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2015

Connecticut Inland Fisheries

Aquatic Resources Education



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State of Connecticut
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries Division



Project Title: Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE)

Period Covered: January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

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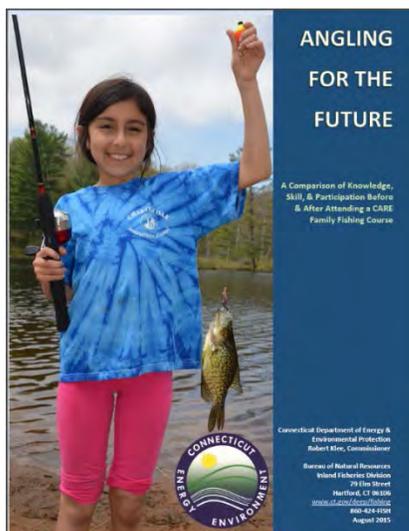
Cover photo: Students who visit the CARE Center on Forster Pond are often rewarded with excellent catch rates!

Summary

During 2015, the Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program experienced a successful year of introducing new anglers to the lifetime sport of fishing. A total of 8,946 participants were educated through CARE student activities. Overall, total participation increased from 2014. Of the five core student activities, we had an increase in Special Fishing events and Family Ice Fishing Classes and had a decrease in our Forster Pond Courses, Family Fishing Courses, and Summer Fishing Classes.

CARE staff collaborated with 224 volunteer instructors and also recruited, trained and certified 21 new instructors in 2015. Recruiting and certifying additional volunteer instructors will remain a top priority for 2016, as the success of the CARE program is largely dependent upon these volunteers. Keeping them motivated, supported, and engaged is challenging as we attempt to expand student opportunities. We will also develop strategies to increase instructor retention and reactivation.

In 2015, CARE staff developed a Connecticut specific “LET’S GO FISHING!” student workbook, as well as two additional Instructor resources to assist in teaching the Family Fishing Course: 1) a formal Family Fishing Course Instructor Guide and 2) a PowerPoint presentation to be shown during class to provide visual aids. Volunteer trainings included two new-instructor certification classes and four in-service trainings. These in-service trainings focused on the newly developed Family Fishing Course materials and how instructors can best utilize them during their next course. Staff also completed an evaluation of Family Fishing Course students from 2010-2014. This “Angling for the Future” report summarizes, compares, and quantifies changes in fishing participation and behavior before and after attending a CARE Family Fishing Course.



Background

Beginning with the passage of Section 26-31a of the Connecticut General Statutes in 1986, the Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program has been contributing directly to the mission of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Inland Fisheries Division (IFD); *To Advance the Conservation, Enhancement, Restoration, Use, and Appreciation of Connecticut's Inland and Diadromous Fisheries and Fish Habitats.*

Specifically the CARE program strives to:

- increase public awareness of aquatic resources
- help introduce students to fishing
- promote environmental stewardship
- encourage responsible behavior among citizens by fostering a respect and knowledge of our State's natural resources
- continually adapt our message to meet changing family and societal needs

Since 1986 the program has compiled the following statistics:

- CARE volunteers have donated the equivalent of \$4.2 million in volunteer services to the DEEP;
- Instructors have taught 190,000 students;
- Over 2,000 volunteers have taught at CARE events;



Photos by Jim Murtagh, Mike Beauchene, and Justin Wiggins

Implementing CARE

The CARE program has three jobs: Job 1- Student activities, Job 2- Administration, and Job 3- Supervision of Outreach and Communications.

JOB 1 – Student Activities

Job 1- Student activities remain the top CARE priority as we continue the program's history of developing an interested, knowledgeable, and skilled fishing constituency. Student activities are the primary function of the CARE program as they have the greatest ability to create

- 1) Basic fishing **participants**;
- 2) More knowledgeable **anglers**,
- 3) Active **stewards** of aquatic resources.

Essential to success of Job 1-Student Activities is the continual recruitment and training of existing volunteer instructors so that they have the skills and confidence to conduct or assist in facilitating a Family Fishing Course. CARE instructor volunteer time is documented and used as state in-kind match for federal funding, which allows CARE to function with little to no State funding.

The five CARE student activities are: Family Fishing Courses, Forster Pond Courses, Family Ice Fishing Classes, Summer Fishing Classes, and Special Fishing Events (Table 1). The goal of each type of student activity is to provide a broad complement of fishing related content, to have as many students as possible participate in a fishing trip, and develop a support network by involving family members. Student activities vary with content, interaction time (*IT*), and instruction location. This variability enables CARE to customize instruction based on the participants and enables several levels of instructional outcome, including; **participant**-competent with basic fishing skills and awareness, **angler**-continues to fish on their own, and **steward**-engages in activities to care for our aquatic resources.



Fishing trips, while critical to creating long-term fishing participants, can be labor intensive, ensuring each participant has a functional rod and reel, terminal tackle, and hopefully biting fish. Photo by Mike Beauchene

From 1986-2008, CARE reported student learning by estimating the amount of student instructor contact. For example, the contact for a student spending 6-10 hours in a Family Fishing Course was considered equivalent to a student spending 30 minutes in a special fishing event. Although easy to report, this did not represent actual instructor to student interaction. It also made meaningful comparisons among class types nearly impossible.

Beginning in 2009 CARE implemented *IT* as a method to standardize learning and contact. *IT* is calculated as the actual hours instructors spent teaching multiplied by the number of students participating in the event. *IT* has provided a:

- More insightful measure of educational activities;
- Common denominator for comparison among class types;
- Accurate measure of the relative contribution of class types to annual results;
- Data source from which we can better allocate effort to improve effectiveness;
- Consistent measure of educational results between years.



Forster Pond at the CARE center offers high catch rates for bass and sunfish. Students spend the morning in the CARE Center learning about tackle, baits, how to cast, how to tie a strong knot, and fish identification and ecology (top right). Almost every student has success as evidenced by the big smiles (bottom left). Photos by Justin Wiggins

Table 1. Topics, Interaction Time (IT), and expected outcome for each of the five CARE student activities. The shaded portion of the circle represents the relative quantity of that topic covered for the respective student activity. For example, all family fishing courses cover “Fishing Tackle” in detail while only a small proportion of special fishing events cover that topic.

