



BUREAU OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES MONTHLY REPORT



September 16, 2022 – October 15, 2024

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Seasonals: Abby Bronicio, Chris Cohen, Robert Huth, Michael Kays, Samantha Lavan, Kendall Morgan, Karl Lightner, Matt Moury, Nick Moury, Andrew Ruiz, Jesse Tyther, Scott Ward, and Cheryl Weeks

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Fall Trout Stocking: Worked with Pequest Trout Hatchery and made changes to truckloads and number of trucks for the Fall Trout Stocking Schedule. Worked with Pequest Trout Hatchery and Bureau of Lands Management on drivers and helpers for Fall Trout Stocking. Distributed Final Fall Stocking schedule to Pequest Trout Hatchery and Land Management staff. Updated Office of Fish & Wildlife Information Systems on need changes to the Fall Trout section of webpage and the fall trout stocking hotline.

Monitoring of stream flows continued and due to the low flow conditions in many of the Fall Trout Stocked rivers and streams, biologists deemed it necessary to delay stocking the rivers and streams 2 weeks from the week of October 8th to the week of October 21st. Lakes and Ponds will still be stocked on October 15th and 16th with roughly 4,000 Rainbow Trout averaging 14 – 16 inches in length. (Civalier & Shramko)

Brook Trout Restoration Efforts on NJ Trout Production Streams Project - In June of 2023 Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologists began a multi-year Brook Trout restoration study. In New Jersey, competition from Brown Trout, along with other habitat stresses (increased temperature and land use impacts), has severely reduced Brook Trout populations throughout their range. This reduction has likely been happening since Brown Trout were first stocked in the state in 1908. It is unknown exactly how the long it takes for Brown Trout to displace Brook Trout, and this question is compounded by the fact that this is not the only contributing variable to Brook Trout decline. However, this study aims to determine cost and feasibility of aiding Brook Trout populations by conducting manual removals of Brown Trout through backpack electrofishing. This study aims to determine how long Brook Trout populations can withstand and hold back Brown Trout recolonization under different environmental conditions. This knowledge will inform trout biologists if manual Brown Trout removals to restore Brook Trout populations is a viable management tool and if it can and should be implemented on a larger scale in the future. It is commonly considered by trout biologists from other states that Brook Trout have a greater ability to fend off Brown Trout (keep them at low numbers or from establishing entirely) when habitat conditions are optimal for Brook Trout.

Staff selected 2 small *Trout Production* streams to begin this study in 2023 and added Turkey Brook, located in Morris County, in 2024. On June 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th, crews began removal of Brown Trout in the nearly 1.8 mile stretch of Turkey Brook. Crews continued removals of Brown Trout from Turkey Brook on September 30th and October 1st. (Collenburg/Shramko/Diglio, F-48-R)

Fisheries Surveys in Lakes

Clinton Reservoir (Passaic) - Clinton Reservoir (412 acres) is managed as a *Holdover Trout Lake* and is annually stocked with Rainbow Trout to provide a put-grow-take fishery. Beginning in 2019, routine monitoring in the form of dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles identified no summer trout supporting water being present in the reservoir. Following further surveys in August 2024 finding no summer trout supporting water, a total of 6 overnight gill net sets occurred from 9/23-9/25 in an attempt to capture and confirm if any Rainbow Trout were still

present in the reservoir. All sets utilized 250' experimental gill nets and targeted the depths just above the minimal amount of dissolved oxygen required to support trout (4 mg/L) found at approximately 20ft. A total of 11 Smallmouth Bass, 7 Yellow Perch, 2 Chain Pickerel, and 1 Black Crappie were captured over the course of the survey. No Rainbow Trout were captured in any net, which fails to confirm their presence in the reservoir. Further investigation and effort towards confirming the absence of a viable holdover Rainbow Trout fishery here continues to be warranted. (Rozema, F-48-R)

Pompton Lake (Passaic) - On the nights of 10/7/24-10/8/24, BFF staff conducted a nighttime boat electrofishing survey on Pompton Lake targeting Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass to understand the population's health and interaction with stocked Northern Pike (evaluated in spring 2024). A total of 201 Largemouth Bass were captured during the 3.5 hours of electrofishing that occurred. 1 Northern Pike was also a notable catch during the survey. No Smallmouth Bass were captured. Data analysis is ongoing. (Rozema, F-48-R)

