



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, July 27, 2012

Employee Recognition 2012!

This year we are holding 2 Employee Recognition events to accommodate our employees that are spread far and wide throughout the state. Each event will begin at 11am, and a BBQ will be served at noon. There will be whoopie pies for desert. Commissioner Woodcock and staff will present awards and longevity gifts after lunch.

RSVP to [Becky Orff](#) if you plan to attend.

~~Friday July 27th @ Sidney Headquarters, 270 Lyons Road, Sidney~~
Friday, August 3rd @ Eddington Salmon Club, Rt. 178, Eddington



WILDLIFE DIVISION

"Keag" The Wild Turkey - *Written by Allen Starr, Biologist*

Over the past 10 years or so working as a wildlife biologist in various regions in the State, I have had the opportunity to participate in the capture of many different species of wildlife. Sometimes the wildlife is in conflict with humans by damaging property (timber/roads/agricultural crops etc.), sometimes it's a matter of public safety such as a moose in a highly populated area and sometimes it's an animal welfare situation where the wildlife species itself is injured and needs some assistance. Such was the case of a wild turkey in Mattawamkeag, Maine.



The report of a wild turkey with an arrow sticking through its body prompted a response from the Enfield Regional Office. Region F staff captured the injured bird, transported it to a wildlife rehabilitator where it was nursed back to health, and released it back at its original capture location. If you're interested in the complete story of the capture, rehabilitation, and release [click here](#).



Humans and wildlife have various ways of dealing with the hot days of summer. Check out how great blue herons handle the heat on the [HERON](#) blog. [Click Here!](#)



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Woodcock and staff attended a meeting with the Maine Professional Guides Association. These meetings are held quarterly. Topics of discussion included moose and bear population estimates, the plan for predator control in deer wintering areas, alewives in the Saint Croix, the status of the ITP for lynx and the IF&W show presence for 2013.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY...1950s



L-R: Warden Supervisor Raymond Morse, Chief Warden Elmer Ingraham, Ed Muskie, Commissioner Roland Cobb

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,273 Phone calls
- 543 Emails
- 93 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

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Stories prepared by Captain Chris Cloutier

- As reported by Game Warden Brian Tripp: On Friday, I was working Frost Pond in Sedgwick where I checked two boats and two fishermen. I returned in the afternoon and I met an ATV on the narrow roadway. The ATV did not have a registration displayed and I noticed that the operator had a Bud Light between his legs when he pulled off the road to let me by. I rolled my window down and he announced “your all set and waved me by”. I identified myself and acknowledged that I knew I was all set, but it was him I was concerned about. He was visibly intoxicated and unsteady on his feet. I performed HGN and got six clues plus vertical nystagmus. I gave him two more tests which he did not score highly on. I arrested him and found he had two arrest warrants out of Penobscot County for failing to pay fines on drug and theft charges. He sobbed the entire way to jail and sang along (out of tune- I might add) to every sad country song and told me every unlucky thing that had ever happened to him. I listened and politely explained that my definition of “luck” was when preparedness meets opportunity. Despite his intoxicated state he did score highly on his breath test, his BAC was a .19.
- Warden Tom McKenney was working the Kennebec River on Sunday evening and noticed two fisherman get dropped off. The two fishermen made their way down to the river and each had worms hidden in their tackle box. Both fished with the worms and one of the men killed a 19” Salmon. The salmon was the only fish the two caught and Tom ended up issuing both tickets for using bait in an ALO water. The next morning Tom and Warden Jared Herrick talked and agreed these were the two fishermen that Warden Herrick had received information on and were reported to have been taking large over their limits on the river. The two wardens went to the fisherman’s residence and ended up seizing 11 fish that consisted of rainbows, salmon and brook trout.



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Fishway on Lower Aroostook River Tributary due for Reconstruction this Summer - Frank Frost, Fishery Biologist

It is no secret the Aroostook River has become one of the premier wild brook trout rivers in Maine. When conservative fishery regulations were placed on the lowermost section in the early 1990s, the angling public in the County was hesitant to support the changes. After nearly 20 years, brook trout fishing on the stretch of river in Caribou and Fort Fairfield is terrific, supporting a popular fishery throughout the summer.

At the heart of this special regulation section is the Little Madawaska River, a large tributary joining the Aroostook in Caribou and extending to the north, originating in the towns of Perham and Westmanland. Approximately 10 miles upstream from the Aroostook is a 50 year-old dam that creates a small reservoir providing a water supply to the Loring Development Authority (LDA), site of the former Loring Air Force base. The base closed in 1994 but the need for water remained to support the various redevelopment efforts there.

The LDA dam has a fishway to allow fish to pass upstream. As river temperatures warm in mid summer, trout seek thermal refuge habitat throughout the entire Little Madawaska watershed; significant habitat for all stages of brook trout exist here, in particular spawning and juvenile habitat in many cold tributaries. Since the late 1990s, however, the fishway has had serious maintenance issues that have worsened over time. In recent years, brook trout have been observed nosing against the base of the dam searching for access upstream. Late in 2011, the LDA secured a grant to upgrade their water treatment facility and reconstruct the fishway with state-of-the-art engineering. The upgrade will provide more efficient fish passage at all river flows, and has provisions to allow MDIF&W to trap and sample fish. When the improvements are completed this September, the entire Little Madawaska River watershed will once again be providing great habitat in support of the lower Aroostook River sport fishery.

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Relocating Rare Mussels on the Penobscot River - Written by Beth Swartz, Reptile, Amphibian and Invertebrate Group

The Penobscot River Restoration Project (<http://www.penobscotriver.org/>) is underway and Great Works Dam in Bradley is slowly coming down. While this may be good news for anadromous fish like salmon, sturgeon, and shad, the impoundment’s freshwater mussel population will take a big hit as the water permanently recedes and huge numbers of mussels are left stranded out of water to perish. Fortunately, most species occur in great abundance, and those animals that remain watered should continue to thrive and repopulate the new free-flowing river channel. However, the Penobscot River is also home to Maine’s rarest species of freshwater mussels - the yellow lampmussel, tidewater mucket, and brook floater.



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

Out-of-state Firewood Gives Bugs A Free Ride



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STUDENT AT CAPITAL AREA TECHNICAL CENTER

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