



pennsylvania
FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION



Notice of Stocking (NOS)

Brian McHail, Leader

Cooperative Nursery Unit

Agenda



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- Notice of Stocking (NOS) process
- FAQs
- Questions

Chapter 71a/NOS



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- Chapter 71a meetings- Fall 2022
- Notice of Stocking (NOS) meetings- Fall 2023
- Chapter 71a final approval by PFBC Board of Commissioners- July 24, 2023
 - Chapter 71a effective January 1, 2024

Notice of Stocking (NOS)



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- § 71a.5. Notice of Stocking to the Commission
 - Notice of Stocking (NOS)
 - NOS form

Notice of Stocking (NOS)



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- No species of fish shall be introduced, placed, or stocked (except baited on a hook for angling purposes) into waters of this Commonwealth without prior submission of a Notice of Stocking (NOS) to the Commission
- “Waters of this Commonwealth” does not include waters contained within a property or premise of a propagation facility licensed under the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Development Law
- NOS only applies to species on the Commission’s Species by Watershed Approved for Open System (Flow Through) Propagation and Introduction list
- Submission of a NOS does not authorize individuals or organizations to stock waters that are prohibited from stocking as defined in § 57.8a (relating to Class A wild trout streams) and § 71a.8 (relating to stocking of designated waters)
- NOS went into effect January 1, 2024

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- Notice of Stocking (NOS)
 - NOS form with instructions
 - NOS form submittal options
 - NOS replaces the Tentative Stocking Schedule
 - Minimizes redundant paperwork
 - Due by March 5, 2024

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- NOS form development
 - Solicited stakeholder feedback
 - User friendly (easy to follow, etc.)
 - Single page
 - Electronic and paper submittal options
 - No cost to the user (processing fees, etc.)

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- NOS form
 - Detailed instructions allowing user to easily provide requested information
 - Contains five sections
 - Section A: Applicant Information
 - Section B: Stocking Category
 - Section C: Stocking Location Information
 - Section D: Fish Species Information
 - Section E: Producer, Hatchery, or Dealer Providing the Fish for this Stocking

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PFBC-NOS-001
(12/23)

Bureau of Administration
Notice of Stocking
PO Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000

Notice of Stocking

An electronic or hard copy of the Notice of Stocking shall be present at the location during the time fish are stocked. The Notice of Stocking will expire on December 31 of the calendar year for which the form was submitted.

Submit completed form by email: RA-FB-PFBCStocking@pa.gov, or mail to the address listed above.

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*Denotes required field.

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION								
First Name*:	<input type="text"/>	Middle Name:	<input type="text"/>	Last Name*:	<input type="text"/>	Suffix:	<input type="text"/>	
Address*:	<input type="text"/>		City*:	<input type="text"/>	State*:	<input type="text"/>	Zip*:	<input type="text"/>
Organization Name (if applicable):			Phone*:	<input type="text"/>		Email:		<input type="text"/>
Is the applicant associated with a PFBC co-op nursery and using PFBC supplied fish? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		PFBC co-op nursery name (if applicable):						<input type="text"/>
		PFBC co-op nursery sponsor name (if applicable):						<input type="text"/>
B. STOCKING CATEGORY								
General Stocking <input type="checkbox"/>		Fishing derby/tournament† <input type="checkbox"/>		Restoration project <input type="checkbox"/>				
†If the stocking is for a fishing derby or tournament, the applicant must also obtain a PFBC Special Activities Permit. Link to PFBC Special Activities Permit								

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C. STOCKING LOCATION INFORMATION Applicant is responsible for obtaining landowner permission prior to stocking. Waterbody name and GPS coordinates can be obtained from Google Maps or similar application. Need help with coordinates? Try Google Maps Help .				
Type of water* (check one): Flowing (stream, river, creek) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-flowing (lake, pond) <input type="checkbox"/> Is the water open to the public for fishing? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Name of waterbody*:		County*:		Municipality*:
Provide GPS coordinates or location description by completing 1, 2, or 3.*				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred: List stocking location GPS coordinates which are within PA only. • If you are unable to provide GPS coordinates, provide description details such as road names, bridges, and other easily identifiable landmarks. 				
1	Flowing water	GPS coordinates of most upstream location	Lat:	Long:
		GPS coordinates of most downstream location	Lat:	Long:
2	Non-flowing water	GPS coordinates of waterbody	Lat:	Long:
3	Location description:			
Size of stocking area*:		Miles <input type="checkbox"/>	Feet <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres <input type="checkbox"/>
			Stocking date range* (MM/DD/YYYY):	To*:
Will there be multiple stocking events? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			If Yes, approximately how many stocking events will take place?	
Additional information:				

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D. FISH SPECIES INFORMATION If you would like to stock a species not listed, enter or select "Other".
If multiple stocking events are planned, enter the combined total number or pounds of fish.

