

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

MINUTES

138th Meeting

Volume 71

**HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
July 20, 2020**

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Minutes

The 138th Meeting of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission was held on Monday, July 20, 2020, remotely, via web conference.

The public session for review of this agenda began on July 20 at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Timothy Schaeffer and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Members Present

Richard Lewis, President
Richard S. Kauffman, Vice President
Rocco S. Ali
Donald K. Anderson
William C. Brock
Charles J. Charlesworth
William J. Gibney
Eric C. Hussar
Daniel J. Pastore

Members Not Present

Robert B.J. Small

Review and Approval of Minutes from the April 27, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Hussar and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve the April 27 minutes as written. Motion carried.

Election of Commission President and Vice-President

Chief Counsel Wayne Melnick presided over the elections. He called for nominations for the offices of President and Vice President. Commissioner Brock nominated Commissioner Lewis for President and Commissioner Kauffman for Vice President, and Commissioner Ali seconded the nominations. The Commission elected Commissioner Lewis to serve as President of the Commission for 2020-2021 and Commissioner Kauffman to serve as Vice President of the Commission for 2020-2021.

Commission President Lewis thanked Commissioner Hussar for his outstanding leadership in furtherance of several Commission goals, including development and approval of a new three-year strategic plan, the passing of historic legislation, and the training and graduating of additional waterways conservation officers. Commissioner Lewis thanked his fellow Commissioners for the trust they have placed in him as the commission moves forward. He is looking forward to seeing the Bureau of Boating established and staffed, to implementing the first year of the new strategic plan goals and projects, and to working to sustain the increased interest in fishing and boating across Pennsylvania. Commissioner Lewis expressed his gratitude to the Commission staff for their diligent work and personal commitment over the past months to continue the Commission's programs and activities during the coronavirus epidemic.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Timothy Schaeffer thanked President Lewis for his comments and former President Hussar for his leadership. He thanked staff for their continued efforts and adaptations to Covid-19 protocols. Tim welcomed the recently graduated Waterways Conservation Officers to the Commission. He also welcomed and thanked Pennsylvania's new anglers and boaters and thanked the General Assembly for its support and efforts in enacting new legislation supporting the Commission's goals.

Announcement of Executive Session

Chief Counsel Wayne Melnick announced that an executive session was held on July 20, at approximately 8:00 a.m. to discuss personnel matters, potential real estate acquisitions, and pending litigations.

Announcement of Notational Vote

The Commission voted on one item by notational vote since the April 2020 meeting. The Commission approved that item as described in Appendix A.

Public Comment to Commissioners and Staff

John Kline from Kline Associates in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania provided support on behalf of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation for the Commission's proposed rulemaking to add a section of Bald Eagle Creek as a catch and release all tackle regulation.

Philip Light from Bedford, Pennsylvania has concerns regarding the proposed changes to Section 57.8a of the Commission's regulations for stocking Class A trout streams. Mr. Light believes the new process makes it easier to stock Class A waters and advocates instead that it should be more difficult to stock these waters.

Matthew White from Greentown, Pennsylvania believes that Lake Wallenpaupack is the worst lake that he has fished, believes there is no law enforcement on the lake, there is too much boating traffic, and the lake should not be open to the public.

**EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
PUBLIC ACCESS AND REAL ESTATE MATTERS**

A. Knouse Foods Property Rights Acquisition, Butler Township, Adams County.

Commentary:

Knouse Foods owns a 58-acre property located in Butler Township, Adams County. The property is located along Conewago Creek along Russel Tavern Road and Zeigler Mill Road. A map depicting the subject location and the subject parcel is attached as Exhibit A.

The property contains a portion of Conewago Creek that is designated as a Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only section that provides significant trout fishing opportunities in the area. This section of Conewago Creek is stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Commission), the McSherrystown and Knouse Foods (Orrtanna) cooperative fish hatcheries, and the Mummasburg Sportsman's Club. The Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only section has been managed and maintained by the Adams County Trout Unlimited Chapter and the Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited Chapter for over 30 years.

Recently, Knouse Foods expressed an interest in selling the property. The Adams County Trout Unlimited Chapter, the Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited Chapter, and other local interests are concerned about the future of public fishing access if the property is sold, and have partnered with the Land Conservancy of Adams County, Inc. (Conservancy) to discuss the idea of acquiring the property from Knouse Foods.

The Conservancy plans to purchase the property and transfer ownership to the Commission. The total cost of the acquisition is \$441,156. This includes the appraised value of \$406,000 plus acquisition costs, and the Conservancy has entered into an option agreement with the seller for \$406,000. The Conservancy has also applied to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for half of the appraised value of the property and half of the acquisition costs (\$220,578). The Conservancy will provide \$120,578 towards the acquisition. The Adams County Trout Unlimited Chapter will provide \$16,000, and the Conservancy has requested a grant in the amount of \$84,000 from the Commission to complete the acquisition.

Once the Conservancy acquires the property, it will convey fee title to the property to the Commission. The Commission's acceptance of the conveyance will be contingent on receiving good and marketable title to the property, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, and an acceptable environmental site assessment. The deed of conveyance will contain DCNR's standard language regarding the transfer of property purchased with DCNR grant funds. Namely, no change in use and no transfer of ownership, control, or interest in the property acquired with DCNR grant funds may occur, and no encumbrance may be placed on the property without DCNR's consent.

The Pennsylvania Fishing and Boating Access strategy indicates a need for more access along this section of Conewago Creek. The Commission's regional Law Enforcement and Fisheries staff have recommended that the site be acquired.

Briefer:

Brian P. Barner, Deputy Director of Office of Administration

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Commission authorize a grant not to exceed \$84,000 to the Land Conservancy of Adams County for the acquisition of 58 acres along Conewago Creek in Butler Township, Adams County, and the subsequent transfer of the property to the Commission, as described in the Commentary.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Charlesworth to authorize a grant not to exceed \$84,000 to the Land Conservancy of Adams County for the acquisition of 58 acres along Conewago Creek in Butler Township, Adams County, and the subsequent transfer of the property to the Commission, as described in the Commentary. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OTHER MATTERS

B. Commission Strategic Plan for July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023.

Commentary:

Since the fall of 2019, Commissioners and staff have been collaborating on a new strategic plan for the agency. The planning process began with a staff and stakeholder survey and continued with multiple facilitated work sessions of an internal strategic planning steering team, executive staff, the Boating Advisory Board, and members of the Board of Commissioners. Through much deliberation with staff from across the agency, the process resulted in a strategic plan consisting of a new vision statement, guiding principles, values, and six high-level priorities with corresponding goals to help the Commission better fulfill its mission. The plan is designed to be specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and time-bound with goals that can be translated into work plans to guide major efforts over the next three years. To better allocate resources and measure performance, the plan aligns with the Commonwealth's fiscal year.

A copy of the Strategic Plan is attached as Exhibit B.

Briefer:

Michael J. Nerozzi, Director of Policy and Planning

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Commission adopt the new Strategic Plan. If approved, the Strategic Plan will retroactively take effect on July 1, 2020, and guide the agency's efforts until June 30, 2023.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hussar and seconded by Commissioner Gibney to adopt the new Strategic Plan. If approved, the Strategic Plan will retroactively take effect on July 1, 2020, and guide the agency's efforts until June 30, 2023. Motion carried.

BOATING PROPOSED RULEMAKING

A. Amendment to Section 111.6, Berks County.

Commentary:

Blue Marsh Lake is a 1,148-acre flood control project managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in Berks County. This busy boating destination is regulated by Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Code, specifically Section 111.6, Berks County. Blue Marsh Lake has three specific regulations that deviate from the statewide recreational boating regulations regarding exhausts, no wake zones, and water-skiers. Specifically, subsection (3) states that “a boat may not tow more than one water-skier.” This limitation deviates from the standard utilized throughout the Commonwealth where the number of skiers is determined by the boat’s persons capacity.

Recently USACE leadership has changed their local policy/regulation adopting the standard skiing regulation. They have petitioned the Commission to make the same change in Title 58 so Waterways Conservation Officers can continue to assist in enforcement. The proposed amendment was approved by the Boating Advisory Board at their June 23, 2020 meeting.

Staff propose that §111.6 be amended as follows:

[(3) A boat may not tow more than one water-skier.]

Briefer:

Colonel Corey Britcher, Director of Bureau of Law Enforcement

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Commission adopt the proposed regulation as set forth in the Commentary. If adopted on final rulemaking, this amendment would go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kauffman and seconded by Commissioner Gibney to adopt the proposed regulation as set forth in the Commentary. If adopted on final rulemaking, this amendment would go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Motion carried.

B. Amendment to Section 111.43, Mercer County.

Commentary:

Shenango River Lake is a 3,560-acre flood control project managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in Mercer County. This busy boating destination is regulated by Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Code, specifically Section 111.43, Mercer County. Shenango River Lake has several specific regulations that deviate from the statewide recreational boating regulations when boating on project waters. Specifically, subsection (1) states that “the use of motors in excess of 10 horsepower are prohibited in the area west of the Penn Central Railroad (Levittsburg) causeway to the Ohio line.”

Recently USACE leadership has changed their local policy/regulation adopting a 20-horsepower restriction west of the causeway. They have petitioned the Commission to make the same change to Title 58 so Waterways Conservation Officers can continue to assist in enforcement. The proposed amendment was approved by the Boating Advisory Board at their June 23, 2020 meeting.

Staff propose that §111.43 be amended as follows:

(1) the use of motors in excess of [10] **20** horsepower is prohibited in the area west of the Penn Central Railroad (Levittsburg) causeway to the Ohio line.

Briefer:

Colonel Corey Britcher, Director of Bureau of Law Enforcement

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Commission adopt the proposed regulation as set forth in the Commentary. If adopted on final rulemaking, this amendment would go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pastore and seconded by Commissioner Ali to adopt the proposed regulation as set forth in the Commentary. If adopted on final rulemaking, this amendment would go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Motion carried.

FISHERIES

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

A. Amendment to Section 65.24 (Miscellaneous Special Regulations): add Bald Eagle Creek, Centre County.

Commentary:

Bald Eagle Creek is a 52.25-mile long stream that originates near the Borough of Port Matilda and flows northeast to its confluence with the West Branch Susquehanna River near the City of Lock Haven. The stream is currently managed as six stream sections for fisheries management purposes. Sections 02, 03, and 04, which total 28.5 miles in length, are currently included in the Stocked Trout Waters program.

To provide new and diverse angling opportunities for stocked trout, staff identified a portion of Bald Eagle Creek, Section 03, to implement an experimental Miscellaneous Special Regulation designed to enhance stocked trout management. This regulation will be identical to the current Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (58 Pa. Code §65.6) regulation; however, all tackle types will be permitted. As such, the regulation allows for year-round angling with all tackle types and harvest of up to three trout per day at least nine inches in length from June 15 through Labor Day, with no harvest permitted the remainder of the year. The regulation is designed to provide for an extended period of catch and release angling with all tackle types for stocked trout; then, as stream conditions become less favorable for trout survival due to decreased flow and elevated water temperatures, harvest is permitted under a reduced creel limit. The objectives are to reduce fishing mortality during the catch and release period, maintain high trout population densities to provide for high angler catch rates, recycle stocked trout to optimize their recreational benefit, provide high-quality angling opportunity for stocked trout in the absence of tackle restrictions, and evaluate the use of bait in a delayed harvest regulatory setting.

An 0.86-mile long section of stream located in the vicinity of Julian at the Soaring Eagle Wetland, which is owned and maintained by the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation, provides the ideal location to implement an experimental regulation as the foundation plans to construct an ADA-compliant boardwalk, fishing platform, and other amenities that make this reach of stream accessible to all anglers. Additionally, the recent habitat improvement projects enhanced instream habitat to provide suitable conditions to retain stocked trout in this reach throughout the spring and early summer.

The experimental regulation section will also be included in the Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program. In 2016, the Commission launched the Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program with eight stream sections. Due to its extreme popularity among trout anglers, the program was expanded to include 23 stream sections. Under the program, large trout, 14 to 20 inches in length, are stocked at a rate up to 250 trout per mile which is comparable to the abundance of similar-sized fish residing in Pennsylvania's best wild trout waters. By including this section of Bald Eagle Creek in the Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program, it will allow staff to compare angler

use, catch, and preferences to other waters in the program that are managed with the traditional artificial lures only restrictions.

Staff propose the following amendment:

§65.24. Miscellaneous special regulations.

The following waters are subject to the following miscellaneous special regulations:

| <i>County</i> | <i>Name of Water</i> | <i>Special Regulations</i> |
|----------------------|---|---|
| *** | *** | *** |
| <u>Centre</u> | <u>Bald Eagle Creek, from 0.38 miles upstream of Steel Hollow Run to 0.48 miles downstream of Steel Hollow Run</u> | <p><u>Open to fishing year-round. All tackle types are permitted. From June 15 through Labor Day – the daily creel limit for trout is three (combined species). Trout must be 9 inches in length to be killed or possessed.</u></p> <p><u>From the day after Labor Day through June 14, no trout may be killed or possessed.</u></p> <p><u>Inland regulations apply to all other species.</u></p> <p><u>This miscellaneous special regulation will remain in effect until further notice.</u></p> |
| *** | *** | *** |

Briefer:

Andrew L. Shiels, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Recommendation:

Staff recommend the Commission approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Brock and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect on January 1, 2021. Motion carried.

B. Amendment to Section 57.8a (Class A Wild Trout Streams).

Commentary:

Class A wild trout streams represent the best of the Commonwealth's wild trout resources, and approximately 3% of all flowing waters in Pennsylvania qualify for this designation. As of July 11, 2020, there are 1,032 Class A stream sections that comprise 2,759 stream-miles in Pennsylvania. Following designation by the Board of Commissioners, Class A wild trout streams enter a process whereby the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will ultimately designate these streams sections as High Quality-Cold Water Fishes under 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93. The designation provides additional water quality protection under Pennsylvania environmental laws and regulations. As such, a Class A designation is an important mechanism to properly protect, conserve, and enhance wild trout populations and the quality of their habitats.

On September 30, 2014 (effective January 1, 2015), the Statement of Policy at section 57.8a. (Class A Wild Trout Streams) was amended to require the Executive Director to obtain approval from the Commission prior to granting permission to stock a Class A wild trout stream section. Following the update to section 57.8a, staff developed internal decision-making criteria to allow continued PFBC stocking of a limited number of Class A wild trout stream sections. Under these criteria, stream sections that the Commission designates as Class A wild trout streams after December 31, 2014 may remain eligible for stocking with adult and fingerling trout by the Commission to provide additional angling opportunities, provided that the following criteria conditions are met.

1. The stream section was stocked with adult trout during the year immediately prior to its designation as a Class A wild trout stream.
2. Angler use (anglers/mile of stream) in the stream section equals or exceeds the 50th percentile, statewide, of angler use for the opening weekend of trout season as documented by Commission staff, or the stream section is a special regulation area under 58 Pa. Code Chapter 65 (relating to special fishing regulations) that was stocked by the Commission the year immediately prior to its designation as a Class A wild trout stream.
3. The trout species to be stocked are not the same species as the primary component of the wild trout population.
4. The stocking numbers and frequency will not exceed those of the year prior to the Class A designation.
5. A stream section managed for wild Brook Trout will not be considered for stocking.
6. Prior to implementing a decision to stock a Class A wild trout stream, the Executive Director will obtain the approval of the Commission.

Subsequently, 13 stream sections suspected to support strong Class A wild Brown Trout populations were officially designated as Class A wild trout streams during the 2015-2017 timeframe following updated wild trout surveys and stocking was continued. Staff believe there are very few additional waters in Pennsylvania that would meet the current internal decision-making criteria used to consider continued stocking of Class A wild trout streams. The 13 Class A wild trout stream sections where stocking continued are heavily fished streams in high-density human population centers of a size and character that can support a fishery featuring both stocked and wild trout components. Common to these waters are robust wild Brown Trout populations, which continue to maintain Class A fisheries in the presence of stocking and high angler use. The management approach for these waters includes limiting species stocked to Rainbow Trout, which are easier to catch, rarely develop into a wild population in Pennsylvania, would not genetically impact the existing wild Brown Trout population, and could serve to satisfy anglers that prefer to fish for stocked trout during the early part of trout season.

Historically, there have been very few streams where stocking of trout following Class A designation was considered and warranted. Occasionally, there may be pre-existing youth fishing derbies or clubs and/or private landowners that are not aware a stream section was designated as Class A and unknowingly continue to stock illicitly. Additionally, it is often unknown to Commission staff where private stockings have occurred. This information may become apparent only when the next private stocking is planned and the landowner discovers a Class A designation has occurred. Therefore, there may be rare cases where a stocking exemption should be considered.

Staff propose to develop additional internal decision-making criteria to account for these types of rare circumstances to consider internal and external requests for continued stocking of newly designated Class A wild trout streams. These criteria would be detailed in the *Operational Guidelines for the Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania Waters, 5th edition* planned for release by early 2021 and available at www.fishandboat.com. Listed below are several scenarios that may be considered for an exemption.

1. Pre-existing youth fishing derbies and special use areas that were properly permitted by the PFBC and have a history of more than one past occurrence.
2. Pre-existing private stockings on private property on recently designated (i.e., within one year of posting in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*) Class A stream sections that have been closed to public angling at the time of Class A designation and at least since 2010. Historic stockings need to be verifiable by documentation and stocking records and have a history of more than one past occurrence.
3. Stream sections stocked by the Commission, a cooperative nursery, and/or a private group or individual the year prior to Class A designation and have a history of more than one past occurrence, and meet the Commission's Class A stocking criteria developed for the 13 Class A streams sections stocked by the Commission. These criteria currently guide staff consideration when making recommendations regarding

the continuance of stocking a wild trout stream section and were specifically developed for high-use, urban and suburban stream sections that support robust Class A wild Brown Trout populations. Stocked species are limited to Rainbow Trout and the number stocked will remain at or below the levels stocked at the time of Class A designation. Some stream sections may be better managed solely for wild trout in the future; therefore, trout stocking may not occur in perpetuity.

4. Previously received an exemption or a Special Activities Permit from the Commission between 2010 and the present to allow for continued stocking of a Class A wild trout stream section. If the exemption was time-limited and not renewed before expiration, it will be considered a new request and a determination will be made according to current exemption criteria.

The criteria would provide staff direction to guide decisions when unusual situations arise but would not automatically result in continued stocking when criteria are met, as the vast majority of Class A stream sections are best managed solely for wild trout with no stocking. These criteria would offer a mechanism for transparent, timely, and consistent consideration of requests to continue the stocking of newly designated Class A wild trout streams. However, consideration of requests in a timely and efficient manner necessitates elimination of the requirement for the Executive Director to obtain approval from the Commission prior to granting permission to stock a Class A wild trout stream section, as oftentimes the agency is not notified of a desire to stock until immediately prior to a planned stocking. As such, it is recommended to remove the requirement for the Executive Director to obtain approval from the Commission prior to granting permission to stock a Class A wild trout stream section from Section 57.8a (Class A wild trout streams).

Exemptions to the prohibition of stocking hatchery trout into Class A wild trout stream sections would be granted only under rare circumstances. Consideration would only be given to requests for continued stocking in stream sections within one year of the section being designated as Class A and posted in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*; however, entities that previously received an exemption or a Special Activities Permit from the Commission between 2010 and the present to allow for continued stocking would be eligible for consideration. Should an exemption be granted, the agency would determine the species of trout, number of trout, and frequency of stocking consistent with stocking strategies and historical stocking rates of the stream section to minimize impacts to the Class A wild trout population. No exemptions will be granted for streams where a component of the wild trout fishery is comprised of wild Brook Trout.

