

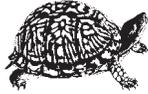


# Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

## Monthly Report

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

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Friday, June 7, 2013

### WILDLIFE DIVISION

#### Departments Annual Efforts Managing Wildlife - *Written by John Pratte, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor*

The department entrusts the public to help establish long-term, species management goals and objectives, and the public entrusts the department to develop management actions to meet their objectives. The Department has several tools available to inform when and what management actions are needed depending on the species. Our biologists are continually collecting data for multiple species to understand or estimate factors such as; population estimates, population trends, distribution range, sex ratios, age structure, habitat availability, disease occurrence, predation, reproductive success, seasonal movements, etc.

For each species we need the best data we can collect within funding and staffing constraints to accurately inform management actions. And how you use this data is equally important with Maine's species planning process and biologists having been recognized nationally.

Maine is fortunate to have an accomplished team of biologists with various strengths and experiences that contribute to the strength of our wildlife program. The culmination of this teams annual effort collecting and analyzing data can be witnessed most easily each spring. Over a three month period our wildlife biologists devote entire days to deer, moose, turkey and furbearers to analyze the data and determine what management actions are needed.

It has been a pleasure and enlightening opportunity to participate each year as these professionals discuss the nitty-gritty details of the complex relationships between wildlife, humans, habitat, weather, and mortality. Once this team has reached agreement on what management actions are needed they formulate biological recommendations that are then forwarded to the Commissioner for his Advisory Council to consider through the rule-making process.

These recommendations typically include changes in bag limits, permit allocations, season timing or season length with a goal of maintaining or moving that population toward the publicly derived goals and objectives. Sometimes other factors are determined to have a significant influence on population levels that can result in additional recommendations for the Advisory Council to consider.

From here, the Advisory Council balances the biological recommendations with public input to finalize our management actions that supports the State's diverse and abundant wildlife recreational opportunities which annually generate \$2.4 billion in economic impact.



The 2013 moose permit lottery drawing will be held on Saturday June 15, 2013, at 3:00 p.m., at the High School in Greenville.

The results will be posted [here](#) after the drawing.

### INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 5,152 Phone calls
- 2,289 Emails
- 334 Walk-ins



#### Missed an issue?

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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Swan Island

Maine Wildlife Park

## FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

### **Dry Mills Hatchery Education Building Grand Opening** - *Written by Mark Latti, Promotional Coordinator*

Last week, Commissioner Chandler Woodcock officially opened the Dry Mills Hatchery Education Building, ushering in a new era in the in the 80-year history of the state's most popular fish hatchery.

The new Hatchery Education Building is an ideal complement to the Maine Wildlife Park as it highlights the important work of the department's hatchery division while informing visitors about eastern brook trout and the department's stocking program.

The 16 x 20 post and beam wooden structure allows visitors to get up close to view and feed brook trout. At one end of the building, visitors can observe brook trout swimming in the two viewing tanks, each of which have a 3.5' x 3' clear panel and are backlit to showcase a brook trout's vivid colors.

However, it is the 33' circular trout viewing pool that is becoming instantly popular as visitors can get up close and view and feed the fish along the edge of the pool. The new pool holds approximately 6,000 brook trout. Interpretive signage informs visitors all about Maine's brook trout and the state's hatchery program

The building dedication marks the culmination of over a year's worth of work by the department's engineering and hatchery divisions. Construction began with the removal of the old pool in the spring of 2012, and continued with installing the new circular pool and the educational building.

The building is a result of a partnership that includes donations from Hannaford-Delhaize Group, USO New England, Sebago Lake Rotary Club, F.E.T. Inc. and Evonik Cyro LLC. Funds from the Maine Outdoor Heritage fund and the Maine Sportsman Plate were instrumental in completing the pool, viewing area, and the Hatchery Education Building.

The Dry Mills Hatchery was originally constructed in 1933 by the Federal Works Project Administration. Not only

does the hatchery produce approximately 90,000 brook trout annually, it supplies brook trout fry to the state's other hatcheries, and incubates approximately 1.2 million trout eggs annually. Over the course of the year, Dry Mills will stock over 170 waters in southern and western sections of the state.

The department stocks on average approximately 1.3 million fish a year and raises brook trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout, splake and landlocked salmon at the state's eight hatcheries. The department stocks trout and salmon to provide fishing opportunities for anglers that would not otherwise be available.



## MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

The Maine Wildlife Park held an open house (free admission) in conjunction with the Dry Mills Hatchery Education Building Grand Opening this past Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Close to 1,800 people came to the park and took advantage of all the 'fishy stuff' going on at the hatchery. In addition to meeting the Commissioner, the new building and interpretive signs, the brook trout viewing tanks and outdoor round pond, big hits were the fish printing tent, the 'fish on ice' and the brook trout mascot. Thanks to all Department Hatchery, Park, Engineering, Wildlife and Fishery staff who made this event a successful one.



## MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



4 Members of Warden Service completed the Sugarloaf Marathon on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Eric Rudolph won the race with a time of 2 hours and 28 minutes. This was the first marathon for Wardens Aaron Cross, David Ross, and Tom McKenney and they all finished under 3 hours and 30 minute. This is an amazing accomplishment. Congratulations to all.

- Warden Dave Georgia relayed this story “a woman who lives out in the woods in Greenfield Twp. solved her own problem with a would-be thief. She noticed that her wood splitter had been moved from its place of storage close to the road. She figured someone was going to come back after dark and steal it. She patiently watched, and when it got dark, she walked her black, rather large bull over to the wood splitter and tied him to it. He laid down, content with some hay. During the dark of night, this woman’s suspicions’ were confirmed. However the thief(s) got the surprise of their lives and sped off without the wood splitter. “
- Warden Jake Scott and Sergeant Tim Spahr apprehended a subject for the possession of a turkey that was taken illegally. The investigation revealed that an adult, hunting with a 16 year old hunter, instructed the juvenile to shoot a second turkey without having a permit. Giving the juvenile the option of learning from his mistakes, Warden Scott summonsed the adult.
- Warden Eric Blanchard addressed one trespass case involving turkey hunting this week. In addition, he is working with New Hampshire authorities on a case involving a convicted felon that shot up an access gate to an Acton Maine farm. The incident occurred in front of the farmer. The weapon was a SKS assault rifle. The subject fled after the incident. Warden Blanchard also apprehended a subject who was using worms in an artificial lures only water body. The subject was also over the limit on trout. He was summonsed for over the limit. Warden Blanchard also investigated a complaint of a turkey being shot from a roadway. Warden Jeremy Judd and Canine Tundra were called in. Tundra located the spent round thus providing the needed evidence to conclude the case.
- Warden Evan Franklin also responded to a report of an ATV operating in a marshland in West Bath. Upon concluding the investigation the subject was charged with Operating ATV in a prohibited area and Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol with a blood alcohol concentration of .33 % (.08% is the legal limit)
- Due to the fact that Warden Norman Lewis excels in the field of Search and Rescue (SAR), he was asked to instruct area fire departments as part of the annual Western Maine Fire Attack Training. The program that he put together explained how firefighters can assist the Warden Service at a SAR incident and also provided them with an understanding of why we oversee these events. In addition, the class included some wilderness first-aid and a K-9 demonstration featuring Clyde. Those in attendance were placed into scenarios where they had to perform a search for an injured hiker, provide medical attention and then do a litter style carry-out. The next scenario involved a missing person who turned out to be a deceased hunter. This incident allowed them to conduct a grid search and then tested their skills at tending to the victim without disturbing any evidence. This training will go a long way towards strengthening the relationship between the Warden Service and area fire departments.
- Warden Carlton Richardson worked turkey hunting on Ridlon Road in Berwick making contact with 9 hunters. He issued three warnings for criminal trespass. Located one poached turkey in the area that was approximately a week old along with approximately 6 deer carcasses dumped in bags in woods.
- Sergeant Spahr seized one turkey in a case where a hunter killed two birds with one shot. The hunter called and reported the incident. No enforcement action was taken.
- Warden Eric Blanchard and Deputy Warden John Baron began Plover enforcement details on Southern Maine Beaches. Several enforcement issues have occurred already but plover nesting sites are well established. Warden Blanchard also addressed one fishing violation involving the use of worms in wild trout pond designated artificial lures only. He also addressed a turkey violation involving the taking of a hen bird.



**Smelts, smelts, and more smelts.** Sgt. Dunham states: “The smelt activity began to slow and marked the beginning of sucker, open water, lake, brook and stream fishing. Plus turkey season, ATV’s, boats, and plenty of others out doing all kinds of things” worked its way North with the warm weather. Corporal Glidden stated “Smelts are hanging strong...” Wardens continue to work long hours to capture intentional violators stealing more than their fair share and leave them with a summons to court.

## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

During the month of May Commissioner Woodcock attended the following events/forums around the state...

- Falmouth Rod and Gun Club and Durham Rod and Gun Club forums
- Pine Tree Camp to discuss careers related to the outdoors with young campers
- New England Outdoor Writers Association banquet
- Participated in fish stocking with regional staff

Both Commissioner Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Erskine were present at the annual Fallen Officers Memorial ceremony in remembrance of the 83 law enforcement officers from Maine who have died while on duty.

The Commissioners also participated in banding of peregrine falcons. There are 25 nesting pairs in Maine. The Department and the Biodiversity Research Institute are working together to learn more about these exciting raptors.

Deputy Commissioner Erskine attended the graduation ceremony on Friday, May 24th at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and welcomed new wardens to the Department.

We would also like to welcome three new members to the Commissioner's Advisory Council. Richard "Dick" Fortier will be representing Aroostook County. He will replace outgoing member Wade Kelly. Gunnar Gundersen will be representing Knox, Lincoln and Waldo Counties. This seat was previously held by termed out member Mike Witte. Donald Dudley will be representing Penobscot County and replaces outgoing member Harold Brown "Brownie". Congrats to the new members and also recognition to the outgoing members for their service and dedication to the Council.

## RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

### 47<sup>th</sup> North American Moose Conference Co-Hosted by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, New Hampshire Fish and Game, and Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. - *Written by Lee Kantar, Wildlife Biologist*

The 47<sup>th</sup> North American Moose Conference and Workshop was held May 20-24 in Whitefield, NH. By all accounts it was a smashing success! This outstanding conference showcased the incredible moose resource in northern New England and the professional state wildlife management agencies of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Despite the typical, unpredictable weather of May, attendees (the first visit for many) marveled at the beauty and landscapes of northern New England. The positive feedback has been overwhelming and we share this recognition with New Hampshire and Vermont; together the states set an extremely high standard for future conferences.

The daily attendance was more than 100, with most staying at the Mountain View Grand Hotel that provided outstanding professional service and cooperation throughout, while affording a memorable stay at one of New Hampshire's historic grand hotels. The organizing committee deliberately provided the highest number of travel awards ever, and we were rewarded by unprecedented graduate student attendance and participation. There were 38 scientific presentations and two special sessions with expert panels that highlighted major management issues: 1) Moose Browsing and Forest Regeneration & 2) Diseases and Parasites. Moose are in trouble in many jurisdictions, and the 47<sup>th</sup> North American Moose Conference highlighted these issues and cooperative research efforts are already in the works as a result of the meeting – this is the definition of an effective workshop!

Attendees traveled from Alaska to Scandinavia, and our Distinguished Moose Biologist of 2011, Professor Kjell Danell of Sweden who gave a keynote address, donated his entire travel award (\$1800) to help ensure high student participation at next year's conference in Alaska. The generosity of many sponsors including from Maine; Kittery Trading Post, LL Bean, Maine Audubon, Windham Weaponry, the Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association, the Rangeley Chamber of Commerce and Merryspring Nature Center, were showcased in a poster that was viewed by all as they walked into the Conference room. This Conference epitomized what many working together can accomplish, and we extend our sincerest gratitude for your generosity. Some other highlights were:

- An evening presentation by NH's own Ben Kilham whose work with black bears has been featured in two National Geographic and two Discovery documentaries.
- Display of NH's famous "Battling Bulls" exhibit made possible by the NH Conservation Officer's Relief Association.
- Display of wildlife photographs by Roger Irwin and his donation of the print used on the website home page for auction.
- An outstanding field trip featuring Maine Guides Roger Lambert and Matt Bailey, a Maine lobster boil (a first for about 20 visitors), and a cooperative cow and her days old calf that a few lucky attendees spotted at the White Mountain National Forest lunch site!

Conference attendees are professionals that dedicate their tireless efforts to ensure that moose receive the management attention and value they unquestionably deserve. High participation, provided critical professional interaction, and for many students, an absolutely overwhelming educational experience.



## RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

### Dead Loon Alert - *Written by Danielle D'Auria, Wildlife Biologist*

For the last 25 years or more, individuals in Maine have been contributing to a regional loon mortality study by collecting dead loons and transferring them to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic in North Grafton, MA. There, the deceased birds are necropsied to determine the cause of death. Cooperators in Maine have contributed over 450 dead loons to this important ongoing study over the past 25 years. Thus far, the study has determined that the leading cause of death for Maine adult loons is lead poisoning (from ingesting lost fishing gear), which is responsible for about one third of all deaths.

