

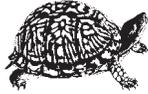


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Monthly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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February, 2015



Sunday Jan. 25 was the start of the annual Special Olympic Winter Games at Sugarloaf, and once again the Warden Service showed how helpful and respectful they could be to these Olympians. Sunday night they helped seat over 400 participants and coaches



for a pot luck dinner, then headed down to the Outdoor Center to help and support the ice skating and the karaoke. On Saturday the games began with some pretty cold temps., but, our guys jumped right in and helped with the snow shoe events and the sit ski events, (for non-ambulatory skiers). They provided support with their red jackets for the Parade of Champions, and then back at the events. After the first year that the Warden Service provided help, the director of Maine Special Olympics said with a lot of emotion, "The Maine Warden Service has changed the face of the Special Olympic Winter Games." Thanks to the guys and to Commissioner Woodcock for helping out at his winter event!



Just a girl and her fish!



INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 3,417 Phone calls
- 2,125 Emails
- 255 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

To view previous Weekly Reports, please visit www.mefishwildlife.com and select "About Us"



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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Swan Island

Maine Wildlife Park

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Bald Mountain Pond Arctic Charr - Written by Liz Thorndike, Biology Spec., Rangeley Lakes Region

Bald Mountain Pond is an 1,152-acre water located in Bald Mountain Pond Township in Somerset County. It is sixty-five feet deep, has over half a dozen tributaries, and over fourteen miles of boulder and ledge shoreline. There are only three camps on the lake and a fair boat launch best accessed by shallow hulled craft. Bald Mountain Pond has been known to produce brook trout up to five pounds. A noteworthy quality of Bald Mountain Pond is the presence of landlocked arctic charr. In Maine there are only 14 bodies of water where charr exist; 12 of the 14 waters are considered genetically distinct. The average charr in Bald Mountain range from 6 to 8 inches but can reach upwards to 10 inches.



Recently, there was an illegal introduction of rainbow smelt into Bald Mountain Pond. In most bodies of water, smelt and charr do not coexist due to competition for the same food source and direct predation by smelt on emerging charr sac fry. Unfortunately, charr in some small waters (less than 200 acres) are outcompeted and are often extirpated. In recent history, Maine IF & W has chemically reclaimed two small charr waters with similar situations. However, Bald Mountain Pond is too large and deep to be reclaimed. While we are hopeful that Bald Mountain Pond's large size and the complex, diverse habitat it provides will mitigate negative impacts on charr, we nonetheless spent considerable time last fall

learning about this specific population. This was a critical first step required for developing specific management strategies to protect these fish.



Maine IF & W's ultimate goal is to....to read more, [click here](#).

Little Moxie Pond Project Report - Written by Tim Obrey, Fisheries Bio., Moosehead Lake Region

When our research project began on Little Moxie Pond in 1994, the pond was not considered one of the best trout ponds that the Moosehead Lake Region had to offer. We netted the pond each fall from 1994 to 2001 as part of a statewide study on trout pond regulations. But a funny thing happened on the way to evaluating trout regulations on this 73-acre native trout pond in Shirley. When the project began, the pond was full of common suckers, and while there were a few trout present, most were small and the fishing was slow. As a side project, we also removed all the competing fish species from Little Moxie Pond. Only brook trout were returned to the pond alive. We removed over 3,400 pounds of suckers in the first two years. The changes were quick and dramatic for the native brook trout population. In the first year of the project, we estimated there were 670 brook trout in the pond and only 4 trout exceeded 12 inches. That is not a high quality fishery by our standards. In 1996, after some pretty serious sucker removal, we estimated the trout population to be over 1,300 fish with nearly 300 exceeding 12 inches and several over 16 inches. The sucker removal resulted in better survival and growth rates for native brook trout in this small headwater pond.

The benefits lasted into the early 2000's when natural drought conditions caused a serious decline in the brook trout population. In 2001, there were less than 60 trout in the pond as a result of two very hot, dry summers. But the trout rebounded nicely and by 2006 the population had increased to over 1,000 fish with no additional sucker removal. This gives us some idea about...to read more, [click here](#).



MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Division B: Warden Kulis received several reports of a mature bald eagle that was eating a Canada goose and would not leave the roadway. This caused a traffic hazard on the bridge between Arrowsic and Georgetown. Warden Kulis arrived and located the eagle that would not leave his dinner. After scaring it off, he removed the dead goose to ensure the eagle would not return and become a hazard in the road.



MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



Division A: Warden Herring received a call from a landowner complaining about illegal dumping of trash. A search of the trash led him to a possible suspect. During an interview of the suspect, Warden Herring garnered a full confession along with an agreement that the individual would remove all of the trash immediately. A check of the area four hours later showed that this individual upheld his end of the agreement and cleaned the area in its entirety.

