



OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

MONTHLY REPORT

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

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ADMINISTRATION

- The Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems (OIS) has 46 projects in progress and one new project 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 was April 22nd.
- OIS attended the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) Conference held in Bretton Woods, NH.
- OIS represented NJ Fish & Wildlife at the NJDEP GIS User Group Program Representative Meeting.
- OIS met with the Garden State Preservation Trust and Rowan University’s GeoLab to discuss conservation acquisition planning utilizing the Conservation Blueprint+ and additional GIS data from NJFW and NJ Parks & Forestry.
- OIS presented at the May Fish & Game Council Meeting on the newly released [Freshwater Fishing Regulations](#) web map application and the [Aquatic Invasive Species Reporter](#) application.
- OIS presented at, and organized activities for the second cohort of the Fish and Wildlife Experience for orienting new NJDEP Fish and Wildlife employees.

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 is compiling a list of all bait and tackle shops as well as fly fishing shops in New Jersey to be incorporated into a web map application.

New Jersey Statewide Trails Dataset

- No updates.

Wildlife Rehabilitators

- OIS is developing data to be used in a web map application that will identify the location of facilities that accept particular animals for rehabilitation.

Diadromous Fish Habitat Mapping and Timing Restrictions

- OIS has completed draft data for this project and is awaiting freshwater fisheries to conduct a review.

Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Boundary Alignment

- OIS staff scanned the documentation for 8 parcels at 1 WMA and mapped the boundaries of 14 parcels on 2 WMAs.
- OIS staff met with Green Acres and Bureau of Land Management to develop a process to submit parcels in need of professional surveys.

Landscape Project

- OIS participated in planning meeting with NRCS managers regarding implementation of, and training on, version 3.4 of the Landscape Project.

Hard Clam (Estuarine) Survey Mapping

- OIS updated several feature layers related to this dataset.

Wildlife Management Area System Inventory

- OIS staff continue to work on incorporating new points of interest (POI) data into this dataset.

Law Enforcement CAD System

- OIS staff continues to meet with Motorola, BGIS and law enforcement to address performance issues and minor requested adjustments to the Flex/CAD system while waiting for the Managed Services contract with Motorola.

GIS ANALYSIS

Ocean Trawl Survey Environmental/Biological Analysis

- A StoryMap was built to show ocean trawl catch data for 8 species (bluefish, summer flounder, black sea bass, Atlantic sturgeon, spiny dogfish, horseshoe crab, weakfish, bay anchovy) from 1988 to 2022. Catch data were mapped for Jan.-June and July-Dec. for each year. Inverse distance weighting (IDW) was used to interpolate the data, and maps showing the interpolated data were made into 34-year animations.

Habitat Change Analysis Project (HCAP)

- OIS provided a draft dashboard to NJFW management for review and collected comments from NJFW staff.
- OIS met with Rowan University GeoLab to review NJFW staff feedback and what developments may still be needed for the dashboard depicting habitat change over time.

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.
- OIS has completed another round of analyzing imagery and spatial data and has found hundreds of additional potential encroachments.
- OIS and BLM received preliminary survey results of two parcels that were done to determine whether state land is being encroached upon.

CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

- OIS produced revised maps of roads on Wharton State Forest vehicle access for review by the NJ Fish and Game Council/Sportsmen Federation.

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

- OIS continues to coordinate with Parks and Forestry to update hunting closure and restricted areas.

Wildlife Management Area Explorer

- Minor updates were completed.

Saltwater Fishing Explorer

- No updates.

Freshwater Fishing Explorer

- In addition to the [Freshwater Fishing Regulations](#) web map application released last month, a new [Aquatic Invasives](#) reporting form was added to the Explorer. These updates were presented to the Fish and Game Council at the May 13th meeting.
- OIS is working on adding link in the popups of the Great Fishing Close to Home and Trout Stocked Waters apps that will open Fishing Regulations app at the same location.

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.

New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Reporting Form

- OIS released the [Aquatic Invasives](#) reporting form as part of the Freshwater Fishing Explorer.

2025 NJ Spring Gobbler Season Hunter Survey

- OIS is working with wildlife management to create a survey for hunters to report their hunting information, like hours hunted and number of birds killed, which will be used for calculating catch per unit effort across THA's, counties, and the state.

Furbearer Species Sighting Form

- OIS is working on getting data collected through the Wildlife Tracker into the Furbearer dataset and vice versa.

Upland Gamebird Sighting Form

- OIS is working on getting data collected through the Wildlife Tracker into the Upland Gamebird dataset.

Wild Bird Disease Reporting Form

- OIS continues to manage the newly developed [NJDEP Wild Bird Disease Reporting Form](#) and is collaborating with the Office of Health and Forensics and coordinating data with the Department of Health and APHIS.

Youth Fishing Challenge

- OIS made final updates to 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

- With new GPS units and a newly designed ArcGIS Field Maps data entry form, OIS is preparing for additional field data collection. Initial plans are to map fishing access points at the 290 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in the Great Fishing Close to Home web map application and build in links to make it easier for anglers to navigate to these locations.

Shellfish Lease Ground Investigation

- OIS is working with shellfisheries staff to finalize surveys for field data collection.

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.