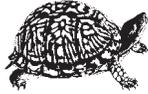




# Monthly Report

[www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com)

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November 2013

## FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

### Moosehead Lake Region Fishing Report - *Written by Tim Obrey, Fisheries Biologist*

If you are a frequent reader of our fishing reports, you will likely remember the circumstances of Big Wadleigh Pond. Big Wadleigh Pond is located at the northern edge of the Moosehead Lake Region in T8 R15 WELS. It is one of just 12 native Arctic char waters in the lower 48 states. An illegal introduction of smelt nearly 10 years ago threatened to wipe out the char in this 157-acre pond.

In the spring of 2011, we netted 10 adult char and implanted them with radio transmitters donated by the Natural Resource Education Center at Moosehead, so that we could return in the fall just before spawning occurred and hopefully locate and capture these fish and many others. We did just that, and moved 60 adult char to Mountain Springs Trout Farm, a private hatchery located in Frenchville. These adults were stripped of eggs and milt, and their progeny have been raised at the facility along with native brook trout that were also captured from the ill-fated pond.

While these fish were being held and raised in Frenchville, we chemically reclaimed the pond in the fall of 2012. It was arduous work. Hurricane Sandy delayed our chemical shipment from New Jersey in early November and the Maine weather did not cooperate either. Scattered snow squalls, moderate west winds, and subfreezing temperatures were the forecast for the day and the weatherman was right on the mark. The crew of IFW Fisheries Biologists was up before dawn and on the water as the sun crested the shoreline. This was one of the largest chemical reclamations ever attempted by the Department and we had scheduled two days to apply the entire dosage of chemical. However, it was clear that the pumps that were mixing the chemical with water would freeze overnight if the project was kept on schedule. Therefore, the crew worked relentlessly to complete the project in one long day. About an hour after sunset on November 6, 2012, we distributed the last barrel of rotenone into Big Wadleigh Pond. We observed thousands of dead smelt floating up over the following days as the chemical thoroughly dispersed in the pond. The chemical was active all winter and into early spring, so we held off re-stocking the pond with its native fish until this fall.

On October 24th, 2013 we met with Gary Picard, owner and operator of Mountain Springs Trout Farm, with a truckload of native brook trout and char destined for Big Wadleigh Pond. We restocked approximately 650 char fingerlings, 2 char adults, and 3,500 brook trout fry/fingerlings. We held some fish in reserve at the hatchery for a spring stocking and to allow us to take more eggs and milt this fall.

We hope that the char and brook trout will re-establish over the next few years in the absence of smelt and once again Big Wadleigh Pond will have flourishing populations of these native fish that provide such a unique fishing opportunity in Maine. In most cases, there is no option for restoration, and the impacts of non-native fish introductions are permanent and devastating to native fish. We must all work together to stop the epidemic of illegal fish introductions, which represent the largest threat to Maine's indigenous fish species.



### INFORMATION CENTER

In October the front office of the Department received and replied to (approx):

- 4,697 Phone calls
- 2,349 Emails
- 289 Walk-ins



#### Missed an issue?

To view previous Weekly Reports, please visit [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com) and select "About Us"



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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Swan Island

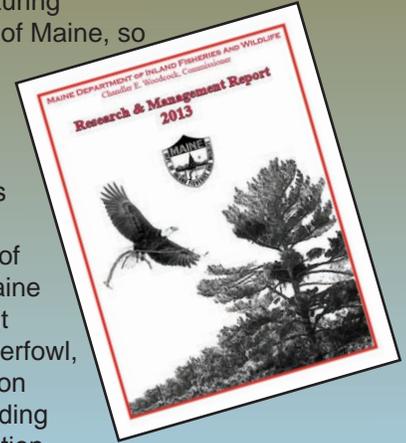
Maine Wildlife Park

## RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

**The 2013 Research & Management Report is here!** - *Written by Shawn Haskell, Wildlife Biologist*

The 2013 Research and Management Report is now available online and in print, featuring a bald eagle cover. They are inexpensive to produce from a local print-shop in the State of Maine, so we print a few thousand copies. You can find them at MDIFW offices, other public places that we visit from time to time, and online. This annual report is one tool that we use to inform our constituency on how your public wildlife resources are doing and what we are doing for them, regarding their conservation and wise use. As a wildlife report it was initiated as the Game Division's Leaflet Series and dates back to Chester Banasiak's

1957 "Facts Behind the Deer Season Recommendations", in which he described deer winter yard surveys, and how much of the deer wintering areas in northern, eastern, and western Maine were lacking adequate winter forage at that time. Subsequent annual reports were designated a good deal to big game, waterfowl, and other game birds. Last year, following some reorganization within our Bureau of Resource Management, we started including some fisheries information as well. If you wish to see information reported for a topic or species that we have not covered in recent years, or more information on a topic that we have covered in recent years, please let us know. Regardless, we'll have some new information for you next year on a variety of topics. Good luck to the deer hunters.....here's a beauty from central Maine in 2012 caught creeping along an old skid road one foggy morning (the deer that is).



