



## **BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION MONTHLY REPORT**

**Al Ivany, Chief**

**September 16, 2023 – October 15, 2023**

### **HUNTER EDUCATION/ RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3)/ NASP**

**Hunter Education (Joe Leskie, Keith Griglak, Sam Forlenza, Courtney Venuti)**

Staff offered seventeen (17) Hunter Education live fire range sessions during the report period. A total of 848 hunters were certified with 461 firearm students and 387 bow education students completing the course. Courses for the end of October and early November are filling up quickly.

Staff responded to 69 requests for duplicate Hunter Education cards. These requests are from hunters requesting 1-4 individual discipline records (Shotgun, Rifle, Bow, Trapping). This resulted in a total of 111 individual discipline requests which is a 33% increase from the previous reporting period. In most cases, staff must perform tedious research to locate the records and upload the verified information for the hunter. Several duplicates issued during this period were based on records located by staff that were from as long ago as 1972.

There were 63 non-residents who submitted documentation to obtain permissions to purchase licenses and permits in New Jersey and 13 New Jersey residents who submitted documentation to obtain permissions to purchase rifle/muzzleloader permits. Non-residents must create a profile in the Aspira system followed by providing specific documentation to obtain these permissions. The documents required can vary from state to state, meaning that staff must

research and be aware of the proper documentation required from the non-resident's home state. New Jersey hunters looking to obtain rifle/muzzleloader education must already have shotgun education on their profile, then complete our free online education course. After this, they can send proper documentation to staff who can authorize permissions for that hunter's profile. This only applies to those who have completed the shotgun portion of the class prior to 2014, as the two disciplines have since been combined into a single general firearm education course.

In addition to incoming phone calls, staff responded to 401 emails on the general hunter education email address and 108 voicemails during this reporting period. The biggest increase in this category was for duplicate Hunter Education card requests.

Overall voicemail topic numbers follow:

Duplicate requests: 29%  
Range sessions: 19%  
Non-residents: 16%  
Other – Not Hunter Education: 12%  
Rifle/muzzleloader: 6%  
Trapper Education 2%  
Miscellaneous Hunter Education: 11%  
Hunter Education classes: 5%

### **Trapper Education**

Staff conducted two trapper education courses for a total of 86 students. Two additional trapper education courses are scheduled for late October with an additional 130 total students registered. This is the first time in roughly ten years that all five trapper education classes have filled to maximum capacity. As a result, staff is planning to offer an additional course in 2024 to meet student demand.

### **Miscellaneous**

Staff are preparing for the annual Take-A-Kid Mentored Pheasant Hunt to take place on Saturday November 4, 2023. Registration numbers of youth participants and volunteer mentors have been closely monitored to ensure a safe ratio between the two and provide each youngster with the quality experience we expect. Proper documents for the event have been improved over previous years for both youths and volunteers. Current registration stands at 218 youth participants statewide.

J. Leskie and S. Forlenza participated in a federal audit interview during this period. The interview was an in-depth discussion of volunteer instructors' timesheets for in-kind services as well as training requirements and computer/equipment inventory.

S. Forlenza provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Fish and Game Council and at an NGO stakeholder meeting regarding advancements in technology of non-lead shotshell ammunition and components to highlight its viability as a safe and effective alternative to lead ammunition.

Staff have been preparing for the mentored squirrel hunt. This is the third year of the program, and everything is running smoothly for this event scheduled on October 25.

Staff represented Fish and Wildlife at the Warren County Federation meetings during this period.

K. Griglak guest lectured to an Environmental Ethics class of about 30 students at Kean University. The lecture emphasized *locavorism* and how hunters can be utilized to manage wildlife. It was extremely well received by a room full of non-hunters with a lot of discussion about the positive impacts of hunters in modern society.

### **Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation/R3 (R3 Coordinator Position-Vacant)**

Staff are preparing for the annual Take-A-Kid Pheasant hunt. The mentored portion of this hunt will take place at eight wildlife management areas around the state. Each location requires a large number of volunteer dog handlers and mentors to run smoothly. Registration forms were created for participants and volunteers. Registration is now open with more than 200 individuals registered. Staff are overseeing registration numbers on a daily basis to maintain a ratio of mentor to mentee.

### **R3 Tuckahoe Managed Waterfowl Hunt**

The 2023 Tuckahoe Managed Waterfowl Hunt Lottery application period (September 1-25, 2023) was completed. There are six designated hunting blinds available by application and a random lottery. A total of 592 applications were received. The number increased significantly from the 468 applications received from the previous year.

