



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Monthly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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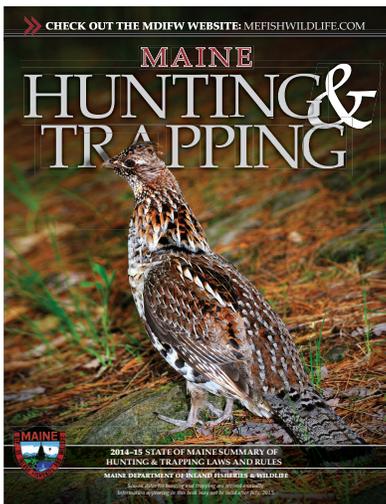
August, 2014

<p>Maine Hunting & Fishing Map</p> <p>mefishwildlife.com</p>	<p>Maine Bear Hunting</p> <p>mefishwildlife.com</p>	<p>Maine Deer Hunting</p> <p>mefishwildlife.com</p>	<p>Maine Predator Hunting</p> <p>mefishwildlife.com</p>	<p>Maine Turkey Hunting</p> <p>mefishwildlife.com</p>	<p>Maine Upland Game Hunting</p> <p>mefishwildlife.com</p>	<p>Maine Waterfowl Hunting</p> <p>mefishwildlife.com</p>
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The Information and Education Division, in partnership with the Maine Professional Guides Association, developed a new series of hunting brochures designed to complement the Maine Hunting and Fishing Map. The brochures feature a variety of hunts within Maine, and showcase the opportunities that distinguish Maine from other northeast states. They will primarily be distributed at sportsman shows, but are available for other events and opportunities as well. If you would like some for your region, please contact us.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner's office was on the road this month conducting public hearings for recommended changes to the 2015 fishing regulations booklet. Public hearings were held in Fort Kent, Greenville, Princeton and Auburn. Although lightly attended, many good comments were made at the hearings, and the Department received feedback on the proposals. Comments are being accepted on these proposals until August 4th.



The 2014-2015 Lawbook will be here by mid-August! Get your copy at any of our license agents, or view online. New laws, new articles, and important bear referendum information are all available in this issue.

The Maine Migratory Waterfowl Schedule will be available in mid-September.

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 4,143 Phone calls
- 1,361 Emails
- 265 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Swan Island Maine Wildlife Park

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION



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Moose Survival Project: Cow-Calf Summary - *Written by Lee Kantar, Wildlife Biologist*

Beginning this past May, IFW biologists Matt O'Neill, Alexej Siren and Scott McLellan began monitoring the status and fate of 20 radio-collared adult female moose and their pregnancies.

An integral part of IFW's moose survival project includes examining birth rates and survival of moose calves. Current knowledge of young moose calf survival suggests that there are losses of 50% or more due to factors such as bear predation and malnutrition.

Due to concerns over the impact of radio-collaring recently-born moose calves, IFW worked with moose researchers from Minnesota and researched work done in Ontario and Scandinavia to develop an alternative. As a result, IFW adopted a non-invasive monitoring approach based on research done by Dr. Pete Pekins at the University of New Hampshire. It is based on monitoring GPS locations and movements of adult cows.

Researchers document "long range" movements of pregnant cows to calving areas as well as clusters of GPS locations where the cow has potentially given birth. By pinpointing these locations, biologists can stalk the cow using traditional VHF radio telemetry and determine whether the cow has a calf with her or not. Biologists "walk-in" several times a week until a calf is documented with the cow or it is determined that no calf was born.

After a calf is documented, these walk-ins are reduced to 1 per week until a calf dies or the probability of a calf's death is greatly reduced. Recently born moose calves are most vulnerable during their first month of life. After 12 weeks, a calf's chances of survival increase significantly, at least until their first winter.

In addition to documenting a cow moose with a young calf, when these female moose were captured this past winter, a blood sample was taken and tested to see if the cows were pregnant. The tests determined with high probability that 18 of 20 cows were likely pregnant (90%).

The biologist's walk-in surveys determined that 11 of 20 cows calved (55%). Currently only 1 calf was found dead (within the 1st week of life). This provides us currently with a calf survival rate of 91%.

The 91% calf survival rate is very good news, as it is much higher than expected, however, there is quite a discrepancy between the pregnancy blood tests and the birth rate our biologists documented in the field.

One area we must look into more is why the seven cows that were determined to be pregnant did not appear to have calves. Possible reasons for us not seeing a calf with the cow could include that the pregnancy tests were inaccurate; that the calves may have been born but died within the 1st week and were not detected by walk-ins; or that the cows were pregnant but miscarried.

