



## **BUREAU OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES MONTHLY REPORT**



**April 14, 2021 – May 13, 2021**

Lisa Barno, Assistant Director  
Craig Lemon, Superintendent  
Edward Conley, Superintendent  
Shawn Crouse, Supervising Biologist

Christopher Smith, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Dominick Mercurio, Crew Supervisor Bldg. Maintenance  
Tyler Tresslar, Crew Supervisor, WW

Ross Shramko, Sr. Fisheries Biologist  
Scott Collenburg, Sr. Fisheries Biologist  
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Thomas Bissonnette, Technician II  
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Shaun Young, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Doug Cutler, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Kyle Civalier, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Nick Ruberto, Sr. Wildlife Worker  
Brad Duckworth, Sr. Wildlife Worker

Grace Johnson, Wildlife Worker  
Travis Nitko, Wildlife Worker

Steve Jeffries, Repairer

Nancy Geiger, Agency Services Rep  
Elizabeth O'Neill, Administrative Analyst

Seasonals: Kate Ayers, Karl Lightner, Jordan Allen, Joseph Citro, Justin Rozema, Nick Cornine, and Christian Nitko.

## **PEQUEST TROUT HATCHERY** (Conley)

### **Inventory Data**

<u>Stocking Program</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Average Daily Length Increase</u>	<u>Conversion</u>
Spring 2022 RBT (7 months old)	4.8"	.022	1.43
Spring 2021 RBT (19 months old)	11.3"	.017	1.49
Fall/Winter 2021 RBT (19 months old)	11.6"	.019	1.98

### **Flow Rates – April 2021**

1.94 inches of precipitation fell during the month of April.

Pumping Rate Average for April was 6061 gpm. An average of 8.73 million gallons per day was pumped during the month of April.

The potable well pumped 18,936 gallons for the month of April.

### **Fish Culture Activities**

79,990 trout were stocked during the week of May 10<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> for Part 2 of the Covid 19 adjusted schedule. Below is the 2021 Spring Stocking Summary.

### **2021 SPRING TROUT STOCKING SUMMARY** **Pequest State Fish Hatchery**

#### **PART 1 Stocking Due to Covid 3/15/21-4/09/21** **& PART 2 Stocking Due to Covid 5/10/21-5/14/21**

	<u>#FISH</u>	<u>#LBS</u>	<u>AVERAGE LENGTH</u>
RBT Production -	589,525	287,300	11.3"
RBT Broodstock -	5745	9766	RBT II – 15.4"
	1880	7520	RBT III – 20.2"

**TOTAL RAINBOW TROUT: 597,150 FISH**  
**TOTAL LBS. FOR THE SPRING: 304,586 LBS.**

The Hook-A-Winner program entries are numbered at 64 so far. Entries continue to be submitted through email as well as USPS.

The E,F, H, and I-lines were cleaned and sterilized during this time.

The F and H-lines were reset with sorted fish for the 2022 stocking seasons.

Rainbow trout brood-stock for 2021 and 2022 spawning were inventoried and reset at this time on the E and I-lines.

The 2022 production stock from the nursery were inventoried, and more were moved outside of the nursery at this time. The tanks were reset in the nursery and the rest of the trout were sorted in anticipation of being moved out soon. All fish are being fed by automatic feeder twice every hour for about 10 hours a day. The feeders are being filled daily with 2.5mm feed. All tanks are still being cleaned by all shifts and flows were adjusted.

The outside 2022 trout were inventoried at this time as well and are being fed 3.0 mm by the feed truck now 4 times a day. Outside screens are being cleaned twice daily and basins are being cleaned bi-weekly.

Spring sorting of the 2022 production stock has been completed, in which smaller fish graded off using metal grader boxes. Approximately 123,000 four-inch surplus from the Spring sort were given to Hackettstown Hatchery for forage during this time.

Approximately 25,000 pounds of feed was fed during this time.

All hatchery flows were adjusted during this period and dissolved oxygen levels are being monitored.

### **Hygiene**

The iodine net/brush dip buckets were changed every 3 days or so to keep up with the hatchery hygiene plan. Weekly catch basin and aerator building cleaning was completed as scheduled.