Topic	Student Activity				
	Family Fishing Courses	Ice Fishing Classes	Forster Pond Courses	Summer Fishing Classes	Special Fishing Event
Fishing Tackle					
Casting Practice					
Knot Tying					
Natural Baits					
Regulations & Safety					
Fish Identification					
Care of Catch-Fish Harvest, Consumption, Catch & Release					
Fish Biology & Management					
Habitat & Water Quality					
Fishing Trip					
Family Involvement					
Interaction Time (hours/student)	6	3.5	12	2.5	1
Staff Time					
Expected Outcome	Angler/Steward	Angler/Steward	Angler/Steward	Participant & Environmental Knowledge	Participant & Environmental Knowledge

Family Fishing Courses comprise a single classroom meeting for two hours followed by an angling experience to a local waterbody. Family Fishing Courses are taught by certified volunteer instructors and attended by CARE staff for evaluation and quality control. The classroom instruction follows our Connecticut specific “LET’S GO FISHING!” student workbook, which is augmented by a matching standardized PowerPoint presentation.

These courses require partnerships with municipal park and recreation programs or other youth/family organizations. Of our different courses, the Family Fishing Course is number one in creating future anglers and environmental stewards as it covers a variety of fishing topics while in a structured classroom setting (Table 1).



CARE Instructors use fish photo flash cards to teach a fish ecology lesson at a Family Fishing Course in Guilford.

Ice Fishing Classes are a single meeting two-hour class taught by volunteers and attended by CARE staff during the months of January and February. Families that attend these classes are invited to participate in Family Ice Fishing field trips lead by CARE instructors. Additionally, where on-site ponds are available, an on-ice experience is offered immediately following the classroom lesson.



All Ice Fishing class students are invited to several on-ice instructional events lead by Certified CARE Instructors. Photo by Justin Wiggins

Forster Pond Courses are unique in that CARE staff partner with elementary school teachers to implement a 2 part instructional process.

The first part is completed by the teachers who integrate the fishing curriculum into their daily lesson plans. Teachers spend an average of six hours teaching CARE curriculum in their classrooms. The second part is a field trip to the CARE Center where CARE staff and certified instructors provide instruction on “fishing techniques”, and then each student has the opportunity to fish in Forster Pond, which offers superb catch rates.

Summer Fishing Classes are two and one half hour classes offered for seven weeks during the summer months, primarily in urban areas. These classes use interactive games to teach students in (summer) day-camps about aquatic environments, water



Summer Fishing classes are offered over a 7-week period from June to August to day campers across the state. Community Fishing Waters, like Stanley Quarter Park (shown) are ideal locations for these classes, as they are conveniently located in urban areas, have open shoreline for fishing, and are stocked with trout and catfish. Photo by Justin Wiggins

quality, fish identification and ecology, safety, and angling skills. Each class includes a fishing experience. The main goal is high participation, ultimately creating large number of fishing “participants”. The classes require one permanent staff and five seasonal employees each summer. Cooperation of dependable, youth-group leaders was critical to convening successful classes.

Special Fishing Events encompass a wide variety of educational and angling activities including: municipal fishing clinics/derbies, *Take a Vet Fishing* days, Boy and Girl Scout fishing events, ice fishing events, fish ecology and habitat presentations, family fishing days, National Wild Turkey Federation JAKES day, introduction to crabbing, and fishing with persons with special needs. Some Special Fishing Events, such as *No Child Left Inside*® Family Fishing Days and Trout Unlimited Youth Education Days, are able to incorporate some of the CARE topics from the Family Fishing Course. Special Fishing events are very popular with instructors as they are able to have contact with large numbers of people, they require less logistical coordination, and they are completed within a few hours.

The expected outcome of these Special Fishing Events is the creation of participants and an increase in environmental knowledge. This outcome is less than the creation of an angler/steward as expected from other CARE student activities. However, we feel this is a valuable component to make families aware of the CARE program and the benefits fishing has to offer. In some Special Fishing Events, such as *No Child Left Inside*® Family Fishing Days and Trout Unlimited Youth Education Days, the expected outcome is angler/steward as these events include all three components required to create anglers: 1) attendance by parents and their children; 2) aquatic educational activities, and 3) a fishing trip.



Hundreds of anglers joined CARE instructors for saltwater fishing day at Fort Trumbull State Park (Top). FREE Family Fishing Day has become our most popular event, attracting nearly 1,000 people annually (Bottom). Photos by Justin Wiggins



Job 2 – Administration

Administration is the second highest priority of the CARE program as we attempt to create 1) basic fishing *participants*; 2) more knowledgeable *anglers*, and 3) active *stewards* of aquatic resources. The top priority of Job 2- Administration is volunteer recruitment, training, and retention/reactivation. Administrative activities greatly facilitate smooth operation of the CARE program. Some of the more common administrative duties include:

- Continue to improve curriculum and develop relevant and compelling aquatic resources education materials
- Actively participate in the “Aquatic Resources Education Association”, a national group of professionals to ensure the most current aquatic education strategies are implemented in Connecticut
- Attend national meetings and present updates on the CARE program
- Recruit, train, perform background checks, certify, and retain qualified volunteers (>200 active annually) around the State to teach aquatic education classes
- Conduct additional educational and in-service training for active certified volunteer instructors
- Maintain the CARE email listserv for electronic communication with volunteers regarding upcoming class opportunities and IFD updates
- Establish partnerships, schedule and coordinate student activities, and recruit new volunteers with municipalities, DEEP Park Supervisors, Park and Recreation departments, Boy and Girl Scout groups, non-government organizations, schools, youth groups, nature centers, Audubon centers, Bass Nation, Trout Unlimited and other angling groups, bait and tackle shops, and other State agencies
- Coordinate Forster Pond course curriculum with teachers from 16 elementary school classrooms, schedule and host a field trip to the CARE Center for each class
- Compile, validate, and error check class information datasheets, volunteer time contribution datasheets, and student demographic datasheets
- Enter student and instructor datasheets into specially designed Microsoft Access database
- Track *Interaction time (IT)*
- Purchase, distribute and maintain all education materials and field equipment needed for classes around the State
- Supervise 5 seasonal Interpretive Guide employees

