

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Monthly Highlights

September, 2009

Issue Priorities:

Connect New Yorkers to Nature

Draft Pheasant Management Plan Released - The ring-necked pheasant was successfully established in western New York in 1903 near the village of Geneseo. Pheasants flourished and became the most popular game bird in the state, reaching all time population highs in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Since that time, the population has declined over 90 percent with remnant pockets of wild pheasants found mostly in the Lake Plains region of western New York. Pheasant management includes both wild pheasants and pheasants propagated and released by DEC and private breeders. *A Ten-Year Management Plan for Ring-necked Pheasants in New York* has guided our pheasant management efforts since 1999. The Bureau of Wildlife is revising the plan and is seeking input on a number of proposed changes. A copy of the draft plan is now available for public review on the DEC web site at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7273.html> or by request at (607) 273-3763. Individuals interested in pheasants and pheasant hunting are encouraged to review the draft document and provide comments by November 13, 2009. Comments should be sent by email to: fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us (with "pheasant plan" in the subject line) or by regular U.S. mail to Michael J. Murphy, 81 Game Farm Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.



Bureau of Wildlife

Michael J. Murphy

(607) 273-2768

I FISH NY Children's Saltwater Fishing Clinic held at Jones Beach State Park - On Saturday, September 5, the I FISH NY Children's Saltwater Fishing Clinic at Jones Beach State Park was held. Region 2 staff working on the I FISH NY program assisted with the event, along with Freshwater Fisheries staff. Volunteers from New York State Parks, Knights of Columbus of Seaford, and NYSDEC assisted with registration and on the piers. Participants rotated through three education stations: knot tying, saltwater fish identification and regulations, and rod orientation. Following the education, participants fished from the piers for two hours. Several snappers were caught, and for many this was their first fish. A total of 150 people attended this event.



Participant uses the I FISH NY regulations game to see if he can keep his catch.

Bureau of Fisheries

Ann TeNyenhuis

631-444-0283

[Promote a Toxic Free Future](#)

Region 1 Fisheries Unit. Building Efficiency into our Fish Sampling - The Region 1 Fisheries Unit coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), NYS Dept. of Health (NYSDOH), Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, and Queens College to collect fish from Peconic Lake on the Peconic River and the Carmans River in the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge for five different studies:

1. Disease monitoring in the Peconic River: A follow up to two localized fish kills in Peconic Lake, both of which occurred in one cove of the lake in March and were primarily sunfish. Results of sick fish from the two fish kills indicated that the kills were disease or parasite related. To get a better understanding of the status of the fish community, 30 sunfish were collected from the cove where the kills occurred, and 27 sunfish were collected from across the lake. These fish were iced and shipped overnight to Cornell University.
2. Assessment of Endocrine Disruption in Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) and Largemouth Bass (*M. salmoides*) in USFWS Region 5 National Wildlife Refuges: USFWS staff mobilized a small team to take blood and tissue samples from 10 male and 10 female largemouth bass from Peconic Lake and the Carmans River. Region 1 Fisheries staff easily collected the needed bass from Peconic Lake, but over two hours of electrofishing effort with two boats in the tidal portion of the Carmans River failed to produce even one largemouth bass. Because the USFWS crew was only taking blood and organ tissue and not muscle tissue, the bass processed by the USFWS were also able to be used for the NYSDOH and BNL collections.
3. Annual radiation monitoring of the Peconic River by NYSDOH: ten sunfish and ten largemouth bass were collected (from the USFWS collection), frozen, and will be delivered to NYSDOH.

4. Annual radiation monitoring of the Peconic River conducted by BNL: ten largemouth bass were collected (from the USFWS collection), iced, and delivered to BNL.
5. Alewife stock assessment being conducted by Queens College: A total of 18 alewife were collected: 17 young of the year and 1 adult. The alewife were transferred to Peter Malaty, an MS candidate at Queens College, who will be doing a chemical analysis of the alewife otoliths to determine if there are differences in the stock between different streams in the Marine district.



Alewife collected from the tidal section of the Carmans River for stock assessment.

A special thanks goes to Melissa Cohen, James MacDonald, and Darren Alberry of the Region 2 Fisheries Unit for bringing their electrofishing boat out for the Carmans River sampling and assisting with the operation.

