



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, July 29, 2011

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK

- Commissioners Schedule:
 - Commissioner Woodcock had two media interviews this week, one with Associated Press reporter Glenn Adams and one at the studios of WCSH Channel 6 in Portland.
 - He is speaking today (Friday, July 29) at the noon luncheon of the Scarborough Kiwanis.
 - This coming week the Commissioner will visit the YMCA Camp in Winthrop and attend a meeting of the Baxter Park Authority.

****Deer Progress Report:** Department Wildlife Biologist Sandy Ritchie has posted a [Progress Report](#), including information on deer wintering area aerial surveys and new laws effecting deer hunting and our deer population, on our website.

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,102 Phone calls
- 492 Emails
- 70 Walk-ins

Missed an issue?

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

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

It has been a very busy week for the Maine Warden Service, the Warden Service Dive Team, the K-9 units and the Investigation Division. Among many calls included:

- Bridgewater - ATV accident where the driver, late at night, ran into a tree that had fallen onto the trail at head height due to a storm; severe head trauma,
- Boothbay – search and rescue of a person lost in the woods after chasing after her dog and becoming disoriented,
- Range Pond in Poland – man in distress in the water due to heart attack.
- Andover – an exhaustive five day search for two missing swimmers in Lower Richardson Lake in Oxford County; a search and recovery by the Maine Warden Service Dive Team on the 5th day; deaths ruled accidental drowning.
- Rockwood – recovery of remains of man missing since last November after going out in his kayak on Moosehead Lake.
- Westfield – Search and rescue of an older gentleman with dementia who had wandered away from his retirement facility.
- Lagrange – ATV accident involving two ATVs and three minors at a railroad crossing; two minor females seriously injured.

FISHERIES DIVISION

The Department enjoys getting data and stories from our own fisheries personnel, as well as from our “customers” – this week we heard from Kittery Trading Post.

Our phone rang – it was Greg Cutting, at Jordan’s Store in East Sebago. “You won’t believe what we’re looking at right now,” Greg laughed. “It’s a huge salmon, the biggest one we’ve seen in some time. It was just brought in here by Bill Manson who fishes out here a lot. The salmon is 27 inches long and weighs an incredible 8.86 pounds!

Greg handed us the phone to interview this very skilled salmon fisherman. “Over the years we’ve had some nice salmon, in fact four over six pounds but this one beats the heck out of them all. We were fishing with a downrigger and knew this was a big fish and didn’t think it was a togue because we weren’t fishing that deep. We cleared the downrigger cable and anything that could get in the way of landing this fish but didn’t know what it was until it took its one and only jump right behind the boat. Then my heart jumped into my throat. But the big fish had tired itself out and came in pretty easy after the jump. The warmth of the surface water probably caused a lot of stress. Luckily we had a huge net in the boat and scooped it up and we had our trophy where we wanted it!”

The fish took an old middle-sized Apex Trout Killer lure that had worked well in the past. We congratulate Bill for the catch of a lifetime and thank him for the interview!

WILDLIFE DIVISION

****Improvements made in Maine’s law and regulation books**

Many people have commented on the improvements made this year with the **Boater’s Guide**. Coming out soon will be an improved Hunting and Trapping Law Book. The Department will provide an on-line version and a new magazine-style hard copy version, both with detailed indexes so readers can more easily find the laws and regulations they are looking for.

The Hunting and Trapping Law Book will include new features such as vendor advertisements, articles about Maine’s fish and wildlife resources and a more ready-friendly format. Working with a company that designs and publishes outdoor recreation books for other New England states, Maine is able to finally streamline the design, writing, formatting, printing, bundling and distribution of all the law books.

****Educational Loon Kits Now Available**

Maine Audubon has assembled a new Loon Kit with funding from the **Maine Outdoor Heritage Grant Fund**. The kit is available for free loan for school teachers, lake associations, summer camps, scout groups and others who would like to teach children about loons. The kit includes an actual loon study skin, real loon egg, skull, wing and bones; along with a CD of loon calls and a variety of books, posters and publications about loons.

There is also a loon curriculum aimed at grades 3-6, with background information, discussion questions and classroom activities. The curriculum may be downloaded for free from: **Common Loons in the Classroom**.

To reserve a Loon Kit from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, please contact Lisa Kane at Lisa.Kane@maine.gov. The kit must be picked up from and returned to the Augusta office. Generally, kits are loaned for a week at a time.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Supersport!

The Department is enhancing our Supersport program; visit our new **Supersport Page** on the website. You will see all the businesses in Maine which offer discounts on products and services if you are a Supersport! The Supersport Program works to ensure recreational access to Maine’s outdoors. Money generated by the sale of Supersport designations goes directly to support the Landowner Relations Program of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Anyone may purchase a Supersport designation for \$20.00: residents, nonresidents, hunters, anglers, trappers, hikers, kayakers, canoeists, nature watchers, bicyclists and guides can all become a Supersport.

Maine Wildlife Park!

Thanks to generous funding from Brookfield Renewable Power, the **Maine Wildlife Park** will again be featured on Fox 23’s “Your Hometown” production. This year’s segment incorporates a summer recreation safety message from the Maine Warden Service and will be featured on Fox throughout the summer and early fall.

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



< Hanging out with his friends - this moose wandered this past week into downtown Bucksport, between U.S. Route 1 and Penobscot Bay. He was approached with caution, immobilized and released in the Great Pond Mountain Land Trust in Orland. He posed before being transported with (from left) Wildlife Biologists Lee Kantar and Randy Cross, and Wardens Mark Hutcheson and Brian Tripp.



^ Maine gained national attention this month with the discovery on the Department's Swan Island of 4 eaglets in one nest – a rarity. This photo is courtesy of Joe Bailey. [Click here](#) to read the story of the 4 eaglets.

^ The Maine Wildlife Park has 30,000 placemats ready to be enjoyed by the patrons of Cole Farms in Gray. Lisa Kane designed the kids' section of the placemat. Cole Farms continues to be a very important supporter of the Maine Wildlife Park.

The Maine Warden Service's Dive Team Trailer, seen here at Lower Richardson Lake, is used as a base of operations for the Dive Team when they are activated. The trailer was in Andover in Oxford County during the search and recovery of the two missing swimmers this past week.



Do You Know?

Fact of the Week, from the Educational Signs at the Maine Wildlife Park:

Question: What 6 fish species are raised and released in waters statewide by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Hatchery Division?

Answer: Brook trout; Brown trout; Rainbow trout; Lake trout; Splake; Land-locked salmon