



Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



Friday, June 15, 2012

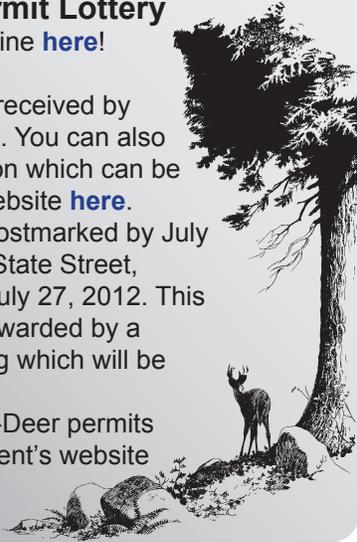
LICENSING DIVISION

Applications are now being accepted for the **2012 Any-Deer Permit Lottery**. You can apply on-line [here!](#)

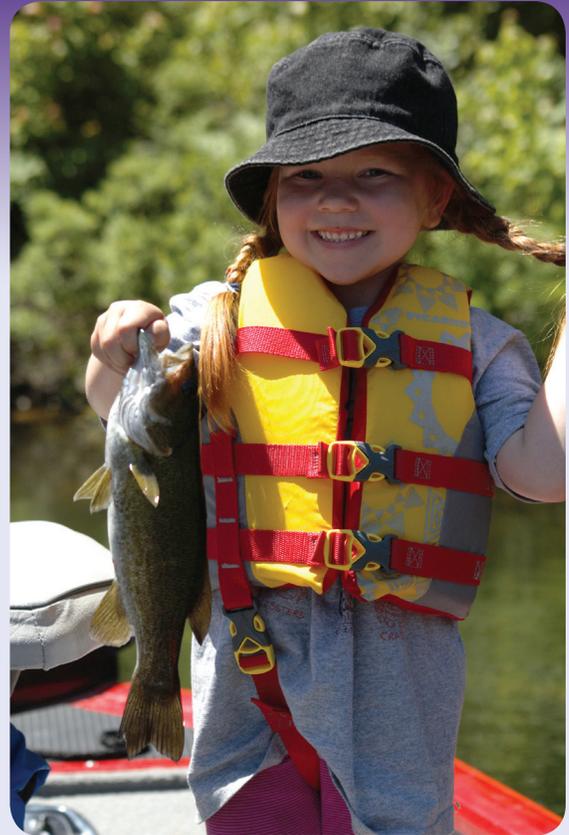
On-line applications must be received by 11:59 PM on August 15, 2012. You can also apply using a paper application which can be found on the Department's website [here](#).

Paper applications must be postmarked by July 27, 2012 or delivered to 284 State Street, Augusta before 5:00 PM on July 27, 2012. This year, 34,160 permits will be awarded by a computerized random drawing which will be held on September 7, 2012.

Complete information on Any-Deer permits can be found on the Department's website by clicking [here](#).



KID'S SECTION



Lauren A Welch, 5 years old, caught this Smallmouth Bass at Schoodic Lake in Cherryfield while out fishing with her mother and friends. Got to start them young!

RECREATIONAL SAFETY DIVISION



The U of Maine 4-H Camp @ Bryant Pond hosted the 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor training this past weekend with about 2 dozen attendees. Mike Sawyer & Vic Maccallum from the Recreational Safety Unit attended the training along with 2 volunteer instructors from Aroostook County and one volunteer from Knox County. IF&W is working closely with the 4-H program to expand the shooting sports effort around the state to enhance interest in archery, rifle, shotgun, and hunting interests. For more information contact [Mike Sawyer](#) or [Bryant Pond](#).

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 826 Phone calls
- 439 Emails
- 72 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

Employee Recognition

This year's Employee Recognition events have been scheduled for Friday, July 27th at the Sidney Headquarters and August 3rd in Bangor (location TBD). Times and events for each day are still in the planning phase and will be forwarded soon.

Everyone gets something!



Like us on Facebook!

