



**NJDEP Fish and Wildlife**  
**Monthly Highlights**  
**Bureau of Law Enforcement**  
**From December 21, 2022 to January 20, 2023**

Frank Panico, Chief  
Jason Snellbaker, Deputy Chief  
Douglas Applegate, Deputy Chief  
Thomas O'Rourke, Lieutenant - Training  
Robert Driscoll, Training  
Linda Quirk, Captain - Administration  
Joseph Soell, Lieutenant - Administration  
Tyler Hausamann, Administration

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

**Central Region** (609) 259-2120  
Shannon Martiak, Captain  
Bryan Mascio, 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  
Vacant, Lieutenant (District 7)  
Ryan Harp, Lieutenant (District 8)  
Chris Petrucci, Lieutenant (District 9)  
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Officers report a total of 5,911.4 hours of duty ( 4,938.8 - 2022 )  
These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Law Enforcement	4,145.8	3,318.2
Fishing	530.2	617.1
Marine Resources	928.9	767.0
Hunting	478.1	563.5
Deer Hunting	683.8	844.7
Trapping	88.4	52.0
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	209.1	162.7
NG & Endangered Species	119.5	10.8
Court	27.6	29.9
Regional Meetings	116.6	3.0
Pollution Investigation	44.7	12.0
Training	811.7	499.9
Other Law Enforcement	572.4	287.7

Administration	1,635.4	1,434.9
Fish Management	0.0	2.2
Wildlife Management	28.0	33.2
Information & Education	9.3	1.9
Bear Control	0.0	16.0
Bear Patrol & Invest	1.0	21.5

During patrols, officers performed 1628 field inspections ( 1543 - 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	55	22	45	4	1	127	109
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	5	1	0	9	0	15	8
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Field Inspections By Region

Administration	16
Northern Region	311
Central Region	341
Southern Region	443
Marine Region	517
<b>Total</b>	<b>1628</b>

Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	876
Freshwater Anglers	101
Trappers	29
Commercial Fishermen	35
Marine Rec. Anglers	260
WMA non hunt/fish	157
Other	28

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Admin</u>
Fishing	3	0	0	0	0
Hunting	6	5	7	0	1
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	2	1	0
Deer Hunting	44	8	33	0	0
Trapping	0	2	0	0	0
WMA	0	5	1	1	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	0	2	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	2	2	0	0
Other	2	0	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	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$53,337.50

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

North	177
Central	283
South	153
Marine	150
<b>Total Calls Recieved</b>	<b>763</b>

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

Administration - 8

1 Chief  
2 Deputy Chiefs  
1 CO II Training  
1 CO I Training  
1 CO III Admin  
1 CO II Admin  
1 CO I Admin

Northern Region - 10

1 CO III  
2 CO II  
6 CO I  
1 ASR

Central Region - 9

1 CO III  
2 CO II  
5 CO I  
1 TA 2

Southern Region - 12

1 CO III  
2 CO II  
8 CO I  
1 ASR

Marine Region - 15

1 CO III  
2 CO II  
11 CO I  
1 ASR

Total Employees: 54

Northern Region Highlights

At sunset on December 30, 2022, CPO Allen Sutton received information that a suspect who was known to hunt at night out of an outbuilding, utilizing a green light to illuminate a bait pile, was currently at the location of the illegal activity. Arriving on scene well after the end of legal hunting hours, Officer Sutton and New Jersey State Park Police Officer Sean Viggiano carefully approached the outbuilding. They observed a seated individual inside with a cocked and loaded crossbow in front of him, overlooking the green illuminated corn pile. During the interview the individual admitted to hunting at night for deer with a crossbow. The individual, who does not possess a trapping license, also admitted to setting untagged traps to control the raccoon population that was feeding on his bait pile. Appropriate summonses were issued, and the hunting and trapping equipment were seized as evidence.

On December 30th, 2022, CPO Nicolas Della Vella responded to Washington Twp., Morris County,

for a complaint of a ground blind that was within the safety zone of a residence. Upon interviewing two hunters who utilize the blind, CPO Della Vella determined that multiple deer tagging and firearm safety zone violations were committed during the 2022-2023 season. A total of thirteen summonses were issued for deer tagging/registration violations and for possessing a loaded firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building.

