



## **OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

### **MONTHLY REPORT**

**February 2024**  
**(January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024)**

Patrick Woerner, Geographic Information Systems Specialist  
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### **ADMINISTRATION**

- The Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems (OIS) has 40 projects in progress and two new projects requested through the GIS Project Request Form.
- OIS prepared three poster presentations and one technical presentation for the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference (NEAFWA) in Cape Cod, MA.
- Staff attended the 2024 ESRI Federal GIS Conference in Washington, DC.
- OIS participated in an IT meeting with DOIT to discuss topics such as the onX Hunt app, Shellfish lease data, FishTrack upgrades, and the Licensing System.
- OIS participated in a meeting with DOIT, BGIS and ENSP to discuss a contract regarding the development of a State Wildlife Action Plan database.
- OIS represented NJFW at, and participated in, the NJDEP GIS Program Representatives Meeting.
- OIS is coordinating with Esri on an ongoing technical assistance issue regarding bugs associated with ArcGIS Field Maps and hosted services currently impacting BLM's ability to record management activities on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).
- OIS attended the quarterly NJDEP GIS Users Group Meeting.

### **GIS DATA DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Lot Data**

- OIS staff met with Shellfisheries staff to go over the correct processing steps for editing this dataset. Shellfisheries will begin editing and will meet with OIS for another editing meeting in March.

### **Freshwater Fishing Opportunities and Access**

- OIS is currently working on data development tasks associated with a GIS dataset that will depict applicable Freshwater Fishing Regulations per water feature. OIS is aligning waterbody and stream layers, splitting stream segments and waterbody polygons where necessary, so that regulatory coding will match.

### **New Jersey Statewide Trails Dataset**

- No update.

### **Diadromous Fish Habitat Mapping and Timing Restrictions**

- OIS met with fisheries staff to discuss new rules for analyzing streams by confirmed species type.

### **Wildlife Management Area Boundary Alignment**

- OIS presented recent changes of the methodology and file organization with Lands Management and will meet with Green Acres to establish data sharing protocols.

### **Landscape Project**

- OIS continues to manage the Landscape Project mapping update in coordination with ENSP.
- OIS completed modeled habitat outputs for species to be newly listed and represented in the next version of Landscape. ENSP is currently reviewing mapped habitat areas.
- The schedule for the proposal of the new listing rule is not clear at this time and public release of version 3.4 of the Landscape Maps may or may not occur in 2024.
- OIS published three dozen layers to GeoHub for ENSP to review

### **Hard Clam (Estuarine) Survey Mapping**

- Shellfisheries provided edits to metadata and the Estuarine Inventory of New Jersey dataset was published to [NJDEP Open Data](#) and [ArcGIS Online](#) as of February 14, 2024.

### **Wildlife Management Area System Inventory**

- No update.

### **Law Enforcement CAD System**

- OIS developed separate files for Marine and Inland law enforcement patrol areas in preparation for incorporation into NJDEP's Enterprise GIS and ultimately for use in a new CAD system for BLE.

- OIS is coordinating with several partners including ENSP, to gather relevant data for incorporation into BLE's new CAD system.

## **GIS ANALYSIS**

### **Ocean Trawl Survey Environmental/Biological Analysis**

- No update.

### **Habitat Change Analysis Project (HCAP)**

- OIS is working with grant coordinators, DEP procurement and Rowan University to begin the next phase of this analysis.

### **Identifying Potential Encroachments on WMAs**

- OIS staff has identified several potential encroachments and will be meeting with BLM as well as other relevant NJFW staff to discuss plans for review and resolution.

## **CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION**

### **Nacote Creek Swap Area**

- OIS produced a map focused on the Nacote Creek Swap Area in Galloway, NJ.

## **WEB MAP/APP PRODUCTION**

### **Deer Disease Sighting Survey**

- OIS plans to meet with the Bureau of Wildlife Management (BWM) and the Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics to discuss changes to the [Deer Disease Sighting Form](#) and coordination with [Cornell's Wildlife Health Lab's SOP4CWD](#) project.

### **Hunting & Trapping Explorer**

- No updates. OIS will be presenting at the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (NJSFSC) on March 1st.

### **Wildlife Management Area Explorer**

- OIS staff is working on updates associated with an Esri bug impacting ArcGIS Field Maps.

### **Saltwater Fishing Explorer**

- No updates.

### **Freshwater Fishing Explorer**

- OIS is attempting to obtain the trout stocking dates in order to update the application.

### **Conservation Focal Area Application**

- No updates.

### **Marine Resources GeoHub**

- No updates.

### **Shared Wildlife Health Information System (SWHIS)**

- OIS staff continues to collaborate with Wildlife Futures Program (WFP) at UPenn and the Timmons Group on the development of SWHIS and a feature service that will include wildlife health events, including animal morbidity and mortality information.

### **Wild Turkey Brood Sighting Survey**

- No updates.

### **Turkey Permit Sales and Harvests Dashboard**

- No updates.

### **Northeast Regional Conservation Priorities web application**

- No updates.

### **Fishing and Hunting License Agent Locator web application**

- Updates were made to license agents.
- Several license agents were removed from the application because they are no longer active locations.

## **GPS/FIELD DATA COLLECTION**

### **sUAS Deer Surveys**

- OIS staff met with staff from Warren Community College to do a site inspection of Pequest Wildlife Management Area to scope out areas for the deer drone monitoring project. We were able to find numerous take-off locations that will ensure we're analyzing different types of deer habitats with thermal imagery, roads edge, woods, fields, etc. Staff from WCC will

continue working on potential methodologies and choosing the best drone(s) for this type of usage. The project will begin towards the end of February or beginning of March.

### **GIS TECHNICAL GUIDANCE**

- OIS is training Bureau of Shellfisheries on branch versioned editing for aquaculture lease lots and lease holders.
- OIS staff responded to internal and external inquiries regarding various datasets and applications, including Landscape Project and the Hunting & Trapping Explorer.
- OIS staff assisted ENSP in identifying appropriate handheld GPS being purchased to replace ones that had stopped working.
- OIS staff chose a plotter to replace the one we use currently; however, the purchase can't be made until the contract is renewed.