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From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov> on behalf of Trasko, Clarissa
Sent on: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 9:07:10 PM
To: Loyzim, Melanie <Melanie.Loyzim@maine.gov>; Kavanah, Brian W <Brian.W.Kavanah@maine.gov>
CC: Chase, Beth <Beth.Chase@maine.gov>; Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: Cooke Update

Hi,

Mike Loughlin, Jim Beyer and Tiffany Leclair conducted an inspection at the Black Island and Black Island South pen sites earlier today. Jennifer Robinson and a couple other Cooke employees participated in the inspection. According to Mike, one of the site managers indicated that the crew was off over the weekend of August 14th and 15th. When the site manager arrived on site on the 16th he could see there were dead fish under the net pens at both sites. He confirmed that there was algae growth on the nets during the die off but did not explicitly confirm that was the cause of the fish deaths. He did indicate the nets had a lot of algae growth and were cleaned immediately after the die off. According to data that was provided to us by Jennifer, the DO's in some of the individual net pens (not sure which ones or how many) was at 6.2 mg/L on Friday August 13th, 5.2 mg/L on Saturday August 14th and 4.9 mg/L on Sunday, August 15th and Monday August 16th. On Tuesday, August 17th the DO level bounced back up to 7.8 mg/L. Mike asked for net cleaning dates and that information is forthcoming but I am guessing the net cleaning occurred prior to the significant increase in DO levels on the 17th. The site manager told Mike that they are typically cleaning the nets every 2 weeks. Once we get the net cleaning dates we will be able to see where they were with the cleaning cycle during the die off. Both of these sites are being harvested so Cooke staff indicated they have not used any drug treatments within the past 30 days or so as fish have to be drug free for at least 30 days prior to hitting the market. These fish are/were adults that have been on these sites for at least 24 months. Cooke staff have no explanation for what caused the die off of fish other than it was likely due to the low DO's. They have no definitive explanation for what caused the low DO's in the affected pens. They reportedly did not see anything out of the ordinary prior to this event and it caught them by surprise. During today's inspection, Mike collected DO/temperature data at locations 35 meters (5, 10 and 25 foot depths) from the outer most pens at both sites and inside (5, 10 and 25 foot depths) a couple of net pens at both sites. DO levels were 8 mg/L and above at all of the locations. There were no fish to collect as the last mortalities were shipped to a compost site (Gotts) in Tremont on Friday, August 27th. Mike has done several inspections at these net pen sites in the past and did not notice anything out of the ordinary, or non-compliant, during today's inspection. We expect to receive some additional data from Cooke in the next few days and Mike will have his inspection report completed no later than October 1st. We will conduct a review of the General Permit language to confirm whether or not there was a compliance issue related to this incident. I am pretty sure there was not but we will check to be sure. If you have questions or would like additional information then please let me know.



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From: Loyzim, Melanie <Melanie.Loyzim@maine.gov> on behalf of Loyzim, Melanie
Sent on: Monday, August 30, 2021 2:50:35 PM
To: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>; Kavanah, Brian W <Brian.W.Kavanah@maine.gov>
Subject: Cooke update

Microsoft Teams meeting

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[+1 207-209-4724,,394285274#](#) United States, Portland

Phone Conference ID: 394 285 274#

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From: Loyzim, Melanie <Melanie.Loyzim@maine.gov> on behalf of Loyzim, Melanie
Sent on: Monday, August 30, 2021 7:25:11 PM
To: Chase, Beth <Beth.Chase@maine.gov>
CC: Madore, David <David.Madore@maine.gov>
Subject: Cooke update

Beth, I think you're hearing from Mike Loughlin so little to none of this should be new information, but sharing just in case.

Mike will be visiting the pens with someone from DMR this week (tomorrow?). Conditions inside the pens are primarily DMR jurisdiction, including mortalities. We have requested any dissolved oxygen information from outside of the pens to confirm our permit conditions were met. At this time, we do not have information indicating any violations of DEP conditions occurred.

3A

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From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov> on behalf of Trasko, Clarissa
Sent on: Friday, August 27, 2021 9:53:53 PM
To: Shannon, Robert F <Robert.F.Shannon@maine.gov>
Subject: Response Boating Adventure

Hi Bob,

Did Mike reach out to you to see if one of your staff can assist us with a boat visit to some salmon net pens next week? There have been significant fish kills at two of their sites off Bass Harbor. I would like him to lay eyes on the sites as soon as possible.

Clarissa G. Trasko
Maine DEP Wastewater Compliance Supervisor
Bureau of Water Quality
Eastern Maine Regional Office
(207) 592-1389
www.maine.gov/DEP

(4)

From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov> on behalf of Trasko, Clarissa
Sent on: Friday, August 27, 2021 6:01:36 PM
To: Madore, David <David.Madore@maine.gov>; Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
CC: Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>; Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

You are very welcome. We will keep you in the loop if there are any developments.