JOB 3 – Supervision of Outreach and Communications

Beyond typical supervisory duties such as program development, conducting performance evaluations, and overall project coordination of both CARE Job 1 and Job 2, the CARE Project Leader position also provides oversight to other activities related to education and outreach primarily facilitated by other IFD staff. All of these tasks function to support implementation of the Bureau of Natural Resources Strategic Plan to “*Increase participation in fishing by 30% by 2016*”. Some specifics include:

- Educational displays at fairs, trade shows, and outdoor enthusiast events
- Manage **CT FISH AND WILDLIFE** social media Facebook and Twitter page
- Co-Editor Connecticut Wildlife Magazine
- Facilitate maintenance and development of IFD web pages
- Oversight of weekly fishing reports, press releases, and other educational materials
- Liaison with DEEP Office of Public Affairs
- Develop new and remodel existing IFD strategies to better serve the majority of the citizens of Connecticut.
- Facilitate the Youth Fishing Passport Program
- Coordinate youth trout stocking events
- Coordination of angler recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts



Educating and providing information to the public about our fishing opportunities and CARE Student Activities is one of the roles facilitated by the CARE Project Leader.

Youth Fishing Passport- On December 1, 2012 DEEP launched the free “Youth Fishing Passport” program (www.ct.gov/deep/YFP) to introduce and connect youth, under the age of 16, with the many excellent fishing opportunities across Connecticut.

The Youth Fishing Passport (www.ct.gov/deep/yfp) is intended to support the CARE program as it parallels the main priority of CARE; to help promote environmental responsibility, stewardship, and a sense of belonging to the sportsmen community. It encourages the youth to take an active role in responsible fishing, increases awareness of fishing regulations, and makes them embrace being a true angler.

The ultimate goal of the Youth Fishing Passport Program is to get kids and their families excited about fishing and make fishing an activity of choice. To achieve this goal the Youth Fishing Passport program has activities to challenge youth, incentives to fish provided by the fishing industry, and a support network including learn to fish classes, sharing of fishing successes, and opportunities to remain engaged in fishing through a network of fishing related events.



The youth fishing passport provided to those under 12 years of age (left) and those between 12 and 15 years of age (right). The passport version on the right utilizes the same template that adult anglers receive when they purchase their fishing license. In Connecticut, those 12 and older can have a JR hunting privilege and safe boating certificate. Both of these privileges would be listed on the same print out. Those under 12 years old like the color images of common fishes of Connecticut.

Trout stocking with children and adults is an outreach activity that has become increasingly popular. The excitement of releasing fish into the wild has universal appeal for all ages. The information communicated by DEEP staff about trout rearing and stocking help the public better understand the role the Inland Fisheries Division plays in fisheries management and the investment made by the State to provide a high quality trout angling experience. Capitalizing on this excitement, we have reproduced trout-in-a-bucket activities at pre-Opening Day media events, on Opening Day of trout season at several Trout Parks, and at both winter and spring *No Child Left Inside*® celebrations. Aside from the fun, stocking is a tangible way for people to assist DEEP with stewardship activities.

Key Findings

Job 1 - Student Activities Student activities are the primary core function of the CARE program as they have the greatest ability to create 1) basic fishing *participants*; 2) more knowledgeable *anglers*, and 3) active *stewards* of aquatic resources. Of the five types of student activities Family Fishing Courses followed by Family Ice Fishing classes are the most effective at meeting the core function.

During the 2015 project segment, a total of 8,946 students were taught and a new high value of 35,417 was accomplished for *IT* (Figure 1 and Table 2).

