CALLING ALL PENNSYLVANIA ANGLERS!

We need your help. Pennsylvania is home to two giant salamanders, the Eastern Hellbender and the Common Mudpuppy. Both species are regularly found by anglers, often caught accidentally on fishing hooks or in minnow traps. Anglers have a great opportunity to help herpetologists figure out the distribution and status of these species by simply taking a picture of any specimens encountered and e-mailing the picture, date, time, and location of the observation to info@machac.org.

The Common Mudpuppy is found in the Ohio River and Lake Erie Drainages, in the western third of Pennsylvania. Mudpuppies have large, feathery gills on either side of the head. Adults grow to 19 inches in length.

The Eastern Hellbender was historically found in the Susquehanna and Ohio Drainages, covering two-thirds of Pennsylvania. Hellbenders do not have external gills as adults and look wrinkled due to skin folds used for respiration. Adults grow to 29 inches in length.

Family Fishing Programs are educational programs designed for families with little or no fishing experience. Families will learn basic fishing skills and have an opportunity to practice those skills while fishing together during the program. In addition to family fishing, there are specialized programs for family ice fishing, family fly fishing, and a SMART angler program for youth between the ages of 8 and 12. For a current listing of scheduled programs, visit: www.fishandboat.com

2023 FISHING DATES*

Statewide Opening Day of Trout: April 1, 2023
Opening Day of Walleye/Sauger: May 6, 2023
Opening Day of Bass: June 10, 2023
Extended Trout Season: September 5, 2023

*Dates subject to change by regulation until publication of the 2023 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary.

Pennsylvania’s Best Fishing Waters is a program established by the Commission, using the expertise and knowledge of its fisheries biologists, to highlight statewide locations for different categories of fish to assist anglers in knowing the prime fishing hotspots. Confirmed by survey catch rates and the availability of public access, the program waters offered are provided to help increase anglers’ success and convenient access to this information. You deserve the best!

www.PaBestFishing.com

2022 FISH-FOR-FREE DAYS!

May 29 and July 4

No fishing license is needed to fish on either of these days. It’s a great way to introduce someone to the world of fishing. Check the Commission’s website for more information. Remember that all other regulations apply.

HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

Close mouth to measure

Fork length: Not used in Pennsylvania.

Total length: This is the measurement Commission biologists and law enforcement personnel use. Compress tail slightly to obtain this measurement.

Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, or disability. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is an equal opportunity employer, and it complies with applicable federal and Pennsylvania nondiscrimination laws and regulations. In addition, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission receives federal aid in sport fish restoration and boating enhancement. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Human Resources Office, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17110-7000, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20242.