



## PA. Fish & Boat Commission Report

### FISH AND BOAT COMMISSIONERS ISSUE JOINT LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ADOPTING GROWING GREENER BALLOT QUESTION

The eight members of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) have issued a joint letter outlining their support for Growing Greener and asking sportsmen to join them in voting to adopt the bond referendum appearing on the May 17 primary election ballot.

“Anglers and boaters know that their water and the quality of their recreation is the result of everything upstream. Protecting and enhancing open space, cleaning up mine waste, and improving water quality does have a positive impact on fishing, boating and other water-based recreational activities,” the Commissioners wrote.

“Families living in regions pocketed with abandoned mines and mine runoff know the work that needs done to restore the lands and waters. Growing Greener funding dedicated to fishing and boating infrastructure would provide a direct benefit to anglers and boaters. Infrastructure such as dams, hatcheries and public access areas is the backbone of boating and fishing in Pennsylvania and contributes to the more than \$2 billion of impact of fishing and boating on the economy of Pennsylvania.”

The Commission controls through state ownership, lease, or easements approximately 33,500 acres of land in the

Commonwealth. These lands contain 14 hatcheries, 62 public lakes, administrative facilities and nearly 250 boating access areas. As specified in the Fish and Boat Code, these properties are owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for

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## The Game Commission Report

### GAME COMMISSIONERS GIVE FINAL APPROVAL TO 2005-2006 SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

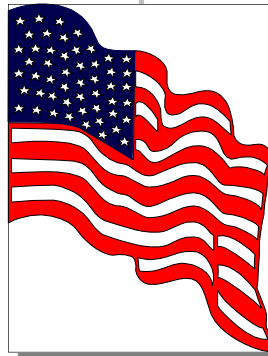
Following is an overview of the adopted seasons.

\* A concurrent antlered/antlerless rifle deer season from Nov. 28-Dec. 10. To harvest an antlerless deer, hunters must possess a valid, WMU-specific antlerless deer license for the unit in which they are hunting or a DMAP permit.

\* A firearms antlerless deer season from Oct. 20-22, for junior and senior license holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) holders, or Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, who possess the appropriate WMU-specific antlerless deer license or DMAP permit. Also included are persons who have reached or will reach age 65 in the year of the application for a license and hold a valid adult license, or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706.

\* A muzzleloader season for antlerless deer from Oct.15-22. The flintlock muzzleloader season, Dec. 26-Jan. 14, continues to be an antlered or antlerless season for hunters with primitive flintlock ignition firearms, provided the hunter possesses the appropriate license(s).

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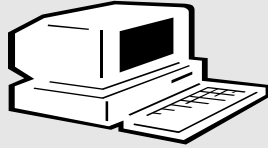


### The Conservation Pledge

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



## Gov. Bush Signs Florida's New "Castle Doctrine" Self-Defense Law

Today, in a ceremony at the state capitol, Gov. Jeb Bush signed Florida's "Castle Doctrine" (SB-436) into law. Sponsored by Senator Durell Peaden and Representative Dennis Baxley, the bill unanimously passed the Senate and overwhelmingly passed in the House, 94-20.

Prior to signing the National Rifle Association (NRA) supported bill, Gov. Jeb Bush stated, "It's a good, commonsense, anti-crime issue."

The "Castle Doctrine" simply says that if a criminal breaks into your home, your occupied vehicle or your place of business, you may presume he is there to do bodily harm and you may use any force against him.

It also removes the "duty to retreat" if you are attacked in any place you have a right to be.

Furthermore, this law provides protection from criminal prosecution and civil litigation for those who defend themselves from criminal attack.

Past National Rifle Association (NRA) president and current Executive Director of Unified Sportsmen of Florida, Marion P. Hammer, stated, "Existing law is on the side of the criminal. The new law is on the side of the law-abiding victim."

She continued, "To suggest that you can't defend yourself against a rapist who's trying to drag you into an alley or against a carjacker who's trying to drag you out of your car is nonsense. The ability to protect yourself, your children, or your spouse is important, no matter where you are.

"I want to thank Governor Bush and the bill sponsors, Sen. Peaden and Rep. Baxley, for supporting this vital measure. This law is about affirming that your home is your castle and, in Florida, you have a right to be absolutely safe inside its walls," Hammer concluded.

## The A.C.S.L. Report

### Game Commission (Continued)

\* Archery seasons will be Oct. 1-Nov. 12, and Dec. 26-Jan. 14.

\* Antlerless deer hunting in WMU 2B will be Dec. 26-Jan.14.

\* Antlerless deer hunting in WMUs 5C and 5D will be Dec. 12-23 and Dec. 26-Jan. 28.

