

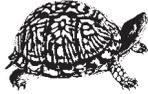


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Monthly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



October 2013

LICENSING DIVISION



John Lovetere from Hampton, NH received a Moose Permit and harvested this impressive Moose in WMD 5. 58" Spread!

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

During the month of September the Commissioner attended the Maine Trappers Association Fall Rendezvous at the Windsor Fairgrounds and also the Wilton Fish and Game Association annual field day.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner attended two Advisory Council meetings this month to move forward rulemaking proposals for wild turkey hunting, fishing regulations for 2014, and furbearer seasons, regulations and setting of traps.

INFORMATION CENTER

In September the front office of the Department received and replied to (approx):

- 4,320 Phone calls
- 2,350 Emails
- 242 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Swan Island Maine Wildlife Park

WILDLIFE DIVISION

The Crown Jewel gets a New Throne - *Written by Keel Kemper, Biologist*

Wildlife managers are frequently required to manage people in order to provide the best possible outcome for the wildlife we are trusted to conserve and protect. This reality was recently demonstrated at one of the crown jewels of our state wildlife management areas, Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Montville.

The Frye Mountain WMA which was dedicated to Gene Letourneau in 1985 is one of the largest state-owned upland wildlife management areas (5,238 acres) in Maine. It contains a diverse mixture of forest cover types and improved fields that provide good habitat for numerous wildlife species including ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, woodcock, white-tailed deer, various upland furbearers, and a variety of nongame wildlife.

The public use of the Frye Mountain is heavy especially during the hunting and snowmobile seasons. There is good reason for this as Frye Mountain is a very special place. Like many special places such heavy public use can lead to occasional problems. In this instance, the old archaic outhouse at the entrance to the WMA was listing to starboard and when Mother Nature called, people would take their chances in the woods rather than brave this historic structure. This was creating an unpleasant problem.

Region B staff identified a new privy in a recently closed MDOT rest area on Route 3 in Liberty. With the assistance of Commissioner Bernhardt of MDOT and Commissioner Woodcock of IFW, we now have this state of the art outhouse.

Mr. Clayton Larrabee of Knox agreed to take on the task of moving the outhouse and worked diligently to carefully remove the handicap accessible privy and associated 1000 gallon holding tank from it's old home in Liberty and move it up to the new location on Frye Mountain. This has provided a much needed infrastructure development for a very small cost. A large map will be attached to the side of the privy highlighting the roads, trails and topography of the management area.



MAINE WILDLIFE PARK



This past Saturday over 1,300 people showed up at the wildlife park for North Woods Law Day – meeting some of the Maine Game Warden stars of the show. Wardens were kept busy from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. signing autographs on cards and T-shirts. Season 2 starts Oct. 3 at 10:00pm on Animal Planet – don't forget to tune in!



INFORMATION & EDUCATION



Fryeburg Fair! - Sept. 29 - Oct. 6

Come see both Maine & New Hampshire's Locked Moose Displays and a new memorial for Major Gregg Sanborn.



ENGINEERING & REALTY

Bog Lake Public Boat Launch (Trailer Launch Site), Northfield, ME

Celebration - September 26, 2013

Data prepared by Leon Bucher, MDIFW 9/26/13

Land acquired from the Estate of Roger Gray 10/1/01

31.9 acres for \$80,000

- 1) Dates:
 - Received DEP NRPA Stormwater Permit: 1/13
 - PTE Specifications and Plans ready for bid process: 3/13
 - Received Town Permit: 3/13
 - Received CORPS Permit: 4/13
 - Bid opening, 5 bids received: 4/30/13
 - Pre-construction meeting with Sargent and construction underway: 5/22/13
 - Completed blacktop week of: 9/9/13

- 2) Thanks:
 - Support for this project from:
 - Advocates for this launch: Citizens of Northfield (modification of frontage requirement), Mike Carter from Northfield, and Greg Burr - MDIFW Fisheries Biologist
 - Contractors - for their work and cooperation:
 - Engineering Services: Pine Tree Engineering, Bath - Steve DeWick and Jonathan Dewick, Engineers
 - Construction: Sargent Corp., Stillwater - Jim Conley, Travis Fernald, Adam Tenan
 - Land Surveying: Plisga & Day - Adam Robertson; Construction Monitoring - CES's Christi Holmes
 - MDIFW's Ron Taylor, Engineer

This public boat launch on Bog Lake is the result of the partnership of the Town of Northfield and MDIFW; and 2 contractors: PTE and Sargent working on a challenging site - a model for improving public access to Maine's waters.



This bridge was built by the engineering division at the Lily Lake WMA in Trescott.