Please help by keeping watch for dead or dying loons, and reporting them to any of the following MDIFW offices: Ashland, 435-3231; Greenville, 695-3756; Gray, 657-2345; Sidney, 547-5300; Enfield, 732-4132; Jonesboro, 434-5927; Strong, 778-3324. If you cannot get in touch with MDIFW, Maine Audubon is a cooperator on this study and now has a dedicated hotline for reporting dead loons: 781-6180 ext. 275.

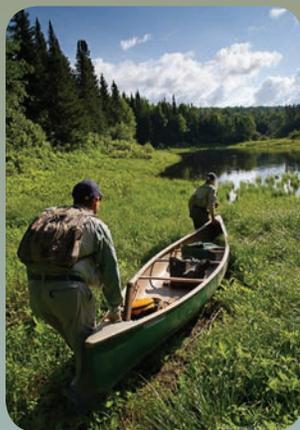


### Brook Trout Pond Survey Enters 3<sup>rd</sup> Year - *Written by Emily Bastian (MA), Merry Gallagher (IFW) and Jeff Reardon (TU)*

The Maine Department on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IFW), Maine Audubon (MA) and Trout Unlimited (TU) are again seeking volunteer anglers to survey remote ponds in Maine for brook trout. This will be the third year anglers can help state biologists gather data on ponds in northern, western, and eastern Maine potentially inhabited by wild brook trout.

"The success of this project is entirely dependent on the data collected by volunteer anglers," said Jeff Reardon of Trout Unlimited. The project's focus on remote ponds offers anglers a chance to explore new places while advancing trout conservation efforts. None of these ponds have been formally surveyed by fisheries biologists, and there are no records of past stocking, so any brook trout found in them are presumably native, wild fish. The information collected by volunteer anglers will be used to inform future fisheries management decisions.

"The goal of the Brook Trout Pond Survey is to recruit volunteers to identify previously-undocumented wild brook trout populations in remote Maine ponds. Maine brook trout are a special resource, and we need to know where they are before we can protect and manage them appropriately," said Merry Gallagher of IFW.



### **2011 and 2012 SURVEY RESULTS**

During the 2011 and 2012 seasons, 147 anglers contributed more than 3,000 hours of volunteer time to the project. Volunteers came from all corners of Maine, and also New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont. "Dedicated volunteers included avid fly fishermen, spin and bait anglers (where permitted), fly tiers, and recreational kayakers who enjoy wetting a line from time to time. It's also been really exciting to see families and young people getting involved in this project. Most importantly, everyone who has participated in this project is passionate about protecting Maine's wild and native brook trout, a significant ecological and economic resource for the state," said Emily Bastian, a Maine Audubon employee who serves as Volunteer Coordinator for the project.

Volunteers have surveyed 161 ponds out of more than 400 identified by MDIFW. Volunteers confirmed brook trout presence—by catching them—in 35 of the surveyed ponds. Another 45 ponds are suspected of containing brook trout based on observations made by volunteers who did not catch trout. In 2012, a two-man net survey crew contracted by DIFW, with funding from TU and MA, completed follow-up surveys in 33 ponds. Brook trout were confirmed present in 24 of them and MDIFW will make appropriate management recommendations.

### **PLANS FOR 2013**

More than 300 ponds remain available for survey. Project Coordinator Emily Bastian is eagerly seeking volunteers for these ponds—many of them in remote parts of the state. "Enthusiasm is running high for the project this year," says Bastian. The project's ultimate success for 2013 will depend on renewed participation from past volunteers and also the recruitment of new volunteers. "This is a very exciting way for people who are passionate about wild trout conservation to be part of something very special. **This is our chance to make a significant contribution to the conservation of native brook trout.**"

Volunteers should be enthusiastic about fishing for brook trout, be comfortable in remote settings, and have a sense of adventure. Surveys can be completed any time before September 30, 2013.

Additional information, maps, data sheets, and instructions on how to survey each pond are available at the project website: [www.tumaine.org/brooktrout.htm](http://www.tumaine.org/brooktrout.htm). To sign up to volunteer, contact Emily Bastian at (207)781-6180 x207 or [ebastian@maineaudubon.org](mailto:ebastian@maineaudubon.org).