Bureau of Fisheries

Chart Guthrie

631-444-0281

[Safeguard New York's Unique Natural Assets](#)

Hydrographic Dye Study of Glen Cove WWTP Discharge, Prelude to Possible Reopening of Shellfishing Areas - In 2004, while collecting routine water samples, Shellfisheries Section staff began to regularly observe commercial shellfish harvesters working in the certified (open) section of Long Island Sound located just east of the uncertified (closed) areas in western Long Island Sound and outer Hempstead Harbor in northern Nassau County. With the thought that there might be harvestable quantities of shellfish in those nearby uncertified areas, Shellfisheries staff established new water quality monitoring stations in outer Hempstead Harbor. Over the next three years, the fecal coliform data from routine monitoring demonstrated that water quality in outer Hempstead Harbor and the adjacent area of the Sound was meeting the standards for a certified shellfish harvesting area.

More recently, as additional monitoring focused on water quality conditions after heavier rainfall/runoff events continued to show good water quality in outer Hempstead Harbor, Shellfisheries staff came to believe it was possible to upgrade the area's classification from uncertified to certified or seasonally certified for harvesting. That prompted Shellfisheries staff to begin a full sanitary survey of the area, which includes identification and evaluation of all actual and potential, point and non-point pollution sources that may adversely affect water quality and contaminate shellfish. In 2008, Shellfisheries staff requested the assistance of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct a hydrographic dye study to evaluate the dilution and dispersion of the effluent from the largest potential point source of fecal contamination in Hempstead Harbor, the Glen Cove wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

On September 28, 2009, Shellfisheries staff worked with FDA personnel to carry out the dye study. The purpose of the dye study was to track the movement of the treated sewage discharged by the WWTP into Glen Cove Creek, following the effluent as tides and currents carried it out to Hempstead Harbor and the adjacent area of Long Island Sound. A highly water soluble, non-toxic fluorescent dye was injected into the effluent of the WWTP for a period of six hours, timed to coincide with outgoing tide. DEC and FDA personnel, working onboard a DEC boat, tracked the dye in the creek and harbor with a fluorometer which fed data into a field computer with GPS tracking software. FDA provided the fluorometer and field computer. A report on the findings of the dye study will be prepared by FDA personnel and is expected in early 2010.

This dye study was the last major field work component for completing a sanitary survey of the uncertified areas. If the sanitary survey supports upgrading the shellfishing classification, the results of the recent dye study would be used to determine the size of a closed safety zone around the WWTP discharge point in Glen Cove Creek. Shellfish harvesting would continue to be prohibited in that closed safety zone.



P. Pirrillo, USFDA, collects samples at the outfall of Glen Cove WWTP during joint DEC-FDA hydrographic dye study.

Bureau of Marine Resources

William Hastback

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Four newly Acquired Ponds Surveyed - Fisheries surveys were conducted on four ponds in Franklin County on lands where the DEC recently acquired recreational easements. Mountain Pond, just east of Lake Kushaqua in the Town of Franklin, was found to be shallow, but had water chemistry and temperatures that could support brook trout or brown trout. Fish Hole and Grass Ponds, northwest of Loon Lake in the Town of Franklin, both had existing brook trout populations that are either wild fish or may have been stocked by past lease holders. Balsam Pond, at the head of Balsam Brook in the Town of Waverly, was shallow and vegetated, but had a minor population of wild brook trout and some of the largest creek chubs ever seen by technical staff. Stocking policies will be considered for all four waters. Forestry staff will now have to decide on the extent to which access can be improved for these ponds.

Bureau of Fisheries

Rich Preall

518-897-1333

Catharine Creek Rainbow Trout Production Study – Ten sites were sampled using backpack electrofishing during the week of August 18, to evaluate rainbow trout production in Catharine Creek, the main trout spawning tributary to Seneca Lake.

Additionally, one site in Sleepers Creek, a historically high quality rainbow trout spawning and nursery tributary to Catharine Creek, was also sampled.