Staff propose that 58 Pa. Code §57.8a be amended as follows:

§57.8a. Class A wild trout streams.

* * * * *

It is the policy of the Commission to manage self-sustaining Class A wild trout populations as a renewable natural resource to conserve that resource and the angling it

provides. Class A wild trout populations represent the best of this Commonwealth's naturally reproducing trout fisheries. With rare exceptions, these stream sections are managed solely for the perpetuation of the wild trout fishery with no stocking. However, there may be circumstances that justify stocking a Class A wild trout stream. Prior to granting permission to stock a Class A wild trout stream under §71.4 (relating to stocking of designated waters), **[the Executive Director will obtain the approval of the Commission.] the Executive Director will consult internal decision-making criteria set forth in the Operational Guidelines for the Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania Waters to consider the need for continued stocking at newly designated Class A wild trout streams. Consideration will only be given to requests for continued stocking in stream sections within one year of the section being designated as Class A and posted in the Pennsylvania Bulletin; however, entities that previously received an exemption or a Special Activities Permit for continued stocking between 2010 and the effective date of this amendment will be eligible for consideration.**

Briefer:

Andrew L. Shiels, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Recommendation:

Staff recommend the Commission approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hussar and seconded by Commissioner Brock to table this item. Motion carried.

C. Amendment to Section 65.24 (Miscellaneous Special Regulations): add Whipple Lake, Huntingdon County.

Commentary:

Whipple Lake, a 22-acre impoundment owned by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is located within Whipple Dam State Park, Jackson Township, in Huntingdon County, approximately six miles south of the Borough of State College. This lake was completely dewatered in October 2019 to remove sediment and complete structural improvements to the dam. The earth-fill dam impounds Laurel Run at river-mile 4.6 upstream from its confluence with Standing Stone Creek. Prior to the drawdown in 2019, the lake offered angling opportunities for multiple warm-water and cool-water fish species, as well as adult trout stocked by the Commission. Sediment removal and dam structure improvements are expected to be complete by summer 2020 with refilling initiated soon after.

The Commission plans to initiate stocking the lake beginning in spring 2021, or as soon as refilling conditions allow, with fingerling plants of select fish species to establish a high-quality warm-water and cool-water fishery. Immediately upon refilling of the lake, staff propose to open the lake to fishing under a Miscellaneous Special Regulation that will allow for the harvest of trout under Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations, but allow only catch and release fishing for all other fish species. Staff believe that this approach will allow for the most rapid development of a balanced warm-water and cool-water fish community, while offering acceptable levels of recreational angling opportunities. Fisheries Management Division staff will monitor the fish populations while they develop, make necessary modifications to the species stocked, and recommend adjustments to the regulations governing fish harvest to the Board of Commissioners to continually provide high-quality recreational angling opportunities at Whipple Lake. Once the warm-water fishery is re-established, the lake will be recommended for removal from the Miscellaneous Special Regulation and inclusion in one of the Commission's existing warm-water regulation programs.

Staff propose the following amendment:

§65.24. Miscellaneous special regulations.

The following waters are subject to the following miscellaneous special regulations:

| <i>County</i> | <i>Name of Water</i> | <i>Special Regulations</i> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| *** | *** | *** |
| <u>Huntingdon</u> | <u>Whipple Lake</u> | <u>All species except trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill, or possess any fish except trout. All fish caught other than trout must be immediately returned unharmed. Trout – inland regulations apply. See §61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters). This miscellaneous special regulation will remain in effect until further notice.</u> |
| *** | *** | *** |

Briefer:

Andrew L. Shiels, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Recommendation:

Staff recommend the Commission approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Ali to approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Motion carried.

D. Amendment to Section 65.24 (Miscellaneous Special Regulations): remove Opossum Lake, Cumberland County.

Commentary:

Opossum Lake, a 47-acre impoundment owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (Commission), is located in Lower Frankford Township in Cumberland County approximately six miles west-northwest of the Borough of Carlisle. The dam impounds Opossum Creek at river-mile 0.5 upstream from its confluence with Conodoguinet Creek. This reservoir was completely dewatered in October 2008 to complete dam and spillway repairs and modifications per Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection dam safety standards. Following completion of these repairs and modifications, refill occurred by spring 2013 and the Commission resumed annual adult trout stocking to provide immediate angling opportunities. Additionally, the Commission stocked the lake from 2013 through 2015 with select fish species to establish a high-quality warm-water and cool-water fishery.

Since 2012, Opossum Lake has been managed with Miscellaneous Special Regulations (58 Pa. Code §65.24) that allow for the harvest of trout under Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations but no harvest of other fish species. The intent of these temporary regulations was to facilitate rapid development of the warm-water and cool-water fish populations in the absence of harvest, and once re-established, the lake would be recommended for removal from the Miscellaneous Special Regulation and moved to one of the Commission's existing warm-water regulation programs.

The black bass and panfish populations were evaluated from 2015 through 2020 to monitor progress towards development of a high-quality warm-water and cool-water fishery. Sportfish abundance and population size structure have steadily improved to levels where populations can now sustain limited harvest. As such, it is recommended that Opossum Lake be removed from Miscellaneous Special Regulations (58 Pa. Code §65.24) in favor of management with the Commission's existing warm-water regulation programs that allow for limited harvest of warm-water and cool-water fish. If these regulations are removed, Opossum Lake will be proposed for designation into the Big Bass (58 Pa. Code §65.9) and the Panfish Enhancement (58 Pa. Code §65.11) programs. All other fish species will be managed with Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations (58 Pa. Code §61.1).

Staff propose the following amendment:

§65.24. Miscellaneous special regulations.

The following waters are subject to the following miscellaneous special regulations:

| <i>County</i> | <i>Name of Water</i> | <i>Special Regulations</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|
| *** | *** | *** |
| [Cumberland] | [Opossum Lake] | [All species except trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill, or possess any fish except trout. All fish caught other than trout must be immediately returned unharmed. Trout – inland regulations apply. See §61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters). This miscellaneous special regulation will remain in effect until further notice.] |
| *** | *** | *** |

Briefer:

Andrew L. Shiels, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Recommendation:

Staff recommend the Commission approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Gibney to approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Motion carried.

E. Amendment to Section 65.24 (Miscellaneous Special Regulations): remove Lake Perez, Huntingdon County.

Commentary:

Lake Perez, a 72-acre impoundment owned by the Pennsylvania State University, is located in Barree Township in Huntingdon County approximately three miles northeast from the Village of Neffs Mills. The dam impounds Shavers Creek at river-mile 13.6 upstream from its confluence with the Juniata River. This reservoir was completely dewatered in late spring 2009 to complete dam and spillway repairs and modifications per Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection dam safety standards. Following completion of these repairs and modifications, refill occurred during 2014, and the Commission resumed annual adult trout stocking in 2015 to provide immediate angling opportunities. Additionally, the Commission stocked the lake from 2014 through 2018 with select fish species to establish a self-sustaining, high-quality warm-water and cool-water fishery.

Since 2015, Lake Perez has been managed with Miscellaneous Special Regulations (58 Pa. Code §65.24) that allow for the harvest of trout under Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations, but no harvest of other fish species. The intent of these temporary regulations is to facilitate rapid development of the warm-water and cool-water fish populations in the absence of harvest, and once re-established, the lake would be recommended for removal from the Miscellaneous Special Regulation and moved to one of the Commission's existing warm-water regulation programs.

The black bass and panfish populations were evaluated during 2019 and 2020 to monitor progress towards development of a high-quality warm-water and cool-water fishery. Sportfish abundance and population size structure have improved to levels where populations can now sustain limited harvest. As such, it is recommended that Lake Perez be removed from Miscellaneous Special Regulations (58 Pa. Code §65.24) in favor of management with the Commission's existing warm-water regulation programs that allow for limited harvest of warm-water and cool-water fish. If this regulation is removed, Lake Perez will be proposed for designation into the Panfish Enhancement program (58 Pa. Code §65.11). All other fish species will be managed with Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations (58 Pa. Code §61.1).

Staff propose the following amendment:

§65.24. Miscellaneous special regulations.

The following waters are subject to the following miscellaneous special regulations:

| <i>County</i> | <i>Name of Water</i> | <i>Special Regulations</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| *** | *** | *** |
| [Huntingdon] | [Lake Perez] | [All species except trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill, or possess any fish except trout. All fish caught other than trout must be immediately returned unharmed. Trout – inland regulations apply. See §61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters). This miscellaneous special regulation will remain in effect until further notice.] |
| *** | *** | *** |

Briefer:

Andrew L. Shiels, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Recommendation:

Staff recommend the Commission approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Ali to approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing the amendment described in the Commentary. If approved on final rulemaking, the amendment will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Motion carried.

FISHERIES DESIGNATIONS

F. Proposed changes to the list of Class A wild trout streams.

Commentary:

Pursuant to 58 Pa. Code §57.8a (relating to Class A wild trout streams), it is the Commission's policy to manage self-sustaining Class A wild trout populations as a renewable natural resource to conserve that resource and the angling it provides. Class A wild trout populations represent the best of Pennsylvania's naturally reproducing trout populations. Criteria developed for Class A wild trout populations are species specific. Wild trout biomass class criteria include provisions for wild Brook Trout, wild Brown Trout, mixed wild Brook and Brown Trout, wild Rainbow Trout, mixed wild Brook and Rainbow Trout, and mixed wild Brown and Rainbow Trout populations.

Staff recommend the addition of five stream sections to the Commission's list of Class A wild trout streams. These changes are the result of recent surveys conducted on these waters and subsequent data review. Exhibit C provides information on the locations and a data summary for each of these waters.

A notice of proposed designations was published at 50 Pa. B. 2611 (May 16, 2020) (Exhibit D). The Commission received a total of 327 public comments regarding the proposed designations: 326 support the proposed designations and one comment did not pertain to the proposed designations. Copies of all public comments were provided to the Commissioners.

Briefer:

Andrew L. Shiels, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Commission add five stream sections to its Class A wild trout streams list as described in the Commentary. If approved, these additions will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kauffman and seconded by Commissioner Charlesworth to add five stream sections to its Class A wild trout streams list as described in the Commentary. If approved, these additions will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Motion carried.

G. Classification of wild trout streams: proposed additions.

Commentary:

The Department of Environmental Protection's regulations at 25 Pa. Code §105.1 define the term "wild trout stream" as "a stream identified as supporting naturally reproducing trout populations by the Fish and Boat Commission under 58 Pa. Code §57.11 (relating to listing of wild trout streams)." This term has regulatory significance because wetlands that are located in or along the floodplain of the reach of a wild trout stream and the floodplain of streams tributary thereto are considered "exceptional value" and are thus entitled to the highest level of protection.

The Commission adopted a statement of policy at 58 Pa. Code §57.11 that sets forth the basis for the classification of streams supporting the natural reproduction of trout. Under section 57.11, it is the policy of the Commission to accurately identify and classify stream sections supporting naturally reproducing populations of trout as wild trout streams. The listing of a stream section as a wild trout stream is a biological designation that does not determine how the stream is managed. The statement of policy provides that the Commission's Fisheries Management Division will maintain the list of wild trout streams and that the Executive Director, with approval of the Commission, will from time-to-time publish the list of wild trout streams in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and solicit public comments.

Staff recommend the addition of 73 new waters to the Commission's list of wild trout streams. These changes are the result of recent surveys conducted on these waters. Exhibit E provides information on the locations and a data summary for each of these waters. Surveying unassessed waters and documenting wild trout populations are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania, the statewide Strategic Plan, and the agency's Resource First philosophy.

A notice of proposed designations was published at 50 Pa. B. 2607 (May 16, 2020) (Exhibit F). The Commission received a total of 325 public comments regarding the proposed designations: 324 support the proposed designations and one comment did not pertain to the proposed designations. Copies of all public comments were provided to the Commissioners.

Briefer:

Andrew L. Shiels, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Commission add 73 new waters to the Commission's list of wild trout streams as set forth in the notice of proposed designations. If approved, these additions will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kauffman and seconded by Commissioner Charlesworth to add 73 new waters to the Commission's list of wild trout streams as set forth in the notice of proposed designations. If approved, these additions will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Motion carried.

NOTATIONAL VOTE MEASURES

The Commission voted on one item by notational vote since the April 2020 meeting. Between June 17, 2020 and June 22, 2020 the Commission, in an 10-0 vote, approved the item found in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION
Notational Vote

A. Approval of Commission Reorganization.

Commentary:

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

Boating and boating-related actions are fundamental to the Commission and the people it serves and are featured prominently in the agency's strategic plan that covers the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. The Boat Fund comprises approximately 30% of the agency's budget, and the agency is charged with managing programs and facilities related to safe recreational boating; yet the agency lacks a concerted and comprehensive approach to boating-related topics, issues, and opportunities.

Additionally, communications are integral to the delivery and advancement of Commission strategic priorities and need to be consistently applied both inside and outside of the agency.

The reorganization as depicted in Exhibit G will implement the following changes. Exhibit G does not depict the full organizational structure; rather, it focuses on the proposed changes.

- (1) Create a consolidated Bureau of Boating within the Office of Field Operations. Boating-related functions are currently spread throughout the agency without a defined structure or organizational focus. This will elevate boating's stature within the Commission and will provide a mechanism to allocate financial and staffing resources needed to meet the agency's boating-related strategic objectives.
- (2) Reposition the Bureau of Outreach, Education, and Marketing to report directly to the Executive Director. This will facilitate unified and consistent messaging throughout the agency, across bureau lines, and to external audiences.
- (3) Relocate the Human Resources Office within the Office of Administration. This action does not require approval by the Board of Commissioners. It is described here to fully explain the scope of the reorganization.

After approval by the Board of Commissioners, the proposed reorganization plan, including the names of the organizational units, must be approved by the Governor's Office of Administration.

Briefer:

Timothy D. Schaeffer, Executive Director

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Commission approve the reorganization of the Commission as proposed in the Commentary.

Action:

Other New Business

Commissioner Gibney offered a resolution commending staff for stocking efforts during COVID-19. Resolution passed unanimously.

Time and Place of October 2020 Commission Meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 19 and October 20, 2020 in Harrisburg.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibney and seconded by Commissioner Brock to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m. Motion carried.

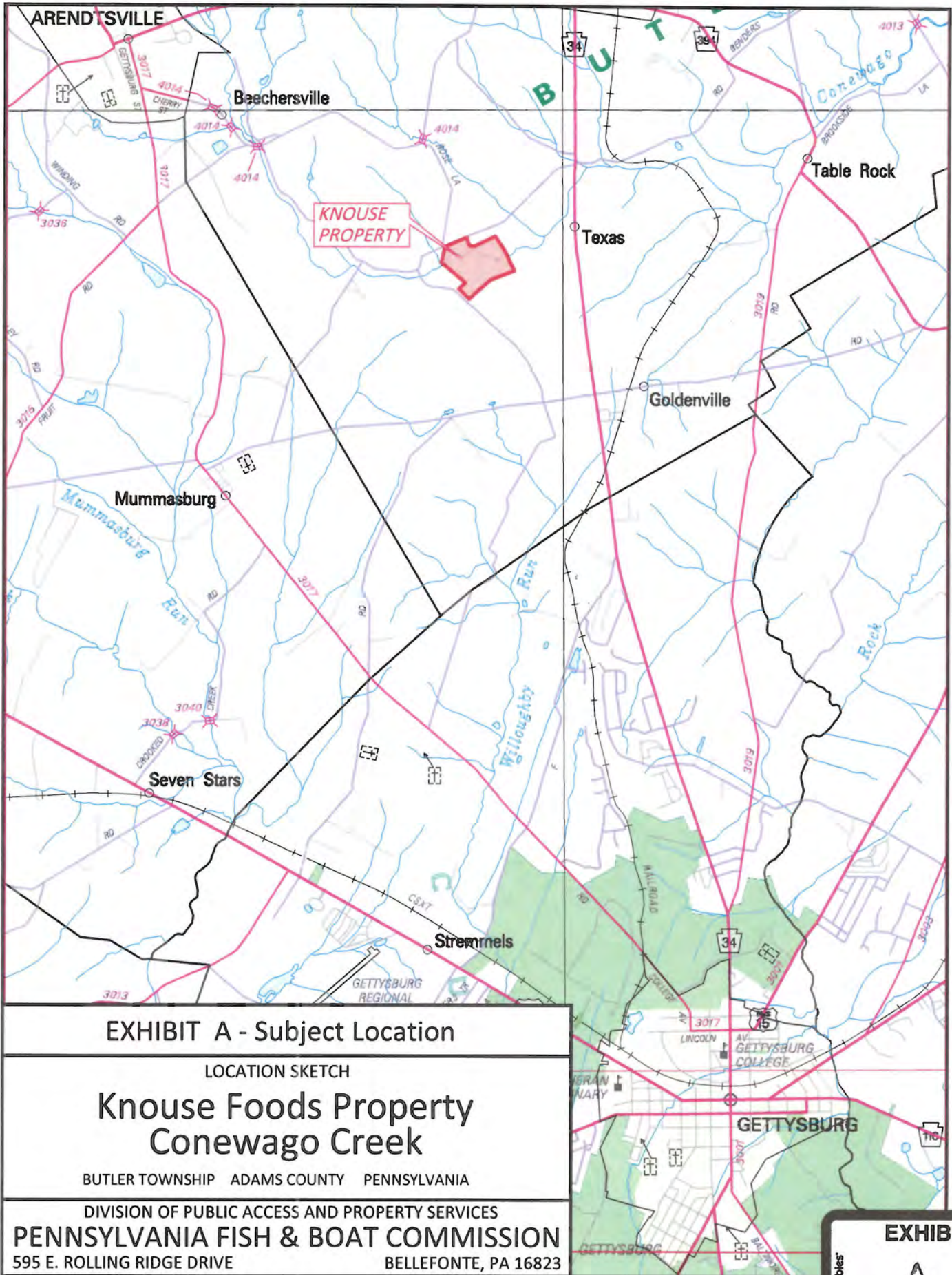


EXHIBIT A - Subject Location

LOCATION SKETCH

**Knouse Foods Property
Conewago Creek**

BUTLER TOWNSHIP ADAMS COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND PROPERTY SERVICES

PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

595 E. ROLLING RIDGE DRIVE

BELLEFONTE, PA 16823

EXHIBIT



A

tabbles®

Knouse Foods Property - Conewago Creek
Butler Township - Adams County

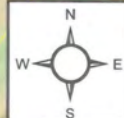
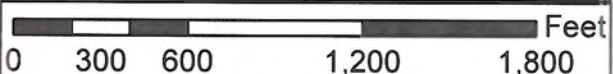


Legend

-  Knouse Foods Property
-  Conewago Creek

June 18, 2020

EXHIBIT A - Subject Parcel



EXHIBIT

tabbles

B

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission **STRATEGIC PLAN**

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023

www.fishandboat.com



The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) is pleased to share the new strategic plan which will guide the agency's activities from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023. This plan represents a year's worth of hard work and deliberation by PFBC Commissioners and staff. It highlights the wide variety of roles PFBC employees play in protecting, conserving, and enhancing aquatic resources and providing fishing and boating opportunities on behalf of all Pennsylvanians.

