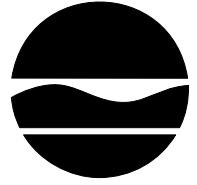


**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources**

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**Region 9 Monthly Highlights**  
January-February

**ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION**

**RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

***Stream Reclassifications***

Aquatic Biologist Evans started the data gathering process for submitting streams or stream sections to the Division of Water for upgrading their classifications and standards in the NYCRR (New York Codes, Rules and Regulations). There are more than 200 streams or sections of streams that have been identified for upgrading in Region 9 since the last round of statewide reclassifications by watershed about 20 years ago.

Region 9

Joseph Evans

716-372-0645

**PROTECTION**

***Rt. 219 Stream Mitigation***

Biologists Galati and Cornett and DOT staff met a landowner to provide him with a conceptual plan for stream mitigation on his property. The mitigation will be for the second 3 mile section of the Rt. 219 expansion project. The mitigation on this property will involve creating a more balanced riffle/pool spacing, buffer areas with more diverse riparian plant communities, vernal pools and bank erosion protection on several thousand feet stream.

Region 9

Joe Galati

716-372-0645

***Cattaraugus Creek Bank Erosion***

Biologist Galati met with local and federal government officials at a private residence along Cattaraugus Creek that is being threatened bank erosion. Several options were discussed from stream realignment to moving the residence. Agencies were to look for possible funding sources to aid the owner.

Region 9

Joe Galati

716-372-0645

***Chautauqua Lake Management Commission***

Biologist Galati met with the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission, a group of stakeholders charged to create, implement and monitor a comprehensive lake and watershed management plan. Meeting involved reviewing the draft plan and ways government agencies would be involved with the plan.

Region 9

Joe Galati

716-372-0645

***Culvert Installation Training***

Biologist Galati attended a culvert workgroup meeting in Albany with DOT staff, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) staff, Adroandack Park Agency staff and Albany Fish and Wildlife and Water staff. The goal of the group is to develop a standard protocol for culvert installation that will not impede species movement both aquatic and terrestrial and still meet the needs of transportation safety.

Region 9 Joe Galati 716-372-0645

***Rt 219 Pre-construction Meeting***

Biologist Galati attended the pre-construction meeting for the first 3 mile section of the Rt. 219 project. This is the largest construction project awarded ( approximately \$75 million) by the Buffalo regional office.

Region 9 Joe Galati 716-372-0645

***NY Power Authority Ecological Standing Committee***

Biologist Galati, Mike Wilkinson, Robin Holevinski, Paul McKeown and Russell Biss attended the NY Power Authority Ecological Standing Committee meeting to discuss progress to date and future work on the Habitat Improvement Projects (HIPs) that are part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's license for the project. The Committee will monitor progress of the HIPs and evaluate future proposals that will be funded through the license agreement.

Region 9 Joe Galati 716-372-0645

***Protection of Water Permits Reviewed***

Biologist Wilkinson participated in reviews of five project applications submitted for Protection of Water permits and participated in two pre-application consultations. Biologist Wilkinson also met with Environmental Remediation staff to negotiate revised permit conditions for a large on-going shoreline remediation project in the Buffalo Harbor. Biologist Wilkinson also worked toward resolving a stream violation by participation in a meeting with Legal Staff and preparing a remedial schedule. Biologist Wilkinson attended a meeting of Niagara Musky Association Board Members to present a proposal for a private marina expansion on the Upper Niagara River to solicit comments.

Region 9 Mike Wilkinson 716-851-7010

***Article 15 Protection of Waters Permits Program***

Regional Fisheries Staff (Manager McKeown and Biologists Galati and Wilkinson) met with Pat Reixinger to discuss the status of the Article 15 Protection of Waters Permits program.

Region 9 Mike Wilkinson 716-851-7010

## **RESTORATION**

### ***Canadaway Creek Stream Habitat Improvement***

Biologist Galati is working with the local Soil and Water Conservation District to obtain grants to fund a stream restoration/enhancement project on Canadaway Creek a steelhead tributary of Lake Erie.

