



NJDEP Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
February 21, 2023 to March 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 6,550.3 hours of duty (6,189.4 - 2022)
These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	2023	2022
Law Enforcement	4,336.7	3,998.2
Fishing	1,247.7	1,587.0
Marine Resources	1,220.4	1,361.5
Hunting	128.3	132.1
Deer Hunting	49.8	92.2
Trapping	57.5	130.3
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	464.6	563.1
NG & Endangered Species	201.5	25.1
Court	48.6	29.7
Regional Meetings	134.6	5.9
Pollution Investigation	126.8	50.5
Training	1,202.0	444.7
Other Law Enforcement	313.7	514.1

Administration	1,992.2	1,913.6
Fish Management	16.2	4.4
Wildlife Management	44.0	40.8
Information & Education	32.0	20.0
Bear Control	0.0	3.0
Bear Patrol & Invest	0.0	3.0

During patrols, officers performed 1119 field inspections (2044 - 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	8	28	15	21	0	72	154
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	0	0	4	6	0	10	8
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Field Inspections By Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	117
Central Region	179
Southern Region	405
Marine Region	418
Total	1119

Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	69
Freshwater Anglers	291
Trappers	13
Commercial Fishermen	20
Marine Rec. Anglers	379
WMA non hunt/fish	251
Other	40

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Admin</u>
Fishing	2	0	1	2	0
Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	1	2	0	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0	0
WMA	5	17	13	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	3	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	5	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	0	11	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	4	0	0	0
Other	0	5	1	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
Totals	8	28	15	21	0

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$31640.50

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

North	133
Central	158
South	132
Marine	112
Total Calls Recieved	535

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of Mar 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

Central Region Highlights

CPO Mutone investigated a 20' vessel on a trailer that was dumped in Greenwood WMA, Lacey Twp. CPO Mutone located the owner who admitted in an interview that the boat was his, however he claimed he was just temporarily storing it in the remote area over a mile from the nearest paved road and was going to remove it. The owner was charged with solid waste dumping. While CPO Mutone was conducting the interview on the suspect's front porch, a student walking home was struck by a vehicle nearby. CPO Mutone immediately ran to the scene and rendered first aid. The victim suffered a leg injury, was transported to a hospital, and is currently recovering.

After 25 years of service with the NJ Conservation Police, Lt. Tom O'Rourke will be officially retiring this month. Lt. O'Rourke graduated from the Burlington County Police Academy in 2001 and began his career patrolling Burlington County. He investigated some high-profile cases and was known for his relationships with the farmers and hunters in Burlington County. Lt. O'Rourke received a lifesaving award for rendering first aid to a suicidal person and was credited with saving that person's life. After being promoted to the District 3 supervisor, Lt. O'Rourke transferred into the Training Unit where he supervised statewide firearm and in service training for all CPOs. We thank Lt. O'Rourke for all his efforts and dedication he brought to our agency and wish him a great retirement in Maine!



Lt. Thomas O'Rourke

Deputy Chief Snellbaker and CPO Meyer attended the Law Enforcement Career Day at Stockton College. Both officers are alumni of Stockton College and engaged current students to discuss a possible career path as a conservation police officer. The event was well attended, and many students conversed with our officers.



CPO Meyer (L) and Deputy Chief Snellbaker (R)

CPO Carman investigated a wave runner that was dumped in Colliers Mills WMA, Jackson Twp. With the assistance of CPO Mutone, the officers identified and interviewed six different individuals in three counties who in the past year had possession of the vessel. In the end, a suspect admitted to purchasing the wave runner online and while trailing it home, it slipped off the trailer, so he placed it on the side of the road. Though he planned to come back to retrieve it, the vessel remained on state property for nearly two weeks. A summons was issued for dumping on a wildlife management area.

Southern Region Highlights

Responding to multiple complaints of ATV activity in White Oak WMA located in Monroe Township, Gloucester County, Officer Vazquez and Lt. Batten made a presence and encountered in excess of fifty off-road vehicles and ATVs using the WMA for various unauthorized activities. Despite the heavy traffic, officers were able to issue multiple summons for unlawful ATV use on a WMA.

CPO Malinski identified an individual responsible for timber theft from the Great Egg Harbor River Wildlife Management Area. An interview of the accused resulted in admission that he cut the living oak trees to sell as firewood. This individual has been previously convicted of the same offense. The individual was issued a summons for the violation and is scheduled for a mandatory court appearance in April.

The Glassboro WMA located in Gloucester County has experienced attention due to a project directed towards enhancing woodcock habitat. Though the WMA has been closed to vehicular and walk-in traffic, that did not deter people from tampering with equipment on site. To further reduce illicit activity, officers installed surveillance equipment at the closed areas and captured four vehicles circumventing temporary barricades. Summonses for entering a restricted area were issued.

Marine Region Highlights

In early March, CPOs Sloan and Tomlin conducted a patrol in Delaware Bay as part of a series of patrols aimed at inspecting anchored gill nets for compliance. Four nets were found, all of which were out of compliance for their proper navigational markings. Additionally, each net had either improper gear identification, or no identification at all, with only one of the numbers on one net belonging to a properly licensed gill netter. The licensed netter claimed ownership of all the nets and was issued multiple summonses for unlawful gill-net gear configuration requirements.