to those persons at anytime during the year in which they will become age 65.

Persons who possess a RESIDENT SENIOR LIFETIME license dated before January 1, 1991, are not required to purchase a trout/salmon permit.

RESIDENT SENIOR LIFETIME license holders are required to purchase only one permit for a lifetime. The Resident Senior Lifetime license is valid as long as the license holder remains a resident of Pennsylvania. Resident Senior Lifetime license holders that move out of state and are no longer residents of Pennsylvania are required to obtain a nonresident or tourist license if they return to fish in Pennsylvania.

Disabled Veterans Licenses – Any disabled veteran who has a disability incurred in any war or armed conflict that consists of the loss of one or more limbs or the loss of use of one or more limbs, or total blindness, or who is 100 percent disabled as certified by the United States Veterans Administration and is a resident of this Commonwealth may obtain a free resident fishing license upon application to the Commission or county treasurer.

Military personnel are required to purchase a fishing license. Those who are stationed in Pennsylvania under permanent change of station orders (PCS) for a duration of 6 months or more, who produce documentation proving same, qualify for a resident fishing license. All others must obtain a tourist or non-resident license.

Certain active duty military personnel are exempt from Pennsylvania's fishing license requirement. To be eligible for the military waiver, an angler must be a bona fide Pennsylvania resident, be on active duty, be stationed outside Pennsylvania and be here on authorized leave. While in the act of fishing, the military personnel must carry proof of each of these requirements, such as a PA driver's license, a military ID and valid military orders showing the place of assignment and leave status.

Under the law, a qualifying soldier, sailor, airman or marine does not receive a free Pennsylvania fishing license. Instead, eligible active duty military personnel can legally fish without a license under the limited circumstances outlined in the law. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission recommends that anyone taking advantage of this provision display a military ID while in the act of fishing in much the same way as one would display a conventional fishing license.

The law does not exempt military personnel on leave from any other requirements of fishing or boating laws and regulations.

Students from out of state who are attending school in Pennsylvania but who have not become residents of Pennsylvania are not eligible to purchase a resident fishing license and must obtain a tourist or non-resident license.

Social Security Number Requirements – Since 1998, federal and state laws require purchasers of a Pennsylvania fishing license to provide their social security number when applying to purchase a fishing license.

Vouchers - A voucher may be purchased as a gift for another individual that can be redeemed for a license and/or stamp or privilege.



**SENIOR RESIDENT LIFETIME LICENSE UPGRADE**

A durable plastic card version of the Senior Resident Lifetime license is available. This upgrade is available for \$6.70. Complete form PFBC-L-166S and send to the address indicated. Forms are available from the Commission's website at: [www.fishandboat.com/forms\\_fishing.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/forms_fishing.htm). Upgrades can also be purchased through issuing agents.

A voucher may be redeemed at any issuing agent. The voucher is non-refundable and expires as noted. A voucher is not a fishing license and individuals using a voucher to fish are in violation of the Fish and Boat Code and may be subject

to legal action. Individuals wishing to purchase vouchers for Christmas presents need to wait until December 1 of that year before purchasing a voucher.

One-Day Tourist and One Day Resident License - One-Day Tourist and One-Day Resident Licenses are not valid for fishing during the period from March 15th to April 30th of any year. One-Day Tourist or One-Day Resident licenses issued to be used on March 14 will expire at 11:59 p.m. on March 14 regardless of what time the license begins.



POINT-OF-SALE LICENSE  
Permits are printed on the license.

• Fishes in streams and rivers designated as approved trout waters on March 1 through May 31.

### LAKE ERIE PERMIT

All anglers fishing in the waters of Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay and their tributaries, including waters that flow into those tributaries are required to possess a valid Lake Erie permit or Combination Trout/Salmon/Lake Erie permit. See page 11 for a list of main tributaries that require a permit.

