



OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

MONTHLY REPORT

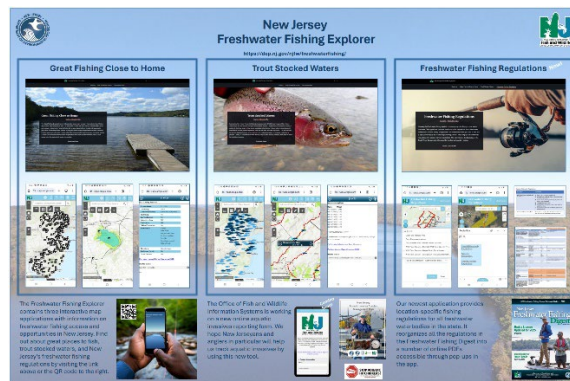
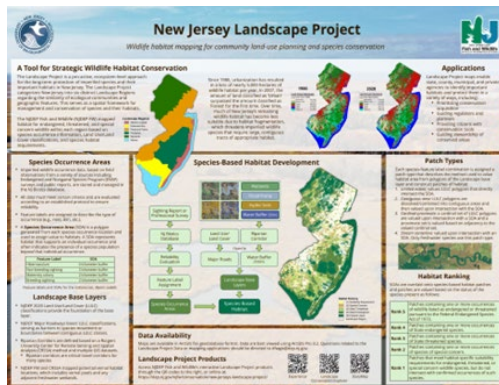
April 2025
(March 16th, 2025 – April 15th, 2025)

Patrick Woerner, Geographic Information Systems Specialist
 Kevin Blythe, Geographic Information Systems Specialist
 Brian Henderson, Geographic Information Systems Specialist
 Molly VanWieren, Geographic Information Systems Specialist

Temporary/Seasonal Employees: Joseph DeCeglia
 Catherine “Fern” Tatum
 Libby Witham

ADMINISTRATION

- The Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems (OIS) has 46 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. The “go-live” date for the CAD system is April 22nd.
- OIS participated in the [37th Annual NJDEP GIS Mapping Contest](#). Libby Witham won first place in the Analytic Methods and Results category for the [New Jersey Landscape Project](#) and Kevin Blythe won second place in the Thematic Map category for the [New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Explorer](#).



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

- The Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems released the [Freshwater Fishing Regulations](#) web map application prior to the opening day of trout season. The Experience Builder application is part of the [Freshwater Fishing Explorer](#) and serves as a location-specific guide to freshwater fishing regulations in New Jersey. The application allows a user to click on a stream or waterbody and link to specific regulations pertaining to their selection.

New Jersey Statewide Trails Dataset

- No updates.

Diadromous Fish Habitat Mapping and Timing Restrictions

- OIS staff is working on a draft web map for review by fisheries and environmental review staff.

Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Boundary Alignment

- OIS staff scanned the documentation of 28 parcels at 2 WMAs and mapped the boundaries of 12 parcels on 3 WMAs.

Landscape Project

- OIS is awaiting a meeting with ENSP to discuss roles and responsibilities for the next Landscape Project update.

Hard Clam (Estuarine) Survey Mapping

- OIS worked with BGIS to get this dataset published with the updated data and layers and to create customized pop-ups.

Wildlife Management Area System Inventory

- OIS staff is working on incorporating new points of interest (POI) data into this dataset.

Law Enforcement CAD System

- OIS completed requested updates and revisions to the Flex/CAD system in preparation for the “go-live” date of April 22nd.

GIS ANALYSIS

Ocean Trawl Survey Environmental/Biological Analysis

- OIS continues the mapping analysis of ocean trawl catch data. Seasonal maps for bluefish were completed, with analysis and map production of weakfish and horseshoe crab underway.

Habitat Change Analysis Project (HCAP)

- OIS is working with Rowan University GeoLab on development of a dashboard depicting habitat change for public consumption. OIS will be meeting with GeoLab staff on 4/17/2025 to develop any additional changes to the dashboard.

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.
- Notices of engagement were given for five surveys to be conducted to determine if encroachments are taking place at five WMAs.
- Requests for quotes (RFQ) were advertised to survey 11 parcels on 8 WMAs to determine if neighboring properties have encroached on WMA land.
- OIS is analyzing aerial imagery and open space data to search for any more potential encroachments.

CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

- OIS produced three maps for the [37th Annual NJDEP GIS Mapping Contest](#). The [New Jersey Landscape Project](#), the [New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Explorer](#) and the Saltwater Fishing Explorer.

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.

Deer Depredation Permits

- OIS is working with Bureau of Wildlife Management to move depredation permit applications to Survey123 with capabilities of automatically linking depredation harvest from Aspira to a dashboard.

Dog Tracker Permits

- OIS is working with Bureau of Wildlife Management to create a series of webforms and a for certified dog trackers to apply for permits with each certified dog and a mapping dashboard to replace the current [static map](#).

Wild Bird Disease Reporting Form

- OIS has developed an easy-to-use online reporting tool for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1). H5N1 has caused the deaths of multiple wild birds across the state and is being monitored by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and federal partners. The form has received over 300 submissions since its publication at the end of March. If you see sick or dead birds, particularly in groups of 5 or more, please report your findings in the new [NJDEP Wild Bird Disease Reporting Form](#). Photos are encouraged, and all reports are reviewed by agency staff.

Hunting & Trapping Explorer

- No updates

Wildlife Management Area Explorer

- Edits are being made to existing points of interest and assets.

Saltwater Fishing Explorer

- No updates.

Freshwater Fishing Explorer

- OIS added a new section to the [Freshwater Fishing Explorer](#) application for the Freshwater Fishing Regulations web map application. Links were added to the [Maps](#) and [Fishing](#) webpages including in the [Where to Go](#) and [Regulations and Permits](#) sections.

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

- Minor updates were made.

Upland Bird Stocking Areas

- No updates.

Landscape Project ArcGIS StoryMap and Experience Builder

- Minor updates were made.

Aquatic Invasive Species Reporting Form

- OIS is working with BGIS to publish the new Aquatic Invasive Species Reporting Form for public usage.

Youth Fishing Challenge

- OIS updated the [Youth Fishing Challenge](#) web map with information on this year's host organizations and locations.

GPS/FIELD DATA COLLECTION

WMA Asset and Infrastructure data collection

- OIS completed the design of a new GPS data collection entry form using ArcGIS Field Maps that allows field data collection on a GPS linked tablet. The form prepopulates fields such as the WMA based on location and will make uploading data to the WMA Explorer a more streamlined process.

Shellfish Lease Ground Investigation

- OIS is working with shellfisheries staff to finalize surveys to be used for field data collection for their shellfish lease ground investigations.

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. We are testing various drones with thermal sensors and awaiting clarification from the state on the use of foreign made drones.

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.