The strategic plan is ambitious, broad, and detailed. It is ambitious in that we seek to deliver – and improve upon – existing products and services, while making a substantial commitment to exploring new opportunities. The plan is broad in scope and includes both new initiatives and core agency functions. The intent to include more routine activities was deliberate and acknowledges these activities as essential to fulfilling the PFBC's mission. Finally, the plan is detailed, particularly with respect to the goals and sub-goals that are found in the plan. Some of this detail is the direct result of using a SMART goal format, which means that goals meet the following five criteria:

- S – Specific
- M – Measurable
- A – Action-oriented
- R – Realistic
- T – Time-bound and include deadlines

The true success of the plan will come down to adherence to our mission, guiding principles, and values. As we move into a new chapter of our agency's 150-year history, we are confident that our Commissioners, staff, and volunteers will rise to the occasion and do everything within their power to deliver for Pennsylvania's anglers, boaters, and aquatic resources.

Thank you for your interest and support,



Timothy D. Schaeffer
Executive Director



Eric C. Hussar
President, Board of Commissioners



Background

- History – First created in 1866 to address declining shad and other fish populations, the PFBC is among the oldest state fisheries agencies in the nation. Over the course of the following 154 years, the organizational structure and legal responsibilities have evolved and expanded to what the agency is today, an independent administrative commission with the power to develop and enforce regulations pertaining to fishing, the management of fisheries, and the safe operation of boats. The PFBC's statutory authority is found in the Fish and Boat Code of 1980 (Title 30, *Pa. Consolidated Statutes*), while fishing and boating regulations are set forth in Title 58 of the *Pennsylvania Code*.
- Current Organizational Structure – The PFBC is governed by a Board of Commissioners whose 10 members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the majority of the Pennsylvania Senate. Commissioners serve terms of four years. Eight Commissioners are selected based upon districts, and two Commissioners, representing boating interests, have an at-large, statewide appointment. The PFBC receives advice and recommendations from the Boating Advisory Board (BAB) regarding matters relating to boating, including boating rules and regulations. The PFBC is staffed by a complement of approximately 400 full-time employees, who are led by an Executive Director, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer.
- Funding – The PFBC receives no state General Fund tax revenues to support its operations. The agency is primarily funded through user fees, including fishing licenses and permits, boat registrations, boat launch permits, and reimbursement of federal excise taxes assessed on fishing equipment and motorboat fuels. The Commission is also eligible to receive state capital project funding to help defray the costs of major infrastructure projects. For example, earlier in 2020, Governor Wolf released \$23.8 million in state funds for the repair of hazardous dams managed by the PFBC. This was matched with \$19.7 million in PFBC funds.

Vision

To establish Pennsylvania as a premier destination for fishing and boating and be the national leader in aquatic resource management.

We have something for everyone!

Mission

To protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

Values

- **Collaboration**
- **Community**
- **Excellence**
- **Respect**
- **Responsiveness**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will...

Commission Culture

Create a positive, diverse, and cooperative work environment where staff and volunteers provide exceptional service, develop their expertise, and are supported in their efforts.

Safety

Maximize the safety of our staff, anglers and boaters, agency partners, and the public.

Asset Stewardship

Prudently manage the agency's finances, equipment, infrastructure, and property.

Resource First

Keep the health of the Commonwealth's aquatic resources, along with the individuals and organizations who benefit from them, at the forefront of agency decisions and actions.

A Word About Guiding Principles

As the components of this strategic plan began to take shape, certain themes kept recurring in nearly all discussions. These themes form the basis of the eight Guiding Principles presented in this plan. The PFBC will consider these principles during all decisions and activities related to the Commission's mission.

Access

Provide and support public access to Pennsylvania waters.

R3

Consider the impacts our decisions and actions have on the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of anglers and boaters of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.

Resilience

Evaluate and proactively adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, invasive species, and other environmental pressures on fishing, boating, and aquatic resources.

Relevance

Explain, promote, and strengthen the relevance of our work.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND AGENCY GOALS

Sport Fish Management

Optimize Pennsylvania's aquatic habitats and fishery resources to provide the best recreational fishing opportunities possible to enhance anglers' experiences.

Fishing Access

1. By June 30, 2023, achieve no net loss of public fishing access.
 - a. By June 30, 2022, update *Pennsylvania's Fishing and Boating Access Strategy*.
 - b. By June 30, 2022, work with partners to develop a fishing access program that opens access to fishing opportunities at rural ponds and urban water bodies.
 - c. By June 30, 2023, actively promote access to lakes owned by water companies.
2. By June 30, 2023, coordinate with other public landowners on fisheries habitat management and access on publicly-owned lakes and streams.

The PFBC understands that Pennsylvania's anglers are passionate about their sport. Therefore, the PFBC's goals for sport fish management are intended to deliver long-term sustainable sport fisheries and ensure anglers have abundant access to those resources.

Fish Culture

3. Continue to rear and stock fish to re-establish populations in lakes and provide angling opportunities per fisheries management plans.
 - a. By June 30, 2023, partner with cooperative nurseries to ensure trout are most effectively raised and used in locations and practices consistent with fisheries management plans.
 - b. By June 30, 2021, implement pilot production studies to provide larger fingerling species for improved survival after stocking.
 - c. By June 30, 2023, develop an additional early spawn-specific, pathogen-free brood system to supply hatcheries with Brown Trout eggs.
 - d. By June 30, 2023, perform a study to determine the efficacy of vaccination programs in hatcheries to reduce specific pathogens.

Fisheries Management

4. By June 30, 2023, conduct a statewide survey to estimate angler use, catch, harvest, opinions, and economic impact of angling on Pennsylvania's warm-water, cool-water, and cold-water fisheries to determine angler preferences and inform the Commission on how and where to manage fisheries.
5. Continue scientific aquatic resource assessments, monitoring, and reporting at levels needed to provide effective management.
 - a. Conduct mandated annual sampling and long-term monitoring of anadromous species populations in the Delaware River in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which provide legal sport fishing opportunities to anglers.
 - b. Participate in Lake Erie and Great Lakes Fishery Commission management committees.

- c. Participate in interstate fisheries management with neighboring states (DE, MD, NJ, NY, OH, and WV) and other wildlife management organizations (e.g., Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association).
6. Continue to review, update, and implement management plans for sport fish species.
 - a. By June 30, 2021, complete and implement the *Black Bass Fisheries Management Plan*.
 - b. By December 31, 2020, complete and implement an update of the *Walleye Fisheries Management Plan*.
 - c. By December 31, 2020, complete and implement an update of the *Trout Fisheries Management Plan*.
 - d. By December 31, 2020, complete and implement an update of *Operational Guidelines for the Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania Waters*.
 - e. By December 31, 2022, complete and implement an update of the *Catfish Fisheries Management Plan*.
7. Continue to protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources through modern conservation law enforcement practices.
 - a. Conduct overt and covert patrols to address fishing violations.
 - b. Conduct specialized fisheries details to address complaint areas for over-harvesting and poaching.
 - c. Establish routine presence at known fish markets to address commercial fishing regulations for both indigenous and imported species.
8. By June 30, 2021, identify and begin to implement strategies that addresses climate change impacts on habitat, fish species, and angler behavior.
9. By June 30, 2022, identify and collaborate with agriculture and aquaculture community to protect sport fisheries and prevent negative impacts of non-PFBC fish stockings, such as the spread of pathogens and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
 - a. Revise regulations relating to Propagation and Introduction of Fish into Commonwealth Waters (58 Pa Code Ch. 71).
 - b. Revise regulations relating to Transportation of Live Fish into this Commonwealth (58 Pa Code Ch. 73).
 - c. Implement a stocking authorization program.
10. By June 30, 2022, adjust delivery of fishing opportunities to angler residence zones via improved data (PALS 2.0).
11. By June 30, 2021, conduct an evaluation of the PFBC's voluntary permit program to gauge the effectiveness of directing additional resources to specific projects.

Non-game Species, Aquatic Resources, and Habitat Conservation

Optimize the protection, conservation, and enhancement of fish, reptiles, amphibians, other aquatic resources, and their habitats.

Aquatic Resources

12. Annually propagate and stock mussels following the *Freshwater Mussel Propagation Plan for Union City State Fish Hatchery*.
13. By June 30, 2021, complete unassessed mussel sampling protocol.
14. Annually survey at least 500 priority unassessed streams for wild trout as part of the unassessed waters initiative.
15. By June 30, 2023, provide leadership and coordination for AIS in Pennsylvania among federal, state, local, and other organizations.

The PFBC is responsible for aquatic resource management in the Commonwealth, which includes non-game fish, amphibians, reptiles, and other aquatic organisms. The goals found under the Non-game Species, Aquatic Resources and Habitat Conservation priority are intended to make sure healthy ecosystems are available for all PFBC trust species.

- a. Participate in and implement the *Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan*.
- b. Develop specific control plans for each prioritized AIS species identified through a risk assessment and response approach and an up-to-date Pennsylvania AIS inventory.
- c. Identify and recommend appropriate regulations to control species introduction and distribution.
- d. Develop a comprehensive AIS communications outreach plan to prevent the spread of AIS.
- e. Install boat cleaning stations at PFBC facilities with known AIS occurrences (e.g., Lake Erie marinas).
- f. By September 30, 2021, deliver 8-12 AIS species identification training sessions for PFBC staff as part of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant agreement.

Habitat

16. By December 31, 2020, initiate a 5-year partnership to expand the stream habitat program to perform stream corridor Best Management Practices (BMPs) to improve local water quality and fish habitat and contribute to the goals of the *Pennsylvania Phase 3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan* and the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.
17. Continue to work with partner organizations to coordinate and implement connectivity plans that improve fish passage.
 - a. Maintain the PFBC's position as a national leader in small dam removal.
 - b. Identify and prioritize culvert replacement opportunities.
 - c. Identify and prioritize water quality improvements to eliminate chemical or pollution blockages to fish movement.
18. By December 31, 2020, expand habitat management to include non-game species.
 - a. Continue to coordinate and implement habitat management for species of greatest conservation need per the *Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan* to include Timber Rattlesnake, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, and Bog Turtle.

- b. For PFBC properties, develop and/or implement one management plan per year.
- c. For other public lands, develop and/or implement one management plan per year.

Non-Game Species

- 19. By June 30, 2023, initiate, facilitate, or complete population assessments for 29 listed species or species of greatest conservation need (Timber Rattlesnake, Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Bog Turtle, Eastern Mud Salamander, Northern Rough Greensnake, Broadhead Skink, New Jersey Chorus Frog, Coastal Plains Leopard Frog complex, Green Salamander, Kirtland's Snake, Eastern Cricket Frog, Northern Red-bellied Cooter, River Shiner, Ghost Shiner, Hickory Shad, Cisco, Black Bullhead, Threespine Stickleback, Brook Stickleback, Least Brook Lamprey, Brook Floater, Eastern Lampmussel, Tidewater Mucket, Salamander Mussel, Rayed Bean, Accuminate Crayfish, Devils Crayfish, and Digger's Crayfish).
- 20. Continue to implement climate change adaptation strategies outlined in the *Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan*.
- 21. By June 30, 2023, complete or develop 13 non-game species action plans.
 - a. Update 7 existing species action plans (Bog Turtle, Eastern Massasauga, Timber Rattlesnake, Eastern Spadefoot, Eastern Pearlshell, Chesapeake Logperch, and Salamander Mussel).
 - b. Develop 6 species action plans for endangered and threatened species (Eastern Mud Turtle, Northern Redbelly Cooter, Pistolgrip, Round Hickorynut, Longnose Sucker, and inland Burbot populations).
- 22. By June 30, 2022, dedicate law enforcement resources to special investigations regarding non-game species wildlife trafficking.
- 23. Continue to support the PFBC's pollution response and investigation responsibilities.
 - a. By December 31, 2021, review and update internal reporting protocol for pollution investigation methods and reporting.
 - b. By December 31, 2022, review and update procedures for coordinating response efforts during a pollution event/investigation.
 - c. Regularly conduct pollution investigation refresher training for field staff.
 - d. By December 31, 2020, implement statewide interagency response strategy for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS) to mitigate potential dangers to public health, water quality, water-based recreation, and aquatic resources.
- 24. Continue to implement restoration/recovery plans for Dunkard Creek, Sinnemahoning Creek, and Texas Eastern pollution events.

Recreational Boating

Provide safe and enjoyable boating opportunities for users of both powered and non-powered boats.

Boating Safety

25. By June 30, 2022, improve non-powered boating education and communication to improve safety awareness and reduce the annual fatality rate.
 - a. By March 31, 2021, develop and begin implementing a non-powered boat safety education and outreach initiative designed to reduce the annual fatality rate in this user group.
 - b. By June 30, 2021, develop online materials so that every non-powered boater in the Commonwealth has access to information that highlights the responsibilities, risks, and proper protocols of safe non-powered boating.
 - c. By December 31, 2020, provide retailers with information to include with the sale of non-powered watercraft that highlights the responsibilities, risks, and proper safety protocols.
26. Continue to standardize boat operation and enforcement training by using the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) nationally recognized programs.

State law grants the PFBC authority to regulate boating activities in the Commonwealth. The PFBC's Recreational Boating goals were crafted to reflect the need to educate and prepare boaters to operate their watercraft safely. Other goals under this strategic priority reflect the growing need to perform water rescue operations, as well as promote boating opportunities in the Commonwealth.

Water Rescue

27. Maintain the PFBC's status as the national leader in water rescue to benefit all Pennsylvanians.
 - a. Continue to implement and improve training for first responders, all WCOs, the PA-Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PA-HART), and Swiftwater Emergency Response Team (SWERT).
 - b. Continue to facilitate quarterly training exercises to ensure readiness and ability to work with other Commonwealth agencies.
 - c. By June 30, 2022, establish and implement best practices for Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition (VRSR) auditing and recertification.

Boating Promotion

28. Continue to facilitate water trail development and promotion in conjunction with partner organizations to accommodate the increased interest in non-powered boating.
29. By June 30, 2022, update *Pennsylvania's Fishing and Boating Access Strategy*.
30. Continue to improve boating opportunities and convenience in the Commonwealth.
 - a. Continue to implement the renewed Boating Facilities Grants program to allow partners to update and maintain public boating access.
 - b. By June 30, 2021, change the boat registration expiration date to December 31 to have the expiration date coincide with the calendar year.

- c. By June 30, 2021, begin issuing temporary launch permits for unpowered watercraft to improve the overall efficiency of the permitting process.
 - d. By December 31, 2021, work with other state agencies to promulgate uniform launch permit regulations for Commonwealth-owned or Commonwealth-controlled properties.
- 31. By June 30, 2023, align the PFBC's boating offerings to accommodate the needs and expectations of both powered and non-powered boaters.
 - a. By December 31, 2021, develop a prioritized list of actions to improve user experiences at PFBC properties based upon evaluation of data from field staff and the public.

Employee Investments and Agency Operations

Improve internal communications, operations, and training to enhance employee awareness, professional development, job satisfaction, and succession planning.

Employee Development

32. By June 30, 2023, implement PFBC training academy program to ensure employees have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to safely and effectively perform their jobs.
 - a. By June 30, 2021, develop an organizational needs assessment to determine person- and position-specific training needs.
 - b. By June 30, 2022, document all bureau training in LSO to ensure employees have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to safely and effectively perform their jobs.
33. By June 30, 2023, implement PFBC development program to prepare next generation of agency management roles.

If the PFBC is to be successful in implementing this strategic plan, agency leadership needs to remain committed to our employees. The Employee Investments and Agency Operations goals focus on making sure the PFBC workforce is supported and prepared to meet the many challenges that lie ahead.

- a. By June 30, 2021, administer self-assessment tools to improve communication, teamwork, and personal growth among PFBC management employees.
- b. By June 30, 2023, facilitate professional development seminars for management staff to increase their leadership skills and abilities.
34. By June 30, 2023, implement employee development program to provide essential knowledge, skills, and abilities to all PFBC employees regardless of job function.
 - a. By June 30, 2021, implement annual PFBC new employee orientation program to provide an overview of the agency, its operations, and employee resources.
 - b. By June 30, 2022, use needs assessment to develop course catalogue to provide training in succession planning, professional development, and workplace compliance.
 - c. By June 30, 2023, implement internal mentoring program to assist employees with their professional development and help prepare future leaders within the agency.
 - d. By December 31, 2020, develop an experiential learning program to allow staff to spend at least one day per year assisting with an activity conducted by a different bureau within the PFBC to build camaraderie, learn about other functional areas, and encourage collaboration across bureaus.

Employee Engagement and Communication

35. By December 31, 2020, implement a means of sharing information electronically about staff and Commission activities.
36. By June 30, 2021, implement PFBC employee appreciation event that enhances employee awareness of the agency's mission and builds a sense of community.

Employee Diversity and Inclusion

37. By December 31, 2020, convene a workgroup of PFBC employees to review recommendations put forth in the *Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap* as well as other

- relevant sources, and provide recommendations for promoting diversity and inclusion within the agency.
38. Regularly distribute job postings and routinely collaborate with Governor's Advisory Commissions (African American Affairs, Asian American Affairs, Latino Affairs, and LGBTQ Affairs) to help the PFBC with diversity and inclusion efforts.
 39. By June 30, 2021, require mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) diversity training for supervisors and management.

Employee Safety and Agency Operations

40. By June 30, 2023, increase employee safety through targeted employee training, investment in safety equipment (e.g., viral personal protective equipment), and improving general safety awareness among both employees and management.
 - a. Ensure the PFBC safety committee is comprised of at least 50% union-covered employees.
41. By June 30, 2022, implement annual mandatory on-site safety training at PFBC field locations.
42. Regularly review, update, and maintain the PFBC's Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs), division operational plans, Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs), directories, and other reference materials.

Communications and Marketing

Communicate and market the value of the PFBC and the quality of Pennsylvania's aquatic resources and recruit, retain, and reactivate a diversity of anglers, boaters, and conservationists.

Branding

43. By December 31, 2020, implement an agency-wide approach to messaging and imaging that provides clarity and consistency across all platforms.
 - a. Conduct an audit of current branding at PFBC.
 - b. Identify and communicate approved uses of agency logos.
 - c. Develop an agency style guide for electronic and written communications.

Communications

44. By June 30, 2021, implement a comprehensive communications strategy that increases public awareness and engagement with respect to the PFBC's programs and the resources entrusted to the PFBC.
 - a. Develop best practices for frequency, content, and delivery methods.
 - b. Develop performance metrics to evaluate effectiveness of communications.
 - c. Employ the media, methods, and content consistent with market research and R3 guidelines.
 - d. Promote positive conservation messaging that encourages non-participants to support agency programs and interests.
 - e. Highlight the value of what fishing licenses and boat registrations provide for all Commonwealth residents and visitors.
 - f. Incorporate content about angler and boater ethics to address public perception issues, such as littering, trespassing, and knowledge of fishing and boating regulations.
45. By December 31, 2020, develop and implement targeted initiatives to improve the PFBC's customer service experience.
46. By June 30, 2021, refine the PFBC's social media presence.
 - a. By December 31, 2020, develop and implement a social media policy to ensure consistency across all agency platforms.
 - b. By June 30, 2021, complete an agency-wide social media strategy that considers a workload analysis and evaluation of the PFBC's existing social media effectiveness, as well as an evaluation of social media platforms, management tools, and performance metrics.
47. In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, host the 2021 Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference for the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA).
48. Host a 1-day Pennsylvania Fisheries Summit in 2021.

The Communications and Marketing goals are intended to serve two critical purposes. First, these goals will help the PFBC inform and engage the general public in our efforts to carry out our mission. Second, the R3 goals will help increase interest and participation in fishing and boating, and in turn will ensure the PFBC has the customer base and revenue needed to effectively carry out the agency's mission.

