

OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH AND FORENSICS

MONTHLY REPORT

October 2024

Joseph M. Groff, VMD, PhD, Research Scientist 1

Patrick J. Connelly, DVM, MS, Research Scientist 2

FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH PROJECT (FW-69-R21)

Diagnosis of Diseases in Freshwater Fish (Job F-1)

Pequest Hatchery

Health assessments of an additional 135 trout from the Pequest Hatchery were conducted on October 7th and October 28th. Laboratory results are pending.

Diagnosis and Research of Diseases in Marine Fish (Job F-2)

Histological examination of Black Sea Bass, Summer Flounder, Tautog, and Conger Eel from the Marine Fisheries Reef Surveys and Ocean Trawls, and Striped Bass from the Marine Fisheries Striped Bass Delaware River Survey was initiated in October and will continue in November. Histological findings will be reported when completed.

Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Investigations (Job W-1) and Wildlife Toxicology (Job W-2)

Deer Health

Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

OFWHF began CWD testing from hunter-harvested white-tailed deer in October. Over 300 deer were sampled over the month. An additional four clinical wild deer were also sampled.

Miscellaneous

Dr. Connelly conducted a necropsy on a white-tailed deer with gross changes consistent with a bacterial pneumonia. Testing and histopathology is pending.

Non-Project Activities

Dr. Connelly conducted a necropsy on an emaciated barred owl found in Cape May County. Toxicology and histopathology is pending.

Dr. Connelly conducted a forensic necropsy on a bald eagle.

OFWHF conducted necropsies on 2 eastern box turtles.