Head ends as well as lower ends of the raceways were vacuumed and scraped to remove a buildup of algae and moss. The aerator wheel area of the I- line was vacuumed to remove built up fish waste and decomposing algae.

Floor disinfectant baths were changed on a regular weekly schedule or as needed.

### **Treatment Plant**

Submitted monthly discharge reports, filed any applicable paperwork, and met with the treatment plant operator.

Weekly treatment plant checks including, wastewater testing, chlorine levels, and domestic pit flow were performed. Set-up and collected composite sample for pick up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Coordinated the pumping, loading, and spreading of 8,000 gals of fish waste to the Pequest WMA. Total of 8 loads were spread to Field #5.

Performed preventative maintenance on treatment plant pumps, motors, greased bearings, and gears, and changed oil in blower motors.

### **Minor Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance**

Coordinated and assisted in the maintenance of 6 in-hatchery vehicles, performed minor vehicle maintenance.

Maintained and submitted monthly mileage report for 16 hatchery vehicles.

Set-up and installed new oxygen bottles on Distribution Trucks for PART 2 of the Spring Stocking and changed as needed.

Performed weekly site check of both Gasoline and Diesel fuel levels.

### **Miscellaneous Activities**

The Domestic Waterline Project continues, the contractor is currently waiting on more supplies to finish sections to the main building, the well, and a section to the treatment plant. Once that is completed it will have to be tied in.

Work on the Administrative Building Roof Project started on May 11<sup>th</sup>. They encountered electrical conduit and called in an electrical engineer, but work has resumed quickly.

Roof repairs on the Lower buildings are also being done on the flat roofs at this time.

Completed Interim E-pars during this time for hatchery employees.

Grass cutting continues inside the fenced hatchery area, treatment plant area and well houses.

Predatory bird devices are in place (overhead lines, reflective streamers, propane cannons and scary-men, and scare crackers). This past month we are seeing more Great Blue Herons coming into the hatchery as well as a couple of ospreys.

There were no reported problems with trespassers by the night watchmen. The Information & Education Unit and building remains closed to the public, due to Covid 19.

## **HACKETTSTOWN STATE FISH HATCHERY** (Craig Lemon)

### **Intensive Culture** (Inventory)

<b><u>Species</u></b>	<b><u># Fish</u></b>	<b><u>Avg.”</u></b>
Landlocked Salmon	3,200	9.2”
Northern Pike	30,000	4.3”

### **Stocking Totals** (April 15 – May 14)

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Species</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u># Fish</u></b>	<b><u>Size (Inches)</u></b>	<b><u>Total Pounds</u></b>
4/15	Np	Rhode Island F&W	162,195	.5”	5.7
4/20	Np	Cranberry Lake	17,032	1.4”	10.9
4/30	Np	Virginia F&W	15,964	2.4”	47.9
4/30	Np	Cranberry Lake	5,156	2.4”	15
5/11	Np	Deal Lake	5,860	3.4”	52
5/12	Np	Cranberry Lake	5,122	3.7”	57
4/15	Fhm	Camden Co. Mosq.	5,000	1.5	15.2
4/15	Fhm	Salem Co. Mosq.	5,000	1.5”	15.2
4/15	Fhm	Gloucester Co. Mosq.	5,000	1.5”	15.2
4/15	Fhm	Cumberland Co. Mos.	5,000	1.5”	15.2
4/16	Fhm	Morris Co. Mosq.	4,375	1.5”	12.5
4/16	Fhm	Bergen Co. Mosq.	4,484	1.5”	12.8
4/16	Fhm	Warren Co. Mosq.	4,382	1.5”	12.5
4/16	Fhm	Passaic Co. Mosq.	4,568	1.5”	13.1
4/19	Fhm	Monmouth Co. Mosq.	4,400	1.5”	12
5/6	Fhm	Salem Co. Mosq.	4,300	1.4”	10
5/6	Fhm	Camden Co. Mosq.	4,300	1.4”	10
5/6	Fhm	Burlington Co. Mosq.	6,020	1.4”	14
5/6	Fhm	Cumberland Co. Mo.	4,300	1.4”	10
5/6	Fhm	Warren Co. Mosq.	8,600	1.4”	20
5/6	Fhm	Middlesex Co. Mosq.	6,020	1.4”	14
5/7	Fhm	Morris Co. Mosq.	4,730	1.4”	11
5/7	Fhm	Passaic Co. Mosq.	5,160	1.4”	12
5/10	Fhm	Bergen Co. Mosq.	7,224	1.4”	16.8
4/23	Wa	Delaware River	1057800	.3”	10.8
5/4	Mk	Mountain Lake	122	11”	38
5/4	Mk	Furnace Lake	80	11”	30.3
5/5	Mk	Echo Lake Reservoir	420	11”	127
5/6	Mk	Mercer Lake	400	11”	121
5/7	Mk	Greenwood Lake	1850	11”	578
5/10	Mk	Greenwood Lake	1032	11”	323
5/10	Mk	Lake Hopatcong	256	11”	80
5/5	Bs	Monmouth Co. Mo.	1,000	2.2”	9.1
5/6	Bs	Camden Co. Mosq.	1,000	2.2”	9.1
5/6	Bs	Salem Co. Mosq.	1,000	2.2”	9.1
5/6	Bs	Cumberland Co. Mo.	1,000	2.2”	9.1