J. Leskie, T. Woolley and J. Belfi completed impoundment blind maintenance for the Tuckahoe Managed Waterfowl Hunt prior to Youth Waterfowl Day on October 14, 2023. Eight Youth hunters participated and harvested four ducks with plenty of action and plenty of smiles.

Staff attended the 2023 Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area Managed Waterfowl Hunt Open House located at the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This 2-day event was an opportunity for hunters who won a blind in the 2023 managed hunt to visit the WMA to become familiar with what to expect prior to their hunt day. Opportunity was available for attendees to view the parking and entrance areas for their awarded blinds. Individuals also had the option of seeing the actual blind they were awarded. Providing all of this information beforehand will help to improve the experience of the hunter on the day of their hunt. Staff were also on hand to answer questions, show examples of the decoys available and offer an idea of what the day would be like.

### **NASP® (Joe Leskie, Craig Decker)**

Staff scheduled/planned/coordinated upcoming Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) Trainings & site visits with schools and organizations.

Staff have scheduled trainings at Oxford Central School, Helen Morgan School and Auten Road Intermediate School.

Staff assisted the Hunter Education program by presenting and managing classes at the following locations: Cherry Ridge Range and Northern Region Office.

Staff held a meeting with Griffin & Howe/Tri-State Youth Program personnel to discuss the possibility of expanding/augmenting school-based archery activity in the Sussex County area.

Staff sent out email communications to all New Jersey NASP instructors and schools providing program updates and fund-raising opportunities.

Staff processed two NASP Easton Foundation Grant requests/awards of up to \$400.00 for existing schools to add/replace archery equipment.

Staff met with officials at Auten Intermediate School to conduct a site safety/archery equipment inspection and discuss the school's participation in the program.

Staff began planning the NJ State NASP in-person 3-D and virtual Bullseye tournaments.

## **AQUATIC EDUCATION (Karen Byrne, Jessica Griglak, Alanna Newmark, Marc Rogoff)**

### **Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center**

The Sedge Island facilities continue to be maintained.

Three groups were hosted during this reporting period: the Rutgers University Outdoor Club, ReClam the Bay, and the Bureau of Shellfisheries.

### **Trout in the Classroom (TIC)**

Staff continues to work with the 122 schools enrolled in the program for the 2023-24 school year to ensure their tanks will be ready for delivery of eggs on Egg Day (October 24). Fish food was ordered and is being packed.

### **Angler R3**

Staff continues to work on developing and writing strategies for the Angler R3 Plan.

One *Let's Go Fishing* workshop was held on September 30 for 10 participants at Atsion Recreation Area in Burlington County.

The *Let's Go Fishing* workshop scheduled for October 27 at Lake Manalapan in Thompson Park was relocated to Spring Lake Park in South Plainfield. Relocation was necessary due to water-lowering issues at Lake Manalapan to accommodate a construction project on the railroad bridge

that crosses the lake. Participants have been notified and the majority of them are still planning to attend.

Two First Catch Center fishing workshops were held at the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery. The first, entitled *Fishing for Catfish*, had twelve participants. Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries' J. Rozema gave an engaging presentation on how to fish for catfish as well as assisted with fishing. He also headed the filleting portion of the workshop. In addition, hatchery staff provided a quick tour for the attendees. A *Family Fishing* workshop was held on October 9 for 11 families totaling 27 participants. Evaluations have been great, with some very good feedback to incorporate into 2024 workshops.

## **Education**

Staff assisted with three Project WET workshops and conducted two climate change education workshops for teachers.

Staff continues to create *Climate Change and New Jersey Wildlife* education resources for schools, including PowerPoint presentations and lesson plans.

Staff provided a night sky presentation for Hooked on Fishing Jamboree participants at Bass River State Forest on October 13.

A meeting was attended with Sustainable Jersey and the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education.

## **Other**

Staff updated and submitted the Aquatic Education Federal Grant narrative for the next 5-year cycle and provided a budget for Year 1 of the grant.

Staff worked with M. Hencheck to finalize lighting, background, and materials for a knot tying video that will be shot later in October.

The Record Fish Program certified a new record for King Mackerel.

Staff reviewed the second pass of the 2024 Freshwater Fishing Digest and provided editing as needed.

**WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (Karen Byrne, Jessica Griglak, Liz Jackson, Alanna Newmark)**

**Pequest Natural Resource Education Center**

Programs continue with both scheduled groups and open enrollment classes. Although several open enrollment class registrations filled to capacity, there were higher than normal no shows. Staff is exploring ways to prevent this from happening at future programs.

Two Habitat Hikes were held for 50 students from Jersey City's Explore Middle School.

Two Intermediate Fly-Casting classes were held for eight people. The workshops instructed participants on different casting techniques, provided tips to improve each cast and challenged students to cast at various targets.

