

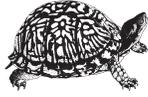


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



Friday, June 22, 2012

KID'S SECTION



Dear Maine Game Warden, Gregory Sanborn,

I would love to give you some of my bone marrow but I'm only 11 so I can't, but my dad wants to donate some bone marrow too. Also he is 48. So I think that he can donate. I feel really bad that I can't donate bone marrow, but my dad can!

I have always wanted to be a Maine Game Warden. It's the best job ever! When I go to the beach I pick up trash on land and in the water. I also love the great outdoors.

My dad wants to be a game warden too. He says "it's the second best job after Bill Green's Maine's job." but I think it's the best job ever. My dad takes me and my older sister g.o. cashing and once our dog but he got wrapped around to many trees.

Major Gregg Sanborn wants to thank all that took time to send encouraging notes to him, such as the one from Ashlee. Such notes are most appreciated during this long process of getting cured of cancer. He also reports that the stem cell donor drives that were held in April, May and June, resulted in over 700 names of Maine and New Hampshire residents added to the world wide registry. Undoubtedly, in the near future, one or more of these participants will get the call to potentially save someone's life who finds themselves in a similar situation as Major Sanborn. That will be one positive outcome that comes from this negative diagnosis.

From,
Ashlee Barnes

LICENSING DIVISION

Licensing Division personnel conducted a 2-day MOSES training class for our registration 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 were representatives from the towns of Oxford, Lyman, North Haven, Winthrop, Kingfield, Mechanic Falls, Liberty, South Berwick, Edgecomb, and Bath. Also in attendance were representatives from Hancock County and Liberty Gun Works in the town of Gardiner. Following completion of the class, participants will be able to immediately begin registering boats, ATVs, and snowmobiles for the Department using the MOSES system.

INFORMATION CENTER

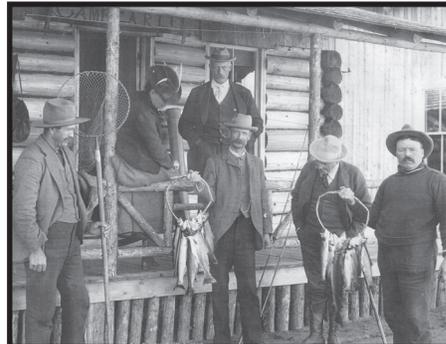
Last week the front office of the Department received and replied to:

- 972 Phone calls
- 463 Emails
- 68 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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



This historical photo features some pretty important people. The first 5 people to e-mail Kristina.r.paulhus@maine.gov with at least one correct name (and a mailing address) will receive an IF&W logo sticker! Contest ends 6/27/12.



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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Smallmouth bass fishing in Eastern Maine is very popular. With dozens of waters to choose from in Hancock and Washington counties anglers constantly ask which waters are the best. Over the last 25 years the Jonesboro office has compiled average angler hourly catch rates and sizes of smallmouth bass from the best size and catch rate waters in Downeast Maine. [Click here](#) for a table listing waters in alphabetical order showing their average hourly catch rates and average sizes to help anglers decide for themselves which water offers the bass fishing opportunity that best suites them.



While scanning the list, anglers need to remember that the catch rates reflect a range of average angler ability to catch bass on a per hour basis in May and June. These catch rates and average fish sizes are not from expert anglers. The catch rates also reflect the different conditions that existed on the days fished, as well as fluctuations in age class and overall fish abundance that occur from year to year through environmental factors. If you closely examine the list a trend becomes apparent - the higher the catch rates the smaller the average size of the bass. We hope you find this information helpful and interesting. Please contact us at the Downeast Regional Headquarters if you have questions regarding the quality of bass fishing in Eastern Maine (207) 434-5925.



Personnel Changes -

We're happy to announce that Jason Seiders has been selected as the new Regional Fisheries Biologist for the Belgrade Lakes Region. Jason brings a diverse set of skills to his new position, gained during a 10-year stint as a fisheries consultant and during six years in various positions with our agency. He looks forward to the challenge of managing the fisheries program in one of our busiest Regions, and we know he'll work very hard at that task!

Please join us in congratulating Jason on his newest assignment!

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Fifty Years of Mapping Maine's Wetlands - *Written by Don Katnik, RAS Habitat Group Leader*

Maine would not be Maine without wetlands to store and filter our water, sustain our fish and wildlife populations, and support our recreation and tourism industries. Mapping wetlands is critical to managing them. The first effort was the 1961 Maine Wetlands Inventory (MWI). Nearly 20,000 "existing and potential wetlands" were mapped from black & white photos. In the era before personal computers, data for each wetland was typed onto a 'keycard' for manual sorting. The MWI effort took over a decade. It was the origin of today's 'moderate' and 'high' value terminology (although not the current definitions). A second mapping effort began in 1993 to identify "Inland Waterfowl/Wading bird Habitat" (IWWH) for protection under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). The Department developed rules for mapping and rating IWWHs using five habitat criteria, which required site visits for evaluation. This laborious manual process was completed for only 10% of Maine's wetlands, so in 2002 the University of Maine developed an automated GIS process to complete the effort. In 2007 the "Great Ponds Rule" removed upland habitat >250 ft from vegetated, non-forested wetland habitats from IWWHs around Great Ponds. Nearly 2,000 IWWHs were modified, removing 500 miles of upland shoreline from NRPA. That same year, IWWHs larger than 10 acres were designated as Resource Protection areas for Municipal Shoreland Zoning (MSZ). The resolution of the IWWH mapping, however, was inadequate for MSZ, which did not allow boundary/rating changes based on MDIFW field visits. Therefore, in 2008 the RAS Habitat Group began a third major effort using new, high resolution, color aerial photos from both spring (leaf off, high water) and late summer (leaf on, low water) seasons to re-map and re-rate nearly 10,000 IWWHs in Maine's organized towns. Each generation of wetland mapping has benefited from improvements in technology and dramatically improved our ability to identify, evaluate, and manage these critical habitats.