5/7      Bs                      Morris Co. Mosq.      1,000                      2.2"                      9.1

### **Intensive Culture**

Muskellunge - Hatchery staff float stocked all Spring holdover muskies between 5/4-5/10. A total of 4,160 fish averaging 11 inches and ranging from 9.8"-13.5" were stocked.

Northern Pike - Currently culturing 33,000 pike fingerlings in four 1,000-gallon and four 2,000-gallon tanks. Surplus pike were picked up by Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Virginia. Surplus fingerlings were also stocked in Cranberry and Deal Lakes. We are still holding some fish for PA and Mass. to trade for Muskies and Landlocks.

Landlocked Salmon - Currently culturing 3,200 fish about 9.2-inches. After last year's fish were stocked, the crew split the 3,200 new fish into two 2,000-gallon tanks. Now that the holdover Muskies have been stocked, staff split the Salmon into three 2,000-gallon tanks. Staff are cleaning and feeding them daily. These fish will be grown intensively until November and stocked when they reach 16-18 inches.

Mosquitofish - Our only tank of Gambusia were moved outside into Pond 64 for grow out and spawning on 4/14.

### **Extensive Culture**

Walleye - The 4-Acre Pond is full and has been fertilized preparing for walleye fry setup. Staff set up 516,000-day old Walleye fry in the 4-Acre pond on 4/21. Dissolved oxygen, temperatures, and secchi disk readings have been taken daily. The pond has been fertilized a number of times with Nitran and pulverized alfalfa meal. The fry are at day 25 in the pond, which is about halfway to the harvest point.

Largemouth Bass - Ponds 13, 17 and 48 West have been filled to be used as Lmb broodstock spawning ponds. Pond 53 was drained and 100 adult Largemouth and 20 Smallmouth were set up in spawning ponds: Pond 13- 40 Lmb, pond – 15 – 20 Smb, pond 17 – 30 Lmb, pond 48 – 30 Lmb. Bass have been observed on and off nests for the past couple of weeks due to the cold evening temps in the high 30's and low 40's.

Fathead Minnows - Ponds 85 and 5-Acre were filled and treated for weeds in preparation for minnow broodstock stocking. A load of 500 pounds of adult minnows arrived from Arkansas on 4/14. Two holes or 250 pounds of minnows were stocked into each pond.

Golden Shiners - Eight boxes of Golden Shiner fry arrived FedEx overnight on 5/4. The fry in all of the boxes looked good. They were placed in ponds as follows:

Pond 18 – 2 boxes

Pond 82 – 2 boxes

Ponds 30-32 – 1 box

Pond 83- 1 box

The two boxes that were setup in pond 18 were purchased by RVTA for late summer stocking in Round Valley Reservoir.

Channel Catfish - Pond temperatures are in the low 70's with weather predicted in the mid to upper eighties. this week so staff are placing 40 catfish spawning barrels in pond 90. The egg matrix dissolving solution was prepared and refrigerated.

