RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title 58—RECREATION

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION [58 PA. CODE CH. 51]

General Provisions; Administrative Provisions

The Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) amends Chapter 51 (relating to administrative provisions). The Commission is publishing this final-form rulemaking under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code) (code). The amendments update the Commission's fees for scientific collectors' permits.

A. Effective Date

This final-form rulemaking will go into effect on January 1, 2019.

B. Contact Person

For further information on this final-form rulemaking, contact Wayne Melnick, Esq., P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, (717) 705-7810. This final-form rulemaking is available on the Commission's web site at www.fish.state.pa.us.

C. Statutory Authority

The amendments to § 51.71 (relating to scientific collectors' permits) are published under the statutory authority of section 2905 of the code (relating to permits for scientific and educational fish collecting activities).

D. Purpose and Background

The specific purpose and background of the amendments is described in more detail under the summary of changes.

E. Summary of Changes

Under section 2905 of the code, the Executive Director, with the Commission's approval, may issue permits to catch fish in waters within or bordering on this Commonwealth at any season of the year and with any kind of devices without regard to size or possession limits to a person who possesses a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and is engaged in scientific or educational research or other collecting activities approved by the Commission. This section also authorizes the Commission to promulgate regulations and to establish fees.

In 1985, the Commission adopted § 51.71, which requires a valid and current scientific collector's permit issued by the Commission to collect, take or maintain for scientific or educational purposes any species of Pennsylvania fishes, amphibians, reptiles or aquatic organisms during seasons not permitted by regulations governing holders of a valid Pennsylvania fishing license or other license or permit issued by the Commission (for example, venomous snake permit, organized reptile and amphibian hunt permit).

In July 1978, the Commission established various fees for different permit types within the Scientific Collector Permit Program (Program) through terms and conditions of the scientific collectors' permit. Three types of permits with associated fees through this Program were developed: Type 1 permit (Research) \$10, assistants and permit amendments had no fee; Type 2 (Government) free permit, assistants and permit amendments had no fee; and Type 3 permit (Consulting) \$50, and \$10 each assistant and permit amendments. Permit conditions

require that all collectors (scientific collector permit holders and their assistants) have current valid fishing licenses prior to issuance of the scientific collectors' permit and any subsequent collecting activity. In January 2008, the long-term policy was codified, and the fee structure was updated: Type 1 permit (Research) \$30, assistants free and permit amendments \$15; Type 2 (Government) free permit, assistants and permit amendments free; and Type 3 permit (Consulting) \$150, \$30 each assistant and permit amendments \$75.

The Natural Diversity Section, housed within the Commission's Bureau of Fisheries, Division of Environmental Services, administers the Program. This Program has significant staff demands. Administering the Program requires staff to receive and review new and renewal permit applications and amendments, and process end-ofyear permit reports. A significant part of this administration is ongoing clerical support (dealing with applicant questions, changes to permits, processing payments for permits and amendments) and continual database and system maintenance support provided by our Information Technology staff. Reviewing the applications requires a technical review and substantial staff interaction with potential collectors, often resulting in changes to proposed collections. Staff also periodically check for permit compliance in the field. Permit collection reports are filed by staff and relevant collection information (that is, rare, threatened and endangered species data) is extracted from reports and submitted to the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program to be included in a Statewide database for rare species (Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer) that is consulted during the environmental permit review process. Staff also review and issue special permits under § 75.4 (relating to special permits) for applicants that qualify to conduct threatened and endangered species research and surveys.

Currently, Commission staff review new, renewal and amended applications and issue approximately 420 scientific collector's permits annually. To address an increasing trend of permits and ongoing Program demands, the Commission's Natural Diversity Section and Information Technology staff have been working together to streamline the permit application process and improve the application and reporting process with an interactive, web-based computer application that is accessible to the public. This web-based application is the first of its kind for the Commission and requires regular maintenance and upgrades. Staff proposes to increase the permit fees to offset increasing program costs using the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) tool that is based on annual inflation rates since the fee structure was last updated in January 2008. The proposed permit fee changes adjusted with CPI inflation rate values since January 2008 follow: Type 1 permit (Research) \$40, assistants free and permit amendments \$20; Type 2 (Government) free permit, assistants and permit amendments free (no changes proposed); and Type 3 permit (Consulting) \$180, \$40 each assistant and permit amendments \$90.

The Commission therefore amends § 51.71 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5497 (September 1, 2018).

