

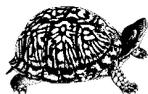


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, July 8, 2011

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK

I was pleased this week that our Department sent out a press release with the title **Improvements Slated for Moose Lottery, Deer Number Concerns.**

While we have a long road to travel together as sportsmen to bring about much needed reforms, I am impressed with the progress we have made in the first few months of the new administration. Have we solved all our problems? No. Are we working hard to make improvements? Yes. The press release discusses:

- Changes in the Moose Permit Lottery;
- *Maine's Game Plan for Deer*, to address our deer population decline;
- The Deer Predation Advisory Group which will have its first meeting next week;
- The Task Force to Examine the Decline in the Number of Non-Resident Hunters in Maine, which is a partnership with the Maine Tourism Office. Its first meeting will be in August.

Did You Know?

As part of his job as DIF&W Commissioner, Commissioner Woodcock is a participating board member of:

- Baxter State Park Authority
- Land for Maine's Future (including the Nominations Committee)
- Outdoor Heritage Fund

The Baxter State Park Authority is currently seeking public review and input on its **draft management plan**. Select the link to read the plan and make comments.

Missed an issue?

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

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Fourth of July weekend was a busy one for wardens. Boat patrols watching for impaired boaters (part of the national Operation Dry Water effort), violations of fishing laws and responses to ATV accidents were nonstop. Wardens reported heavy ATV traffic, leading to many warnings about wearing helmets and driving at responsible speeds. In the news this week were these incidents from around the state:

- Two missing girls in Hancock
- ATV accidents in Newport and Levant
- Two lost kayakers in TWP 19
- 6 hikers on the AT helped off the trail with varied injuries.
- Many injured and nuisance wildlife calls.



An updated Outdoors Partners Program trailer is now ready for events, forums and educational programs. OPP has been an important part of the Maine Warden Service for 10 years. The trailer is a redesigned format, and includes a flat screen TV with the ability to host the internet and play informational DVD's. The concession doors provide shelf space to display important season-specific literature. The outside vinyl wrap includes beautiful scenes from Maine photographer David Cleaveland.

OPP puts game wardens in touch with the sporting public at community events, sporting shows, schools, recruitment fairs and other community policing events statewide. It provides an opportunity for the public to be in contact with wardens regarding questions, concerns, or offer ideas to enhance our relationships and foster good outdoor conservation and public safety.

FISHERIES DIVISION

This week's report comes from DIF&W Fisheries Biologist Dave Boucher, and was provided to LURC for a review it is undertaking. Anglers will find this info useful, too.

- Mooselookmeguntic Lake provides sport fisheries for wild landlocked salmon and brook trout that are of statewide significance. Rainbow smelts and landlocked alewives are the principal forage species supporting both sport fisheries. White and longnose suckers, sculpins, brown bullheads, and a variety of cyprinid species are also present. Richardson Lake's sport fisheries and fish assemblage are similar, except landlocked salmon and brook trout are stocked to supplement a small wild population. Upper Dam Pool supports an important riverine fishery for salmon and brook trout.
- Smallmouth bass have successfully colonized the Rapid River, Pond in the River, and Umbagog Lake, all located below Middle Dam on Richardson Lake and Upper Dam on Mooselookmeguntic Lake. Middle Dam is an impassable barrier to the upstream migration of fish from the Rapid, and maintenance of this barrier is a critical element of the IFW's effort to protect Richardson Lake and its tributaries from invasive smallmouth bass. In the event bass colonize Richardson Lake, either through an unauthorized introduction or from an accidental breach at Middle Dam, then Upper Dam, which is impassable, will protect Mooselookmeguntic Lake and tributaries. Therefore, maintenance of a fish barrier at Upper Dam is critical, including during the rebuild sequence.
- Permanent changes to Upper Dam Pool: We concur that the new gate/spillway system will not significantly alter existing physical and biological characteristics of the tailrace pool, and that traditional angling patterns will not change substantially. There may be subtle changes, but I anticipate anglers will adapt and perhaps even enjoy the new challenge. The basic functions and values that Upper Dam Pool afford gamefish will remain intact.

DO YOU KNOW?