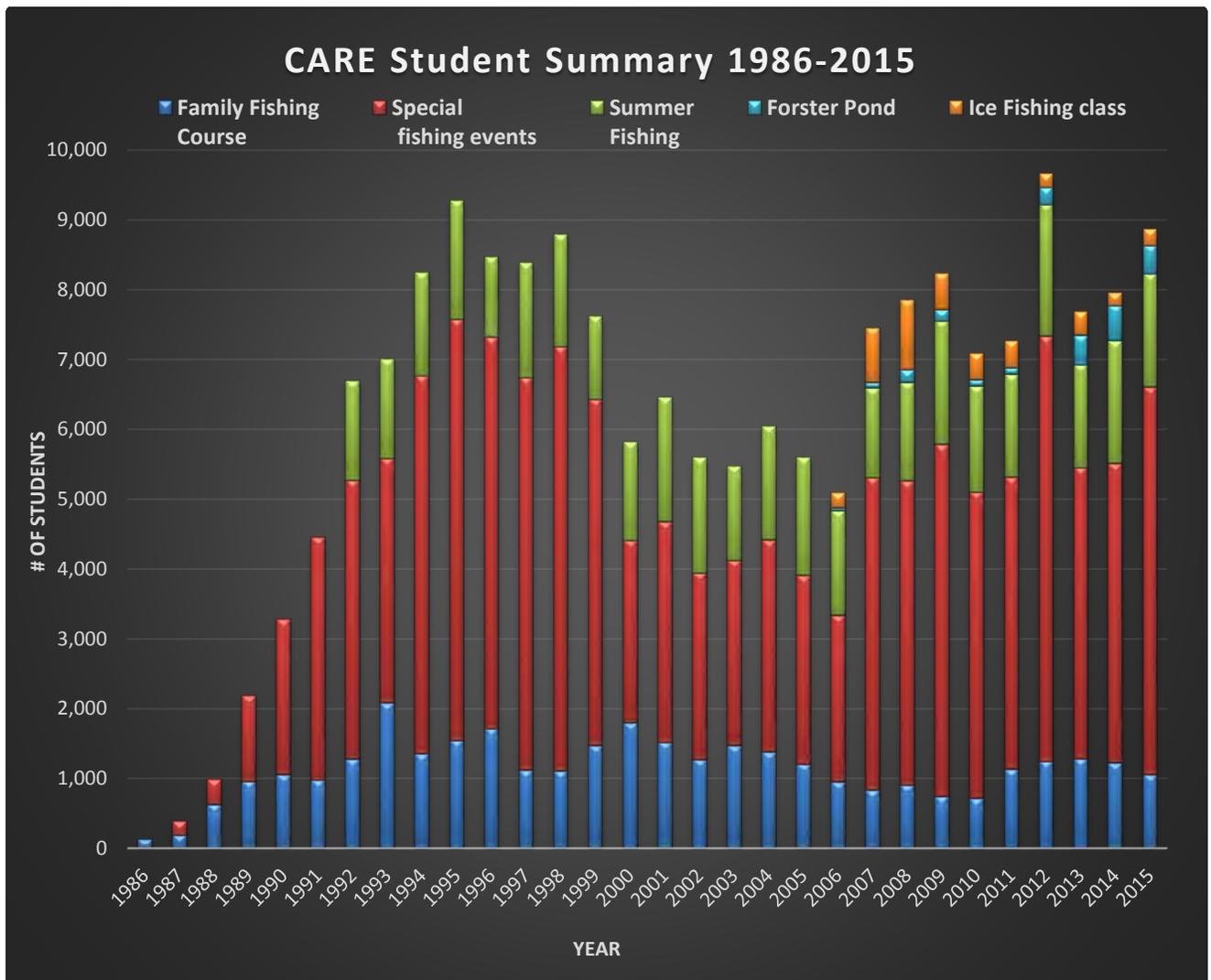


Figure 1. Stacked bars representing the number of CARE students from 1986-2015 within each of the five student activities.

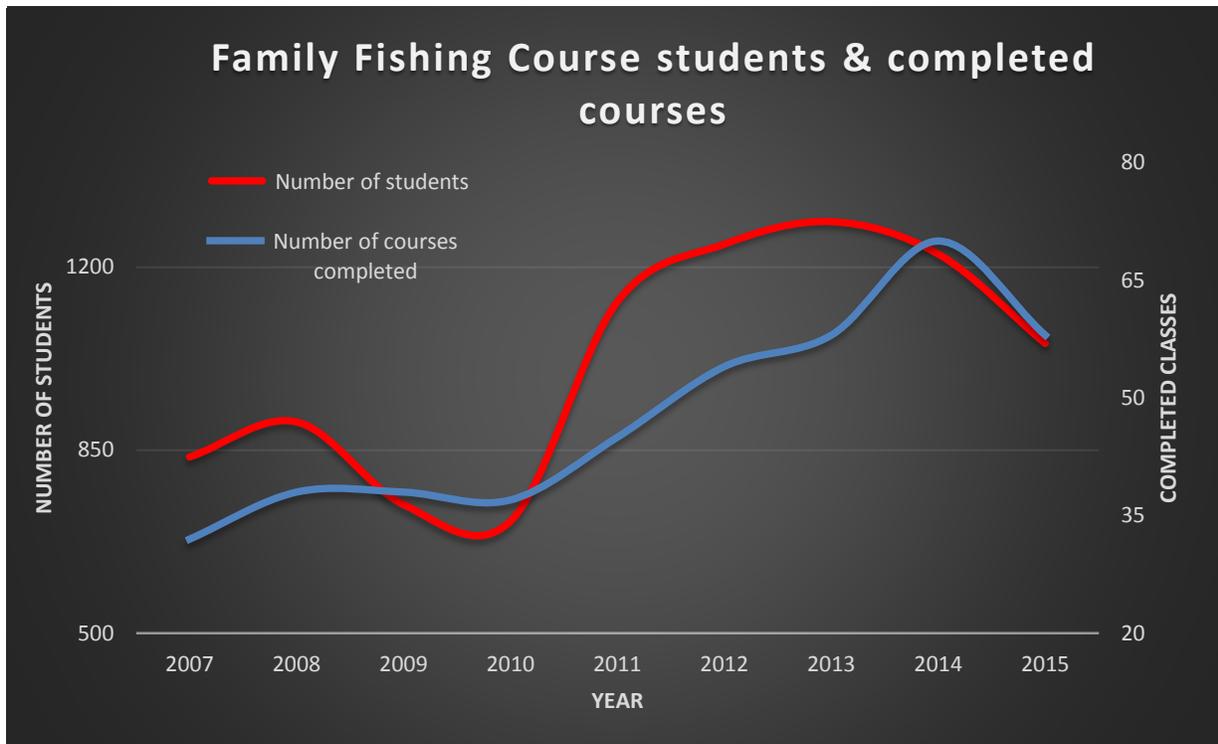


Figure 2. CARE Family Fishing Courses have consistently served over 1,000 students per year with over 50 classes offered since 2011.

“Let’s Go Fishing” CARE published 10,000 copies a full color, 29 page, Connecticut specific introduction to fishing workbook. This publication was modeled after angler education in Oklahoma and has greatly improved the messaging of the content taught in our Family Fishing Course.

Family Fishing Courses remained the primary class type for teaching students about fishing. In 2015, 1,054 students graduated Family Fishing Courses, a slight decrease from 2014. However, Family Fishing Course annual participation and the number of classes offered by instructors have almost doubled since 2010 (Figure 2).

An evaluation was completed in 2015 of Family Fishing Course students that participated in courses from 2010-2014. By analyzing and comparing information provided in student registration cards and results from an email survey we summarized fishing behaviors pre and post-program. We know CARE is making a difference! The “Angling For The Future” report¹ summarizes, compares, and quantifies changes in fishing participation and behavior before and after attending a CARE Family Fishing Course. Based on the comparison of CARE registration

¹ Angling for the Future: A Comparison of Knowledge, Skill, and Participation Before and After Taking A CARE Family Fishing Class. 2015. Wiggins, J., Bourret, T. and Beauchene, M. CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

CARE Students Rank Top Five Nationally*

Following participation in a CARE course, our students:

Self-identified themselves as an angler;

Had an increased interest in fishing;

Increased fishing participation (both freshwater and saltwater);

Learned a lot about tackle & methods;

Had confidence in their ability to go fishing again;

Identified places to go fishing;

Understood the term Fisheries Management;

Obtained fishing equipment.

* 2011 National Wild Turkey Foundation and Responsive Management National Report (www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/R&R_Evaluation_Report.pdf).

cards and the post-course survey (10.4% return) we now know that the CARE Family Fishing Course:

- Is successful at reaching our target audience - families with little to no prior fishing experience.
- Represents the demographics of CT's population.
- Provides the knowledge and skills so graduates are confident to fish on their own.
- Motivates people to fish and fish more often.
- Produces graduates who purchase fishing equipment and many purchase fishing licenses.
- Has graduates who regularly purchase a fishing license.
- Produces participants, anglers, and stewards.

