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## Energy and Environmental Affairs

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### MassWildlife Monthly August 2017

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#### [New State Record for Bowfin Caught By Taunton Teen Angler](#)

Tauri Adamczyk, a 16-year-old from Taunton, is the new state record holder for bowfin. Tauri caught a 7 lb. 14 oz. bowfin with a girth of 14" and length of 26.5" from the Taunton River in late July. She brought her monster catch to the MassWildlife Field Headquarters for fisheries biologists to certify her catch and state record. Tauri is no stranger to the [Sportfishing Awards Program](#)—she has been catching pin fish for years and garnering gold pins in the Youth Category of this program. Tauri was also named the 2015 Youth Angler of the Year, an award given annually to the youth angler who caught the most species of gold pin fish.

In 2015, Bowfin were added as an eligible fish to MassWildlife's Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program. While most Massachusetts anglers have never caught one of these prehistoric battlers – and in fact many anglers have never even heard of this fish and wouldn't know one if they caught one – the Bowfin is gathering an ever-increasing number of fans who admire its outstanding fighting qualities, exotic appearance, large potential size, interesting life history, and its propensity to strike baits and lures. Currently, Bowfin populations are limited to the Connecticut River and Taunton River drainages and a few isolated ponds throughout the state. The Catch and Keep minimum weight is 6 pounds for adults and 4 pounds for youth. The Catch and Release minimum length is 26 inches. To learn more about Bowfin, [check out a recent featured article in \*Massachusetts Wildlife\* magazine entitled, "Bring on the Bowfin!"](#).  2MB

Anglers who believe they have broken a [state record](#) by weight must present their fish in its entirety (whole) to qualified fisheries personnel at [MassWildlife Field Headquarters](#) in Westborough or at any of the five [MassWildlife District offices](#). In



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Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
 1 Rabbit Hill Road

2015, a catch and release category was added to the Sportfishing Awards Program. Since then, MassWildlife has also recorded catch and release state records. Anglers may submit their catch and release catches for consideration by [measuring, photographing, and releasing their fish on site.](#)


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### **Announcements for Deer Hunters**

- **Deer Hunting Seasons:** MassWildlife uses regulated hunting during three distinct hunting seasons (archery, shotgun, and primitive) to manage the deer population across the state in 15 [Wildlife Management Zones](#).  [links to PDF file](#) .

The Fisheries and Wildlife Board oversees changes to the hunting seasons, bag limits, and Antlerless Deer Permit allocations, which are set annually to achieve population goals.

#### **2017 Deer Hunting Season Dates**

- [Youth Deer Hunt Day](#): Sept. 30
  - [Paraplegic Hunt](#): Nov. 2 – Nov. 4
  - Archery Season: Oct. 16 – Nov. 25
  - Shotgun Season: Nov. 27 – Dec. 9
  - Primitive Firearms Season: Dec. 11 – Dec. 30
- **Antlerless Deer Permit Instant Award Period Begins August 1:** Hunters who applied for an Antlerless Deer Permit by the July 16 deadline must return to the *MassFishHunt* licensing system to try to win a permit. The Instant Award Period begins August 1 at 8:00 a.m. and continues through December 31. This is NOT a first-come first-served system. The odds of winning an Antlerless Deer Permit during the Instant Award Period are the same whether a customer tries to win in August, September, or any time before December 31. Hunters have one chance to try for an instant award Antlerless Deer Permit. [Click here to view the 2017 Antlerless Deer Permit Allocations and Chances of Winning](#) .
- There are three ways in which a hunter may participate and try to win a permit:
1. Log into the [MassFishHunt licensing system](#) (please click here for [Instant Award Antlerless Deer Permit Instructions using the MassFishHunt online system](#))
  2. Visit a [MassWildlife office](#)
  3. Visit a [license agent location](#). Staff at these locations will access the MassFishHunt system on the customer's behalf.

