

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

[58 PA. CODE CH. 69]

Fishing in Lake Erie and Boundary Lakes; Limitations on Gear

[56 Pa.B. 3637]

[Saturday, June 20, 2026]

The Fish and Boat Commission (commission) proposes to amend § 69.24 (relating to limitations on gear). The commission is publishing this proposed rulemaking under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code). This amendment would allow three fishing license holders to operate from the same boat while fishing in Lake Erie.

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 provisions of the amendment to § 69.24 are issued under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. §§ 2102 and 2903 (relating to rules and regulations; and boat and net licenses for boundary lakes).

D. *Purpose and Background*

The portion of Lake Erie located in this Commonwealth supports a thriving yellow perch commercial fishery, and there are three commercial trap net licenses issued by the commission. The commercial fishery is regulated by the commission in Subchapter C and Subchapter D (relating to commercial fishing licenses; and commercial fishing, seasons and nets).

In 2024, the commission amended Chapter 69 (relating to fishing in Lake Erie and boundary lakes) following a systemic review by commission staff which identified amendments that streamlined regulatory compliance while continuing to provide resource protection to the Lake Erie fishery. However, in 2025, commission staff consulted the three licensed commercial fishers and determined an additional amendment is warranted that would allow three license holders to operate from the same boat.

E. *Summary of Proposal*

The commission proposes that § 69.24 be amended to increase the amount of commercial licensed trap netters who may fish from the same boat at any one time from two to three, in the

portion of Lake Erie located in this Commonwealth.

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-381. No fiscal impact; recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 58. RECREATION

PART II. FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

Subpart B. FISHING

CHAPTER 69. FISHING IN LAKE ERIE AND BOUNDARY LAKES

Subchapter C. COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES

§ 69.24. Limitations on gear.

(a) A licensed trap netter may not use or fish more than six trap nets, singularly or in a series or tandem set, at any one time.

(b) No more than **[two] three** licensed trap netters may fish from the same boat at any one time. If two **or more** licensed trap netters fish from the same boat at the same time, the trap netters shall clearly and distinctly separate their catch into containers or boxes marked with their respective license numbers.