IFW biologists are learning a tremendous amount about moose movements, behavior and calving. In the first 6 months of the survival project we have gained tremendous insight in these areas as well as insights into our winter fatalities.

The GPS collars are working very well to provide "real time" data and allow biologists to not only quantify and assess moose population dynamics but get a glimpse into the life of these amazing and iconic animals.

This work was made possible with the financial support of the Moose Research and Management Fund and Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid.

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Meduxnekeag River Habitat Enhancement - *Written by Frank Frost*

The Meduxnekeag is a well-known waterway that runs through the Towns of Houlton and Littleton in Southeastern Aroostook County, and this month, the river is getting some new in-stream habitat. The large project promises to improve coldwater fish habitat significantly over a long stretch of river. Since the early 1990s, there have been special fishery regulations designed to improve brook and brown trout fishing on the river. The results were dramatic, with improved catch rates of both wild brook and brown trout. The Meduxnekeag is especially popular with anglers who like to

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

fly fish, as there are numerous pools and runs that hold trout well into summer and again in September.

Like many rivers, brooks, and streams throughout Maine, the Meduxnekeag has been severely impacted by human activity, and the fish habitat has been degraded significantly. Dams, land clearing, stream “cleaning” (removal of large wood pieces), and log driving (including bulldozing channels) have all had impacts on the Meduxnekeag. The over-widened, very shallow water lacks fish habitat in the form of pools, and in-stream wood cover is evident, particularly in the last eight miles before the river enters Canada.

Nearly 9,000 feet of river is being enhanced. The restoration begins at the Lowery Bridge and continues down to the Covered Bridge. This section is receiving boulders and boulder/log clusters in an attempt to improve in-stream habitat for brook trout, brown trout and Atlantic salmon. The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is overseeing the work, and it is funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Additional funding was provided by the Eastern Brook Trout Venture. John Field, a fluvial geomorphologist from Farmington, provided the design work, and is on-site directing the contractor on actual placement of structures. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will be providing follow-up survey work on fish populations and the sport fishery to determine the long-term effects. Work is slated to finish by August 1.



STAFF CHANGES

On behalf of the Commissioner’s Office, we are pleased to inform you that Emily MacCabe has been promoted within the Division of Public Information and Education and will be serving as the Department’s Media and Graphics Supervisor, managing the Department’s social media sites, promotional merchandise program, trade shows and other special event planning, as well as developing and implementing design standards of the Department’s website, print materials and display/presentation materials.

Emily has been a Public Relations Representative within the I&E Division since November of 2004. Working to provide opportunities for Maine’s youth, women and families to gain experience in the outdoors, Emily has served as the coordinator for the Hooked on Fishing program, Becoming an Outdoors Woman program, the National Archery in the Schools program and has worked closely with partnering organizations to hold youth field days throughout Maine. In addition to her efforts in educational programming, Emily has also managed the Department’s social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and blogs), the merchandise program as well as IFW’s participation in sportsman shows for the past five years.

We will be seeking a new Outreach Coordinator (expanding beyond the youth Hooked on Fishing and the Becoming an Outdoors Woman programs, to reach adults and families) who will be responsible for developing, implementing and overseeing public programs and events related to hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

We look forward to working with Emily in her new capacity and know that she will do an outstanding job. Congratulations Emily!

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



Evan Franklin from Division A was very busy fielding and responding to nuisance and sick wildlife calls as well as boating and ATV complaints.

He participated in the Operation Dry Water details where he encountered several violations and OUI case. During the detail Warden Franklin and Warden Mike Pierre observed a submerged canoe with three people in the water in the middle of Jordan Bay on Sebago. The group was rescued from the water.



< Recently the warden class completed boating enforcement training while staying at the Naples Camp. The new wardens learned about the different boats and equipment used on Maine waters. Techniques practiced were docking, boarding boats, and pursuits.

> Warden Scott Stevens received a call from State Trooper Bond during a traffic stop. The stop had revealed several brook trout, in fact he had 18, 5 of them short, with 13 trout over the limit. Warden Stevens summonsed the driver for the violations. A fine opportunity of interagency teamwork.