### **Mosquitofish**

The second round of Fathead Minnows and Bluegill Sunfish were distributed to County Mosquito Commissions. The State Mosquito Commission purchased 125 pounds of Fathead Minnows and 5,000 two-inch Bluegill Sunfish from Arkansas and they were delivered to the hatchery on 5/5. Hatchery staff distributed 20,000 minnows and 3,000 sunfish to four South Jersey Counties meeting in Camden. To date 92,863 minnows and 5,000 sunfish have been distributed to 11 County Mosquito Commissions.

### **Budget, Purchasing, PO's**

Working on POs for fish, tree work, and sidewalk repair. An RFP was sent out to three companies to submit bids on the hatchery alarm system upgrade. Working on completing the hatcheries CBTM2 project – Trout Brook Dam Erosion. Purchased eight loads of stone/riprap, rented skid steer and mini excavator.

### **Maintenance of Ponds and Grounds**

Completed work on the CBTM2 Project – Trout Brook Dam Erosion. Rented a skid steer and mini excavator to move stone, shale and dirt around. Four loads of large riprap were placed along the banks of pond 42 and Trout Brook. A couple of loads of smaller riprap were also mixed in to fill gaps and add stability. The whole area was top coated and leveled with shale and dirt. The finished area was seeded and covered with erosion matting. Staff did an excellent job on this project!

Mowed and weed whacked both hatcheries twice. Preparing the sickle bar mower for mid-June when waterfowl nesting is over, and the pond banks can be mowed.

### **Pond Filling**

All of the ponds in the West Hatchery have been plugged and filled (30). Water levels and flows are being adjusted daily. Dissolved oxygen and temperature data is being collected. Ponds have also started to be fertilized for plankton production. Staff have begun filling ponds in The East Hatchery.

## **FACILITY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM** (Dominick Mercurio/Steve Jeffries)

### **Pequest Trout Hatchery**

This month several days were spent working on the fish water treatment plant. While pumping out the waste, we encountered a clog, several large cast iron pipes and valves had to be taken apart so the clog could be removed. All valves and piping were reinstalled and performed a test on the pumping plant; all is functioning properly.

The contract vendor continues to work on the replacement of the potable water line at Pequest. Two separate sets of roof contractors have started work at Pequest. One contractor is doing repair work on the maintenance garage and vehicle storage building. The second contractor is replacing and repairing (5 of 9) roof section on the main administration building. I met with the UV water sales rep for a follow up meeting of the Hatchery potable water system, everything is functioning properly at this time.

The administration building A/C water system was put back together and primed with water in preparation of upcoming warm weather. Seven aluminum screens were repaired with aluminum (tig) welder, along with weld repair to an aluminum bracket.

Did full diesel run test of the whole facility. All diesels were run during this period to simulate a full power outage. All the backup systems function properly. All the alarm and control computers were rebooted. Did all monthly production well number, along with potable UV water numbers, well levels, monthly gallons pumped, rain fall etc.

### **Hackettstown Hatchery**

Replaced gas tank straps and brake lines on SG28829.

Changed fuel filter on the new trapnetting boat after issues with it on Greenwood Lake.

Relaced broken valves and camlocks on the hydro seeder that is used for pond fertilizing this time of year.

Repaired the air compressor that is used to run the biofilter in the Intensive Recirc. System. Put new front tires on SG20120.

Cleaned up a large brush pile with the excavator to help access the pond 89 outflow in Trout Brook.

Ordered and picked up two 4x4 steel road plates from Ed's trading Post to be set at the bottom corners of pond 41.

Repaired the roadway in the East Hatchery and cut several trees back to make roads and paths accessible to the public over there.



## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT** (Shawn Crouse)

**2021 Spring Trout Stocking** - The 2021 trout stocking schedule has once again been very different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Much like in 2020, the Division ended up using an accelerated schedule that stocked over 90% of the trout at the hatchery in a 4-week period prior to opening day on April 10, 2021. A total of 500,000 trout were stocked this spring prior to the April 10 opening day with an additional 70,000 – 75,000 trout scheduled to be stocked the week of May 10. In a typical spring, 183,000 trout are stocked prior to opening day.

Stocking truck drivers, from the Bureau of Land Management, are provided load sheets for each individual stocking run. The load sheets provide detailed instructions for specific waterbodies, stocking point information, as well as additional information regarding transfer trucks, and meeting locations to stock their assigned waterbodies with appropriate number of fish.