Fly Casting for Beginners was held for six people to learn the art of fly casting.

Nature Nurtures – A Story and Craft Time was held for five children aged 3-5 years. They read a book about backyard birds and made bird houses to take home.

A three-night Intro to Fly Fishing program was held for five people. Participants learned about equipment basics, baits, lures, knots, and casting followed by fishing in the pond.

An Introduction to New Jersey Trout Fishing Program was held for the first time with event registration filling to capacity. Unfortunately, however, only three registrants attended the program.

The facility was used by Healing Waters for a veteran's fishing day event, the North Jersey Chapter of Casting for Recovery, and the State Council of Trout Unlimited. The facility was also used by the Bureau of Law Enforcement for a training session and a HOFNOD school group.

### **Mobile Education Trailer (MET)**

The MET was at Hudson Farms in Hopatcong on October 7 for the Byram Charity Hike. Due to rainy weather, attendance was low with only 670 people participating and just 30 going through the trailer. In 2022, over 500 people visited the trailer. The low number for 2023 can be attributed to poor location and inclement weather.

On October 8, the MET was at Cheesequake State Park for EarthShare's Earth Care Day Event. This is the second year the trailer was present, and visitation increased with 124 people passing through.

The MET is also scheduled be at the League of Municipalities Conference held in Atlantic City, November 14-16.

### **Hooked on Fishing Program**

The Hooked on Fishing Jamboree was held at Bass River State Forest October 13-14, 2023. Five teams attended with approximately 55 students, team leaders, parents and volunteers participating. The Jamboree kicked off Friday night with an evening sky watch with telescopes on hand for viewing constellations and the planet Saturn. Saturday was the main event which

included a team building activity, Casting Golf, Fishing from land and by kayak, Tug of War, and the HOF Dash obstacle course. Staff worked to finalize plans, ensuring that all materials and equipment were ready for the event. Cabin and lean-to assignments were determined for the groups staying overnight.

Staff is currently planning dates and goals for 2024 Hooked on Fishing and Sisters Afield Events.

## **WEBSITE ACTIVITY (Doug Rizio)**

### **New and Updated Pages, Images, and Documents**

Eleven (11) news updates were posted in September.

Two (2) job posts were also published.

One (1) new web page was created.

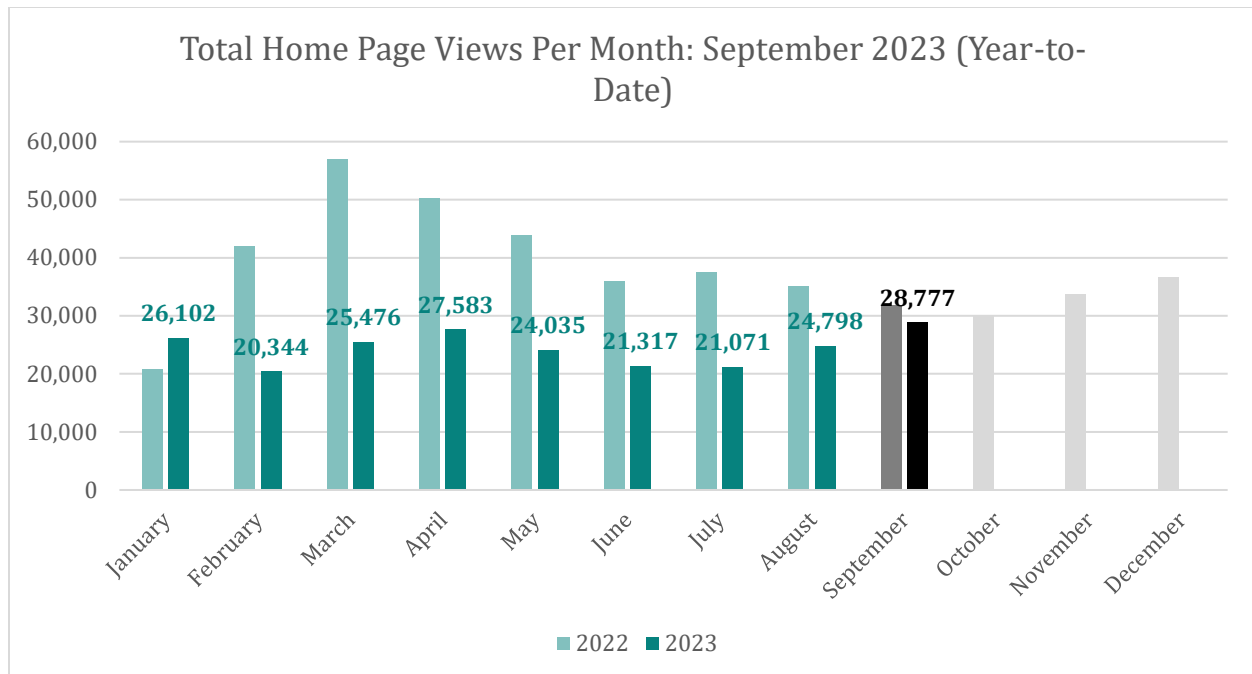
Approximately fifty-seven (57) pages were revised/updated during the report period.

