



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

APRIL 2016



101 Alewives By Katie Conrad

Work on the Sandy-funded Wreck Pond culvert has ceased due to the beach nesting bird seasonal restriction, but monitoring is well underway. Due to the warm spring, river herring monitoring began at Wreck Pond early this year and we have already caught and tagged 101 alewives! Past years we have averaged 100 alewives during an entire monitoring season and we haven't even reached the halfway mark. This year we are pit tagging alewives that are caught in order to determine where they are spawning in the watershed. This information will allow us to investigate where the alewives are spawning and determine whether it would be beneficial to remove potential fish passage barriers upstream. Congressional District 4.



Rutgers University trained USFWS and American Littoral Society staff on how to tag alewives (Zach Royle, American Littoral Society, left; Mario Hernandez, Rutgers University, right) (lower). One of the alewives caught and tagged on Saturday 4/23 (Jenna Krug, American Littoral Society, hand model) (upper). Photo credit: Katie Conrad, NJFO.



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Gandy's Beach Oyster Reef Volunteer Events By Katie Conrad

This April we had two oyster reef building volunteer events at Gandy's Beach as part of a Sandy-funded project with The Nature Conservancy, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and Rutgers University. The first event was with a group of 15 hunters and project partner staff. The hunters volunteer with The Nature Conservancy in order to hunt on their property.



Photo credit: Adriana Zito-Livingston, The Nature Conservancy



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The second event was with eight eighth graders and their families (totaling 25 people) from the East Windsor Middle School from Broad Brook, Connecticut. The class was awarded a grant from Pratt and Whitney to participate in Rutgers University's Project PORTS (Promoting Oyster Restoration Through Schools) one of the project partners on the Gandy's Beach Project. The students built several oyster shellbag reefs at Gandy's Beach and participated in other programs over the course of three days. Congressional Districts 2 and 4.



The group posing with one of their reefs.

Photo Credit: Lisa and Peter Madson, East Windsor School



Two students from Windsor Middle School.

Photo Credit: Jenny Paterno, Rutgers University



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A Path Forward for Red Knots and Aquaculture By Wendy Walsh

On April 1, 2016, the Service issued a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) for structural aquaculture in Delaware Bay, Cape May County, New Jersey. The PBO is available for download on our web site at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/>. The PBO covers all structural aquaculture of native bivalves over a 10-year period along approximately 6.5 miles of Delaware Bay shoreline on the Cape May peninsula in parts of Middle and Lower Townships, from Bidwell Creek to the north end of Villas (the “action area”). The PBO includes a framework of Conservation Measures developed and adopted by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with the Corps, the Service, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and with input from both growers and conservation groups. By looking at the “big picture” of both industry and red knots, the framework attempts to minimize conflicts by dividing the area into two complementary management zones. To the north where tidal flats are narrower and red knot use is highly concentrated, the emphasis is on conservation. To the south where flats are wider and knot use is somewhat less concentrated, the emphasis is on providing sufficient space, flexibility, and support for aquaculture expansion. The agencies’ shared objective was and is to provide a thoughtful solution for both protecting key red knot habitats and supporting smart growth in aquaculture. Congressional District 2.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION ON THE EFFECTS OF
EXISTING AND EXPANDED STRUCTURAL AQUACULTURE
OF NATIVE BIVALVES IN DELAWARE BAY,
MIDDLE AND LOWER TOWNSHIPS,
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ON THE FEDERALLY LISTED RED KNOT (*CALIDRIS CANUTUS RUFUS*)



Photo credit: G. Breese, USFWS



Photo credits: E. Schradung, USFWS

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