Joseph Gray and Ben Copeland, from Waterville, with a 135 lb. doe taken on Youth Day.



Off-duty Game Warden Gary Allen and 15-year old hunter Tyler Young were successful in harvesting a young doe deer on Youth Day October 26, 2013. The deer was taken at approximately 8:00 a.m.. This was Tyler's 4th year hunting and 1st successful hunt.



Kyle Bagley, age 10, of Parkman, took a 130 lb., 7-pointer shot in Parkman on Youth Day.

## MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

The month of October brought with it the usual flurry of wildlife enforcement incidents with many activities in full swing. Bear hunting, moose hunting, fishing, trapping, search and rescue, ATV enforcement, waterfowl, grouse, woodcock, turkey, archery deer hunting, youth firearms seasons, fall fairs, and with all this activity there were some unfortunate ATV crashes and folks that need some assistance finding their way out of the woods. This is without a doubt, one of our busiest months beginning with changing leaves, frosty mornings, and the opening season for many game species. We continue to focus our efforts on the apprehension of intentional violators and many summonses have been issued. Wardens have been actively investigating double moose kills, loaded firearms in motor vehicles, illegal baiting, false registration cases (registering animals harvested by someone else), over-the-limits of fish/waterfowl/grouse/deer, operating under the influence and managing the usual abundance of human/wildlife conflicts. Briefly pause before you do something and ask yourself if it's the right thing to do. You never know when a Maine Game Warden is watching. Please contact Operation Game Thief (OGT - <http://www.maineogt.org/> or 1-800-253-7887) to report all illegal hunting like illuminating deer at night, driving deer, baiting, trespassing, someone registering a deer that was killed by someone else or any other fish and game crime and receive a reward!

### Notes from the field:

- Warden Miller responded to a complaint of a small pick-up that apparently broke down one gate that the Bradford ATV club had purchased to protect the landowner's property. As the subjects were attempting to break through the gate on the other end of the muddy trail, a witness interrupted them, and they sped off. A plate and a description of the vehicle came back to a young man from Charleston. Of course, the address on his driver's license is inaccurate, but in these small towns Warden Miller is fairly confident the vehicle will turn up eventually.
- Warden Eric Blanchard attended a Cub Scout fishing day in Kittery. Warden Blanchard instructed on fishing techniques while expounding on the ethics of sportsmanship. He was a big hit.
- Warden Hammond has made several "no license" cases, as well as getting a good "over the possession limit of trout" on Kennebago Lake. The subject on Kennebago Lake, who owns a camp there, was known to Warden Hammond for years. Warden Hammond had watched the subject keep a couple fish and went to check his license. When asked if he had any fish back at camp, he stated he didn't. Because the subject left his license back at camp, Warden Hammond went with him, and the man eventually admitted he had 8 fish in his possession back at camp. The man was summonsed.
- Warden Lewis and K-9 Clyde assisted the State Police in locating a suspect from a hit and run accident. They were also called upon to locate a lost bird hunter. After tracking the hunter through the wooded area they were able to make voice contact with him and then walk him out.



**Each year, members of the Maine Warden Service and others complete a 15 mile run from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro to the Maine Fallen Officers Memorial in Augusta. They carry a flag with the names of the 15 Maine Game Wardens who have died in the line of duty. This annual memorial run is in tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.**



**Maine Game Wardens want to remind everyone to wear hunter orange, identify your target, and respect landowners' rights. Remember to tell someone where you are going and be prepared as you venture out and enjoy this wonderful State and the amazing resources it has to offer.**

## WILDLIFE DIVISION

### Update on MDIFW Partnership with local ATV/Snowmobile Club at Dwinal Pond (David Priest, Sr.) WMA

*Written by: Allen Starr – Asst. Regional Wildlife Biologist, Enfield Office*

Last year, Dwinal Pond Four Seasons Club contacted the Wildlife Division at the Enfield Regional Office regarding repairs to a bridge/trail on the Dwinal Pond Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Dwinal Pond WMA is primarily a large wetland complex with some adjacent uplands, and is approximately 2,210 acres located in the towns of Winn and Lee. Land management roads located in the uplands surrounding the Dwinal Pond wetlands provide an excellent opportunity for ATV and snowmobile enthusiasts.