F. Paperwork

This final-form rulemaking will not increase paperwork and will not create new paperwork requirements.

G. Fiscal Impact

This final-form rulemaking will not have adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions. The increased fees will help offset the Commission's continuing expenses to administer the Program and the costs of the interactive, web-based application.

This final-form rulemaking will increase fees for permit applicants. The fee for a Type I permit for Nonprofit Research and Education will increase from \$30 to \$40, assistants on Type I permits will remain free and the fee for a Type I permit amendment will increase from \$15 to \$20. The fee for a Type II permit for Government remains free and assistants and permit amendment also remain free. The fee for a Type III permit for Consulting will increase from \$150 to \$180, the fee for assistants on Type III permits will increase from \$30 to \$40 and the fee for a Type III permit amendment will increase from \$75 to \$90.

With regard to all permit types, the Commission will utilize the fees to offset the costs associated with permit issuance and processing and data compilation. It is expected that the Commission will recover its costs for the permits for which fees are charged and that the Commission will absorb the costs associated with the free permits.

H. Public Involvement

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 48 Pa.B. 5497. The Commission received no public comment. *Findings*

The Commission finds that:

- (1) Public notice of intention to adopt the amendments adopted by this order has been given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2.
- (2) A public comment period was provided, and no public comments were received.
- (3) The adoption of the amendments of the Commission in the manner provided in this order is necessary and appropriate for administration and enforcement of the authorizing statutes.

Order

The Commission, acting under the authorizing statutes, orders that:

- (A) The regulations of the Commission, 58 Pa. Code Chapter 51, is amended by amending § 51.71 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5497.
- (B) The Executive Director will submit this order and 48 Pa.B. 5497 to the Office of Attorney General for approval as to legality and form as required by law.
- (C) The Executive Director shall certify this order and 48 Pa.B. 5497 and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.
- (D) This order shall take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER, Executive Director

Fiscal Note: Fiscal Note 48A-283 remains valid for the final adoption of the subject regulation.

 $[Pa.B.\ Doc.\ No.\ 18\text{-}1927.\ Filed\ for\ public\ inspection\ December\ 14,\ 2018,\ 9:00\ a.m.]$

Title 58—RECREATION

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION [58 PA. CODE CHS. 51 and 93] General Provisions; Boating

The Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) amends Chapters 51 and 93 (relating to administrative provisions; and boat registration and numbering). The Commission is publishing this final-form rulemaking under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code) (code). The amendments update the Commission's regulations for issuing agents.

A. Effective Date

This final-form rulemaking will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

B. Contact Person

For further information on this final-form rulemaking, contact Wayne Melnick, Esq., P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, (717) 705-7810. This final-form rulemaking is available on the Commission's web site at www.fish.state.pa.us.

C. Statutory Authority

The amendment to § 51.37 (relating to application and prerequisites for becoming an issuing agent for the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing Service (PALS)) is published under the statutory authority of section 2711 of the code (relating to issuing agents). The amendment to § 93.13 (relating to issuing agents) is published under the statutory authority of section 5304 of the code (relating to issuing agents).

D. Purpose and Background

The specific purpose and background of the amendments is described in more detail under the summary of changes.

E. Summary of Changes

(1) Strategy 1B of the Commission's Strategic Plan is to "Increase traditional revenue sources and secure alternative funding to deliver core programs and services to benefit anglers, boaters, and trust species; deliver select discretionary programs and services to benefit all residents of this Commonwealth; and meet mandatory personnel costs." This strategy is designed in part to encourage the review and enhancement of existing revenue sources and to investigate and explore the development of alternative funding concepts.

Declines in traditional revenues, rapidly escalating costs associated with maintaining angler and boater demanded fishing and boating programs, and the lack of an enhancement to the fee structure for fishing licenses and permits necessitates the need to develop and implement several new or alternative funding concepts.

At its January 2018 meeting, staff presented initial information to the Board of Commissioners (Board) on 46 funding concepts. As part of the presentation, Board members were asked to individually prioritize the concepts and to provide feedback to the Executive Director. As a result, seven staff-proposed concepts were recognized as priorities and one additional concept was added and listed as a priority through the Commissioner review process. It was also acknowledged that the remaining concepts, while not a priority, should be advanced as they are more fully reviewed and developed by staff.

One of the remaining funding concepts is to evaluate the fee associated with the Commission's required application fee when a person, sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation apply to become a fishing license issuing agent of the Commission. The Executive Director may grant an application when accompanied by a security bond and the required application fee. The current application fee of \$150 was established in 2006. In 2017, the Commission processed 23 applications.