Monksville Reservoir (Passaic) - On the nights of 10/9/24-10/10/24, BFF staff conducted a nighttime boat electrofishing survey on Monksville Reservoir targeting Largemouth and Smallmouth bass to better understand the population's status and gather additional data ahead of potential inclusion into the annual Hybrid Striped Bass stocking program. A total of 143 Largemouth Bass and 21 Smallmouth Bass were captured over 3.9 hours of electrofishing. 54 Walleye, 1 Tiger Muskellunge, and 1 Muskellunge were also notable catches during the survey. Data analysis is ongoing. (Rozema, F-48-R)

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Presented to the joint Fish and Game Council and Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC) meeting on 10/8/24. This presentation was given on the newly approved New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Plan, providing brief overview of the development of the plan, working group partners, objectives and goals. One of the highest priorities is hiring an AIS Management Plan coordinator to work with partners and implement the plan. An FTE position was approved and will be filled in the coming months. (Smith)

MAPAIS Meeting - Participated in a two-day virtual meeting on 10/9 and 10/10, with the MAPAIS Panel to discuss invasive species issues in the region. The in-person meeting was held at the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center in Kearneysville, WV. Provide updates on the NJ AIS Management Plan implementation, request for funding, species distribution and regulation changes. (Smith, F-48-R)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (State Funding)

Classification Changes related to updating the Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS) GIS Coverage – Discrepancies between the old SWQS GIS coverage and the new SWQS GIS coverage are being identified because of a transition to the utilization of the Stream Network 2015 Hydro Layer by the Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration, and Standards

(BEARS). Time was spent reviewing the discrepancies and attending two meetings with BEARS on September 27th and October 15th to discuss the potential changes. (Collenburg)

Ironcolor Workgroup Sampling – Related to a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant awarded to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (ANS) one day, October 15th, was spent out in the field assisting ANS with data collection for Ironcolor Shiners. In 2023, eDNA results reflected presence/absence of the soon to be listed Endangered species. Field work in 2024 was conducted to verify the eDNA results. The work ultimately aims to understand their distribution and habitat and implement or suggest management actions to conserve the species soon to be listed as Endangered in New Jersey. (Collenburg/Crouse)

FishTrack Database – The current Access database that holds data for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries has become an issue creating inefficiencies in time spent entering, managing, analyzing, and procuring data. This is likely caused by the transfer or querying of large amounts of information from the Garden State Network, Zscaler, and to the offices in Lebanon. Therefore the backend of the FishTrack Access database was migrated to a Microsoft SQL backend in July of 2024. This should help enhance speed and minimize impact to continuous use amongst users. However, due to incapacibilities in code between Microsoft SQL and Access, a few issues are still being addressed to get the front end and back end of the database communicating fully. (Collenburg)

NAACC Assessments – Continued to lead the implementation of NAACC assessments on behalf of the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries with priorities to assess crossings related to native Brook Trout, other wild trout populations, and fish species soon to be listed as Endangered or Threatened (Bridle Shiner, Ironcolor Shiner, and Slimy Sculpin). This will put the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries in a position to guide and prioritize management of road/stream crossings that may be barriers to aquatic organism movement. Currently, a total of 321 crossings have been assessed and another 28 are scheduled for assessment. Staff also spent significant amount of time entering and validating data that has been input into NAACC's database. Results are already reflecting interesting results that may be able to implement as management objectives as early as 2025. (Collenburg)

State Wildlife Action Plan Habitat Associations - As part of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) progress was made on describing the habitats and regions that SGCN fish species are located in. The deadline for Habitat Associations is the end of September. Progress was also made describing actions that can be implemented to address threats to fish species identified as SGCN. These actions are to be described for each habitat region in New Jersey (e.g. Kittatinny Ridge, Highlands, etc.). (Collenburg)

Skillful Angler Program: Received and reviewed 17 Skillful Angler applications from anglers. Applications have now reached 362 for 2024 and continue to come in steadily. (Civalier)

Freshwater Fisheries Permits – Reviewed water lowering and fish stocking applications and contacted applicants to obtain necessary information. A few projects required significant lowering that necessitated fish salvage. Reviewed LMRs from a freshwater fisheries perspective for upcoming projects. (Staff)

WMA Fishing Tournament Permits – Issued fishing tournament permits to local fishing organizations. Reports have been steadily coming in with good results reported from Union Lake, Assunpink Lakem and Stone Tavern Lake (Smith).