In Catharine Creek, rainbow trout abundance was estimated at 1,348 young of year (YOY) and 86 age 1+ trout/acre respectively. This estimate was nearly twice that found during the last survey in 2006 when rainbow trout production estimates were at or near all time lows since surveys began in the late 1960's. The current estimate, 1,434 rainbow trout YOY and age 1+/acre falls within ranges experienced in the 1970's. As part of the Clean Air, Clean Water Bond Act program, extensive stream and bank restoration and improvements occurred in the early 2000's. The improvement in production estimates from 2006 to 2009 may indicate the stream is beginning to stabilize and the population is adjusting to the enhancements.

Rainbow trout production in Sleepers Creek has not experienced similar gains. The estimate of 4,083 YOY and age 1+ rainbow trout/acre was only slightly higher than in 2006, but remained less than a third of results from the 1970's. Other sites within Sleepers Creek should be sampled to determine if density estimates are consistent throughout the stream. If so, more intensive investigation into reasons for decreased rainbow trout production in Sleepers Creek is warranted.

Recent surveys suggest that the adult rainbow trout spawning run in Catharine Creek may be declining, however, this has been difficult to document. Based on this survey, it does not appear that rainbow trout production is a limiting factor to adult recruitment. Future sampling should continue to determine production trends.

Bureau of Fisheries

Brad Hammers

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Niagara River Sampled with Electrofishing Gear -

DEC and SUNY-ESF researchers continued efforts to evaluate the fish community in the Niagara River. Previous efforts had used electrofishing gear in spring to collect adult muskellunge and a seine in mid-summer to collect juvenile fish. The fall electrofishing program ties in with a long-term data set that can show trends in distribution and abundance of juvenile muskellunge.



Muskellunge are native to the Great Lakes system and are not stocked in the Niagara River. Surveys showed that juvenile muskellunge habitat was widely distributed in the Upper Niagara while only a narrow band of acceptable habitat exists in the lower river due to the incised nature of the lower river gorge. Juvenile muskellunge were collected at all locations where they had been historically collected and some new sites, although at lower levels of abundance than last year. In addition, they appeared smaller, which was likely due to the late warming in spring and cooler water temperatures through summer.

Bureau of Fisheries

Michael Wilkinson

716-851-7010

Longear Sunfish Stocked in Little Buffalo Creek -

Longear sunfish, classified as a threatened species in New York State, were stocked in sections of Little Buffalo



Longear sunfish

Creek that contained preferred habitat for this species. Rare Fisheries Biologist Lisa Holst successfully transferred 1,094 longears from a rearing pond near Watertown to their new home in Western New York. Biologists hope that these fish will eventually be capable of sustaining themselves through natural reproduction.

Bureau of Fisheries

Paul McKeown

716-372-0645

Blanding's Turtle Recovery Plan Meeting - Region 6 staff facilitated a recovery plan meeting for the state-listed threatened Blanding's turtle on August 27, 2009. The recovery team was assembled and members discussed threats and possible recovery actions that, if taken, may help to conserve viable populations of the species in New York into the future. A draft recovery plan is being written and a final product is expected by December 2010.

Bureau of Wildlife

Angelena M. Ross

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Waterfowl Banding in New York - Another year of successful preseason waterfowl banding has come to a close in New York. State and Federal biologists, with the help of numerous volunteers, have banded over 3000 ducks at more than 20 different locations, including many State Wildlife Management Areas, Federal Refuges, and protected municipal water supplies. Seven different species of ducks were banded, the vast majority being mallard and wood duck. This is in addition to the more than 4,000 Canada geese banded throughout the state earlier this year.

Preseason waterfowl banding occurs from late July through September. Most of the ducks banded during this period are considered "resident or local birds"- birds that were born and raised in the general area. However, we also band some birds that were born and raised in other parts of the country or in Canada that are beginning to fly south for the winter months. To catch the ducks, we typically use a hard wire "walk-in" trap that is located next to or just in a water body where birds are known to congregate. The top of the trap is usually made from cloth netting and each trap usually has several entrances or "funnels" to allow birds easy access into the trap. And finally, these traps are baited with shelled corn to attract the birds inside. Once there is sufficient activity at a site, staff will "set" the trap after dark so ducks arriving the next morning can enter but not escape.

