

# Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Climate Action Plan



## Impacts to Fish, Habitats and Recreational Opportunities

Extreme precipitation events (i.e., rain, snow), rising average air temperatures, and related impacts are an increasing threat to healthy fish, amphibians, reptiles, freshwater mussels, crayfishes, other aquatic invertebrates and their habitats. These changing conditions can also affect the health and safety of recreational anglers and boaters, as well as Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) staff, infrastructure and important functions (e.g., stocking).

## Addressing Climate Change

The *Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Climate Action Plan* highlights climate impacts on PFBC species, habitats and functions, and includes goals, strategies and actions to address these needs.

## Climate Change Impacts to Resources and Recreational Opportunities



## PFBC Climate Action Plan Goals Help Address Impacts to:

1. Habitat
2. Species
3. Water
4. Recreation
5. Knowledge
6. Communications
7. Safety
8. Agency Assets and Staffing



## Anticipated Changes

Projected changes in air temperature and annual precipitation in Pennsylvania.

Parameter	1971-2000	2041-2070	Trend
Air Temperature (Average)	48.3° F	54.1° F	Increasing
Annual Precipitation (Inches)	43.5"	47.1"	Increasing (+8.4%)

PA DEP Climate Impacts Assessment (2021)

# PFBC Actions to Address Climate Change

The PFBC Climate Action Plan identifies 18 strategies and 125 actions that will allow the PFBC to carry out its mission as Pennsylvania's climate continues becoming warmer and wetter overall and subject to more frequent extreme weather events.

Given the size and scope of the challenges posed by climate change, the PFBC Climate Action Plan recognizes the critical role of partners in securing and maintaining quality habitat, managing aquatic species populations, improving water quality, maintaining robust partnerships, and seeking the

scientific knowledge necessary to guide resource decisions under new climate regimes.

Under these changing conditions, the PFBC looks forward to continuing to work with partner agencies, non-governmental organizations, foundations, businesses, academia, private landowners, anglers, boaters, and conservationists to protect, conserve, and enhance Pennsylvania's aquatic resources and provide safe, enjoyable recreational fishing and boating opportunities for all Pennsylvanians.



Habitat



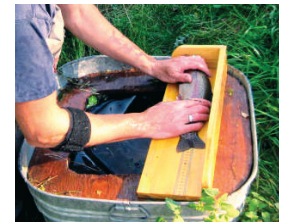
Species



Water Quality



Partnerships



Knowledge

## Take Action! Get Involved!

All Commonwealth citizens can help strengthen climate resiliency and support adaptation for Pennsylvania's fish and wildlife, and their habitats.

You can help fish, amphibians, reptiles and other aquatic animals and their habitats. Here are a few opportunities to get involved:

### Fill knowledge gaps!\*

- [Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey \(PARS\)](#)
- [iNaturalist](#)
- [iMapInvasives \(PA\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan-Conservation Opportunity Area Tool](#)
- [Vernal \(Seasonal\) Pool Studies](#), Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP)

### Get active!

- [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership](#)
- [Stewardship Opportunities](#), PSU-Sea Grant
- [Register a Vernal \(Seasonal\) Pool](#), Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP),
- [Gardening with climate-smart native plants](#)
- WeConservePA (organizational [county level search](#))

*\*PFBC recommends joining an established monitoring group; permits may be required and restrictions may apply.*



**Contact: Sean Gimbel**  
**Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects Coordinator**  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Office: 717.705.7842  
Cell: 717.727.3258  
[sgimbel@pa.gov](mailto:sgimbel@pa.gov)

This fact sheet was produced by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.  
Image credits: PFBC archives and Terry Malloy