The primary objective for each Department-owned wildlife management area is to maintain or create the highest quality upland or wetland wildlife habitats possible. Wildlife management areas are also used by the public as recreational areas. It has been the policy of the Department to allow public access and recreational activities on wildlife management areas when it does not conflict with wildlife management objectives. Public recreational activities consist of "consumptive" wildlife uses such as hunting, trapping and fishing and numerous "non-consumptive" uses such as hiking, wildlife watching and ATV/snowmobiling.



Difficulty in securing funding and weather conditions in early fall last year postponed the project until this year. Just to refresh your memory, the project consisted of replacing the bridge that spans Mattakeunk Stream and correcting erosion issues on a steep slope on the eastern side of the stream (Mattakeunk Bridge – below looking upstream photo). Repairs needed to the bridge included: removal of the rotted log abutments, installation of new abutments and redecking of the bridge itself. Needed road work consisted of the installation of numerous water diversion structures to prevent soil erosion from entering Mattakeunk Stream.

The first steps were to install erosion control materials around the bridge, get the new abutments to the project site and start the removal of the existing bridge. It had been decided that waste concrete blocks would be used to replace the rotted log abutments. We were lucky with removing the old decking; using two excavators it came off in pretty much one piece. The 36-foot I-beams that supported the bridge were a little more difficult to remove, but the excavator operators did an excellent job. The old, rotted log abutments and some fill behind them were removed so the reconstruction process could begin.

First, small stone was wrapped in geotextile fabric and placed to bed the new abutments, geotextile fabric was also used on the back side of the concrete blocks to help reduce filtration by fill materials (West abutment – before beams photo). After the east abutment was installed, the abutments were backfilled and the I-beams were replaced in the same way that they were removed. Installing the new deck was the next step, initially there were gaps between the deck boards, but the Department of Environmental Protection Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommends that bridges have a solid deck in these situations so in the end the bridge had solid decking.



After the bridge work was completed, the erosion control measures for the road needed to be installed. The steep hill on the east side was of biggest concern, so as we worked our way out the thirteen waterbars were installed. Looking up the steep hill to the east gives a good perspective of the need to divert water and prevent it from eroding the road and running into the stream.

The final step of this project was to stabilize the disturbed soils and to provide a nutritional food source for wildlife; this was accomplished by planting an herbaceous seed mix around the bridge, waterbars, and other areas of exposed soils. Additionally, the recreational vehicle club installed gates on either end of the Department property to prevent 4-wheel drive vehicles from accessing the trail and damaging the erosion control structures that had been installed.



It takes a lot of expertise, resources and teamwork to complete a project like this. MDIFW would like to thank and recognize lead contractor Alan Hanscom, contractor H. C. Haynes, the Town of Lee, Gary Johnson and the Dwinal Pond Four Seasons Club for their work and support in completion of this successful project.

Biologist Erynn Call set this peregrine falcon free on October 28th. The peregrine, brought in by the warden service, was rehabilitated at Avian Haven located in Freedom.

He probably was migrating from Canada when he was injured – and wasted no time in taking off and flying out of sight!



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

2013 Landowner Appreciation Awards were handed out recently at a banquet and ceremony at the Augusta Civic Center. The awards, hosted for the 12th time by the Maine Snowmobile Association, honor landowners who make a significant contribution not only to snowmobile clubs, but also to the entire State of Maine.



Commissioner with Warden David Craven, Chi Guptil and Capt. Shon Theriault

Winners of 2013 Landowner Appreciation Awards include:

Private Landowners – 100 Acres or Less

Thomas and Sharon Webster – Nominated by the Bog Hooters Snowmobile Club

Allen Hill – nominated by the Palmyra Snowmobile Club

Private Landowner – 100 Acres or More:

Lyle "Chi" Guptil – Nominated by Maine Game Warden Sgt. Dave Craven

Elmer and Beatrice Littlefield – Nominated by Smokey's Angels Snowmobile Club

Corporate Landowners:

Prentiss and Carlisle – Nominated by Bowlin Matagamon Snowmobile Club

Treeline, Incorporated – Nominated by Lee Mogul Pounders Snowmobile Club

Land User Group Awards:

Penobscot Valley 4WD - Nominated by David Evans, Private Landowner

Presque Isle Fish and Game Club – Nominated by North Maine Woods, Inc.

## Employee Recognition 2013

Eddington Salmon Club - October 17  
&  
Augusta Arboretum - October 18