Species* (Species list provided in application instructions)	Total* (approximate)	Number	Pounds	Size Range (inches)*
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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E. Producer, hatchery, or dealer providing the fish for stocking(s). If using PFBC co-op fish, list co-op nursery information.

Name*:	<input type="text"/>	State*:	<input type="text"/>	County:	<input type="text"/>
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I certify that the information contained in this submission and any attached material is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. This certification is made subject to the penalty of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S. § 4904) (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities) and Section 908 of the Fish and Boat Code (30 Pa.C.S. § 908) (relating to false identification or false or fraudulent statements on reports).

Signature of applicant*: Date*:

Reset Entire Form

Reset Stocking Information Only

Print Form

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NOS Form Example

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Sponsor Benner Spring Trout Club Nursery Benner Tentative Stocking Report | **2023**

Date or Week of	Stream or Water	Stream Section	County	Stocking Point (Begin)	Stocking Point (End)	Brook Trout	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	GRT
3/24/23	Spring Run	1	Centre	SR 26 Bridge	Mouth		100	500	10
3/24/23	Laurel Creek	2	Centre	SR 45 Bridge	SR144 Bridge			200	10
3/31/23	Oak Hollow	1	Centre	SR 24 + Smith Rd.	Mouth			200	
3/31/23	Elk Run	1	Centre	Elk Rd. + SR 24	Ridge Rd.		100	300	
4/14/23	Spring Run	1	Centre	SR 26 Bridge	Mouth		200	200	5
4/14/23	Laurel Creek	2	Centre	SR 45 Bridge	SR144 Bridge			250	5
4/15/23	Oak Hollow	1	Centre	SR 24 + Smith Rd.	Mouth			300	5
4/15/23	Elk Run	1	Centre	Elk Rd. + SR 24	Mouth		150	300	
4/15/23	Elk Run	2	Centre	Ridge Rd.	Mouth		150	300	

Please complete this tentative stocking report and return to our office by **March 5, 2023**. For each stream, enter a descriptive geographic location where the stocking *begins* and *ends* in the labeled columns above. Contact the Cooperative Nursery Unit or your local Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) if you need assistance in determining the stream section. The stream section can also be determined by using the stream section map on our website.

MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS
Revised 7/6/2022

Date Received: 2/21/23 Internal Use Only
NZM+ Facility: Yes No

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- NOS form availability

- PFBC website
- CNU webpage
- Easy to locate



- NOS completion

- Fillable pdf (***save on computer for future use***)
- Handwritten

- NOS form submittal

- Mail
- Email

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- NOS forms received by the PFBC
 - Incomplete information in Section A
 - Include all contact information
 - Incomplete information in Section C
 - Longitude, use “-”
 - Ex: -78.542801
 - Incomplete information in Section D
 - Include number/size information for all species
 - Select “Number” or “Pounds”

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- NOS forms received by the PFBC
 - Incorrect information in Section E
 - Include co-op nursery name
 - Do not include PFBC SFH name
 - Check all the boxes
 - Check the appropriate boxes
 - Mail or email to the correct address
 - Do not send to the CNU

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- NOS form review process
 - No different than the Tentative Stocking Schedule review process
- NOS forms placed in a shared file for review
 - CNU checks each co-op NOS form for completeness and correct information
 - CNU places each co-op NOS form in a folder for DFM to review
 - Looking for red flags (ex: Class A Wild Trout Waters)
 - Co-op NOS form is placed in a completed folder
 - PFBC staff will not contact a co-op unless there are questions/clarification needed
 - Data entered into internal database