If all goes well, the banding team will find a pen full of birds in the morning. The ducks are removed individually by hand, identified to species, checked for age and sex, and fitted with a uniquely numbered aluminum leg band and released. If any of the ducks were already banded, that information is recorded as well.

All banding data is collected and forwarded to Central Office where it is entered into a specialized computer program called Band Manager. Once these banding records are checked for completeness and accuracy, the data are forwarded to the U.S.G.S. Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) in Patuxent, MD.

Individuals who recover any banded waterfowl or any other banded bird, are encouraged to contact the Banding Lab @ 1-800-327- BAND (2263) or by going on-line to their website WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV. Every year, DEC gets reports from the BBL with

new band recovery information from thousands of birds banded or encountered in New York, and this information helps us determine migration patterns and monitor population and harvest trends.

Bureau of Wildlife

Tom Sutter

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Monitoring of Contaminants in Young Fish from Near-shore Areas of New York's Great Lakes Basin Continues - This month Bureau of Habitat biologists Tim Preddice and Michael Kane and seasonal technician Ben Durie ventured to western New York for two weeks to collect young-of-year fish from shore-zone sites in the Great Lakes Basin from Dunkirk (Lake Erie) to Sodus Point (Lake Ontario). Region 9 biologist Mike Wilkinson also assisted for a day by providing a boat to facilitate access to some Niagara River sites. In total, 27 sites were visited in September 2009, with the majority located on the Niagara River. This sampling project, previously funded in part by the USEPA, has been repeated about every five-six years since the late 1970s, primarily for contaminant trend monitoring purposes. The 2009 sites included several traditional sampling locations and ten new sites to better assess contaminant issues raised in earlier studies. Several other sites are to be addressed next year which cover the Lake Ontario shore from Sodus Point and eastward into the St. Lawrence River, downstream from Massena. Chemical analysis of the 2009 young fish composites for PCB and organochlorine pesticide residues will be performed by the Bureau's Analytical Services Unit at the Hale Creek Field Station, Gloversville.

Miscellaneous observations since the 1997 and 2003 collections appear to show fewer zebra mussels, much more net-fouling green algae (primarily Cladophora along Lake Ontario's shore), and greater numbers of round goby, now present even at most upstream tributary sites. The mussels and round goby are serious invasive species and the increase in the indigenous green alga is believed to be in response to much greater water clarity due to the filter-feeding ability of the mussels to consume plankton. The native near-shore young-of-year fish community in the Great Lakes Basin has also changed since 1997 with decreased numbers of spottail shiner and increased numbers of bluntnose minnow, both target species for this study.

Bureau of Habitat

Tim Preddice

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Anthony Kill Stream Bank Gets Two Doses of Restoration – Remediation of the Mechanicville former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) was partially completed between November 2008 and June 2009 when contaminated soils throughout the site were excavated down to bedrock. Clean backfill was brought in and the entire site was restored, including a 200-foot section of Anthony Kill stream bank. NYSEG’s original restoration design was to replace the vegetated stream bank with an armored rock riprap slope, but Bureau of Habitat staff worked with DER and NYSEG through multiple iterations toward a design that offered necessary erosion protection without losing the entire stream bank to riprap. Stone will remain along the toe, but a variety of native plantings, live stakes, and seeding were used to secure the remainder of the bank.



Following the June 2009 restoration, lower stream bank soils evidently became saturated, soft, and began to “slump” toward the stream. The cause was groundwater flow that continuously seeps through the lower bank, pushing the saturated soil toward the Anthony Kill. If left alone, spring high water conditions combined with weakened lower bank soils could cause the bank to fail. Bureau of Habitat biologist Corbin Gosier again met with NYSEG in August to discuss potential solutions and the area was repaired in late September. Instead of losing more stream bank to armoring, medium-sized stone was incorporated into the lower bank to “bulk-up” and strengthen soils while still maintaining a vegetated stream bank. The area was then topped with a mixture of top-soil, rounded cobble and gravel, seeded, and secured with biodegradable erosion control fabric. More live stakes and a native seed mixture will put the finishing touches on this second round of restoration. Because NAPL (oily liquid) still remains below the site and streambed within bedrock fractures, recovery wells are being used to extract this byproduct of the former MGP.

