



Monthly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



September, 2014

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Dams Receive Upgrade - Written by John Pratte

Many of our wildlife management areas have dams creating freshwater marshes supporting wildlife ranging from birds, mammals and fish, to invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles that depend on wetlands at some point in their lifecycle. The primary objective is to maintain small wetlands for waterfowl and wading bird nesting, resting, brood rearing, and sanctuary.

Hunting pressure in the Merrymeeting Bay area is frequently heavy. Large numbers of ducks, primarily black duck, mallards, blue and green-winged teal, wood ducks and Canada geese seek these small marshes for sanctuary. This in turn tends to hold waterfowl in the bay area longer and provide additional hunting opportunity.

Three of the eight earthen dams on Swan Island have deteriorated from rusted-out culverts, storm damage, muskrat damage and old age. These were likely built in the 1950's providing many decades of waterfowl habitat. This upgrade consisted of larger culverts to handle today's increased storm frequency and severity; repairs to the dam structure and armoring of the emergency outflow.

In conjunction with the dam repair we have resumed seeding a couple acres of the adjacent field, modified our field mowing, and will be adding a couple duck boxes to further enhance the area for waterfowl.

The photo shows the lower dam with two smaller flowages above it.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

From the Commissioner's Office...

- Public hearings continued in August and the Commissioner conducted two hearings for proposed changes to Maine's Endangered and Threatened species listing. The Department will be presenting changes to the list to the IF&W Legislative Committee when they reconvene for the 127th session.
- The Commissioner also conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed migratory bird hunting season.
- The Commissioner's Advisory Council met and gave their consent to adopt several new rules: the 2014-2015 Migratory Bird seasons; addition of WMDs 10, 11 and 19 to fall turkey hunting; set any-deer permit allocations; set the 2015-2016 crow season dates and made changes to the Commercial Whitewater rating rules.
- Commissioner Woodcock attended the 2014 Oquossoc Days at the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum to kick off the Maine Warden Service premiere of a brand new exhibit. The "Final Charge" was also on display along with the Operation Game Thief exhibit trailer.
- The Commissioner also attended the Advanced Warden Academy graduation ceremony at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.
- Both the Commissioner and Deputy were present at the annual employee recognition festivities held at the Eddington Salmon Club and Lake St. George State Park. Awards were distributed, a BBQ was served, and the Commissioner's ended the event at Lake St. George by meeting an ALS ice bucket challenge! (pictures on page 4)

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 4,306 Phone calls
- 1,546 Emails
- 292 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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



Like us on Facebook!

Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Swan Island

Maine Wildlife Park

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Division D: Game Warden Jeremy Kemp was called out recently to try and locate a group of four missing canoeists. They had departed a boat launch with insufficient time to complete their intended journey. They learned that low water levels in late summer meant lots of dragging and carrying and ended up spending the night in the woods. Game Warden Kemp and Sgt. Glenn Annis searched throughout the night by watercraft and truck. The abandoned canoe was located by Pilot Jeff Spencer the following morning and the canoeists were located a short time after by the Game Warden search party on the ground; they were found in good condition.



Division A: Sergeant Tim Spahr responded to a call of a motor vehicle operating illegally on an ATV trail. When he arrived he discovered that the vehicle had broken through an ATV bridge. Fortunately there were no serious injuries; Sergeant Spahr addressed the violation with the vehicle operator.

On July 25 at Sunday River Resort, Maine's newest game wardens and their cadre staff from this year's Advanced Warden Academy WON this year's event! Congratulations guys and an outstanding example of teamwork and physical fitness. Game wardens pictured left to right front row: Kyle Hladik, Cody Lounder, Joseph Bailey, Cadre David Ross (back row L to R) Captain Shon Theriault, Kris MacCabe, Joshua Beal, Jeff Beach, Joshua Polland, and Chad Robertson.



MAINE WILDLIFE PARK



The Maine Wildlife Park held its annual appreciation picnic last week to thank our well over 100 volunteers for their service, commitment and expertise. Admissions gatekeepers are entirely volunteer, all park gardens are maintained by volunteers, and many more folks help with the snack shack, nature store, as grounds keepers, carpenters, jack-of-all-trades, clean-up crews, car parkers, wildlife transporters and more; all assisting in daily operations and big events at the facility.