Approximately eighty-eight (88) documents were edited in or converted to PDF format. These included: Bureau Reports (9) in one .zip file; Meeting Documents (17) in two zip files; Minutes/Notices/Agendas (10); Job Descriptions (2); Species Regulations (11); and others (39).

Seventy-three (73) images were also edited and posted.

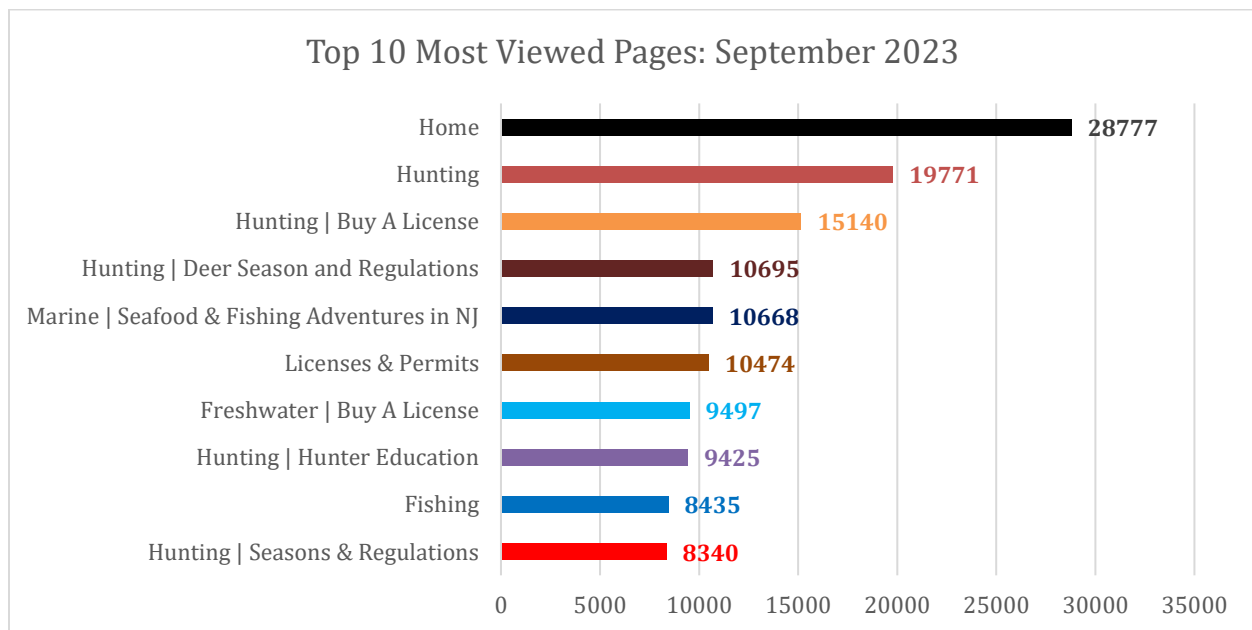
### **Analytics – Home Page**

The number of views on the home page in September was 28,777; an average of about 960 views per day. It is an increase of 3,979 views from the previous month of August (24,798) and a decrease of 3,043 views from the September of the previous year (31,820).