Westborough, MA 01581


(508) 389-6300

[Mass.Wildlife@state.ma.us](mailto:Mass.Wildlife@state.ma.us)

[Other MassWildlife offices](#)

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- **Surplus Antlerless Deer Permit Sales:** Surplus Antlerless Deer Permits by [Wildlife Management Zone](#)  will go on sale over various days in October. Once on sale, permits will remain available until sold out in each Wildlife Management Zone. Hunters are reminded that they can only purchase permits through [MassFishHunt](#), at [authorized license vendor locations](#), or at a [MassWildlife office](#). [Click here for more information on Surplus Antlerless Deer Permit sales](#).
  - Zone 11: Sales start on Tuesday, October 3 at 8 a.m.
  - Zone 10: Sales start on Wednesday, October 4 at 8 a.m.
  - Zone 13 and 14: Sales start on Thursday, October 5 at 8 a.m.
- **2017 Youth Deer Hunt Day:** The 2017 Youth Deer Hunt Day for young hunters ages 12–17 is September 30 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday following Labor Day). For the 2017 Youth Deer Hunt, young adults may take either an antlered or antlerless deer in any zone on that day. A youth deer hunt permit is required to participate on that day and is not valid for other deer seasons. **New for this year**, Youth Deer Hunt permits are now available online, beginning August 1. Permits may also be purchased at [authorized license vendor locations](#). Youth ages 12–14 may acquire a youth deer hunt permit online with no other verification required (Hunter Ed Certificate NOT required). Youth ages 15–17 must first purchase a hunting license at an [authorized license vendor](#) in order to obtain the youth deer hunt permit. [Click here to learn more about the Youth Deer Hunt Day](#).
- **Changes to Harvest Reporting for Shotgun Deer Season:** Deer hunters may now report their harvest online during the **second** week of shotgun season, starting the second Monday of the shotgun season. Deer must still be checked at a [physical check station](#) during the **first** week of shotgun season so biologists can collect important data.

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### **Banding Threatened Falcons**

This spring, our biologists and volunteers were out monitoring Peregrine Falcon nests. We know of 42 pairs that nested, 32 of which laid eggs. Twenty-four nesting pairs successfully fledged at least 53 chicks! Due to the locations of the nests, we were able to band 40 falcon chicks at 15 Peregrine Falcon nests this spring. The banded chicks have a silver federal band on one leg and green/black state band on another. The state bands are easy to spot and read. Peregrine Falcons are listed as Threatened under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. If you see a Peregrine Falcon with a band on, please snap a photo and send it to us, along with the location. This helps us monitor the birds through the year. Band information should be sent to Dr. Tom French at [tom.french@state.ma.us](mailto:tom.french@state.ma.us).

Before the use of DDT, a pesticide once commonly used, there were 375 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons in the eastern United States. The last nesting pair in Massachusetts was seen in 1955. When MassWildlife's [Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program](#) formed in the early 1980s, Peregrine Falcon restoration was its first project and top priority. With the program's efforts, the first successful falcon nesting pair in Massachusetts had chicks in 1987.

Introduced falcons and their progeny prefer nesting spots on buildings and bridges to the more natural terrain of cliffs. Because of this, our biologists have installed nest boxes in many of the nesting areas that we monitor. [Click here to learn more about Peregrine Falcons.](#) 

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### **Release of 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of Natural Heritage Atlas (321 CMR 10.12(7))**

On August 1, 2017, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife released the 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas. The Atlas is used by project proponents, municipalities, and others for determining whether or not a proposed project or activity must be reviewed by the NHESP for compliance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Regulations. Updated Priority and Estimated Habitats will be posted on the Division's website and made available electronically as a downloadable geographic information system (GIS) data layer. Additionally, the Division will provide the town-based Priority and Estimated Habitat maps to planning boards, building inspectors, and conservation commissions in municipalities where these areas have been delineated. See [www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp) for more information, including the final maps and a summary response to the Priority Habitat public comments.