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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

A Popular Newcomer: Black Crappie - *Written by Jason Seiders, Acting Regional Fisheries Biologist*

Black crappie are a popular sportfish and panfish in their native range, which extends from Florida to the Great Lakes and many spots in between. In recent years, black crappie have continued to be illegally introduced into Maine waters and are now widely distributed throughout central Maine. Region B now has 45 lakes and ponds with populations of black crappie, and likely several more that are yet to be discovered.

While the black crappie is an exotic invader, it has been embraced by many central Maine anglers as a sportfish that makes excellent table fare. Waters such as Cobbosseecontee Lake, Hermon Pond, and Unity Pond are now popular destinations of anglers seeking black crappie. These fish are usually targeted with live bait and small jigs and can be caught in large numbers in certain areas. Anglers fish for black crappie during both the open water season and through the ice.

Fisheries biologists in the Belgrade Lakes Region (Sidney Headquarters) have been focusing on black crappie in recent months, trying to gain a better understanding of their population size and age structure and potential effects on native fishes. While some anglers enjoy this new fishing opportunity, the Department and many anglers remain concerned about the spread of this exotic species. The introduction of black crappie into wild brook trout waters could have particularly devastating effects. Crappies are a member of the sunfish family, and as such are highly prolific. Once introduced, they can colonize a pond quite quickly and consume the same insect prey that trout and other native fish rely on. We certainly hope that we see the end of these introductions – because once they're in, they're here to stay!



Personnel changes -

We're very pleased to announce that Frank Frost is the new Regional Biologist for the Fish River Lakes Region. Frank brings a formidable array of skills to his new appointment from his 17+ years as an Assistant Regional Biologist in Gray and Ashland. He has shown outstanding leadership in completing several complex fishery projects in northern Maine, and we fully expect he'll continue working hard to protect and manage the Region's fishery resources.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Commissioner Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Erskine were present at a regularly scheduled Advisory Council meeting held on June 14th in the conference room at the Augusta Headquarters. The Council voted on three rulemaking items; Wolf hybrid rules, WMD 24 Expanded Archery Zone Revision and Youth Day Any-Deer Permits. A Commissioner's print was also presented to Advisory Council member Stephen Philbrick representing Franklin and Oxford Counties. Steve, who has been Chair of the Council for the past year, will be leaving the Council at the end of his second three year term, which is the maximum number of consecutive years a member may serve. Thank you to Steve for all your hard work and dedication while serving as a member of the Council!

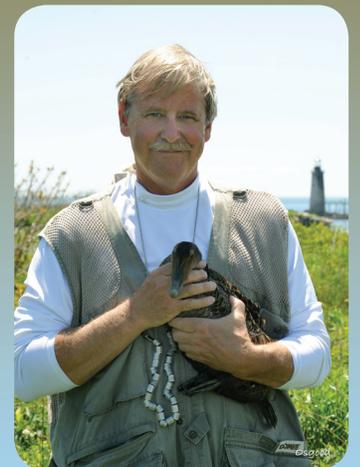
The Commissioner's print was created by noted wildlife artist David Footer, and is titled "Katahdin's Trout".

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Understanding Eiders

- *Written by Brad Allen, Biologist and Bird Group Leader*

Wildlife disease management is an on-going challenge for wildlife biologists. These past two weeks Department biologist Brad Allen coordinated field collections of blood samples from over 300 healthy common eiders and 100 of their eggs to aid researchers to further understand the possible routes of transmission of a new bird virus. In addition, the researchers are attempting to learn if Maine's resident eider population is carrying antibodies to the disease. This virus, a previously undescribed orthomyxovirus, is called the Wellfleet Bay Virus because between the years 2006 and 2011, several common eider mortality events involving from 30 - 2,800 birds were observed along the coast of Massachusetts near Cape Cod, particularly Wellfleet Bay. The death toll from this virus may now be in excess of 6,000 eiders. Meanwhile, the USGS National Wildlife Health Center and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study have been collaborating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by providing diagnostic support and conducting experimental inoculation trials in captive eiders in order to further characterize this disease and help conserve eider ducks in the long-term.



