

**NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
January 21, 2022- February 20, 2022**

Frank Panico, Chief
Jason Snellbaker, Deputy Chief
L. Anne Quirk, Captain – Administration
Tom O'Rourke, Lieutenant – Training
Robert Driscoll, Conservation Police Officer - Training
Joseph Soell, Lieutenant – Administration
Tyler Hausamann, Conservation Police Officer - Administration

Northern Region (908) 735-8240

Douglas Applegate, Captain
Steven Sutton, Lieutenant (District 1)
Joseph Kuechler, Lieutenant (District 2)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Vacant, Administrative Assistant 1

Central Region (609) 259-2120

Shannon Martiak, Captain
Bryan Mascio, Lieutenant (District 3)
Sean McManus, Lieutenant (District 4)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Shari Irick, Technical Assistant 2

Southern Region (856) 629-0555

Lisa Lacroix, Captain
Zane Batten, Lieutenant (District 5)
Craig James, Lieutenant (District 6)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Sue Canale, Agency Services Representative

Marine Region (609) 748-2050

Brian Scott, Captain
Paul Toppin, Lieutenant (District 7)
Ryan Harp, Lieutenant (District 8)
Chris Petruccelli, Lieutenant (District 9)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Police Officers report a total of 6796.9 hours of duty (6367.3 - 2021). These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total Law Enforcement	4779.1	4398.1
Fishing	297.5	293.3
Marine Resources	1427.7	971.5
Hunting	509.2	401.4
Deer Hunting	818.3	1094.2
Trapping	188	204.2
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	409.4	530.9
NG & Endangered Species	39.9	8.8
Court	43.5	58
Regional Meetings	9.9	0
Pollution Investigation	45	26.7
Training	320.9	252.1
Other Law Enforcement	669.8	557
Administration	1935.5	1915.9

Fish Management	0	1
Wildlife Management	67.8	47.8
Information & Education	14.5	4.5
Bear Control	2.4	0
Bear Patrol and Investigation	0	0

During patrols, officers performed 1634 field inspections (1820-2021) 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>Adm.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2021</u>
Summonses issued	85	87	14	21	0	207	170
Criminal Charges	0	1	2	0	0	3	0
Warnings issued	21	1	5	26	0	53	9
Bear Feeding Warnings	2	0	0	0	0	2	0

Field Inspections by Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	834
Central Region	229
Southern Region	282
Marine Region	289

Total 1,634

Field Inspections by Activity:

Hunters	529
Freshwater Anglers	585
Trappers	33
Commercial Fishermen	79
Marine Rec. Anglers	181
WMA non-hunting/fishing	199
Other	28

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Adm.</u>
Fishing	36	0	0	0	0
Hunting	16	34	1	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	1	0
Deer Hunting	29	33	0	0	0
Trapping	1	0	5	0	0
WMA	3	10	5	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	5	0
Title 2C	0	1	2	0	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	1	0
Marine-Recreational	0	0	0	14	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	6	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	2	0	0	0
Other	0	2	3	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	85	88	16	21	0

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$45,550.50

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

North	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Central	197
South	132
Marine	160

Total calls received: 489

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of 1/20/22:

Administration - 7

1 Chief
1 Deputy Chiefs
1 CPO III - Admin
1 CPO II – Training
1 CPO II- Admin
1 CPO I – Training
1 CPO 1 - Admin

Northern Region – 8

1 CPO III
2 CPO IIs
5 CPO Is

Central Region - 9

1 CPO III
2 CPO IIs
5 CPO Is
1 Technical Assistant 2

Southern Region - 11

1 CPO III
2 CPO IIs
7 CPO Is
1 Agency Services Rep

Marine Region - 16

1 CPO III
3 CPO IIs
11 CPO Is
1 Agency Services Rep

Total Employees: 51

Northern Region Highlights

During the report period, District 1 CPOs concentrated enforcement efforts on ice fishing activity. A total of 402 anglers were inspected, with 32 summonses being issued for violations including fishing without a valid license, possession of over the limit of panfish, possession of over the limit of chain pickerel, possession of undersized chain pickerel, possession of under sized northern pike, use of more than 5 devices while ice fishing, possession of trout without a trout stamp, use of unlabeled devices while ice fishing and interference with the duties of a Conservation Police Officer.