Region 9

Joe Galati

716-372-0645

### ***Lake Ontario Pen Projects***

Biologist Wilkinson completed summaries describing 2006 pen projects at Olcott, Wilson and the Lower Niagara River. The summaries will be incorporated into a report to be included in the Lake Ontario Annual Report for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Biologist Wilkinson provided an update to hatchery staff describing proposed adjustments to pen project stocking numbers at two Region 9 Lake Ontario pen project sites.



Region 9

Mike Wilkinson

716-851-7010

## **FISH, WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCE EXTENSION**

### **INFORMATION AND EXTENSION**

#### ***Wyoming County Water Resources Meeting***

Aquatic Biologist Evans attended the Wyoming County Water Resources Coordinating Committee meeting. Topics included discussion of the following funding sources: DEC Habitat Grants, Great Lakes Grants and FLOWPA (Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection) grants. The Wyoming County NRCS, SWCD, Health Department, Planning, Cornell Cooperative Extension and DEC Fisheries gave agency reports.

Region 9

Joseph Evans

716-372-0645

#### ***LOTSA Meeting***

Biologist Wilkinson attended the Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association (LOTSA) monthly meeting and provided an update on fisheries developments in Niagara County. A Powerpoint presentation was provided on topics including proposed angling regulations, VHS, Lake Ontario Natural Resources Damage Plan, creel survey results and State-of-Lake meeting.

Region 9

Mike Wilkinson

716-851-7010

#### ***Free Fishing Day Events***

Biologist Wilkinson worked on preparations for two Free Fishing Day events to be held in Erie County, including a meeting with CPS staff who will be assisting this year.

Region 9

Mike Wilkinson

716-851-7010

***State Wildlife Grants-Informational Meetings***

Public informational meetings regarding the State Wildlife Grants Program (“rare” fish and wildlife) were held for the Lake Erie and Allegheny Watersheds. Robin Holevinski, Watershed Ecologist, discussed the history of the program, the request for applications process, and project scoring criteria. Projects previously funded through the State Wildlife Grants Program were summarized.

Region 9

Robin Holevinski

716-372-0645

***State Wildlife Grants- Lower Niagara River***

State Wildlife Grants biologists Jenny Landry and Robin Holevinski surveyed the Lower Niagara River for migratory birds. Numerous species of “conservation need”, including tundra swan, peregrine falcon, bald eagle and least tern were observed during the survey.



Region 9

Robin Holevinski

716-372-0645

***Trout Unlimited Meeting Presentations***

Scott Cornett and James Zanett presented information on recent stream survey work, angler diary programs, regulation changes and new PFR acquisitions to both the Red House Brook and Western NY Chapters of Trout Unlimited. Both meetings were well attended and we received enthusiastic support for our regional trout management programs.

Region 9

Scott Cornett

716-372-0645

***Region 9 Environmental Federation***

Russ Biss, Mark Kandel, Tim Spierto and Paul McKeown attended the Region 9 Environmental Federation to present the results of regional fish and wildlife programs and receive feedback on fish and wildlife issues.

Region 9

Paul McKeown

716-372-0645

***VHS Fish Disease***

Paul McKeown and GL Section Head Bill Culligan met with one of the larger regional bait dealers to discuss the VHS fish disease/bait regs and associated impacts to the bait business.

Region 9

Paul McKeown

716-372-0645



database which was started in 1988, whether the database should include parts of Great Lakes data, and the status of the SQL (structured query language) conversion update of the database.

Region 9 Joseph Evans 716-372-0645

#### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

##### ***Myers-Briggs Training***

Biologist Galati attended Myers-Briggs training.

Region 9 Joe Galati 716-372-0645

##### ***ArcGIS Training***

Biologists Wilkinson and Galati participated in ArcGIS training and also participated in an environmental sustainability workshop.

Region 9 Mike Wilkinson 716-851-7010

##### ***New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society***

Several staff attended the New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting at West Point.

Region 9 Paul McKeown 716-372-0645

#### **Region 9 Fisheries Staff**

Paul McKeown

Joseph Evans

Mike Wilkinson

Scott Cornett

Joe Galati

Mike Clancy

Jim Zanett

Robin Holevinski (SWG Watershed Biologist)