



NJDEP Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
January 21, 2024 to February 20, 2024

Frank Panico, Chief
Jason Snellbaker, Deputy Chief
Douglas Applegate, Deputy Chief
Joseph Soell, Captain - Administration
Vacant, Lieutenant - Administration
Robert Driscoll, Lieutenant - Training

Northern Region (908) 735-8240
Joseph Kuechler, Captain
Jordan Holmes, Lieutenant (District 1)
Brice Paey, Lieutenant (District 2)
Hannah Koch, Agency Services Representative

Central Region (609) 259-2120
Linda Quirk, Captain
Andrew Riviello, Lieutenant (District 3)
Sean McManus, Lieutenant (District 4)
Shari Irick, Technical Assistant 2

Southern Region (856) 629-0555
Paul Toppin, Captain
Zane Batten, Lieutenant (District 5)
Craig James, Lieutenant (District 6)
Sue Canale, Agency Services Representative

Marine Region (609) 748-2050
Brian Scott, Captain
Chris Moscatiello, Lieutenant (District 7)
Ryan Harp, Lieutenant (District 8)
Chris Petrucci, Lieutenant (District 9)
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Officers report a total of 6,393.8 hours of duty (6,944.0 - 2023) These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	2024	2023
Law Enforcement	4,275.0	4,697.6
Fishing	823.4	894.2
Marine Resources	950.2	1,364.4
Hunting	304.8	345.3
Deer Hunting	412.1	594.2
Trapping	181.0	150.4
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	454.9	461.1
NG & Endangered Species	28.5	193.0
Court	26.5	43.8
Regional Meetings	25.1	118.8
Pollution Investigation	48.1	90.2
Training	933.4	810.1
Other Law Enforcement	705.9	385.4
Administration	2,047.1	2,026.6
Fish Management	1.0	10.7

Wildlife Management	42.8	43.3
Information & Education	0.0	3.0
Bear Control	0.0	1.0
Bear Patrol & Invest	1.0	1.0

During patrols, officers performed 905 field inspections (1 5 0 1 - 2023) 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>Admin</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2023</u>
Summonses Issued	51	30	22	6	0	109	105
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	1	1	1	7	0	10	11
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Field Inspections By Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	168
Central Region	296
Southern Region	197
Marine Region	244
Total	905

Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	293
Freshwater Anglers	108
Trappers	9
Commercial Fishermen	27
Marine Rec. Anglers	114
WMA non hunt/fish	255
Other	22

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Admin</u>
Fishing	7	2	0	0	0
Hunting	1	0	0	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	2	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	34	5	1	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0	0
WMA	2	15	18	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	2	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Recreational	4	0	0	3	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	5	3	0	0
Other	3	1	0	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	1	0
Title 2C	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	51	30	22	6	0

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$43,041

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

North	177
Central	93
South	115
Marine	138
Total Calls Received	523

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of Feb 20, 2024

Administration - 8

- 1 Chief
- 2 Deputy Chiefs
- 1 CPO II Training
- 2 CPO I Training
- 1 CPO III Admin
- 1 CPO I Admin

Northern Region - 12

- 1 CPO III
- 2 CPO II
- 5 CPO I
- 3 RCT
- 1 ASR

Central Region - 9

- 1 CPO III
- 2 CPO II
- 3 CPO I
- 2 RCT
- 1 TA 2

Southern Region - 11

- 1 CPO III
- 2 CPO II
- 7 CPO I
- 1 ASR

Marine Region - 15

- 1 CPO III
- 3 CPO II
- 9 CPO I
- 1 RCT
- 1 ASR

Special Investigations Unit - 2

- 1 CPO III
- 1 CPO II

Total Employees: 57

Central Region Highlights

Lt. Riviello received a call regarding two hunters in Mercer County that had two cellular trail cameras and a tree stand stolen. The trail cameras both took a photograph of the same individual right before they were stolen. Working with Mercer County Parks personnel, Lt. Riviello was able to identify the individual. The individual was interviewed and admitted to taking the equipment. The cameras and tree stand were returned, and the individual was issued multiple summonses for hindering the lawful taking of wildlife by theft.

Central Region Officers utilized their UTV while on patrol for illegal off-road activity in Colliers Mills. Ten summonses were issued for violations including operating an off-road vehicle on a wildlife management area and operating an unregistered vehicle on a wildlife management area.

On January 28, 2024, CPO Carman found a boat floating in a manmade lake in Greenwood Forest WMA. The boat was previously dumped nearby on the WMA and removal was pending. The individual who originally dumped the boat was already charged and convicted. In the meantime, someone else had moved the boat into the lake. On February 1, 2024, the New Jersey State Park Police received an email with an Instagram post of the boat being towed through the woods and pushed into the lake. When they realized that it was not on State Park property, they turned over the information to Fish and Wildlife. CPO Carman was able to determine who the individual was that moved the boat. He was charged for the WMA violations that were seen on the Instagram post.

On February 11, 2024, CPO Carman and an off-duty Barnegat police officer rendered first-aid to an individual who had suffered a traumatic injury from a firearm malfunction at the Stafford Forge WMA rifle range. The officers applied a tourniquet and additional first-aid measures. Once the officers determined that waiting for an ambulance to arrive at the remote location would cause an undue delay in treatment, the officer drove the victim and a family member to the nearest hospital with CPO Carman providing an escort.

Southern Region Highlights

Lieutenant James received a complaint of illegal dumping in the Maurice River WMA, Millville, Cumberland County. A hunter reported seeing two men in a pickup truck dumping construction debris. The hunter stated that upon seeing them, the two men immediately got back in the truck and sped away. Lieutenant James investigated the debris that appeared to be from a bathroom renovation and was able to determine the address that it originated from. When interviewed both the registered owner of the truck and the homeowner refused to cooperate. Both were charged with dumping and hauling solid waste in excess of 0.148 cu yards and dumping on a WMA.