



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

Conservation Officers report a total of 7,387.6 hours of duty (7,554.3 - 2023) These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	2024	2023
Law Enforcement	5,117.8	5,023.4
Fishing	2,000.3	2,532.3
Marine Resources	1,030.9	1,434.0
Hunting	44.2	89.4
Deer Hunting	1.0	22.4
Trapping	53.9	7.5
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	265.6	339.1
NG & Endangered Species	56.5	98.8
Court	21.3	49.1
Regional Meetings	62.2	0.0
Pollution Investigation	12.5	19.8
Training	1,498.8	1,182.9
Other Law Enforcement	924.1	398.1
Administration	2,079.3	2,088.3
Fish Management	1.7	18.2

Wildlife Management	18.0	34.0
Information & Education	45.6	31.8
Bear Control	3.0	6.5
Bear Patrol & Invest	3.5	30.3

During patrols, officers performed 2629 field inspections (41 28 - 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	91	39	29	43	0	202	314
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	21	0	0	0	0	21	11
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	2	0	0	0	0	2	3

Field Inspections By Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	1049
Central Region	613
Southern Region	431
Marine Region	536
Total	2629

Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	0
Freshwater Anglers	1554
Trappers	2
Commercial Fishermen	13
Marine Rec. Anglers	717
WMA non hunt/fish	140
Other	135

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Admin</u>
Fishing	53	8	12	0	0
Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0	0
WMA	3	21	8	0	0
Striped Bass	32	0	6	6	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	0	32	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	2	3	0	0
Other	3	8	0	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	5	0
Title 2C	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	91	39	29	43	0

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$13,994.00

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

North	154
Central	95
South	172
Marine	138
Total Calls Received	559

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of April 20, 2024

Administration - 8

1 Chief
2 Deputy Chiefs
1 CPO II Training
2 CPO I Training
1 CPO III Admin
0 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: 57

Northern Region Highlights

Northern Officers have been busy with the trout season and the spring striped bass run in full swing. Officers have issued 51 summonses for trout fishing violations including fishing without a valid license, taking trout without a trout stamp, possession of trout during the in-season closure, fishing during the in-season closure, possession of over the daily limit for trout, possession of undersized trout in a trout conservation area, possession of bait in a catch and release area, usage of unauthorized hooks in a catch and release area, fishing by prohibited means, and possession of trout in a catch and release area. Officers have issued 32 striped bass summonses for violations of possession of undersized striped bass, possession of oversized striped bass, and possession of over the daily limit for striped bass.

During the opening weekend of trout season, CPO C. Sikora received a complaint of illegal fishing at the catch and release area of the Big Flatbrook in Sandyston Township, Sussex County. CPO C. Sikora, along with Sgt. Gervald and Officer Viggiano of New Jersey Park Police, set up surveillance and made contact with a group of fishermen. After a brief conversation the individuals advised that they caught the trout by

scooping them from the river with buckets. The group received a total of thirteen summonses for fishing without a license, possessing trout without a trout stamp, possessing trout in a catch and release area, taking fish by means prohibited by State Fish and Game Code, and littering while fishing.

On April 17, 2024, CPOs were notified by the Passaic Police Department of an individual who was apprehended while offering turtles for sale on a street corner. Lieutenant Holmes and CPO Della Vella responded to the individual's residence in the City of Paterson for an interview. The individual admitted to possessing and selling turtles in the City of Passaic and a total of 18 Yellow Bellied Sliders were seized and transported to Woodlands Wildlife Refuge and temporarily held until permanent placement could be found. The following three summonses were issued for the violations: possession of exotic species without a permit, offering exotics for sale without a permit, and sale of turtles with a carapace length less than 4 inches.

Southern Region Highlights

CPOs Kille and Vazquez received a complaint of a boat dumped on the Glassboro WMA in Monroe Township, Gloucester County. The 19' fiberglass boat was last registered in 2015 to an individual residing in Tom's River, Ocean County. After a lengthy investigation, the person responsible was located. CPO Kille charged the man with disposing of solid waste in excess of 0.148 cubic yards, in addition to, dumping refuse on State WMA. A fine and restitution for cleanup of \$2390 was awarded in court.