To bring the application fee up to current standards, the Commission proposes that § 51.37 be amended to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5499 (September 1, 2018).

(2) Another of the remaining funding concepts is to evaluate the fee associated with the Commission's required application fee when a person, sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation apply to become an issuing agent for temporary boat registrations of the Commission. The Executive Director may grant an application when accompanied by a security bond and the required application fee. The current application fee of \$100 was established in 2001. In 2017, the Commission processed 32 applications.

To bring the application fee up to current standards, the Commission therefore amends § 93.13 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5499.

F. Paperwork

This final-form rulemaking will not increase paperwork and will not create new paperwork requirements.

G. Fiscal Impact

This final-form rulemaking will have no adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions. The amendment to § 51.37 will increase the application fee to become a fishing license issuing agent of the Commission from \$150 to \$250. The amendment to § 93.13 will increase the application fee to become an issuing agent for temporary boat registrations of the Commission from \$100 to \$250.

H. Public Involvement

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 48 Pa.B. 5499. The Commission received no public comment. *Findings*

The Commission finds that:

- (1) Public notice of intention to adopt the amendments adopted by this order has been given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2.
- (2) A public comment period was provided, and no public comments were received.
- (3) The adoption of the amendments of the Commission in the manner provided in this order is necessary and appropriate for administration and enforcement of the authorizing statutes.

Order

The Commission, acting under the authorizing statutes, orders that:

- (A) The regulations of the Commission, 58 Pa. Code Chapters 51 and 93 are amended by amending §§ 51.37 and 93.13 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5499.
- (B) The Executive Director will submit this order and 48 Pa.B. 5499 to the Office of Attorney General for approval as to legality and form as required by law.

- (C) The Executive Director shall certify this order and 48 Pa.B. 5499 and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.
- (D) This order shall take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER, Executive Director

Fiscal Note: Fiscal Note 48A-286 remains valid for the final adoption of the subject regulations.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 18-1928. Filed for public inspection December 14, 2018, 9:00 a.m.]

Title 58—RECREATION

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION [58 PA. CODE CH. 53]

General Provisions; Commission Property

The Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) amends Chapter 53 (relating to Commission property). The Commission is publishing this final-form rulemaking under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code) (code). The amendments update the Commission's fees for cutting and removal of firewood from Commission property.

A. Effective Date

This final-form rulemaking will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

B. Contact Person

For further information on this final-form rulemaking, contact Wayne Melnick, Esq., P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, (717) 705-7810. This final-form rulemaking is available on the Commission's web site at www.fish.state.pa.us.

C. Statutory Authority

The amendment to § 53.17 (relating to cutting and removal of firewood from Commission property) is published under the statutory authority of section 741(a) of the code (relating to control of property).

D. Purpose and Background

The specific purpose and background of the amendment is described in more detail under the summary of changes.

E. Summary of Changes

Strategy 1B of the Commission's Strategic Plan is to "Increase traditional revenue sources and secure alternative funding to deliver core programs and services to benefit anglers, boaters, and trust species; deliver select discretionary programs and services to benefit all residents of this Commonwealth; and meet mandatory personnel costs." This strategy is designed in part to encourage the review and enhancement of existing revenue sources and to investigate and explore the development of alternative funding concepts.

Declines in traditional revenues, rapidly escalating costs associated with maintaining angler and boater demanded fishing and boating programs, and the lack of an enhancement to the fee structure for fishing licenses and permits necessitates the need to develop and implement several new or alternative funding concepts.

At its January 2018 meeting, staff presented initial information to the Board of Commissioners (Board) on 46 funding concepts. As part of the presentation, Board members were asked to individually prioritize the concepts and to provide feedback to the Executive Director. As a result, seven staff-proposed concepts were recognized as priorities and one additional concept was added and listed as a priority through the Commissioner review process. It was also acknowledged that the remaining concepts, while not a priority, should be advanced as they are more fully reviewed and developed by staff.

One of the remaining funding concepts is to evaluate the fee associated with the Commission's permit that authorizes the cutting and removal of dead firewood from Commission property. The Executive Director may issue permits to interested persons when it is determined to be in the best interest of the Commission. The current fee of \$10 for each standard rough cord of wood was established in 1984. In 2017, the Commission authorized the cutting and removal of 56 cords of firewood.