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### **Young Adult Pheasant Hunt**

Hunter Education graduates aged 12–17 can participate in the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt. This exciting program involves shooting instruction and practice, a pre-hunt workshop, and a mentored hunt prior to the regular pheasant season. All young adults between the ages 15 and 17 will need a hunting license and FID card to participate in this program.

The Young Adult Pheasant Hunt takes place on Saturdays in September and October; specific dates vary and are determined by participating sportsman's clubs. For more information and to view participating clubs, please [visit our website](#). If you have questions about this program, please contact Astrid Huseby by email at [astrid.huseby@state.ma.us](mailto:astrid.huseby@state.ma.us) or call (508) 389-6300.

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### **Seabirds, Deer, and Crappie Featured in *Massachusetts Wildlife***

The newest issue of *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine was just released and features articles on Stellwagen Sanctuary seabirds, deer winter survival, and fishing tips for crappie. *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine is a quarterly publication packed with award-winning articles and photos on fish and wildlife conservation, fishing, hunting, natural history and just about everything related to the outdoors in Massachusetts. A one-year subscription (4 issues) is just \$6 or save by getting a two-year subscription (8 issues) for just \$10! [Click here to view a preview of the newest issue and find out how to subscribe.](#)

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## **Upcoming Events**

**August 12: Fishing Clinic, Goshen** – This is a free, non-competitive, family friendly, learn to fish event. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided at Upper Highland Lake in the DAR State Forest in Goshen (78 Cape Street) from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. This event is in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). \*Open to the public. For more information, contact Jim Lagacy at [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us) or 508-389-6309.

**August 18–27: MassWildlife at the Marshfield Fair** – Visit the MassWildlife exhibit while you enjoy the Marshfield Fair. Learn about some of the common wildlife living in your neighborhood and get your wildlife and outdoor recreation questions answered by MassWildlife staff. [Click here for more information about the Marshfield Fair.](#)

**August 22: Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, Dalton** – The August meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at 1:00 P.M., at the Stationery Factory, 63 Flansburg Avenue, Dalton, MA. Please note: If you have a disability or medical condition and would like to request special accommodations, please contact Susan Sacco at (508) 389-6342.

**August 23: Adult Fishing Clinic, Sudbury** – This is an **adult only** “learn to fish” clinic designed for **beginners** at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center (680 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776) from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. This event is in cooperation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Open to the public, minimum age is 18, and pre-registration is required – contact Jim Lagacy at [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us) or 508-389-6309.

**September 1–30: Quack, Quack, Junior Duck Stamp Traveling Art Exhibit, Athol** – A combination of the top 25 pieces of JDS art created by young people will be on exhibit at the [Millers River Environmental Center](#) in Athol. Teachers and their students are invited to participate in the [Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp \(JDS\) Program](#). JDS is designed to stimulate awareness and personal involvement in waterfowl & wetland conservation for students in grades K-12 through a student art project. The program helps students communicate visually what they have learned by creating an entry for the Junior Duck Stamp Program art contest. The art is judged in four age group categories in a statewide competition, and the entry judged Best of Show moves on to represent Massachusetts in the national JDS competition. For more details on the Athol exhibit, contact Dave Small at [dave@dhsml.net](mailto:dave@dhsml.net) or [www.atholbirdclub.org](http://www.atholbirdclub.org).

**September 9: “Hooked On Scouting” Family Fishing Festival, Russell** – This is a free, non-competitive, family friendly, learn to fish event at Russell Pond in Camp Moses, Birch Hill Road in Russell from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. No fishing license required. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours; limited equipment and bait will be provided. This event is in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America Western MA Council. For more information, contact Tim Vogel at [tim@tekoamountainoutdoors.com](mailto:tim@tekoamountainoutdoors.com) for more information.

**September 17: Massachusetts Outdoor Exposition (the Big “MOE”):** The Massachusetts Outdoor Exposition features over 45 activity stations, including shotgun, airgun, and rifle shooting, tomahawk throwing, birdhouse building, fishing,

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kayaking, archery, petting zoo, and more! Admission, parking and all activities are free. [Click here to learn more about the Big MOE.](#)

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