### COMBINATION TROUT/SALMON/LAKE ERIE PERMIT

In many cases an angler may need both a trout/salmon permit and a Lake Erie permit to fish in waters in the Erie area. Rather than purchasing these individually, a Combination Trout-Salmon/Lake Erie permit may be purchased.

### TROUT/SALMON PERMIT

A current Pennsylvania trout/salmon permit is required to fish for trout or salmon in Pennsylvania waters. An angler "fishes for trout or salmon" when he or she:

- Takes, kills or possesses, while in the act of fishing, a trout or salmon from any PA or boundary waters.
- Fishes in waters under special trout/salmon regulations.
- Fishes in any Class A Wild Trout Waters or Wilderness Trout Streams or their tributaries.

**EXEMPTIONS:** The following persons are NOT required to possess a trout/salmon permit or Lake Erie permit:

- Persons under 16 years of age.
- Disabled persons and other individuals who are exempt from fishing license requirements, or who are authorized to fish using an institutional license.
- Persons who possess a 1-day tourist license.

### ACCOMMODATIONS for Persons with Disabilities

The PA Fish & Boat Commission facilities listed here have fishing piers or other accommodations to provide angling opportunities for persons with disabilities. All areas may not be suitable for all disabilities.

County	Facilities
Carbon	Mauch Chunk Lake
Crawford	Tamarack Lake
Erie	North East Marina (shoreline fishing)
Erie	Walnut Creek (shoreline fishing)
Fayette	Dunlap Creek Lake
Fayette	Youghiogheny River Lake Outflow
Jefferson	Kyle Lake
Jefferson	Cloe Lake

County	Facilities
Lackawanna	Fords Lake
Lancaster	Speedwell Forge Lake
Northampton	Minsi Lake
Philadelphia	Frankford Arsenal Access - Delaware River (railed shoreline fishing area)
Somerset	Lake Somerset
Washington	Canonsburg Lake
Washington	Cross Creek Lake
Wyoming	Lake Winola
Wyoming	Oxbow Lake

### PERSONS with DISABILITIES

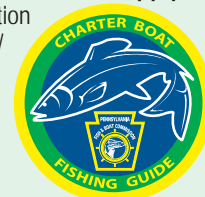
A copy of the Pennsylvania Fishing Summary is available on our website at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) and may be obtained as a computer file (alternative accessible format). Persons using a TTY should dial Pennsylvania Relay telephone number 711 to contact us.

Persons who are deprived of the use of a leg or both legs or who are disabled in a manner that significantly limits their mobility may apply for a permit to use an off-road motorized vehicle to access fishing and boating opportunities on Fish & Boat Commission property. Permit applications may be requested in writing from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, Bureau of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.

For a listing of waters available exclusively for children 12 years of age and younger and persons with disabilities, please contact a regional office or visit [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

### CHARTER BOAT/FISHING GUIDE PERMITS

Charter boat operators and fishing guides are required to obtain a permit when conducting business on the waters of the Commonwealth including the boundary waters. The annual fee for the permit is \$100.00 for residents and \$400.00 for non-residents. Permit applications are available from the Harrisburg office, regional headquarters, or the PFBC website: [www.fishandboat.com/chboat\\_app.pdf](http://www.fishandboat.com/chboat_app.pdf). For additional information about Charter Boat/Fishing Guide permits, contact the Bureau of Law Enforcement at 717-705-7861.



### ANGLERS:

To find a charter boat operator or fishing guide for a fish species or location you wish to fish, go to the Commission's website: [www.fishandboat.com/chboat.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/chboat.htm).



### ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN

An adult who assists a child (12 years of age and under) by casting or retrieving a fishing line or fishing rod is not required to possess a valid fishing license provided that the child remains within arms' reach of the assisting adult and is actively involved in the fishing activity.

An adult may assist a child by baiting hooks, removing fish from the line, netting fish, preparing the fishing rod for use and untangling the line without possessing a valid fishing license.

An adult is required to possess a fishing license if they intend to set the hook for the child.

