

## Updates from the USGS National Wildlife Health Center

To: Natural Resource/Conservation Managers  
From: Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center,  
Date: November 8, 2012  
Subject: USGS NWHC wildlife health updates:

### **Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report for April – June 2012 is now available:**

The National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) produces quarterly mortality reports, containing information about wildlife mortality events throughout the United States and on occasion across North America. These reports are compiled from a database of wildlife mortality events maintained at NWHC. Data are gathered by the NWHC Field Investigations Team from partners across the country, at the federal, state and local levels. The quarterly mortality report provides brief summaries of epizootic mortality and morbidity events (by quarter) and is published in the Wildlife Disease Association newsletter, as well as posted on the NWHC website. The full report for April through June 2012 can be found at

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly\\_reports/2012\\_qtr\\_2.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly_reports/2012_qtr_2.jsp)

### **Information on Current Wildlife Mortality Events is now available:**

Current wildlife mortality event information collected by USGS and a network of federal, state and regional partners across the country, along with a current event mapping tool, can now be viewed at: [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality\\_events/ongoing.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events/ongoing.jsp)

### **Previous mortality reports beginning with 1995 to the present can be viewed online at:**

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly\\_reports/index.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly_reports/index.jsp)

### **WDIN Moves to University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine:**

The Wildlife Data Integration Network (WDIN), formerly the Wildlife Disease Information Node, has moved to the University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine as of August 1, 2012. The Wildlife Disease Information Node was created in 2002 as a mechanism to increase access to wildlife disease information for biologists, veterinarians, and other decision-makers. Historically, the project was part of the US Geological Survey (USGS), National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), and was funded through a collaborative agreement between the University of Wisconsin, Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies and the USGS, National Wildlife Health Center. In 2012, NBII funding and Node partnerships were terminated, resulting in elimination of any associated development and maintenance of databases, applications and systems. Subsequent to this the School of Veterinary Medicine expressed its willingness to operate the project, and it was mutually agreed to formerly assign WDIN to the University of Wisconsin. We believe this represents an ideal outcome that allows this important work to continue as a university project, while also allowing for the Faculty at the University of Wisconsin and scientists at the National Wildlife Health Center to continue and grow their long and productive history of collaborative projects and shared interests, and we look forward to a continuation of this relationship. As the WDIN continues to develop new methodologies, there is also great potential for future collaborations between the University of Wisconsin, and other federal, state, and private organizations. Please visit [www.wdin.org/](http://www.wdin.org/) for more information.

Submitted by: Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, and Dr. Mark Markel, Dean, University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine

### **NWHC Strategic Science Plan**

To continue to address the urgent wildlife health challenges we all face, the NWHC has adopted a new strategic plan to guide our work for the next 5 years so we can meet our responsibilities to be vigilant for emerging diseases, and provide the science and technical assistance needed to understand and manage these disease threats in a timely and effective manner. The plan is based on three main goals: **1)** with partners, establish a collaborative North American Wildlife Health Strategy to create a framework to address pressing wildlife health issues; **2)** provide nationally comprehensive wildlife health information based on collective knowledge, and make it available to a broad audience of professionals, general public, media, and decision makers; and **3)** conduct exceptional science to anticipate, detect, and assess wildlife diseases, and support the management of wildlife and ecosystem health. For more information, view the [NWHC Strategic Science Plan: Advancing Wildlife and Ecosystem Health for the Next Decade](#).

### **North American Wildlife Health Strategy**

To address the first goal in the NWHC Strategic Science Plan, technical experts in the field of fish, wildlife, domestic animal, human, and ecosystem health participated in a workshop in Washington, DC, from October 10–12 to discuss the current status of wildlife health programs in the United States and Canada, and to explore ways to better coordinate and collaborate regarding collective response to wildlife health and disease issues. Representatives from federal and state government, academia, and non-governmental organizations with an interest in wildlife health worked through a process to align interests, identify partnering opportunities, and create a plan to move forward.

### **Links to Recent Reports and USGS White-Nose Syndrome Publications**

#### [September 2012 Report to the AFWA Fish and Wildlife Health Committee](#)

A USGS [media release](#) and a USGS [Top Story](#) were recently posted to highlight the work of scientists at the National Wildlife Health Center who are collaborating with partners to combat the deadly bat disease white-nose syndrome. Recently USGS research on this disease has been published in five articles in four journals: *PLOS ONE*, *Virulence*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, and two in *Mycologia*. Citations to each are below:

Verant, M.L., and others, 2012. [Temperature-dependent growth of \*Geomyces destructans\*, the fungus that causes bat white-nose syndrome](#). *PLoS ONE*, v. 7, no. 9, e46280.

Meteyer, C.U., and others, 2012. [Pathology in euthermic bats with white-nose syndrome suggests a natural manifestation of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome](#).

*Virulence*, v. 3, no. 7, 1-7.

Thogmartin, W.E., and others, 2012. **Population-level impact of white-nose syndrome on the endangered Indiana bat.** *Journal of Mammalogy*, 93: 1086-1098.

Lorch, J.M., and others, 2012. **A culture-based survey of fungi in soil from bat hibernacula in the eastern United States and its implications for detection of *Geomyces destructans*, the causal agent of bat white-nose syndrome.** *Mycologia*.

Muller, L.K., and others, 2012. **Bat white-nose syndrome: a real-time TaqMan polymerase chain reaction test targeting the intergenic spacer region of *Geomyces destructans*.** *Mycologia*.

Fact Sheet: White-Nose Syndrome in Bats: U.S. Geological Survey Updates

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact\\_sheets/pdfs/WNS\\_Factsheet\\_2012.pdf](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact_sheets/pdfs/WNS_Factsheet_2012.pdf)

An updated list of WNS-related publications from the USGS is available at:

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease\\_information/white-nose\\_syndrome/wns\\_publications\\_list.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/white-nose_syndrome/wns_publications_list.jsp)