Marketing

49. By December 31, 2020, administer a survey to evaluate the human dimensions aspect of anglers and boaters.
50. By June 30, 2022, implement a marketing strategy that segments the PFBC's customer base into recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) segments.
 - a. Enhance marketing to traditional and emerging markets along state, regional, national, and international lines.
 - b. Implement programs designed to attract customers and participants from diverse social and demographic backgrounds to fishing, boating, and conservation programs.
 - c. Align and work with other Commonwealth agencies, local tourism offices, and businesses to identify and promote fishing and boating opportunities in Pennsylvania.
 - d. Develop an eCommerce and search engine optimization strategy.
 - e. Seek additional partners and channels for co-marketing and promotion of products and services.

Education

51. By June 30, 2023, based upon an evaluation of all the PFBC's outreach and education programs, direct staff, funding, and volunteer efforts toward those programs that effectively and efficiently meet R3 goals and objectives.
52. Continue to increase recruitment, retention, and reactivation of under-represented populations by expanding high demand programs that target diverse audiences.
53. Optimize Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program to increase conservation awareness and the recruitment of new anglers and/or boaters.
 - a. By June 30, 2023, increase the total TIC participation in fishing, conservation, and/or boating activities by 25% over 2018-2019 school year levels.
54. Continue to increase fishing and paddling skills via in-person training and education.
55. By June 30, 2023, develop and provide alternative learning opportunities online to increase knowledge and skills for fishing and boating (e.g., internet tools, instructional/experience-based videos, and educational series).
56. By June 30, 2021, explore opportunities to engage veterans and senior citizens through state veterans homes, senior centers, long-term care facilities, and retirement communities.
57. By June 30, 2023, investigate improving the use of visitor centers to better share the PFBC's message and increase public engagement.
 - a. By June 30, 2021, compile and analyze data on visitation, costs, and benefits.
 - b. By June 30, 2023, based upon a prioritized listing, make improvements to existing visitors centers that convey updated content, branding, and messaging that is relevant to today's public.
 - c. By June 30, 2023, evaluate the potential to develop visitors centers at additional PFBC facilities.

Infrastructure and Equipment

Modernize and maintain PFBC facilities and equipment and align them with user needs.

Facilities

58. By June 30, 2021, complete analysis of regional facilities to improve public service and energy efficiency while providing a modern and safe work environment.
- a. By June 30, 2021, begin design of a new LEED certified Northeast Regional Office in Sweet Valley, Luzerne County, and a new LEED certified Northwest Regional Office in Fairview, Erie County.
 - b. By December 31, 2020, conduct a study to begin consolidation and identify optimal locations for remaining regional facilities.
 - c. By June 30, 2021, set priorities and develop a detailed scope of work, project cost estimates, and establish general locations for regional office facilities.
59. By December 31, 2022, initiate upgrades of hatchery facilities based on priority needs.
- a. By September 30, 2021, establish prioritized list and scope of work and construction estimates to modernize existing hatchery facilities to improve customer experience, functionality, and safety.
 - b. By December 31, 2021, develop a schedule for design and construction for hatchery facilities upgrades.
 - c. By December 31, 2022, initiate design of projects and obtain permitting documents for hatchery facilities upgrades.
60. Continue to improve the condition of the PFBC's access facilities.
- a. By June 30, 2021, finish the current staff evaluation of boating access facilities.
 - b. By June 30, 2022, replace and improve docks, signs, ramps, and parking lots for regional priority projects.
 - c. By June 30, 2023, develop a new regular inspection program that uses an index-based condition rating system to accurately rate the condition of PFBC-owned and maintained access areas and begin remediation of the top 10 deficient access areas identified through this inspection program.
 - d. By June 30, 2021, implement an adopt-an-access pilot program to provide opportunities for local organizations to partner with the PFBC.
61. Continue to repair and improve the PFBC's dams to protect public safety and provide fishing and boating opportunities.
- a. By June 30, 2021, initiate design for ten priority hazardous dam projects: Cloe Lake, Fords Lake, Harris Pond, Hemlock Lake, High Point Lake, Hunters Lake, Kahle Lake, Rose Valley Lake, Stevens Lake, and Virgin Run Lake.
 - b. By June 30, 2023, complete construction of the following seven high hazard dam projects: Belmont Lake, Childrens Lake, Lower Woods Pond, Meadow Grounds Lake, Miller Pond, Somerset Lake, and White Oak Pond.
 - c. By June 30, 2021, evaluate PFBC's low hazard dams and prioritize for future rehabilitation.

The Infrastructure and Equipment goals allow the PFBC to address facility improvements and equipment needs in a way that reflects the evolving needs of aquatic resources and public preferences.

Equipment

62. Continue to implement the PFBC's 5-year strategic project list to replace aging vehicles and equipment.
63. By December 31, 2020, submit Property Disposition Reports to the Department of General Services for liquidation of all surplus equipment at PFBC properties.

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

64. By June 30, 2021, begin making energy efficiency and systems improvements identified through the Commonwealth's Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) program. Improvements will include the following: installation of electric vehicle charging stations at the Harrisburg Headquarters and Centre Region Office, and the installation of solar panels at the two PFBC facilities best suited for solar electric generation.
65. By September 30, 2020, order battery electric or plug-in electric hybrid passenger fleet vehicles based at the Harrisburg Headquarters and Centre Region Office.

Information Technology

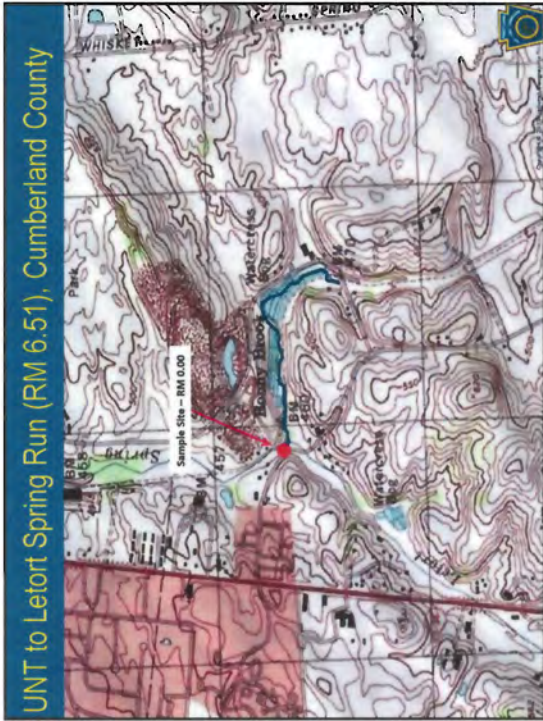
66. By March 31, 2021, replace current online licensing system with a new user-friendly Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System (PALS 2.0) to improve customer service by streamlining the license application and purchase process and facilitating auditing and reporting for licensing agents.
67. Continue to evaluate IT infrastructure needs of all PFBC employees and facilities.
68. Continue to ensure the FishBoatPA app is current, relevant, regularly updated, and promoted.
 - a. By June 30, 2021, increase FishBoatPA app capability to include instant purchase and "proof of license" capability to improve customer convenience and increase total license sales.
 - b. By June 30, 2021, determine if the FishBoatPA app can be used for two-way communication (e.g., creel surveys and weekly regional reports).
 - c. By June 30, 2023, double the number of FishBoatPA app users.
 - d. Continue to analyze FishBoatPA app usage data to determine opportunities and optimization.
69. By June 30, 2023, investigate the ability to harness GIS technology and improve user interface.
 - a. Allow the public to view multiple layers of data on one web page instead of needing to access multiple pages within the map galleries on the PFBC website.
 - b. Leverage GIS applications and data to provide accurate and precise analyses to improve service and product delivery.
 - c. Increase promotion of existing PFBC mapping and locational tools available to the public, including development of online tutorials that help the public maximize the capabilities of the PFBC's online tools.
70. By December 31, 2020, develop new fishing license evaluation process to routinely review the PFBC's license offerings to ensure they achieve the greatest return on investment.
71. By June 30, 2021, create bundled license options that target specific segments of the PFBC's customer base.
 - a. By June 30, 2021, create bundled launch permit with multiyear fishing license.

- b. By June 30, 2021, create non-resident Pennsylvania college student fishing license.
 - c. By June 30, 2021, work with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to explore cross-promotion and sales of combined hunting and fishing license packages.
72. By December 31, 2020, complete a redesign of the Outdoor Shop to modernize online sales opportunities and improve overall customer experience.
73. Improve the efficiency of permit issuance and administration (e.g., scientific collectors' permit and special activities permit).
- a. By December 31, 2020, develop and implement credit card payment system for the scientific collectors', Grass Carp, and blasting permit programs.
 - b. By December 31, 2021, identify and implement improvements for online reporting for scientific collectors' permit program.
 - c. By December 31, 2021, identify redundancies and inefficiencies and consider implementing updates for species impact reviews.
 - d. By December 31, 2020, implement PALS reporting system for venomous snake and commercial snapping turtle permit reporting.
 - e. By June 30, 2023, develop a web-based application and reporting system for amphibian and reptile rehabilitation and education/outreach possession programs.
 - f. By June 30, 2023, develop and implement an online application form for Special Activity Permits.
 - g. By June 30, 2023, develop and implement an online application form for certifications, inspections, and licenses associated with the PFBC's Passenger for Hire program.
 - h. By June 30, 2023, develop and implement an online application form for Aid to Navigation (ATON) permits.

Class A Additions

- Slides 2-11

1



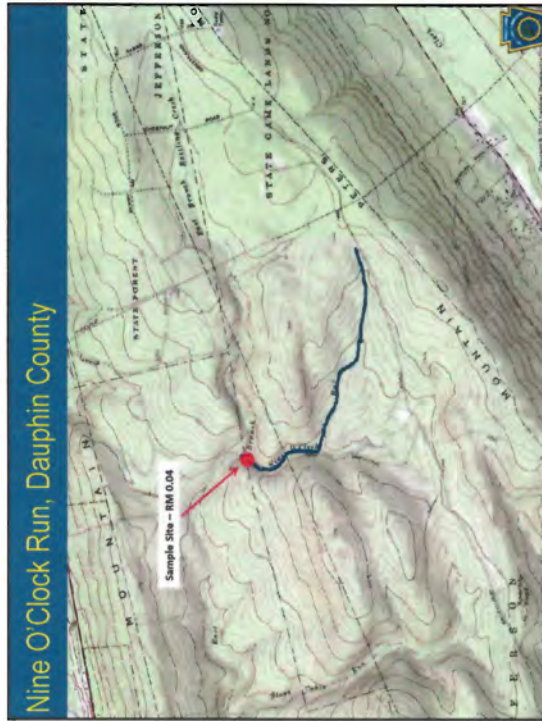
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UNT to Letort Spring Run (RM 6.51), Cumberland County

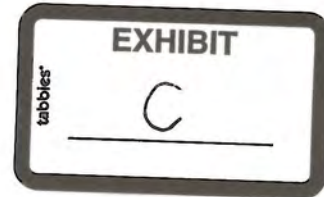
Brown Trout RM - 0.00
Site Length - 97 meters

| Length Group (Inches) | Catch | Estimated Kg/Ba | Estimated Number/Ba |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 3 | 11 | 1.53 | 240 |
| 4 | 11 | 3.44 | 240 |
| 5 | 2 | 1.14 | 44 |
| 6 | 7 | 6.69 | 153 |
| 7 | 7 | 10.25 | 153 |
| 8 | 8 | 16.92 | 174 |
| 9 | 1 | 2.94 | 22 |
| 10 | 4 | 15.88 | 87 |
| 11 | 2 | 10.33 | 44 |
| 12 | 5 | 33.06 | 109 |
| 13 | 1 | 8.33 | 22 |
| Total | 59 | 110.51 | 1,288 |

3



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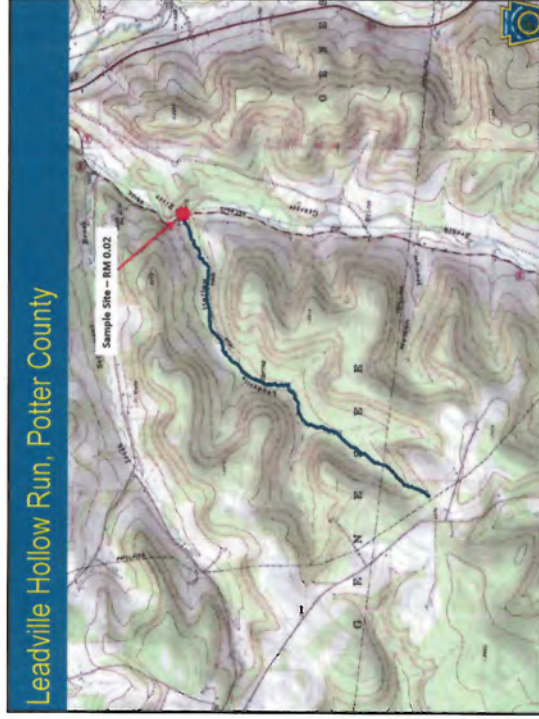


Nine O'Clock Run, Dauphin County

Brook Trout RM - 0.04
Site Length - 340 meters

| Length Group (inches) | Catch | Estimated kg/ha | Estimated Number/ha |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 2 | 133 | 2.92 | 1,185 |
| 3 | 12 | 0.64 | 107 |
| 4 | 89 | 10.86 | 793 |
| 5 | 45 | 9.80 | 401 |
| 6 | 7 | 2.56 | 62 |
| 7 | 7 | 3.99 | 62 |
| Total | 293 | 30.77 | 2,610 |

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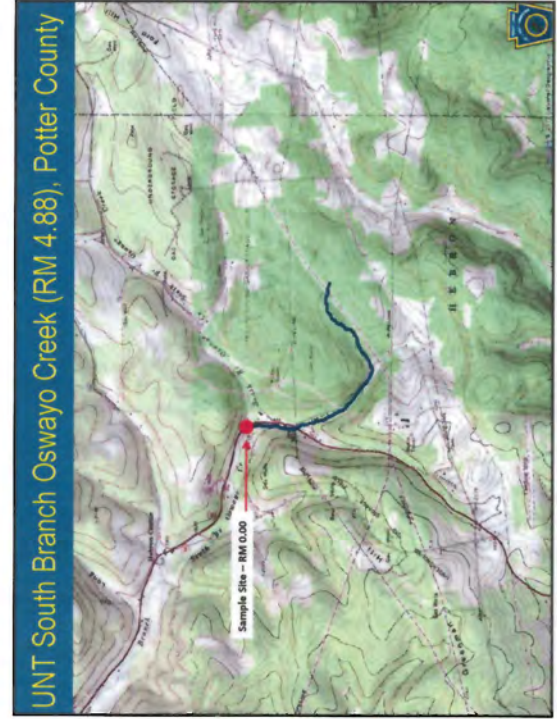
Leadville Hollow Run, Potter County

Brook Trout RM - 0.02
Site Length - 510 meters

| Length Group (inches) | Catch | Estimated kg/ha | Estimated Number/ha |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 2 | 19 | 0.51 | 206 |
| 3 | 8 | 0.52 | 87 |
| 4 | 8 | 1.19 | 87 |
| 5 | 7 | 1.85 | 76 |
| 6 | 7 | 3.12 | 76 |
| 7 | 4 | 2.77 | 43 |
| 8 | 1 | 1.00 | 11 |
| Total | 54 | 10.96 | 586 |

| Length Group (inches) | Catch | Estimated kg/ha | Estimated Number/ha |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 2 | 111 | 3.05 | 1,203 |
| 3 | 141 | 9.74 | 1,528 |
| 4 | 9 | 1.40 | 98 |
| 5 | 5 | 1.42 | 54 |
| 6 | 10 | 4.75 | 108 |
| 7 | 2 | 1.46 | 22 |
| 8 | 4 | 4.21 | 43 |
| 9 | 6 | 8.78 | 65 |
| 10 | 4 | 7.90 | 43 |
| 12 | 2 | 6.58 | 22 |
| 14 | 1 | 5.13 | 11 |
| Total | 295 | 54.42 | 3,197 |

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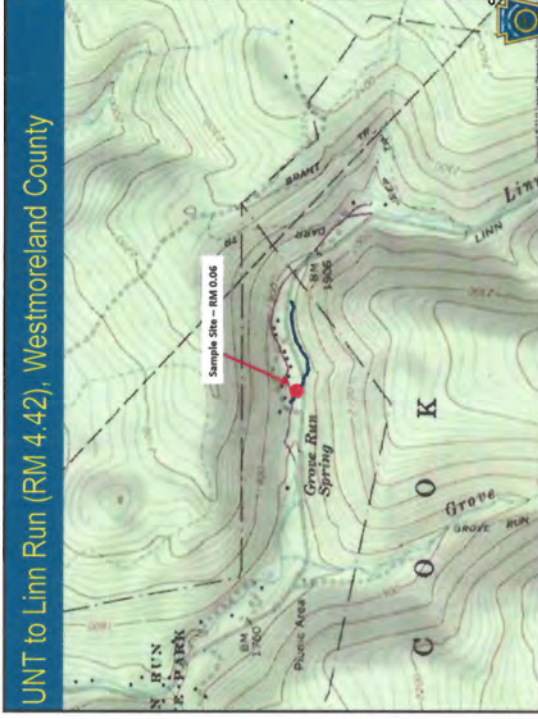


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UNT South Branch Oswayo Creek (RM 4.88), Potter County

| Brook Trout RM - 0.00 Site Length - 290 meters | | | | Brown Trout RM - 0.00 Site Length - 290 meters | | | |
|---|-------|-----------------|---------------------|---|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Length Group (inches) | Catch | Estimated Kg/Ha | Estimated Number/Ha | Length Group (inches) | Catch | Estimated Kg/Ha | Estimated Number/Ha |
| 2 | 9 | 0.31 | 124 | 1 | 1 | 0.01 | 14 |
| 3 | 11 | 0.90 | 152 | 2 | 44 | 1.54 | 607 |
| 5 | 1 | 0.34 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 0.18 | 28 |
| 9 | 2 | 3.63 | 28 | 5 | 10 | 3.62 | 138 |
| Total | 23 | 5.18 | 318 | 6 | 12 | 7.26 | 166 |
| | | | | 7 | 5 | 4.63 | 69 |
| | | | | 8 | 5 | 6.70 | 69 |
| | | | | 9 | 5 | 9.32 | 69 |
| | | | | 11 | 2 | 6.54 | 28 |
| | | | | 12 | 1 | 4.19 | 14 |
| | | | | Total | 87 | 43.99 | 1,202 |

9



10

UNT to Linn Run (RM 4.42), Westmoreland County

| Length Group (inches) | Catch | Estimated Kg/Ha | Estimated Number/Ha |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 0.03 | 32 |
| 2 | 108 | 4.25 | 1,728 |
| 3 | 40 | 3.81 | 640 |
| 4 | 12 | 2.63 | 192 |
| 5 | 22 | 8.60 | 352 |
| 6 | 7 | 4.60 | 112 |
| 7 | 3 | 3.07 | 48 |
| 8 | 2 | 2.96 | 32 |
| 9 | 1 | 2.10 | 16 |
| Total | 197 | 32.05 | 3,152 |

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NOTICES

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

Proposed Changes to List of Class A Wild Trout Waters; July 2020

[50 Pa.B. 2611]
[Saturday, May 16, 2020]

The Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) is considering changes to its list of Class A Wild Trout Streams. Under 58 Pa. Code § 57.8a (relating to Class A wild trout streams), it is the Commission's policy to manage self-sustaining Class A wild trout populations as a renewable natural resource to conserve that resource and the angling it provides. Class A wild trout populations represent the best of this Commonwealth's naturally reproducing trout fisheries. With rare exceptions, the Commission manages these stream sections solely for the perpetuation of the wild trout fishery with no stocking.