For an up-to-date listing of exclusive areas for children and persons with disabilities, go to the Commission's website: [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

*Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex or disability. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is an equal opportunity employer, and it complies with applicable federal and Pennsylvania nondiscrimination laws and regulations. In addition, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission receives federal aid in sport fish restoration and boating enhancement. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin or disability in federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Human Resources Office, PA Fish & Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20420.*

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**BOATING** – Coast Guard-approved wearable life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs) are required for each occupant on all types of boats in all waters. Children 12 years of age and younger must wear an approved Type I, II, III or V PFD while underway on Commonwealth waters in any boat 20 feet or less in length and in all canoes and kayaks. See PFD (life jacket) Requirements on page 35.

Motorboats (including boats powered by electric motors) must be registered. **Boat operators of boats with greater than 25 horsepower and born on or after Jan. 1, 1982, may not operate unless they have obtained and have in possession a Boating Safety Education Certificate.**

Owners of unregistered, unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, etc.) that launch their boats at Commission lakes, access areas and properties, and at PA state parks and forests must display the Commission's launch use permit. PA state park launching and mooring decals are also recognized.

**NURSERY WATERS** are closed to fishing at all times.

**REFUGE AREAS** on streams are **CLOSED TO ALL ENTRY AND FISHING** during the period March 1 through June 14.

**FIELD DRESSING AND DISPOSAL OF FISH** – It is unlawful to possess a fish in any form or condition other than in the whole or having the entrails removed while on shore, along the waters of the Commonwealth, onboard a boat or on a dock, pier, launch area or parking lot adjacent thereto. Fish may be processed fully if they are being prepared for immediate consumption on site. This does not apply to fish processed at a fish cleaning station officially recognized by the Commission or by a permitted charter boat/fishing guide operation.

It is unlawful to discard any fish carcass or parts thereof into the waters of the Commonwealth or upon any public or private lands contiguous to the waters unless disposal is on lands with permission from the landowner or it is where fish are properly disposed into suitable garbage or refuse collection systems or at an officially recognized fish cleaning station.

**TAGGED FISH** – The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and agencies in adjacent states apply tags to fish for special research purposes. If an angler catches a tagged fish and wishes to keep the fish, the tag number and location of the catch should be reported to the address or phone number on the tag or to the Fish & Boat Commission. If the angler doesn't wish to keep the fish, no attempt should be made to remove the tag unless special instructions have been posted at access areas, by the media or elsewhere. For example, sometimes the Fish & Boat Commission uses two-part tags and parts of or all of the tags should be removed in some cases with scissors or a knife. This type of tag typically resembles rubber spaghetti and information such as tag numbers and toll-free phone numbers can be easily read. Tagged fish that are not kept should be returned to the water immediately after removing the tag or recording the information from the tag. In no case should tags be pulled from a fish as this will cause significant injuries.

It is unlawful for a person to implant tracking devices in or to tag, brand, mark or fin clip any fish taken from Commonwealth waters, unless the fish are purchased from an authorized commercial aquaculture facility, are part of a Commission-recognized and sanctioned stocking by a cooperative nursery, are authorized by a scientific collector's permit issued by the Commission or are part of a tagged fish contest in a boundary lake for which the Commission has issued a permit.

**TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT**

● **RODS, LINES AND HOOKS.** An angler may use a maximum of three lines fished either by rod or hand when fishing for gamefish, baitfish or both. It is unlawful for a person to fish with more than three fishing rods at a time. No more than three hooks shall be attached to a line used in fishing (one hook having two or three points is considered a "single hook"). All rods, lines and hooks shall be under the immediate control of the person using them.

**SNAGGING HOOKS** may not be used or possessed while in the act of fishing. A snagging hook is a device designed or modified to facilitate the snagging of fish and may be a hook with a single barb, weighted on a shank below the eye and above the barbs; or a hook otherwise designed or modified to make the snagging of fish more likely than it would be with a normal hook.