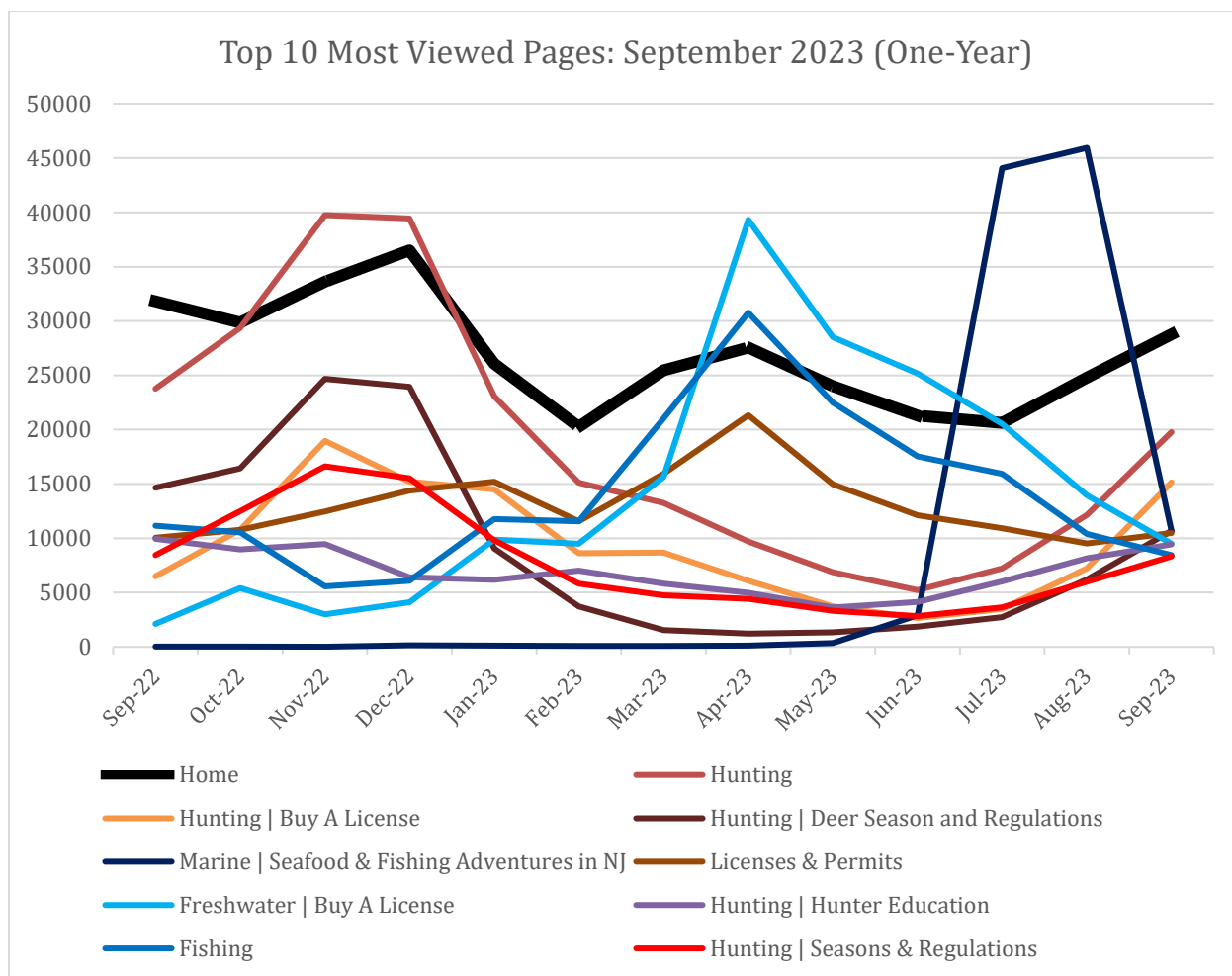
## Analytics

The top ten most viewed web pages in September (including the home page) are shown below:



Also shown below are the performances of this September's top ten pages since the previous year:





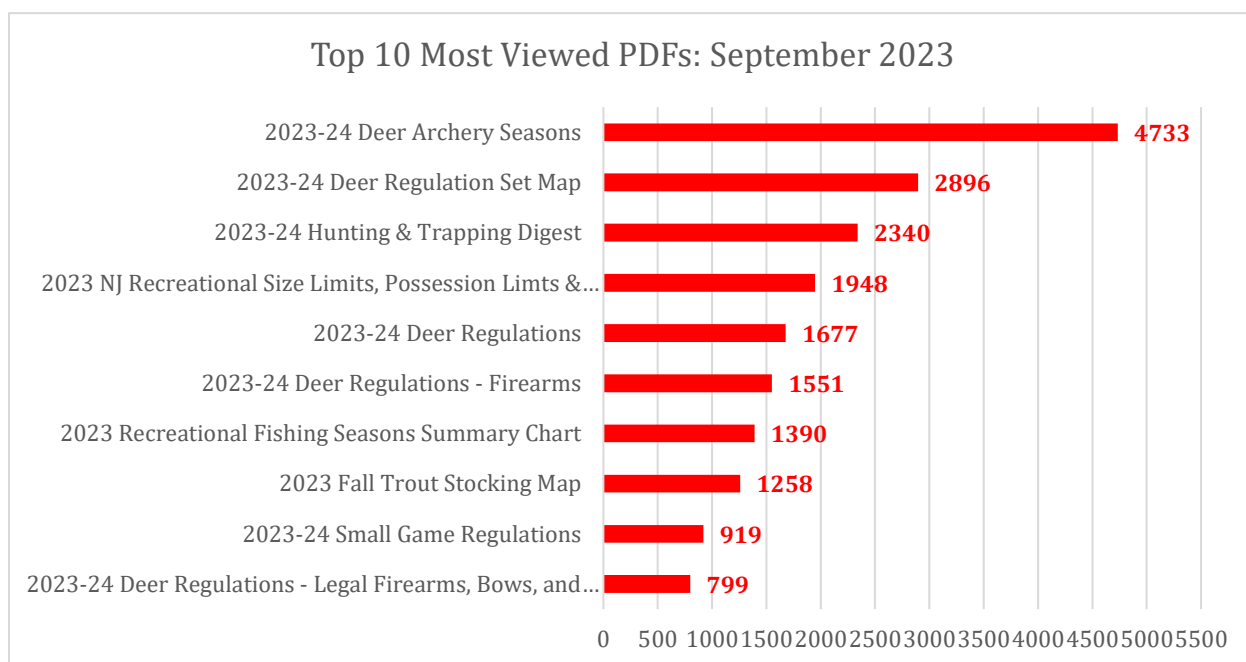
Rank	Page Name	Views
1	<a href="#">Home</a>	28777
2	<a href="#">Hunting</a>	19771
3	<a href="#">Hunting   Buy A License</a>	15140
4	<a href="#">Hunting   Deer Season and Regulations</a>	10695
5	<a href="#">Marine   Seafood &amp; Fishing Adventures in NJ</a>	10668
6	<a href="#">Licenses &amp; Permits</a>	10474
7	<a href="#">Freshwater   Buy A License</a>	9497
8	<a href="#">Hunting   Hunter Education</a>	9425
9	<a href="#">Fishing</a>	8435
10	<a href="#">Hunting   Seasons &amp; Regulations</a>	8340

