



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, September 7, 2012

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Scientific Collection Permits - *Written by Shawn Haskell, Ph.D.; Research and Assessment Supervisor*

To help fulfill its mission of long-term fish and wildlife conservation and wise use of these natural resources, the Department maintains and implements a long list of permits for the taking, possession, transport, and propagation, etc., of the State's fish and wildlife resources. A comprehensive list is kept on the Department's website, and most of these permits are issued through the Augusta office or by various agents of the Commissioner.

MDIFW's Research and Assessment Section (RAS) handles one permit in particular, and that is the Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) that authorizes the applicant(s) to hunt, trap, possess, band, or transport wildlife for scientific purposes – whether a sample is found dead or alive. The scope of this permit is extended to cover educational purposes as well, but applicants for educational purposes should represent an established organization such as a school, museum, or other institution of learning. Some species such as migratory birds are also covered by federal jurisdiction (e.g., Migratory Bird Treaty Act), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service often wants to see a State permit before issuing a Federal permit for handling of such species. Securing an SCP comes with the obligation of an annual report of activities.

When an application for an SCP is submitted to the RAS in Bangor, each one is reviewed by a species specialist. Taking or harassing of wildlife for research or educational purposes should be a meaningful activity, and the species specialists provide the initial scrutiny of proposed activities and methods. An SCP application for a research project that has already secured funding should include the written proposal that was used to secure the funding, and we may require even more detailed information. One benefit of this process is that the RAS biologists become aware of the various efforts to study wildlife around the state, and this can lead to cooperative efforts and efficiencies among state and federal biologists and others in the private sector.

The SCP should not be confused with a Wildlife Possession Permit that can be issued for a small fee to allow a person to possess an animal that is not on the official "unrestricted list" that is maintained [here](#).

WILDLIFE DIVISION

The Maine Deer Habitat Partnership continues working with landowners to educate and manage important deer wintering habitat. This week IFW staff and the two resource professionals, Steve Young and Dave Irving, met to evaluate progress thus far and ensure that the remaining four months of the project meet or exceed expectations.

These two professionals' knowledge and creative thinking have been a great asset to the Department and to landowners. The partnerships they create and management plans they develop and implement for landowners will have lasting benefits for deer. They will also develop simple and effective outreach materials for landowners and foresters on easy and beneficial things they can do to benefit deer; even highlighting cost sharing opportunities to increase the range of work and effectiveness. We look forward to the next four months and the lasting impacts of the program beyond.

- Submitted by John Pratte, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Governor Paul LePage got a chance to tour IFW's Augusta headquarters on Wednesday. The Governor took the opportunity to shake hands with most everyone in the building, but apparently got a big kick out of visiting with the Resource Management Director, John Boland!



INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,125 Phone calls
- 178 Emails
- 73 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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Maine Sporting Heritage 1870-1970

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

- Wednesday I received a call from a local guide that he had had quite an accident the previous night. It seems he had placed a 17 year old male hunter out on a stand for the evening hunt. He was going to pick him up on the backside of a field. The field had not yet been mowed for the year and the grass was 3 or 4 feet tall. The guide said he was looking for the hunter on the wood line and the truck ran over something. The hunter had decided to lay down in the road and his plan was to stand up when he heard the guide coming. The problem was that he fell asleep and was dressed in brown camo. The guide did not see him and ran over his legs below his knees. He did not break his legs, but was taken to the hospital to get checked out. After a CAT scan it was determined that the young hunter has a cracked vertebrae and required surgery. The surgery was successful and a valuable lesson learned by all.
- Warden Paul Farrington was called out around 0430 on Saturday morning to assist the Sheriff's Office with an OUI related car crash with one person unaccounted for. He worked the scene but decided not to deploy his K9 in the dark due to the Fire Department grid searching the woods. Investigation by cell phone records showed the missing man's phone to be in Danforth about 30 miles away. Personnel at the scene were convinced that he had either not been there to begin with or had jumped a ride and fled the scene. Around 0630, when most of the personnel had cleared the scene, Paul decided to take his K9 on a short lead into the woods to rule it out since the man had not turned up yet and his family had not heard from him. Paul searched an area about 200 yards from the scene and got to an old camp that the FD said they had searched around. On the back side of the camp, Paul noticed a definite change in the behavior of his K9 and saw his head come up and start to breathe deep as he pulled him towards a brush pile. As they neared the brush, Paul could see where the grass had been matted down, they went through that and as they got closer he heard a faint, "Help me." It was the missing man and he needed medical attention. He was Life Flighted from the area to a Bangor hospital.
- Sergeant Spahr received a call from State Police dispatch of a subject who killed a deer with a bow at 2:30 AM. The subject stated that he saw a deer with a broken leg and killed it so coyotes would not get it. Later that morning Warden LaFlamme, Corporal Joy, canine handler Dave Chabot, and Sergeant Spahr responded to the scene. Warden LaFlamme quickly noticed that the deer leg was broken after it died. A subsequent interview by Corporal Joy evoked a confession from the subject who admitted to killing the deer, over a bait pile in his back yard. He then broke the deer's leg to fabricate a story. The subject was charged with night hunting.



