

# DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Blotter: Oct. 21-27

*Reminder for the week: Don't forget to winterize your boats*

**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 Oct. 21-27 made 2,028 contacts with hunters, anglers, boaters, and the general public, issuing 13 citations. Officers responded to 49 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 Oct. 27, Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers discussed the role of Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers and reviewed safe hunting practices, hunting laws, and what to expect when checked by an officer in the field with attendees at a Hunter Education Class at the Little Creek Hunter Education Training Center.

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

**Wildlife Conservation:** Hunting over bait on a state wildlife area (6)\*, possession of unlawfully taken game – duck (1)\*, hunting with an unplugged shotgun capable of holding more than

three shells (1), and unlicensed hunting (1)\*.

**Fisheries Conservation: Recreational:** Possession of undersized conch (1) and no Fisherman Information Network (FIN) number (2).

**Boating & Boating Safety:** Operating a vessel with insufficient number of life jackets (1).

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

DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes and thanks the majority of anglers, hunters, and boaters who comply with and support Delaware's fishing, hunting, and boating laws and regulations. The Public are encouraged to report fish, wildlife, and boating violations to the Delaware Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police by calling 302-739-4580 or through the DENRP Tip app on a smartphone, which can be downloaded free of charge by searching "DENRP Tip" via the Google Play Store or the iTunes App Store. Wildlife violations may also be reported anonymously to Operation Game Theft by calling 800-292-3030, going online to <http://de.gov/ogt>, or using the DENRP Tip app. Verizon customers can connect to Operation Game Theft directly by dialing #OGT.

### ***Are you AWARE?***

Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police remind boaters not to forget to winterize their boats. Helpful steps include:

- Replace engine oil and fuel filters
- Flush and drain water lines
- Disconnect batteries
- Stabilize fuel
- Protect internal engine components
- Replace gear oil
- Remove valuables
- Clean and wax
- Cover

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