Criteria developed for Class A Wild Trout fisheries are species specific. Wild Trout Biomass Class Criteria include provisions for:

(i) *Wild Brook Trout Fisheries*

- (A) Total brook trout biomass of at least 30 kg/ha (26.7 lbs/acre).
- (B) Total biomass of brook trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (C) Brook trout biomass must comprise at least 75% of the total trout biomass.

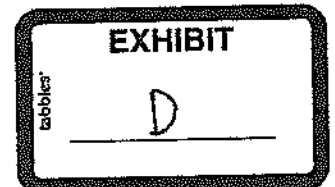
(ii) *Wild Brown Trout Fisheries*

- (A) Total brown trout biomass of at least 40 kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre).
- (B) Total biomass of brown trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (C) Brown trout biomass must comprise at least 75% of the total trout biomass.

(iii) *Mixed Wild Brook and Brown Trout Fisheries*

- (A) Combined brook and brown trout biomass of at least 40 kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre).
- (B) Total biomass of brook trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (C) Total biomass of brown trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).
- (D) Brook trout biomass must comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.
- (E) Brown trout biomass must comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.

(iv) *Wild Rainbow Trout Fisheries*



Total biomass of rainbow trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 2.0 kg/ha (1.78 lbs/acre).

(v) *Mixed Wild Brook and Rainbow Trout Fisheries*

(A) Combined brook and rainbow trout biomass of at least 40 kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre).

(B) Total biomass of brook trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).

(C) Total biomass of rainbow trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).

(D) Brook trout biomass shall comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.

(E) Rainbow trout biomass shall comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.

(vi) *Mixed Wild Brown and Rainbow Trout Fisheries*

(A) Combined brown and rainbow trout biomass of at least 40 kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre).

(B) Total biomass of brown trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).

(C) Total biomass of rainbow trout less than 15 cm (5.9 inches) in total length of at least 0.1 kg/ha (0.089 lbs/acre).

(D) Brown trout biomass shall comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.

(E) Rainbow trout biomass shall comprise less than 75% of the total trout biomass.

During recent surveys, Commission staff documented the following stream sections to have Class A wild trout populations. The Commission intends to consider adding these waters to its list of Class A Wild Trout Streams at its meeting on July 20 and 21, 2020.

| County | Stream | Section | Limits | Tributary to | Mouth Lat/Lon | Brook Trout | | | Length (miles) | Survey Year |
|------------|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | (kg/ha) | Brown Trout (kg/ha) | Rainbow Trout (kg/ha) | | |
| Cumberland | UNT to Letort Spring Run (RM 6.51) | 1 | Spring source to Mouth | Letort Spring Run | 40.176758 77.185343 | — | 110.51 | — | 0.70 | 2019 |
| Dauphin | Nine O'Clock Run | 1 | Headwaters to Mouth | East Branch Rattling Creek | 40.551666 76.650833 | 30.77 | — | — | 2.03 | 2019 |
| Potter | Leadville Hollow Run | 1 | Headwaters to Mouth | West Branch Genesee River | 41.974865 77.882538 | 10.96 | 54.42 | — | 2.88 | 2019 |
| Potter | UNT to South Branch Oswayo Creek | 1 | Headwaters to Mouth | South Branch Oswayo Creek | 41.869440 78.001900 | 5.18 | 43.99 | — | 1.76 | 2019 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---|---------------------|-----------|-------|---|---|------|------|
| | (RM 4.88) | | | | | | | | |
| Westmoreland | UNT to | 1 | Headwaters Linn Run | 40.153710 | 32.05 | — | — | 0.36 | 2019 |
| | Linn | | to Mouth | 79.217630 | | | | | |
| | Run | | | | | | | | |
| | (RM 4.42) | | | | | | | | |

Persons with comments, objections or suggestions concerning the additions are invited to submit comments in writing to the Executive Director, Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, within 30 days after publication of this notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Comments also may be submitted electronically by completing the form at www.fishandboat.com/regcomments. If an acknowledgment of electronic comments is not received by the sender within 2 working days, the comments should be retransmitted to ensure receipt. Electronic comments submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.

TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER,
Executive Director

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 20-673. Filed for public inspection May 15, 2020, 9:00 a.m.]

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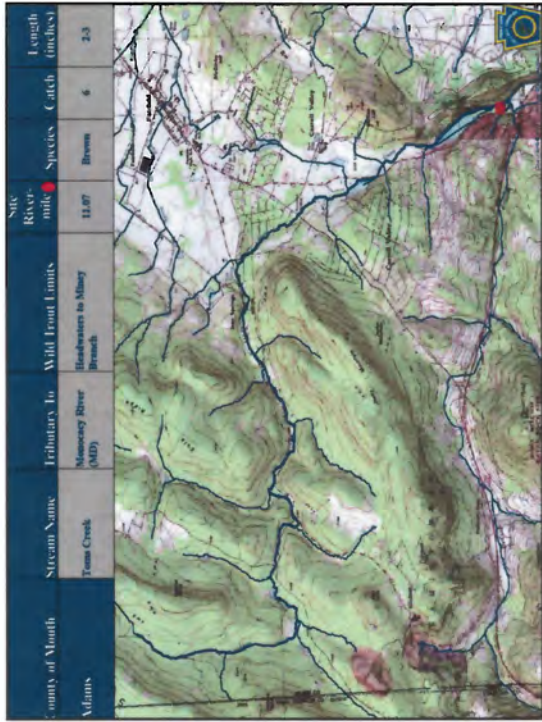
Wild Trout Additions