Other popular pages on the website were:

Rank	Page Name	Views
11	<a href="#">Freshwater   2023 Fall Trout Stocking Schedule</a>	8028
12	<a href="#">Hunting   Automated Harvest Report System</a>	7893

13	<a href="#">Fishing and Hunting License and Permit Information</a>	7887
14	<a href="#">Hunting and Trapping Digest</a>	6971
15	<a href="#">Hunting   Hunting &amp; Trapping License Information</a>	6144
16	<a href="#">Marine   Seasons &amp; Regulations</a>	5923
17	<a href="#">Bears</a>	5162
18	<a href="#">Freshwater   Fall Trout Fishing in New Jersey</a>	4718
19	<a href="#">Migratory Bird Season Information and Population Status</a>	4368
20	<a href="#">Freshwater   Places to Fish - Ponds, Lakes, and Reservoirs</a>	3874

The ten most requested PDFs this report period were:



Rank	PDF Name	Views
1	<a href="#">2023-24 Deer Archery Seasons</a>	4733
2	<a href="#">2023-24 Deer Regulation Set Map</a>	2896
3	<a href="#">2023-24 Hunting &amp; Trapping Digest</a>	2340
4	<a href="#">2023 NJ Recreational Size Limits, Possession Limits &amp; Seasons</a>	1948
5	<a href="#">2023-24 Deer Regulations</a>	1677
6	<a href="#">2023-24 Deer Regulations - Firearms</a>	1551
7	<a href="#">2023 Recreational Fishing Seasons Summary Chart</a>	1390
8	<a href="#">2023 Fall Trout Stocking Map</a>	1258
9	<a href="#">2023-24 Small Game Regulations</a>	919
10	<a href="#">2023-24 Deer Regulations - Legal Firearms, Bows, and Ammunition</a>	799

## **Additional Activities**

Additional activities included bi-weekly Outreach Group meetings and Commissioner's Updates.

## **WILDLIFE INFORMATION/PUBLIC OUTREACH (Linda DiPiano)**

### **GovDelivery (Listserv) Messages**

Sixteen (16) messages were drafted and sent to various e-mail lists and outdoor writers. Assistance was provided to staff with four (4) additional messages.

1. Fall Youth Hunting Days (9/18/23)
2. Know the Bear Facts this Fall! (9/19/23)
3. Take the 2023 New Jersey Waterfowl Hunter Survey (9/20/23)
4. Application Deadline Approaching! Submit Today! (9/21/23)
5. Southern Deer Hunter Forum - Change in Location (9/22/23)
6. National Hunting & Fishing Day (9/23/23)
7. Get Ready for Pheasants! Dog Training Areas Stocked in October (9/25/23)
8. Free Black Bear Educational Resources (9/26/23)
9. REMINDER - Take the 2023 New Jersey Waterfowl Hunter Survey (9/27/23)
10. Fall Bow Opens Saturday in All Zones (9/28/23)
11. Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days in October (10/2/23)
12. Beaver/Otter Trapping Information (10/3/23)
13. Support Pequest Wildlife Management Area (10/4/23)
14. Fall Trout Stocking Begins Oct. 10! (10/5/23)
15. NJ Bear Hunt Begins Monday (10/6/23)
16. Youth Pheasant Hunt Registration Deadline Approaching (10/11/23)

