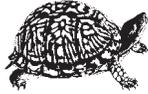




# Monthly Report

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

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



Wednesday, July 3, 2013

## FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

### Fisheries Management - Written by Ashley Malinowski, Fish Culturist

Fisheries biologists commonly interview anglers about their fishing and their catch. How many of each species did they catch? What were the lengths? What were the weights? Were the fish missing any fins? What did the fish have in their stomachs? Where on the lake did the angler fish? How long did the angler fish? No, they are not being nosy, trying to slow you down, and they're not going to give away any secret honey hole. The information fisheries biologists gather from anglers will help them determine the health of the fishery on the waters being surveyed. That information will then be used to make suggestions regarding management (i.e., stocking, regulations, habitat modification, etc.) of that fishery, with the goal of keeping fish healthy and plentiful, and anglers' lines tight.

MDIF&W stocks brown trout, brook trout, landlocked salmon, rainbow trout, lake trout, and splake (lake trout/brook trout hybrid) in many water bodies throughout the state. MDIF&W grows and stocks a variety of strains of each of these species. Certain species and strains survive longer in some waters than others. Some species and strains provide higher catch rates (how often fish are caught and landed). Biologists ask the number of fish caught and how long the angler fished for to get an idea of catch rates of both wild fish and stocked fish. Catch rates are reported as how many fish are caught per hour of fishing.

Lengths and weights are important because it gives biologists an idea of how healthy the fish and the fishery are. This may tie in with catch rates. For example, if anglers were reporting lots of small, skinny fish caught, it may mean the population is too high, and there isn't enough forage to allow for proper fish growth. This would prompt biologists to examine the condition of the lake's forage fish population, and perhaps adjust stocking rates or fishing regulations. If the fish being caught are short but fat, it may mean the fish have plenty of food, and even younger fish have plenty to eat.

Fishing provides fun times and tasty meals, a perfect complement to the long-awaited summer. Maine is lucky to have so much support from anglers, and in return, fisheries biologists are striving daily to ensure the bountiful aquatic resources that Mainers treasure continue to thrive!



## MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

The Maine Wildlife Park has received 4 fawns and 1 moose calf so far this year; all do appear to have been orphaned or separated from their respective mothers. All have been brought in by district wardens and are doing very well. The bull moose calf was observed by a well-meaning couple for several hours running up and down the road in Byron in the rain with no cow in sight. They alerted the district warden who investigated, searched for a cow, noted the calf was tired and wet and made the decision to bring it to the wildlife park instead of it getting hit by a car. These decisions need to be made based on individual circumstances; but our overall message to the public is to leave young wildlife alone!



## INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 4,182 Phone calls
- 1,850 Emails
- 210 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

Michael Bell, age 9, from Portland shows off the first fish he ever caught. He was very excited about this pickerel caught at Lt. Manuel WMA.



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Meetings and events for June included...

- Forks Fish and Game forum
- Outdoor Challenge and fishing event – LL Bean Outdoor Discovery School
- Governor's Cup Charity bass fishing tournament
- Moose lottery drawing
- Royal River Conservation Trust annual meeting
- Boys State – Thomas College

June's Advisory Council meeting agenda included the 2013 any-deer permit allocations which were passed unanimously. The Council was also briefed on upcoming proposals for furbearer regulations, migratory bird season and fishing regulations.

## MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



PHOTO (Left to Right) Will Shuman, Evan Ackley, Lucas Bellanceau, Chris Sargent, Chris Roy, Tim Coombs, Carlton Richardson

The Maine Warden Service began its 12-week advance warden school at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy On June 3rd. Seven new cadets will travel throughout the great state of Maine and learn advanced patrol procedures, Title 12 fish and game laws and rules, operation of issued equipment, advanced search and rescue practices, combat tactical aid, advanced watercraft operation, search warrant preparation and execution, crime scene investigations, evidence processing, recreational vehicle OUI detection, swift water rescue, advanced mechanics of arrest-restraint-control techniques, aviation ops, waterfowl enforcement, trapping enforcement, and participate in a rigorous physical fitness training regimen. All of the is training is aligned with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Basic Law Enforcement Training Program and is designed to build on this foundation of knowledge in preparation for independent work in the field as a Maine Game Warden.

