

**NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Monthly Highlights  
Bureau of Law Enforcement  
April 21, 2021- May 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 Petruccelli, Lieutenant (District 8)  
Ryan Harp, Lieutenant (District 9)  
Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator  
Noreen White, Agency Services Representative

Conservation Police Officers report a total of 8210.7 hours of duty (8590.4 - 2020). These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<u><b>2021</b></u>	<u><b>2020</b></u>
Total Law Enforcement	6413.9	6691.4
Fishing	1130.3	610.5
Marine Resources	1766.1	1498.8
Hunting	1414.2	1258.1
Deer Hunting	15	22.5
Trapping	4.1	9
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	676.6	1703.9
NG & Endangered Species	175	123.2
Court	56.8	0
Regional Meetings	141.5	0
Pollution Investigation	82.7	95.3
Training	181.7	956.4
Other Law Enforcement	769.9	413.7
Administration	1688.7	1812.5

Fish Management	0	4
Wildlife Management	69.1	82.5
Information & Education	59	0
Bear Control	16.5	20.2
Bear Patrol and Investigation	0.5	11.7

During patrols, officers performed 4578 field inspections (6429 -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	162	121	92	51	0	426	654
Criminal Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Warnings issued	5	0	3	6	0	15	21
Bear Feeding Warnings	5	0	0	0	0	5	1

Field Inspections by Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	1343
Central Region	697
Southern Region	1031
Marine Region	1507

**Total 4,578**

Field Inspections by Activity:

Hunters	317
Freshwater Anglers	1497
Trappers	0
Commercial Fishermen	57
Marine Rec. Anglers	1847
WMA non-hunting/fishing	617
Other	243

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Adm.</u>
Fishing	47	53	16	0	0
Hunting	10	4	13	0	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	0	1	5	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0	0
WMA	5	36	57	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	1	0	0	0
Title 2C	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	4	0
Marine-Recreational	1	0	0	35	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	14	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	3	0	0	0
Other	6	5	0	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	93	4	1	12	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$40,697.60

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

North	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Central	148
South	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Marine	268

**Total calls received: 416**

Bureau of Law Enforcement personnel status as of 5/20/21:

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**

During the Spring Turkey Hunting season, District 1 CPOs issued a total of eleven summonses for violations including hunting without a valid license, hunting in the wrong turkey hunting area, hunting turkey without a permit and hunting turkey during the wrong period.

While patrolling the Wallkill River in Ogdensburg Borough, Sussex County, CPO Della Vella inspected a fisherman that had a license displayed, but the license appeared to be expired. Further investigation revealed that the fisherman's fishing privileges were currently revoked due to prior violations. The fisherman was issued a summons for fishing while privileges are revoked.

While patrolling the Pequannock River in Bloomingdale Borough, Passaic County, CPO Hausamann inspected a fisherman who was in possession of trout. The fisherman did not have a fishing license and advised that he had forgotten it. The fisherman provided CPO Hausamann with a name and birthdate. A records check showed an individual with that name, but with a different birthdate. CPO Hausamann

questioned the fisherman again and he admitted to providing him with the wrong information the first time. The fisherman was identified and issued summonses for fishing without a valid license, possess trout without a valid trout stamp and interference with the duties of a Conservation Police Officer.

While patrolling Lake Ashroe in Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Township, Sussex County, CPO Merritt observed two individuals in inflatable boats that were tending several lines attached to Styrofoam disks. An inspection of the fishermen at the boat ramp revealed that both individuals were utilizing the Styrofoam disks to fish. Each disk had a line attached to it, with a treble hook affixed to the line. One of the fishermen was also in possession of one chain pickerel over the daily limit. Six summonses were issued for use a set line and one summons was issued for possession of chain pickerel over the daily limit.

While patrolling Lake Aeroflex in Andover Township, Sussex County, CPO Merritt inspected two separate fishermen who were in possession of over their daily limit of Landlocked Salmon. Summonses were issued for the violations.

