

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

SPORTSMEN'S REPORT

FALL  
2025

# TOM MEHAFFIE

## 106<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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### A note to my fellow outdoors enthusiasts –

Thank you for being part of Pennsylvania's heritage of hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation.

Like you, I enjoy the endless opportunities provided by thousands of acres of forestland across our region. Hunting and fishing have been my favorite pastimes for many, many years.

Safe, responsible use of outdoor resources are foundational to Pennsylvania. I appreciate the role my fellow sportsmen play in protecting what we have for future generations. They deserve the same experiences we've had. I hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 717-534-1323 or visit [RepMehaffie.com/contact](http://RepMehaffie.com/contact). I always enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Mehaffie".

Rep. Tom Mehaffie  
106th Legislative District



## BAN LIFTED ON SUNDAY HUNTING

Legislation I supported (Act 36 of 2025) gives the Pennsylvania Game Commission authority to decide which hunting seasons can include Sundays. Sunday hunting was prohibited altogether and then, starting in 2020, limited to three times a year.

Pennsylvania's 850,000 licensed hunters will have greater flexibility to spend time outdoors. Hunting contributes more than \$1.6 billion each year to our state's economy; hopefully, this change for Sunday hunting will grow that figure.

The Game Commission incorporated more Sundays into its schedule. See the inside of this newsletter for hunting seasons and bag limits.





## LOCAL WATERWAYS PROVIDE FOR FANTASTIC FISHING

There is no de-bait-ing that Pennsylvania is great for trout fishing. Every spring, the Dauphin County Anglers & Conservationists volunteer to help the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stock local waterways.

We've stocked brook, rainbow, golden rainbows and brown trout locally in recent years, with some of them being more than 20 inches long.

The Fish and Boat Commission will host its Fish for Free days on Sunday, May 24, and Saturday, July 4, in 2026. No license is required, but all other fishing regulations still apply.

Watch my e-newsletter for updates about the opening day of trout season. Subscribe at [RepMehaffie.com/email-signup](mailto:RepMehaffie.com/email-signup).

The e-newsletter also will tell subscribers when printed copies of trout stocking schedules are available through my office.



## WATCH PA WILDLIFE FROM HOME

The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers several camera feeds to watch wildlife like elk, snow geese and bald eagles. The elk cam on Elk County game lands is my personal favorite because the elk are particularly active during bugling season in the early fall.

The cameras are a fun way to watch animals up close without disturbing them.

Go to [pa.gov/agencies/pgc.html](https://pa.gov/agencies/pgc.html), click "wildlife" on the lefthand side and then click "wildlife viewing." Scroll down the page for the wildlife cams.



## PFBC RECOGNIZES HEROICS

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in June presented awards to Craig Stoudt and his sons, Colton and Christian, to commend them for quick actions the afternoon of April 20.

While fishing, the Middletown family saw two kayakers in distress near the Dock Street Dam on the Susquehanna River. The female kayaker was frantically paddling, and the male kayaker had fallen into the water. The Stoudts managed to pull both kayakers onto their own boat until emergency crews arrived, saving the pair from the dam's backwash.

We can all aspire to be like the Stoudt family.



# 2025-26 Hunting Season and Bag Limits

## WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

Daily Limit

Crow - Thrs., Fri., Sat., Sun. only; Aug. 21 - Mar. 22, 2026 No limit

Starling & English Sparrows *Closed during regular firearms deer seasons* No limit

Doves Sept. 1 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 3, 2026 15

Woodcock Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 3

Seasons for Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, Canada Geese, Light Geese, Brant and webless birds can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Table can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

Applications for Goose Blinds and Other Special Hunts may be submitted online at [www.HuntFish.PA.gov](http://www.HuntFish.PA.gov) or at any Game Commission region office or Harrisburg headquarters.

## FUR TAKING with appropriate license/permits \*See Sunday Hunting

Hunting Daily/Season Limit

Coyotes *No closed season.* No limit  
During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker license.

Foxes Sundays permitted. *Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026* No limit  
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.

Raccoons *Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026* No limit  
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.

Opossums, Striped Skunks and Weasels *July 1-June 30, 2026* No limit  
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season.

Bobcats No Sunday hunting. Jan. 10 - Feb. 4, 2026 1/1  
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D & 4E

Porcupines *Oct. 11 - Nov. 28* 3/10  
May not be hunted at night. Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 31, 2026

### Trapping

Minks & Muskrats Nov. 22 - Jan. 11, 2026 No limit

Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and Weasels Oct. 25 - Feb. 22, 2026 No limit

Coyotes & Foxes (Cable Restraints) Dec. 26 - Feb. 22, 2026 No limit

Beavers Dec. 20 - Mar. 31, 2026 20/60  
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined) 20/40  
WMUs 2A, 2B, and 3C (Combined) 20/20  
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C, and 5D (Combined) 5/5  
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A, and 5B (Combined)

Bobcats with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026 1/1  
WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E

Fishers with required permit Dec. 20 - Jan. 11, 2026 1/1  
WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E

River Otters with required permit Feb. 14 - Feb. 21, 2026 1/1  
WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E

## TURKEY \*See Sunday Hunting

Fall Season - bearded or unbearded birds 1 bird limit  
(Shotgun and archery only, statewide)

WMU 5A and 5B Nov. 1 - Nov. 4

WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E Nov. 1 - Nov. 8

WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D Nov. 1 - Nov. 15

WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C Nov. 1 - Nov. 15  
and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28

WMU 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E Nov. 1 - Nov. 21  
and Nov. 26 - Nov. 28

WMUs 5C and 5D Closed to fall turkey hunting

Up to 2 bearded birds (1 daily)  
with proper licenses

Spring Season - hours vary, check Digest

Jr. and Mentored Hunters under 16 Apr. 25, 2026  
Statewide (hours vary) May 2 - May 30, 2026

### Review the complete Digest:

<http://bit.ly/PGCDigest>

This guide is not the Game & Wildlife Code or its attendant regulations and should not be considered final on legal interpretation.