Cricky

Clarissa G. Trasko
 Maine DEP Wastewater Compliance Supervisor
 Bureau of Water Quality
 Eastern Maine Regional Office
 (207) 592-1389
www.maine.gov/DEP

From: Madore, David <David.Madore@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>; Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Cc: Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>; Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Thank you

From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Madore, David <David.Madore@maine.gov>; Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Cc: Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>; Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

No. We have a draft ACA that has not, and will not, be issued to Cooke.

From: Madore, David <David.Madore@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Cc: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>; Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>; Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Do we currently have any open enforcement cases with Cooke? If so, what the nature of the violation?
 Thanks

⑤

From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Alley, Jan B <Jan.B.Alley@maine.gov>
Cc: Shannon, Robert F <Robert.F.Shannon@maine.gov>; Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>;
 Madore, David <David.Madore@maine.gov>
Subject: FW: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

FYI. In case you get any calls, please refer them to Mike. Thanks.

CT

Clarissa G. Trasko
 Maine DEP Wastewater Compliance Supervisor
 Bureau of Water Quality
 Eastern Maine Regional Office
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From: Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>; Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Cc: Burda, Kayleigh <Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov>
Subject: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Hi Gregg and Cricky:

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I had checked the inventory report yesterday for those 2 sites and both were operating within the NOI limits.

The only GP conditions that are coming to mind is Special Condition H the mixing zone DO and that limit is to be greater than 6 ppm.

I don't remember any special reporting requirements (to DEP) for mass mortalities. Jennifer told me they have to report mass mortalities to DMR.

6

From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov> on behalf of Trasko, Clarissa
Sent on: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:21:09 PM
To: Alley, Jan B <Jan.B.Alley@maine.gov>
CC: Shannon, Robert F <Robert.F.Shannon@maine.gov>; Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>;
 Madore, David <David.Madore@maine.gov>
Subject: FW: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

FYI. In case you get any calls, please refer them to Mike. Thanks.

CT

Clarissa G. Trasko
 Maine DEP Wastewater Compliance Supervisor
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 Eastern Maine Regional Office
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From: Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>; Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Cc: Burda, Kayleigh <Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov>
Subject: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

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6A

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Michael Loughlin
Environmental Specialist in the Bureau of Water Quality
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 941-4578
www.maine.gov/dep



From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov> on behalf of Trasko, Clarissa
Sent on: Friday, August 27, 2021 7:05:35 PM
To: Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Mike is trying to set something up for Monday or Tuesday with our response staff. If for no other reason, then to wave the DEP flag. He was due for an inspection at these sites later this month anyways.

From: Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

One of the perks of being the Regional Director is that I have some flexibility to pick and choose what I work on. If my schedule allows, I would love to go on a yacht ride.

James R. Beyer
 Director, Eastern Maine Regional Office
 Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 Desk (207) 941-4190; Mobile (207) 446-9026
www.maine.gov/dep

From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

I have asked Mike to request some historical records to see if these seem out of the norm. Cooke may refuse to provide this information but I think we can force it via the Permit. I will keep you posted as things proceed. I suspect there is something else going on out there. It may be worth asking our response guys to fire up their yacht for a trip out there.

From: Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Seems high enough to me too.

James R. Beyer
 Director, Eastern Maine Regional Office
 Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 Desk (207) 941-4190; Mobile (207) 446-9026
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7A

From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Beyer, Jim R <Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov>
Subject: FW: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

I don't buy it but have no proof otherwise. Seems like 7-8 mg/L of DO should be sufficient.

From: Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>; Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>
Cc: Burda, Kayleigh <Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Sorry. She believes the cause was low DO in the pens.

Michael Loughlin
 Environmental Specialist in the Bureau of Water Quality
 Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 (207) 941-4578
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From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>; Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>
Cc: Burda, Kayleigh <Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

What does Jennifer report as the reason for the mortalities? 7-8 PPM of oxygen should not have been a problem.

From: Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Wood, Gregg <Gregg.Wood@maine.gov>; Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>
Cc: Burda, Kayleigh <Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov>
Subject: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Hi Gregg and Cricky:

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7B

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Michael Loughlin
Environmental Specialist in the Bureau of Water Quality
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 941-4578
www.maine.gov/dep

Microsoft Exchange Server;converted from html;

From: Crossley, Laura <Laura.Crossley@maine.gov> on behalf of Crossley, Laura

Sent on: Friday, August 27, 2021 7:37:04 PM

To: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Awesome!

From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:33 PM

To: Crossley, Laura <Laura.Crossley@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Mike is going to try and get out there the first of next week for an inspection. I am not sure there is any permit violation here but this is the first time this has happened in the history of the permit and he was trying to inspect these sites in September, anyways. This would be a value added inspection as he can look at DO data related to an incident rather than visiting the sites when everything seems fine.

