



**NJDEP Fish and Wildlife**  
**Monthly Highlights**  
**Bureau of Law Enforcement**  
**August 21, 2023 to September 20, 2023**

Frank Panico, Chief  
Jason Snellbaker, Deputy Chief  
Douglas Applegate, Deputy Chief  
Linda Quirk, Captain - Administration  
Joseph Soell, 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  
Shannon Martiak, 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 6,846.4 hours of duty (7,076.0 - 2022) These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Law Enforcement	4,907.9	5,180.0
Fishing	966.5	1,034.0
Marine Resources	1,172.0	1,436.9
Hunting	122.1	81.6
Deer Hunting	417.4	612.5
Trapping	9.5	8.9
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	391.5	374.6
NG & Endangered Species	46.5	159.3
Court	42.4	51.2
Regional Meetings	0.0	0.0
Pollution Investigation	15.0	43.0
Training	1,633.8	1,587.1
Other Law Enforcement	691.8	402.6
Administration	1,736.4	1,520.5
Fish Management	7.0	4.5

Wildlife Management	69.4	73.5
Information & Education	53.9	87.3
Bear Control	0.0	1.0
Bear Patrol & Invest	13.0	7.0

During patrols, officers performed 2953 field inspections (3 9 0 7 - 2022) 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>2022</u>
Summonses Issued	47	20	63	104	0	234	279
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	0	0	0	24	0	24	32
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### Field Inspections By Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	135
Central Region	134
Southern Region	803
Marine Region	1881
<b>Total</b>	<b>2953</b>

#### Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	90
Freshwater Anglers	180
Trappers	45
Commercial Fishermen	53
Marine Rec. Anglers	1498
WMA non hunt/fish	296
Other	110

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Admin</u>
Fishing	21	2	2	0	0
Hunting	1	0	1	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	24	5	2	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0	0
WMA	1	6	52	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	2	16	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	1	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	4	84	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	3	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	3	0
Title 39	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	4	0	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Title 2C	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>



Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$25888.50

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

North	214
Central	325
South	183
Marine	176
<b>Total Calls Received</b>	<b>898</b>

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of Sep 20, 2023

Administration - 9

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

Total Employees: 58

Northern Region Highlights

On September 13, 2023, CPO Della Vella responded to an illegal hunting complaint in Livingston Township, Essex County. A deceased antlered deer with half of a crossbow bolt sticking out of it was in a densely populated residential area. CPO Della Vella with the assistance of Livingston Township Animal Control was able to locate an additional broken crossbow bolt in a small, wooded area near the deer carcass. Interviews of a neighbor identified an individual who had been seen hunting in the area. CPO Della Vella then interviewed the individual who admitted to shooting a buck with a field point, violating a safety zone, failing to harvest an antlerless deer prior to an antlered deer and failing to retrieve the deer. Four summonses were issued.

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, CPO Della Vella responded to a deer hunting complaint in Oakland Boro, Bergen County. A deceased antlered deer, with an arrow wound, was located on a residential property not open to hunting. CPO Della Vella located a blood trail leading directly to a

neighboring property. CPO Della Vella was able to identify an individual who hunts on the property where the deer was initially shot. The hunter stated that he shot the deer two days prior to CPO Della Vella finding it and also claimed to have properly harvested an antlerless deer prior. CPO Della Vella was able to uncover that the hunter did not harvest an antlerless deer prior to shooting the antlered deer. The appropriate summonses were issued.

#### Central Region Highlights

During the first week of early fall bow season Lt's Riviello and McManus, and CPO Garofalo investigated made several cases that involved hunters that harvested an antlered deer without first harvesting an antlerless deer. In each case the individual had registered an antlerless deer that was determined not to exist. Summonses were issued for falsely registering a doe, harvesting an antlered deer without harvesting an antlerless deer prior, and for failing to properly tag an antlered deer. The antlers of the deer were confiscated, and the meat donated to Hunters for the Hungry.

Old Bridge Police contacted the Central Region after an individual from Massachusetts complained that she had purchased a cockatoo in poor health from an individual in Old Bridge. After the Old Bridge Police conducted an inspection of the residence and found over a hundred birds that were in dirty cages and some of the birds appeared to be in poor health, Lt. McManus and a USFWS Special Agent joined the investigation. They found that the individual was buying and selling exotic birds on Craigslist without any exotic animal permits. Summonses were issued for the possession of exotic animals without a permit and sale of regulated non-game species without a permit.

#### Southern Region Highlights

CPO Kille received a complaint of hunter harassment in Franklin Township, Gloucester County during the September Canada Goose Season. CPO Kille responded and met with a father and son who explained they were approached by a neighboring homeowner during their hunt. The entire encounter was video recorded by the son which depicted the accused not only using abusive language, but also threatening physical force. An interview with the accused was conducted and subsequently charged with interfering / hindering the lawful taking of wildlife and a warning for trespassing.

CPO Chillari received information from a complainant that a deer had been harvested and left in the woods in Bridgeton, Cumberland County. The complainant stated that he had spotted two individuals trailing an injured deer the night before. Later the next morning, the complainant discovered an antlered deer with antlers greater than 3 inches which had been field dressed and left in the woods. CPO Chillari and CPO Vazquez began investigating and were able to determine the hunter had registered the antlered deer as an antlerless. The hunter was issued a summons for failure to properly register a deer as required, and for violating the antler point restriction.