Family Ice Fishing classes were the second most effective student activity for teaching students about fishing. 244 students attended Family Ice Fishing classes in 2015. All students were invited to attend the annual CARE Family Ice Fishing Derby and *No Child Left Inside*®

Winter Festival to put knowledge gained to action. The Family Ice Fishing Derby was cancelled due to extremely harsh weather. The Winter Festival, however, attracted a huge crowd of 850 students, the majority being first time ice anglers.

Forster Pond Courses in 2015 hosted 398 students, a dramatic increase from 96 students in 2011. Staff has maximized use of the CARE education center and reached capacity in the number of field trips we can accommodate. Fishing success was very high for students, with over 90% catching at least one fish. Special needs student populations were integrated into these classes.

Summer Fishing classes reached 1,622 students during the summer of 2015. All 1,622 day campers that participated in the Summer Fishing program went on a fishing trip!

Special Fishing Events are generally short-term duration (a few hours during one day) and require the least amount of planning for instructors. Due to these factors and a supportive fishing-festival type atmosphere, these types of events often generate the greatest number of

students and *IT*, 5,554 and 21,071 respectively. Special fishing events are convenient and popular with the public and instructors alike. Special Fishing events serve as a valuable media outlet tool for garnering television and newspaper coverage of our programs.

Table 2. Participation statistics for key metrics related to the five CARE Student Activities for the 2015 reporting period.

	Family Fishing	Ice Fishing	Forster Pond	Summer Fishing	Special Fishing Event	Total for 2015
# Students	1054	244	398	1,622	5,554	8,872
<i>IT</i>	6,469	653	3,980	3,244	21,071	35,417*
# Classes	58	10	14	62	48	192
Fishing Trip	98 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	85 %	
Social Support	85 %	100 %	10 %	2%	72%	
Additional Environmental Conservation Lessons Included	100 %	100 %	100 %	98%	51%	

*a new high value for the CARE program

Both total students taught (+927 students) and *IT* (+2,838 hours) increased from 2014 to 2015, demonstrating a significant increase in instructor effort (Appendix B). *IT* illustrates there is a substantial effort dedicated to our CORE products, Family Fishing Courses and Forster Pond courses, versus the Special fishing events than would be evident by examining student numbers alone (Figure 3).

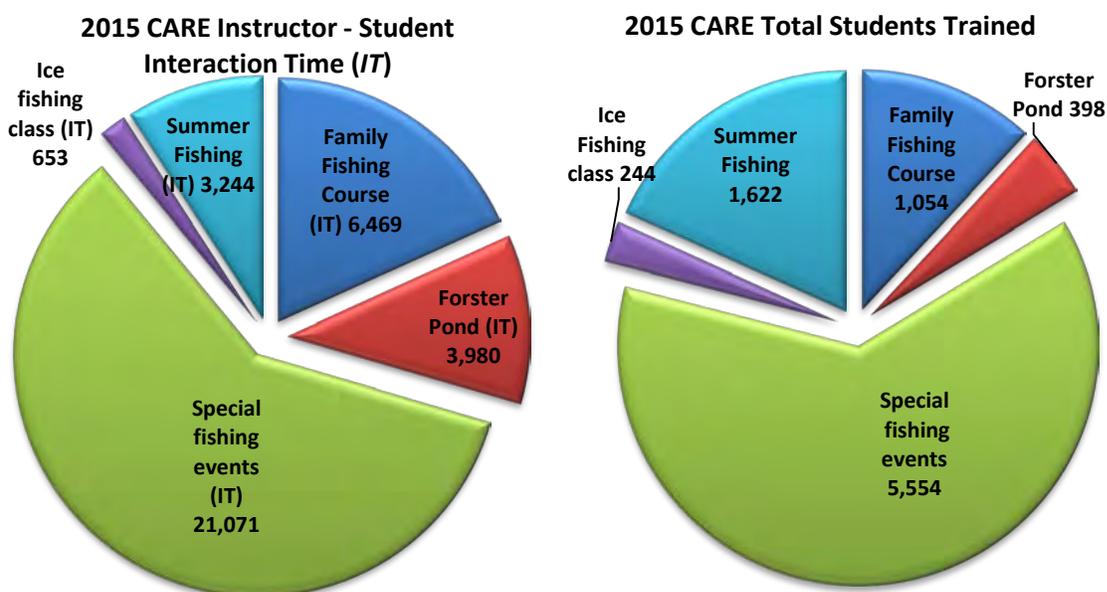


Figure 3. Pie charts comparing 2015 CARE Instructor-Student *IT* and number of students trained.

Geographic Coverage: During 2015 CARE had at least one type of student activity in all counties of the state (Figure 4). The central valley and southwestern portions of the state have ample opportunities for the public to participate in the CARE program. The less populated northwestern and far eastern portions of the state did not.

We have good distribution of Family Fishing Courses along the more populated central valley and southwestern portions of the state (Figure 5). Family Fishing Courses were limited in the less populated northwestern and far eastern portions of the state.

As recommended in previous Performance Reports, staff must continue to increase efforts to offer classes in the Northwest and Eastern parts of the Connecticut. During 2016, we will continue to work on increasing CARE opportunities and activity in both the Eastern and Northwest portions of the state by soliciting partnerships with municipalities and recruiting volunteer instructors to deliver courses.