This week's question from the Maine Wildlife Park's educational signs: *How much are activities supported, regulated and managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife worth to this state's annual economy?*

Hunting and Fishing	\$498 million
Snowmobiling	\$300 million
ATVing	\$200 million
Watercrafting	\$153 million
Whitewater rafting	\$32 million
Wildlife Watching	\$1.3 billion
Total annual economic impact:	\$2.4 billion

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- The New England cottontail is a state endangered species and is Maine's only native cottontail rabbit. In southern Maine, it is a small brown rabbit that stays brown during winter. At the New England cottontail working group meeting in Scarborough last week, it was reported that, as of June 2011, our Department along with our partners at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service with Kelly Boland (a contractor funded with grant monies), have collectively put 565 acres into New England cottontail management or in management agreements. We are also working with State Parks to create additional New England cottontail habitat.
- DIF&W Biologists monitoring the progress of Endangered Peregrine Falcons this summer have observed two banded males. Both were banded in Maine. One was previously injured in Camden and was taken to Avian Haven for rehabilitation and was banded prior to its release. This male is now successfully breeding near Maiden Cliff in Camden Hills State Park. The other male was banded by biologists Charlie Todd (MDIFW) and Bruce Connery (ANP) at the Precipice in Acadia National Park as a hatch-year bird in May of 2006. This year, this bird, along with its mate, successfully fledged two chicks from a nest box placed under the old Verona Bridge in Prospect. There are approximately 30 pairs of breeding Peregrine Falcons in Maine.
- Jason Czapiga from the WRAS (Wildlife Resource Assessment Section) Habitat Group has been reviewing data from the Development Mapping Project for the Maine Office of GIS. This project maps development (paved roads and buildings) throughout all organized townships in Maine for two time periods (2004 and 2007). In addition to providing town planners with a picture of how development patterns in their town have changed over time, these data will allow DIF&W to quantify habitat loss to development and landscape fragmentation.
- Don Katnik, Ph.D, and Shawn Haskell, Ph.D (WRAS Supervisor) attended "Intermediate Incident Management Team" training last week in South Portland along with staff from the Maine DEP, the U.S. Coast Guard, and local fire stations. This training prepares staff for responding to large-scale incidents such as an oil spill. During a large oil spill, DIF&W would provide wildlife expertise for protecting sensitive habitats and recovering/rehabilitating oiled birds.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

- The Department participates in events around the state, emphasizing youth involvement in outdoor recreation. DIF&W Youth Activities Coordinator Emily MacCabe organizes and assists on these programs, such as:
 - MaineYouth Fish & Game Annual Youth Summer Camp at Pickerel Pond in Milford. During June 20-29, 104 campers (ages 8-11 and 12-15) learned fisheries biology, fish identification, knot tying, casting skills and safety. They fished for brook trout both from shore and from kayaks. They learned spincasting as well as fly fishing. Archery also was taught the second part of the camp. At right, a camper practices baiting a hook with a gummy worm before going out to fish at Pickerel Pond.
 - Friends of Messalonskee Lake Milfoil Awareness Day and Family Fishing Event at the Oakland Boat Launch on June 25
 - Phippsburg Sportsman's Association Youth Day on June 26 – a combination of teaching fishing and archery skills.

For more information on how the Department can assist in any of your events, please contact Emily at (207) 462-1017 or Emily.MacCabe@maine.gov

- The Maine Wildlife Park in Gray was featured in a [July 3 Boston Globe Travel Section article on New England zoos and parks](#) that families should visit. Every year, more and more publications outside of Maine are mentioning the Maine Wildlife Park as a must-see destination.



INFO DESK

This week, DIF&W's front office received and replied to 1,454 phone calls, 540 emails, and 66 walk-ins.

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



The Maine Warden Service's Forensic Mapping Team carries out precise scene documentation at incidents and crime scenes, says Investigator Kevin Anderson. The collected data help determine the cause of the incident and gives investigators invaluable information that can be used to help prevent future incidents or prosecute offenders. Here, Sgt. Chris Cloutier and Warden Troy Dauphinee reconstruct an ATV incident during the July 4th weekend in Newport.



Mark Dufresne, taxidermist of "The Final Charge" locked moose exhibit (back), cleans the display at the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray while Portland Press Herald photographer John Patriquin snaps a shot. The [Portland Press Herald](#) wrote about how the public can watch the display being cleaned and updated at the park this week. Usually the display is at L.L. Bean in Freeport.



NEXT WEEK ...

A report on the efforts of DIF&W bear biologists in tracking Maine's bear population. This photo of one big fellow recently was taken by Bear Biologist Randy Cross.