To bring the per cord permit fee up to current market values, the Commission amends § 53.17 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5500 (September 1, 2018).

F. Paperwork

This final-form rulemaking will not increase paperwork and will not create new paperwork requirements.

G. Fiscal Impact

This final-form rulemaking will have no adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions. The increased fees will help offset the Commission's continuing expenses to administer the program.

This final-form rulemaking will increase fees for permit applicants. The fee for each standard rough cord of wood will increase from \$10 to \$50.

H. Public Involvement

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 48 Pa.B. 5500. The Commission received no public comment. *Findings*

The Commission finds that:

- (1) Public notice of intention to adopt the amendment adopted by this order has been given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2.
- (2) A public comment period was provided, and no public comments were received.
- (3) The adoption of the amendment of the Commission in the manner provided in this order is necessary and appropriate for administration and enforcement of the authorizing statutes.

Order

The Commission, acting under the authorizing statutes, orders that:

- (A) The regulations of the Commission, 58 Pa. Code Chapter 53, is amended by amending § 53.17 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5500.
- (B) The Executive Director will submit this order and 48 Pa.B. 5500 to the Office of Attorney General for approval as to legality and form as required by law.
- (C) The Executive Director shall certify this order and 48 Pa.B. 5500 and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.

(D) This order shall take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER, Executive Director

Fiscal Note: Fiscal Note 48A-284 remains valid for the final adoption of the subject regulation.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 18-1929. Filed for public inspection December 14, 2018, 9:00 a.m.]

Title 58—RECREATION

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION [58 PA. CODE CHS. 71 AND 79]

Fishing; Reptiles and Amphibians

The Fish and Boat Commission (Commission) amends Chapters 71 and 79 (relating to propagation and introduction of fish into Commonwealth waters; and reptiles and amphibians). The Commission is publishing this final-form rulemaking under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code) (code).

A. Effective Date

This final-form rulemaking, will go into effect on January 1, 2019.

B. Contact Person

For further information on this final-form rulemaking, contact Wayne Melnick, Esq., P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, (717) 705-7810. This final-form rulemaking is available on the Commission's web site at www.fish.state.pa.us.

C. Statutory Authority

The amendments to § 71.7 (relating to triploid grass carp) are published under the statutory authority of section 2102 of the code (relating to rules and regulations). The amendments to §§ 79.5—79.7 (relating to snapping turtle permits; venomous snake permits; and organized reptile and amphibian hunt permits) are published under the statutory authority of 2904 of the code (relating to permits for protection and management of particular fish).

D. Purpose and Background

The specific purpose and background of the amendments is described in more detail under the summary of changes.

E. Summary of Changes

The Commission adopted regulations in § 71.7 pertaining to the possession and introduction of triploid grass carp (white amur). To provide for proper protection and management of these fish and other fish in the waters of this Commonwealth. Section 71.7 provides that permits shall be required for possessing triploid grass carp, introducing them into Commonwealth waters and importing or transporting them into this Commonwealth. A pondowner, landowner or other person who wishes to possess triploid grass carp and introduce them into a pond or waters located on property owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the person shall, before placing triploid grass carp in the waters, obtain from the Commission a triploid grass carp possession/introduction permit. A person who wishes to import triploid grass carp

into this Commonwealth shall obtain from the Commission a triploid grass carp importation/transportation permit.

This Triploid Grass Carp Program (Program) was initiated by the Commission in January 1994. Two types of permits with associated fees were established. A triploid grass carp possession/introduction permit was \$20. A triploid grass carp importation/transportation permit was \$50. In 2012, the fee structure was reassessed and increased to offset inflation and increasing Program costs. A triploid grass carp possession/introduction permit was increased to \$75. A triploid grass carp importation/transportation permit was increased to \$75.

The Aquatic Resource Section within the Commission's Bureau of Fisheries, Division of Environmental Services, administers the Program. Administering the Program requires staff to review permit applications, maintain a database, process and approve the permits. Reviewing the applications requires a technical review, some field views and clerical support.

The Commission currently issues approximately 350 triploid grass carp permits per year. Staff proposes to increase the permit fees to offset increasing Program costs using the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) tool that is based on annual inflation rates since the fee structure was last updated in January 2012. The proposed permit fee changes adjusted with CPI inflation rate values since January 2012 for the triploid grass carp possession/introduction permit is proposed to be \$85 and the triploid grass carp importation/transportation permit is proposed to be \$85.