MAINE WILDLIFE PARK



Carole Turner and MacNeil Brown get a guided tour of the Maine Wildlife Park from Friends President Ray Clark. MacNeil Brown's father was the first superintendent of the park, and has provided us with a scrapbook put together by his mother. MacNeil Senior was Game Farm Superintendent from 1933 till 1943. They are from New York.

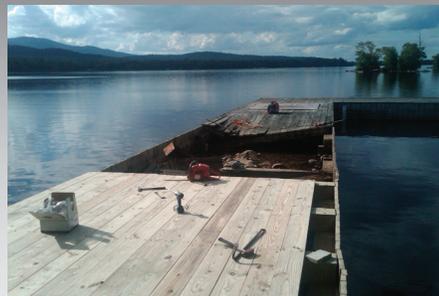


The game farm of the 40's functioned much like the wildlife park of today.

ENGINEERING & REALTY



Before



During



After

The engineering division has completed repairs to the Greenville Headquarters boat dock. Repairs were completed just prior to the International Fly-in held at the Headquarters Sept. 7 - 9.

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Moosehead Lake Region Fishing Report - *Written by Tim Obrey, Regional Fishery Biologist, Moosehead Lake Region*

The East Outlet of the Kennebec River is a large river with excellent habitat for adult salmon. It is also very good habitat for salmon parr. However, adult salmon need gravel areas for spawning, and very young salmon also utilize this type of habitat during their first year in the stream environment. Early habitat surveys in the East Outlet noted the lack of suitable spawning habitat. The river is primarily rock and boulder runs and riffles for the entire 2.8 mile section with gravel areas representing less than 1% of the habitat. Flows in the main stem of the river are often too high for young salmon as well. These limiting conditions are reflected in the catch of young wild salmon in the East Outlet fishway trapping during the 1970's through the mid 1990's. In that period, the average number of wild salmon less than 12 inches moving upstream from the river into the lake each summer was 325 fish. A river this size could produce thousands of young salmon each year.

In 1998, IFW staff and Kennebec Water Power Inc (operators of the dam on the East Outlet) constructed two side channels in the East Outlet for the purpose of increasing salmon natural reproduction. These channels are off the main stem of the river so flows are lower and more suitable for young fish. The first channel, which is located immediately downstream of the Beach Pool, provides excellent spawning habitat. Another side channel, located about 2 miles downstream of the Route 15 Bridge, provides very good habitat for salmon fry.

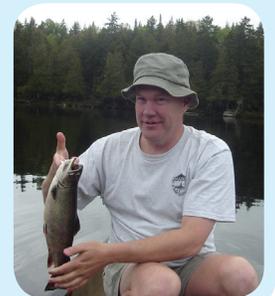
We have continued to trap the fishway periodically since the habitat improvement project in the East Outlet. Wild salmon production has jumped to an average of nearly 900 young salmon each year. This year we also had a very good catch of salmon over 12 inches, with approximately 200 wild fish over 17 inches and these adult fish were in remarkable shape. It should be a very good fall fishing season on the river.



This spring we noted that the lower side channel had a considerable amount of rocky material built up at the entrance that was limiting flows during dry periods. This August we electrofished the lower side channel with help from NextEra Energy biologists and we found good numbers of young salmon in the section. NextEra Energy recently conducted some maintenance work on the side channel in September to make sure it remains functional. We want to thank Mike Moon, NextEra Energy's operator at the East Outlet Dam, and our summer assistant Kody Favreau for all their help with the fishway this summer.

Personnel News

Please welcome Dave Howatt as the new Assistant Regional Biologist for the Rangeley Lakes Region. I'm very pleased to officially announce this well-deserved promotion! Dave brings tremendous experience to this important Region, with over 25 years as a contract seasonal, Conservation Aide, Fishery Technician, and Biology Specialist, not to mention having grown up in the area and continuing to spend much of his free time fishing, hunting, hiking, and birding there. His field skills are exemplary, and he exhibits great ability with database management, public relations, and fish scale interpretations. He'll hit the ground running in his new position, and I look forward to watching his professional growth. Please join me in congratulating Dave on his promotion, and let's all offer him our support in getting adjusted to his new responsibilities.



The Lobby at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Headquarters in Augusta, Maine works with local artists to display their work for a few months at a time. This changing display not only makes our lobby look great, but also offers a venue for artist to have their work seen by the public!

The artwork on display until the end of October is provided by Sue Shane of Falmouth, Maine. Sue seeks out opportunities to observe and study nature's wonders up close - whether banding raptors or caring for injured animals at a wildlife rescue center. The more she is able to add the images, colors, and shapes of birds up close, to the knowledge she already has of birds perched, or in the air, the more depth her art has.

When she began to paint, another level of 'seeing' emerged. She was compelled to study more and more in order to be able to paint the details of the feathers, the shape of the beak, and thus, in the act of drawing and painting, she cemented more of that knowledge - continuing the cycle.

The result of these processes and knowledge she hopes to share through her art. Sue creates, through her paintings, an opportunity for others to learn and understand.

She produces both her own prints and greeting cards using fine art paper and archival inks. Being able to do all of the work herself, from original to print to card, gives her great flexibility and artistic latitude. Sue is more than willing to discuss any of this work or other work in the future. Check out her website [here](#).

