



**NJDEP Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
June 1, 2025 to June 30, 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 responded to 480 incidents during the month.

Nature of Incident	Total
Animal/Wildlife Complaint	32
ATV Patrol	3
ATV/Dirt bike Complaint	6
Bear Complaint incl Behavior	1
Boat Patrol	27
Commercialization Fish/Wildlife	1
Deer Depredation Permit	8
Inspections	212
Fish Kill Complaint	16
Foot Patrol	34
Hunter Harassment	1
Illegal Dumping	7
Illegal Freshwater Fishing	19
Illegal Hunting	14
Illegal Saltwater Fishing	19
Illegal Trapping Complaint	4
Investigation	28
Operation Game Thief	15
Other	14
Trespassing	2
WMA Complaint	17



Law Enforcement Regions

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Total</u>
Summonses Issued	103	99	52	46	300
Criminal Arrests	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings Issued	1	1	2	1	5
Bear Feeding Warns Issued	0	0	0	0	0

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of June 30, 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 - 13

0 CPO III
3 CPO II
9 CPO I
1 ASR

Special Investigations Unit -3

1 CPO III
1 CPO II
1 CPO I

Total Employees: 59



Northern Region Highlights

On June 1, 2025, CPOs Cowan Sikora and Jack Sikora received an illegal trapping complaint from Trenton Dispatch in Jefferson Township, Morris County. The CPOs responded to the area and observed a raccoon in a large foothold trap. The trap was set next to a culvert pipe in a swamp with evidence of beaver activity. The foothold trap had "No-BS Beaver Xtreme" engraved on the pan. The foothold trap was covered in fresh paint, indicating it was recently purchased. As the CPOs were investigating the trap, an individual walking down the road gave the CPOs a tip on a neighbor who complained about beaver activity in the swamp. The CPOs interviewed the individual, who lived down the road from where the foothold trap was set. After initially denying that the trap belonged to him, the individual later admitted to setting the foothold trap. The individual stated that he purchased two foothold traps online and set one in attempt to kill the beavers in the area to prevent flooding. He told the CPOs that he set one of the traps on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, and checked it on Friday, May 30, 2025. Both traps were seized as evidence, and the individual received seven summonses. The summonses included did trap without a 2025 trapping license, did fail to maintain traps within 24 hours, did use/maintain traps without a tag, did trap for beaver closed season, did possess foothold trap, did use foothold trap, and interference with duties of a conservation police officer.

On June 4, 2025, CPO Hughes was notified by CPO Merritt of a deceased animal found in a trap in Chester Township, Morris County. On June 5, CPO Hughes met with the complainant who brought him to the location of the animal. An otter carcass was observed in a 330 conibear body-gripping trap. Upon inspection the trap had an identification tag with an individual's CID number. CPO Hughes met with the individual who advised that he forgot about the trap, and it was set two years ago. Eight summonses were issued for the following violations: did fail to check trap during 24-hour period, did fail to remove trap at end of season, did set/possess body gripping killer-type trap with jaw spread greater than 6" without a beaver or otter permit and did attempt to take muskrat by unlawful means.

On June 5, 2025, CPO Hughes observed a large pile of dumped household debris in the dog training area parking lot of the Clinton Wildlife Management Area. A search of the debris turned up identifying material. CPO Hughes spoke to the individual who confessed to discarding the waste. Two summonses were issued for: did dump refuse on a Wildlife Management Area and did dump solid waste in excess of 0.148 cubic yard.

On June 14, 2025, CPO Della Vella conducted a patrol of Ryker Lake in Sparta Township, Sussex County. CPO Della Vella located an angler in possession of an undersized and out of season Large Mouth Bass hidden in a reusable shopping bag. The suspect admitted to receiving the fish from another angler in the area. The appropriate summonses were issued.

District 2 officers have been busy conducting fishing patrols over the reporting period and issued 30 summonses for fishing without valid fishing licenses, 8 summonses for possession/ take of trout without valid trout stamps, 5 summonses for possessing bait in a catch and release/ trout conservation area, 1 summons for possession of 2 trout in a catch and release area, 2 summons for possession of undersized striped bass, 1 summons for the possession of 3 tautog during the closed season, 1 summons for the possession of 2 undersized tautog, 2 summonses wrongfully procuring a resident license, 1 summons for the illegal use of a net in fresh water and 1 summons for interfering with the duties of a Conservation Police Officer.

Central Region Highlights

On May 23rd the dispatch center received a complaint of an individual driving "donuts" in the Assunpink Lake boat ramp parking lot while other vehicles and pedestrians were present. With the help of Monmouth County Sheriff's Office staff, our officers were able to gather evidence from the video recorded by the Sheriff's Office mobile surveillance camera trailer to identify the vehicle and its registered owner and then issue summonses for the violation. NJ Fish and Wildlife thanks the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office for the use of this equipment which was an effective deterrent for most illegal activity in this problem area.



While patrolling for freshwater fishing enforcement, CPO Garofalo observed an angler at Baldwin Lake WMA. After performing an inspection on the angler, Garofalo was able to determine that he had 3 largemouth bass in his possession that were being kept during the closed season. The angler was issued a summons for keeping 3 largemouth bass out of season.

District 3 CPOs have been frequently patrolling Assunpink WMA. During these patrols, numerous summonses have been issued including fishing without a license, possession of largemouth bass during closed season, possession of alcohol, unregistered vehicles, entering after legal hours, and operating vehicles on prohibited areas.

District 3 CPOs have been making a very strong presence in Trenton City. Numerous summonses for violations of fishing without a license and utilizing too many hooks on the Delaware River have been issued.

Officer Rooke investigated a complaint about the destruction of an osprey nest. The nest, which was believed to have eggs, was built on a boat lift on the Navesink River. Officer Rooke and Lt. McManus went to the address and spoke to the homeowner. He admitted that he didn't like the mess on his dock, and he had the nest removed. The appropriate summons was issued.

Central region officers have been patrolling the seasonal closed areas of Greenwood Forest WMA. They have been coming across multiple groups of people in the closed areas misusing the WMA. Summonses for unregistered vehicles, off road vehicles, entering closed areas and other motor vehicle violations have been issued.