

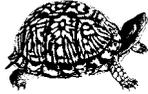


# Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

## *Weekly Report*

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

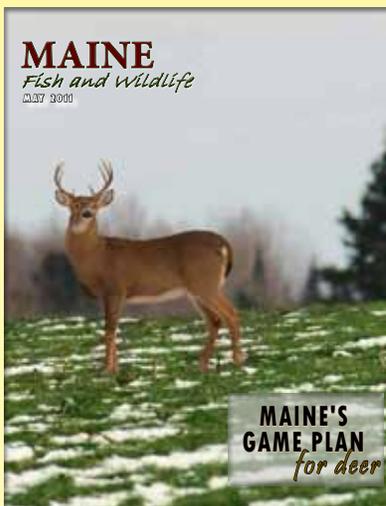
284 State St., 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04330 207-287-8000



Friday, June 24, 2011

### Office of the Commissioner Chandler E. Woodcock

- This week the front office of the Department received and replied to:
  - 913 Phone calls
  - 544 E-mails
  - 38 Walk-ins
- The Commissioner's schedule included:
  - Baxter State Park Authority
  - Big Reed Pond for inspection of Arctic charr restocking project
  - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council
  - Float Stocking on Upper Andro
  - Maine Warden Service Firearms Qualifications
  - 2011 Annual Moose Lottery at Cabela's in Scarborough
  - Maine Wildlife Park in Gray
  - Dry Mills Fish Hatchery in Gray
  - Call in radio show, WVOM based in Bangor



The 2011 Spring Department Magazine can be read online! It's as easy as selecting the cover above.

Check out the new and improved home page of the Department's website [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com)

### Wildlife Division

- Thanks to grant monies received, the Department has performed surveillance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza HPAI (H5N1) for the period between April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Two forms of surveillance were conducted; 1) live and hunter killed bird sampling via cloacal and oral-pharyngeal swabbing, and 2) routine and opportunistic surveys of several waterbodies throughout the state of Maine. HPAI was not detected in any of the samples we collected. No mortality occurrences were determined to be related to HPAI.
- Don Katnik, Ph.D., from Habitat Group has been working on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment of long-term leaks from the above ground fuel storage tanks located on the Penobscot River near the Bangor/Hampden town line. Also working on the project are representatives from Chevron Corp. and their contractor Science Applications International Corporation, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, and the other Natural Resource State Trustees (Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, Maine Dept. of Conservation).
- Don attended an oil spill exercise in Bar Harbor on May 19. The exercise was designed to test a joint US-Canada response to a spill near the international border.
- Recently DIF&W received test results from 716 white-tailed deer tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from the 2010 harvest, as well as 1 moose euthanized by the Warden Service; all samples were negative. Keeping CWD out of Maine is critical to the health and productivity of our deer and moose herds. CWD is an untreatable disease and causes irreversible damage to brain tissues in affected animals, ultimately leading to death. CWD had been found in many states and provinces and is as close by as Virginia, and possibly New York. If it emerges in Maine, CWD could seriously reduce infected deer populations by lowering adult survival and de-stabilizing populations. Monitoring and control of CWD is extremely costly but a critical part of Wildlife Division's monitoring and research projects.

