



PA. Fish & Boat Commission Report

PENNSYLVANIA BOAT RENEWALS SAIL ONTO THE WEB

Beginning February 28, boat owners will be able to renew their Pennsylvania boat registrations on-line, thanks to an expanded customer service feature on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) web site.

Boaters wishing to renew their existing boat registrations can log onto the PFBC site, select "*The Outdoor Shop*" option, and fill out the required information fields. A temporary internet registration that will be valid for 30 days can then be printed out; the traditional registration materials will be mailed to the registrant's home. A \$2 issuing agent fee will be levied for the service.

"Improving our already-popular web site to allow boat registration renewals is yet another way the Commission provides great customer service," said PFBC Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen. "Online sales of fishing licenses have risen steadily since we began offering that option in 2001 and I expect that registration renewals will provide an equally efficient and popular alternative for our constituents."

A total of 355,265 boats were registered
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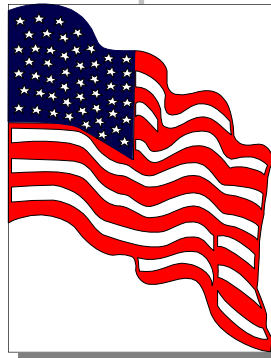
The Game Commission Report

In a rare appearance before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Vern Ross said that the agency is again holding the line on spending at \$68 million - which is the third year in a row that the agency has had a zero-growth budget.

"During that time, we have not reduced our services to the public," Ross said. "We have worked very hard to streamline operations, cut costs and stretch the financial resources entrusted to us by the sportsmen and sportswomen so that we get the biggest bang for their buck.

"License revenues to date reflect an increase over last fiscal year by approximately 1 percent. While total licenses sold decreased by 2 percent, this decrease is directly attributed to the agency decreasing its antlerless deer license allocation by more than 56,000.

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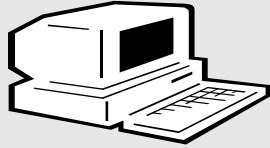


The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

Legislative Update



Game Commission (cont)

Hunting for Votes

The candidates understand — it's a sportsman's nation.

Hunting and fishing may not be politically correct, but there are 47 million hunting and fishing enthusiasts in America. Add in some sympathetic family members, and suddenly the sportsmen's vote looks pretty significant.

Late last year Bush showed his support for sportsmen at a one-hour meeting in the Theodore Roosevelt Room, where he sat down with representatives of twenty20 sportsmen's organizations. This is the first time in at least a decade that sportsmen's organizations have been invited to the White House.

At the meeting the president stated that the "spirit of the outdoors" was important to him and his administration. He felt that his was among the more outdoors-oriented administrations, which puts him in the company of Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Bush, Kerry, and Edwards all seem to recognize the power of the sportsmen's vote. As well they should: It's a diverse group that could help decide this fall's election.

The bottom line: Get out there and vote.

In reality, the majority of our license categories - general hunting and furtaking, junior, muzzleloader, archery and bear - have increased over last year."

Created by the Legislature as an independent agency in 1895, the Game Commission is responsible for the conservation of all wild birds and mammals and their habitats, and the promotion of the state's rich hunting and trapping heritage. In addition, the agency manages 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands, which were purchased primarily with sportsmen and sportswomen's dollars.

The Game Commission does not receive any state general fund taxpayer dollars. The agency is funded primarily by the sale of hunting and furtaking licenses, and those fees are established by the Legislature. The last license fee increase was approved by the General Assembly in 1998. Other significant funding is derived from the sale of timber, coal, mineral, oil and gas on the State Game Lands, and federal grants and funding, the most significant being the Pittman-Robertson Program, which is an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition.

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"A critical element of the Game Commission's operations is to ensure the public that we are using the sportsmen and sports

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Fish Commission (cont)

in Pennsylvania in 2003. Allegheny County led the state with the highest number of registered watercraft: 27,932. Coming in second to Allegheny was Bucks County with 16,332 registrations. York County captured third place with 13,526.

Overall, total registrations fell slightly, down 2,464 boats as compared to 2002. However, a number of individual counties did see registration increases, including Crawford County where total registrations rose by 107 watercraft to 6,756 boats. Berks County's boat registration total grew by 94 to 9,007. The biggest registration declines came in Allegheny County (-544) and Philadelphia County, where registrations fell to 5,213, down 243 boats from the previous year.

Commission officials speculate that last year's extremely wet spring and summer, with numerous rain-soaked weekends, may account for some of the decline in registrations and renewals. Slower new boat sales across the nation likely contributed to the reduction in Pennsylvania registrations as well.

Game Commission (cont)

women's dollars in the best manner possible," Ross said. "We currently are examining several cost savings measures and revenue enhancements that will increase our efficiency without decreasing our effectiveness

Over the past four years, the Game Commission saved more than \$400,000 by selling advertisements in the "Hunting and Trapping Digest." By selling ads, the agency also was able to print the Digest in full-color; magazine-size; and include a multi-page Hunting and Trapping Annual outlining various projects and programs being conducted by the agency to promote hunting and trapping and better educating the public on all aspects of wildlife management.

Sport Show

A special Thanks to all of the Club members that participated in the 2004 Allegheny Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show Beef Jerky Sale.

Proceeds from this fundraiser for the Club helps to keep the dues from increasing.

The A.C.S.L. Report

Recipes

Doug's Summer Sausage

5 lb. ground venison
1 lb ground pork (I use Bob Evan's sausage)
5 rounded tsp of Morton's Tender quick salt
2 tsp Mustard seed
2 1/2 tsp garlic salt
2 1/2 tsp coarse ground pepper
1 tsp liquid smoke (If desired- I leave out)

Mix all ingredients together well. Knead for about 10 minutes. Cover tightly and refrigerate. Once a day for 3 days knead for 10 minutes. On the 4th day roll into desired size rolls (this can also be stuffed into sausage casings if preferred) and smoke or bake. I Roll into 1 1/2 lb rolls and smoke in a lil chef smoker for about 10-12 hours. You can also bake in the oven (then I recommend the liquid smoke) at 175 degrees for about 8 hours. Enjoy the recipe!