



OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

MONTHLY REPORT

January 2022
(December 16th, 2021 – January 15th, 2022)

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ADMINISTRATION

- The Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems (OIS) has 38 projects in progress and two new projects requested through the DFW GIS/IT Project Request Form.
- OIS completed the first year of its grant period and will be entering annual reporting data into TRACS, the tracking and reporting system for conservation and related actions funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

GIS DATA DEVELOPMENT

Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Lot Data

- OIS had series of additional meetings with Bureau of Shellfisheries to consolidate shellfish aquaculture lease lot data into one statewide file.
- A standard schema for both the lease lots and lessee data was created and topology edits were performed on both the Atlantic Coastal and Delaware Bay region lot data to resolve any unnecessary gaps and to remove overlaps.
- OIS met with NJEMS staff in January to coordinate transferring data from a central GIS-managed dataset to NJEMS.
- Lease lot and lessee data as well as lease sections and exclusion areas were prepped and submitted for publication. Once published, Shellfisheries and OIS staff will be able to manage the centralized dataset through multi-user versioned editing that will in turn update relevant data in NJEMS.

Fishing Opportunities and Access

- BFF is conducting a second review of the two feature classes of trout stocked waters comprising 86 lakes and ponds and 95 rivers and streams. Once final edits are made, the waterbodies will be linked to the spring trout stocking schedule with the goal of producing an online mapping application similar to the upland bird stocking mapping application.
- OIS continues work on a GIS model to update the trout catchment layer to a new higher definition level used by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture.

Diadromous Fish Habitat Mapping and Timing Restrictions

- OIS is processing data from Bureaus of Freshwater and Marine Fisheries for the development of a model to map stretches of stream for diadromous fish.

Wildlife Management Area Boundary Alignment

- OIS has scanned surveys and mapped parcels located at Assunpink, Colliers Mills, Forked River Mountain, Manasquan, Prospertown Lake, Stafford Forge, Turkey Swamp, and Wading River WMAs.

Landscape Project

- OIS received species occurrence data from ENSP and is currently reviewing it for suitability of use in Landscape.

Hard Clam (Estuarine) Survey Mapping

- OIS is working closely with the Bureau of Shellfisheries to map hard clam data, associated species and subaquatic vegetation. Currently work is being performed to map 2012 SAV habitat.
- OIS continues work on mapping 2012 SAV habitat for Barnegat Bay.

Wildlife Management Area Planning Tool Development

- OIS is working with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to finalize and combine habitat patch files for Millville, Maple Lake, Clinton, and Black River Wildlife Management Areas. Once data is consolidated and metadata complete, internal publication of the WMA Habitat Patch layer will proceed.
- OIS continues to work on setting up an internal GeoHub application for BLM staff to review WMA infrastructure asset data prior to publication.
- OIS has completed the conformance of 291 habitat patches and 161 assets have been digitized and incorporated into the Central Wildlife Management Areas. There are 66 assets that are awaiting further review and edits.
- OIS will begin conforming habitat patches in the Southern Region Wildlife Management Areas.

GIS ANALYSIS

Summer flounder distribution by size and sex

- No update.

Habitat Change Analysis Project (HCAP)

- No update.

CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

Artificial Reef Guide Update

- No update - OIS staff is awaiting Bureau of Marine Fisheries to review for any necessary edits.

WEB MAP/APP PRODUCTION

Hunting & Trapping Explorer

- No update.

Artificial Reef Web Map Application

- OIS is awaiting Marine Fisheries to review the deployments layer prior to development of the web map/application.

Offshore Wind Energy GeoHub

- No update.

Conservation Focal Area Application

- No update - OIS staff created and configured a web map and application to display information about the Conservation Focal Areas (CFAs) created for the state Wildlife Action Plan. The application is scheduled to be released in January.

GIS TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

- OIS staff provided the Marine Fisheries staff with the exported results of the 2021 Saltwater Angler Survey.
- OIS staff responded to a request concerning how a site subject to a WQMP amendment would be impacted by bald eagle nest mapping in the Landscape Project.
- OIS staff responded to internal and external inquiries regarding various datasets and applications, including Landscape Project and the Hunting & Trapping Explorer.
- OIS staff met with Bureau of Shellfisheries staff regarding their collaboration with Rutgers in a project developing a GIS-based tool for spatial planning and management of shellfish aquaculture in New Jersey.