



PFBC website hopes to hook fishing and paddling enthusiasts

One of the great things about living in NEPA is the numerous recreational opportunities on the many lakes and streams in the area. Whether it's fishing, canoeing, kayaking or paddle boarding, a day spent on or near the water is a good day. Even though summer is slipping away, fall is still a good time to enjoy the water. Casting a line or paddling across the water surrounded by the colorful fall foliage is a great way to enjoy the season.



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InSites

Earlier this summer, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission unveiled a new website called **explorepawaters.com**. It's a good place to go for information on where, when and how to enjoy the state's waterways. According to the site, Pennsylvania has 86,000 miles of waterways, and they are accessible for much of the year. In the top menu bar is a How to Get Started link with sections on fishing and paddling nested under it. They contain information on

what type of equipment you need for each activity. There's also tips on fishing techniques with short videos to help explain them. Articles and blogs discuss planning outings, combining fishing and paddling, and other related topics. The last section explains different types of fishing licenses and how to get them.

The next section in the menu bar is a calendar of fishing events around the state. There are lessons, derbies, expos and other types of programs. Next to that is the Find a Waterway section. This has an interactive map of the state with pins indicating

places you can fish or boat. Clicking on a pin gives you information on the location, hours, accessibility, activities and more for each site. Some sites have fishing tackle loaners available and boats you can rent. The Resources section has blogs, frequently asked questions, information on conservation and a glossary of fishing terms.

Most of the information on the site is accessible from the top menu. If you scroll down the home page there are alternate links to the same information. The site has a clean, easy-to-navigate design with a nice color pal-

ette and good typography. High quality photos and videos add to its allure. If you're a beginner, the site has valuable information on things you need to know to fish or paddle legally and safely. You can learn some of the basics here, but it doesn't provide extensive instruction. If you're experienced, you can find new places to explore on the site, get a fishing license, or brush up on regulations. Overall, it's a well done, useful site that's worth a visit.

KEVIN O'NEILL is a staff artist for The Times-Tribune. Share your favorite websites with him at koneill@timeshamrock.com.