Similarly, several amphibian and reptile permits have increasing program cost demands, and a similar increase in the fee structure approach to offset inflation and increasing Program costs are proposed (for example, using the CPI inflation tool).

In January 2008, Chapter 79 was overhauled, reorganized and updated. A permit was developed for individuals interested in the commercial collection and sale of snapping turtles in § 79.5. The snapping turtle permit fee was established at \$50 for residents of this Commonwealth and \$100 for nonresidents. Under § 79.6, the venomous snake permit was updated to allow permit holders to hunt for both the copperhead and timber rattlesnake. The fee for the venomous snake permit was increased from \$5 to \$25 for residents of this Commonwealth, and \$50 for nonresidents in January 2008. This Program has grown significantly. The past 2 years have experienced a record number of permits issued since the Program began in 1984. In 2017, 1,437 venomous snake permits were issued. For groups or organizations that want to conduct competitive organized hunts for reptiles and amphibians, an organized reptile and amphibian hunt permit may be obtained under § 79.7. There are currently only six permits issued per year, which mainly focus on the timber rattlesnake, where competitions for the largest and heaviest male snakes occur. One "turtle derby" organized hunt is also permitted annually. The organized reptile and amphibian hunt permit was updated in January 2008 from \$25 to \$100.

The Commission's Bureau of Law Enforcement (Bureau) issues the snapping turtle and venomous snake permits. Bureau staff review incoming applications and issue permits, answer questions from hunters about the application process and hunting regulations, and process permits and payments. A significant amount of time is

spent on law enforcement details and permit compliance for the Venomous Snake Permit Program. The Natural Diversity Section of the Division of Environmental Services receives, reviews and databases hunter reports, and develops end-of-year summary reports for the programs. Natural Diversity Section staff also administer the Reptile and Amphibian Organized Hunt Program (review permit applications, issue permits and attend hunts for permit compliance purposes).

The Commission proposes to increase the permit fees for these three permit programs to offset increasing program costs using the CPI tool that is based on annual inflation rates since the fee structure was last updated in January 2008. The following table summarizes the last fees update and newly proposed fees for January 2019:

Chapter 79 Permit	2008	2019 (proposed)
Snapping Turtle Permit— Resident	\$50	\$60
Snapping Turtle Permit— Non Resident	\$100	\$120
Venomous Snake— Resident	\$25	\$30
Venomous Snake— Non Resident	\$50	\$60
Organized Reptile and Amphibian Hunt	\$100	\$120

The Commission therefore amends §§ 71.7 and 79.5—79.7 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5493 (September 1, 2018).

F. Paperwork

This final-form rulemaking will not increase paperwork and will not create new paperwork requirements.

G. Fiscal Impact

This final-form rulemaking will not have adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions. The amendments to § 71.7 will increase the triploid grass carp permit fee from \$75 to \$85. The amendments to § 79.5 will increase the snapping turtle permit from \$50 to \$60 for residents of this Commonwealth and from \$100 to \$120 for nonresidents. The amendment to § 79.6 will increase the venomous snake permit from \$25 to \$30 for residents of this Commonwealth and from \$50 to \$60 for nonresidents. The amendment to § 79.7 will increase the organized reptile and amphibian hunt permit fee from \$100 to \$120.

H. Public Comments

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 48 Pa.B. 5493. The Commission received no public comment. *Findings*

The Commission finds that:

- (1) Public notice of intention to adopt the amendments adopted by this order has been given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2.
- (2) A public comment period was provided, and no public comments were received.
- (3) The adoption of the amendments of the Commission in the manner provided in this order is necessary and appropriate for administration and enforcement of the authorizing statutes.

Order

The Commission, acting under the authorizing statutes, orders that:

- (A) The regulations of the Commission, 58 Pa. Code Chapters 71 and 79, are amended by amending §§ 71.7 and 79.5—79.7 to read as set forth at 48 Pa.B. 5493.
- (B) The Executive Director will submit this order and 48 Pa.B. 5493 to the Office of Attorney General for approval as to legality and form as required by law.
- (C) The Executive Director shall certify this order and 48 Pa.B. 5493 and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.
 - (D) This order shall take effect on January 1, 2019. TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER,

Executive Director

Fiscal Note: Fiscal Note 48A-287 remains valid for the final adoption of the subject regulations.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 18-1930. Filed for public inspection December 14, 2018, 9:00 a.m.]