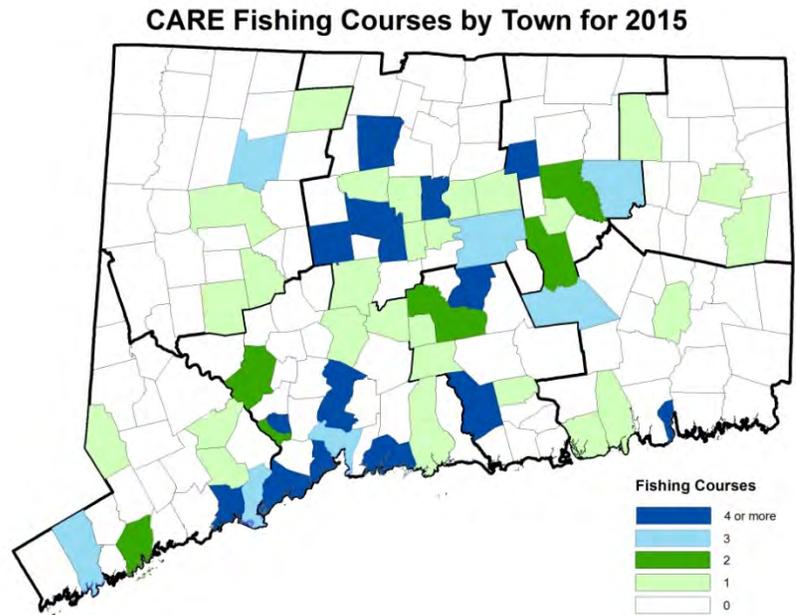


Figure 4. Number of total CARE courses per town in 2015

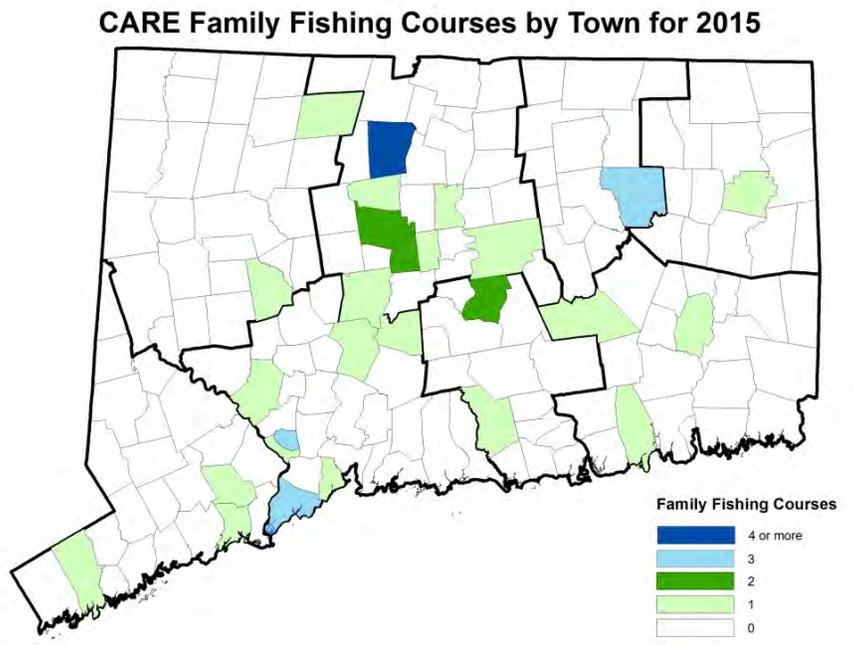


Figure 5. Number of Family Fishing Courses per town in 2015

Job 2 – Administration

Volunteer time provided 100% of state “matching” funds needed for federal funding for the 29th straight year. CARE volunteers have donated the equivalent of \$4.2 million to the DEEP since 1986 (see Appendix A). Volunteer recruitment, training, and supervision remain our top priorities. Highlights from Job 2- Administration were:

- 224 Instructors volunteered 4,503 hours;
- Established water safety stations at two fishing access points at CARE Center;
- 197 (including 5 volunteer trainings) classes and events occurred in 55 different towns and cities;
- \$223,105 equivalency in state “matching” funds were generated;
- 8,946 students were inspired to fish;
- *IT* value of 35,417 hours for student activities;
- *IT* value of 264 hours for volunteer training programs;
- 21 new Instructors were recruited and trained;
- In-service Trainings attended by 53 certified volunteers.

Several impressive milestones for CARE include:

- CARE volunteers have donated the equivalent of \$4.2 million in volunteer services to the DEEP;
- Instructors have taught 190,000 citizens;
- Over 2,000 volunteers have instructed at CARE events;

“**Let’s Go Fishing Instructor materials**” to increase standardization as well as instructor confidence, CARE developed a powerpoint to augment the content within the “Let’s Go Fishing” workbook. To help instructors with implementation of the new powerpoint, CARE also produced “instructor guidance”. All three-program materials are color-coded and the content is coordinated in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge. These materials are available on our website at www.ct.deep/CARE.

JOB 3 – Supervision of Outreach and Communications

Oversight of several IFD staff as well as coordination of education and outreach activities outside of CARE but within the IFD included;

- Provided guidance for development of a fisheries outreach and education trailer for use at large public events and DEEP functions.
- TV, Radio and print coverage of IFD topics of interest;
- Reviewed *2016 Connecticut Angler's Guide*; including the selection of 2nd Angler's Guide Cover contest winner from over 200 submitted photos
- Assisted IFD staff with education and outreach opportunities;
- Conducted surveys to evaluate IFD social media efforts;
- Facilitated the Youth Fishing Passport Program (1,445 registrants in 2015)
- Hosted the 8th annual Trophy Fish Awards recognition ceremony
- Compiled and published annual fish stocking report



Governor Dannel P. Malloy speaking about Andrea Repko (left), winner of the 2014 Angler's Guide Photo contest, during the pre-opening day stocking event.



"Trout-in-a-bucket" occurs at various high profile events throughout the year including; pre-opening day and opening day of trout season at several Trout Parks, and at both winter and spring No Child Left Inside® celebrations. IFD and the Office of Public Affairs work to have state and local leaders present to "assist" the children as in the photo to the right. This year students from the Helen Street School, Hamden, stocked Lake Wintergreen with assistance of DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee.

Moving Forward

- Increase outreach/recruitment efforts by expanding the use of social media platforms
- Perform much needed repair to CARE Center infrastructure and fishing access points and facilities
- Develop and implement instructor retention/reactivation strategies
- Implement a couple of dates where the free fishing course is for females, specifically; “mom and me” and “women only”. (Other outdoor programs implemented around the country have been successful at encouraging females to participate in outdoor activities).
- Promote volunteer opportunities in areas of Connecticut lacking activities (see Figures 4 and 5)
- Continue to work to recruit instructors from both the Eastern and Northwest portions of the state by soliciting partnerships with municipalities and recruiting volunteer instructors to deliver courses
- Maximize courses with teachers in schools around the State who will utilize Forster Pond and the CARE Center for their fishing training and field experience
- Implement and evaluate a follow up fishing event for students who attend Forster Pond Courses on field trips. We will invite them to attend a “Family Fishing Night” at a water body within their community

Project Costs

Total Project Cost: \$424,428

Federal Share: \$318,321

State Share: \$106,107 (Value of volunteer in-kind contributions)

References

Knuth, B., and W. Siemer, eds. 2007. *Aquatic Stewardship Education in Theory and Practice*. American Fisheries Society Symposium 55.