Bureau of Habitat

Corbin Gosier

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Wetland Maps Updated to Include Chenango County Peatlands – The completion of the Chenango County Regulatory Freshwater Wetland Map amendments recently adds five new wetlands to the maps. Four of the wetlands are peatland communities which total 25 acres. Three of the wetlands were each less than four acres in size and added to the maps as wetlands of unusual local importance. These wetlands have educational and scientific value as excellent examples of different stages of peatland succession from open water medium fen to floating mat poor fen to forested peat swamp. In addition, a 300-ft regulated adjacent area surrounding each of the four peatland wetlands has been established to provide adequate protection for these unique,



vulnerable plant communities. An additional 40-acre wetland nearby has been added to the wetland maps, also.

Bureau of Habitat

Jean Foley & Judy Marth Stevens (518) 402-8849

New Wetland Map Amendment Started – In the Town of Deer Park, Orange County, a 430 acre section of wetland was recently discovered adjacent to an existing DEC mapped wetland adjacent to the Basherkill. Staff immediately initiated a map amendment to include this area on the DEC Article 24 Wetland Maps. Many riparian wetlands and wetlands along streams provide flood protection, protect stream bank erosion, and provide filtering benefits which help to protect the water quality. And this wetland includes a large contiguous area of floodplain forest that has been identified and mapped by NY Natural Heritage Program as a significant natural community. Official notice has been placed which invokes jurisdiction over this wetland. The wetland will be reclassified and upgraded from Class 3 to Class 2 because of additional classification criteria present. Eighty landowners are affected by this effort.

Bureau of Habitat

Jean Foley & Judy Marth Stevens (518) 402-8849

NY Natural Heritage Chief Ecologist Greg Edinger Surveys Three Significant Natural Communities Near Buck Mountain in Washington County – The three communities are:

Red pine rocky summit:

The summit of Buck Mountain was originally documented as a spruce-fir rocky summit in 1987 by former NY Natural Heritage Chief Ecologist Carol Reschke. However, the 2009 survey confirmed that the summit is better classified as a red pine rocky summit, a community that was newly described by Natural Heritage in 2002. The reclassification makes the Buck Mountain occurrence the first of this type to be entered into the Heritage database. Although there are a few red spruce trees present on Buck Mountain, the summit is decidedly dominated by red pine. Natural Heritage welcomes information on other red pine dominated summits in the state. Most of this community occurs at the summit of Buck Mountain on state land with a few small, disjunct patches located on former Finch-Pruyn land purchased by the Nature Conservancy and sold to a private timber management company accompanied by an easement held by New York State.



Pine-northern hardwood forest:

Pine-northern hardwood forest forms a nearly continuous band along the midslope of Buck Mountain. This forest was also originally surveyed and documented by Carol Reschke in 1990. This forest is dominated by impressively tall red pine rather than white pine, which is more typical for this community. Perhaps historical fires played an important role in producing the unusual abundance of red pine on Buck Mountain. Most of this community occurs on state land and extends onto the former Finch-Pruyn land.





Talus cave community:

A small, but nonetheless interesting, talus cave community was discovered on the former Finch-Pruyn land near Buck Mountain. Large talus boulders fill a small gorge between two small cliffs, forming numerous small cavities providing subterranean habitat for wildlife including a small porcupine den. Cold air could be felt coming out from between the talus and water could be heard running under some portions of the community.

This will be the fourth occurrence of this community to be entered into the Natural Heritage database.

