

**NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
May 21, 2021- June 20, 2021**

J. Sean Cianciulli, Chief
Frank Panico, Deputy Chief
Jason Snellbaker, Deputy Chief
L. Anne Quirk, Captain – Administration
Tom O'Rourke, Lieutenant - Training
Paul Toppin, Lieutenant– Training
Joseph Soell, Conservation Police Officer - Administration

Northern Region (908) 735-8240

Douglas Applegate, Captain
Steven Sutton, Lieutenant (District 1)
Joseph Kuechler, Lieutenant (District 2)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Vacant, Administrative Assistant 1

Central Region (609) 259-2120

Shannon Martiak, Captain
Bryan Mascio, Lieutenant (District 3)
Vacant, Lieutenant (District 4)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Shari Irick, Technical Assistant 2

Southern Region (856) 629-0555

Lisa Lacroix, Captain
Zane Batten, Lieutenant (District 5)
Craig James, Lieutenant (District 6)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Sue Canale, Agency Services Representative

Marine Region (609) 748-2050

Brian Scott, Captain
Vacant, Lieutenant (District 7)
Ryan Harp, Lieutenant (District 8)
Chris Petruccelli, Lieutenant (District 9)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Police Officers report a total of 7111.7 hours of duty (8021.2 - 2020). These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total Law Enforcement	5492.5	6490.9
Fishing	1138.9	866.1
Marine Resources	1341.6	1564.1
Hunting	157.8	53.6
Deer Hunting	22.5	11
Trapping	5	1
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	1290.8	2249.3
NG & Endangered Species	220	225.9
Court	45.7	21.4
Regional Meetings	0	0
Pollution Investigation	93.4	44.7
Training	617.9	1039.3
Other Law Enforcement	558.9	414.5
Administration	1494.8	1428.5

Fish Management	7.5	3.8
Wildlife Management	69.3	97
Information & Education	47.6	1
Bear Control	7.5	21.7
Bear Patrol and Investigation	3	6.8

During patrols, officers performed 6101 field inspections (10,853 -2020) of hunters, fishermen or trappers and the resultant caseload is tabulated:

Law Enforcement Regions

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Adm.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2020</u>
Summonses issued	95	66	89	57	0	307	970
Criminal Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Warnings issued	9	1	1	13	0	24	78
Bear Feeding Warnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Field Inspections by Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	1414
Central Region	827
Southern Region	1584
Marine Region	2276

Total 6,101

Field Inspections by Activity:

Hunters	24
Freshwater Anglers	1648
Trappers	1
Commercial Fishermen	73
Marine Rec. Anglers	2258
WMA non-hunting/fishing	1937
Other	160

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Adm.</u>
Fishing	36	31	3	0	0
Hunting	12	0	0	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Trapping	0	1	0	0	0
WMA	41	26	83	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	3	0	0	9	0
Title 2C	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	2	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	0	41	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	5	3	0	0
Other	3	3	0	1	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	4	0
Totals	95	66	89	57	0

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$20,669.00

Call volume (reports of violations, general questions, requests for assistance, etc.) received at region offices:

North	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Central	199
South	156
Marine	234

Total calls received: 589

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of 6/20/21:

Administration - 7

1 Chief
2 Deputy Chiefs
1 CPO I - Admin
2 CPO IIs – Training
1 CPO III- Admin

Northern Region – 11

1 CPO I
2 CPO IIs
8 CPO IIIs

Central Region - 9

1 CPO I
1 CPO II
6 CPO IIIs
1 Technical Assistant 2

Southern Region - 12

1 CPO I
2 CPO IIs
8 CPO IIIs
1 Agency Services Rep

Marine Region - 15

1 CPO I
2 CPO IIs
11 CPO IIIs
1 Agency Services Rep

Total Employees: 54

Northern Region Highlights

On Tuesday, 5/25/2021, CPO Holmes received a complaint of illegal clamming along the Rahway River, in Clark, Union County. The complainant had called the dispatch center after observing one female taking clams from the condemned waterway. The caller had made previous complaints regarding the same activity at that location back in November of last year. CPO Holmes and CPO Anderson responded, but the suspect left prior to the officers arrival. The complainant followed the individual back to her residence and saw her unload several bags of clams from her vehicle. CPOs Holmes and Anderson arrived and obtained consent to see the harvested clams. The illegal clams were seized and were held as evidence. The appropriate summonses for take/possession of an exotic species without a valid permit, along with clamming in condemned waters were issued.

On Sunday, 6/6/2021, CPO Hausamann and Lt. Sutton conducted boat patrols of Oak Ridge and Clinton Reservoirs in West Milford Twp., Passaic County. Thirty-six fishermen were inspected,

resulting in five summonses being issued for fishing without a valid license and one summons for possession of smallmouth bass during the closed season.