Seng, P., and S. Rushton. 2003. *Best Practices in Aquatic Resources Education*. Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation.

Acknowledgements

The CARE program staff would like to thank all certified volunteers (Table 3) and their teaching team members for another successful year. CARE volunteers have shown dedication towards producing new anglers, promoting aquatic education, and creating environmental stewards for 29 years. Additional thanks to our *Summer Fishing* staff: John Mastrianni, Louis Annino, Luis Organista, Christopher Pullano, and Keith Syrett for their excellent work ethic and always with a positive attitude, often while performing duties during summer heat and humidity.

Join Our Team. Share Your Passion.

CARE new instructor training courses are offered each February and June. Call us 860-663-1656 to apply. Applicants must pass a State Police background check.

Thank You!

The CARE Program would like to thank Instructors **SUSAN QUINCY** and **LENNY TUBBS** for teaching Family Fishing Courses for 15 years! These environmental stewards have combined to volunteer over 700 hours of their time while teaching over 3,600 new anglers about the sport of fishing. **Thank you CARE Instructors!**



Care Instructor Susan Quincy



Care Instructor Lenny Tubbs

During 2015, Susan Quincy and Lenny Tubbs surpassed the 15 year mark as a CARE instructor. As such they will be acknowledged in the 2015 CT Angler's Guide (above). Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and combined donation of over 700 hours of volunteer time and reaching over 3,600 students!

WE CARE!



Some of the extremely dedicated people who help introduce so many people to the benefits of fishing. We CARE about fishing.

Table 3. The active CARE volunteer instructors (and total years with CARE) during the 2014 reporting period. Active is defined as having participated in at least one CARE activity within the past two years. Those with 20 or more years are indicated in bold italic font.

ABUBAKAR	DOREEN	8	BATTISTO	JAMES	2
ACKERMAN	JIM	4	BAYER	JON	6
ALBRECHT	ED	7	BEAUCHENE	PAUL	2
ALVES	KARLEE	1	BIRELEY	LINDA	16
ANDERSON	GARY	3	<i>BLEJEWSKI</i>	<i>TOM</i>	<i>21</i>
ANNINO	LOUIS	3	BOISFEUILLET	JONATHAN	9
ARMSTRONG	MARTY	9	BRUMMETT	GARY	5
ARNSON	JEFF	6	BULLARD	MICHAEL	7
ARNSON	JOSEPH	9	CAMPBELL	JONATHAN	2
AVERY	TAMMI	7	CARTAGENA	ELIEZER	1
<i>BABEY</i>	<i>GEORGE</i>	<i>30</i>	CARTER	RICH	6
BARR	JOHN	12	CASKO	DAVID	9

CATLIN	BRIAN	1
CONNELLY	DAVID	7
COYLE	HARRY	23
DARULA	JAN	10
DAVISSION	DAVID	1
DEFORGE	CHRIS	5
DEGUZIS	STEPHEN	2
DELAURENTIS	JOHN	29
DIMAIO	KYLE	2
DONA	PAUL	8
DOS SANTOS	JOAO	7
DUBREUIL	JASON	2
EMMONS	DICK	13
FERMEGLIA	AL	13
FORTIER	ARMAND	2
FRILLICI	FRED	29
FULLER	KEVIN	14
GALLAGHER	KEVIN	1
GEMME	PAUL	7
GILLEY	NEIL	3
GLENNIE	JEFF	2
GONZALES	EMILY	2
GORRY	NATE	1
GRABOWSKI	STAN	16
GRAY	PAUL	13
GRAZIANI	RON	9
GRELLA	ADAM	2
GRENIER	DIANNE	26
GUSTAFSON	WAYNE	4
HAINES	JOE	21
HALL	RUSSELL	17
HALLY	ANDREW	2
HAMMEL	BILL	7
HARTLEY	ROBERT	2
HAWKS	JIM	6
HAYNES, JR	JAMES	2
HEINEMANN	LISA	17
HODGSON	EMILY	2
HUNTLEY	RICK	4
IRWIN	TIM	13
JACOBSON	GRACE	10
JASENSKY	MICHAEL	1
JOHNSON	DORIS	9

KADOW	JOHN	2
KELLEY	BOB	4
KENNEN	TERRY	2
KERR	ELIZABETH	26
KIRBY	BRIAN	1
KOZIKOWSKI	MARIANNE	13
KUCHARSKI	FRANK	29
KUSINSKI	ED	2
LAGOSZ	JOHN	1
LAVOIE	LENA	3
LAVORGNA	VINCENT	26
LAWRENCE	LOREEN	8
LOZADA	RAY	3
MACDONALD	LIONEL	29
MACMATH	CHARLES	5
MADER	MICHAEL	15
MAHER	KEVIN	4
MAGNEBERS	KEVIN	2
MAJORS	DAVE	29
MANGIONE	BOB	12
MARCARELLI	MATT	3
MARSULLO, JR.	MICHAEL	3
MASTRIANNI	JOHN	15
MAUD	VINCENT	2
MAZUR	GREG	2
MCCALL	SCOTT	3
MCCUTCHEN	HUGH	4
MCDONALD	AMBER	5
MCMAHON	COLBY	1
MEGARGEE	THOMAS	26
MOHNKERN	NICK	1
MORRESI	JOHN	6
MORRIS	SYLVIA	2
MURTAGH	JIM	9
NICHOLS	TOM	11
NIXON	ADRIANA	5
NOBREGA	RYAN	3
OCHMAN	CHELSEA	6
OCHMAN	ED	7
ORGANISTA	LUIS	1
ORTOLEVA	JOHN	9
PACKER	WADE	2
PARKINS	JAMES	1