**ICE FISHING EQUIPMENT.** It is unlawful while ice fishing to use more than five fishing devices, which may consist of rods, hand lines, tip-ups or any combination. Each device shall contain a single fishing line with no more than three hooks attached to each line. Holes cut in ice may not exceed 10 inches between the farthest points as measured in any direction. All lines, rods or tip-ups shall be under the immediate control of the person using them. On Fish & Boat Commission lakes, shelters or shanties must be removed when through fishing for the day.

**GAFF OR LANDING NET.** A gaff or landing net is permitted to assist in landing fish caught using a lawful device. Nets of all types can be no larger (excluding the handle) than 4 feet square or 4 feet in diameter. **It is unlawful to use any type of net or seine to catch or take gamefish.**

**SPEARS OR GIGS.** Spears or gigs may be used to take **ONLY** carp, suckers and catfish. Spears or gigs may not be mechanically propelled, may not have more than five barbed points and may not be used in approved trout waters.

**BOW AND ARROW** (including compound bows and crossbows) may be used for taking **ONLY** carp, suckers and catfish on all Commonwealth waters, day or night, except in approved trout waters during the closed season and in special regulation waters.

**BAIT**

**BAITFISH** includes all forms of minnows; suckers, chubs, fallfish, lampreys, eels between 6 and 8 inches in length; gizzard shad 8 inches or less; and all forms of darters, killifishes and stonecats (except those listed as threatened or endangered species). Legally taken gamefish may be used as bait. It is unlawful to use or possess goldfish, comets, koi and common carp as baitfish while fishing.

**FISHBAIT** includes crayfish or crabs, mussels, clams, and the nymphs, larvae and pupae of all insects spending any part of their life cycle in the water.

**SEASON, SIZE, LIMIT:** No closed season (except as noted below) and no minimum size. The daily limit and possession limit is 50 combined species. When purchasing bait, be sure to obtain and keep the sales slip or receipt. The receipt authorizes the possession of the fishbait or baitfish so purchased for a period of 15 days after its date of issue. Fishbait or baitfish purchased from a licensed dealer do not have a possession limit and do not count toward your daily limit of fishbait and baitfish taken from Commonwealth waterways. Approved trout waters are closed for taking fishbait and baitfish from March 1 to the opening day of trout season. Most specially regulated trout waters are closed to taking fishbait and baitfish at all times.

**TAKING AND KEEPING BAIT** is permitted using rod and reel or handline, dip net or minnow seine not over 4 feet square or in diameter, or a minnow trap with no more than two openings that shall not exceed 1 inch in diameter. All devices must be under the immediate control of the person using them. Unattended minnow traps or baitfish containers left in Commonwealth waters must be identified with the owner's or user's name, address and telephone number. If fishing in a group and the total number of fishbait or baitfish taken exceeds the possession limit (50), separate containers must be provided for the fishbait and baitfish. Total possession limit in any one container may not exceed 50 baitfish or fishbait combined.

**MUDBUGS (dragonfly nymphs):** No daily limit from lakes, ponds, swamps or adjacent areas; the daily limit from rivers and streams is 50.

**FROGS AS BAIT:** Except for those listed as endangered or threatened or those with zero possession limit, frogs may be used as bait. Certain seasons and possession limits apply.

Releasing fish from another state, province or country into Commonwealth waters is illegal without written permission from the Commission. Transferring fish from one Pennsylvania watershed to another where that species is not always present is also illegal without written consent from the Commission.

**IT IS UNLAWFUL . . .**

• To possess, to introduce or import, transport, sell, purchase, offer for sale or barter the following live species in the Commonwealth: **snakehead (all species), black carp, bighead carp, silver carp, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, European rudd, rusty crayfish, ruffe, round goby and tubenose goby.**

• To fish with more than three fishing lines at any time when fishing for gamefish, baitfish or both.

