

# **DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Blotter: Aug. 26 – Sept. 1**

*Reminder for the week: Public urged to report violations of hunting and wildlife regulations using a variety of reporting options*

**DOVER** – To achieve public compliance with laws and regulations through education and enforcement actions that help conserve Delaware's fish and wildlife resources and ensure safe boating and public safety, DNREC's Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers between Aug. 26 – Sept. 1 made 3,629 contacts with hunters, anglers, boaters, and the general public, issuing 50 citations. Officers responded to 132 complaints regarding possible violations of laws and regulations or requests to assist the public. An increased Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police presence continued at the C&D Canal Conservation Area and Michael N. Castle Trail.

## **Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Actions**

- On Aug. 29, Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers responded to a report of a vessel accident involving a 31' Chris Craft that had struck the Pea Patch Island Jetty on the Delaware River. While there were no injuries, the vessel sustained significant damage to the hull and was towed off of the jetty by a commercial tow service. The operator was cited for one count of failure to maintain a proper lookout.

Citations issued by category, with the number of charges in parentheses, included:

**Fisheries Conservation: Recreational:** Possession of undersized white perch (2), possession of undersized striped bass (1), possession of undersized tautog (1), possession of a undersized flounder (1), possession of undersized blue crabs (1), use of crab pots without required turtle excluder (2), improperly marked crab pot (1), over-the-limit crab pots (1), trespass to fish (1), no Fisherman Information Network (FIN) number (2), and unlicensed fishing (5)\*.

**Boating & Boating Safety:** No life jacket on a child age 12 or younger as required by law (12), operating a vessel with insufficient number of life jackets (4), failure to maintain a proper lookout (1), failure to observe slow no wake (2), negligent operation of a motor vessel (1), no sound producing device on board (1), no boating safety certificate (3), failure to have boating safety certificate in possession (2), and operating an unregistered vessel (1).

**Public Safety:** Possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle (1), improper lane change (1), and clamming in a prohibited area (1).

**Other:** Trespassing after hours on a state wildlife area (1)\* and excessive noise from a motor vehicle on a state wildlife area (1)\*.

*\*Includes citation(s) issued at the C&D Canal Conservation Area*

### **Are you AWARE?**

Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police encourage the public to report violations of Delaware's hunting and wildlife laws and regulations through Operation Game Theft (OGT), a fund established in 1980 by the Delaware General Assembly to assist in the apprehension and conviction of game law violators. Funded with fines collected for violation of game laws in Delaware and with donations from various sources, OGT provides cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the

arrest and conviction of persons involved in game law violations. The identity of those providing information is kept confidential.

Reporting method options are:

- Operation Game Theft 24-hour dispatch center 800-292-3030
- Delaware Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police 24-hour dispatch center 800-523-3336
- DENRP Tip app on a smartphone (search "DENRP Tip" to download)
- Online [here](#)
- Verizon customers can connect to Operation Game Theft directly by dialing #OGT

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**Contact:** Sgt. Brooke Mitchell, Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police, 302-739-9913, or 302-382-7167.