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Greenway Family Fishing and Community Fishing Meetup at Roosevelt Park Pond (Middlesex) - Participated in two fishing education events at Roosevelt Park Pond on 9/14/24. The Greenway Family Success Center hosted a family fishing education event teaching parents and children about the various aspects of going fishing, including finding regulations, setting up a rod and reel, knot tying, and fish biology. Participants then had the opportunity to catch their first fish at Roosevelt Park Pond. The second event, held later that afternoon, focused on the entire local community. Bait and tackle, loaner rod and reel combos, and tackle/casting advice were all available to participants that attended. A total of 47 adults and 30 children were counted engaged in fishing halfway through the event. (Rozema)

NJ Statewide Dam Removal Partnership (SDRP) - Attended the Statewide Dam Removal Partnership (SDRP) Information Session on the National Aquatic Barrier Inventory & Prioritization Tool (NABIPT) on 10/8/24. This tool can be used by practitioners to better understand, filter and prioritize aquatic barriers (dams/culverts/road crossings) for removal, restoration and mitigation efforts. The goal is to build a compilation inventory and understand the degree of aquatic habitat fragmentation from man-made barriers in the United States and Territories. The tool as seeks to identify the highest priority aquatic barriers to remove or remediate. Barrier prioritization is done by evaluating a combination of network length (amount of aquatic length that would be restored with barrier removal), network complexity (number of upstream tributaries and size classes), channel alteration, and natural landcover. Freshwater fisheries staff have been conducting numerous culvert and road crossing assessments following North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) protocols. These assessments ultimately end up being incorporated into the NABIPT which will help to more accurately map and assess aquatic barriers across the state. (Boehm, F-48-R)

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Fish and Game Council Presentation - Presented potential changes to the 2026 Fish Code at the joint Fish and Game Council and Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC) meeting on 10/8/24. The proposal was approved by the Fish & Game Council and includes recommendations to:

- Establishment of Opening Day to be defined as the 2nd Saturday in April annually.

- Remove the preseason closure on all trout stocked lakes and ponds (providing 19 additional days of early-season angling, amongst several other benefits)
- Addition of 22 new small ponds to be added to the spring trout stocking program. These waters are primarily in overburdened communities.
- Extension of the boundaries on three trout stocked waters (Lopatcong Creek, Pompton River, and N/Br of the Raritan River).
- Conversion of the General Trout Regulations along the Pequannock River (from Route 23 in Smith Mills to the railroad trestle below Appelt Park) to Trout Stocked, Wild Brown Trout Managed. (Increasing the minimum size of Brown Trout from 9" to 12" and no more than 2 Brown Trout may be taken per day.)
- The Fall and Winter trout stocking programs will be combined and stocked during the fall period, typically the 2nd and 3rd weeks of October. (Also an expansion of the program by up to 6,000 trout.)
- The general trout fishing regulations will be modified so that the daily creel limit from June 1 through the start of the preseason closure (on rivers and streams will be reduced from 4 down to 2 trout per day. The daily limit on lakes and ponds would remain 2 through the 3-week pre-season stocking period.
- Lake Trout regulations on both Round Vally Reservoir and Merrill Creek Reservoir will be modified to allow more harvest. At Round Valley Reservoir the daily limit will be 8 Lake Trout (15" to less than 24") & 1 Lake Trout (greater than or equal to 24"). At Merrill Creek Reservoir the daily limit will be 2 Lake Trout (15" to less than 24") & 2 Lake Trout (greater than or equal to 24"). Harvest will be allowed year-round at both waters.
- Round Vally Reservoir and Merrill Creek Reservoir will both be added to the Lunger Bass Regulations (minimum size of 15" and daily limit of 3).
- Ryker Lake and Rainbow Lake will be removed from having special regulations and will be regulated under the general statewide regulations.
- Freshwater Drum will be regulated as a Potentially Dangerous Species (illegal to have alive in your possession and must be destroyed and should submit specimen or photograph to the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries).
- Bowfishing regulations will allow for all catfish to be taken with bow and arrow. This is to accommodate the take of the invasive Blue Catfish, which has unfortunately recently expanded its range into NJ waters.
- Reducing the daily limit of American Eels taken for bait from 35 down to 25, thus getting in compliance with Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission' management plan. This also consistent with Marine Fisheries regulations, as well as the general regulations within freshwater while fishing.
- Ensuring that soon to be listed as Endangered or Threatened freshwater fish may not be taken from the boundary waters (Delaware River and Greenwood Lake).
- Commercial harvest of Snapping Turtles will be modified. Annual limit reduced from unlimited to 250 per permittee annually, increase of minimum shell length from 12" to 13", and reduction of the season by dropping the early harvest window of April 1 to May 15. (Crouse)