WILDLIFE DIVISION

Herbicide as a Tool - Written by Kendall Marden

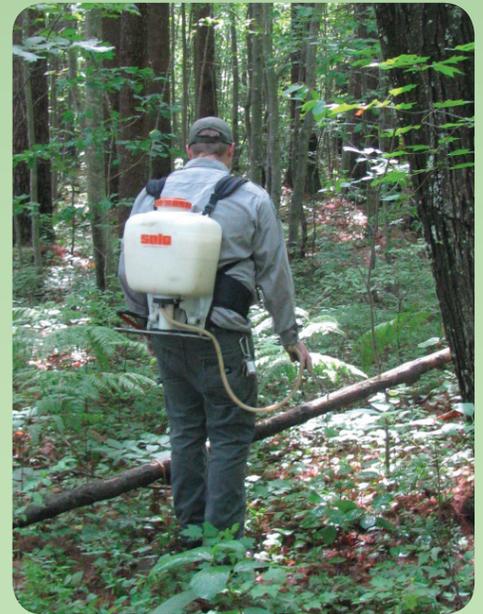
Mention “pesticides” or “fire” and most people cringe at a nondescript thought filled with negative connotations. However mention cabbage worms camouflaged in your broccoli and expect retorts of “Yuck, I wouldn’t eat it!”. Explain how a bird is endangered because of lack of habitat and many would say “Oh my! Something should be done.” What is the connection? Both pesticides and prescribed fire are important tools for agriculture and wildlife habitat management. They are widely used on a daily basis across the world. Almost all of the vegetables you eat have been treated with insecticides and herbicides (yes even most organic ones, they just use pesticides derived from natural sources). Fire has been used to help shape agriculture and produce some of the vegetables and fruits you eat. Sometimes both tools are employed for a certain crop such as blueberries. Pesticides and fire, when used appropriately, have unique advantages for maintaining or influencing wildlife habitat. Whether it’s using a chainsaw or applying pesticides, one must be educated, safe, and qualified.

MDIFW integrates many different approaches in habitat management. These include timber harvesting, prescribed burning, planting, and herbicides. Having a proverbial toolbox full of choices enables more effective habitat management. We view every habitat management project as a “long-term integrated vegetation management plan”. Simply put, we have a long term goal of how to maintain or change a habitat to meet specific needs of a species or group of species. Knowing the desired outcome allows us to weigh benefits and drawbacks of various tools or “treatments” and choose the most desirable methods. Many times different tools are used over time to achieve the results. Using recent efforts on Swan Island Wildlife Management Areas highlights this multi-pronged approach.

Swan Island WMA includes approximately 230 acres of fields. The primary goal of these fields is to add habitat diversity to the island as a whole and to manage for grassland bird species and butterflies. Over time, the fields have been mowed on a rotation to prevent forest succession (growing trees). While this has been somewhat effective, it has not done a perfect job. Using selective and well-timed herbicide has been effective in enhancing the mechanical effects of mowing.

Several invasive species exist on the Island. Two of which, multiflora rose and autumn olive, actually survive and sometimes thrive when mowed. Invasive plants are a problem across the island, but in a few particular fields they were forming dense shrubby areas making continued mowing difficult and changing the fields. Over the last few years we have applied selective herbicide to individual invasive plants to regain control of the fields. We plan on continuing the work this summer. Also in some of these fields, native white pine regeneration has become quite prolific. Buildup of thatch and density of vegetation have changed insect and small mammal populations, in turn affecting grassland bird nesting success. Prescribed fire would do a better job at removing encroaching seedlings and reducing grass, therefore making the fields more suitable to a wider variety of grassland birds.

Pesticides are a valuable tool, but only one of many. Building a house takes more than just a hammer!



THE MAINE WAY – MDIFW Fish and game cookbook is again available – updated and revised!

Just in time for the fall hunting season, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has reprinted the popular cookbook ‘The Maine Way’ – a collection of Maine Fish and Game Recipes.

The cookbook was originally authored in 1978 by Judy Marsh and Carole Dyer, wives of game wardens John Marsh and Russ Dyer, and illustrated by game warden John Ford. The cookbook features dozens of game recipes for big and small game, upland birds and waterfowl, fish and ‘other aquatic delicacies’ that were collected from Maine folks statewide. New to this edition are moose recipes, which were once again collected by Judy and Carole, and added to this edition of the book (moose hunting was not legal at the time of the original publication).

The Maine Way fish and game cookbook is available via the MDIFW Online Store, in the lobby of the Augusta MDIFW headquarters building, at the Maine Wildlife Park Nature Store in Gray, and will be available at upcoming sportsman shows where the Department has a booth.

At just \$9.95, it makes a great gift for home or camp!

Information & Education sent out an e-mail blast via GovDelivery about the cookbook to 155,000 IF&W e-mail subscribers. Within minutes we started receiving orders through the online store, and in the first 24 hours we’ve received over 200 orders for it. Get your copy soon!