Bureau of Habitat

Greg Edinger

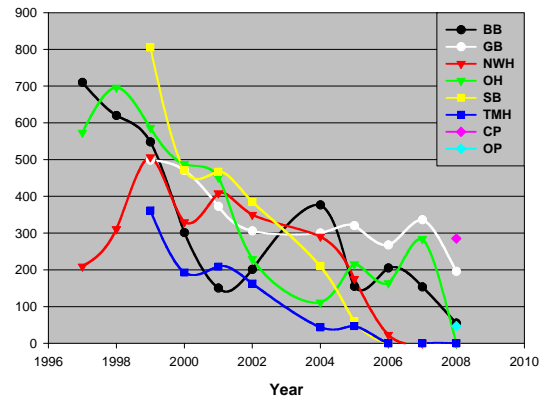
(518) 402-8947

Peconic Estuary Program Adopts Eelgrass Management Plan - In summer 2009, the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) adopted an "Eelgrass Management Plan for the Peconic Estuary," the first developed for any NY estuary. This innovative plan details specific management objectives, actions, and action steps designed to help protect and restore this ecologically and economically valuable resource. Once bountiful throughout the pristine waters of the Estuary, eelgrass abundance has fell victim to an alarming, downward trend; since 1930 the Peconic Estuary has lost over 80% of its eelgrass. The loss is attributed to several stressors. The Eelgrass Management Plan outlines actions that government, residents, stakeholders and user groups must undertake, collectively, to ensure the protection and restoration of eelgrass and eelgrass habitat. The PEP Eelgrass Management Plan has served as a model for the New York State Seagrass Task Force as they develop recommendations that are to be presented to the NYS Governor and Legislature before the end of the 2009 calendar year.

The PEP's "Eelgrass Management Plan for the Peconic Estuary" is now available online at:

http://www.peconicestuary.org/pdf/FINAL_%20EelgrassMgmtPlanPeconicEstuary_June09.pdf .

Eelgrass Shoot Densities for the Peconic Estuary
Long-term Eelgrass Monitoring Program

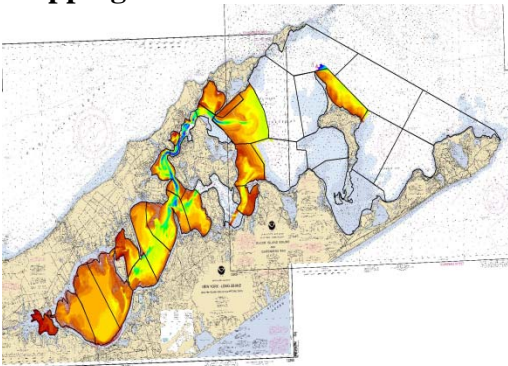


Bureau of Marine Resources

Laura Stephenson

631-444-0871

Mapping the Unseen Peconic Underwater World- The Peconic Estuary Program, in cooperation with NYSDEC, Suffolk County, and the Nature Conservancy have now mapped and analyzed benthic communities in approximately 50% of the Peconic Estuary. This long-running, intensive project is spearheaded by researchers at SUNY Stony



Brook who use multibeam swath bathymetry and backscatter technology to generate images and classify distinct acoustic seabed provinces. Macrofauna and sediment samples are taken and analyzed to classify benthic species and sediment types. Aquaculture cages, trawl lines, and oyster shell deposits are easily detectable. Assessing the distribution of benthic communities is extremely important to managers as they work to protect and restore commercially and recreationally important fish and shellfish, and attempt to understand and monitor underwater stresses and changes. Research suggests that the Peconic Estuary is one of the most biologically productive, rich, and diverse estuaries in the region.

Bureau of Marine Resources

Laura Stephenson

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NEIWPC Receives USEPA Grant for Long Island Tidal Wetlands Trends

Analysis- The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC), in collaboration with NYSDEC, several NY estuary programs, Suffolk County and the Nature Conservancy, was successfully awarded funds under the USEPA Region 2 Wetlands Program Development Grant Program to conduct a Long Island Tidal Wetlands Trends Analysis and Wetland Loss Diagnosis Matrix. Alarming changes, including degradation, fragmentation and severe acreage losses have been observed in several Long Island tidal wetland complexes. The project will assess the quantitative and qualitative changes, including the extent of marsh loss or gain, and changes or shifts in tidal wetland vegetation since the last regulatory inventory in 1974. This consistent, comprehensive, and standardized regional trends analysis data will then be used to develop a pilot wetland loss characterization diagnosis matrix. This will further help natural resource managers identify and remediate causes of changes, which then can be replicated island-wide. Information about the current status and trends in our vegetated tidal wetlands is vital for understanding the causes and consequences of marsh changes, and will help identify watershed specific management and stewardship strategies and candidate restoration sites.