- Slides 2-74

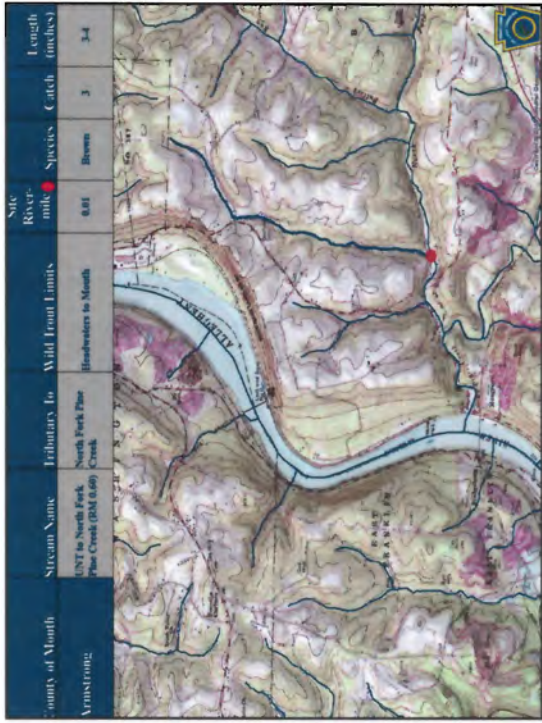
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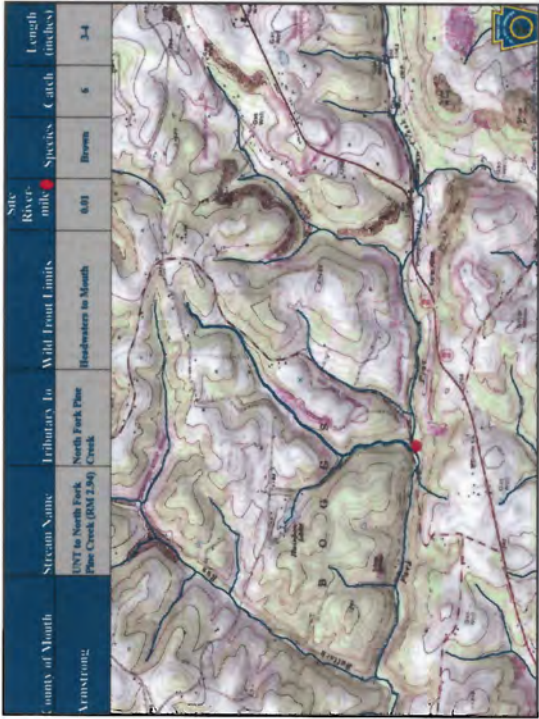
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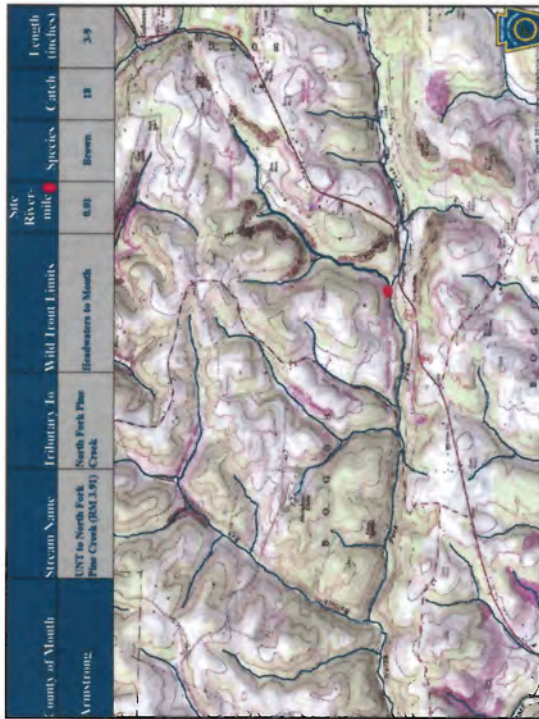
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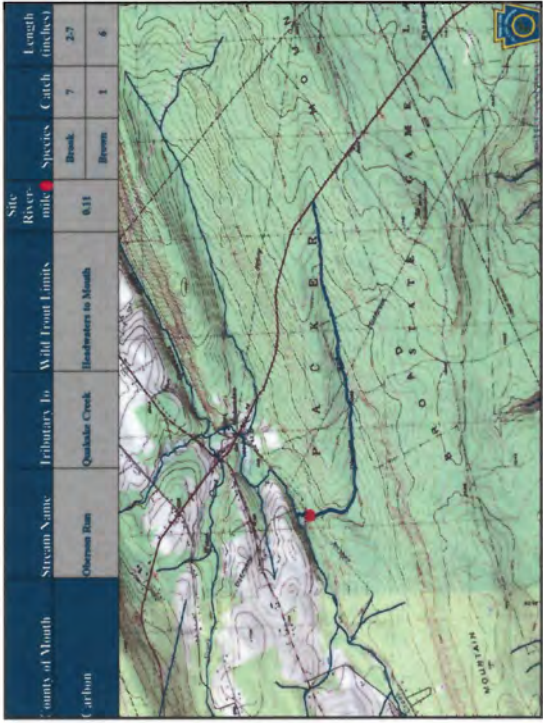
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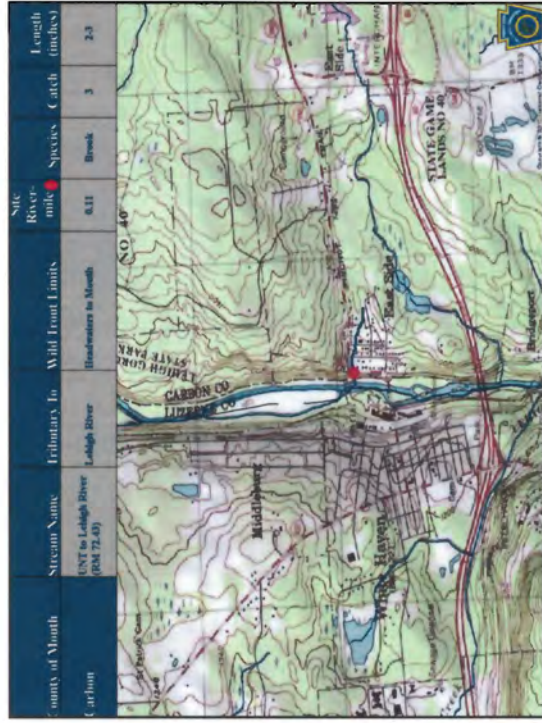
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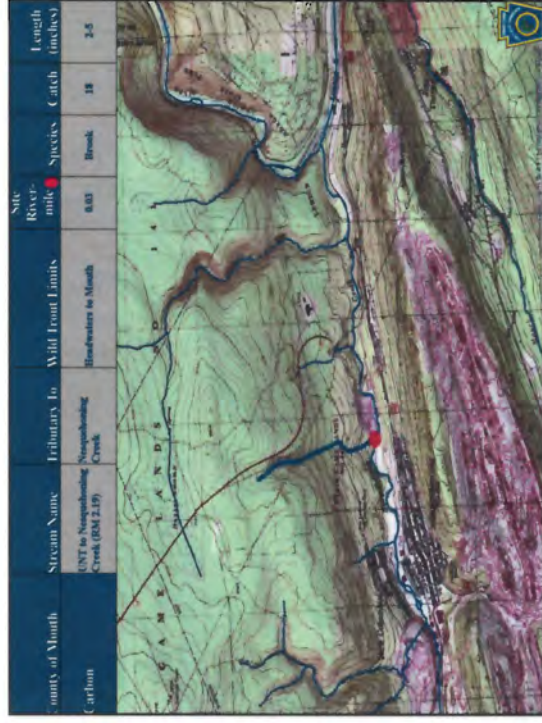
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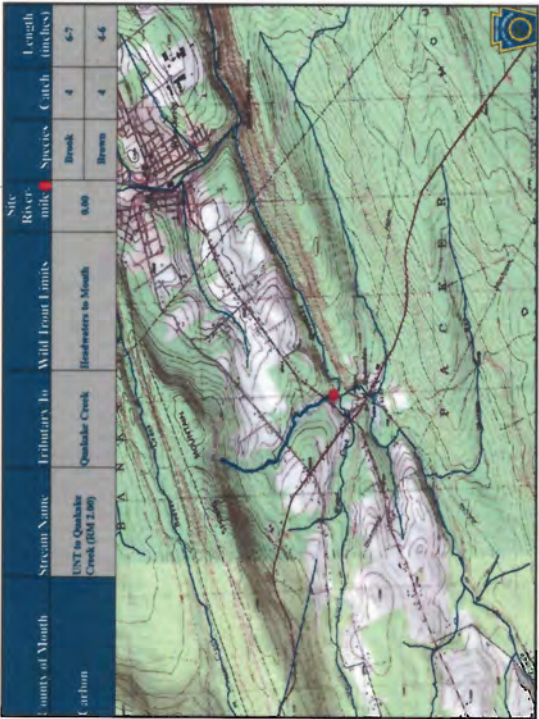
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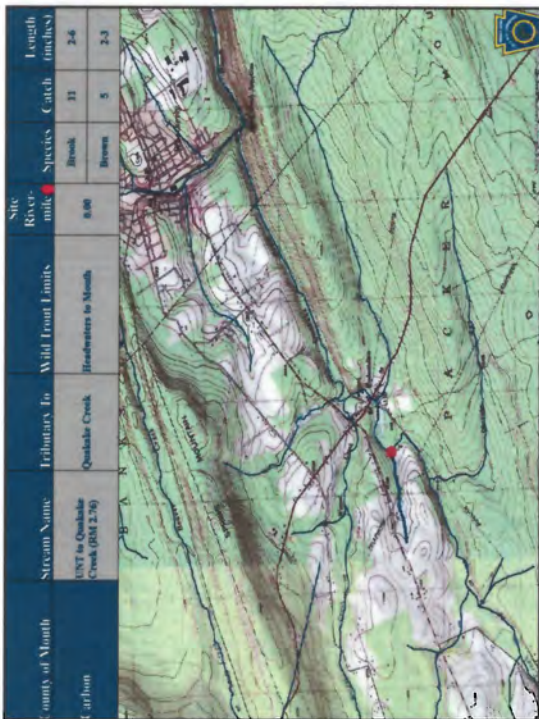
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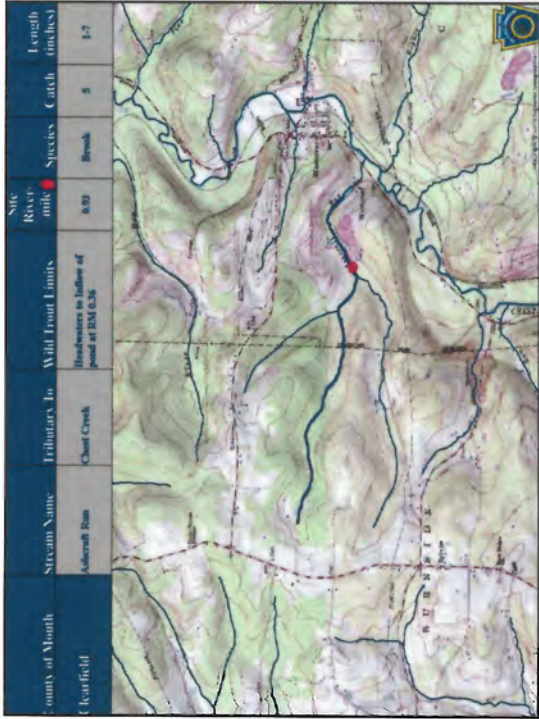
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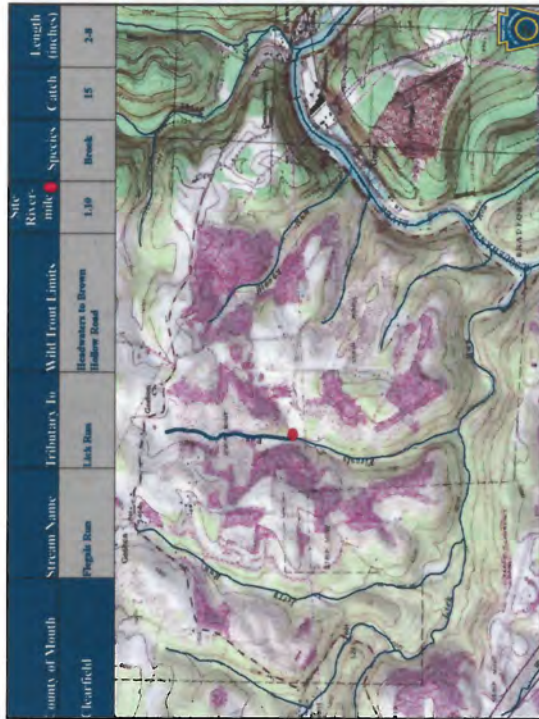
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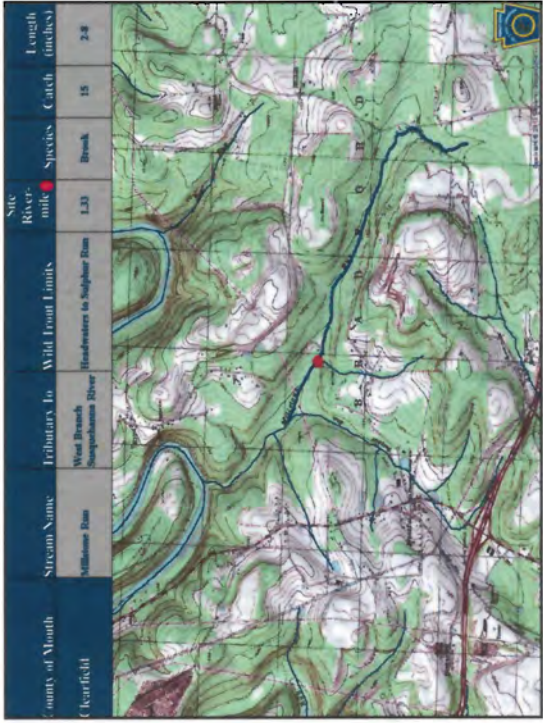
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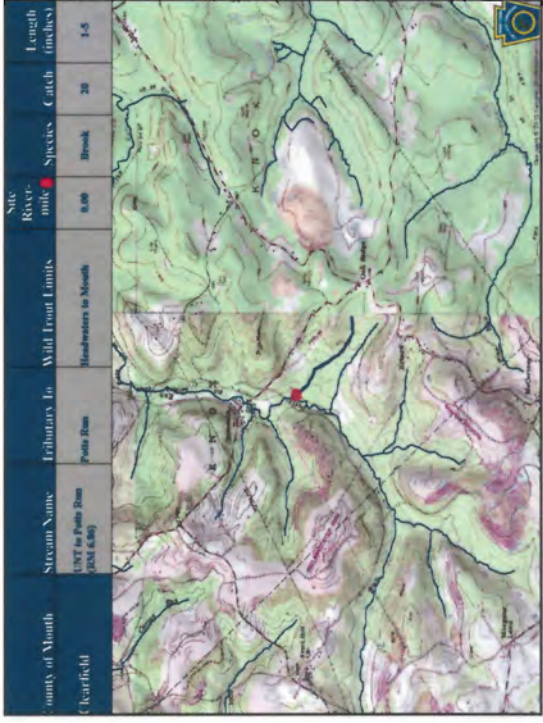
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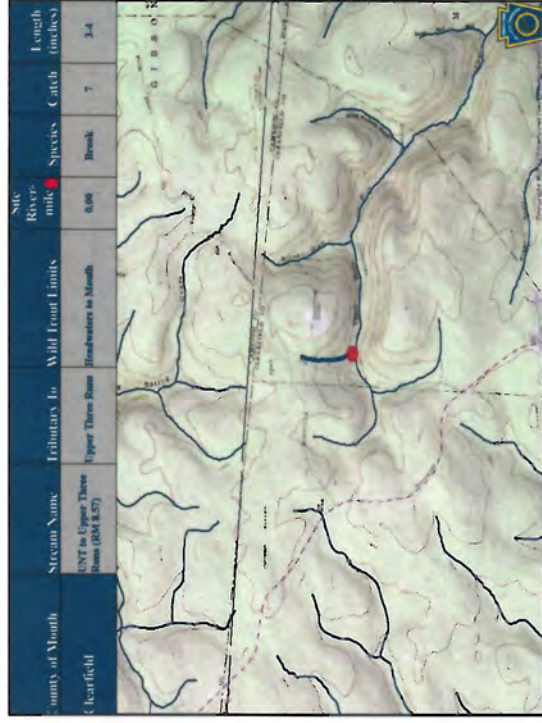
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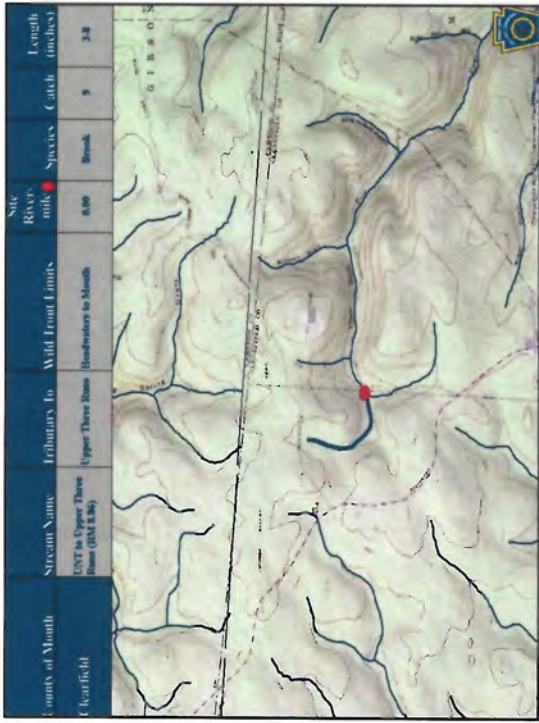
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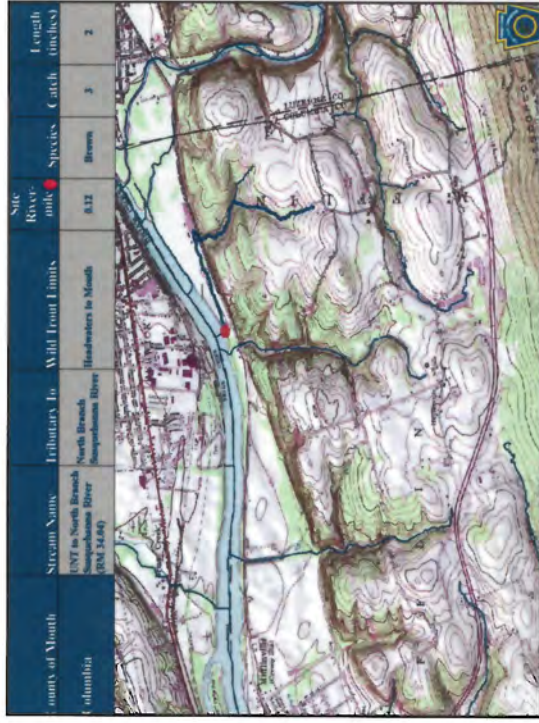
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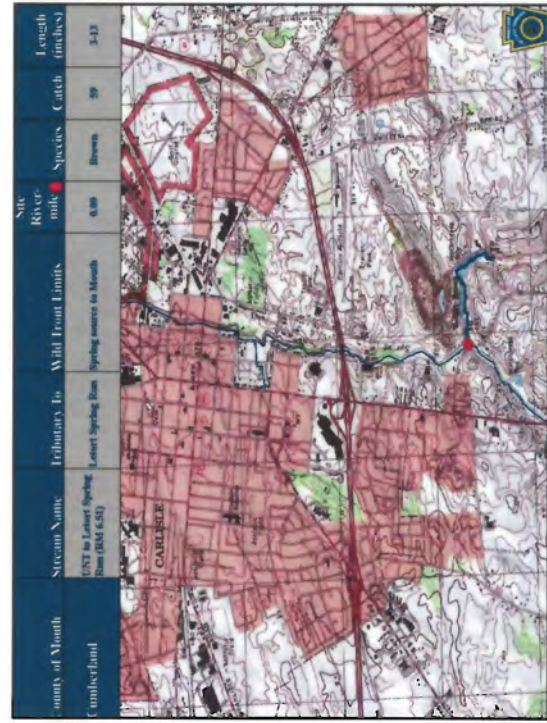
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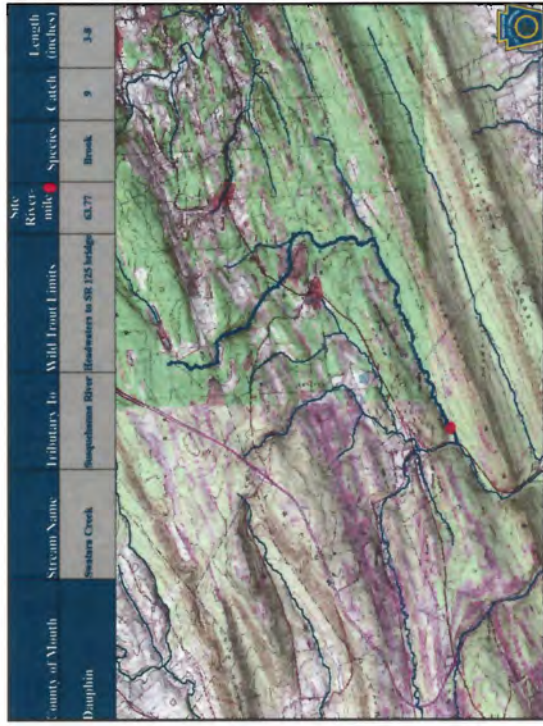
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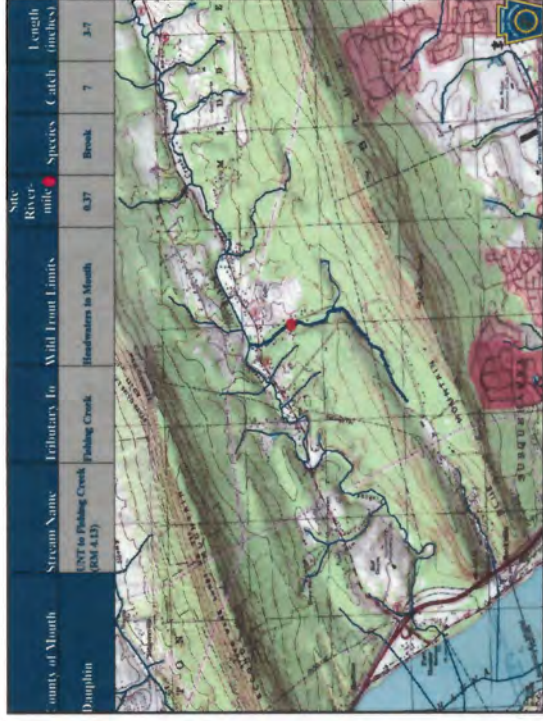
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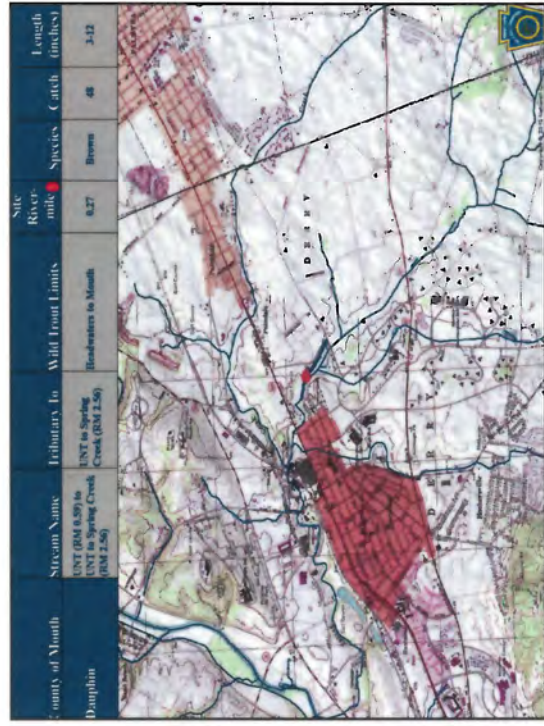
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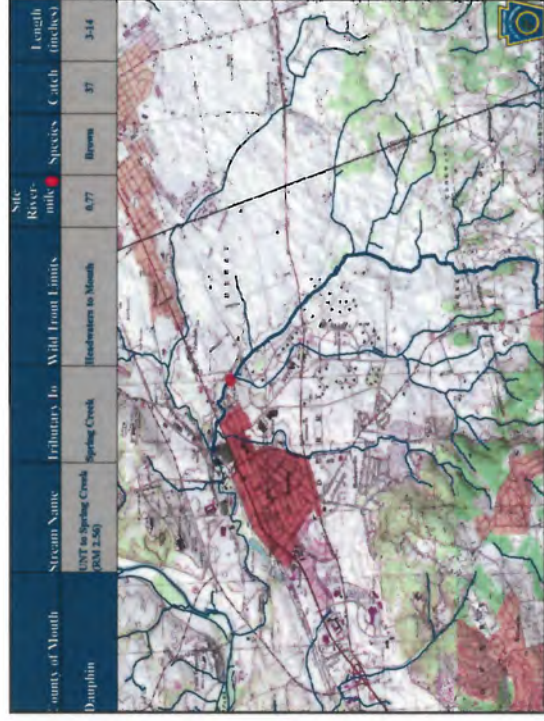
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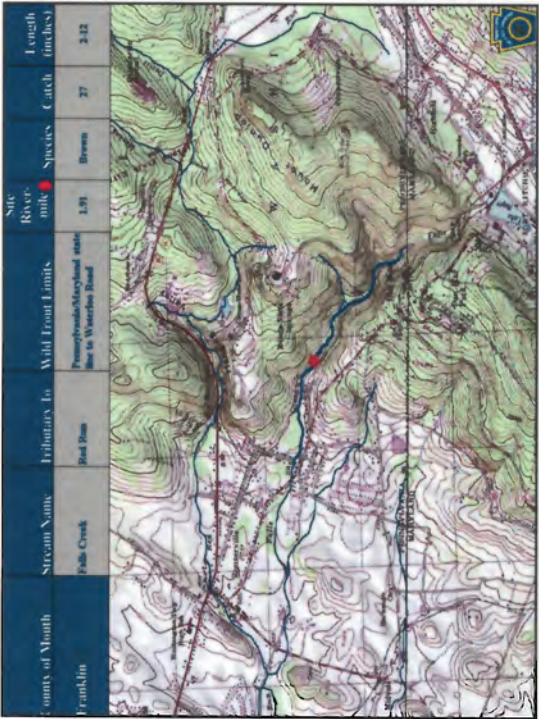
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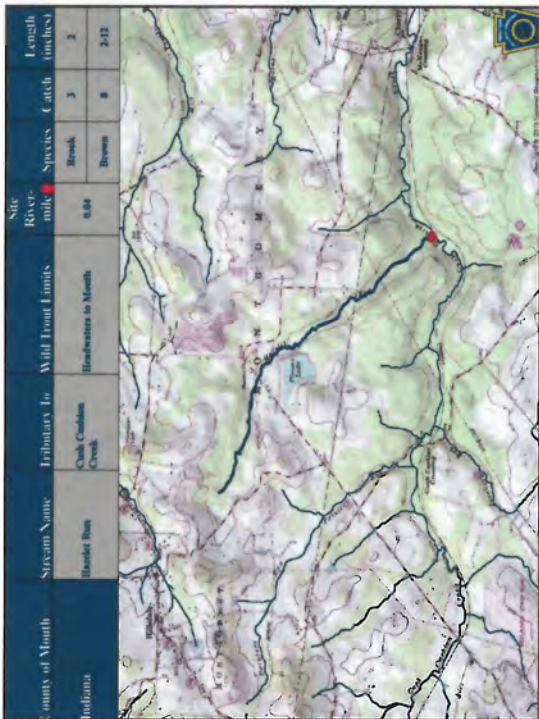
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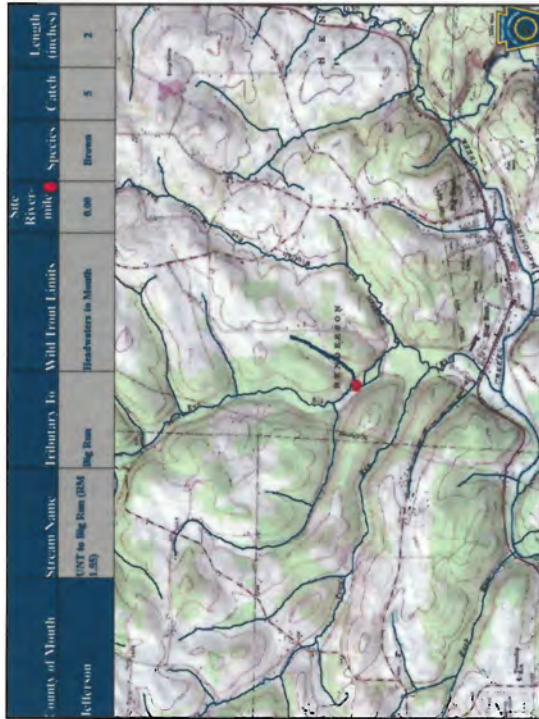
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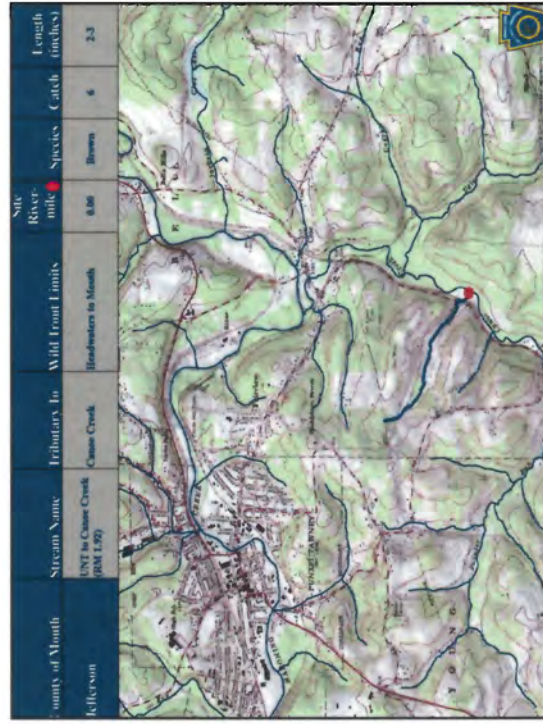