Many days were spent answering emails and phone calls from anglers regarding trout stocking. (Shramko & Staff)

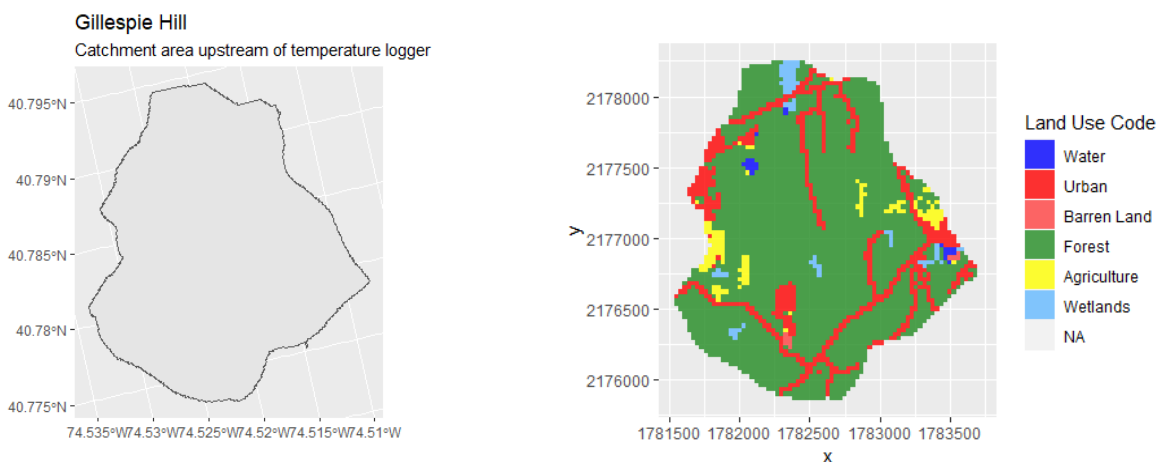
**76th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference** - All staff biologists participated in the virtual conference on April 26-28. Eric Boehm served as a moderator for the Reconnecting Aquatic Habitats symposium. Shawn Crouse presented on Removal of Brown Trout to Restore Brook Trout in Rinehart Brook, Hacklebarney State Park, New Jersey which was part of the Wild Trout Management symposium. Biologists Ross Shramko and Scott Collenburg attended the Spatial Analysis in R Workshop that covered the utilization of R to analyze and visualize spatial information. (staff)

**Great Fishing Close to Home in New Jersey Online Map** – Working with the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries and the Bureau of Information and Education, the Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems has created an interactive web-based map that will aid anglers and boaters on where to find opportunities for outdoor water recreation with an emphasis on fishing and boating. Fisheries biologists completed final reviews of the maps and the maps are now live for all to access. A significant number of hours were invested by fisheries staff to correct errors that occurred along the way. (Staff)

**Shabbecong Creek Fish Kill (Warren)** - On April 9 a minor fish kill was reported in a small stream just east of Rt. 57 and Rt. 31 (a tributary to Pohatcong Creek) known as Shabbecong Creek (FW2-TM (C1)). Shramko observed approximately 50 dead White Suckers, Blacknose Dace, and Creek Chubs. CO Anderson collected fish and brought them to the Division's Pathologist, but due to level of decay, they were of limited value and ultimately a reason for the minor kill was not determined. A few weeks later on April 21, another minor fish kill was reported on Shabbecong Creek. Again, the fish kill was small and all of the dead fish were too decomposed for fisheries pathologist Jan Lovy to extract any meaningful data on how the fish died. NJDEP Water Compliance and Enforcement was contacted and investigated the potential causes of these fish kills. Through their investigation it was determined that a local water company was installing new water lines and bringing an existing, but not recently used waterline back online. It is possible that this work maybe the cause of the fish kills, but further investigation is needed. (Shramko)

**Stream Temperature Monitoring** – This program was initiated in 2012 to monitor stream temperature in our major rivers that are currently regulated as Trout Maintenance. The continuous temperature monitoring program is designed to closely monitor stream temperature in areas that have marginal thermal habitat for the purpose of trout stocking, understanding thermal regimes in our major river systems, and expand the program to Trout Production streams to gain a deeper understanding of stream temperature’s role on the entire life cycle of wild trout in New Jersey and assist in guiding management of these streams. This reporting period effort focused on managing stream temperature data from the Brook Trout Strongholds Project. (Collenburg)