### **GovDelivery List numbers To Date**

	10/1/2023
Freshwater Fishing	62878
Hunting	43129
Marine Fishing	58984
Wildlife	41734
Education	36544
Endangered Species	32654
Shellfish	39230
Outdoors	45101
Sparta Mt.	28122
CHANJ	32528

Marine CARES Act Information		16604
Marine Fisheries Grant and Assistance Information		3544
Total		441052

One (1) text message was drafted for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries and sent during this reporting period.

#### 1. Upcoming Closure of Northern Zone Spanish Mackerel (9/25/23)

### **Responses to the Public Email Address**

Approximately 211 emails came to the public email address. A total of 205 were either directly responded to, or forwarded to agency staff for response; all others required no response.

### **Outstanding Deer Program**

Four new applications for this year's program came in during this reporting period bringing the total to 17.

The application deadline will be extended from November 1 to November 15.

### **Freshwater Fishing Digest**

We received the first pass back from the publisher on September 19 and it was immediately sent to Freshwater Fisheries staff for review with a due date of October 2.

The first pass was received back from Freshwater Fisheries on October 3, edited, reviewed, and uploaded to the publisher on October 5.

We are awaiting the second pass back.

### **Wildlife Conservation Corps.**

The Wildlife Conservation Corps now has 4,637 members.

No volunteer opportunities were emailed during this reporting period.

### **Other**

Attended an Angler R3 – First Catch Center fishing event at the Hackettstown Hatchery where participants learned about fishing for *catfish*. These workshops are introductory and cover fish biology; setting up equipment; safety practices; choosing bait and tackle; casting techniques; and fishing regulations. Participants then put their new skills to practice with a fishing experience in the hatchery ponds.

Attended the Roundtable Discussion: *Bears and Trash* held by the Division of Sustainable Waste Management. The meeting highlighted a new pilot project to provide certified bear-resistant garbage containers to municipalities located within bear country.

Attended and assisted BWM's Deer Project with the Central Deer Hunter Forum at the Rutgers EcoComplex on September 28.

Attended meetings in preparation for the October black bear hunt.

Attended the October Fish and Game Council meeting.

Attended an Angler R3 – First Catch Center Fishing event at Hackettstown Hatchery for *families* to learn about fishing. These workshops are introductory and cover fish biology; setting up equipment; safety practices; choosing bait and tackle; casting techniques; and fishing regulations. Participants then put their new skills to practice with a fishing experience in the hatchery ponds.

## **WILDLIFE INFORMATION – INTERNAL COMMUNICATION (Kathy Porutski)**

**Internal Communication (IC) topics that were *written or edited* and sent out this month include:**

NOV Posting - NJFW (Contract Administrator 1)

Donating Benefit Time for Walter Marzulli

Reminder - Secret Retirement Collection for Bob Longcor

F&W Staff Day Thanks and Follow Up Survey

NOV Posting - NJFW (Environmental Scientist 1)

NOV Posting - NJFW (Administrative Analyst 3 - Fiscal Management)

Phones Out @ Pequest

Recent Passing of Biologist Steve Csorgo (Office of Mosquito Control Coordination)

NOV Postings (2) – NJFW

Environmental Scientist 1

Agency Services Representative Trainee

September Bureau Reports

NOV Postings (2) - NJFW (Conservation Police Officer 3; Crew Supervisor WMA Operations)

F&W Promotional Announcement - Technician 2

NOV Posting - NJFW (Principal Biologist - Wildlife Management)

**Also, during this reporting period:** the Bureau of Information and Education's Monthly Report for September was compiled and edited; and several new employees were added to the IC list.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND DIGITAL MEDIA (Jonathan Carlucci)**

### **Publications/Graphics**

- Created Human Object Interactions (HOIs) animation of 76 aerial images with changing date
- Business cards created and distributed

- Documents created for staff presentation
- Logos modified and shared with staff
- Listserv promo banner art updated for Marine Resources
- 3 QR codes created for various programs
- Code management software updated
- Final edits on new Office of Mosquito Control Coordination logo completed
- Deer Hunter and the Farmer brochure quotes obtained
- Folder of images updated for display options
- Logos modified and shared with staff