Central Region Highlights

CPO Garofalo and Lt. Mascio responded to the Assunpink WMA for a report of a stuck motor vehicle. When the CPOs arrived, they observed the stuck vehicle approximately 900 yards off the roadway in the field. The vehicle was driven into an area being restored for American Woodcock habitat. Due to the melting snow, falling rain and snow, and being stuck in a swamp, it made it nearly impossible for the tow company to get the vehicle out. The tow company utilized a tractor to get the vehicle out of the field. The operator of the vehicle was issued summonses for driving a motor vehicle off the established roadway, damage to vegetation and damage to soil.

Central Region CPO's have been focusing on inspections of taxidermists and butchers. Summonses have been issued for violations of improper record keeping, untagged wildlife parts, and importation of out of state deer in violation of CWD policies. One case involved CPO Bickerton and Lt. Mascio. The officers performed an inspection and identified untagged wildlife parts that consisted of 17 black bear paws, 5 black bear skulls, 9 individual black bear claws, 1 black bear hide, 6 songbirds, and 1 deer hide. This taxidermist, who had previous violations, was issued 34 summonses.

CPO Riviello and Lt. Mascio performed several inspections on local deer butchers. During the inspections, several deer were found to be imported from other states without following the correct protocols. To prevent CWD from spreading to New Jersey, a hunter may not bring into the state the whole carcass and intact head of the deer. Several butchers were issued summonses for not accurately keeping records as required, and for possessing imported deer.

In October 2021, CPO Riviello was contacted by a hunter to report a stolen cellular trail camera. A report was generated, and the case remained ongoing. A couple of months later, the hunter received an email from the trail camera company stating that an unidentified individual was attempting to activate the stolen camera. CPO Riviello reopened the case and determined that a buyer in Minnesota purchased the stolen camera through eBay from a seller in Burlington County, NJ. CPO Riviello also identified an additional camera that was also sold by the seller and was reported stolen by a separate hunter. An interview with the seller led to a confession that he stole the cameras and sold them on eBay. Both buyers returned the cameras to CPO Riviello and eBay refunded their money. The stolen cameras were returned to the hunters and the seller was charged accordingly.

CPO's Bickerton, Riviello, Della Vella, Malinski, Raker, and Capri attended a two-day virtual illegal turtle trafficking workshop. The workshop discussed current trends, tactics, and resources available to combat turtle trafficking. The event was attended by law enforcement professionals, biologists, researchers, educators, authors, and rehabilitators from multiple US states, the federal government, and Canadian provinces. CPO Riviello conducted a presentation for the workshop.

Southern Region Highlights

CPO's Fox and Vazquez investigated an illegal deer hunting complaint in Hopewell Township, Cumberland County. An anonymous complainant had called to report an individual had been observed killing two deer the week before at his place of business. The complainant provided the name of an individual and the business location. A records check revealed that there were no deer registered and the individual did not possess a license. The officers went to the scene and began processing evidence in view of the employees prior to speaking with the accused. During the interview, the accused initially denied any knowledge of shooting deer before confessing. The individual described two deer were observed inside of a fenced portion of the farm which were attempting to get out while following the inside of the fence. The individual retrieved a shotgun, hid behind some farm equipment then shot them as they passed by. The individual was charged with hunting without a license, two counts of failure to tag/register a deer and two counts of illegal possession of deer.

CPO Vazquez conducted an inspection of a Cherry Hill, Camden County hunter who was in a ground blind during the firearm season. The ground blind was in violation by being within 450 feet of a school playground. CPO Vazquez observed fresh blood on the hunter's clothing and again in the bed of his vehicle. During the investigation, it was revealed a deer had been killed the previous day and not registered. Charges of failure to properly tag, illegal possession, failure to use hunter orange markers and hunting within 450 feet of a school playground were issued.