



**NJDEP Fish and Wildlife**  
**Monthly Highlights**  
**Bureau of Law Enforcement**  
**February 21, 2024 to March 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 Petruccelli, Lieutenant (District 9)  
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Officers report a total of 7,012.9 hours of duty (6,550.3 - 2023) These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Law Enforcement	4,764.5	4,336.7
Fishing	1,255.9	1,247.7
Marine Resources	934.4	1,220.4
Hunting	79.1	128.3
Deer Hunting	40.1	49.8
Trapping	139.8	57.5
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	374.0	464.6
NG & Endangered Species	104.0	201.5
Court	33.0	48.6
Regional Meetings	47.8	134.6
Pollution Investigation	55.5	126.8
Training	1,639.1	1,202.0
Other Law Enforcement	751.8	313.7
Administration	2,068.8	1,992.2
Fish Management	65.0	16.2

Wildlife Management	28.2	44.0
Information & Education	19.5	32.0
Bear Control	0.0	0.0
Bear Patrol & Invest	1.0	0.0

During patrols, officers performed 779 field inspections (1121 - 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	16	28	25	12	0	81	72
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	1	0	0	6	0	7	10
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### Field Inspections By Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	93
Central Region	104
Southern Region	203
Marine Region	379
<b>Total</b>	<b>779</b>

#### Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	15
Freshwater Anglers	185
Trappers	4
Commercial Fishermen	13
Marine Rec. Anglers	360
WMA non hunt/fish	114
Other	31

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Admin</u>
Fishing	9	4	1	0	0
Hunting	0	1	5	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	2	8	1	0	0
Trapping	0	1	0	0	0
WMA	0	13	10	1	0
Striped Bass	4	0	0	1	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	2	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	4	0
Marine-Recreational	1	0	0	1	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	1	1	1	0
Other	0	0	7	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	2	0
Title 2C	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$23,218.68

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

North	108
Central	84
South	126
Marine	136
<b>Total Calls Received</b>	<b>454</b>

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of Mar 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

Northern Region Highlights

On Saturday, March 9, 2024, Conservation Police Officers A. Sutton and C. Sikora received a call from Trenton Dispatch regarding illegal fishing on Lake Hopatcong in Sussex County. The anonymous complainant told dispatch that the fishermen were keeping too many fish and placing them in coolers in their vehicles. When the CPOs arrived off River Styx Road, the suspects were getting ready to leave the marina. Upon inspection one fishermen was one crappie over the daily limit and another fishermen was 15 crappies over the daily limit. The daily creel and possession limit for black crappie and white crappie is 10 fish in aggregate. Both individuals received summonses for the violations.

### Central Region Highlights

On Friday, March 1, Lt. McManus was notified of a fire at an abandoned cabin on Colliers Mills WMA. The local fire department extinguished the fire. Ocean County Prosecutors Office, Ocean County Fire Marshal, and NJ Fire Marshal determined that the cause of the fire was arson. CPO Carman assisted the Prosecutor's Office, Plumstead PD, and Jackson PD with the investigation. The suspect was charged with two counts of aggravated arson, burglary and two weapons offenses, disturbing property of the state, damaging a building, and setting, starting, building or maintaining a fire in a state wildlife management area.

On Saturday, March 16, while on an evening patrol of Colliers Mills WMA, CPO Garofalo and Lt. McManus received a notification that Jackson Fire Company was responding to a large bonfire at Lake Success. The officers responded to Lake Success and found two separate groups of juveniles at two separate bonfires. The fires were extinguished by Forest Fire and Jackson Fire Department. The WMA rules were explained to both groups in detail. The parents were also notified of the rules and the juveniles were sent home. About 2 hours later, the officers were on patrol on the Assunpink WMA and witnessed a group of individuals at the boat ramp parking lot driving erratically. CPO Garofalo and Lt. McManus contacted the group and found that it was the same teens who were apprehended at Colliers Mills earlier that night. The parents were called to the WMA to collect their children.

### Southern Region Highlights

In March CPO Malinski received an OGT report of a man in Atlantic County who was doing a "self-fund raiser" which involved the selling of venison stew for St. Patrick's Day. The accused was found to be in possession of deer from several individuals but did not have any confirmation numbers or other information for the possession of the deer parts. The individual was issued a summons for the illegal possession of deer parts.

Lt. James located three predator hunters on private property in Upper Township, Cape May County. When inspected one of the hunters did not have a permit and another was using a rifle with a fully loaded 10-round magazine. The hunters did not have permission to be on the property and it was determined that they had parked in front of and walked around a locked and posted gate. Summonses were issued for hunting during special Coyote Fox season without a permit, hunting with a firearm holding greater than three rounds and trespass for the purpose of hunting.