- Warden Chabot and Warden Thibodeau dealt with a boating OUI on Thursday afternoon on Androscoggin Lake. The operator attempted to outrun the wardens because he was unregistered, according to his own statements. The operator was .10 BAC 2 hours after the stop. There were three other people in the boat who were also intoxicated.
- Warden Decker received a complaint of a missing 14 year old girl in Topsham. The weather that night was approximately 36 degrees and raining. The girl went outside at around 18:30 hours to catch frogs in the yard and had not been seen since. Many wardens participated in the search. Warden Judd and K-9 Tundra searched behind the house. There was a very large wooded area behind the house. Warden Judd and K-9 Tundra located the girl in the woods over a mile from the house. She was found alive at approximately 02:30 hours.
- Warden Bob Johansen observed 3 men fishing from a small boat on a Northern Maine Pond. At first the men appeared to be complying with the rules, but after a short time two of the men switched from fly fishing in artificial lures only waters to passing the worm container back and forth so they could catch some nice brook trout. Upon returning to shore, the men admitted to the violations observed during surveillance. He addressed 8 violations and seized their illegal catch.

## RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

### **2013 Spring Trapping Summary** - Written by *Randy Cross, Biologist*

This spring, MDIF&W's bear crew trapped the Downeast study area located in the commercial forest north of Rte 9 between the Narraguagus and Machias Rivers. Bears in this study area have been monitored since 2004 and are used to represent bears in the portion of Maine that live in similar habitat conditions. Part of the purpose of this trapping effort was to capture as many females as possible in a central portion of the study area (approximately 55 square miles), so that we can make an updated estimate of the bear density in this study area using Global Positioning System (GPS) collars.

This year's trapping crew included myself, contractors Dan Wagner, John Wood, Phil Adams, Jake Feener and Mitch Jackman, and volunteer, Christina Basnar. We trapped from May 16th to June 26th. We made 115 captures in this 42-day period of 74 different bears (22F / 52M). Males are generally much more vulnerable to capture than females due to comparably less wariness and increased traveling – especially during breeding season, which is month of June, primarily. We typically capture close to 2 males for every female despite the fact that there are more females in the population. Male behavior increases their vulnerability to hunter harvest in a similar manner. Males are also larger than females of the same age making them more desirable to hunters, and hunters very rarely harvest females accompanied by cubs. This results in annual hunter harvests that are skewed toward males which, in turn, skews the sex ratio of the population toward females over time (perhaps as much as 2 females to 1 male in some areas).

Despite only catching 22 females, we placed collars on 17 females that either had no collar or needed their collar replaced. We also captured 1 ear-tagged cub, which we handled last winter at 6 weeks-old in its winter den with its mother, and 8 yearlings (2F / 6M). Eight orphan yearlings (1F / 7M) that had lost their ...



*Pictured above is a 342-pound male black bear that was captured by the IFW bear research crew with an Aldrich foot snare. The Aldrich foot snare, which is the only legal foothold trap used by licensed bear trappers, allows researchers to release the bear unharmed. As part of the research study, one of his teeth was removed and aged, revealing the bear to be 19 years old.*

To read more of this article [click here](#).



The numbers are in. In early March we used the new GovDelivery system to deliver a message to Mainers that their volunteer contributions to State tax-form Chickadee Check-off were steadily waning. You responded. For the first time since 1996, the number of annual donations increased substantially: from 2,357 to 3,021, which is an increase of about 28% participation. The amount donated increased from \$29,454 to \$38,623.

While the average contribution of \$12.78 may not seem like much money, it is one of the highest average contributions in the country. Nearly all states use this funding mechanism for their conservation programs for threatened wildlife species. I won't rehash the whole message that went out earlier this year, but here is some of it:

Funds from the Chickadee Check-off and Loon Plates are deposited directly into Maine's dedicated Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund, and by law, can only be used for conservation efforts for these species. When used as match for a federal grant, your money is essentially doubled or tripled. This is how our efforts for the conservation of endangered, threatened, and species of special concern are funded.

To put into perspective how far a relatively small amount of money from the Chickadee Check-off can go, consider that just within the last year, monies from the federal State Wildlife Grant matched with funds from the Check-Off have funded projects directed at conserving a plethora of species including, but not limited to: bald eagles, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, loons, piping plovers, great blue herons, purple sandpipers, Canada lynx, threatened bats, New England cottontail, Blanding's turtles, spotted turtles, Roaring Brook mayflies, Clayton's copper butterflies, and several rare freshwater mussels. Funds from the Check-Off have also gone to citizen-science projects like the Maine Butterfly Survey and the Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project.

