



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

### **MONTHLY REPORT**

**February 2025**  
**(January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025)**

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### **ADMINISTRATION**

- The Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems (OIS) has 42 projects in progress and two new projects requested through the GIS Project Request Form.
- OIS continues to attend several meetings with Motorola on the new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for the Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE) and is engaged in mapping and GIS data development and maintenance related to the CAD system.
- OIS held a quarterly meeting with NJ Fish & Wildlife Bureau/Unit GIS Points of Contact (POC) to share information related to GIS planning and needs across the various bureaus in NJFW.
- OIS represented NJ Fish & Wildlife in the quarterly NJDEP GIS Program Representatives Meeting.
- OIS staff attended the NJDEP GIS Users Group Meeting.

### **GIS DATA DEVELOPMENT**

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

- OIS continues to review any edits to the current shellfish lease lot data and posts the edits for shellfisheries staff.

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

- OIS published the freshwater fishing regulations data and is in the process of building an ArcGIS Experience Builder online map application.

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

- No updates.

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

- No updates.

### **Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Boundary Alignment**

- OIS staff scanned the documentation for 47 parcels at 5 WMAs and mapped the boundaries of 8 parcels on 5 WMAs.
- OIS staff is working with Land Management and Green Acres Program staff to have the boundaries of WMA parcels that have possible encroachments from adjacent properties, re-surveyed using modern methods to establish if there are encroachments and pursue a resolution if encroachments are identified.

### **Landscape Project**

- Adjustments were made to ways of accessing Landscape Project data on [NJDEP Open Data](#) via download and through ArcGIS Online.
- OIS staff provided support to USDA NRCS on accessing Version 3.3 Landscape data and transitioning to Version 3.4.

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

- OIS met with Shellfisheries to discuss updating this dataset to improve the accuracy of subaquatic vegetation mapping.
- OIS is coordinating with Land Resource Protection staff to display estuarine inventory data so that it is optimized for regulatory applications.

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

- OIS has now completed initial inventories of all Wildlife Management Areas, collecting GPS data on various types of infrastructure. Point data for assets has been reviewed and will be appended to the open space points of interest (POI) file and available online through the WMA Explorer application in the coming weeks.
- OIS is in the process of updating the habitat patch dataset to reflect boundary changes.
- OIS continues developing an ESRI Field Maps application and data entry form for collecting additional WMA asset data with newer GPS units.

### **Law Enforcement CAD System**

- OIS completed requested revisions to the Flex/CAD system in preparation for the “go-live” date in April.

## **GIS ANALYSIS**

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

- After developing a process for mapping seasonal catch data for summer flounder and black sea bass, OIS is continuing the mapping analysis with Bay anchovy, bluefish, horseshoe crab, spiny dogfish, sturgeon, and weakfish catch data.

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

- OIS is working with Rowan University GeoLab on development of a dashboard depicting habitat change for public consumption.

### **Tracking Encroachments on WMAs**

- An encroachment policy and resolution process with clearly defined roles for each organizational unit needs to be formalized by management in order for the tool to be effectively developed and implemented by NJFW.
- Potential encroachments that OIS identified are going through review by BLM staff.

## **CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION**

- A Landscape Project poster was developed and released on [NJFW's website](#).
- OIS developed a map of state lands that fall within the Delaware Watershed with a breakdown of acreages by management entity (WMA, State Parks, State Forests).

## **WEB MAP/APP PRODUCTION**

### **Fishing & Hunting License Agent Locator**

- Modifications (additions, removals, edits) were made to the license agent locator GIS dataset.

### **Deer Disease Sighting Survey**

- No updates.

### **Hunting & Trapping Explorer**

- Updated WMA closures and restricted areas were added to all Hunting & Trapping explorer applications.
- OIS incorporated Parks and Forestry restricted areas within the Hunting and Trapping Explorer application.

### **Wildlife Management Area Explorer**

- Updates were made to reflect WMA closures and restricted areas within the Explorer application (this included abovementioned state park and forest restrictions).
- Edits are being made to existing points of interest and assets.

### **Saltwater Fishing Explorer**

- No updates.

### **Freshwater Fishing Explorer**

- OIS is working on a new section withing the Freshwater Fishing Explorer application to host the Freshwater Fishing Regulations application once it is completed in the coming weeks.

### **Conservation Focal Area Application**

- No updates.

### **Marine Resources GeoHub**

- OIS continues to update this internal application upon request and as necessary.

### **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.

### **Upland Bird Stocking Areas**

- No updates

### **Landscape Project ArcGIS StoryMap and Experience Builder**

- Minor updates were made since release on 1/6/2025

## **New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Reporting Form**

- OIS is developing a Survey123 application for Freshwater Fisheries that will allow the public to easily report aquatic invasive species that they encounter and help prevent their spread. The form will be designed to help New Jersey Fish and Wildlife track the occurrence of invasive fish and plant species in our waterways.

## **GPS/FIELD DATA COLLECTION**

### **WMA Asset and Infrastructure data collection**

- Initial GPS data collection of WMA infrastructure was completed. See Wildlife Management Area System Inventory above.

### **Shellfish Lease Ground Investigation**

- OIS is developing field collection tools for the Bureau of Shellfisheries to log real-time field location verification and lease utilization reports. This mainly includes the verification of staked lot corner locations, shellfish activity, public activity, gear location/type, overstaking of the lease, and verifying of permits.

### **Deer Drone Surveys**

- OIS continues to coordinate with Warren County Community College on a drone pilot project to estimate the local population densities of white-tailed deer.

## **GIS TECHNICAL GUIDANCE**

- OIS staff responded to internal and external inquiries regarding various datasets and applications, including the Landscape Project and the Hunting & Trapping Explorer.
- OIS continues to support NJ Fish and Wildlife's SharePoint site by administering sharing privileges upon request.