PEQUEST TROUT HATCHERY (Ed Conley)

Inventory Data

<u>Stocking Program</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Average Daily Increase</u>	<u>Conversion</u>
Spring 2025 RBT (12 months old)	8.2"	0.027	1.67
Fall 2025 RBT (12 months old)	8.9"	0.032	1.54
Fall/Winter 2024 RBT (24 months old)	14.5"	0.020	2.07

Flow Rates – September 2024

0.97 inches of precipitation fell during the month of September.

Production Well Pumping Rate Average for September was 6,173 gpm with an average of 8.89 million gallons per day pumped during the month.

The potable well pumped 10,451 gallons for the month of September.

Quarterly Water Diversions were submitted.

Fish Culture Activities

The Fall Trout Stocking Program began on 10/15/23. During the first week of stocking 3,980 two-year old production trout were stocked along with 200 larger three-year old broodstock into ponds and lakes. The rivers were pushed back two weeks due to low flows and are scheduled to go out the week of 10/21/24. The complete stocking summary for the Fall Trout Program will be in the next monthly report.

The hatchery staff have continued checking three-year-old broodstock weekly and have now finished spawning with a total of 7 takes amounting to about 1.6 million eggs from 563 three-year old females. Eggs have been sterilized and placed in incubators. These eggs will be the production trout for 2026. Lots 1-3 have hatched resulting in approximately 747,000 fry so far. Hatchery flows were adjusted on the tanks.

On 9/30/24 and 10/7/24, Joe Groff and Jim Neugebauer from the Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics collected and cultured 2025 Production Rainbow Trout samples for annual disease testing. We should receive full results in approximately 2 months. Joe Groff also received results on the ovarian fluid samples taken for annual testing. The results were all good. The 2024 Fall and Winter Program fish were inventoried. Feed quantities have been adjusted to regulate growth rates to reach our final goals for stocking in October and November. Monthly inventories were completed on all the 2025 production pools. Feed quantities have been adjusted to regulate growth rates to reach our final goals for stocking. These fish are being fed by the

feed truck 4 times a day with 5.0 mm feed. Screens are being cleaned twice a day and basins weekly.

Selected and set-up 2-year-old Rainbows for next year's 3-year-old Broodstock in the E-line.

Pequest Maintenance

On 9/25/24, we had a power loss lasting about 3 hours. The wells ran on diesel backup and staff-maintained flows to the fish. We had to restart a couple of wells manually as some breakers tripped during the outage. Well #6 failed to re-start and smelled of burning wires. It was determined that the motor failed and the well needed to be re-built. The full cost is yet to be determined until we get a price on updating the electrical as well that is now 40 years old. We are working on getting additional quotes from a couple of other vendors and will process it through CBT funding.

Received additional quotes from a couple of other vendors on the Variable panel in Well#1. Only one vendor had the full DPA paperwork in the Amount of \$15,745 which we submitted it to process it through CBT funding.

APS performed the Annual Fire Alarm Inspection of the facility on 9/26/24 and 9/27/24. Everything had passed with just a couple of back up batteries being replaced.

Staff installed 4 new exit signs and 1 new power supply feed in the maintenance building. The AC system in the administrative building was drained and winterized. The bed on the Land Management Stocking truck was repaired, welded, and the tank was installed for Fall Stocking. A section of concrete was fixed on the E-line after a chunk fell off. A couple of stocking trucks were sent out for annual inspections.

NJDEP Water Supply approved another 3-month extension on the UV domestic units regarding ongoing errors. Since Portasoft Inc. changed the programming on 9/10/24, there have been two failures which they reached out to ATS the manufacturer on and are waiting to hear back.

