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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

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
- Trish Brockman, brockm16@msu.edu; Gary Roloff, roloff@msu.edu
- Mike Jones, michael.t.jones@state.ma.us
- Phillip deMaynadier, phillip.demaynadier@maine.gov
- Derek Yorks, derek.yorks@maine.gov
- Sean Flint, 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
 - Derek Yorks, 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.