• To fish (includes taking baitfish and fishbait) from March 1 to 8:00 a.m. on the opening day of trout season in any approved trout water. Excepted are certain specially regulated waters and "in-season only" stocked waters.

• To take or attempt to take fish, or keep fish accidentally caught, by snatch-fishing, foul hooking or snag fishing. Handfishing is not permitted.

• To catch, kill or possess more than one day's limit of any fish, except: (a) at your residence and (b) you may possess two days' limit while traveling to your residence from an overnight fishing trip of two or more consecutive days.

• To have on a stringer or in a container or otherwise in possession, while in or along waters of the Commonwealth or immediately returning therefrom, more than the daily creel limit of any fish for one person.

• To fail to immediately return unharmed to the waters from which it was taken, any fish caught out of season, or undersize, or over the daily creel limit. Any fish placed on a stringer, in any container or given away, counts toward the possession limit of the person having caught it, and the person to whom it was given.

• To kill any fish and fail to make a reasonable effort to lawfully dispose of it.

• To fish in, or within 100 feet of, the entrance or exit points of any fishway, including fish ladders and other fish passage facilities.

• To use gamefish as bait except when taken by rod and reel or handline in conformance with seasons, sizes and creel limits or when purchased from an authorized bait dealer.

• To sell baitfish or fishbait taken from waters of the Commonwealth, except that licensed and authorized commercial fishermen may take and sell baitfish from Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay.

• To sell baitfish or fishbait within the Commonwealth, or transport same out of the state, except by authorized and licensed commercial bait dealers.

• To sell any species of fish, reptile (with the exception of snapping turtles) or amphibian taken from the Commonwealth.

• To sell, offer for sale, purchase or barter any fish parts or fish eggs obtained from fish taken from waters of this Commonwealth including boundary waters. This prohibition does not apply to fish parts or fish eggs (1) lawfully taken or sold or offered for sale by holders of Lake Erie commercial fishing licenses if the particular species of fish is authorized for taking by commercial licensees, or (2) those obtained from fish taken lawfully from waters outside of this Commonwealth.

• To release any species of fish, except those listed as approved by the Fish & Boat Commission, in Commonwealth waters without written permission from the executive director of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

• To place an obstruction in any waterway that blocks the free movement of fish.

• To use or have in possession while on or along Commonwealth waters, nets larger than 4 feet square or in diameter except with a special permit issued by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

• To conduct an organized fishing tournament in which there are 10 or more participants without a permit issued by the Commission. Applications must be submitted 60 days before the date of the proposed tournament. Fishing tournaments may not be conducted for a species of fish during the closed season for that species. Unless a special exemption is granted, fishing tournaments may not be conducted on the opening day of the season for any species of game fish. Contact the nearest regional headquarters (*page 4*) for further information and permit applications. Applications are also available online: [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

• To conduct an organized fishing tournament and fail to submit an accurate fishing tournament catch report when required.

• To conduct a tagged fishing tournament in boundary waters without a permit issued by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

• To throw, leave, discard or deposit litter, debris or trash of any kind in or along waters or lands adjacent to or contiguous to waters of the Commonwealth.

• To obstruct the ingress, egress or regress to a person's property, cattledways or fields.

• To dig in or drive upon any lands.

• To cut or damage trees or shrubs.

• To build or tend open fires without permission.

• To run any vehicle, except fording in the most direct manner, in any stream.

• To interfere with officers authorized to enforce the Fish and Boat Code in the performance of their duties or to refuse to accompany any officer after having been arrested for a violation of the Fish and Boat Code.

**BOATING AND ALCOHOL DO NOT MIX!**

Alcohol use increases the chances of having an accident. Alcohol affects balance, coordination and judgment. It is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. Penalties include loss of boating privileges, significant fines and imprisonment.

**PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (LIFE JACKET) REQUIREMENTS**

- All boats must have a USCG-approved wearable (Type I, II, III or V) life jacket on board for each person.
- In addition to wearable life jackets, boats 16 feet and over must have a throwable device (Type IV) on board. Canoes and kayaks, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device.
- Type V life jackets must be used in accordance with any requirements on the approval label.
- All life jackets must be in good and serviceable condition and legibly marked showing the USCG approval number. **This means the life jacket must be fully functional, free of tears or defects in the material. All buckles, straps, zippers and other closures must be operable.**
- Wearable life jackets must be "readily accessible," which means that the PFDs (personal flotation devices) are stowed where they can be easily reached or that they are out in the open ready to wear. Type IV flotation devices (throwables) must be "immediately available," which means that the device cannot be in a protective covering and shall be within arm's reach of the operator or passenger while the boat is operated. A PFD that is sealed in its original packaging is not readily accessible or immediately available.
- Life jackets must be the appropriate size for the person intended and adjusted to wear.

**WHO MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET?**

- Children 12 years of age and younger on Commonwealth waters when underway in any boat 20 feet or less in length and in all canoes and kayaks.
- On Pittsburgh District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes (only), everyone in boats under 16 feet and in all canoes and kayaks.
- All water skiers and anyone towed behind boats, in addition to personal watercraft operators and passengers, and sailboarders (windsurfers) and paddleboarders are required to wear a life jacket. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable for these activities.
- Beginning November 1, 2012, boaters are required, by law, to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak during the cold weather months from November 1 through April 30 (*see next page for details*).

**IF A VIOLATION OCCURS . . .**

Persons accused of violating the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code or rules and regulations may be issued a citation and have a right to a hearing before a district justice. Law enforcement personnel have the authority to confiscate or seize as evidence fish and fishing equipment that are illegal or used to violate fishing laws or regulations. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission may, upon proper notice, suspend or revoke the fishing privileges, boating privileges or other permits of any person convicted (or acknowledging guilt) of a violation of the Fish and Boat Code or Fish & Boat Commission regulations.

If you have been convicted of or plead guilty to a second or subsequent violation within a 12-month period, you may be assessed an additional fine of \$200 for those offenses classified as summary offenses.

### Smartphone Resources

Use your smartphone (with a QR code app) and the QR codes below to access PFBC web pages.

#### Fishing FAQ



<http://fishandboat.com/faqfish.htm>

#### Fishing Fundamentals



[http://fishandboat.com/fish\\_fundamentals.htm](http://fishandboat.com/fish_fundamentals.htm)

#### iFish

a menu of fishing resources from PFBC



<http://fishandboat.com/ifish.htm>

#### iBoat

a menu of boating resources from PFBC



<http://fishandboat.com/iboat.htm>



### MAKE SURE YOUR LIFE JACKET FITS!

For a life jacket to work properly, not only does it need to be on your body, it should fit properly as well. A properly fitting life jacket is more comfortable (meaning you are more likely to wear it) but more important, it functions better. Life jackets that are too small or large can ride up or even come off when you are in the water.

It's easy to check a conventional life jacket for proper fit—just put it on. The jacket should fit you snugly with all zippers, straps, ties and snaps correctly secured. With a partner behind you, raise your arms like you are signaling a touchdown in a football game. Have the partner lift the jacket by the shoulders. The jacket should come no higher than your chin. If the jacket covers your face or comes off—that's what would happen in the water. In this case, tighten the straps or use a smaller size.

### LIFE JACKET WEAR REQUIRED BY LAW NOVEMBER 1 TO APRIL 30



● Beginning November 1, 2012, boaters are required, by law, to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak during the cold weather months from November 1 through April 30. This change is intended to protect boaters from the dangers of cold water shock if they fall into the water.