Miscellaneous Activities

On 9/17/24, met and gave a tour of the facility to Pennsylvania's Fish and Boat Commission's Director of Hatcheries and Fish Hatchery Managers. They were interested in the infrastructure of the facility as they are looking to upgrade their own.

Completed a Rack and Fin Radio interview with Tom Pagliaroli, on 10/09/24 about trout production and the upcoming 2024 Fall Trout Stocking Season.

Assisted Information and Education with getting some videos of the waterflow through the hatchery on 10/1/24. This will be footage used in the self-guided tour at Pequest Trout Hatchery.

Newer staff have continued attending scheduled Fish and Wildlife Experiences to learn about various Fish and Wildlife Programs.

Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery (Craig Lemon)

<u>Species</u>	<u># Fish</u>	<u>Avg."</u>
Landlocked Salmon	3,200	10.7"
Landlocked Salmon	3,200	5.2"
Muskellunge	10,812	9.1"
Largemouth Bass	3,000	4.6"
Largemouth Bass (Ark.)	2,500	3.2"
Hybrid Striped Bass	1,600	6.4"
Gambusia	50,000	1.5"

Stocking Totals (September 16 – October 15)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>#Fish</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Length</u>
9/18	Np	Massachusetts F & W	2,200	620	11.0"
10/2	Fhm	Burlington Co. Mosq. Co.	10,000	12	1.5"
10/3	Fhm	Wild Duck Pond	17,340	20.4	1.5"
10/1	Lmb	Deal Lake	150		9.1"
10/3	Lmb	Ponderlodge Pond	159		9.1"
10/1	Chc	Lake Takanassee	150	113	13.7"
10/1	Chc	Deal Lake	100	61	13.7"
10/1	Chc	Heritage Park Pond	100	68	13.7"
10/1/	Chc	Birch grove Park Pond	100	68	13.7"
10/1	Chc	Ponderlodge Pond	100	65	13.7"
10/1	Chc	Giampetro Park Pond	140	95	13.7"
10/1	Chc	Penbryn Lake	150	122	13.7"
10/1	Chc	Woodstown Memorial Pk Pd	150	100	13.7"
10/1	Chc	Mary Elmer Lake	120	84	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Black Brook Park Pond	50	33	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Lower Echo Park Pond	100	66	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Nomehegan Park Pond	116	76	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Warinanco Park Pond	116	76	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Upper Sylvan Lake	50	29	13
10/2	Chc	Woolmans Pond	100	57	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Laurel Acres Park Pond	50	28	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Haddon Lake	150	95	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Greenwich Lake	150	99	13.7"
10/2	Chc	Swedesboro Lake	150	100	13.7"
10/3	Chc	Stone Tavern Lake	150	99	13.7"
10/3	Chc	Turnmill Pond	150	100	13.7"
10/3	Chc	Topenemus Lake	200	133	13.7"
10/3	Chc	Turkey Swamp Park Lake	200	133	13.7"
10/9	Hsb	Monksville Reservoir	386	579	14.5"
10/10	Hsb	Monksville Reservoir	289	434	14.5"

Chc – Channel Catfish
Lmb - Largemouth Bass

Fhm – Fathead Minnows
Np – Northern Pike

Hsb-Hybrid Striped Bass

Intensive Culture

Landlocked Salmon

Currently culturing 3,200 fish about 10.7" in three 2,000-gallon tanks. Staff clean and feed them daily. Received 3,200 five-inch salmon from Massachusetts Roger Reed Salmon Hatchery in trade for Northern Pike fingerlings. Staff are planning on stocking last year's fish beginning around October 28th.

Muskellunge

Currently culturing 10,812, 9.1-inch fingerlings in four 2,000-gallon tanks. Staff drained the hatcheries two Fathead Minnows ponds and brought in four tanks of minnows to finish off this year's Muskellunge fingerlings prior to stocking. Stocking is planned to begin on 10/16. Half of the fish will be stocked this fall, and the other half will be overwintered on a dry pelleted diet in 52°F spring water.

Hybrid Striped Bass

Currently culturing 1,600 six-inch fingerlings in three 350-gallon circular tanks. These fish will be raised through the winter and be moved outside in the spring. They will be on a dry pelleted diet in 52°F water. Tank water temps are currently 68°F.