CPO Driscoll and Lt. Kuechler continued to patrol the Newark Bay Complex in Hudson and Union Counties and the Hudson River in Hudson County for compliance with striped bass regulations. They inspected one hundred seventeen fishermen and issued a total of eighty-six summonses for possession of undersize striped bass and possession of striped bass over the daily limit. CPO Holmes and CPO Merritt also assisted with the enforcement efforts on those waterbodies. CPO Holmes inspected six fishermen and issued six summonses for possession of undersized striped bass and possession of striped bass over the daily limit. CPO Merritt inspected twelve fishermen and issued two summonses for possession of undersized striped bass and one summons for possession of tautog during closed season.

Using covert surveillance equipment, CPO Holmes was able to get footage of a 6 wheeled military “deuce and a half” operating along the powerlines on the Clinton W.M.A. on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. By patrolling the surrounding area, CPO Holmes was able to locate the vehicle parked in a driveway near where the incident occurred. Using the surveillance footage, CPO Holmes was able to match markings on the vehicle in the driveway to the markings on the vehicle captured on the surveillance footage. After speaking with the owner of the vehicle, he admitted to driving the truck through the W.M.A. The owner/operator of the vehicle was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle over closed road/prohibited area.

### Central Region Highlights

CPO McManus identified an individual attempting to sell diamond back terrapins online. After posing as a potential buyer, the individual agreed to meet CPO McManus in a public location and after being informed that it was illegal to sell the turtles, the seller continued with the sale. The seller was charged with possession and offering for sale the six diamond back terrapins. He later confessed that he collected them in the wild. Summons were issued and the turtles were confiscated.

CPOs Bickerton, Carmen, Riviello, Garofalo and Lt. Mascio continued to focus on the striped bass season. The CPOs worked the Raritan River and Delaware River during the reporting period. The CPOs utilized several boat patrols to inspect individuals fishing from land and boats. A total of twelve 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.

CPO Carman investigated an encroachment complaint at Colliers Mills WMA. An adjacent neighbor hired a contractor to clear a section of the WMA because the trees were dead. CPO Carman is currently working with Lands Management to develop a replanting plan that the homeowner will be obligated to implement in addition to any penalties he is charged with.

CPO Garofalo and Lt. Mascio patrolled several lakes in Mercer and Burlington. During a two-day period, the CPOs inspected approximately fifty individuals. A total of twenty-three illegal fishing violations were issued. Violations included litter/dumping while fishing, no fishing license, closed season largemouth bass and possession of undersized largemouth bass.

CPO Bickerton performed his first inspection of a turkey hunter on the opening day of the spring turkey hunting season. The hunter was illegally hunting turkey with a firearm over bait. The hunter had placed corn in a feeder as an attractant and was hunting within fifteen yards of the corn. The appropriate summons was issued.

During this reporting period, CPOs Riviello, Garofalo, Bickerton, Carmen and Mutone focused on the illegal ATV use in Colliers Mills and Greenwood Wildlife Management Areas. The CPOs issued twenty-nine summonses for WMA violations. Violations included entering a WMA after legal hours, building/maintaining a fire, unregistered dirt bikes/ ATVs, entering a restricted area, operate an ATV on a WMA, and operating a vehicle/ ATV off the established roadway.

CPO Bickerton assisted NJ's Endangered and Non-Game program with the banding of immature eagles at a nest in Somerset County.

### Southern Region Highlights

CPO Faith received a call from a Vineland Police Officer in reference to an illegally shot Canada Goose. CPOs Faith, Kille, and Bahrle responded to a wooded area adjacent to a pond where the PD's K-9 unit had just apprehended two men. Both men had been fishing at the pond. One of the men went back to his residence and brought back a recently purchased shotgun to show the other man. When he returned to the pond, the man shot a goose and put it in a trash bag. A neighbor from one of the many close houses immediately came out and confronted the two, who quickly fled across a road and hid until located by the K-9. Both men were arrested and transported to the PD where they were charged for fishing without a license. The individual that shot the goose was also charged with violating regulatory provisions relating to firearms, hunting without a license, discharging a firearm within 450 feet of a residence, careless discharge, hunt waterfowl without a state and federal stamp, hunt waterfowl during the closed season and hunt waterfowl with lead shot.