Stormwater Analysis – Analysis of stream temperature data from 2018-2020 continues and preliminary results show that a total of 272 stormwater surge events, defined as a 2°C increase of water temperature, or greater, in a 30-minute period. Analysis will be similar to those performed in 2019 to understand stormwater surge impacts associated with land use and fish populations. Methodology was developed in R to run land cover analysis on catchments/boundaries of any kind based on National Land Cover Database 2016. This is applicable to the current analysis for stormwater impacts, but also may be useful in determining impacts to wild trout populations based on land use and could be a helpful tool for surface water quality classification and their implications on trout. (Collenburg)



##	Land Cover	x	Freq
## 1	Water	11	0.005920344
## 2	Urban	21	0.153659849
## 3	Barren Land	31	0.002691066
## 4	Forest	41	0.785522067
## 5	Agriculture	81	0.032831001
## 6	Wetlands	90	0.019375673

The table above results in a reflection of the proportion of each Land Cover type we were interested in for our catchment.

2021 Planning – Preliminary site selection for continuous temperature monitoring began. A review of data loss in 2018-2020 was done to select waters that were meant to be

analyzed. Sites with stormwater impacts will be sampled again in 2021. Additional site selection will be covered based on biologist review. (Collenburg)

Locating and quantifying Cold Water Refugia – Methodology is being adopted from a study by the USGS to create thermal profiles of streams inhabited by coldwater species to describe the importance of temperature and ground-water discharge. (Collenburg)

**Warmwater Fisheries Management Plan** – A Bluegill Management Plan was drafted for the Warmwater Fisheries Management Plan. It is currently under review. (Boehm)

**NJ Dam Priority List for removal and those not to be removed** - The Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries is developing a Bureau priority list that will be the basis for other Bureaus to review and contribute to. The end product will be a list that reflects the collective interest of the Division of Fish and Wildlife in regards for dam removal or to maintain dams for the management of fish and wildlife species. A staff meeting was held on April 30 to discuss. (Boehm)

**Brook Trout Genetic Meeting** – Biologists Ross Shramko and Shawn Crouse met virtually with USGS Leetown Research Laboratory geneticists Dave Kazyak, North Carolina Fisheries Biologist, Jake Rash, and Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Coordinator, Lori Maloney to discuss potential genetic analysis techniques and data collection protocols for future genetic analysis within New Jersey. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has had only limited experience collecting and analyzing Brook Trout genetic data in the past. The Division is looking into collecting genetic information that will aid biologists in the conservation of this species of special concern. (Shramko and Crouse)

**American Fisheries Society Climate Ambassador Program** – Biologist Scott Collenburg was offered and agreed to participate in a statewide climate communications training program from AFS. Program training begins in the Fall of 2021. (Collenburg)

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Northeast Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need Threats and Actions Review -**

As a member of the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Northeast Fish Taxa Team, a review and assessment was conducted to evaluate regionally identified Threats and Actions to Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need for Freshwater Fish. Species evaluated include American Brook Lamprey, Banded Sunfish, Blackbanded Sunfish, Bridle Shiner, and Swamp Darter. Common Threats include pollution, habitat degradation, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change. This was conducted prior to the May 14 due date. (Crouse)

**MAPAIS (Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species) Meeting** – Attended a virtual meeting for the annual spring MAPAIS meeting on April 28-29. The first day of the meeting consisted primarily of presentations, while day two involved reviewing proposed grant applications and updates from state representatives. Susan Pasko from the USFWS provided updates for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The presentation consisted of identifying