From: Crossley, Laura <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Laura.Crossley@maine.gov" Laura.Crossley@maine.gov](mailto:Laura.Crossley@maine.gov)>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:04 PM

To: Trasko, Clarissa <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov" Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov)>

Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Thanks, Cricky!

From: Trasko, Clarissa <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov" Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov)>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 2:02 PM

To: Crossley, Laura <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Laura.Crossley@maine.gov" Laura.Crossley@maine.gov](mailto:Laura.Crossley@maine.gov)>

Subject: FW: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

FYI

From: Madore, David <[HYPERLINK "mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov" David.Madore@maine.gov](mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov)>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:56 PM

To: Trasko, Clarissa <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov" Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov)>;

Loughlin, Mike <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov" Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov](mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov)>

Cc: Wood, Gregg <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov" Gregg.Wood@maine.gov](mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov)>; Beyer, Jim R <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov" Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov](mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov)>

Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

Thank you

From: Trasko, Clarissa <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov" Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov)>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:55 PM

To: Madore, David <[HYPERLINK "mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov" David.Madore@maine.gov](mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov)>;

Loughlin, Mike <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov" Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov](mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov)>

Cc: Wood, Gregg <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov" Gregg.Wood@maine.gov](mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov)>; Beyer, Jim R <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov" Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov](mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov)>

Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

No. We have a draft ACA that has not, and will not, be issued to Cooke.

From: Madore, David <[HYPERLINK "mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov" David.Madore@maine.gov](mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov)>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 12:39 PM

To: Loughlin, Mike <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov" Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov](mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov)>

Cc: Trasko, Clarissa <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov" Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov)>;

Wood, Gregg <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov" Gregg.Wood@maine.gov](mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov)>; Beyer, Jim R <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov" Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov](mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov)>

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Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:21 AM

To: Alley, Jan B <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Jan.B.Alley@maine.gov" Jan.B.Alley@maine.gov](mailto:Jan.B.Alley@maine.gov)>

Cc: Shannon, Robert F <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Robert.F.Shannon@maine.gov" Robert.F.Shannon@maine.gov](mailto:Robert.F.Shannon@maine.gov)>; Beyer, Jim R <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov" Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov](mailto:Jim.R.Beyer@maine.gov)>; Madore, David <[HYPERLINK "mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov" David.Madore@maine.gov](mailto:David.Madore@maine.gov)>

Subject: FW: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites
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From: Loughlin, Mike <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov" Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov](mailto:Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov)>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:11 AM

To: Wood, Gregg <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov" Gregg.Wood@maine.gov](mailto:Gregg.Wood@maine.gov)>; Trasko, Clarissa <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov" Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov](mailto:Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov)>

Cc: Burda, Kayleigh <[HYPERLINK "mailto:Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov" Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov](mailto:Kayleigh.A.Burda@maine.gov)>

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(207) 941-4578
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From: Trasko, Clarissa <Clarissa.Trasko@maine.gov> on behalf of Trasko, Clarissa
Sent on: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:25:07 PM
To: Loughlin, Mike <Mike.Loughlin@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Heads up. Cooke Aquaculture, Black Island and Black Island South sites

I looped Madore, Beyer and Shannon in, just in case we get any calls. If you get a call from a reporter then refer them to Madore. Please sit tight on this otherwise and don't do anything else other than responding to my question about cause. I will be out for a couple of hours around lunch and back after that if you have any questions or want to discuss. Thanks.

CT

Clarissa G. Trasko
Maine DEP Wastewater Compliance Supervisor
Bureau of Water Quality
Eastern Maine Regional Office
(207) 592-1389
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See next page

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Jennifer Robinson called today. She wanted to give DEP a heads up that they had a mass mortality event at the 2 Black Island sites; Black Island and Black Island South.

They are removing the mortalities and sending them to the composting facility on MDI. She reported she notified the DMR & the Services and added that a reasonable number of locals know. She sort of expected we may be getting calls.

The initial estimate is about 10% of the fish died at each site. In addition to removing morts they have been doing some harvesting and are now getting both harvest vessels out there to thin the fish out.

Jennifer reported the mixing zone dissolved oxygen was 7 to 8 ppm and at current temperatures that was 70 to 80% of saturation. I had checked the inventory report yesterday for those 2 sites and both were operating withing the NOI limits.

The only GP conditions that are coming to mind is Special Condition H the mixing zone DO and that limit is to be greater than 6 ppm. I don't remember any special reporting requirements (to DEP) for mass mortalities. Jennifer told me they have to report mass mortalities to DMR.

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