

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
March 21, 2021- April 20, 2021

J. Sean Cianciulli, Chief
Frank Panico, Deputy Chief
Jason Snellbaker, Deputy Chief
L. Anne Quirk, Captain – Administration
Tom O'Rourke, Lieutenant - Training
Paul Toppin, Lieutenant– Training
Joseph Soell, 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)
Vacant, 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
Vacant, Lieutenant (District 7)
Chris Petrucci, Lieutenant (District 8)
Ryan Harp, Lieutenant (District 9)
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Police Officers report a total of 7660.5 hours of duty (7261.6 - 2020). These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total Law Enforcement	5997.2	5579.4
Fishing	1773.9	1255.8
Marine Resources	2059.9	1254.4
Hunting	155.3	315.9
Deer Hunting	4.5	53.8
Trapping	9.8	20.3
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	572.8	1195.6
NG & Endangered Species	90.3	88.3
Court	30.6	0
Regional Meetings	94.4	20
Pollution Investigation	91	55.9
Training	507.7	854
Other Law Enforcement	607	465.4
Administration	1521.7	1620.2

Fish Management	12.9	19.9
Wildlife Management	73.3	41.1
Information & Education	55.4	1
Bear Control	3.8	15.2
Bear Patrol and Investigation	2	17

During patrols, officers performed 6396 field inspections (4954 -2020) 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>2020</u>
Summonses issued	209	140	112	131	0	592	191
Criminal Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Warnings issued	11	0	5	7	0	23	13
Bear Feeding Warnings	1	0	0	0	0	1	2

Field Inspections by Region

Administration	7
Northern Region	1770
Central Region	1627
Southern Region	1558
Marine Region	1404
Total	6,396

Field Inspections by Activity:

Hunters	11
Freshwater Anglers	3776
Trappers	1
Commercial Fishermen	40
Marine Rec. Anglers	1901
WMA non-hunting/fishing	608
Other	59

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Adm.</u>
Fishing	30	62	55	2	0
Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	1	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	0	3	0	0	0
Trapping	0	0	2	0	0
WMA	11	52	48	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	2	0
Title 2C	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	1	0
Marine-Recreational	0	6	0	18	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	4	1	0	0
Other	1	5	6	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	166	8	0	108	0
Totals	209	140	112	131	0

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$45,799.23

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

North	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Central	347
South	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Marine	181

Total calls received: 528

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of 4/20/21:

Administration - 7

1 Chief
2 Deputy Chiefs
1 CPO I - Admin
2 CPO IIs – Training
1 CPO III- Admin

Northern Region – 11

1 CPO I
2 CPO IIs
8 CPO IIIs

Central Region - 9

1 CPO I
1 CPO II
6 CPO IIIs
1 Technical Assistant 2

Southern Region - 12

1 CPO I
2 CPO IIs
8 CPO IIIs
1 Agency Services Rep

Marine Region - 15

1 CPO I
2 CPO IIs
11 CPO IIIs
1 Agency Services Rep

Total Employees: 54

Northern Region Highlights

On Tuesday, April 13th, while patrolling the Silver Lake section of Hamburg Mountain WMA, Lt. Sutton observed a fisherman catch several trout and throw them into the woods behind him. Lt. Sutton setup surveillance and observed the fisherman catch and keep seven trout. Each time the angler caught a trout, he would conceal the fish in a green plastic bag and then bury the bag under a pile of leaves. The fisherman carried a second plastic bag containing fish to his vehicle and concealed it in a storage compartment. Lt. Sutton conducted a field inspection and located a total of eleven trout in the fisherman's possession. Lt. Sutton recognized the individual as someone he had issued summonses to at the same location in April of 2020. One summons was issued for possession of five trout over the daily bag limit and the fish were seized. The fisherman is also facing a two-year revocation of his privileges to hunt and fish if convicted.

Lt. Sutton focused patrols on the Catch and Release section of the Big Flatbrook. A total of nine summonses were issued for use/possess bait in the Catch and Release area, take/possess trout in catch and release area and fishing without a valid 2021 fishing license.