Summary



- Chapter 71a effective January 1, 2024
- NOS forms are due by March 5, 2024
- Complete and send NOS forms to the appropriate mailing/email address
- All NOS forms (co-op, commercial hatchery, private, etc.) will be reviewed by PFBC staff
- CNU staff will assist with filling out NOS forms and answer questions about the NOS process

- When can a NOS form be sent in?
 - Scheduled NOS document release date is December 1, 2023
- Do co-ops need to wait until the PFBC stocking schedule is posted online to submit a NOS form?
 - No, you can submit a NOS form using the stocking date range
 - Check PFBC stocking schedule prior to actual stocking date
- When is the NOS form due?
 - **March 5th** (established date for co-ops to send in Tentative Stocking Schedules)
 - Significant amount of NOS forms from co-ops and others

- What happens if a co-op wants to stock a water after the March 5th deadline?
 - Fill out a NOS form and send it in as soon as possible
 - Ex: Your organization decides to stock for a community event that is not part of your original NOS
- What happens if a co-op is stocking and realizes a NOS form was not filled out and submitted to the PFBC?
 - Call 717-705-7900 or email RA-FB-PFBCStocking@pa.gov to inform the PFBC of the stocking
 - Submit the corresponding NOS immediately

- Does a co-op need to submit a NOS and a Special Activities Permit (SAP) for a derby/rodeo/special fishing event?
 - Yes, a NOS and SAP need to be submitted
 - NOS- Mail to the address or email associated with the NOS form
 - SAP- Mail to the address associated with the SAP
 - The NOS and SAP do not need to be sent in together to the same address, send them to the appropriate contact

- How long is a NOS good for?
 - The NOS will expire on December 31st of the calendar year for which the form was submitted
 - Ex: NOS submitted on 12/20/2023 for a stocking on Laurel Run, scheduled for 3/28/2024
 - The NOS will expire on 12/31/2024

- Do co-ops need to submit a new NOS every year for the same water?
 - Yes, anyone who stocks fish into waters of this Commonwealth will need to submit a new NOS every year for the same water
 - However, there are shortcuts to reduce the amount of time spent filling out the PDF version of the NOS
 - Save each NOS to your computer and submit them appropriately
 - Change the dates and fish information the following year for each NOS and submit them appropriately

- Will there be an electronic NOS form that can be completed online?
 - Yes- HuntFishPA (huntfish.pa.gov)
 - PFBC exploring options to make the NOS process as easy as possible for everyone

- Will PFBC staff contact co-ops regarding NOS forms?
 - No, if everything is filled out correctly and there are no concerns (most NOS forms)
 - Yes, if the information provided indicates an improper stocking (Class A wild trout stream)
 - Maybe, if additional information is need for clarification
 - *Will occur with all NOS forms, not just co-ops*
- How do we find GPS coordinates for the upstream and downstream stocking locations?
 - Google Maps/other mapping websites
 - Mapping/Directions apps
 - Hunting/Fishing apps (OnX Hunt, HuntStand, ScoutLook, etc.)

- Co-ops stock PFBC provided fish, why do we need to follow Chapter 71a and the NOS?
 - These are PFBC provided fish, the agency needs to know where they are being stocked
 - Anyone stocking fish into waters of this Commonwealth is required to submit a NOS form prior to stocking per Chapter 71a

- What paperwork is required during a stocking?
 - Copy of the NOS form
 - Hardcopy or electronic (picture on phone)
 - Fish health certification documents (*January 1, 2026*)
 - *Gill lice certification*
 - *Great Lakes basin*
 - Hardcopy or electronic (picture on phone)

- Who is required to have the NOS form during a stocking?
 - Person who filed the NOS or an entity stocking fish on behalf of the authorize person
- Do co-ops need to fill out an annual report?
 - Yes, the annual report collects data on when, where, what species, what sizes, and how many PFBC provided fish are stocked
 - Justifies the Cooperative Nursery Program

- Is Chapter 71a an attempt to get rid of co-ops?
 - No, the PFBC spent over \$217,000 on co-op grant projects in 2022 and over \$122,000 in 2023
- Is the PFBC attempting to cease stocking statewide?
 - No, the PFBC annually stocks ~3.2 million trout along with ~1 million trout stocked by co-ops. The PFBC also stocks cool water and warm water species of fish.
 - Commercial aquaculture

