

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

[58 PA. CODE CH. 63]

General Fishing Regulations; Measuring Fish

[56 Pa.B. 3627]

[Saturday, June 20, 2026]

The Fish and Boat Commission (commission) proposes to amend Chapter 63 (relating to general fishing regulations) to add § 63.58 (relating to measuring fish). The commission is publishing this proposed rulemaking under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code). This rulemaking proposes to provide a standard definition for how fish should be measured in this Commonwealth.

A. *Effective Date*

This proposed rulemaking, if approved on final-form rulemaking, will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

B. *Contact Person*

For further information on this proposed rulemaking, contact Robert J. Schefter, Esq., P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, (717) 705-7810. This proposed rulemaking is available on the commission's website at pa.gov/agencies/fishandboat.

C. *Statutory Authority*

The proposed amendment to Chapter 63 is published under the statutory authority of 30 Pa.C.S. §§ 322, 741, 901 and 2102.

D. *Purpose and Background*

Per Addendum III to Amendment 7 of the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic striped bass, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requires that states define total length for the purposes of measuring Atlantic Striped Bass to determine compliance with size limits associated with both commercial and recreational fisheries. Standardization is needed, as different measurement methods can yield different results, potentially leading to enforcement complications.

The commission advises anglers how to measure fish in the Pennsylvania Fishing Summary book; however, no formal definition is promulgated in 58 Pa. Code (relating to recreation).

E. *Summary of Proposal*

The commission proposes that Chapter 63 be amended to add § 63.58 to provide a definition for the measurement of all fish across this Commonwealth to read as set forth in Annex A.

F. *Paperwork*

This proposed rulemaking will not increase paperwork and will not create new paperwork requirements.

G. *Fiscal Impact*

This proposed rulemaking will have no adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions.

H. *Public Comments*

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, objections or suggestions about this proposed rulemaking to the Executive Director, Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, within 30 days after publication of this notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Comments submitted by facsimile will not be accepted.

Comments also may be submitted electronically to ra-pfbcregulations@pa.gov. Electronic comments submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.

TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER,
Executive Director

Fiscal Note: 48A-375. No fiscal impact; recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 58. RECREATION

PART II. FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

Subpart B. FISHING

CHAPTER 63. GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

(*Editor's Note:* Section 63.58 is proposed to be added and is printed in regular type to enhance readability.)

§ 63.58. Measuring fish.

When measuring fish to determine compliance with established size limits, the total length shall be the greatest straight-line length as measured on a fish while laid flat on its side with its mouth closed from the most forward tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extent of the tail, with the upper and lower tail lobes compressed or squeezed together.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 26-864. Filed for public inspection June 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m.]

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