



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, July 1, 2011

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK

As we head into the symbolic start of summer in Maine – Fourth of July weekend – we want to wish you a safe weekend, and hope you will be enjoying the many aspects of Maine's outdoors.

We ask you to use caution when out on our lakes, in our streams, in our woods and on our trails. Please take personal responsibility and especially when boating, wear your pfd's. We have been saddened to see so many preventable tragedies lately in Maine. Please "Wear It" as our slogan states.

We are very proud of "Operation Dry Water" and our Maine Warden Service partnering with this national effort to educate people on the dangers of drinking and boating.

So, go and enjoy – be safe and have a wonderful weekend!

Chandler Woodcock
Commissioner

Andrea Erskine
Deputy Commissioner

Missed an issue?

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

INFO DESK

This week the front office of the Department received and replied to 1,384 phone calls, 820 emails and 82 walk-ins

Lots of inquiries this past week about the any deer permits. Applications are available on line at

www.mefishwildlife.com

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Here is just a sampling of activities this week from the MWS – tip of the iceberg:

- The Maine Warden Service, the lead agency for search and rescues in Maine's woods and inland waters, has been called out to 116 search and rescues since April 1, putting it on track to reaching its annual average of 480.
- Despite their busy schedules in the field, game wardens fit in meetings around the state to talk with local sportsman's clubs and outdoor recreation groups. Meetings attended this past week included the Robbinston ATV Club, a multi-jurisdictional meeting on Madawaska Pond, and a MEMA-hosted Cross Border Communications Exercise in Caribou, with agencies from both sides of the border present to discuss the needs and solutions to international incidences. There also were K-9 trainings, extensive and monthly exercises that occur to be sure they are ready for any emergency and/or lifesaving situations.
- Wardens have been working with the DIF&W Engineering staff to install a permanent sign at the public shooting area in Augusta, which informs the public that the property is open for shooting activity, carry in and carry out – and violators will be prosecuted. The range was a dangerous public hazard. Thanks to the efforts of DIF&W and MWS, it is now cleaned up and a much safer shooting range.
- Keeping people safe: Warden Jim Martin reports that on a Saturday during a bad thunderstorm, he talked two adults with six boys on a canoe trip out of paddling out to an island to camp for the night. He thought it was best for them stay at the safer mainland campsite. Section 4 Wardens assisted with the rescue of two teenage boys on Flagstaff Lake who were canoeing and could not find their way home. After an all night search, the boys were located walking home after spending the night under their canoe on the shore of an island.
- As a MWS core value, game wardens spend numerous hours on outreach and education programs both on the clock and off. Warden Ryan Fitzpatrick spent his summer vacation week volunteering his time at Camp Adventure, a camp for kids with Type 1 Diabetes.

FISHERIES DIVISION

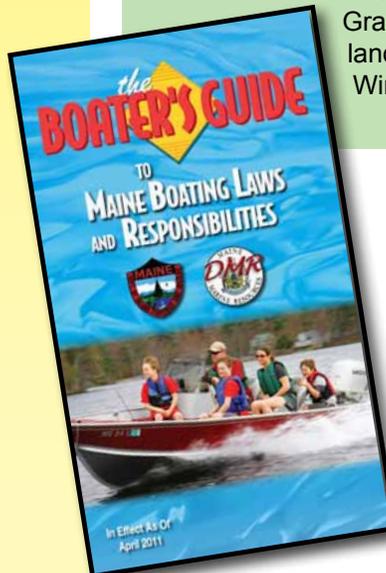
- The Department has been busy working on repairs to boat access points, roads and docks at:
 - Damariscotta Lake
 - Fahi Pond in Embden
 - Salmon Lake in Belgrade
 - Wilson Pond in Greenville
 - Little Sebago in Windham
 - Square Pond in Shapleigh
 - Schoodic Lake in Lakeview PlantationUnder design are facilities in:
 - Bog Lake in Northfield
 - Ellis Pond in Roxbury
 - St. John River – Grand Isle.Also – new boat access site at Worthley Pond in Peru and the Frenchville boat launch is now officially open (see photo on next page).
- The Department stocked Little Pond in Franklin with 227 wild brook trout averaging 4 to 9 inches from the pond's outlet in hopes of providing a size quality catch-&-release remote fly fishing-only pond. Region C biologists have done this with volunteer help of the Penobscot Fly Fishers.
- An exciting project is underway with a partnership between DIF&W, Maine Audubon and Trout Unlimited surveying 187 remote ponds for brook trout. We are looking for volunteers to sign up – please see details in this [press release](#).