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION



A Busy Summer Field Season in the Rangeley Lakes Region - *Written by David Howatt, Asst. Reg. Fisheries Biologist*

It was a busy summer field season in the Rangeley Region. Fisheries staff completed survey work on 30 ponds and 36 rivers, streams, and brooks. While a few of the surveys consisted of only basic water quality, five were more extensive investigations of un-surveyed ponds, which include bathymetry and extensive fish sampling. A brief summary of these ponds is provided below:

Butler Pond, Flagstaff Twp. – 18 acres, just 3 feet deep, only finescale & redbelly dace sampled.

Grants Pond, Temple – 7 acres, 28 feet deep, only largemouth bass sampled.

Little Viles Pond, Jim Pond Twp. – 4 acres, 40 feet deep, only redbelly dace sampled.

Moores Pond, Lexington Twp. – 9 acres, 30 feet deep, only chain pickerel sampled.

Round Pond, Skowhegan – 15 acres, 19 feet deep, largemouth bass and white perch sampled.

Other exciting notes include finding better brook trout populations than were previously surveyed in Gordon Pond in Upper Enchanted Twp. and Ross Pond in Rangeley. From these two ponds, we collected respectable numbers of trout with size ranges from 7" to 16½".

Thirty-six electroshocking surveys of the small rivers, streams, and brooks at various road crossings in the towns of Grafton Twp., New Vineyard, and Starks documented the presence of brook trout in 92%, 54%, and 36% of the sampled waters, respectively. Other fish collected included rainbow and brown trout, landlocked salmon, largemouth and smallmouth bass, slimy sculpin, and eight species of minnows and suckers.

Angler creel surveys were conducted on the Rapid and lower Magalloway Rivers and at Upper Dam Pool in the Rangeley area throughout the open water fishing season. These surveys were conducted by Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners as part of their dam licensing agreements. These data will be analyzed over the next few months, but preliminary looks at the field datasheets point to what must have been a great summer of fishing.

This month, Region D staff will be conducting trapnet surveys on six lakes and ponds in Franklin and Oxford Counties (including Rangeley Lake and the Richardson Lakes) to evaluate wild and hatchery populations of various coldwater fish species. During this time we will collect data on several hundred fish to evaluate and adjust regional management strategies of these waters.



MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Monthly Report for Division E, Ashland - Submitted by Lt. Thomas Ward

In northern Maine, we had a lot of recreationists take advantage of the beautiful area waters. The late summer-early fall angling was excellent and the higher water levels seemed to be a good thing for those who went into the field with rods. Lakes, small ponds, and rivers all produced nice catches of fish.

The fifth Aroostook County Controlled Moose Hunt wrapped up after a four week season and the final tally was 31. 50 permits were given out this year in a 10 town area to target nuisance moose that annually hinder large commercial broccoli/cauliflower farmers and in "high hit" road corridors in hopes of reducing motor vehicular collisions. 20 of these tags went to disabled veterans, 18 were awarded to guides, and 12 went to landowners who own more than 80 acres in those towns who keep their land open to hunting. The program has done a good job in reducing the financial loss that the big growers were experiencing prior to the hunt. That said, we did have one major violation. The crime involved a guide who shot three moose; two were left behind, and then spoiled. Several wardens worked on this investigation and the individual who was responsible will be held accountable.

The 2013 bear hunting season is still ongoing (hounds and traps), but hunting bears over bait has concluded. The amount of rain that we had this summer has yielded much natural food such as berries, chokecherries, and apples and some of the areas to the east of the division saw a reduction in the amount of bears registered. It appeared that the higher numbers of bears harvested came from more remote, wooded regions located more to the west of Route 11.

Last week marked the first of three recreational moose hunts in this region. Hundreds of excited hunters came to this area in hopes of filling their coveted tags. We had cooler temperatures and the kill appears to be high at this point, although the final numbers are not in yet. One observation that was interesting was the heavy weights of many of the animals harvested. The rut was really just coming on and those bigger bulls had not been traveling far and they were in excellent shape. Many of them that were checked into the registration stations tipped the scales over 900 pounds. I saw or heard about five bulls coming in to both Ashland and Fort Kent that exceeded 1000 pounds! While it was generally a clean hunt, wardens in the field were very busy and dealt with several enforcement issues including possession of a firearm by felons, loaded guns in motor vehicles, moose killed in the wrong zone, and a few more violations. Several investigations are still pending and I know of at least one cow that was shot and left to rot.



We are encouraged up here at the number of deer sightings being reported. I suspect this may be a good year to take a buck in this region largely due to the milder winters we've had in the past couple of years and I predict we'll see some bigger deer as well. It's too early to say, but grouse numbers may be down as the wet, damp conditions we had around the time the chicks were hatching may have influenced their survival. Foliage is still heavy here and it's tough to spot the birds unless they get out onto the woods roads.

Lastly, we've had some personnel changes in Division E and Wardens Chris Roy and Evan Ackley have settled in to their areas within the division. Warden Ethan Buuck has taken a transfer and will soon be reporting for duty in the Skowhegan district.