WILDLIFE DIVISION

The Lands Program has recently started up our summer management activities. After a relatively dry spring followed by a wet early summer, the weather seems to have finally decided to cooperate. At the Lyle Frost WMA in Franklin and Eastbrook we've started implementing the summer portion of a habitat management project focused on promotion of softwood cover for wintering deer. Our forester has developed habitat management plans for increasing browse and hardwood mast production at the Vernon S. Walker WMA in Newfield and Shapleigh and has begun on the ground harvesting layout this week, with a goal of beginning operations in mid-July. An interesting project currently in the planning phase is a habitat management project in York, which will focus on cottontail habitat on a portion of the WMA, and deer yard management on another portion of the WMA. This project will establish a partnership with the USFWS in their efforts to create and maintain habitat for the New England Cottontail.

We have also awarded a bid for road reconstruction at the Bud Leavitt WMA in Garland to improve access for hunting and management access, a critical component of the management strategy for our WMA's. Several road projects will be completed during the summer construction season including road and access upgrades at the Mattawamkeag River WMA and the Sandy Point WMA as well as routine maintenance at numerous other WMA's.

An important component of summer operations is field mowing and maintenance, which occurs after mid-August after grassland nesting birds have fledged. Even though it's quite a ways out, we're in the process of lining up contractors and reviewing our mowing regimes.

The Lands Program is also partnering with the Maine Natural Areas Program to implement a survey of wetlands on WMA's to prioritize and rank potential wetland restoration activities to improve habitat and wetland functions and values. The first stage of a two year project is being implemented early this summer. The work will be supplemented through a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. - *Written by Ryan B. Robicheau, Lands Management Biologist*

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Warden Ben Drew took some time this week to work with some local kids with "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" being the theme. He did classroom presentations at both Hodgdon and Houlton Elementary Schools on Monday. On Wednesday, he and Warden Pelkey took the Hodgdon 5th grade group fishing for most of their school-day to a nearby pond, where the eager anglers were rewarded with much success. Every angler caught at least one brook trout; several for the first time ever. He will be doing a 5th grade trip for Houlton Elementary this coming week.



Warden Richard spent Friday working to find brook fishermen, which proved to be a challenge. Saturday was a little busier during the day, he checked numerous fishermen at Grand Lake Stream as the fly hatches have been very strong early in the morning and just before dark. There were 16 people in the dam pool Friday evening. There haven't been that many people in the dam pool before, except opening day of fishing. It is a testament that the fish are there and people are catching them. Biologists will work with Woodland Pulp LLC the Dam owner and open the fishway to allow the salmon to travel back up into the lake and feed on smelts. It is a very interesting thing to watch as when the water starts coming down the fish ladder, the salmon almost immediately sense the change in water and hundreds of them begin to fill the fish ladder. It is a very impressive sight.

Corporal Glidden responded to the report of a capsized canoe on Ambajejus Lake. "The capsized canoe involved a couple from Pittsfield and their Springer spaniel. They were in a 12' canoe with a 2 hp motor and all their gear. The group left the boat landing at Spencer cove on Ambajejus Lake. The plan was to travel to a camp site on Pemadumcook Lake. As they traveled out of the cove and into Ambajejus Lake the wind had picked up causing white caps on the lake. As they started across the lake, they decided the lake was too rough and tried to turn back to shore. When they turned the canoe it started taking on water and eventually capsized. Luckily they were wearing their PFD's and they were able to swim to shore, but the dog swam in the opposite direction. Once on shore, they made their way out of the Sawdust Pile Road and stopped at the first camp they found occupied. The owner of the camp made sure they were all right and then called 911 to report the incident. The camp owner advised the RCC that he would take the couple back to the boat landing and wait for the warden. I received the call, traveled to Spencer Cove, and met the couple involved in the incident. They explained what had happened and also advised me that their dog was still missing. I launched my watercraft and took the Wilcox's out to look for the dog. As we approached the area of Picnic Island, I located the dog, deceased, floating in the water. I loaded the dog into the boat and let the Wilcox's have a moment with their dog. We spent the rest of the morning gathering up their belongings from the lake and tried to find the canoe (we were unable to locate the canoe). I transported the Wilcox's back to the boat landing, we loaded their dog and belongings into the vehicle, and they headed home. I will continue to look for the canoe as I patrol the lake."