CPO Hausamann deployed a covert surveillance camera in response to repeated illegal dumping of landscape debris in a parking lot at the Pequest WMA in Oxford Township, Warren County. Within a few days the camera captured photographs of a vehicle with a trailer dumping landscape debris in the same location. CPO Hausamann interviewed the suspect and obtained a full confession to dumping caught on camera and to the previous landscape debris that was dumped. Summonses were issued for dumping on a WMA and dumping solid waste in excess of 0.0148 cubic yards at an unapproved facility.

During this reporting period, Northern Region Conservation Police Officers have been busy patrolling the marine waters for compliance with New Jersey striped bass regulations. One hundred eighty-seven fishermen were inspected, and one hundred sixty-eight summonses were issued resulting in over \$34,500 in fines. A breakdown of the summonses that were issued is as follows: thirty-nine summonses for possession of three undersized striped bass, forty summonses for possession of two undersized striped bass, nineteen summonses for possession of one undersized striped bass, sixteen summonses for possession of three striped bass over the daily limit, twenty-seven summonses for possession of two striped bass over the daily limit, and twenty-seven summonses for possession of one striped bass over the daily limit.

Central Region Highlights

CPOs Riviello and Bickerton patrolled the Raritan River near Rutgers University in New Brunswick. The striped bass bite was slow that day, but they did seize three illegal striped bass. The two individuals were issued summonses for taking/possessing two undersized striped bass and for taking/possessing one striped bass over the daily limit.

CPOs Riviello, Garofalo and Lt. Mascio worked the Delaware River during the shad and striped bass migration. One weekend, the officers utilized two boats and patrolled the northern and southern portions of the Delaware River. During the boat patrol, approximately seventy-five fishermen were inspected. A total of twenty-one summonses were issued. Violations included possessing alewife/blueback herring during the emergency closure, possessing undersized striped bass, possessing striped bass during the closed season, fishing in an illegal manner – more than three hooks, no fishing license, and operating a boat without the required number of PFDs.

CPOs Carman and Mutone worked the Raritan River near Perth Amboy during the late hours of the night. The CPOs watched a group of individuals fish and saw several striped bass caught and thrown into the weeds to conceal the fish. Several members saw the CPOs and began to throw the striped bass into the water. The CPOs took control of the scene and were able to seize fourteen illegal striped bass. The individuals were issued a total of sixteen summonses pertaining to striped bass violations.

CPO Garofalo responded to a complaint of an individual that had a dead deer hanging from a tree in his front yard for the last thirty days in Washington Township (Burlington County). CPO Garofalo spoke with the individual and he provided several stories that were not accurate. CPO Garofalo concluded that the deer was struck by a car. The individual was charged with possession of untagged deer parts.

A call was received by CRO Communications Operator Sharon Irick where the female caller appeared distressed and stated she was being held against her will at an unknown house in South Amboy. The quick actions of CPO Carman who engaged the caller and kept her on the phone, Capt. Quirk who began tracing the callers telephone number and location, and Sharon Irick who managed the information led to the caller being located at a house in Marlboro. With the assistance of the Marlboro Police, the caller was safely found. The caller was not endangered but was suffering from a medical episode.

Lt. Mascio received a surveillance picture from a local company in Hopewell Township. The picture was of an individual utilizing a deer cart with a dead deer on top of it. Lt. Mascio recognized the individual. Lt. Mascio and CPO Riviello interviewed the individual. The individual did not provide accurate information; however, CPO Riviello found several key pieces of evidence on scene and the individual finally admitted to taking a deer he had harvested over a month ago. The individual was charged with wanton waste of a game animal, illegal dumping of a game animal on private property and interference with the duties of a Conservation Police Officer.

Lt. Mascio and CPOs Garofalo, and Riviello received a complaint of an individual that was in possession of snakes without any permits. The CPOs inspected the house and found approximately seventy snakes of different species. The individual did not have any permits for the snakes. CPO Riviello issued a summons to the individual for not possessing the required permits.

CPO Riviello received a complaint that the owner of a Pet Shop was illegally selling corn snakes. CPOs Riviello and Bickerton inspected the shop and found that the snakes in question were not corn snakes. CPO Riviello observed that the shop did not have the required permits displayed. Upon further investigation, CPO Riviello found that the shop did not possess a permit to sell snakes. CPO Riviello issued a summons for not possessing a Pet Shop Dealer Permit.