Bureau of Marine Resources

Laura Stephenson

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3 Years = ½ Million Gallons of Sewage Collected Under Peconic NDZ- In 2002, the entire Peconic Estuary was designated as a Vessel Waste No Discharge Zone (NDZ). Discharges of treated and untreated sewage within the Peconics is strictly prohibited and enforced. The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) has worked with County, State, and Federal agencies and industry to fund and initiate municipal and private pumpout boats and stations. The more convenient pumpout services are, higher the degree of compliance. Recent PEP reporting data indicates between 2006-2008 alone, nearly 500,000 gallons of sewage have been collected from boaters in the Peconic Bays. NDZs work and can protect our waters and the resources which thrive in them. For more information on the Peconic NDZ and pumpout boats and station, please visit: <http://www.peconicestuary.org/NDZ.html> .

Bureau of Marine Resources

Laura Stephenson

(631) 444-0871

DEC Proposes Tidal Wetlands Guidance Documents - In a collaborative effort between the Divisions of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources; Environmental Permits; and Regional staff, a new set of guidance documents to aid in the interpretation and

clarification of terms contained within 6NYCRR Part 661 of the Tidal Wetland Land Use Regulations is being proposed. Tidal wetlands are invaluable for marine food production, wildlife habitat, flood, hurricane, and storm control. The proposed guidance documents are intended to help DEC staff review permit applications with the intention of maintaining the quality of tidal wetlands so that they will continue to serve as cleansing, productive, and protective ecosystems.

This clarification of these terms and definitions in the current regulation was in response to the many challenges involved in managing a program and balancing environment concerns with developmental pressures. These proposed guidance documents are intended to aid both Department staff and the regulated public by producing a clearer, more easily understood and streamlined permitting process.

The team is also actively working on additional guidance documents relating to part 661 of the Tidal Wetlands Land Use Regulations. These documents will be available in the near future. The proposed guidance documents are being posted on the Department's main Tidal Wetlands webpage at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4940.html> with notice of availability for comment to be published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on October 7, 2009.

Citizens and officials interested and affected by the Tidal Wetland Land Use Regulations may provide comments on these guidance documents. All comments and concerns on the Part 661 guidance documents should be forwarded to: Dawn McReynolds, Bureau of Marine Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 205 N. Belle Meade Road, E. Setauket, NY 11733 or fwmarine@gw.dec.state.ny.us by **November 6, 2009**. **Please reference Tidal Wetland Guidance in the subject of the email.**

Bureau of Marine Resources

Dawn McReynolds

(63) 444-0477

Recreational Marine Fishing Licenses go on Sale and are Available Statewide Via DECALS -The recreational marine fishing licenses went on sale September 25, 2009. Recreational marine fishing licenses can be purchased at one of DEC's 1,500 license sales outlets statewide and can also be ordered by mail or by telephone and via the [DEC website](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html) (look for the "Purchase a Sporting License" link on the home page) www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html. New York's coastal waters provide excellent angling opportunities and offer anglers a wide variety of species to target from scup and sea bass to bluefish and striped bass.

Anglers purchasing their license at one of DEC's 1,500 license sales outlets will receive their license and can go fishing immediately. Anglers purchasing their license via the internet will receive a "smart number" and confirming e-mail, and anglers purchasing a license via telephone will receive their customer ID number so they can begin fishing immediately and don't have to wait to receive their license in the mail.

Beginning Thursday, October 1, 2009, persons 16 years of age and older need to acquire a recreational marine fishing license if they are fishing in the Marine and Coastal District or fishing any water (such as the Hudson River, Delaware River, or Mohawk River and their tributaries) where the angler is fishing for "migratory fish from the sea" (such as

striped bass, hickory shad, blueback herring, alewife). The Marine and Coastal District includes all the waters of the Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles from the coast and all other tidal waters within the state, including the Hudson River up to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

The costs for one-day, seven-day and annual resident licenses are \$4, \$8, and \$10, respectively. The costs for one-day, seven-day and annual non-resident licenses are \$5, \$10, and \$15, respectively. The cost of a lifetime recreational marine fishing license is \$150 and the cost of a lifetime combination fishing and recreational marine fishing license is \$450.