MOOSE LOTTERY FACTS

With plans already being made for the 2012 Moose Lottery in Rangeley, here is some data of interest:

- The first Maine Moose Lottery took place in 1980 with 700 permits, there was no moose season in 1981, and there has been a lottery every year since 1982.
- The number of permits being issued in 2011 is 722 more than in 2010.
- Lottery applicants had a 1-in-12 chance of winning this year.
- 4,000 more non-residents applied for permits in 2011 than in 2010
- Hunters harvested 2,469 moose in 2010
- Last year's total was the second highest on record (3,000 in 1999)
- In 9 of the last 10 seasons, more than 75 percent of hunters succeeded.



WILDLIFE DIVISION

Report from Beginning with Habitat Staff (BwH) at DIF&W. Visit www.beginningwithhabitat.org

- BwH has incorporated two new datasets into the BwH map and digital data package – they can be viewed on the BwH website. One is Connectivity and one is Eastern Brook Trout.
 - Connectivity: identifies likely road crossing places for wildlife. This information is now displayed on BwH Map 3: Undeveloped Blocks and Habitat Connections.
 - Eastern Brook Trout: Data depicting Eastern brook trout habitat was added to BwH Map 1: Water Resources and Riparian Habitats and is now distributed with BwH digital data. The data was collected through Merry Gallagher's Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture survey efforts and shows surveyed streams with brook trout presence as well as heritage ponds (both A ranked ponds with no history of stocking, and B ranked ponds that haven't been stocked within the last 25 years) and ponds with some level of brook trout management, but that may not rise to the level of A or B listing.
- BwH staff attended: The Lower Penobscot Watershed Coalition Steering Committee Meeting, and the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition Land Conservation Partners meeting to deliver watershed wide habitat data and assist partnering land trusts and towns with identifying priorities for conservation efforts.
- BwH staff reviewed Comprehensive Plans for the towns of Jay and Norway and provided comments on behalf of MDIFW and MNAP.
- BwH staff provided updated habitat data and/or maps to the following towns: Atkinson, Buxton, Charleston, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gray, Gorham, North Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, and Yarmouth.

The 2011 boating law books have arrived – new look, new size, new information! Select this link to read or print [“The Boaters Guide to Maine Boating Laws and Responsibilities.”](#) The law book is available at MDIF&W and at 840 licensing and registration agents statewide.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

- **Press Release: [Maine Warden Service Provides Statewide Search and Rescue Services](#)**
- **Partnership with Tourism:** DIF&W is working with the Maine Tourism Association in publicizing the Visitors Centers in Kittery, Yarmouth, West Gardiner, South Hampden, North Hampden, Fryeburg, Calais and Houlton. Each of the Visitors Centers now have free internet wifi and hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased at each location as well.
- **Partnership between Brookfield and DIF&W: a [Public Service Announcement](#)** began airing this week, before the busy 4th of July weekend, warning people about water safety. The PSA is sponsored by Brookfield in partnership with the Maine Warden Service and DIF&W. This PSA campaign was carried out last summer and was so successful it is being repeated. Watch for the PSA on Maine television stations!
- **This week's question from the Maine Wildlife Park's educational signs:** How many wildlife/vehicle collisions occur on Maine highways each year? ANSWER: Between 2009 and 2010, the state DOT recorded 1,006 vehicle collisions with moose, 5,470 with deer and 35 with bears. Please watch out for wildlife as you drive Maine's roads!

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



The Department participated this week in the Ellsworth Walmart's Outdoor Recreation Safety Day. Helping at the Department's table were Travis Barrett of the I&E Division; Game Warden Mark Hutcheson and PJ Ciarocchi of Walmart.



Frenchville Boat Launch – ready for the boaters!



This injured hawk was handed off by Game Warden Mark Hutcheson to Eleanor and Bill Murley of Holden, volunteer transporters for Avian Haven, a bird and wildlife rescue facility, where he will be nursed back to health.