During the report period, District 1 CPOs focused patrols on the Splitrock Reservoir, within the Wildcat Ridge WMA, Rockaway Twp., Morris County. The following summonses were issued: seven summonses for fishing without a valid license, fifteen summonses for swimming on a WMA, six summonses for failing to have PFDs for each person on a vessel, one summons for unregistered boat on a WMA, one summons for possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages on a WMA and one summons for possession of largemouth bass during the closed season.

During the report period, District 1 CPOs conducted boat patrols on the following waterbodies, Lake Hopatcong, Splitrock Reservoir, Oak Ridge Reservoir, Clinton Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Cranberry Lake and Lake Aeroflex.

On Saturday, 6/12/21, CPO Garofalo travelled to the Northern Region with the Central Region's jet drive boat and conducted a patrol of the Delaware River with CPO A. Sutton in Hardwick Twp., Warren County. A total of twenty-five fishermen were inspected within an eleven mile stretch of the river from Worthington State Forest, north to the Sussex/Warren County border.

Central Region Highlights

Central Region officers engaged in multiple public outreach events this month. CPO Carman attended an event called "Meet Our Heroes". The event allowed campers to meet and learn about some of the community heroes and their jobs. CPOs Riviello, Garofalo, and Bickerton attended several fishing derbies and events during the Free Fishing Day in Burlington and Middlesex Counties. Finally, CPOs Garofalo and McManus represented our agency at a recent event led by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office where the remains of 23 military veterans were escorted from Freehold to a veteran's cemetery in Burlington County. The procession passed Prospertown Lake WMA, where the CPOs paid their respects.

CPOs have been increasing their boat patrols within the Central Region. A large number of fishermen have been inspected resulting in fifteen summonses being issued. Violations included fishing without a valid fishing license, littering while fishing, operate a boat without the required PFDs, and creating a wake in a no wake zone.

Through the efforts of teamwork, a recent solid waste investigation was successfully completed. CPO Mutone along with fire department units responded to Colliers Mills WMA, Jackson Twp for reports of a fire. In a field, a boat was dumped and lit on fire. Capt. Quirk posted a picture of the boat on social media, hoping someone might recognize the boat's name. All other identifiers appeared to have melted. The public responded and offered tips and information. CPO Mutone then conducted an interview on the last registered owner and issued summonses to that person.

During a patrol for illegal ATV activity in Greenwood WMA (Lacey Twp) Lt. Mascio, CPOs Carman, Riviello, and Hausman prevented a large dump truck filled with rebar, concrete, and other construction debris from illegally dumping the solid waste on the WMA. The individual was apprehended just prior to dumping the debris. The appropriate summonses were issued which included transporting solid waste without a DEP permit, failure to exhibit registration, failure to inspect, and unlicensed driver.

CPO Bickerton investigated a video that was sent to him documenting an individual in Manalapan Twp, who appeared to be shooting geese with a firearm. As a result of witness interviews, it was determined that a local resident did not want the geese coming onto his property and decided to utilize a .22 caliber rifle to dispatch the geese. Multiple summonses were issued.

Captain Martiak performed a motor vehicle stop on a vehicle at Stafford Forge WMA after it was observed exiting the Parkway onto the WMA without using an authorized exit ramp. CPO Carman arrived to assist. The driver did not have a driver's license, the vehicle was not insured, and the registration was expired. The vehicle was impounded, and the driver was issued summonses.

CPO Mutone investigated a report of water pollution in Lakewood Twp. It was determined that a local commercial establishment was storing unsecured barrels of used motor oil that was leaking and flowing into a local waterway. The company immediately corrected the situation and cleaned up the area. A notice of violation involving a settlement amount was served to the company.

Southern Region Highlights

CPO Vazquez responded to a complaint in Monroe Township, Gloucester County regarding the illegal possession of an American Alligator. CPO Vazquez interviewed the homeowner who stated he purchased the Alligator from Hamburg, Pennsylvania while at a reptile show. The homeowner voluntarily surrendered the animal to CPO Vazquez. The animal was turned over to the Cape May County Zoo.

District 5 CPOs have been enforcing the emergency closure of the Winslow WMA East and the Cedar Lake portion of White Oak WMA in Gloucester and Camden Counties. Officers have encountered large numbers of individuals opening gates and entering these restricted areas in vehicles and on foot. Officers have issued numerous summons for entering restricted areas.

CPO Malinski investigated a complaint of an illegally shot deer in Buena Vista Township, Atlantic County. A concerned resident took him to a dead deer with a crossbow bolt next to it located in his backyard. The resident then showed security footage of the deer running into the yard from an adjacent wood lot. Other footage showed an individual walking around in the street at 2 a.m. before entering the woods where the deer had run from. CPOs Faith and Malinski followed a blood trail that led to a baited clearing where they observed a tree stump with more bolts stuck in it. They spoke to a resident who lives in the direction the bolts were shot from. After a short interview, the man admitted to shooting the deer and his crossbow equipped with a thermal imaging scope was seized as evidence. The man was issued summonses for hunting without a license, hunting deer closed season, hunting deer at night, hunting deer archery without a well sharpened cutting edge and wanton waste of deer.