## SMALL GAME \*See Sunday Hunting

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

Daily Limit

Squirrel-Jr. Hunt (Combined) Sept. 13 - Sept. 27 6

Squirrel (Combined species) Sept. 13 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026 6

Ruffed Grouse Oct. 18 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 2

Rabbit - Jr. Hunt (Cottontail) Oct. 4 - Oct. 18 4

Rabbit (Cottontail) Oct. 18 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026 4

Pheasant - Jr. Hunt# Oct. 11 - Oct. 18 2

Pheasant# Oct. 25 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026 2  
*#with required permit*

Taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area must be authorized by an executive order.

Bobwhite Quail Sept. 1 - Nov. 28, Dec. 15 - Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 - Mar. 31, 2026 No limit  
*Season closed around Letterkenny Focus Area*

Snowshoe or Varying Hare Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2026 1  
Season limit 3

Woodchuck July 1-June 30  
Cannot be hunted during regular firearms deer season. No limit

## DEER with required licenses/permits \*See Sunday Hunting

One antlered deer per hunting license year.

One antlerless deer with each required license or permit.

Ag Tag (Antlerless only) Aug. 1 - Apr. 15, 2026

*Statewide: agricultural deer control harvest permit required*

Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) with required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Sept. 20 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026

Statewide Oct. 4 - Nov. 21 and Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026

Muzzleloader (Antlerless only) Oct. 18 - Oct. 25

*Statewide with required muzzleloading license*

Special Firearms (Antlerless only) Oct. 23 - Oct. 25

*Statewide: participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility*

Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless)

Nov. 29 - Dec. 13

Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) with required muzzleloading license

Statewide Dec. 26 - Jan. 19, 2026

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026

Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only)

WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D and DMAP Dec. 26 - Jan. 24, 2026

*DMAP properties require a valid DMAP permit*

WMUs 4A, 4C, 4D and 5A Jan. 2 - Jan. 19, 2026

## ANTLERLESS DEER APPLICATIONS

Round 1 - Personal limit of 1  
Mon., June 23; 8 a.m.; Residents Only, one license guaranteed  
Mon., July 14; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

Round 2 - Personal limit up to 2  
Mon., July 28; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

Round 3 - Personal limit up to 3  
Mon., Aug. 11; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers  
*DMAP sales also begin at this time.*

Round 4 - Personal limit up to 6; WMUs 5C & 5D limit up to 15  
Mon., Aug. 25; 8 a.m.; All License Buyers

## BEAR bear license required \*See Sunday Hunting

Only one bear may be taken during the license year.  
Bear must be checked within 24 hours of harvest.

### Archery

WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D Sept. 20 - Nov. 28

WMU 5B Oct. 4 - Nov. 21

Statewide Oct. 18 - Oct. 25

Muzzleloader - Statewide Oct. 23 - Oct. 25

Special Firearms - Statewide Oct. 23 - Oct. 25  
*participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility*

Regular Firearms - Statewide Nov. 22 - Nov. 25

### Extended Firearms

WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A Nov. 29 - Dec. 6

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D Nov. 29 - Dec. 13

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**TOM  
MEHAFFIE**

106<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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## DISTRICT OFFICE

1 East Chocolate Ave., Suite 700  
Hershey, PA 17033

P: 717-534-1323

F: 717-534-1457

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# DO YOU KNOW?

## SUMMER MEANS TURKEY-COUNTING TIME!

The Pennsylvania Game Commission often seeks public participation in surveying wild turkeys over the summer. Watch my e-newsletter ([RepMehaffie.com/email-signup](http://RepMehaffie.com/email-signup)) or the Game Commission's website for information about the next survey period.

Participants are asked to record the number of wild turkeys they see, along with the county, township, wildlife management unit (WMU), date and contact information if agency biologists have any questions. Participants may also simply drop a "pin" on

the map for the location data to automatically populate. Location data are used only for the survey, not for law enforcement and are not shared.

Participation is important for turkey population management. Survey data allow the agency to determine total wild turkey productivity and compare long-term reproductive success within Pennsylvania and across states, as this is a standard methodology used across the country. Data also are used in the turkey population model to track population trends.

This can be your opportunity to talk turkey and help researchers at the same time.



## OUTDOOR EXCHANGE

### BUY OR SELL GENTLY USED GEAR

CLOTHING  
HUNTING  
ACCESSORIES  
VINTAGE  
ARCHERY  
KNIVES  
FISHING  
HIKING  
TRAPPING  
OUTDOOR  
COOKING  
AND MORE!

 **SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

 **9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.**

 **Free to set up**

 **PGC HEADQUARTERS**  
2001 ELMERTON AVENUE, HARRISBURG, PA 17110

**RESERVE A FREE BOOTH SPACE!**

**NO FIREARM OR AMMUNITION SALES.**