All revenues generated from sales of recreational marine licenses will be deposited into the Marine Account of the Conservation Fund, and, in accordance with State Finance Law, monies in this account shall be available to the DEC specifically for the care, management, protection, and enlargement of marine fish and shellfish resources. However, all revenues generated from the sales of *lifetime* recreational marine fishing licenses and lifetime combination fishing and recreational fishing licenses will be deposited into the Fish and Game Trust Account as per State Finance Law. Monies in the fish and game trust account are invested by the State Comptroller and the earned income is transferred into the Conservation Fund to be used for intended purposes.

We understand that there may be many questions pertaining to the implementation of the recreational marine fishing license requirements and we posted helpful information on the DEC website. Answers to frequently asked questions are available: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html, and a marine fishing guide is also available: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/marinelicense2009.pdf

Bureau of Marine Resources

Steve Heins

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Partnerships and the Public

Addressing Black Bear Issues in the Old Forge - Inlet Corridor - Region 5 and 6
Wildlife and Law Enforcement staff met with representatives from the Town of Webb, Village of Inlet, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Central Adirondacks Partnership for the 21st Century (CAP-21, a non-profit group that assisted Old Forge with securing bear proof garbage cans) to discuss ongoing issues related to Black bear activity in the 10 mile corridor. The summer of 2009 saw a very intense and focused nuisance bear complaint level throughout the corridor. Region 6 staff destroyed four Class 1 bears (those exhibiting behaviors that are clearly dangerous toward humans, pets, or livestock) and Region 5 staff trapped and ear tagged several others in their respective areas. Bear behavior ranged from typical bird feeder raids to full scale home entries.

The purpose of the meeting was to outline the issues related to nuisance bears (and other wildlife) in the area and to begin drafting a multi-year plan to address the concerns that DEC and local officials have. The effort will require cooperation between businesses, campgrounds, local residents and law enforcement, and education of the summer tourists.

Bureau of Wildlife

Ed Reed

(518) 897-1294

Steve Heerkens

(315) 793-2557

MARSH - Montezuma Alliance for the Restoration of Species & Habitats (MARSH) is a Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex initiative to restore, protect, and enhance wildlife habitat on the nearly 50,000 acres in the Complex. The Alliance includes the NYSDEC, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC). MARSH alliance members were joined this summer by a dedicated group of volunteers of all ages.

These MARSH teams have been working hard to restore and enhance wildlife habitats in the Complex. Not only did these volunteers donate their personal time, they also made a significant contribution to conservation in the area. Efforts in the late spring focused on removal of woody vegetation at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and the pulling of garlic mustard (an invasive weed) at the MAC and on Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). Removal of frogbit and water chestnut (two other invasives) on Tschache Pool (Refuge), Howland's Island (NMWMA), and the Seneca River around Howland's Island was the goal of MARSH during July. The teams worked one day at Tschache and four days around Howland's Island.

A one-mile stretch of the Seneca River was cleared of water chestnut during this effort. Over 76 volunteers, many students, and five staff members joined MARSH teams to fight these alien invaders during the first four months of the program. MARSH will be a multiyear effort with about two to six work days per month. Along with removing invasive plants, volunteers will collect biocontrol agents and plant native species. This effort is also supported by a Together-Green grant from Toyota through the Montezuma Audubon Center.

[Workforce, Science and Technology](#)

DEC Continues Work on EPA Grant to Upgrade Freshwater Wetland Mapping Technology - NYSDEC has received an EPA Grant that will help advance the development of the wetland program by purchasing new stereoscopic analysis technology (PLANAR) that will significantly advance our ability to provide more complete wetland protection and regulation in a more efficient manner. This new technology makes stereoscopic analysis less time consuming, resulting in more accurate maps that will benefit the public through the regulatory program. The NYS Natural Heritage Program will work with NYSDEC to develop a methodology for mapping wetlands utilizing the new equipment, train NYSDEC staff in how to efficiently use the technology in air photo interpretation, and complete a demonstration project to remap the Lower Lake Champlain and Mid-Upper Hudson Watersheds.

Bureau of Habitat

Tim Post

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