national priority research projects for 2021, outreach programs including the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers and Habitattitude, and the status of the moss ball and zebra mussel state and federal actions. Ian Pfingsten, USGS NAS Program presented a summary of Mid-Atlantic region AIS introductions and NAS program updates. Megan Kepler Schall from Penn State presented on an angler survey that is being developed in Pennsylvania to target angler opinions on invasive species. The project titled “An integrated approach to studying Flathead Catfish invasion in the Susquehanna River Basin: linking ecological field studies and public perception for effective outreach on aquatic invasive species” may prove extremely useful to New Jersey to better understand angler options and management strategies. State representatives provided updates on current invasive species research projects, new species occurrences, and updates to distribution. New Jersey recent proposed the addition of the Alabama Bass as a potentially dangerous species. Other members of the Mid-Atlantic panel have also included the species and West Virginia is currently developing a genetics study to evaluate the impact of Alabama Bass on Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass populations. Pennsylvania reported a significant increase in the number of Northern Snakeheads passing through the Conowingo Dam fish ladder. All snakeheads were removed from the fish ladder. A program has been established to donate the snakeheads for consumption. Delaware reported that Blue Catfish were collected in a Delaware Bay tributary east of Salem County, in the vicinity of New Jersey’s first Blue Catfish occurrence. (Smith)

**NJDEP, Invasive Species Work Group Meeting** – Participated in the first sub-committee meeting of the DEP Invasive Species Workgroup on April 29. The group consists of various members of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Department. Project coordinator Joe Bilinski gave a presentation on the “Framework for the Development of an Invasive Species Management Program Plan.” Next steps include individual programs establishing a priority list of species and goals. (Smith and Crouse)

**Paulina Dam (Warren) – Dam Safety Permit Application Review of Adaptive Management Section** – The Paulina Dam is a severe impediment to anadromous fish on the Paulins Kill located in Blairstown, NJ. This dam is the next major impediment to upstream movement by anadromous fish such as American Shad, River Herring, and American Eel on the Paulins Kill since the Columbia Dam was removed. NJDEP Dam Safety asked if Freshwater Fisheries Biologists would look at the permit applications Adaptive Management Section and provide comments and concerns before Dam Safety would approve. Shramko and Barno have looked over the document and will be providing a response to the application. (Shramko)

**Camden Trails Meeting** – Participated in a meeting with NJDEP staff and Camden County Parks on April 14 to discuss the Camden Trails Projects that integrates trails between existing properties as well as the creation of kayak and fishing access locations. A proposed modification of the existing flood gate at Cooper River Park Lake is under consideration to allow additional fish passage and kayak passage without portage. The Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries recommended modification of the proposed plans. (Smith)

**Statewide Dam Removal Partnership (SDRP)** - Participated in an “Ask an Expert” public information session via Zoom on May 11. Participant questions regarding a variety of topics

(permitting, sediment, flooding, historical resources, and restoring connectivity) associated with dam removals were answered by the group. (Boehm)

**Solar Siting Workgroup** – Participated in meetings held on April 8 and 21 to identify the least and most desirable locations within NJ to place solar panels to reduce impacts to fish and wildlife species. Freshwater Fisheries discouraged consideration on open waters of the state and within riparian buffers for both ecological and recreational reasons. (Crouse)

**Special Use Permit For Trout Unlimited Project** – The Division is working with Keith Fritschie of Trout Unlimited to install a continuous temperature monitor in the Big Flat Brook that will record stream temperature and flow. This data will then be uploaded in real time to a website for the anyone to access. This logger will inform trout anglers, managers, and anyone interested in the stream’s statistics. Land Management issued a special use permit for TU for this project. (Shramko)

**Oxford Lake (Warren) Boat Ramp Enhancement** – Division staff was contacted by the Oxford Township Administrator about possible design plans to enhance the boat ramp at Oxford Lake. The current slope of the boat ramp is fairly shallow and boaters have to drive their boat trailers and vehicles fairly far into the lake to adequately launch their boats creating an unsafe situation and potentially negative water quality impacts. Division staff researched boat ramp designs and forwarded over several possible solutions for the town to pursue. (Shramko)

**Freshwater Permits** - Reviewed Land Management Reviews (LMR’s) from a freshwater fisheries perspective to address any foreseeable negative impacts to local fisheries. Reviewed water lowering permits and fish stocking applications and contacted applicants as necessary to obtain required information. Responded to requests from the public for information on general fisheries questions, fish stocking and water lowering permit programs. (Staff)

**WMA Fishing Tournament Permits** – The Division is processing applications for the 2021 fishing tournament season. A total of 152 applications for Wildlife Management Area fishing tournament permits have been received. All permits have been issued for tournaments in March and April. (Smith)