



NJDEP Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
May 21, 2024 to June 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)

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 7,193.5 hours of duty (7,035.7 - 2023)
These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	2024	2023
Law Enforcement	4,842.7	4,832.5
Fishing	1,625.2	1,696.6
Marine Resources	1,112.6	1,400.1
Hunting	61.4	56.1
Deer Hunting	8.0	10.5
Trapping	4.9	0.0
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	722.8	653.2
NG & Endangered Species	124.7	325.9
Court	44.3	51.4
Regional Meetings	60.3	69.4
Pollution Investigation	17.8	27.3
Training	849.6	643.0
Other Law Enforcement	763.4	550.0
Administration	2,031.8	1,828.4
Fish Management	10.6	6.0



Wildlife Management	75.2	81.0
Information & Education	35.1	151.5
Bear Control	20.1	2.0
Bear Patrol & Invest	25.6	7.5

During patrols, officers performed 3290 field inspections (5 4 5 9 - 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	168	92	51	47	0	358	277
Criminal Arrests	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Warnings Issued	8	0	0	13	0	21	23
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	3	0	0	0	0	3	0

Field Inspections By Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	858
Central Region	782
Southern Region	523
Marine Region	1127
Total	3290

Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	5
Freshwater Anglers	1395
Trappers	0
Commercial Fishermen	21
Marine Rec. Anglers	1024
WMA non hunt/fish	572
Other	88

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Admin</u>
Fishing	133	25	13	0	0
Hunting	4	0	0	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	0	0	1	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0	0
WMA	11	66	31	0	0
Striped Bass	4	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	12	0	0	9	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	6	37	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	1	0	0	0
Other	4	0	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	168	92	51	47	0



Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$20,948

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

North	178
Central	113
South	144
Marine	192
Total Calls Received	627

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of Jun 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
- 8 CPO I
- 1 ASR

Central Region - 8

- 1 CPO III
- 2 CPO II
- 5 CPO I

Southern Region - 11

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

Marine Region - 14

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

Special Investigations Unit - 3

- 1 CPO III
- 1 CPO II
- 1 CPO I

Total Employees: 56

Northern Region Highlights

On May 25, 2024, Lt Paey and CPO Hughes conducted a night patrol along the Delaware River. An inspection uncovered a group of fishermen in possession of fourteen undersized Walleye and one undersized Striped Bass. The three fishermen were issued nine summonses including over the daily limit of Walleye, undersized Walleye, undersized Striped Bass and failure to exhibit a valid fishing license.

On June 1, 2024, Conservation Police Officers Parham and Merritt responded to a complaint of two individuals keeping over the daily limit of trout and using bait in the Trout Conservation Area (TCA) along the Pequest River. CPOs Parham and Merritt arrived and inspected the two individuals and found they were in possession of bait and thirty-five rainbow trout. The rainbow trout were hidden in two locations, the forested area along the Pequest River and inside of each individuals' vehicle engine compartment in bags. All thirty-five rainbow trout were under legal size limit. A total of sixteen summonses were issued for possessing natural bait in a TCA, possessing undersized rainbow trout in a TCA, and possessing rainbow trout over the daily limit in a TCA.



On June 2, 2024, CPO Della Vella, CPO J. Sikora, and CPO Hughes responded to the Delaware River in White Township, Warren County, for an illegal clamming complaint. Upon arrival, CPOs observed four individuals carrying 5-gallon buckets containing freshwater clams to their vehicle parked on the riverbank. Additional clams were recovered from the trunk of the vehicle. The clams were collected as evidence and twelve summonses were issued for the incident.

On June 8, 2024, Lt Paey and CPO Hughes received a complaint regarding illegal fishing in the Ken Lockwood Gorge, catch and release area in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County. The CPOs observed two individuals walking towards the parking lot with fishing gear and bags. Upon inspection, two of the individuals were in possession of bait. After further inspection, CPOs determined the two individuals were in possession of fourteen trout. One of the fishermen did not possess a valid 2024 fishing license or trout stamp. A total of ten summonses were issued for the following violations: fishing without first procuring a valid 2024 fishing license, fishing for trout without a valid trout stamp, possession of trout in a catch and release area, possession/use of bait in a catch and release area, and possession/use of barbed hooks in a catch and release area.

While patrolling the Catch and Release Area of the Flatbrook River in Sandyston Township, Sussex County CPO J. Sikora and CPO C. Sikora encountered multiple violations. CPO J. Sikora found one individual in possession of seventeen rainbow trout that were hidden along the riverbank and two individuals without valid fishing licenses. CPO C. Sikora found multiple individuals in possession of bait and fishing without valid fishing licenses. A total of eight summonses were issued for fishing without a valid fishing license, possession of trout in a Catch and Release Area and possessing bait in a Catch and Release Area.

Central Region Highlights

Over the Memorial Day Weekend, Central Region Conservation Police Officers focused their patrols on Greenwood Forest, Colliers Mills, and Assunpink Lake Wildlife Management Areas. Over the course of the weekend, 63 summonses were issued for violations including unauthorized entry after closed hours, entry into posted restricted areas, ATV/ORV use, possession of alcoholic beverages, and fishing without a license.

Conservation Police Officer Recruits Mason Kuri and Allyson Rooke have successfully completed the second phase of the field training program. In the third and final phase the officers will demonstrate, under the watchful eye of the field trainers, that they have learned sufficient skills and knowledge to perform the duties of a Conservation Police Officer in an effective, safe, and fair manner.

Marine Region Highlights

Lt. Moscatiello received information that a group of fishermen were keeping tautog during the closed season at the Point Pleasant Canal. When the officer arrived, he located a vehicle with a group of fishermen trying to repair a flat tire. During the initial inspection, the fishermen claimed they had not kept any fish, and none were located. Lt. Moscatiello determined that there was another vehicle involved and was able to convince the second vehicle to return to the scene. Upon arrival, Lt. Moscatiello located a total of forty-two tautog that were kept during the closed season. All forty-two were under the legal minimum size of 15 inches. CPO's Bahrle and Woerner, who just cleared from boat patrol, arrived on scene to assist Lt. Moscatiello document and process the violations. Summonses for the possession of forty-two closed season tautog and forty-two undersized tautog were issued to the fishermen. The tautog



as well as eight summer flounder from CPO Bahrle and Woerner's boat patrol were donated to a local food bank.