Lt. Mascio and CPOs Riviello, Bickerton, Garofalo, Carman and Mutone worked Greenwood and Turkey Swamp Wildlife Management Area for illegal ATV use. During the weekend, a total of sixty Wildlife Management summonses were issued. Three ATVs/dirt bikes were also impounded.

CPO Garofalo and Captain Martiak conducted an online presentation for a criminal justice class at Monmouth University. The presentation focused on the history, job functions, and recruitment of the NJ State Conservation Police.

Southern Region Highlights

Conservation Police Officers from the Southern Region have monitored the striped bass migration as it has moved up the Delaware River. CPO Kille conducted several patrols with various officers resulting in seventeen fish no license cases, five closed season possession of striped bass cases, two oversized and two undersized possession of striped bass cases. During one evening patrol, CPOs Kille and Vazquez conducted an inspection of two fisherman that Lt. Batten suspected of possessing fish during the closed season. The fisherman offered an empty cooler for the officers to inspect. As the officers continued the inspection, two striped bass were discovered secreted in a backpack.

CPOs Sites and Vazquez conducted an evening patrol at the DOD WMA. The officers issued summons for maintaining a fire and alcohol possession.

CPO Malinski received information that a trout fisherman who took two limits of trout in one day. The fisherman was located and interviewed. CPO Malinski obtained a confession and issued the appropriate summons.

CPOs Faith and Vazquez assisted NJ State Police and Camden County Prosecutors Office with a search warrant in the city of Camden. Intelligence gathered prior to the warrant indicated that there was an alligator at the residence. A young alligator and a red eared slider were seized and transferred to the Cape May County Zoo for evaluation and later placement. Summonses were issued for possession of a potentially dangerous species and possession of a regulated non-game species without a permit.

CPO Faith inspected a fisherman along the Egg Harbor River in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County that was fishing without a freshwater license. The fisherman was in possession of thirteen fish over the daily limit between white perch and bullhead catfish and two undersize crappie. Summonses were issued for fishing in fresh water without a license, possess over the daily limit of twenty-five fish and undersized crappie.

Marine Region Highlights

After receiving numerous striped bass complaints in the Raritan Bay area, Conservation Police Officers focused patrols to deter the illegal take of striped bass. On the evening of April 9th, CPOs Henderson, Klitz, Moscatiello, and Woerner apprehended five individuals with twenty undersize striped bass which were seized for undersized and overlimit violations. On the following evening of April 10th and into the early morning hours of the 11th, seventeen Conservation Police Officers from across the state participated in an operation focusing on the illegal harvest of striped bass along the Raritan Bayshore in Middlesex and Monmouth counties. Nearly one hundred inspections were made resulting in over thirty summonses issued. A week later Conservation Police, again from both marine and inland units, were out in force. More than one hundred forty inspections resulted in an additional thirty summonses.

The land-based tautog fishing started to heat up unusually early this April resulting in CPOs being busy in the Atlantic City area. On April 2nd, CPOs Meyer and Capri observed an individual retaining multiple tautog on an Atlantic City jetty. The CPOs conducted an inspection of the individual as he was quickly attempting to leave the area. The individual was found to have five tautog in a bucket, CPOs Meyer and Capri located an additional ten tautog in a cooler in the vehicle belonging to the fisherman. Of the fifteen tautog, fourteen were under the minimum size and the individual was eleven over the daily possession limit.

Training Unit Highlights

The Training Unit conducted a Law Enforcement Handling of Black Bear Complaints course at Morris County Police Academy. This course was developed to give the patrol officers options for handling problem bears and provide classroom and hands-on range training in the use of equipment and conditioning techniques. Officers received instruction in biology of the black bear as well as New Jersey laws that pertain to them.

The Training Unit conducted our 2nd quarter spring firearms qualifications. Officers received a use of force update, firearms safety review, and a shotgun update. The topics covered with the shotgun consisted of loading, operation, and shooting positions. Officers also got information on extreme close quarters, retention, and vehicle dismount training. Some of the shooting drills conducted during this quarter included finding a balance between speed versus accuracy.