



NJDEP Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
February 21, 2025 to March 20, 2025

Frank Panico, Chief
Brian Scott, 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)
Mike Anselmo, Agency Services Representative

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
Vacant, Captain
Chris Moscatiello, Lieutenant (District 7)
Ryan Harp, Lieutenant (District 8)
Chris Petrucci, Lieutenant (District 9)
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Police Officers report a total of 6,814.6 hours of duty (7,013.0 - 2024)
These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	2025	2024
Law Enforcement	4,778.8	4,764.6
Fishing	1,215.0	1,253.9
Marine Resources	1,005.5	934.5
Hunting	91.1	79.1
Deer Hunting	62.7	40.1
Trapping	157.9	139.8
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	552.8	374.0
NG & Endangered Species	53.4	104.0
Court	36.9	33.0
Regional Meetings	174.5	47.8
Pollution Investigation	26.3	55.5
Training	1,120.1	1,639.1
Other Law Enforcement	983.1	751.8
Administration	1,880.7	2,068.8
Fish Management	18.0	65.0



Wildlife Management	43.1	28.2
Information & Education	26.7	19.5
Bear Control	0.0	0.0
Bear Patrol & Invest	18.1	1.0

During patrols, officers performed 575 field inspections (779 - 2024) 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>Total</u>	<u>2024</u>
Summonses Issued	30	35	40	9	112	81
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	1	0	0	1	2	9
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0

Field Inspections By Region

Northern Region	165
Central Region	113
Southern Region	86
Marine Region	211
Total	575

Field Inspections By Activity

Hunters	16
Freshwater Anglers	175
Trappers	3
Commercial Fishermen	6
Marine Rec. Anglers	208
WMA non hunt/fish	130
Other	28

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>
Fishing	9	0	1	0
Hunting	11	2	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	3	17	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0
WMA	5	9	38	0
Striped Bass	0	1	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	1
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	0	6
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0
Title 39	2	5	1	0
Other	0	1	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	2
Title 2C	0	0	0	0
Totals	30	35	40	9



Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$11,210

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

North	101
Central	93
South	104
Marine	164
Total Calls Received	462

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of Mar 20, 2025

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
- 8 CPO I
- 1 ASR

Central Region - 11

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

Southern Region - 12

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

Marine Region - 14

- 0 CPO III
- 3 CPO II
- 10 CPO I
- 1 ASR

Special Investigations Unit - 3

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

Total Employees: 60

Northern Region Highlights

On February 11, 2025, CPO Parham received a call from the Northvale Police Department regarding an individual who shot a Canada Goose in the head with a pellet gun from the road in front of an office building. Northvale PD provided CPO Parham with security camera footage of the suspect outside of the office building as well as witness statements from the two employees who witnessed the event. After gathering information from Northvale PD, Orangetown PD (New York), and the two witnesses, CPO Parham issued the individual thirteen (13) summonses for hunting without a valid 2025 hunting license, hunting waterfowl without a federal waterfowl stamp, hunting waterfowl without a valid NJ waterfowl stamp, hunting without a valid HIP certification, hunting waterfowl with an illegal firearm, hunting waterfowl in a manner other than prescribed, discharging a firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building, hunting from the roadway, hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, careless discharge of a firearm, failing to retrieve waterfowl, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license and reckless operation of a motor vehicle.



Central Region Highlights

CPO Garofalo received information about an out of state hunter who was coming into NJ and hunting large bucks illegally. He also received information that this hunter was using his mother's license and permits to tag deer that he shot over the limit as well. CPO Garofalo initiated an investigation on this hunter and found the allegations to be accurate based off his findings. After gathering all the necessary information for an interview, CPO Garofalo, Lt. Riviello, and 2 NY DEC officers went to Staten Island, NY to interview the hunter and his mother. After an extensive interview, CPO Garofalo was able to confirm the hunter used his mother's license and permits to register a buck that he shot over the limit, one of the bucks was shot without an antlered buck permit during permit bow season because the permit was purchased after the deer was harvested, and that while the bucks were electronically registered the hunted never filled out the harvest reports or tagged any deer. The hunter was issued 11 summonses including over the bag limit for permit bow season, fail to tag deer during permit bow season, falsely registered deer during permit bow season, interference with a conservation police officer, hunt deer without a zone permit, and unlawful possession of deer.

Lt. Riviello attended NJ Fish and Wildlife's "Talkin' Turkey" seminar at Batsto Village. The seminar was well received and very informative for all who attended.

On February 7th CPOs Bickerton and Carman responded to a solid waste dumping complaint at Manchester WMA reported by ENSP biologist Robert Somes. Construction debris and other evidence left at the scene led the officers to investigate a contractor out of Staten Island, NY who was working at a house in Toms River. The fast moving investigation resulted in the contractor being issued summonses the next day for discarding refuse on a WMA and solid waste dumping greater than 0.148 cubic yards. The responsible party removed the refuse that day and on March 19th was assessed a fine of \$1500 by the Manchester Municipal Court.

Lt. McManus investigated complaints of an expansive "tree fort" at Manasquan WMA. The two-story structure, constructed of scrap lumber, caused the neighbors to be concerned with bias-based graffiti painted on it. The functioning fireplace presented additional concern about the risk of wildfire. On February 27th, Lt. McManus accompanied Bureau of Lands Management staff for the demolition and removal of the structure. On March 4th Lt. McManus and officers from Wall Police Department returned to the area upon information that people were rebuilding the fort. The officers located an unattended fire and later encountered twelve teenagers rebuilding the fort with new material near the original location. The teens were given a verbal warning about the wildlife management area regulations and instructed to dismantle the fort and remove the materials. A follow-up visit confirmed that the area had been returned to its natural state.

Marine Region Highlights

After the exceptional nearshore bluefin tuna fishing this past fall in southern New Jersey, CPOs Tomlin and Raker continued following up on numerous unreported landings. By federal law, bluefin tuna must be reported within 24 hours of landing. Reporting bluefin tuna landings is crucial for sustainable management as it helps track quotas, which help prevent overfishing. Dozens of private and for-hire vessel owners and operators were determined to not have reported bluefin tuna landings in a two-month period--some fishermen landed as many as 20 fish of which none were reported. Cases were referred to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for enforcement action.