

OFFICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH AND FORENSICS

MONTHLY REPORT

November 2023

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

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

Fish Health Inspection of the Pequest Trout Hatchery

The annual Fish Health Inspection of 150 rainbow trout at the Pequest Hatchery was conducted on November 14. Kidneys from 150 fish were routinely cultured for bacterial pathogens, whereas kidney tissue was also collected for the detection of *Renibacterium salmoninarum* - the etiology of Bacterial Kidney Disease - using a fluorescent antibody test (FAT). In addition, spleen and kidney were collected from 150 fish for isolation of the common salmonid viral agents. Finally, the heads from 60 fish were collected for detection of *Myxobolus cerebralis* - the etiology of whirling disease. The laboratory results are pending.

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

No activity

Non-Project Activities

Striped Bass Health Question

An angler that caught a striped bass in the surf at Island State Beach Park had questions about visceral helminth parasites in this fish.

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

CWD Surveillance

CWD surveillance continued this month with an approximate intrastate total of 450 heads collected to date throughout the state and approximately 194 in the northern region.

Deer Health Questions

The OFWHF was contacted for opinions/advice on deer health issues as follows:

- a moribund, thin, lethargic/immobile deer on the property of the Glen Ridge Country Club in Glen Ridge, NJ on November 2;
- multiple black, visceral foci in a deer harvested by a hunter on November 13;
- moribund deer with possible neurological signs in Cumberland County adjacent to a nurse on November 13;
- deer with remarkable facial deformities in Springfield, Burlington County on November 13; and

- deer with possible mastitis or hernia on November 15.

Non-Project Activities

Fisher Population Study

The OFWHF attended the meeting at Clinton on November 20 to discuss the details concerning the population study of fishers to begin in January 2024, and the involvement of the OFWHF.

Red-Tailed Hawk Necropsies (October 13, 2023)

Three red-tailed hawks from The Raptor Trust were submitted for necropsy. Gross findings were absent or non-specific and histological examination is pending. The liver of one hawk was submitted for rodenticide testing as per the request of the submitter.

Update: The liver from one red-tailed hawk submitted for anticoagulant detection was positive for two anti-coagulant rodenticides.

Fox Rabies Question

The Sussex County Rabies coordinator contacted the OFWHF concerning a possible rabid fox in Lafayette, NJ with pet cat/human exposure on November 6.

Miscellaneous Activities

- Dr. Groff as a committee member attended the **Toxics in Biota** meeting on November 16.
- Dr. Groff attended the monthly **Animal Health Meeting** on November 9.
- Dr. Groff completed the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) course - **Pathway to aquaculture biosecurity: managing disease risks in the value chain** - on November 22.