



# Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

## Weekly Report

[www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com)

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Tuesday, November 15, 2011

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

IF & W Commissioner Woodcock was a keynote speaker at the annual Maine B.A.S.S Federation banquet held at the Kora Temple Shrine in Lewiston. The event, attended by more than 100 members and guests, included dinner, awards presentations and a great fundraising effort.



Commissioner Woodcock recently met with the new Executive Director of SAM, former State Senator Dave Trahan, to discuss fishing and hunting initiatives. Here the Commissioner congratulates Dave on his new position!



Commissioner Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Erskine are shown with Shawn Barnes of Wiscasset, who presented a Lifetime Combination License to Ben Blake of Farmingdale.

Shawn Barnes set up the Gauge Barnes Memorial Lifetime License Award to honor his late son, Gauge, who was a wonderful young man and an avid outdoorsman. Gauge died tragically in 2009 and to honor his memory, his family established a fund to award a lifetime license each year to a deserving youth. This year's recipient is 10-year-old Ben Blake. DIF&W was thrilled to host the presentation, which was also attended by Ben's family. In the photo, Shawn Barnes is holding a picture of Gauge with one of his deer.

### INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 747 Phone calls
- 434 Emails
- 65 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

To view previous Weekly Reports, please visit [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com) and select "About Us"

### LANDOWNER RELATIONS

Landowner Relations Coordinator Mark Latti and Game Wardens Peter Herring and Seth Powers met last week with three landowners who owns over 1,300 acres in Limerick. The landowners, who posted much of their land "Hunting By Permission Only" were considering closing their land to all access due to repeated trespassing, illegal tree stands, and vandalism. Working together, the group came up with solutions to assist the landowners with their problems, and the land is still open to hunting by permission only.



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Swan Island  
Maine Wildlife Park

## WILDLIFE DIVISION

### Upcoming Public Meetings on the Status of Lynx in Maine:

DIF&W has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit to authorize incidental take of federally protected Canada lynx resulting from the state-regulated trapping program.

We are now in a written comment period for the application, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be hosting public meetings in December to provide information, in partnership with DIF&W on the status of lynx in Maine and answer questions. As stated in a recent press release:

“The incidental take permit that DIF&W has applied for should provide assurance to Maine's trapping community and the general public that trappers can continue to pursue their avocation in northern Maine without detriment to the state's lynx population,” said Wally Jakubas, DIF&W Mammal Group leader.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend one of the informational meetings. Each meeting will be held 6-9 PM.

- December 13 at University of Maine at Presque Isle, 181 Maine Street, Presque Isle, 04769 (Grand Ballroom)
- December 14 at Black Bear Inn, 4 Godfrey Drive, Orono, 04473
- December 15 at University of Southern Maine in Gorham, 37 College Avenue, Gorham, 04038 (Bailey Hall)

The Service and DIF&W are accepting written comments on the draft plan and environmental assessment through February 7, 2012. After the comment period ends, the Service will determine whether the application meets the permit issuance requirements.

[Click here](#) to read the DIF&W updated information pages on Lynx in Maine. Special thanks to DIF&W Biologist Jen Vashon and I&E's Ralph Brissette for all their work on putting this information together.

## INFORMATION & EDUCATION



David Footer has graciously loaned IFW 6 of his beautifully mounted fish for our newly 'refreshed' lobby on State Street. Thanks to Dave and Scott, IFW carpenters, for their help hanging the art.

***Come in and take a look.***

## MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

Friday, November 11 and Veteran's Day, was closing day for the Maine Wildlife Park's 2011 season.

Despite the rainy weather, the park had over 300 people show up to say goodbye to their favorite animals. Over 100 of our visitors were former and current military personnel and their families, admitted for free as a much appreciated and deserved thank you for their service to our country.

I and E's Emily MacCabe spoke at the Sheepscot Lake Fish and Game Club last week, discussing BOW (Becoming an Outdoors Woman), Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, Casting for Recovery, Youth Ice Fishing Tournaments and the I & E Division's mission to aid Clubs and expand Maine's outdoor sporting heritage.



## FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Biologist Tim Obrey reports in from Moosehead Lake:

Perhaps the best news of the year is the outstanding results from our annual fall trapnetting at the Moosehead Junction Wharf. We stock our young salmon here each spring and they return to the site when they reach sexual maturity, usually at age 2 or 3. IFW biologists have collected length, weight, and age data from these fish nearly every year since the 1970's to monitor growth and condition of the salmon in Moosehead Lake. Monitoring long term trends in average length at each age and the fatness of the fish is important. It lets us evaluate survival and forage conditions and thus we can adjust stocking rates or bag/size limits accordingly.



This fall we had one of the best years on record for salmon condition (fatness). Anglers may recall that in 2007, IFW biologists identified another "wave" of togue entering the fishery at Moosehead Lake. Togue feed heavily on smelt and compete with salmon (and themselves) for forage. We already had plenty of firsthand experience that high densities of togue caused severe growth problems for both salmon and togue. In 2008, we liberalized the regulations to include no size or bag limit on togue less than 18" and increased the bag limit to 2 fish for togue over 18". We recognized the need to thin these fish out quickly if we were to maintain growth rates. Over the next three years, anglers removed tens of thousands of togue and no doubt saved the smelt population from crashing even further. Salmon growth is now excellent and there are still plenty of togue in the lake.



Needless to say, we are very pleased with the results of the trapnetting and the continuation of the positive trends in salmon growth since the management changes were made in 2008. We anticipate some very good spring salmon fishing next year!

## MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

The tragic shooting incident last weekend in Rumford has brought media attention to the fact that the Maine Warden Service is often called in to assist other law enforcement agencies, often in dangerous circumstances.

To read Colonel Joel Wilkinson's statement to the press [click here](#)

### As reported by Steve McCausland of the Maine State Police:

LEWISTON SEARCH -- Twenty locations in Androscoggin County were searched today (Sunday, Nov. 13) for any sign for a Lewiston woman missing since July. Coordinated by the Maine Warden Service, 60 volunteer searchers aided by 18 tracking dogs, searched woods, fields and swampy areas in Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon and Mechanic Falls. The search ended just before sundown with no sign of 22 year old Christina Fesmire. The search involved more than a two dozen members of the Maine Warden Service and State Police. Among the areas searched was woods and swamps off Farwell and Webster streets in Lewiston, an area behind the Wal-Mart in Auburn and a section of railroad tracks in Mechanic Falls. Buddy Robinson, 30, of Lewiston is charged with murder in connection with the case. It was the largest organized search in Lewiston since 1995, when dozens of searchers spent days looking for a missing Lewiston High School student.



Certified scales: 241 lbs.

Warden Lt. Tom Ward, head of the Northeastern Division, is not one to brag - so we are bragging for him. He harvested this beautiful trophy buck in northern Maine.