In mid-December, CPO Brice Paey received a complaint of an individual who had trespassed on a hunting club's property in West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County. A club member observed an individual wearing no orange, walking through the woods with a shotgun. The individual shouldered his shotgun and pointed it at a group of deer. When confronted by the club member the trespasser stated that he was lost and looking for an adjacent road. The club member was able to take a photograph of the individual, which was provided to West Amwell Township Police Department and CPO Paey. Within a few days, the individual was identified. When contacted by a West Amwell Township Detective the suspect claimed he was not in fact hunting, because he did not possess a valid hunting license, but was only using the scope of the shotgun to look at deer. When interviewed by CPO Paey however, the individual quickly admitted that he had fabricated the story about only using the shotgun scope to look at deer and that he was actually hunting. Summonses were issued for hunting without a valid 2022 firearm hunting license, hunting without wearing fluorescent hunter orange, trespassing on the lands of another for the purpose of taking wildlife, failure to display a valid hunting license, and hunting with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells.

#### Central Region Highlights

CPO Nicole Carman investigated the dumping of a boat in Greenwood WMA, Barnegat Twp. As a result of the investigation, a suspect was identified and interviewed. The suspect admitted to stripping the metal off the boat and then dumping it. This suspect has been charged multiple times in the past for illegal dumping including dumping another boat. The suspect was charged and will face enhanced penalties as a repeat offender.

CPO's Bickerton, Mutone, and Garofalo attended the Garden State Outdoor Show in Edison. In addition to answering questions and discussing concerns, the officers also spoke with candidates who were interested in becoming a conservation police officer.

CPO Bickerton was patrolling Great Bay WMA in Tuckerton for waterfowl hunting activity. During an inspection of an out of state hunter, who stated he had a license but left it at home, CPO Bickerton determined that the license was never purchased. Additionally, the hunter was over his daily bag limit of ducks. The hunter was issued summonses for hunting without a license and taking ducks over the limit.

#### Southern Region Highlights

Lt. Craig James located a solid waste dumping site in the Peaslee WMA, Maurice River Twp., Cumberland County. The waste consisted of six contractor bags and additional scattered construction debris. Lt. James located a receipt providing information that led to an address where construction was had been performed. After an interview, the homeowner admitted to dumping the solid waste that originated from his heating and cooling business. The business owner was issued summons for dumping solid waste in-excess of 0.148 cu yds. and dumping on a WMA.

### Marine Region Highlights

District 9 CPOs attended the Wildwood Fishing and Boating Expo for two weekend days in early January. The Conservation Police Officers' table proved to be a popular spot. The officers fielded questions from hundreds of visitors and distributed State and Federal outreach material.

Utilizing the Bureau of Law Enforcement's P/V Integrity, several NJ Fish and Wildlife Marine Unit CPOs participated in a 3-day operation with the National Marine Fisheries Service to detect and deter Federal violations of 50CFR ? 224.105 - Speed restrictions to protect North Atlantic right whales. The North Atlantic right whale remains one of the most endangered large whales in the world with an estimated population of under 400 individuals at the end of 2018. One of the biggest threats to right whale survival is collisions with vessels. In 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service implemented a seasonal mandatory (less than 10 knots) speed rule for vessels over 65' in length in certain areas to reduce the risk of vessel collisions with right whales. The goal of the operation was to enforce the speed rule and to educate mariners on its existence. Ships were monitored with a combination of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), Mini Automatic Radar Piloting Aid (MARPA) and handheld radar technology. Officers identified approximately 30 vessels in excess of 65' transiting the speed restriction zone outside of Delaware Bay but observed no speed rule violations.

### Training Unit Highlights

The Training Unit started 2023 with annual firearms qualification. The qualification consisted of day/night qualifications. The lecture portion was focused on the Use of Force Policy as well as a low light update and case law discussion as it pertains to use of force issues.

On January 13, 2023, three new Conservation Police Officer Recruits graduated the Cape May County Police Academy. The recruits will start the in-house stage of their training to develop the skills necessary to be successful game wardens. We wish them luck in their careers.