"Our recommendation for the upcoming seasons is to reduce the harvest while retaining the season structure we have in place," said Dr. Christopher Rosenberry, who recently was named the agency's new Deer Management Section Supervisor. "We can accomplish this by reducing the antlerless deer license allocation as needed in each WMU."

Rosenberry noted that the Game Commission staff recommended changing the allocations, but not season lengths for the following reasons. First, shorter seasons do not ensure a reduced harvest. In 2000, Pennsylvania hunters harvested more than 300,000 antlerless deer with a three-day season with favorable weather conditions. However, if hunters don't have a license - due to the reduction in the allocation - they won't be able to legally harvest a deer.

Second, results of a recent survey conducted by Responsive Management of hunters' attitudes that stated "lack of time" was the second most important factor for why hunters are giving up hunting. The top reason was age and health related issues.

"We can't do anything about hunters' age and health, but we can provide them more time to hunt - more time to use the licenses they have purchased - as a means of preserving, protecting and promoting our state's hunting heritage," Rosenberry said.

Finally, from a management point of view, continuing with the current season lengths reduces the potential impact of weather on the antlerless deer harvest, which allows the agency to have a better handle on the effectiveness of antlerless deer licenses from year to year.

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## Fish Commission (continued)

use of the Commission. The PFBC faces a total infrastructure improvement project need of more than \$150 million at the Commonwealth facilities it manages. These needs include \$85 million to upgrade the Commonwealth's fish hatchery infrastructure, \$58 million to address dam safety and dam repair needs and approximately \$10 million to address access improvement needs.

"The PFBC's day-to-day operating funds from license sales and boat registrations will never be enough to serve as the basis for paying all the costs of major projects for hatcheries, dams, access areas and other properties – nor should they be," the Commissioners wrote.

The May 17 ballot referendum asks voters: "Do you favor authorizing the Commonwealth to borrow up to \$625,000,000 for the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives?"

The bond will preserve working farms and natural areas, clean up streams and rivers, take on serious environmental problems at abandoned mines and contaminated industrial sites, shore up key programs that are dangerously short of funds, and revitalize communities across the Commonwealth.

Voters can learn more at [www.growinggreener2.com](http://www.growinggreener2.com). Additional information on how Growing Greener relates to anglers and boaters is featured on the Fish and Boat Commission's web site at [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us).

## The A.C.S.L. Report

### Game Commission (Continued)

Antler restrictions will continue for the 2005-2006 seasons.

Specifically, the Board approved:

- In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 2D, hunters will be required to abide by the four points on one side antler restriction;
- In all other WMUs, hunters will be required to abide by a three points on one side antler restriction; and
- Statewide, all junior license holders, disabled hunters with a permit to use a vehicle and active duty U.S. Armed Services personnel may abide by the old antler restrictions of one antler of three or more inches in length or one antler with at least two points.

## River Sweep

### **The 2005 River Sweep is scheduled for Saturday June 18, 2005**

River Sweep is a riverbank cleanup of the Ohio River and its tributaries. River Sweep encompasses the entire length of the river, from its origin in at Pittsburgh to its end at Cairo, IL including 1,962 miles of shoreline and many tributaries.

During 2004, more than 21,000 volunteers from public organizations, civic groups, recreational clubs and the general public in six states bordering the river came together to collect more than 13,000 tons of trash and other debris from the banks of the Ohio River.

Since 1989, River Sweep has been organized by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, an interstate water pollution agency for the Ohio River Valley, along with environmental protection and natural resource agencies from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

## Recipes

### **RACCOON STEW**

#### Ingredients:

A raccoon (cleaned, etc.) cut into pieces; legs, ribs, etc. potatoes (new red are best)  
carrots (cut into quarters/chunks)  
onions (whole or chunked, depending on size)  
bay leaf garlic clove (sliced)  
whole pepper corns (6-10) (or you can cheat and use any of the 'prepared' Beef stew seasoning mixes)  
oil  
flour  
salt/pepper to taste but don't salt the meat until after it has begun to cook  
water red wine (something you would drink--don't ever use a wine for cooking that isn't good enough for the table)

Dredge meat in flour, brown in oil, add veggies, and other ingredients; use enough water/wine to mostly cover meat/veggies; simmer 1-2 hrs until meat falls off bone. serve w/ noffers

#### Noffers:

2 cups self-rising flour  
1/2 pint whipping cream  
1 tablespoon sugar

Mix all ingredients until a stiff dough forms (biscuit consistency), roll 1/2" thick, cut with ice-tea glass or at least a 2 1/2" biscuit cutter. place on ungreased baking sheet in 425 oven for 10-12 minutes until golden on top. These are really biscuits but they're the only kind I can get to come out right... I'll make you a noffer you can't refuse! In the summer time, add 1/2 tsp vanilla flavoring and another tablespoon sugar, roll a bit thinner and cut a little bigger...serve hot with fresh strawberries and whipped cream.