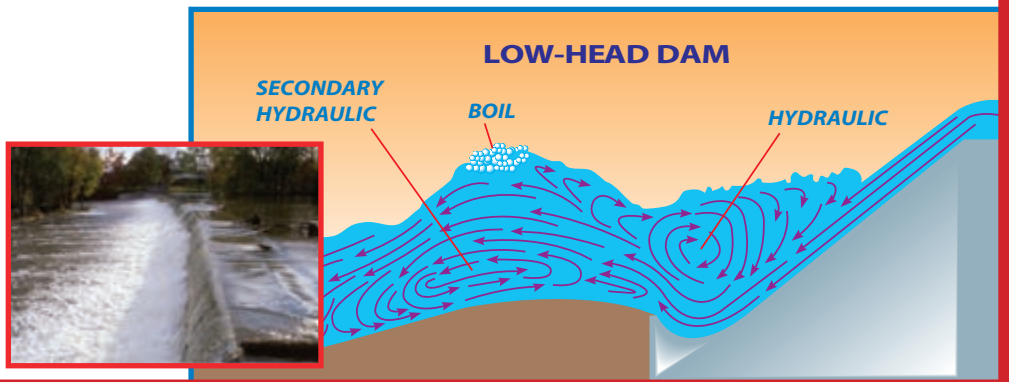
The risk of an accident being fatal is significantly higher when the air and water temperatures are colder in late fall through spring. Over the last 15 years, cold water incidents represented only eight percent of the boating-related accidents, but they resulted in 24 percent of the fatalities. Victims who are wearing a life jacket when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages.

### RUN OF THE RIVER DAMS: "DROWNING MACHINES"

The most dangerous hazard on a river is a low-head dam. These dams are on rivers and streams throughout Pennsylvania, and they are true "drowning machines."

Water going over a dam creates a back current or undertow that can pull a boat into the turbulence and capsize it. This hydraulic can trap and hold a person or boat. Many dams are not marked and are almost impossible to see from upstream.

State law requires that many low-head dams in the Commonwealth be marked with signs and, when practical, buoys upstream and downstream from these dangerous structures. The signs detail restrictions for boating, swimming and wading, and hazards posed by the dam. Restrictions are enforced by PFBC Waterways Conservation Officers. These dams must be avoided and can be located by checking maps and on PFBC's website: [www.fishandboat.com/rdam.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/rdam.htm).



## REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF FISH & BOAT COMMISSION-OWNED OR COMMISSION-CONTROLLED PROPERTY

- A powerboat using a Commission lake or access area shall be registered and shall display the official registration number and current validation stickers. Unpowered boats using a Commission lake or access area must either be properly registered, display an official and valid Commission use permit or display an official and valid watercraft launch or mooring permit issued by DCNR. Fees for Commission use permits are \$10 for a one-year permit and \$18 for a two-year permit.

Overnight mooring of boats is permitted at designated mooring areas from April 1 through November 30. A boat utilizing mooring areas shall be registered and display the official registration number and current validation sticker. Mooring is at the sole risk of the boat owner.

- Boats have the right of way over fishing from boat launch areas or boat docks. It is unlawful for persons fishing from a boat launch area or boat dock to permit their fishing activity to interfere with boat traffic into and out of the boat launch area or boat dock.

- Overnight camping, building or maintaining open fires, swimming and picking, cutting or digging flowers, plants, shrubs and trees is prohibited.

- The leaving or disposal of any rubbish on Commission property is prohibited unless placed in containers, if provided for this purpose. Disposal of any refuse accumulated off Commission property is prohibited.

- Any personal, organizational or commercial use other than normally intended fishing and boating activities is prohibited, except that the executive director or his designee may issue permits to organizations for the use of Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission properties, when it is determined that such use will not damage Commission property and will not interfere with normal usage by others. Launching or retrieving swimming aids at Commission access areas is prohibited.

- The removal or defacing of any sign, poster or property is prohibited, and it shall be unlawful to damage in any manner any lands or to interfere with any device or structure, or to alter or interfere with the flow of water over or through any structure.

- Legal hunting and trapping is permitted on Commission property unless otherwise posted.