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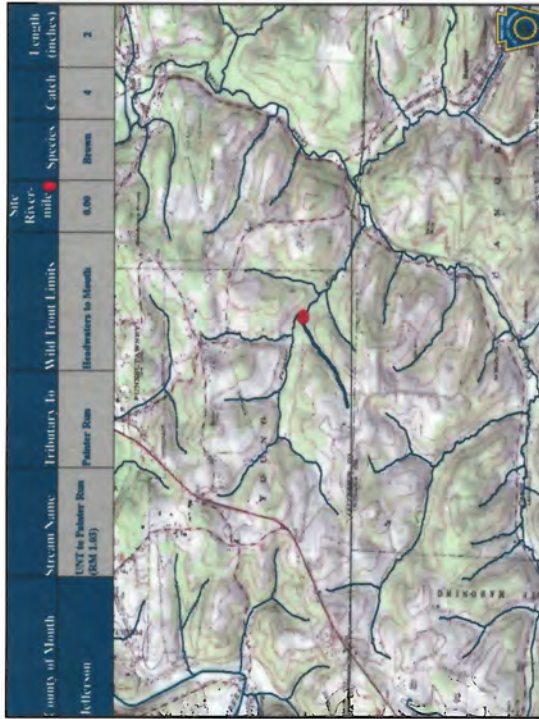
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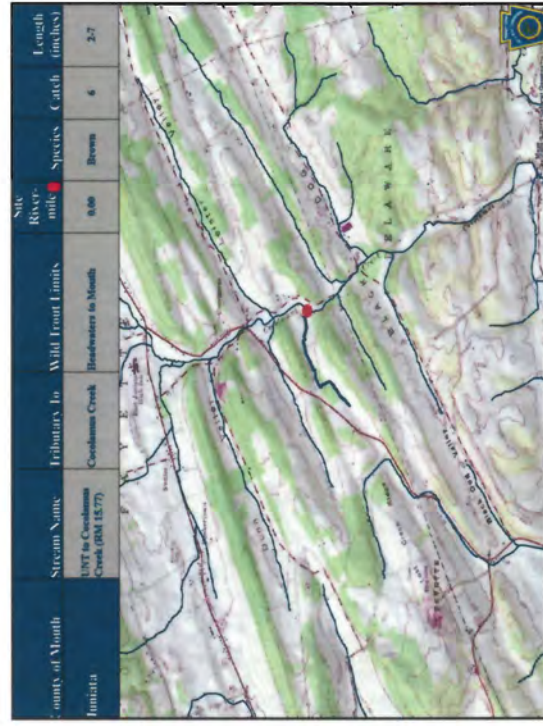
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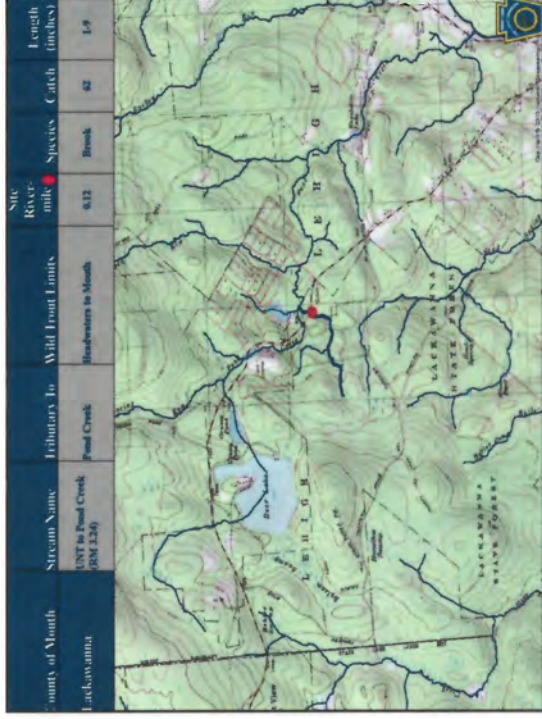
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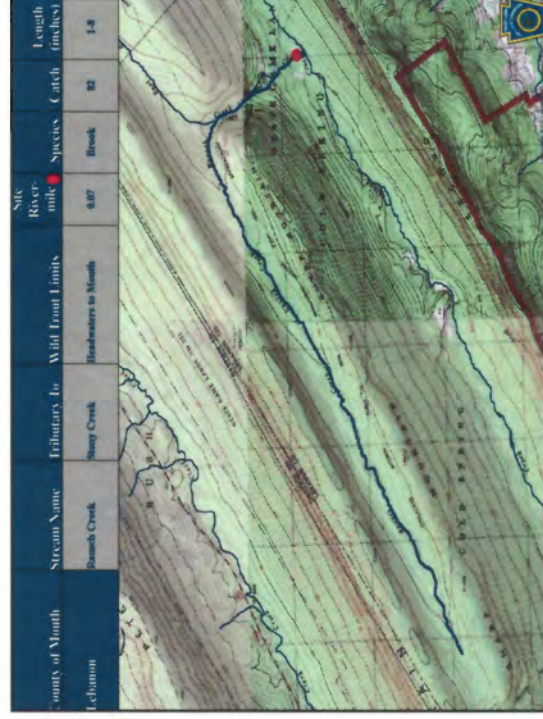
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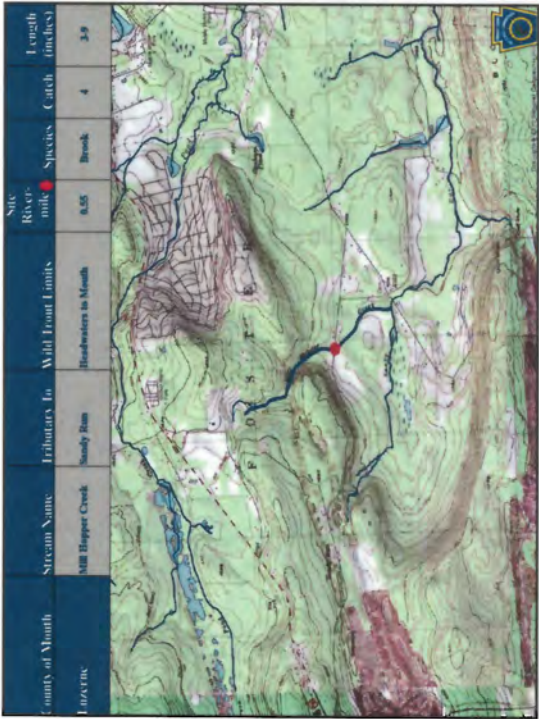
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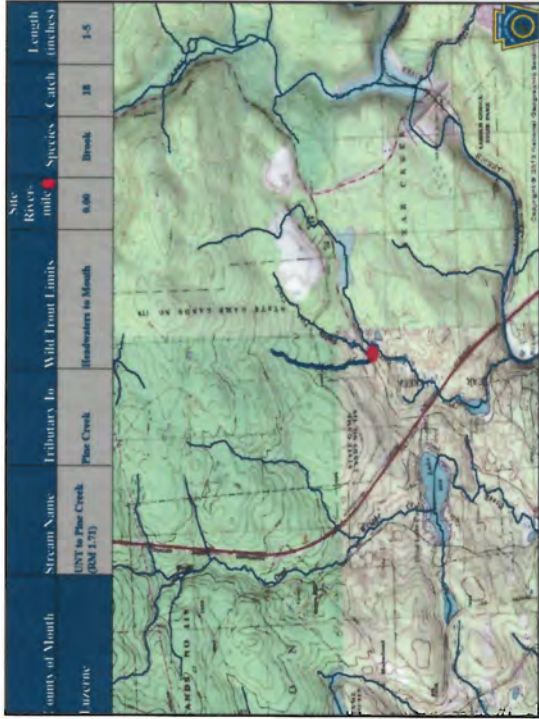
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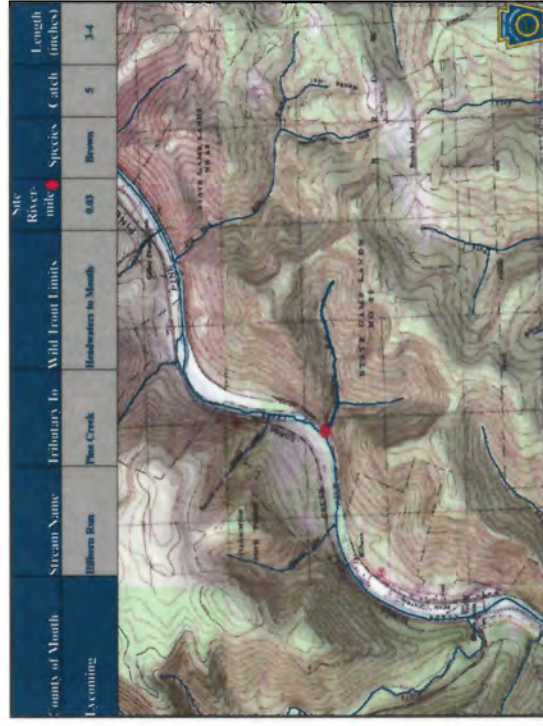
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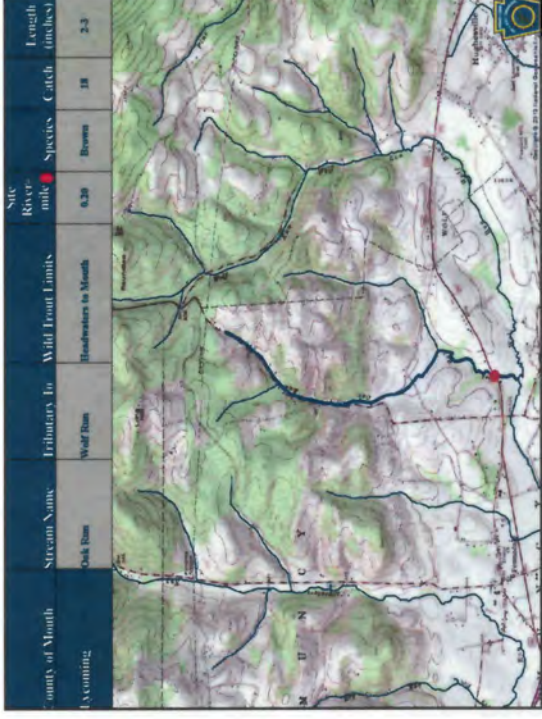
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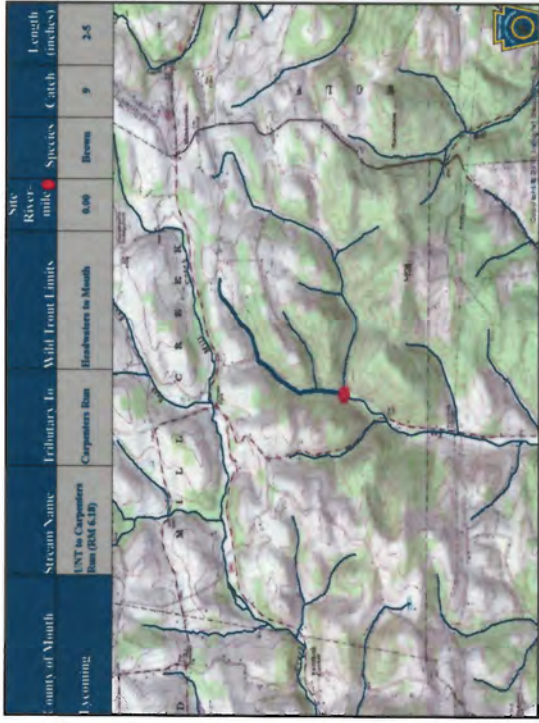
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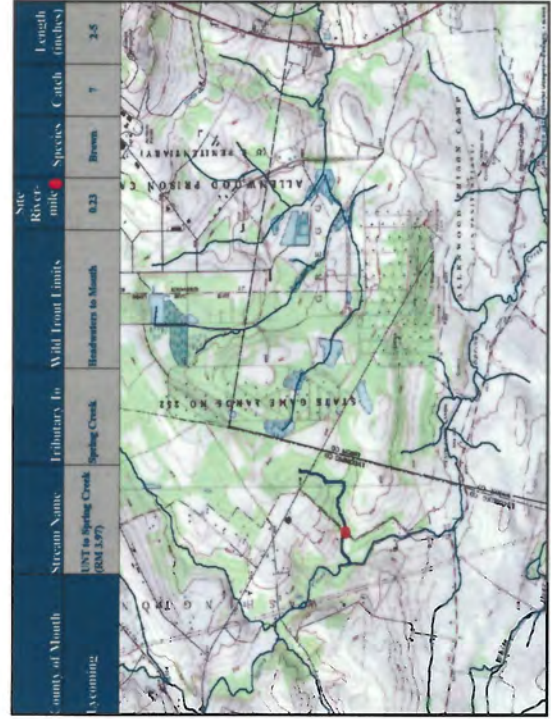
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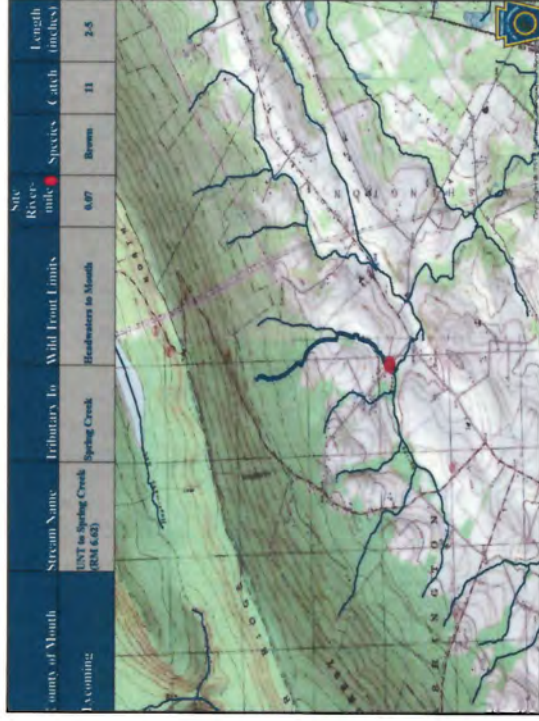
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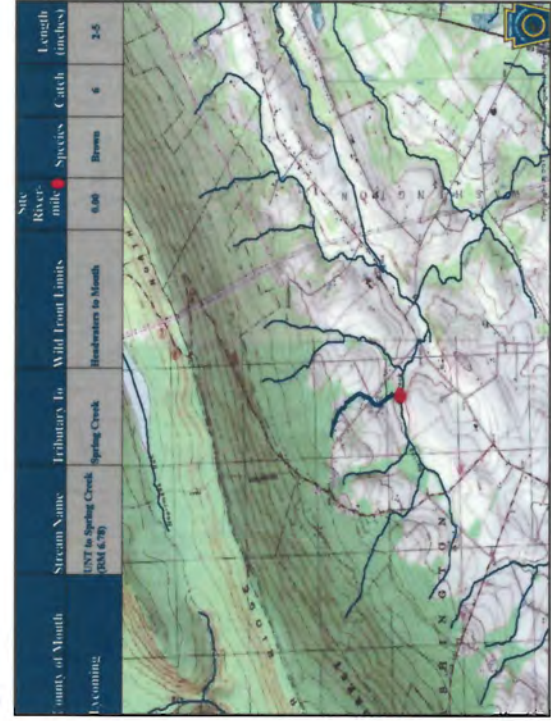
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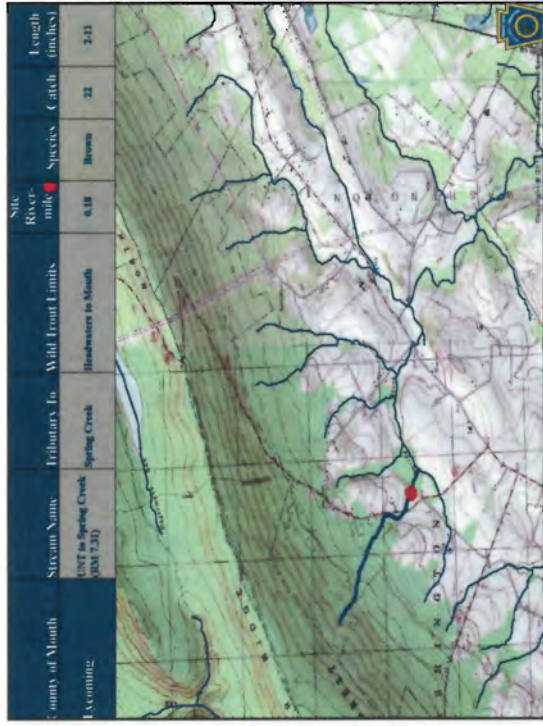
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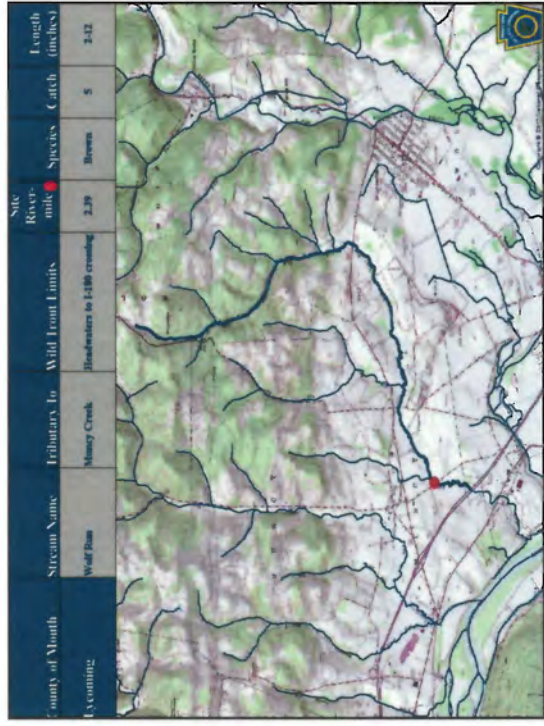
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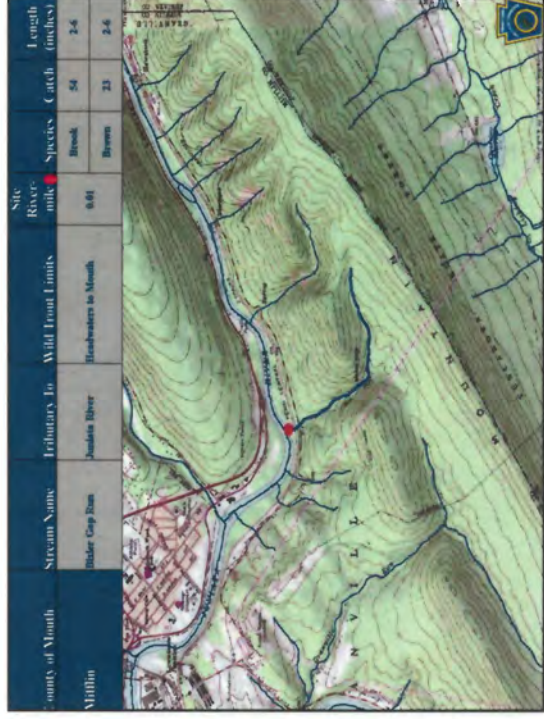
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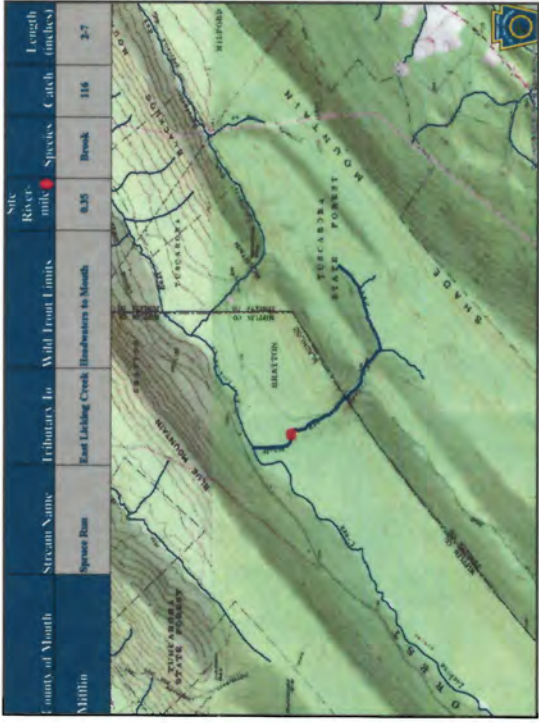
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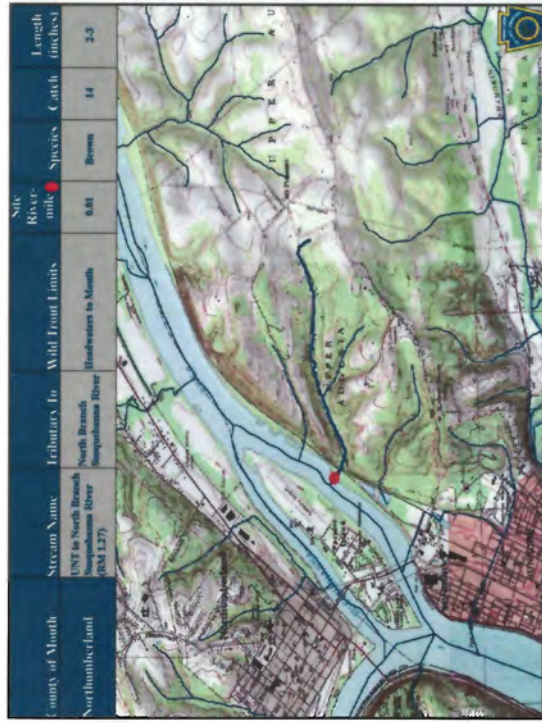
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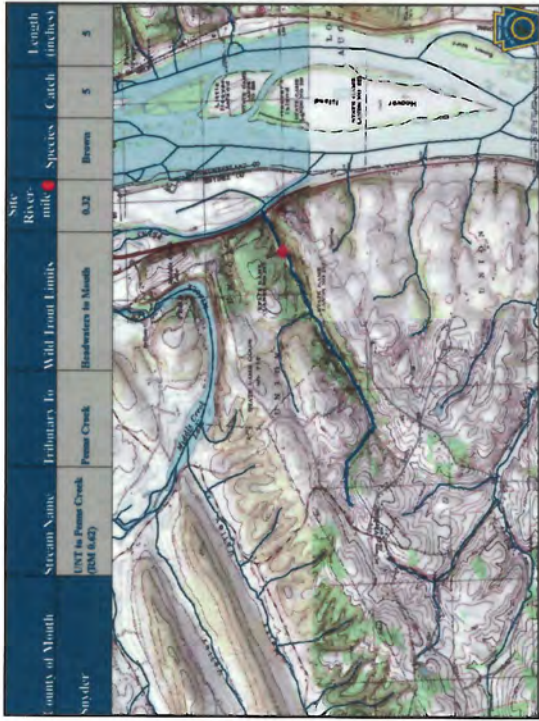
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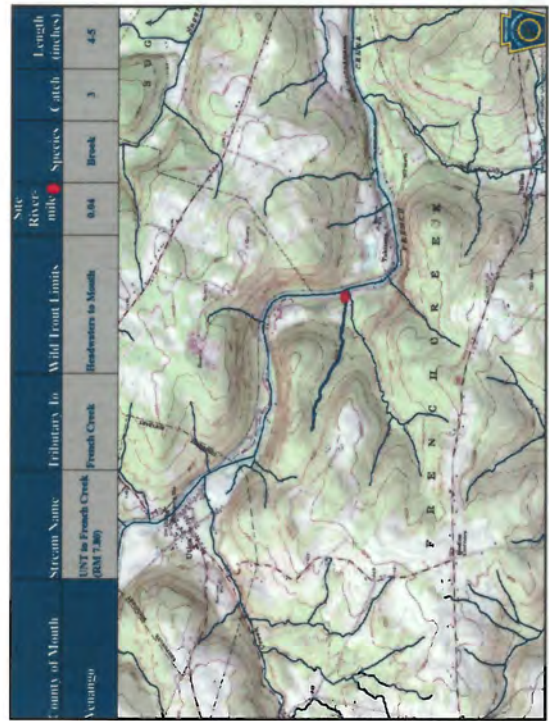
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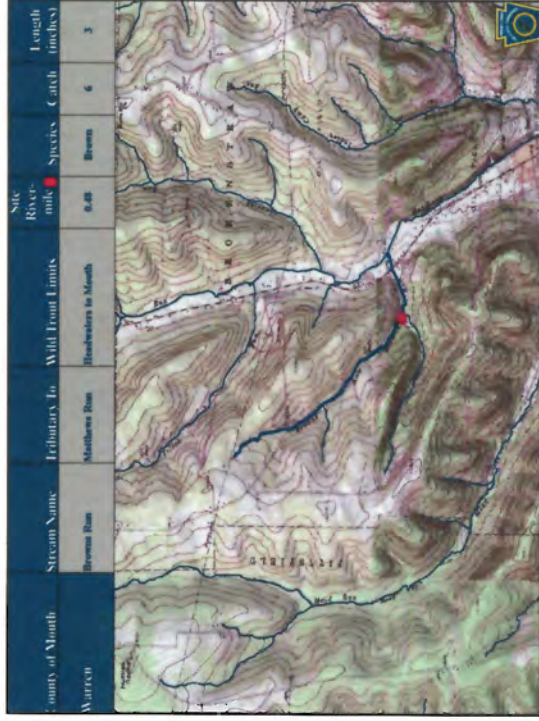
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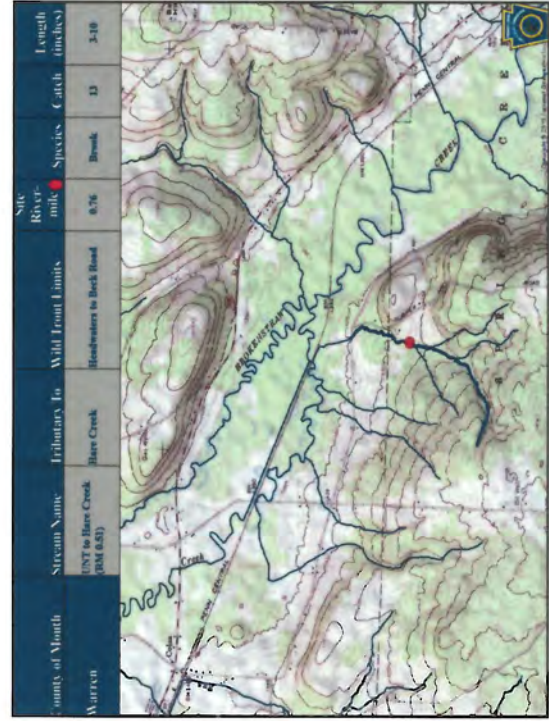
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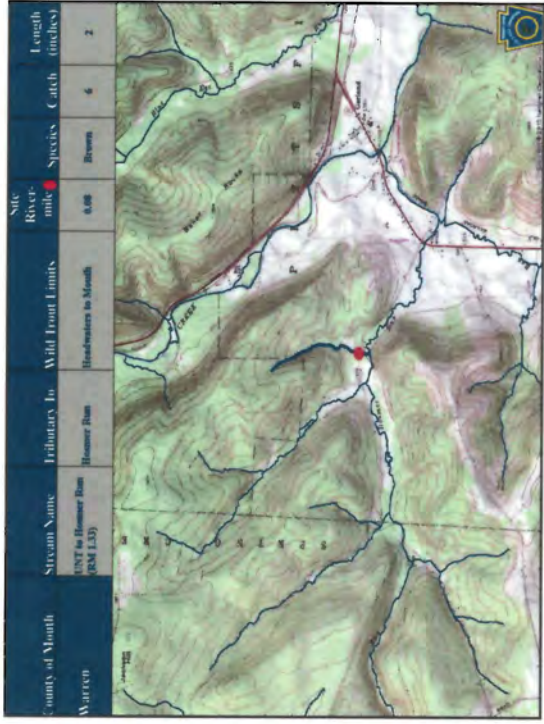
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NOTICES

