



OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

MONTHLY REPORT

March 2022 (February 16th, 2021 – March 15th, 2022)

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ADMINISTRATION

- The Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems (OIS) has 26 projects in progress and one new project requested through the DFW GIS/IT Project Request Form.
- OIS held its first quarterly meeting with Bureau/Unit GIS Points of Contact (POC). The group was formed to maintain and facilitate exchange of information in the interest of collaborative GIS planning across Fish and Wildlife. Bureaus/Units communicated their GIS needs for 2022.
- OIS is nearing completion of its annual grant report following the framework set out in 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 completed topology inspection on all Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay lease lots and all gaps and overlaps were fixed, where applicable. There are 1,345 shellfish lease lots along the Atlantic Coast and 944 lease lots along the Delaware Bay.
- OIS generated corners of all shellfish lease lots and duplicate corners were removed, and X and Y coordinates were generated. There are 5,302 corner vertices for the Delaware Bay lease lots and 17,375 corner vertices for the Atlantic Coast.
- OIS continues to meet with DOIT and Shellfisheries staff to plan interoperability of the enterprise lease lot and lessee data with NJEMS.

Fishing Opportunities and Access

• Trout stocking data will be published before the end of March. OIS is now in the process of populating the dataset with the spring 2022 stocking numbers and preparing the online application for the opening of trout season.

Horseshoe Crab Impingement Data

• OIS met with the Wetlands Institute and Manomet to develop plans for creating enterprise GIS data for horseshoe crab hazards on spawning beaches.

Wildlife Management Area Boundary Alignment

• OIS Staff scanned the documents for twelve WMA parcels.

Landscape Project

• OIS continues to coordinate with ENSP regarding the next version of the Landscape Maps.

Hard Clam (Estuarine) Survey Mapping

- OIS staff has completed maps for the following historical datasets: Distribution of Shellfish Resources of 1963, SAV Distribution of the 1980s, Hard Clam Abundance of the 1980s, Distribution of SA of 1979, and Associated Species Distribution of the 1980s. OIS is waiting for Shellfisheries staff to review and provide any edits or suggestions.
- OIS is waiting for more information so the maps for all remaining datasets of the Estuarine Survey mapping can be completed.

Wildlife Management Area Planning Tool Development

- OIS staff has completed coding and editing habitat patches with assets for Millville, Maple Lake, Clinton, Black River, Assunpink, and Greenwood. There are 9,317 patches for these 6 WMAs.
- OIS staff is continuing to work with BLM to complete editing and coding for all Northern and Southern WMAs and has completed editing and coding for the Central WMAs.
- OIS staff has created and completed the related activity table to be used in conjunction with the WMA habitat patches and the activities that are carried out at WMAs.
- OIS has completed metadata for the habitat patches for Millville, Maple Lake, Clinton, Black River, Assunpink, and Greenwood and for the related activity table and is now in the process of completing QA/QC on this metadata.
- OIS is working with BLM to QA/QC point assets and roads for all Wildlife Management Areas.

Regional Habitat Data Adoption

• OIS staff had a series of meetings to determine which feature classes and raster files will be included as well as which will be published on Enterprise and which will be reserved for Inhouse use.

- OIS staff began to prepare the feature classes and raster files with respect to the symbology, clipped the ones that came from regional datasets to the state boundary and re-projected as necessary.
- OIS staff began preparing the metadata for the files that will be published for the public.

GIS ANALYSIS

Ocean Trawl Survey Environmental/Biological Analysis

• OIS submitted a methodology and sample maps to Marine Fisheries for review and is working on completing this analysis.

Summer flounder distribution by size and sex

• No update.

Habitat Change Analysis Project (HCAP)

• No update.

CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

Offshore Wind Energy Map

• OIS staff is nearing completion of the updated Offshore Wind Energy Wall Map and has sent to Marine Fisheries staff to review and provide feedback.

Artificial Reef Guide Update

• OIS Staff received updated deployment data from Marine Fisheries as has responded with questions. Updates to the Artificial Reef Guide should be complete within the month.

Surf Clam Post-stratification mapping

• OIS continues to assist Bureau of Shellfisheries with generate maps based on past survey data.

WEB MAP/APP PRODUCTION

Hunting & Trapping Explorer

• No Update.

Artificial Reef Web Map Application

• OIS is awaiting Bureau of Marine Fisheries review of deployment data for incorporation into a web application.

Offshore Wind Energy GeoHub

• OIS staff has updated the Offshore Wind Energy GeoHub with new data provided by the Marine Fisheries staff. A final review needs to be completed on the GeoHub to ensure that symbology and information pop-ups are appropriately set-up.

Conservation Focal Area Application

• OIS released the <u>Conservation Focal Area Explorer</u> application in late February. The application can be accessed at: <u>https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/cfaexplorer</u>

Wildlife Rehabilitators Web Map

• OIS is awaiting a final list of rehabilitators from Bureau of Wildlife Management prior to data publication.

Wild Turkey Brood Sighting Survey

- OIS staff has completed coding the Wild Turkey Brood Sighting Survey through Survey123.
- OIS staff worked with BGIS to create a code that auto-populates survey submissions with their related County and Municipality to improve the efficiency of this survey. The survey has been sent to BGIS for publication.

GIS TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

- OIS staff responded to internal and external inquiries regarding various datasets and applications, including Landscape Project and the Hunting & Trapping Explorer.
- OIS staff continues to work with Bureau of Shellfisheries regarding their collaboration with Rutgers in a project developing a GIS-based tool for spatial planning and management of shellfish aquaculture in New Jersey.
- OIS advised a group led by the Wetlands Institute on mapping and submitting data to BGIS regarding horseshoe crab impingement in Delaware Bay.