CPO Kille inspected two fishermen along the Delaware River in West Deptford, Gloucester County. One fisherman received four summonses including taking two striped bass during the closed season, one striped bass over the limit, two striped bass under legal size and interference with the duties of a Conservation police Officer.

CPO Stites inspected seven fishermen on the Salem River in Mannington, Salem County. Summonses for fishing without a license, possession of large-mouth bass during closed season, and use of illegal nets in fresh water were issued.

CPO Stites assisted with the transfer of an injured (grounded) bald eagle from the Dix WMA to Tri-State Bird Rescue for rehabilitation.

With the onset of the warm weather, officers in the southern region have started seeing an increase in illegal vehicle use on the region WMAs. A total of thirty summonses were issued for illegal vehicle usage/off the established road as well as summonses for possession of alcohol, damage to vegetation and interference with the duties of a Conservation Police Officer.

Officers from the Southern Region attended four hunter education classes during the report period.

### Marine Region Highlights

In early May, CPOs Capri and Meyer conducted a vessel patrol in Barnegat Bay and the mouth of the Gunning River specifically looking for fyke nets that had not been removed after the season had ended. The commercial fyke net season closed April 29<sup>th</sup> and all nets are required to be removed from the water prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>. CPOs Meyer and Capri located a total of eight fyke nets which appeared heavily neglected and contained multiple dead and dying fish. The fisherman was later identified and charged with multiple counts of utilizing a fyke net during the closed season, failure to properly mark fyke net stakes, and failure to mark fyke nets with identification.

Prior to the opening of the summer flounder season CPO Capri conducted a vessel patrol in Barnegat Bay in response to a complaint of unmarked miniature fykes. After investigating the miniature fykes, CPO Capri observed a small vessel in the area which appeared to be targeting summer flounder. CPO Capri conducted an inspection of the two individuals on board the vessel and located fourteen closed season summer flounder, thirteen of which were under the minimum size of 18 inches. Appropriate summonses were issued to the individuals for possession of summer flounder during the closed season and possession of undersized summer flounder.

Nice weather and calm seas resulted in a high level of recreational fishing activity for the black sea bass season opening weekend. CPOs Meyer, Capri and Szelc conducted extended vessel patrols in Barnegat Light Inlet and Absecon Inlet for vessels returning from the ocean. CPOs Meyer and Capri conducted an inspection of an inbound charter fishing vessel and located thirty-five black sea bass over the five-man, fifty fish, limit. In total, the two patrols resulted in thirteen summonses ranging from undersized/over the limit black sea bass to closed season tautog. Additionally, CPOs Meyer and Szelc inspected a charter vessel returning from a black sea bass trip which revealed the vessel did not possess the required federal party/charter black sea permit. The case was referred to NMFS for further enforcement action.

After a Cape May based commercial Atlantic sea scallop vessel packed out its catch in late April, CPO Brian Tomlin boarded the vessel and found small quantities of scallops, monkfish tails, summer flounder and sea snails remaining on board. The remaining species were undeclared on the Fishing Vessel Trip Report required to be completed with all species on board. The case was referred to NMFS for possible Federal enforcement action.

During offshore gear patrols with the Bureau's P/V Integrity the last couple of months, CPOs documented and referred numerous Federal gear violations. The violations included failure to comply with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan requirements, failure to mark/identify gillnet and trap gear, abandonment of lobster gear in lobster management area (LMA) 4 during the LMA 4 closed season, unlawful commercial fish traps inside a special management zone and deployment of lobster

traps without Federal lobster trap tags. The Federal cases were referred to NMFS for possible Federal enforcement action.

### Training Unit Highlights

The Training Unit conducted a Law Enforcement Handling of Black Bear Complaints course hosted by Hopatcong Police Department. 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. Officers from Hardyston PD, and Vernon PD attended as well.

The Training Unit assisted Division of Criminal Justice with their firearms week portion of training during the Basic Investigator Class put on by the Division of Criminal Justice.

The Training Unit assisted Gloucester County Police Academy with their basic firearms instruction week.