

**OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH AND FORENSICS**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**June 2023**

**Joseph M. Groff, VMD, PhD, Research Scientist 2**

**FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH PROJECT (FW-69-R20)**

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

**Mortality in esocid fry at Hackettstown Hatchery**

Two bags of feed were submitted to the Animal Health Diagnostic Lab in Ewing, New Jersey on June 13 for mycotoxin analysis due to concerns of the staff at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery that the feed may have been the cause of mortality of esocid fry in the facility. Results are pending.

**Fish kill at Weequahic Park, Newark, NJ (June 8-15, 2023)**

Fish were not collected from the Weequahic Park Fish Kill since the postmortem interval was prolonged that resulted in advanced autolysis.

**Fish kill in the Rahway River by Sperry Park in Cranford Township, NJ (June 15, 2023)**

A fish kill in the Rahway River was reported on June 15, 2023, although mortalities or moribund fish were not observed at the site upon arrival.

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

No activity for June 2023

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

**(Job W-2)**

**Rabbits. Cape May, NJ:**

A resident from Cape May contacted the Department of Agriculture on June 20 stating that two rabbit kits died in her backyard in the last week. Dr. Groff contacted the person by e-mail on June 21 but did not receive a response. There was no further pursuit of this case.

**Turtles. Lebanon, NJ:**

Dr. Groff assisted Brian Zarate (NJ Fish & Wildlife) and personnel from the Philadelphia Zoo, Turtle Conservancy and Turtle Survival Alliance on June 30 with turtle health checks on confiscated turtle that are required prior to release or distribution of the animals.

## **NON-PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

No activity for June 2023

### **Other Activities**

Dr. Joseph Groff started on June 5, 2023 and spent the first few weeks becoming familiar with the facilities and the laboratory including interaction with staff at the Pequest Fish Hatchery and the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery. Dr. Groff attended a Fish & Wildlife Council meeting on June 13 at the Assunpink Central Regional Office and met with personnel from Marine Fisheries at the Nacote Creek Research Station.