Fisheries Research Biologist and RAS Fish Group Leader, Merry Gallagher, recently attended the East Coast Trout Management and Culture Workshop and the annual partners meeting of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) in Frostburg, MD. Both meetings were well attended by trout managers from all over the east coast of the United States. A diversity of research and management topics specific to trout management and conservation were presented that ranged from habitat restoration techniques and outcomes, to improving assessment techniques in an age of ever tightening budgets, and to developing strategies for maintaining wild trout resources in an ever increasingly crowded and warming landscape.

The second half of the week was dedicated to reporting progress and developing future strategies for the EBTJV. Maine is a core partner of this multi-state effort for wild brook trout conservation. The EBTJV's major effort at this time is completing a second range-wide wild brook trout status assessment across the species' historic U.S. range from Georgia northward to Maine. This current effort, when completed by 2014, will be the second range-wide assessment. At last week's meeting, preliminary results were reported for some of the southernmost states. In some cases, although the analysis at this time is far from complete, it appears as if wild brook trout are no longer found in about 20% of the available habitat where trout were documented in the initial assessment about 10 years ago. We can only hope that this trend does not continue as the assessment effort moves northward and to Maine! More information about the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture can be found [here](#).

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Warden Troy Dauphinee spent the first part of the week working on some information that he had received. A retired Game Warden Supervisor had recently seen a subject using worms in a body of water that is restricted to the use of artificial lures only. Warden Dauphinee located the suspect vehicle on Monday morning at a stream that is restricted to two brook trout and use of artificial lures only. Before the encounter was over, the suspect was apprehended using worms and taking 9 trout from the body of water.



I-r Sgt. Jason Luce, Dep. Warden Lucas Bellanceau, Comm. Woodcock, Warden Jeremy Judd, Colonel Joel Wilkinson

It was a proud day Wednesday for Lucas Bellanceau as he was sworn in as a Deputy Warden with the Maine Warden Service. Commissioner Woodcock did the honors along with Col. Wilkinson, Sgt. Jason Luce and Warden Jeremy Judd. Bellanceau will work under the direct supervision of Warden Mike Pierre in the Sebago Lake region.



"Division A" meeting was held in Standish this past Friday. The afternoon portion of the meeting was dedicated to water survival. Game Wardens spent the afternoon in the pool at St. Joseph College. The deployment of the inflatable PFD's were tested. Many lessons were learned that day.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Deputy Commissioner Erskine attended the Advanced Warden School at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, speaking to the new Wardens about the advisory council, rulemaking and the legislative process.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

DEER UPDATE - *Written by John Pratte, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor*

2012 has been and will be a very busy year as the Department continues to strengthen our effort to increase the deer herd in Northern, Eastern and Western Maine. Part of this workload includes developing new partnerships and new tools.

We are nearly complete with a project, made possible by an Outdoor Heritage Grant, to digitize our winter deer survey data. Having this data available in our GIS database now improves our process for reviewing and delineating Deer Wintering Area boundaries. Just as important, it also expedites cooperative efforts with landowners as we discuss and review DWA management opportunities and has already begun to prove beneficial.

This past legislative session created a predation management fund and a habitat fund specifically for deer. They also allocated funds over the next three years for predation management. Our wildlife biologists and wardens are currently updating our predation management plan to ensure we use these public funds effectively and responsibly in a focused effort to reduce coyote winter presence in pre-identified priority DWAs. These DWAs are typically in remote locations where recreational trapping and hunting effort occurs less frequently and we can now deploy individuals to apply a more consistent effort with a goal of reducing predation on wintering deer.

This past legislative session also empowered the Department, in statute, to manage recreational deer feeding where it has a negative impact on deer. A small group of wildlife biologists and wardens are currently drafting the necessary department rules to present to our Advisory Committee for adoption.

Last year, the Department and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service leveraged funds to hire two natural resource professionals to work on the Maine Deer Habitat Partnership through the end of this year. Dave Irving, a forester from Lincoln and Steve Young, a wildlife biologist from Frenchville began in March, working with NRCS to help private landowners enhance deer-wintering habitat. Irving and Young will conduct outreach, develop habitat management plans, assist with plan implementation, and conduct educational workshops. Educational materials on deer habitat management has also been produced and distributed free to the public.

These current projects will complement and further strengthen Maine's already robust deer management program. Mother Nature has also cooperated providing deer with three successive mild winters providing perhaps the biggest help to deer. A little more cooperation from Mother Nature in conjunction with these new tools and partnerships and perhaps we'll see a positive response in deer numbers in northern Maine.

