



Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Thursday, March 15, 2012

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Week of March 5 – 11

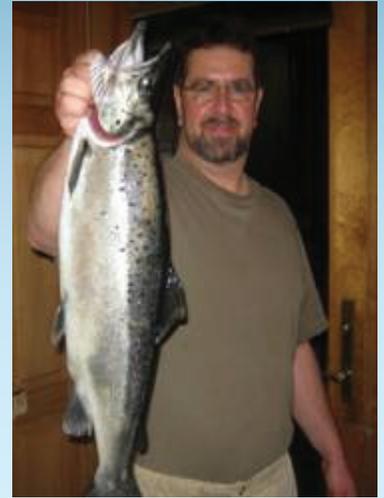
- Commissioner Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Erskine met new OIT Director Jim Smith.
- The IF&W Committee met on Wednesday, March 7th and held work sessions on LDs 1652, 372 and 1242. Commissioner Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Erskine also presented the Department's reorganization plan to the Committee.
- Commissioner Woodcock attended a regularly scheduled Baxter Park Authority meeting.
- Deputy Commissioner Erskine organized and attended a bear den visit with Department staff and Legislators and invited guests.
- Commissioner Woodcock attended and was a guest speaker at the Eastern Maine Sportsman's Show at the University of Maine in Orono on Saturday, March 10th.

Week of March 12 – 18

- Commissioner Woodcock swore in Jason Luce as a Sergeant in the Maine Warden Service, a promotion from his position as investigator at a small ceremony at the Augusta Headquarters on Monday, March 12th. The Deputy Commissioner was also in attendance.
- The Commissioner attended a Land for Maine's Future Board meeting on Tuesday, March 13th.
- The IF&W Committee met on Wednesday, March 14th and held a public hearing on LD 1849 as well as work sessions on LDs 1652 and 1242. Commissioner Woodcock was in attendance.
- The Commissioner attended a retirement reception for General Libby on Friday, March 16th.

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Though ice conditions were not as predictable as in years past, many anglers throughout the state enjoyed terrific ice fishing. A notable landlocked salmon catch occurred on Long Lake in Aroostook County. The salmon weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces, a trophy by any standard. The end of winter signals the start of the sportsmen's show season in Maine.



These shows provide an opportunity for anglers and people interested in angling to talk face-to-face with one or more of our regional fisheries biologists. The Fisheries Division makes staff available for as many sportsman shows as possible. The Orono sportsman show was a big success, with fisheries staff receiving several positive comments concerning fishing in Maine.

The Department continues to develop working groups to address management of three of Maine's high profile fish species, brook trout, landlocked salmon and bass. These working groups will discuss topics from rules and regulations to management strategies for each species. These groups provide an opportunity for public involvement in the fisheries management process.

INFORMATION CENTER

Last week the front office of the Department received and replied to:

- 871 Phone calls
- 491 Emails
- 91 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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The new 2012 Open Water & Ice Fishing lawbook is now on shelf! Click [here](#) to view online



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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Maine Sporting Heritage 1870-1970

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

LICENSING DIVISION

- Licensing Division personnel are conducting a 2-day MOSES training class for our licensing agents this week at the University of Maine at Lewiston. MOSES is the Department's electronic licensing and registration system. In attendance at the training are representatives from the towns of Lyman, Kingfield, Pittston, South Berwick, and Presque Isle. Also in attendance are representatives from Tobey's Store in China, Walgreens in Windham, Shaker Hill Outdoors in Poland Springs, and Sweet Dreams Store in Smithfield. Following completion of the class, participants will be able to immediately begin selling hunting and fishing licenses for the Department using the MOSES system.
- Applications for the 2012 Moose Lottery are now being accepted by Licensing Division personnel. To date, over 14,000 people have applied. People can apply online through the Department's website at mefishwildlife.com. They can also print out a paper application from our website. The deadline for paper applications is April 2, 2012 and the deadline for online applications is May 14, 2012. The Department expects to receive approximately 50,000 applications for this year's Moose Lottery by the end of the application period.



MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

The Special Investigations Unit concluded a 6 month investigation into information of extensive night hunting received by the Maine Warden Service. Over 25 game wardens and game warden investigators executed a detail of 4 search warrants and 5 knock and talks in the Lincoln County area. One Maine Warden travelled to Long Island, NY to coordinate with NY Environmental Police and a USF&W Special Agent to conduct interviews of suspects who were involved with an illegal moose kill and then returned to NY. The subject of the investigation had previously lost his hunting and guide's licenses for previous offenses. The investigation revealed the primary suspect and his live-in girlfriend were involved in extensive, reckless (front lawns of house) night hunting, including as many as 6 deer shot in one night. The suspect and his associates were responsible for the killing of more than a dozen deer this fall and we have reports of up to 50 deer over the last 3 years. The main suspect and his girlfriend were arrested on warrants for night hunting and will be charged with additional charges in the future. Others associated with the investigation were also charged with crimes ranging from guiding without a license to killing moose without a permit. In all, over a hundred violations were detected amongst the group.

Early in the week while scanning Portage Lake with field glasses, Warden Dave Milligan saw what he thought was an injured golden retriever across the lake. As he approached he found that it was a woman crawling in the deep snow wearing a gold colored jacket. She had stepped through the ice near a brook and lost her boot and snowshoe. Dave got her on his sled and she asked if he could get her boot back. Dave put on his snowshoes and went to get the ladies boot and snowshoe. As he knelt by the hole he remembered his father telling him that there was a fine line between bravery and stupidity. As he leaned forward to get a hold of the boot the snow supporting him let go and Dave did a bit of a face plant in the slushy water. A quick squirm and roll and he got out of it with two wet arms and a boot attached to a snowshoe. The lady thanked Dave and he took her to her camp up the lake.

Near Rockwood, area wardens investigated a snowmobile crash involving a female who failed to negotiate a right turn in the trail and had traveled out off the left side of the trail. After striking some brush and over turning, she was pinned under the snowmobile with the carbide picked track still running. This caused a horrific wound to her torso area with considerable blood loss. The victim was located by members of her group after being pinned for ½ hour; luckily, there was cell phone service and a 911 operator could be reached. The victim was transported to Bangor by helicopter.



Warden Kris MacCabe and his K-9 talking to a school group.