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## Wood Turtle Workshop

NAFO-USFWS Wildlife Conservation Initiative

October 21, 2020



- Introduction / Agenda / Engagement – **Henning Stabins**, Weyerhaeuser
- 10:15 – 10:30 **National Alliance of Forest Owners & USFWS Wildlife Conservation Initiative**
  - **Tony Tur**, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- 10:30 – 11:15 **Wood Turtle Ecology & Recommendations**
  - **Derek Yorks, Phillip deMaynadier**, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- 11:15 – 11:30 **Maine Forest Management Stream Regulations**
  - **Ben Kamps**, Weyerhaeuser
- 11:30 – 11:45 **Research Updates**
  - **Chris Edge** – University of New Brunswick
  - **Gary Roloff & Trish Brockman** – Michigan State University
  - **Phillip deMaynadier** – description of U of Maine eDNA project & Mike Jones long-term study
- 11:45 – 12:30 **General Discussion & Future Steps**
  - Are there opportunities in your organization to advance wood turtle conservation?
  - Collaboration opportunities? Information gaps?



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## Workshop Notes

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### Workshop purpose:

The workshop will initiate a discussion between private landowners, agencies, NGO's, and forest management practitioners to share information on wood turtle ecology, forest management practices, and opportunities to advance turtle conservation and sustainable forest management.

### Housekeeping

- ~40 participants
- Workshop sponsors: USFWS, National Alliance of Forest Owners, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Forest Products Council, Fisheries Improvement Network
- Workshop recording is housed on the Fisheries Improvement Network website:
  - <https://sfimaine.org/fin-meetings/>
- Continuing Ed credits for workshop – see letter from Maine Forester Licensing Board
- Presentations – housed at FIN website (see above)

### Research Contacts

- Chris Edge, [christopher.edge@canada.ca](mailto:christopher.edge@canada.ca)
- Trish Brockman, [brockm16@msu.edu](mailto:brockm16@msu.edu); Gary Roloff, [roloff@msu.edu](mailto:roloff@msu.edu)
- Mike Jones, [michael.t.jones@state.ma.us](mailto:michael.t.jones@state.ma.us)
- Phillip deMaynadier, [phillip.demaynadier@maine.gov](mailto:phillip.demaynadier@maine.gov)
- Derek Yorks, [derek.yorks@maine.gov](mailto:derek.yorks@maine.gov)
- Sean Flint, [sean\\_flint@fws.gov](mailto:sean_flint@fws.gov)

Updates on research will be solicited from the researchers for future Fisheries Improvement Network meetings and distributed to the workshop participant list.

### Landowner Opportunities to Advance Wood Turtle Conservation (& follow-up)

- Look for opportunities to increase landowner awareness of wood turtle issues – (All)
- Bring awareness to contract loggers and truckers potentially via existing logger training connections – (H. Stabins to contact Maine's Certified Logging Professional program)
- Provide guidelines for winter harvest optimal timing
- Target focused road closures near turtle habitat on un-needed road spurs, etc.
- Enhance abandoned or vegetated existing gravel pits near turtle streams as potential nesting areas
- Bring awareness to the issue of geotextile fabric used for bridge abutment stabilization as a potential cause of turtle entanglements and provide solutions
- Provide guidance for crossing structures on turtle streams to minimize the approaches becoming a potential mortality issue as turtles investigate nesting areas

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## Maine Landowners Searching for Information on Potential Wood Turtles on their Lands

- Want to learn if there are known records on your lands?
- Want to learn if you have potential streams of certain characteristics that might be home to wood turtles?
- Contact ME IFW for assistance:
  - Phillip deMaynadier, [phillip.demaynadier@maine.gov](mailto:phillip.demaynadier@maine.gov)
  - Derek Yorks, [derek.yorks@maine.gov](mailto:derek.yorks@maine.gov)

## Follow-up Actions

- Compile list of potential landowner actions into “one-pager” document for distribution.
- Maine IFW to update wood turtle habitat management recommendations document.
- Stay connected to NAFO Wildlife Conservation Initiative effort on wood turtles in the Lake States Region – H. Stabins & T. Tur
- Stay connected to wood turtle research projects and distribute information as appropriate.
- Consider a follow-up workshop as various research projects advance and additional information and experiences evolve.