

CATCH OF THE DAY

Site stocked with fishing resources

With opening day of trout season coming this Saturday, I'm reminded of the old saying: "If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day. If you give a man the url for a website that tells you everything you ever needed to know about fishing, you feed him for a lifetime."

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission wants to feed you for life. Its website, fishandboat.com, is a virtual tackle box for anyone who would like to cast a line in the state's waters.



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InSites

The mission of the commission is "to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities." The website is full of gear to fulfill that mission.

The home page features a carousel of click bait to various angling sections: Best Fishing Waters; Gone Fishing PA; Trout Stocking 2018; and Keystone Select Waters.

Best Fishing Waters takes you to a page designed to guide anglers to the best places in the state to catch different species of fish. There are sections on trout, both stocked and wild, all types of bass, perch, wall-eye and other popular fish.

Gone Fishing PA features several online resources. You can hook fishing licenses and buttons, as well as PFBC merchandise. There's information on family

fishing programs. Licensed anglers can land a digital version of Pennsylvania Angler & Boater magazine. You also can net the free PFBC mobile app.

Trout Stocking 2018 takes you to schedules of the commission's stocking program for all of the counties in the state. The schedules tell you where, when and what type of trout will be stocked.

Keystone Select Waters is an interactive state map with information on fishing holes. It's a Google-type map with overlays of municipal boundaries. Clicking on a fishing hole gives you directions, stocking information and regulations on Keystone Select Waters.

Links at the top of the page allow you to catch many more resources. There are pictures and information on the state's many species of fish. Fishing and boating regulations are posted. There are sections on fishing and boating fundamentals, as well as water safety. There's also scientific reports, fishing articles, political information and much more.

The design of the site is a bit murky. Some pages are visually unified with PFBC branding, and others look completely different. A lot of information is sunk several levels deep. It's a useful site, but it could use some untangling to make it more visually alluring and easier to troll.



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