Largemouth Bass

Purchased 2,500 three-inch dry food trained Largemouth Bass from Keo Fish Farms to grow intensively until next spring. These will be part of the PERCH program in two to three years. Staff inventoried our NJ Largemouth Bass and came up with 3,295 pellet trained five-inch fingerlings. These will also be overwintered intensively and put outside in ponds for future PERCH program fish. Both lots of fish are doing well and are in 68°F water until the recirculation systems are shut off.

Gambusia

Staff harvested Pond 64 and brought in three 1,000-gallon tanks of Gambusia and Fathead Minnow mix. These fish will be reared over the winter in 52°F spring water and fed a dry mash diet.

Intensive Production Work

We are currently pumping 548 gpm of 52°F spring water and 254-gpm of 68°F recirculated water, and 181 gpm of 80°F recirculated water. All three systems are still up and running with shutdown planned for the end of October. Experiencing issues with low spring flow alarms almost daily when filling tankers and siphoning tanks. North Jersey is in a severe drought. Associated with the Spring water issues, staff changed to the pvc piping at the heads of the four 2,000-gallon salmon tanks. Two-inch ball valves were added for better control of water flow into the tanks. This allowed staff to cut back 60 gpm of water over the three tanks.

Extensive Culture

Channel Catfish

Staff harvested Pond 78, which was the second of our two Arkansas catfish ponds. A total of 2,850 yearlings were harvested and distributed to 23 ponds and lakes. The fish averaged 13.7 inches and about one pound each.

Hybrid Striped Bass

Pond 30 was harvested which was set up as a mix of Hybrid Striped Bass and Largemouth Bass fingerlings in the Spring. Good numbers of both species were seined, and all fish were transferred into Pond 90 to be used in the 2026 PERCH Program. The fish grew and survived well together. Pond 77 was harvested on 10/9. The three-year-old Hybrids did well returning 915 of 1,200 fish averaging 15 inches and 1.5 pounds each. 675 were stocked in Monksville reservoir and 240 were moved to Pond 89 for future PERCH Program fish.

Largemouth Bass & Smallmouth Bass

All bass broodstock ponds have been harvested and the adults returned to Pond 50.

Fathead Minnows

Both the 5-Acre and Pond 85 were harvested. Both contained Largemouth Bass fingerlings that entered as fry. The bass were nice, but they depleted this year's overwintering minnow numbers. Remaining minnows were spread out to other extensive ponds to be used as forage.

Hatchery Extensive Pond Work

The final extensive ponds were harvested for the season. Staff are cleaning up and organizing all the pond gear – screens, plugs, slides, boards in the storage building. Putting together a list of concrete repairs to inflow and outflow structures. Staff did an excellent job putting the final touches on the new Pond 87. The project has been in the works for a few years, but really came together this summer. Plans are to fill it and use it in the Spring of 2025.

Information & Education

Provided information and photos for four GoFishFriday's posts 173-176. 1,445 likes, 49 comments, and 68 shares. Answered as many questions as possible on these posts. Provided pics and text for a Super Cat Channel Catfish post. The post received 1,473 likes, 256 comments, and 193 shares. Answered many comments on this thread. Hosted ten members of the PA Fish & Boat Commission for a tour of the facility on 9/17. They were interested in our recirculation systems for possible upgrades to their hatchery system. Hosted the first of two Trapper Education weekends on 9/21-22. Hosted a First Catch Center for Women on 10/9 and A HOFNOD Instructor Training on 10/12.

CBT/CBTM Projects

A CBTM project was created for the dredging and regrading of Pond 90. Rented a bulldozer for two weeks as part of the project. Working on Tilcon DPA paperwork for the purchase of stone as part of the CBTM project. Tilcon has not been responding so we reached out to the second vendor. A second CBT PO was created for tree work near the Gate House and Parking Area and the work was done promptly.

State Mosquito Commission Fish Tanks

Two new fish distribution tanks were purchased by the Commission. The vendor delivered them to the hatchery. Staff ordered all the hardware and are preparing it for use in 2025.

The State Mosquito Commission Equipment Inspection took place on 9/27. All equipment was in order and on site.

Employee Actions

Congrats to Steve Jeffries on his promotion to Heavy Equipment Operator and his move South to Rainbow Lake. Appreciate all your hard work at the hatchery and your passion for the place. Best of Luck in your new title!