To view an annual Research & Management (R&M) Report compiled and published by MDIF&W to, in part, document how funding for conservation of your wildlife heritage gets generated and used, visit: [http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/research\\_management.html](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/research_management.html). Biologists are now working on the annual R&M Report that should be in paper and electronic distribution by September, and I expect some interesting developments. Our webpage has a new face, and one nice feature can be found on the front-page that is our annual reports to the Legislature that include a status report on your dedicated Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund.

Thank you for helping us to conserve wildlife for all uses and experiences, both now and for the future. Have a great holiday, and please try to keep fireworks away from the 47 pairs of endangered piping plovers nesting on a few of our coastal beaches in southern Maine.

If you need further information, please visit [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com) or call (207) 287-8000.

## 2013 MOOSE LOTTERY!

The 2013 Moose Lottery took place in Greenville this year and was a huge success. 4,110 names were read in just over 4 hours by Commissioner Chandler Woodcock, his staff, and members of the Boy Scouts in Greenville –like J.D. (photo below), who read his hundred names as the crowd



– made up of people like Kris MacCabe, Joel Wilkinson, Rick LaFlamme and others – looked on. One of the highlights of the afternoon came when Rick (photo below)

– unexpectedly read the name of his father who was sitting in the audience with him!

Commissioner Woodcock also announced the site of next year's Moose Lottery – it will be in Presque Isle.



## OIL SPILL TRAINING

IFW employees Don Katnik and Caroline Hailey traveled north recently to participate in a biennial oil spill exercise. Under the Atlantic Geographic Annex of the Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (JCP), the U.S and Canadian Coast Guards are required to hold the exercise to ensure the efficient management and deployment of resources should a cross-border oil pollution incident occur.

This year's exercise took place in both Calais and Saint John, New Brunswick, and included members from the US and Canadian Coast Guards, Shell gas, state agencies and other organizations.

The majority of the training was a full scale exercise that stimulated the first 60 hours following an oil spill in the Bay of Fundy from a damaged crude oil vessel.

During the exercise, Don worked in the Wildlife Branch of the Operations Section of the Incident Command and helped implement wildlife-related response activities such as searching for, collecting and rehabilitating oiled birds. His section was also responsible for providing expert input on other response activities that may impact wildlife or wildlife habitats, such as applying chemical dispersants.

Caroline worked as a Media Specialist in the Joint Information Center (JIC), which handles collaborative communications during an emergency response. She handled the JIC phone lines and helped respond to media requests, draft press releases and plan news conferences.



## WILDLIFE DIVISION

### Helping Landowners Manage Habitat for an Endangered Species - *Written by Joe Wiley, Biologist*

On Saturday, June 29th a workshop "Under Cover- How to manage young forests and shrublands for wildlife" was held in Kittery and York, Maine to illustrate practices that can be implemented to enhance habitat for New England cottontail (NEC) and other early successional wildlife. Presenters included representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service.

An indoor session was held at Kittery Trading Post followed by an outdoor session at the York Land Trust's nearby Highland Farm Preserve. A small but enthusiastic group of landowners attended both sessions. The indoor session focused on the young forest and shrubland habitat that NEC and a suite of other songbirds and gamebirds need to thrive. The species that need these habitats were described and forest succession was described in some detail. This was followed by a discussion of the many management practices that landowners could use to develop these early successional habitats on their land. The NRCS representative described some of the federal cost share programs available to help offset some of the habitat management costs.

At Highland Farm Preserve the group looked at... [to read the rest of this article click here.](#)

### Foresters and Biologists Come Together for Deer - *Written by Amanda DeMusz, Assistant Regional Biologist*

Maine Society of American Foresters hosted a Northern White Cedar Management workshop Friday, June 28th in Northern Aroostook County. Biologists from IF&W attended the workshop alongside foresters and biologists from several land management, logging, and private businesses throughout Maine and Canada. Recently, due to the limited knowledge surrounding management of this relatively slow growing tree species, United States Forest Service partnered with Natural Resources Canada on a 10 year research study. Publication of their "Silvicultural Guide for Northern White-Cedar" (General Technical Report NRS-98) represents the compilation of their research and management suggestions. Lead presenters were Dr. Laura Kenefic (USDA Forest Service), Dr. Robert Seymour (Univ Maine), Dr. Jean-Martin Lussier (Canadian Forest Service), Dr. Jean-Claude Ruel (Laval Univ), and Charles Tardiff (Maibec Industries).

Braving the drenching rains that fell that day...

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

