

**NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Monthly Highlights
Bureau of Law Enforcement
December 21, 2021- January 20, 2022**

Frank Panico, Chief
Jason Snellbaker, Deputy Chief
L. Anne Quirk, Captain – Administration
Tom O'Rourke, Lieutenant - Training
Joseph Soell, Lieutenant – 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 4792.4 hours of duty (5772.8 - 2021). These hours are charged to the following categories of duty:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total Law Enforcement	3320.2	4308.2
Fishing	87	91.1
Marine Resources	767	961.1
Hunting	618	503.8
Deer Hunting	844.7	1541.7
Trapping	52	92.8
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	167.2	253.9
NG & Endangered Species	10.8	12.1
Court	32.9	43.1
Regional Meetings	0	0
Pollution Investigation	12	32.2
Training	499.9	429.6
Other Law Enforcement	228.7	346.8
Administration	1434.9	1416.6
Fish Management	2.2	0
Wildlife Management	33.2	48
Information & Education	1.9	0
Bear Control	13	0.8

Bear Patrol and Investigation

5.5

0

During patrols, officers performed 1502 field inspections (2129 -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	36	32	33	8	0	109	181
Criminal Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings issued	5	0	0	3	0	8	20
Bear Feeding Warnings	1	0	0	0	0	1	1

Field Inspections by Region

Administration	0
Northern Region	549
Central Region	274
Southern Region	406
Marine Region	273
Total	1,502

Field Inspections by Activity:

Hunters	916
Freshwater Anglers	178
Trappers	18
Commercial Fishermen	26
Marine Rec. Anglers	171
WMA non-hunting/fishing	160
Other	33

Listed below are the types of summonses issued:

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Adm.</u>
Fishing	5	0	0	0	0
Hunting	3	10	7	6	0
Waterfowl Hunting	0	9	0	0	0
Deer Hunting	26	12	19	0	0
Trapping	0	0	0	0	0
WMA	2	0	0	0	0
Striped Bass	0	0	0	0	0
Shellfish	0	0	0	0	0
Title 2C	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Commercial	0	0	0	0	0
Marine-Recreational	0	1	0	0	0
Nongame & Exotic	0	0	0	0	0
Title 58	0	0	0	0	0
Title 39	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	7	0	0
Bear Hunting	0	0	0	0	0
Bear Feeding	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Striped Bass	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	36	32	33	8	0

Penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Police Officers: \$63,233.50

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

North	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Central	233
South	* numbers not reported due to office closure
Marine	115

Total calls received: 348

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

Administration - 5

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

Northern Region – 10

1 CPO III
2 CPO IIs
7 CPO Is

Central Region - 9

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

Southern Region - 12

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

Marine Region - 15

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

Total Employees: 51

Northern Region Highlights

On 01/10/2022, CPOs A. Sutton and Merritt investigated a tip that they received about a hunter illegally harvesting an antlered deer in Fairfield Twp., Essex County. They responded to a local butcher shop to inspect the deer. Their investigation determined that the deer had been harvested with a firearm and that the deer had been registered with a winter bow buck tag. They interviewed the suspect, who admitted to harvesting the deer with a shotgun and registering it on his bow tag. Summonses were issued for hunt/take deer during permit shotgun season without a valid permit and falsely registering a deer.

On 01/13/2022, CPO A. Sutton received information about a deer that was illegally harvested in Denville Twp., Morris County. Through his investigation it was determined that the suspect harvested a deer using a .22 caliber rifle. Summonses were issued for hunt deer with a rifle, illegal missile for taking deer, failure to properly tag a deer and failure to properly register a deer.

CPO Paey received a complaint of vultures being shot in the town of Dover, Morris County. The complainant stated that he had located multiple dead turkey vultures on his property between mid-December 2021, and mid-January 2022, along with one live vulture which was incapable of flying. The live vulture was brought to The Raptor Trust in Millington for treatment but was later euthanized

due to the severity of the injuries. The Raptor Trust provided CPO Paey with an x-ray of the vulture which showed a projectile lodged in its upper torso consistent with an air rifle pellet. CPO Paey went to the location the vultures had been found and determined that the shots most likely came from a particular residence. CPO Paey interviewed the owner of the residence and the owner fully admitted to shooting vultures. Appropriate summonses were issued.

Central Region Highlights

Lt. McManus and CPO Klitz conducted an outreach program for Brick Memorial HOFNOD Fishing Club. The program covered a brief history of Conservation Police Officers, daily patrol routines, and fresh water and marine fishing regulations.

During the report period, CPOs Riviello, Garofalo and Lt. Mascio have been focusing on the fields and waterways for waterfowl hunting. The CPOs have utilized several different boats and surveillance techniques. During this period summonses were issued for hunting waterfowl without a hunting license, hunting waterfowl without a valid HIP number, hunting with a firearm capable of holding more than 3 rounds, hunting waterfowl after legal hunting times, hunting waterfowl without a Federal Duck Stamp, and hunting waterfowl on a Sunday.

CPO Riviello worked for several weeks on a hunter harassment complaint. The hunter was having several issues with the suspect who had destroyed his tree stand, camera, and placed a substance on his bait pile. With the help of the hunter and other surveillance techniques, CPO Riviello was able to gather enough evidence to build a solid case. The suspect was charged with several counts of hunter harassment including engaging in the theft of property, destruction/altering the condition of real property, and placing a scent (gasoline) to deter the legal taking of wildlife.

Lt. Mascio and CPO Garofalo worked several islands and the shoreline of the Delaware River during the deer season. While working on one of the islands, the CPOs observed an active deer drive. Upon inspection the hunters had contradictory statements pertaining to how many deer were harvested. A search of the area lead to the discovery of a buck. The following summonses were issued; did interfere with the duties of a conservation police officer, did harvest an antlered deer without an antlered deer tag, did hunt without the required shotgun zone permit, did fail to tag immediately upon harvest, did hunt with a firearm without the required hunter's orange. The deer was seized and donated to Hunters Helping The Hungry.



CPO Garofalo on the Delaware River with an illegally harvested buck

Southern Region Highlights

CPOs 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 observed two deer inside of a fenced portion of the farm, which were attempting to get out by following the inside of the fence. The individual retrieved a shotgun, hid behind some farm equipment, and 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.

Marine Region Highlights

On January 19th, while patrolling the bay shore in Stafford Twp., Ocean County, CPO Capri observed an individual sitting in a vehicle parked at a marina. As CPO Capri approached the vehicle, he observed the individual retrieve a shotgun from the passenger side and point it out the driver's side window. The individual fired three shots from the vehicle at a flock of geese on the adjacent grass. CPO Capri immediately apprehended the individual, seized the firearm, and collected the spent

shells. The individual was issued summonses for hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, possession of an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, failing to possess a valid hunting license, and taking a migratory bird from a motor vehicle. The case is set to be heard in municipal court in February.

Training Unit Highlights

The Training Unit conducted winter qualifications statewide. The qualification consisted of day/night qualifications. The lecture portion was focused on the new definitions in the Use of Force policy as well as a low light update and case law discussion as it pertains to use force issues.