



June 27, 2023

RE: Stocked Trout Waters In-stream Restriction Revision
June 2-15 Waiver for Previously Authorized Projects

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) established a single, statewide Opening Day of Trout Season that occurs annually on the first Saturday in April which began in 2022. In selecting the first Saturday in April as the proposed permanent date for the statewide Opening Day of Trout Season, the PFBC considered several factors such as weather, water temperature, stocking and enforcement logistics, and social impacts. As a result of the change to the Opening Day of Trout Season, several regulations within Title 58 Pa. Code (Fishing and Boating Regulations) that reference dates for Opening Day of Trout Season required revisions to reflect the change, simplify language, and provide consistency within the regulations. To accommodate the earlier statewide Opening Day of Trout Season, preseason trout stocking operations have been set to begin the third week of February each year, and stocking could begin as early as February 15 in any given year. The Trout Stocking Schedules are available on the FishBoatPA mobile app and PFBC website (www.fishandboat.com).

Historically, preseason trout stocking began on March 1 and the standard stocked trout waters in-stream construction restriction of March 1 to June 15 has been incorporated and adopted into various regulatory documents such as permits and authorizations issued under 25 Pa. Code Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management. To accommodate an earlier Opening Day of Trout Season and associated trout stocking activities, the PFBC is amending the stocked trout waters in-stream construction restriction to February 15 to June 1. This restriction period will maintain the current length of the restriction and ensure that trout angling opportunities over the Memorial Day Weekend are not impacted.

The PFBC is aware that authorized projects are currently in construction or slated to begin in the future and that these projects could include the March 1 to June 15 in-stream restriction dates as conditions of the permits and authorizations issued pursuant to 25 Pa. Code Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management. Chapter 105 permit conditions often include the stocked trout waters in-stream construction restriction and grants the PFBC the authority to waive the restriction. The PFBC is granting a partial waiver of the stocked trout in-stream construction restriction for all Chapter 105 permits, including general permits, from **June 2 to June 15 of any given year**.

Please use this correspondence to update your project files pertaining to existing 25 Pa. Code Chapter 105 permits and authorizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Smiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather A. Smiles, Chief
Division of Environmental Services