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

Classification of Wild Trout Streams; Proposed Additions; July 2020

[50 Pa.B. 2607]
[Saturday, May 16, 2020]

Under 58 Pa. Code § 57.11 (relating to listing of wild trout streams), it is the policy of the Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) to accurately identify and classify stream sections supporting naturally reproducing populations of trout as wild trout streams. The Commission's Fisheries Management Division maintains the list of wild trout streams. The Executive Director, with the approval of the Commission, will from time-to-time publish the list of wild trout streams in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. The listing of a stream section as a wild trout stream is a biological designation that does not determine how it is managed. The Commission relies upon many factors in determining the appropriate management of streams.

At the next Commission meeting on July 20 and 21, 2020, the Commission will consider changes to its list of wild trout streams. Specifically, the Commission will consider the addition of the following streams or portions of streams to the list:

| County of Mouth | Stream Name | Section Limits | Tributary to | Mouth Lat/Lon |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Adams | Toms Creek | Headwaters to Miney Branch | Monocacy River (MD) | 39.720000 77.363333 |
| Armstrong | UNT to Mahoning Creek Lake (RM 26.86) | Headwaters to Mouth | Mahoning Creek Lake | 40.917690 79.231940 |
| Armstrong | UNT to North Fork Pine Creek (RM 0.60) | Headwaters to Mouth | North Fork Pine Creek | 40.875798 79.459040 |
| Armstrong | UNT to North Fork Pine Creek (RM 2.94) | Headwaters to Mouth | North Fork Pine Creek | 40.876750 79.419028 |
| Armstrong | UNT to North Fork Pine Creek (RM 3.91) | Headwaters to Mouth | North Fork Pine Creek | 40.878132 79.401427 |
| Cambria | UNT to Powell Run (RM 1.37) | Headwaters to Mouth | Powell Run | 40.673991 78.472788 |



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|------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Carbon | Goulds Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Lehigh River | 41.015556 75.737503 |
| Carbon | Oberson Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Quakake Creek | 40.910263 75.865175 |
| Carbon | UNT to Lehigh River (RM 72.43) | Headwaters to Mouth | Lehigh River | 41.063360 75.770260 |
| Carbon | UNT to Nesquehoning Creek (RM 1.45) | Headwaters to Mouth | Nesquehoning Creek | 40.871980 75.786370 |
| Carbon | UNT to Nesquehoning Creek (RM 2.19) | Headwaters to Mouth | Nesquehoning Creek | 40.869330 75.797930 |
| Carbon | UNT to Quakake Creek (RM 2.00) | Headwaters to Mouth | Quakake Creek | 40.920548 75.855271 |
| Carbon | UNT to Quakake Creek (RM 2.76) | Headwaters to Mouth | Quakake Creek | 40.914400 75.861490 |
| Clearfield | Ashcraft Run | Headwaters to Inflow of Pond at RM 0.36 | Chest Creek | 40.745884 78.673863 |
| Clearfield | Flegals Run | Headwaters to Brown Hollow Road | Lick Run | 41.054188 78.397700 |
| Clearfield | Millstone Run | Headwaters to Sulphur Run | West Branch Susquehanna River | 41.052405 78.338690 |
| Clearfield | UNT to Ashcraft Run (RM 1.00) | Headwaters to Mouth | Ashcraft Run | 40.746734 78.688324 |
| Clearfield | UNT to Potts Run (RM 6.86) | Headwaters to Mouth | Potts Run | 40.856934 78.509911 |
| Clearfield | UNT to Upper Three Runs (RM 8.57) | Headwaters to Mouth | Upper Three Runs | 41.209660 78.147120 |
| Clearfield | UNT to Upper Three Runs (RM 8.86) | Headwaters to Mouth | Upper Three Runs | 41.207370 78.151400 |
| Columbia | UNT to North Branch Susquehanna River (RM 33.90) | Headwaters to Mouth | North Branch Susquehanna River | 41.038893 76.256935 |
| Columbia | UNT to North Branch | Headwaters to Mouth | | 41.039426 76.253978 |

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|------------|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Susquehanna River (RM 34.04) | | North Branch Susquehanna River | |
| Cumberland | UNT to Letort Spring Run (RM 6.51) | Spring source to Mouth | Letort Spring Run | 40.176758 77.185343 |
| Dauphin | Swatara Creek | Headwaters to SR 125 Bridge | Susquehanna River | 40.185000 76.733056 |
| Dauphin | UNT (RM 0.59) to UNT to Spring Creek (RM 2.56) | Headwaters to Mouth | UNT to Spring Creek (RM 2.56) | 40.288065 76.637872 |
| Dauphin | UNT to Fishing Creek (RM 4.13) | Headwaters to Mouth | Fishing Creek | 40.364670 76.874971 |
| Dauphin | UNT to Spring Creek (RM 2.56) | Headwaters to Mouth | Spring Creek | 40.289763 76.647165 |
| Franklin | Falls Creek | Pennsylvania/Maryland state line to Waterloo Road | Red Run | 39.733333 77.542173 |
| Indiana | Hazelet Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Cush Cushion Creek | 40.721688 78.837150 |
| Jefferson | UNT (RM 0.40) to UNT to Mahoning Creek (RM 51.57) | Headwaters to Mouth | UNT to Mahoning Creek (RM 51.57) | 40.943600 79.012690 |
| Jefferson | UNT to Big Run (RM 1.55) | Headwaters to Mouth | Big Run | 40.984030 78.888850 |
| Jefferson | UNT to Canoe Creek (RM 0.02) | Headwaters to Mouth | Canoe Creek | 40.936959 78.938099 |
| Jefferson | UNT to Canoe Creek (RM 1.92) | Headwaters to Mouth | Canoe Creek | 40.920439 78.935445 |
| Jefferson | UNT to Mahoning Creek (RM 50.19) | Headwaters to Mouth | Mahoning Creek | 40.922178 79.007924 |
| Jefferson | UNT to Mahoning Creek (RM 50.37) | Headwaters to Mouth | Mahoning Creek | 40.922870 79.005350 |
| Jefferson | UNT to Mahoning Creek (RM 56.91) | Headwaters to Mouth | Mahoning Creek | 40.938140 78.932920 |
| Jefferson | | Headwaters to Mouth | Painter Run | 40.915400 78.961050 |

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|------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| | UNT to Painter Run (RM 1.03) | | | |
| Jefferson | UNT to Painter Run (RM 1.23) | Headwaters to Mouth | Painter Run | 40.916660 78.963590 |
| Jefferson | UNT to Painter Run (RM 1.95) | Headwaters to Mouth | Painter Run | 40.918310 78.975970 |
| Juniata | Stony Run | Headwaters to Cocolamus Creek Road | Cocolamus Creek | 40.607226 77.138618 |
| Juniata | UNT to Cocolamus Creek (RM 15.77) | Headwaters to Mouth | Cocolamus Creek | 40.638680 77.210810 |
| Lackawanna | UNT to Pond Creek (RM 3.24) | Headwaters to Mouth | Pond Creek | 41.208328 75.608510 |
| Lebanon | Rausch Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | Stony Creek | 40.493056 76.592500 |
| Luzerne | Mill Hopper Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | Sandy Run | 41.012500 75.828889 |
| Luzerne | UNT to Lehigh River (RM 71.53) | Headwaters to Mouth | Lehigh River | 41.050184 75.770431 |
| Luzerne | UNT to Pine Creek (RM 1.71) | Headwaters to Mouth | Pine Creek | 41.120674 75.752992 |
| Lycoming | Broad Run | Headwaters to UNT at RM 0.91 | Little Muncy Creek | 41.186565 76.669090 |
| Lycoming | German Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Little Muncy Creek | 41.197353 76.637390 |
| Lycoming | Hilborn Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Pine Creek | 41.488583 77.481140 |
| Lycoming | Oak Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Wolf Run | 41.240914 76.773014 |
| Lycoming | Shepman Run | Headwaters to first culvert on Tom Hill Hollow Road upstream of mouth | Little Muncy Creek | 41.190514 76.687286 |
| Lycoming | UNT to Carpenters Run (RM 6.18) | Headwaters to Mouth | Carpenters Run | 41.291860 76.792210 |
| Lycoming | UNT to Spring Creek (RM 3.97) | Headwaters to Mouth | Spring Creek | 41.135201 76.977176 |

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|----------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Lycoming | UNT to Spring Creek (RM 6.62) | Headwaters to Mouth | Spring Creek | 41.153648 77.003829 |
| Lycoming | UNT to Spring Creek (RM 6.78) | Headwaters to Mouth | Spring Creek | 41.153925 77.006914 |
| Lycoming | UNT to Spring Creek (RM 7.31) | Headwaters to Mouth | Spring Creek | 41.151294 77.015795 |
| Lycoming | Wolf Run | Headwaters to I-180 crossing | Muncy Creek | 41.211002 76.802655 |
| Mercer | Fouk Run | Headwaters to Mouth | French Creek | 41.484318 80.028488 |
| Mifflin | Bixler Gap Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Juniata River | 40.575756 77.548362 |
| Mifflin | Spruce Run | Headwaters to Mouth | East Licking Creek | 40.495361 77.628974 |
| Northumberland | UNT to North Branch Susquehanna River (RM 1.27) | Headwaters to Mouth | North Branch Susquehanna River | 40.887811 76.775898 |
| Northumberland | Wilson Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Kipps Run | 40.940556 76.640833 |
| Perry | White Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Juniata River | 40.473589 77.040219 |
| Pike | UNT to Blooming Grove Creek (RM 4.40) | Headwaters to Mouth | Blooming Grove Creek | 41.420470 75.103303 |
| Pike | UNT to Egypt Creek (RM 1.65) | Headwaters to Mouth | Egypt Creek | 41.365690 75.183900 |
| Schuylkill | Kaufmann Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Mud Run | 40.766140 76.215317 |
| Schuylkill | Schneck Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Lower Little Swatara Creek | 40.542553 76.333949 |
| Snyder | UNT to Penns Creek (RM 0.62) | Headwaters to Mouth | Penns Creek | 40.755375 76.861757 |
| Venango | UNT to French Creek (RM 7.80) | Headwaters to Mouth | French Creek | 41.418421 79.927618 |
| Warren | Browns Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Matthews Run | 41.873890 79.334656 |

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|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Warren | UNT to Hare Creek (RM 0.51) | Headwaters to Beck Road | Hare Creek | 41.902811 79.573563 |
| Warren | UNT to Hosmer Run (RM 1.33) | Headwaters to Mouth | Hosmer Run | 41.815118 79.471893 |
| York | Toms Run | Headwaters to Mouth | Muddy Creek | 39.797500 76.438889 |

Persons with comments, objections or suggestions concerning the classification of the streams listed may submit them in writing to the Executive Director, Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, within 30 days after publication of this notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Comments submitted by facsimile will not be accepted.

Comments also may be submitted electronically by completing the form at www.fishandboat.com/regcomments. If an acknowledgment of electronic comments is not received by the sender within 2 working days, the comments should be retransmitted to ensure receipt. Electronic comments submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.

TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER,
Executive Director

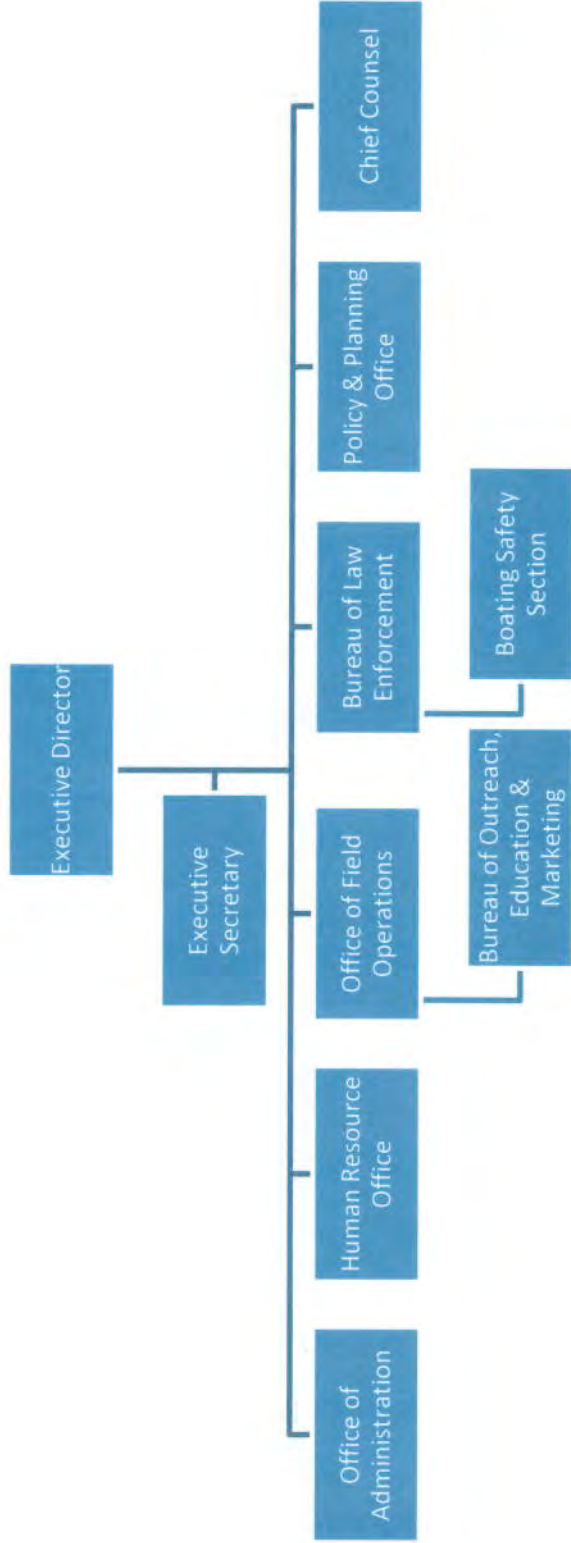
[Pa.B. Doc. No. 20-672. Filed for public inspection May 15, 2020, 9:00 a.m.]

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PFBC – Current Organizational Structure



PFBC – Proposed Organizational Structure