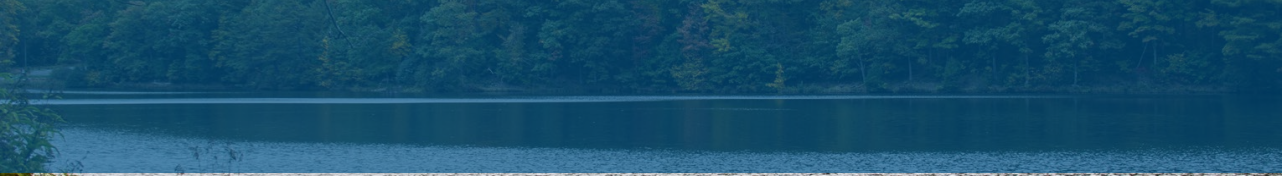
- Will someone need to submit a NOS form if they catch fish in one stream and directly stock them into a different stream or private pond?
 - Yes, because the fish is being stocked into a water of this Commonwealth
 - They will also need to follow applicable fish health requirements and the Commission's Species by Watershed Approved for Open System (Flow Through) Propagation and Introduction list

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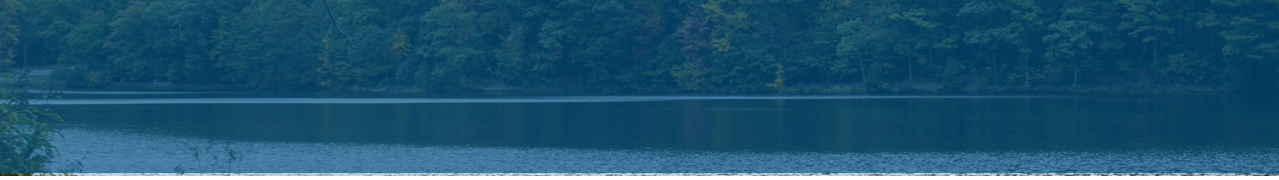


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- Questions???



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- Chapter 71 and Chapter 73
 - Rewrite is needed to address current aquatic resources issues
- What is the purpose of this rewrite?
 - Prevent the spread of invasive species and disease vectors
 - Sustain healthy fisheries
 - Lack of watercraft inspection requirements
 - Improve fisheries management

- Examples
 - Zebra Mussels and White Perch in Raystown Lake
 - Flathead Catfish in the Susquehanna and Delaware River basins
 - Gill lice in trout
 - Escapement from private ponds
 - Rebuilding fish communities in recently refilled reservoirs

- Timeline of Commission and Committee meetings
 - March 28, 2022: Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee meeting
 - Overview of rewrite of Chapter 71 and 73 regulations
 - April 25, 2022: Proposed rule approved by PFBC Board of Commissioners
 - June 18-September 17, 2022: Formal public comment period
 - 1,000+ comments
 - September 28, 2022: Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee meeting
 - Public comments discussed in detail and next steps



- Timeline of Commission and Committee meetings
 - January 4, 2023: Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee meeting
 - Summary of changes to Chapter 71a based on public comments and stakeholder feedback
 - April 5, 2023: Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee meeting
 - Status update
 - July 24, 2023: Final approval by PFBC Board of Commissioners
 - Chapter 71a effective January 1, 2024



- Outreach with stakeholders throughout the process
 - Cooperative nursery meetings (Fall 2022/Fall 2023)
 - Numerous letters and fact sheets sent to co-op sponsors
 - Phone calls and in-person discussions with co-op sponsors
 - Attendance and presentation at several Pennsylvania Aquaculture Advisory Committee (PAAC) meetings
 - Coordination and feedback from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA)
 - Several meetings with private fishing clubs



- Subchapter C. Fish Introduction and Health Mandates
 - § 71a.5. Notice of Stocking to the Commission
 - § 71a.6. Fish health certificate requirements



- § 71a.6. Fish health certificate requirements
 - Applies to all stockings (PFBC, co-op, federal, academic, commercial, etc.)
 - Dependent on species stocked, stocking location, and hatchery location
 - ***Fish health certificate requirements for cooperative nurseries are not changing***
 - Gill lice certification (PFBC, co-op, SAP, PDA registered propagator/dealer stockings)
 - Great Lakes basin (PFBC and co-op stockings)