Marine Region Highlights

While patrolling state waters near the coast of Sandy Hook, CPOs Henderson and Woerner encountered a vessel anchored in Sandy Hook Channel. Upon approach, the operator of the vessel quickly pulled anchor and began to head toward New York. As the CPOs signaled and attempted to stop the vessel, the operator was observed throwing at least one fish overboard. Despite knowingly being signaled to stop, the operator continued to maintain course towards New York waters. The CPOs followed the vessel to Rockaway Inlet in NY where the operator finally stopped the vessel. Upon inspection, the operator was identified as a NY commercial hook & line fisherman despite claiming that he was not fishing commercially that day. There were no other tautog found onboard the

vessel, however typical gear and bait associated with commercial tautog fishing was located. Numerous summonses, including the failure to facilitate safe boarding, interference with the duties of a conservation police officer, and failure to possess a valid NJ saltwater registry, were issued. Additionally, the operator was also charged with a Title 2C charge for obstruction.

CPO Tomlin responded to numerous complaints of Atlantic menhaden washing up dead on the beaches of Cape May Point. Identifying that the commercial menhaden fishing fleet was fishing in the Delaware Bay around the time the fish washed up, CPO Tomlin conducted interviews with the vessel operators. It was admitted by one vessel operator that they tore a large hole in their net and accidentally released approximately 40,000 pounds of dead Atlantic menhaden in the Delaware Bay roughly a day before the fish washed up on the beaches. The operator admitted he should have called the accidental release of dead fish into the Department as required but had hoped the fish were going to sink before reaching the beaches. CPO Tomlin issued summonses for failing to notify the Department of the release. The notification requirement is essential for calming the public hysteria that is often created when dead fish wash up on the beaches and additionally gives the Department a chance to prepare municipalities for any potential clean-up efforts.

On 5/21/2021, CPO Capri conducted an inspection of a recreational vessel with several electric reels returning to the area of Barnegat Light. Upon inspection, CPO Capri located six bags of filleted tilefish containing a total of ninety-four tilefish fillets. Tilefish consist of two species, each of which have different possession limits. Blueline tilefish specifically are limited to three fish per person. The vessel, having seven people on board, would have been limited to twenty-one blueline tilefish. The vessel also failed to possess a federal tilefish permit required to target or possess any tilefish. CPO Capri collected DNA samples from the fillets and submitted the case to NMFS for further enforcement action.

CPOs Meyer and Capri have been actively conducting shellfish patrols in the Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone. This unique area only allows for the recreational harvest of shellfish and has become a popular area for clamming. The officers must utilize a shallow draft vessel and often walk several hundred yards in the water to conduct inspections for compliance with shellfish regulations. As a result, CPOs Meyer and Capri have issued multiple summonses and warnings for failure to obtain a shellfish licenses, harvesting shellfish on Sunday, and the taking of undersized hard clams.

On 6/4/2021, CPO Szelc conducted a fisheries inspection of an ocean quahog/surf clam vessel returning to port in Atlantic City. When CPO Szelc spoke with the vessel operator, the operator insisted that the only product on board the vessel was clams. CPO Szelc completed the inspection and located several bags of filleted fish hidden in the freezer of the vessel. The unfrozen and recently hidden fish fillets were identified as summer flounder, black sea bass, and monkfish. All summer flounder and black sea bass are required to be landed whole and may not be filleted. The vessel did not possess federal summer flounder or black sea bass permits, failed to complete a fishing vessel trip report, and the vessels operator was found to have an expired federal operator's card. These violations were referred to NMFS for further enforcement action.

Training Unit Highlights

The Training Unit assisted with Division of Criminal Justice Firearms Instructor Course. This five-day PTC approved course teaches the fundamentals of firearms instruction, including range safety,

weapons procedures, range operation, as well as the fundamentals of the AG's Re-qualification Guidelines.

The Training Unit conducted a straight/expandable baton training for 11 Conservation Police Officers at Colliers Mills Training Facility. The Training Unit has issued 11 Peace Keeper batons for testing and evaluation. Officers executed blocking, striking and restraint techniques utilizing the baton. They also demonstrated the proper method of drawing and carrying the baton and identifying times when use of either soft or hard intermediate weapon techniques would be appropriate.

The Training Unit completed its third quarter summer qualification for all the Conservation Police Officers which consisted of a day/night qualification. The lecture consisted of a Use of Force update and a review of low light tactics and techniques. This quarter qualification focused on covert carry.