



Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Photo/Video Guidelines of Fishing and Boating Activities in Pennsylvania

These guidelines follow protocols set and used by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). With responsibility for regulation and protection of aquatic resources and the people who use them, the PFBC has established these practices to ensure that the activities under PFBC jurisdiction are portrayed adhering to regulations and/or best practices for human and resource safety.

The Bureau of Outreach, Education, and Marketing (BOEM) oversees and monitors public communication and messaging for the PFBC and is the point of contact for questions regarding publication of PFBC regulated activities. Additionally, BOEM will work with organizations interested in obtaining photography and videography that properly illustrates public fishing, boating and other PFBC activities.

Organizations publishing visual illustration of activities under PFBC oversight can follow these guidelines to help ensure regulations and best practices are depicted:

Fishing Photo/Video Guidelines

- Images must show anglers in compliance with Commonwealth rules and regulations, including the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code.
- Fish that are listed as endangered should not be photographed, as they are supposed to be immediately released.
- Images of fish being handled should show:
 - Fish that are listed as endangered should not be photographed, as they are supposed to be immediately released.
 - Fish being held properly (horizontally preferred) and NOT show fish being held by the gill plates, eyes, by the jaw alone or the tail region alone or at a 45-degree angle.
 - Larger-bodied fishes, such as Muskellunge, Striped Bass, pike, pickerel, bass, catfish, and Walleye, being supported by the head and mid-section and NOT being held vertically by hand or using a mechanical lip-gripping device.
 - Proper fish-handling techniques (show it near or in the water) for fish being released.
 - NO fish on stringers (of any style). Anglers holding a single fish are preferred to promote a catch-and-release mentality.
 - NO gloves on anglers while holding fish. The ONLY exception is for ice anglers who are harvesting fish.



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- Fish tossed into the waterway except when children cannot lift the bucket to achieve a toss.
- No buckets in the water.
- Clean buckets.
- Anglers should use proper fishing techniques and gear handling.
 - For example: A close-faced rod should be pictured with the reel up and the open-faced rod with the reel down.
- Ice fishing photos must also include proper safety protocols – meaning the angler in the photo **MUST** be wearing either a float coat, **OR** they **MUST** have on a life jacket that is properly fitted, zippered, and buckled.



Boating Photo/Video Guidelines

- Compliance with all applicable Pennsylvania boating rules, regulations, and current practices.
- Where visible in the photography/videography, proper and up-to-date boat registration/permitting should be shown.
- Everyone on board the vessel should be wearing a properly-fitted, in good condition, and properly-worn life jacket, regardless of the season or size of the vessel.
- Persons on docks and those boarding and leaving boats should be wearing properly fitting life jackets.
- Paddlers positioned near the water must be wearing a life jacket.
- Photography/videography of paddleboarding should be conducted only on flat water. Paddleboarders must use an ankle leash when paddling on flat water.
- Properly maintained boats and equipment that meet all federal and Pennsylvania legal requirements. Safety equipment should be visible and accessible (engine cutoff switches visible when possible).



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- Proper operator behavior, such as:
 - Persons should sit in seats properly. (People should not be shown sitting on seat backs or on the gunwale.)
 - If the boat is being operated at high speed (above 45mph), appropriate safety equipment should be worn.
 - Boats should be shown accelerating at a safe speed, so that they don't create a dangerous wake or throw riders around the boat.
 - Boat operators should be shown keeping a proper lookout.(not distracted)
 - Adults only operating Personal Watercraft (PWC). Only older children onboard, and should they should be seated behind the driver. Proper capacity limit must be followed and engine cut-off switch (ECOS) must be attached to operator.
 - No form of alcohol on board.
- PFBC staff in photos and video must be shown wearing proper/applicable uniform, abiding by uniform policy and practice, and wearing applicable Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. life jackets, safety glasses, hard hats, etc.).
- Generic products showing whenever possible.