## **Photography/Videography**

- Bat acoustic documentation and timelapse overnight
- Footage of interviews with Atlantic City restaurant owners and partners taken
- Drone research and group communications
- Girl Scouts' Mason Bee boxes installation documented at Black River WMA
- Higbee Beach WMA footage and stills taken
- Production talks with staff on upcoming video projects
- Documentation support and stills of the Commissioner for fall promo
- Pulled footage from iCloud and put up to One Drive
- Reviewed and uploaded 11GB of footage and stills for sharing with staff

## **Meetings/Training**

Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) meeting

Outreach Group meeting

Monthly flight training

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND DIGITAL MEDIA (Matt Hencheck)**

### **Video Production**

- *Shell Recycling Program* video – This is an update to the 2021 Shell Recycling Program video that staff produced with Marine Fisheries Biologist Scott Stueber. The remake includes updated program information along with interviews from the chefs and restaurant owners who partner with NJFW. This video was posted in early October. In addition to the full version video that was posted on NJFW's new YouTube Channel, two shorter versions were produced for our other social media platforms.
- *Pequest Wildlife Management Area promotional video* – Various landscapes of the Pequest Wildlife Management Area (WMA) were filmed for the *WMA of the Month* social media campaign. Each month, we focus on promoting a different wildlife

management area, highlighting the scenic landscapes as well as the recreational uses for each wildlife management area.

- *NJDEP Fall Foliage and ENSCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary videos* – Staff filmed NJDEP Commissioner LaTourette as he visited Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area and Cape May State Park. During the trip, the Commissioner viewed plans for future restoration work at Higbee Beach as well as raptor banding at the state park. Staff produced a PSA video with the Commissioner on New Jersey's fall foliage, highlighting the state's wildlife management areas as well as state parks and forests. Other footage obtained will be used for a future ENSCA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video in December.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA (Katie Paey)**

Katie is currently on maternity leave.

## **OUTREACH (Michelle Smith)**

### **Outreach Group**

Job support was provided to Outreach Group staff on initiatives including the bear outreach program, social media, the agency website, videography, graphics projects, and administrative matters.

Biweekly Outreach Group meetings were conducted.

Outreach staff scheduling was coordinated for various projects, including filming, and photographing the Commissioner during several agency field work excursions.

Meetings with the DEP Division of Sustainable Waste Management were attended to discuss logistics for providing certified bear resistant containers to municipalities with trash habituated bears. A roundtable discussion was attended with towns who expressed interest in participating in the Division's pilot project.

Measurement reports were obtained to determine the reach and engagement of the current Black Bear Marketing Campaign.

Content was prepared for the Pequest WMA of the Month promotional messages.

Coverage was provided while the full-time social media administrator is out on leave.

## **BLACK BEAR EDUCATION PROGRAM (Lyla Kaul)**

### **Bear Literature Distribution**

More than 400 pieces of black bear safety literature were distributed. Recipients included:

- One resident of Somerset County
- One animal control officer in Ocean County
- Municipal officials in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County
- Warren County Department of Land Preservation staff
- Attendees of the black bear exhibit and presentation

<b>Literature Type</b>	<b>Amount Distributed</b>
English Brochures	247
Spanish Brochures	25
Kids Activity Books	137
Camper Cards	7
Tyvek Signs	12
QR Code Flyers	0
Total	428

### **Bear Presentations and Exhibits**

During this reporting period, a presentation was given at a day care facility in Passaic County and the black bear exhibit was staffed at a community event in Somerset County for a total of 50 attendees.

The black bear presentation, exhibit, education trunk, publications, and YouTube video were promoted to schools statewide. The message was also shared via GovDelivery. As a result, seven presentations and two exhibits were scheduled. Requests were also received for the bear trunk and literature.

### **Marketing Campaign**

The final phase of the FY23 multi-media black bear outreach campaign is underway. The fall marketing pulse consists of three ads. Two of these are the same ads which ran during the summer pulse focusing on securing garbage and other attractants as well as what to do in the event of a bear encounter. The third ad is brand new and features a certified bear-resistant garbage can, encouraging viewers to secure their garbage as bears prepare for winter denning. The fall pulse will end on November 11.

After the conclusion of the FY23 campaign, the marketing vendor will conduct another behavioral analysis survey to assess behavior changes resulting from the messaging.



## **Partnerships – Division of Sustainable Waste Management**

Staff attended a roundtable meeting organized by the Division of Sustainable Waste Management regarding a pilot project to supply municipalities with certified bear resistant containers. Staff presented background information on bear behavior and biology as well as advice for proper garbage management. Although 10 municipalities were invited to the meeting, only three attended (these three were extremely receptive and wanted to participate). Additional meetings are being scheduled with the municipalities that did not attend the initial meeting.

## **Other**

A bear hide was prepared for tanning with the help of BWM staff.  
A bear check station was staffed on 10/9 and 10/10.