PARMALEE	DIANNE	5
PERRY	JOSEPH	19
PETRUCCI	NORF	2
PHILLIPS	SIMON	6
PICARD	GEOFF	8
POTKAY	RAY	17
POTURNICKI	AMY	3
POTURNICKI	ROB	3
PULLANO	CHRIS	1
QUINCY	SUE	15
RANDALL	JAMES	2
RECCHIA	TONY	27
RECCHIA JR	TONY	3
REGO	BEN	2
RIES	JEAN	17
ROGALA	JEFF	27
ROSE JR	KEVIN	2
RUEL	ED	19
RUSTIC	DEAN	2
RUSTIC	OLIVIA	2
RYAN	JOHN	9
SACCHITELLA	DAVID	19
SCHIFFMAN	ROBERT	2
SCINTO	MAUREEN	9
SEIGLE	TRACY	1
SHIREY	JAMES	2
SILLIMAN	BEN	5
SMITH	BOB	29
SMITH	DONNA ROSE	10
SMURRA	AMBROSE	4
SNINSKY	ANDREW	1
STRILLACCI	JOHN	5
SUNNY	RACHEL	8
TUBBS	LENNY	15
TUBBY	BRUCE	4
TUCKER	JOHN	27
VITO	MARTIN	16
WHEWELL	JOE	2
WIGGLESWORTH	MARTIN	5
WITZKE	JUDITH	8
WOOWORTH	JIM	1
ZELANIN	RUSSELL	5

Appendices

APPENDIX A – CARE Instructor Volunteer Time Value 1986 - 2015

CARE Instructor Volunteer Time Value 1986 - 2015					
Year	Certified Volunteer Hours	Rate/HR (Bio/Rate)	Non-Certified Volunteer Hours	Rate/HR (Tech/Rate)	\$ Value
1986					
1987	1,813	\$ 13			\$ 23,569
1988	2,307	\$ 13			\$ 29,991
1989	3,419	\$ 17			\$ 58,123
1990	4,020	\$ 20			\$ 80,400
1991	4,260	\$ 23			\$ 97,980
1992	5,537	\$ 25			\$ 138,425
1993	4,235	\$ 26			\$ 110,110
1994	3,898	\$ 28			\$ 109,144
1995	3,564	\$ 28			\$ 99,792
1996	3,551	\$ 29			\$ 102,979
1997	2,704	\$ 30			\$ 81,120
1998	4,257	\$ 32			\$ 136,224
1999	3,639	\$ 33			\$ 120,087
2000	3,711	\$ 35			\$ 129,885
2001	3,375	\$ 35			\$ 118,125
2002	3,179	\$ 36			\$ 114,444
2003	2,916	\$ 37			\$ 107,892
2004	4,091	\$ 38			\$ 155,458
2005	3,294	\$ 38			\$ 125,172
2006	4,270	\$ 41			\$ 175,070
2007	5,391	\$ 45			\$ 242,595
2008	5,142	\$ 49			\$ 251,958
2009*	3,362	\$ 51	1,353	\$ 41	\$ 226,935
2010	3,758	\$ 52	1,749	\$ 42	\$ 268,874
2011	2,987	\$ 54	1,509	\$ 44	\$ 227,694
2012	2,994	\$ 50	1,539	\$ 40	\$ 211,260
2013	2,833	\$ 54	1,361	\$ 43	\$ 211,505
2014	2,991	\$ 53	1,283	\$ 42	\$ 212,409
2015	3,089	\$ 53	1,414	\$ 42	\$ 223,105
Totals	104,587		10,208		\$ 4,190,325

*US Fish and Wildlife Service requested we distinguish and report separately Certified and Non-Certified Instructor Hours

Rate for Certified Instructor = Fish Biologist 1; and Non-Certified = Fisheries Technician

APPENDIX B – CARE Student Breakdown by Student Activity from 1986-2015

Year	Total Students	Total Interaction Hours (IT)	Family Fishing Course	Family Fishing Course (IT)	Forster Pond Course	Forster Pond Course (IT)	Special fishing events	Special fishing events (IT)	Ice Fishing class	Ice fishing class (IT)	Summer Fishing	Summer Fishing (IT)	Instructor Training
1986	125		125				-				-		-
1987	443		187				201				-		55
1988	1,036		630				353				-		53
1989	2,262		963				1,221				-		78
1990	3,413		1,056				2,229				-		128
1991	4,546		977				3,478				-		91
1992	6,807		1,278				3,989				1,430		110
1993	7,084		2,085				3,498				1,420		81
1994	8,298		1,360				5,408				1,480		50
1995	9,377		1,544				6,029				1,700		104
1996	8,541		1,714				5,609				1,150		68
1997	8,420		1,120				5,625				1,640		35
1998	8,842		1,106				6,077				1,610		49
1999	7,663		1,472				4,957				1,196		38
2000	5,862		1,798				2,612				1,407		45
2001	6,501		1,516				3,163				1,784		38
2002	5,677		1,275				2,662				1,661		79
2003	5,508		1,472				2,651				1,348		37
2004	6,104		1,381				3,039				1,628		56
2005	5,656		1,206				2,705				1,689		56
2006	5,170	18,517	951	7,317	40	320	2,389	6,850	212	767	1,495	3,263	83
2007	7,512	26,683	837	10,180	73	491	4,499	12,775	261	563	1,285	2,673	57
2008	7,932	23,409	904	7,451	179	1,806	5,160	10,131	202	504	1,410	3,517	77
2009	8,269	24,046	746	6,828	160	1,474	5,039	10,934	514	1,216	1,766	3,594	44
2010	7,199	22,922	714	7,077	88	980	4,386	11,194	381	1,140	1,522	3,531	108
2011	7,335	21,578	1,134	6,790	96	1,090	4,179	9,261	384	1,263	1,472	3,174	70
2012	9,711	31,546	1,244	7,190	245	3,625	6,093	16,008	202	543	1,880	4,180	47
2013	7,726	31,677	1,287	7,770	425	4,691	4,170	15,561	332	865	1,466	2,790	46
2014	8,019	32,579	1,225	6,558	498	4,922	4,288	17,155	184	498	1,758	3,446	66
2015	8,946	35,417	1,054	6,469	398	3,980	5,554	21,071	244	653	1,622	3,244	74
Totals	189,984		34,361		2,202		110,437		4,242		36,819		1,923