- The carrying or use of firearms on Fish & Boat Commission properties is prohibited except while lawfully hunting or trapping. This does not apply to those individuals licensed to carry firearms under 18 Pa. C.S. 6109 (licenses) or those individuals authorized to do so in conformance with 18 Pa. C.S. 6106 (firearms not to be carried without a license).

- The use of electric motors for boat propulsion is permitted on all Commission lakes. The use of internal combustion engines is not permitted.

- On Fish & Boat Commission lakes, inflatable boats must be seven or more feet in length, be constructed of durable corded fabric reinforced with cloth and coated and have at least two separate buoyancy chambers, excluding inflatable flooring or bottom.

- Vehicles must be parked in designated areas only. Blocking or obstructing driveways, access roads or launch ramps is prohibited.

- No person may construct, place or maintain any structure, fixture or any other tangible property on or in Commission-owned or Commission-controlled property or waters without a permit from the executive director or his designee. Persons are further prohibited from encroaching upon Commission property in any manner incompatible with public use.

- A vehicle properly registered and operated in conformance with the Vehicle Code (except all-terrain vehicles) is permitted on Commission-owned or Commission-controlled property on those areas that are open to vehicular traffic such as roadways, driveways, launch ramps and designated parking areas. It is unlawful to operate a vehicle on Commission property on (a) roads not open to the public, (b) in a negligent or reckless manner, (c) in a manner that obstructs or impedes public access to driveways, access roads and launch ramps, (d) in a manner not in conformance with the posted traffic control signs or devices, (e) on forested areas, grasslands, wetlands and lands under cultivation and (f) on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers or streams. The use of off-road motorized vehicles, including trail bikes, Tote Gotes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), air-cushioned vehicles, track vehicles, hydrofoils and the like, is prohibited.

- Snowmobiles may be used on Commission-owned or Commission-controlled property that has been designated for such use by the executive director and is so posted. The operation of snowmobiles on frozen lakes, ponds and streams is prohibited. Parking areas on Commission-owned or Commission-controlled property shall not be used for general snowmobile operation.

- Walnut Creek Access, Channel and Basin-Boats have the right of way over shore fishermen. Fishing from boats is prohibited in channel and



basin. Shore fishing is allowed in the basin ONLY at places and times designated. Shoreline fishing on the west bank and wading is prohibited in Walnut Creek, from the mouth to the posted sign.

- Trespassing on Fish & Boat Commission property is prohibited where posted.

- Float tubes or similar devices are permitted while fishing on Fish & Boat Commission lakes so long as the device contains two air bladder systems. It may not be propelled by a mechanical device. The user must wear a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.

- Tagged fish contests are prohibited on Fish & Boat Commission lakes or access areas where prizes are awarded for catching tagged fish and where an entry fee is required to participate.

- Please see bulletin boards at Commission properties for any additional restrictions that may apply.

### FISH & BOAT COMMISSION PROPERTY DOG REGULATIONS

Dogs are permitted on Commission property if they are licensed and otherwise in compliance with all other provisions of the Dog Law.

- The maximum number of dogs that an owner or handler is permitted to have on Commission property at one time is two.

- The owner or handler shall keep the dogs under his or her supervision and control by keeping the dogs on a leash not exceeding six feet in length while on Commission property. Mechanically retractable leashes of any length may also be used. Dogs on board boats are exempt from leash requirements. The owner or handler shall immediately scoop, contain, and retain droppings of the dog and may not dispose of dog droppings on Commission property.

- The leash requirements do not apply when an owner is training a dog for water retrieval purposes and when the following apply:

1. The dog is actually performing customary water retrieval functions.

2. The dog remains within 10 feet of the owner or handler while on land.

3. The dog is under the immediate control of the owner or handler at all times.

4. The dog does not interfere with anglers or boaters engaged in fishing, boating or other lawful activities.

- An owner or handler of a hunting dog is exempt from the leash requirements and removal of dog droppings requirements when he or she keeps the dog off lawn areas, trails and parking lots and when he or she is engaged in legal hunting or training during the seasons established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.