## Fisheries Division

- The Edwards Family Children's Fishing Park in Lincoln was dedicated on June 8th. This was a cooperative effort between the Edwards Family, the Town of Lincoln, and the Maine departments of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Conservation and Environmental Protection. At the ceremony's conclusion, 300 brook trout were stocked in the Fishing Park's pond with the assistance of Mrs. Murchison's 5th grade class from Mattanawcook Jr. High, which has adopted the pond as part of their ecology project.
- Fish Hatchery Manager Tom McLaughlin reports that on June 8th DIF&W stocked Gillespie Brook with the Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited chapter and Mt Ararat middle school students. The students released approximately 150 fry. DIF&W also turned over rocks to look for bugs/ nymphs to give the students an understanding on what the trout would be eating.
- The Town of Frenchville will soon be opening a new public landing to the St. John River. This site was developed with assistance from IF&W. The St. John River is now becoming a destination for anglers seeking muskellunge that have become established as the result of introductions of this species in Lac Frontier at the headwaters of the Northwest Branch St. John River in 1970. IF&W is also cooperating with the Town of Grand Isle to develop an access site in that community. These two launches and launches developed by the DOC in Van Buren, Madawaska and Fort Kent will provide guaranteed public access for anglers and recreational boaters at several locations along the St. John River.
- Through a cooperative effort between IF&W and the Cold Stream Camp Owners Association, a census clerk was hired to check anglers catches as they returned to the landing. Jordan Pinkham, a junior at Old Town High School, started back in April working weekends at the boat landing, interviewing anglers, measuring landlocked salmon, togue and brook trout, as well as handing out information to all boaters outlining ways to keep invasive plants and fish out of Cold Stream Pond.

## Maine Warden Service

- Testing for new wardens: It has been a very busy week at the Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro for the Maine Warden Service. The hiring process for new wardens is comprehensive and intense. Sixty-seven applicants for thirteen positions have been going through four phases of the hiring process: written applications; oral boards; written exams and a writing examination.  
  
The process also includes field/physical fitness tests; background investigations; polygraph tests; Colonel and Major interviews; and comprehensive physical exams. Colonel Joel Wilkinson, Major Gregory Sanborn, Lt. Tom Ward and other personnel from the MWS have been at the Academy this week leading the process.  
  
From start to finish – when an application has been received to when a hired warden is trained and in the field working – is approximately a one year process.
- Maine Game Warden Adam Gormely was featured this week on Doug Rafferty's "Doug's Discovery" on WGME Channel 13, emphasizing boating safety and the importance of wearing PFDs (personal flotation devices). The Maine Warden Service announced a partnership with Cabela's, educating people on how life jackets can save lives.
- There have been numerous Search and Rescues and Incident Investigations (mostly ATVs) the past two weeks which will be reported on next week in a comprehensive listing by the DIF&W. The "SAR"s included many requests for the involvement of the Warden Services' K-9 units.
- Press Release: **OPERATION DRY WATER: Maine Warden Service on Lookout for Impaired Boaters.**

## Information & Education

- Press Release: **2011 Maine Moose Lottery One for the Record Books; Next Year's Event in Rangeley**
- Press Release: **2011 Any-Deer Permit Applications Now Available**
- Three new Public Service Announcements on the Department's Turnpike Radio Station welcome our visitors to Maine and educate them on our outdoor recreation opportunities that are available. The messages, by Commissioner Chandler Woodcock, can be heard on radio 1640 AM.
- The Maine Wildlife Park in Gray hosted close to 3,000 school children attending spring wildlife education programs and guided tours from mid April through mid June.
- Swan Island, in the Kennebec River in Richmond, hosted approximately 250 school children for their wildlife education programs in May and June.
- The Maine Wildlife Park has a series of new signs around the park to educate visitors on facts concerning DIF&W and outdoor recreation in Maine. Can you answer this question? How many fish are raised and stocked out each year in Maine's rivers, lakes, streams and ponds by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Hatchery Division? **ANSWER: 1.2 million fish are stocked out annually in waters throughout the state for you to catch!**

## Photos of the Week



The bear and the bird feeder photo was sent to us by Brian Smith of E. Machias – obviously a good example of why bird feeders should be taken inside this time of year.



2011 Governor's Cup Bass Tourney on Cobbossee Lake – Senator Tom Martin, Commissioner Woodcock, Senator Troy Jackson. The Senate won the trophy this year.



Frank Frost, DIF&W biologist, places Arctic charr in Big Reed Pond, a 5 year restocking project.



People waiting to hear the 3,864 names to be read at the Moose Lottery at Cabela's! A total of 1,500 people attended throughout the day.