



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Thursday, March 22, 2012

LICENSING DIVISION



We are working on a marketing project in conjunction with the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. During the next couple weeks, a postcard will be sent to a number

of our customers who have previously purchased a Maine fishing license but have not done so in a while. The postcard encourages them to purchase a Maine fishing license this year. This project is being funded entirely by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. We will be monitoring the results of this marketing campaign to see how many of these customers purchase a Maine fishing license this year.



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Presque Isle Sportsman Show Photos



L-R: Biologist Rich Hoppe, Sgt. Tom Ward, Biologist Frank Frost, Warden Kevin Pelky, Deputy Warden Andrew Smart



Dave Basley, Regional Fishery Biologist and Arlen Lovewell, Assistant Regional Wildlife Biologist manning the IF&W booth.



Many of the biologists in the fishery and wildlife division spend the better part of their life to serve the sportsmen of the State of Maine. Dave & Arlen have a combined total of 70 years of service to the Fisheries & Wildlife Divisions.

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 997 Phone calls
- 482 Emails
- 98 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Ice fishing is wrapping up in northern Maine as open water anglers take advantage of the March warm weather to try a little open water fishing. The recent eighty-degree temperatures threw everyone a curve, ice fishermen and open water fishermen alike. Ice fishing reports continue to come in from northern Maine while open water anglers report catching impressive numbers of bass in southern Maine. Water temperatures in sheltered areas reached temperatures in the low fifties and these temperatures attracted bass in large numbers. Reports of anglers catching 20-30 bass came into the Department last week.

Applications for commercial sucker permits continue to increase as fishermen prepare to intercept these fish during the spawning migration. The impacts of this commercial fishery on suckers and other fish species are not clear. Commercial fishermen remove several hundred tons of suckers from Maine's inland waters each spring. Additional research and management will be required to protect and sustain this resource in order to meet commercial harvest and ecological needs.



March fishing!!! Evan Thibeault of Topsham with grandfather Anthony Pushard of Litchfield. First brook trout ever, 4.3 lbs.!

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- Commissioner Woodcock attended the Maine Wildlife Park Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Spring Meadows Country Club on Tuesday, March 27th.
- Commissioner Woodcock was a keynote speaker at a MOTAG (Mill Operators Technical Advancement Group) meeting in Portland on Wednesday, March 28th.
- The Commissioner's Advisory Council met on Thursday, March 29 and approved rules for moose permit allocations and discussed other agenda items.
- Commissioner Woodcock will attend the State of Maine Sportsman's Show at the Augusta Civic Center on Saturday, March 31st.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Don Katnik (WRAS Habitat Group Leader) attended a 3-day conference of Fish & Wildlife Information Managers. The conference included representatives from many state and federal wildlife agencies. Don represented Maine as a panelist during a discussion on data sharing. Sharing wildlife data has become an increasingly important activity for agencies and involves many complicated issues such as distribution policies, costs for maintaining accurate and current data, keeping up with data sharing technology, responding to FOIA requests, protecting sensitive information, and ensuring that data are being understood and interpreted appropriately.

Remember Maine's Wildlife!

Purchase a Loon Plate

Contribute at tax time

Danielle D'Auria attended the Northeast Loon Study Working Group (NELSWG) meeting at the Loon Preservation Center in Moultonborough, New Hampshire on March 15th and 16th. NELSWG consists of government, non-profit and private sector organizations, and its purpose is to formulate, advise, and evaluate loon research efforts, primarily concentrating in the northeast portion of North America. MDIFW's participation in NELSWG directly influences the amount and types of research, monitoring, and restoration efforts that take place in Maine for loons. Maine supports approximately 75% of the northeast's breeding pairs of common loons. Despite its abundance in our state, it is considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Maine and is faced with significant stressors such as mercury contamination, lead poisoning, and unknown effects of climate change. Efforts for conservation of loons and other non-game species are funded by purchases of Loon Plates and donations from the tax-form Chickadee Check-off that can be matched by a federal funding source called State Wildlife Grants (currently threatened to be cut by Congress).



Notes from Joe Wiley:

This week I participated in a field evaluation of potential wildlife habitat improvement projects on a 6,000 acre parcel in Orient currently owned by The Conservation Fund. I was accompanied by Forester Terri Coolong, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Barry Burgason and Joel Philbrook, both foresters for Huber Resources, which is managing the property until it is eventually acquired by BP&L (funds for the acquisition include federal Forest Legacy funds – pending grant finalization – and LMF approved Katahdin Lake funds). This parcel has approximately 3 miles of frontage on Monument Brook, which delineates the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, and it also contains part of a 1,200 acre deer wintering area (DWA).

We covered a lot of ground and identified several stands in the DWA where light harvesting to release softwood regeneration would begin the process of diversifying the age class structure. We also saw some potential grouse management areas and numerous wild apple trees in need of release.

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



Warden Rick LaFlamme received information about a male subject in Biddeford that had killed an Atlantic Salmon in the Saco River. Upon investigation, Warden

LaFlamme obtained a confession from the male subject. He was charged with killing a thirty-one inch Atlantic salmon.

Wardens Kemp and Dauphinee worked on a litter complaint where a subject threw a plastic bag with a bunch of deer parts into a bog beside the road. The wardens had recently seen a road kill deer at a residence in the area and the case was quickly solved and the violator was given the appropriate paperwork (See attached photo).



Wardens Dave Simmons, Brian Tripp, Scott Osgood, Investigator Kevin Anderson, Sergeant Alan Gillis, and Lieutenant Dan Scott all were dispatched to a SAR call in Mariaville for a missing male suffering from Alzheimer's. They were assisted at the scene by State Police, Mike Sawyer and Deb Palman from MESARD. As Tripp and Trooper Jessica Shorey were conducting a hasty search, Tripp yelled out "DON- Marion (his wife) said it's time



for you to come out of the woods and come home -she's worried about you!" And with that, about 100 feet off the road, Don yelled out, "okay, it's scary out here in the dark!" Tripp and Shorey reached him and Tripp carried him out of the woods.

Wardens Mark and Michelle Merrifield responded to Mt. Megunticook when 5 subjects were reported missing just before sunset, as they left the trail and became lost. They were located by Warden Mark Merrifield on the east side of the mountain and in rugged and steep terrain. The two Merrifields were able to climb to the location of the subjects and lead them out to Tamarack Lane in Camden where they were checked by Camden EMS. The ages of the rescued subjects ranged from 16 to 26.



Warden Troy Thibodeau and his wife welcome their son into the world!

MAINE WILDLIFE PARK



The Maine Wildlife Park in Gray held its annual volunteer banquet on Tuesday. Close to 120 park volunteers attended the dinner honoring their tremendous service to the park. Thousands of hours are donated by volunteers annually, including fully staffing the admissions gatehouse, planting and maintaining extensive flower gardens, carpentry and landscaping, assistance in building and exhibit maintenance, leading guided tours for school children, transporting injured wildlife and much much more.

Commissioner Chandler Woodcock attended and spoke at the banquet; wildlife biologist Kendall Marden gave a presentation on Maine's Black Bear Research Project; and many awards from the Park and the Friends of the Maine Wildlife Park were presented.



Lisa Kane & Commissioner Woodcock



Marianne Tufts receives the Superintendents award from Curt Johnson, Park Superintendent



Kendall Marden presents the "Quick & Dirty" about Black Bears in Maine.