Summer Fishing!



Warden Reggie Hammond caught this 12 pound Salmon while flyfishing.



What do you think the Director of I&E at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife does on her lunch break? Flyfishing, of course!



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

In late summer, regional fisheries staff participated in small boat emergency procedure training. The course was provided by Joe Mokry at Ocean Rescue Systems International. The course covered ditching, sinking, fire, and survival for open water and ice conditions. A field component focused on rescuing people from the water, righting a flipped boat and a sunken canoe. Additionally, new equipment and survival gear were evaluated for field staff.



RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION



Lots of Options to Get the Lead Out!

As part of the Fish Lead-Free initiative that we are partnering on with Maine Audubon, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Maine B.A.S.S. Nation, Maine Lakes Society, and the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, MDIFW now has lead tackle collection bins at each of our 7 regional offices, as well as our Augusta and Bangor offices. These 9 locations are in addition to 8 transfer stations with bins. Visit fishleadfree.org to find the bin closest to you and get the lead out of YOUR tackle box today!

Did You Know?...

Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death for adult Common Loons in Maine.

One-third of adult loons collected over the last twenty-five years died from lead poisoning, a direct result of the ingestion of lost or discarded lead sinkers and lead-headed jigs. Lead is highly toxic and loons will die within two to three weeks after they ingest just one small lead object.

Maine has a new Fish Lead-Free Law.

Maine has banned the use and sale of lead sinkers 1 ounce or less. The sale of bare lead-headed jigs 2 1/2" long or less will be banned in September 2016, followed by a ban on use in September 2017.

There are dozens of lead-free tackle products on the market.

Now's the time to switch to lead-free fishing gear made from bismuth, tungsten, steel and other non-toxic materials. Look for them at your favorite tackle shop or online retailer, or find a location listed on fishleadfree.org.

We can help you host your own tackle exchange event.

Exchanges may be a one-time event or may be on-going. We supply a kit with informational brochures, an inventory of lead-free sinkers and jigs, and a collection container for lead tackle.

Fish Lead-Free is funded by the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund through 2015.

There is still plenty of time for you to participate!



Find out more at fishleadfree.org.

STAFF CHANGES



We're pleased to announce that Brittany Humphrey has joined the I&E Division as our Outreach and Education Coordinator.

Brittany is a graduate of the University of Maine at Presque Isle and holds a BA in Business Management and Management Information Systems. A lifelong resident of Maine, growing up and residing in New Gloucester, Brittany is an avid outdoors woman and enjoys hunting, fishing, kayaking and snowshoeing.

During the past year she has been travelling throughout Maine as Miss Maine Sportsman promoting hunting and fishing and attending youth field days, archery clinics and events at locations such as the Maine Wildlife Park and Cabela's. Brittany has received a legislative sentiment and has been featured in a number of radio interviews, Bill Green's Maine, Bill Green's Outdoors, The Maine Sportsman Magazine, Sportsman Alliance of Maine newsletter, Maine Bowhunters Association newsletter and Maine Women magazine. She is also sponsored by Howell's Gun & Archery Center and Cabela's and is a pro-staffer for Johnson Outdoors/Old Town Canoe & Kayak as well as Jack Traps Ice Fishing Outfitters.

Brittany will be responsible for the coordination of IFW's youth and family outdoor programming and will be managing the Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program, Hooked on Fishing Program and Family Field Days as well as working to develop new programming and outreach efforts.

Brittany's outgoing personality and passion for the Maine outdoors along with her strong communication and networking skills make her an excellent and welcomed addition to the I&E team.

Employee Recognition!

In late August we held two events at different regions in Maine in hopes that all employees, from north to south, could join us. Commissioner Chandler Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Andrea Erskine presented Employee of the Year plaques, along with the Ken Anderson Award, the Teamwork Award and the Service to the Public Award. Employees were presented with their longevity gifts, and everyone walked away with a water bottle with the MDIFW logo. The Maine Warden Service brought their grill and Lt. Adam Gormely cooked up a delicious BBQ for the staff! In addition, the Commissioner and Deputy had been nominated to do the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, so on Friday, they accepted the challenge.