Division E: Warden Ryan Fitzpatrick and the game wardens from Division E have been working fishing and snowmobiling activity. Several fishermen have been checked and Fitzpatrick says that catches seem to be off a little for this time of year. Wardens have been diligent in checking for license and registration compliance and have encountered some unattended lines cases.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- The Commissioner accompanied this year's award winners for the Employee and Manager of the year awards ceremony at the Blaine House on January 14, 2015. Congratulations to Manager of the year Game Warden Lieutenant Kevin Adam and Employee of the year Wildlife Division Director, Judy Camuso!
- The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner as well as other Department staff were in attendance at a regularly scheduled Advisory Council meeting on January 22nd. Although no rulemaking items were before the Council for a vote, discussion items included the proposals for guide rule changes, boating rules, spring turkey season and 2015 moose permit allocations. Following the meeting a luncheon was held for staff, Council members and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Many new Committee members came and were introduced to staff and given a tour of the 284 State Street building.



Commissioner Woodcock, has been going to Fishtails and Cocktails, a fundraising event for Casting For Recovery-Maine for about 6 years.

"It is great to have Chandler's personal and professional support for this great program. Not only does he get to tie flies for the evening with Nancy Taylor, but, he makes himself very available for questions and to help in whatever way he can. And with his help, we raised about \$8000.00 for Casting For Recovery-Maine. A win-win for everyone, thanks Commissioner Woodcock!"

INFORMATION & EDUCATION



*Saturday, January 24, 2015
Cans for Camp Fishing Derby
Highland Lake, Bridgton*
Over 40 children registered for the event. The weather and ice conditions were perfect for a great day of fishing!



RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

When an application for a Wildlife Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) is submitted to the Research & Assessment Section (RAS) in Bangor, each one is reviewed by a species specialist. Taking or harassing of wildlife for research or educational purposes should be a meaningful and humane activity, and the species specialists provide the initial scrutiny of proposed activities and methods. An SCP application for a research project that has already secured funding should include the written proposal that was used to secure the funding, and we may require even more detailed information. One benefit of this process is that the RAS biologists become aware of the various efforts to study wildlife around the state, and this can lead to cooperative efforts and efficiencies among state and federal biologists and others in the private sector. Regional wildlife biologists can access all this information held in a database on a common state server, so they too can see what is going on around the state. SCPs can be issued for endangered species, but this requires greater justification than for common species.

The SCP should not be confused with a Wildlife Possession Permit that can be issued for a small fee to allow a person to possess an animal that is not on the official “unrestricted list” that is maintained here: <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/human/regulations/unrestricted.html>.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

We wanted to inform you that we've been able to fill the vacant Lands Management Biologist position. For those of you who don't know, the position coordinates the Lands Management Program and works within the Wildlife Management Section conducting habitat management and public access improvements on our Wildlife Management Areas.

Leigh “Eric” Hoar will join the IFW team on the 23rd of this month. Eric is a licensed forester, having worked for the past 13 years with the Bureau of Parks and Lands. In that capacity, Eric has worked to coordinate management on other conserved lands within the State and has already developed a working relationship with several folks at IFW in both the regional wildlife offices as well as with our Resource Assessment staff. Many of the skills Eric has developed to incorporate wildlife management and public access into BPL's management objectives will be directly transferrable to his mission here at IFW.

We're excited that Eric will bring new ideas on how to continue the excellent progress the Lands Management Program has made through the years and I look forward having him work with us. If you have a chance, please welcome him on board.

RETIREMENTS

Harland Hitchings retired from department service on January 3rd, 2015 after serving 42 years as a Recreational Safety Coordinator. He has covered Washington and Hancock counties over those years providing exemplary service in delivering safety education courses for the citizens of that area. He recruited and trained a large contingent of volunteer instructors while working with many sponsors such as clubs and schools to ensure the availability of programs.

One of Harland's greatest interests over the years has been to oversee the delivery of safety training at Greenland Point Center's Conservation Education Program. The program offers hunter and boater education for 100 – 200 kids annually. Each year he would have to undertake staff training to prepare counselors to assist with course delivery. Harland has always overseen the range activities at camp to ensure the students had a safe and thorough introduction to firearms use.

Hired in 1973 by Safety Officer Gary Anderson, Harland has logged thousands of miles, countless late nights and long weekends in his tenure. Thousands of students from multiple generations have participated in classes either he personally delivered or assisted with. He always worked diligently to see the highest quality of training was provided and to implement curriculum changes as they occurred.

Harland served for 13 years as a game warden patrolling in the Topsfield area starting in July of 1941 when he first got of school. During his tenure he also served as a pilot. He then went into private sector employment making his home in Princeton, where he resides to this day. At 92 years “young”, Harland is still sharp as a tack and looking forward to assisting with classes at GPC and in the area.

On Friday, November 21 the Recreational Safety Unit staff, Warden Service members from Division C and Commissioner Woodcock honored Harland at the Bangor headquarters by presenting him with a plaque for service, a commissioner's print, a monetary gift, and refreshments. His commitment to the department will be remembered for years to come.

