

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**August 7 – August 13, 2016**

**This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.**



## **Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)**

### **FULTON COUNTY**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown and Cpl. Chad Cox patrolled the Chattahoochee from Jones Bridge to McGinnis Ferry Bridge. The rangers issued citations for fishing w/o license, using unlawful bait in artificial zone, and operating a vessel without a PFD. Several verbal and written warnings were also given.

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown and Cpl. Chad Cox responded to a rescue call on Sweetwater Creek State Park. Due to the remote location, rangers, park employees, and Douglas County EMS loaded the victim that was in cardiac arrest into a basket, and a DNR helicopter flew with the basket to a nearby ambulance. The subject was taken by ambulance to a local hospital to be treated.

## **Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)**

### **HALL COUNTY**

On August 11, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk and RFC Eric Isom, along with his K9 Colt, spoke to the Leadership of Hall County program about the duties of DNR. Cpl. Loudermilk explained underwater search and recovery sonar operations while RFC Isom and K9 Colt did a search demonstration on land.

On August 12, Sgt. Mike Burgamy, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins, and Cpl. Jason Roberson responded to a fatal boat accident on Lake Lanier. It was determined that one person was missing from the boat. The Rangers searched with sonar throughout the night for the missing person. The investigation into the accident and the search for the victim is ongoing.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On August 7, Ranger Beth Gilbert and Cpl. Anne Britt cited seven adults for not having a gorge permit while they accessed the Tallulah Falls Gorge State Park at the Sliding Rock trail.

On August 13, RFC Chad Chambers and Rabun County Deputy Tony Parrish patrolled Lake Burton. The officers encountered eight violations such as creating a wake in a no wake zone, registration violations, vessels being operated without life jackets, children under 13 being allowed to ride without wearing life jackets and one case of two young children being allowed to ride on the bow (front) without a retaining rail.

Ranger Beth Gilbert cited five persons at the Tallulah Gorge State Park for no gorge permit on August 13. The Park did not issue any permits for the day due to high waters on the gorge floor.

On August 13, Ranger Beth Gilbert and Cpl. Anne Britt patrolled Lake Seed by vessel. The officers warned one man for operating a vessel without a throwable device, and operating vessel without registration numbers displayed properly.

### **HARTWELL LAKE**

On August 13, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Tim Vickery patrolled Hartwell Lake for any boating safety/fishing activity. A total of four boats were checked for proper safety equipment. As a result, one warning was issued. The violation consisted of towing a skier with PWC without an observer on board.

## **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

No activity to report.

## **Region IV- Macon (West Central)**

### **BALDWIN COUNTY**

On the afternoon of August 13<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled the Oconee River boat ramps. The officers found trash dumped at one of the ramps and after a short investigation located a suspect and received a confession. The subject received a citation for littering.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford and Cpl. David Allen investigated a boat dumped at a boat ramp on Lake Sinclair. Several people have been interviewed and the incident is still under investigation.

## **Region V- Albany (Southwest)**

### **LAKE WORTH**

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Eric White patrolled the Kinchafoonee Creek portion of Lake Worth to address complaints. The rangers issued several warnings and citations for violating the 100'ft rule and insufficient PFD's.

Shortly after dark, Cpl. Wade saw a vessel with no lights on that was towing subjects on an inner-tube. Contact was made with the operator and he was charged with towing a skier after sunset and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

### **CLAY COUNTY**

On August 9-11 Department of Natural Resources Staff attended a leadership academy at George Bagby State Park. Sergeant Jim Atchley and his staff presented several programs for the group.

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and RFC Keith Page presented a K-9 information and education program at the DNR Leadership Academy class. The rangers talked about the history of the program and K-9 demonstrations were presented in the areas of wildlife detection, obedience, article searches, and apprehension.

## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **CLINCH COUNTY**

On August 7th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and RFC Daniel North responded to US 441 south of Fargo at the request of Tri-County 911. Clinch County deputies had stopped a vehicle believed to be involved in night deer hunting. Upon their arrival, Sgt. Dupree and RFC North conducted brief interviews & learned that five individuals were involved in shooting a deer from the highway near a residence. A loaded 20-gauge shotgun, several high-powered flashlights and several spent shells were found inside the suspect's car. In the trunk of the car was found a wounded 4-point buck that was still alive. Due to the non-survivable buckshot wounds to the deer, it was removed from the trunk and put down. All five passengers of the vehicle were charged with hunting big game from public road, hunting deer at night and hunting from a motor vehicle.



*Five deer poachers arrested in Clinch County.*

## **PIERCE COUNTY**

On the evening of August 13<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Sam Williams responded to a call near Patterson about several subjects running deer with dogs in the area of WPA Road. Upon arrival, RFC Williams encountered five adults and one juvenile in the area of the complaint. After a short investigation, RFC Williams was able to determine that the group was training deer dogs for the upcoming season. The five adults involved were charged with training deer dogs out of season.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto, Sergeant Morty Wood, and Corporal Jason Shipes completed a complaint based investigation into a subject who was taking antlered whitetail bucks on a crop damage permit in Atkinson County. The officers worked on tracking down leads in this case for almost a week by checking fields on the permit, interviewing witnesses, analyzing photos, and eventually interviewing possible suspects. After interviewing the main suspect and along with all other evidence, it was determined that the bucks were in fact killed on a crop damage permit in Ware County off of Swamp Road. One subject was charged with violation of a crop damage permit and another subject was charged with possession of illegally taken wildlife. One of the bucks seized was a main frame nine point and the other was a non-typical seventeen point which should score in the mid 130's.



## **Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**

### **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On Friday, August 12th, 2016 Sgt. Barnard, Sgt. Scott and RFC Toney were conducting a boating patrol in Bryan and Liberty Counties. Several boats and fishermen were checked with no violations. One fisherman, Mr. Brandon Selph of Statesboro, had a great day on the water. He had several trout, Red Drum, and other fish.

### **BRYAN COUNTY**

On Sunday August 7th, 2016 Cpl. Bryson was patrolling Bryan County and checked the Tivoli River fishing pier. There were several people crabbing and catching some blue crabs. Two fishermen were cited for undersized crabs.



## MCINTOSH COUNTY

On Saturday, 8/13/2016, Cpl. Bobby White, RFC Patrick Gibbs, and RFC Jay Bright conducted a JEA patrol offshore Sapelo Island and boarded two shrimp trawlers. Both trawlers were found to be in compliance with TED regulations. The officers came inshore and conducted several vessel checks that resulted in the confiscation of ten undersize weakfish and the arrest of one person for Operating a Vessel under the Influence.



## CAMDEN COUNTY

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Chris Ridley was notified of an overdue commercial crabber. The crabber was usually back at the Jekyll boat ramp before noon and had not returned or could be reached on cell phone. Sgt. Ridley spoke with the fisherman's mother who stated she was concerned because she had never not been able to make contact by cell phone. Sgt. Ridley began searching the areas where the fisherman had traps. RFC's David Brady and Colte Shaske also began searching. Sgt. Ridley was able to find the fisherman and boat in Todd Creek. The fisherman had broken down around 0930 Hrs. that morning and had lost cell phone service. Sgt. Ridley towed the boat back to the Jekyll ramp where RFC Brady was waiting and assisted with loading the boat on the trailer.

On August 12, CPL Kate Hargrove checked vessel returning from offshore to St. Mary's Meeting Street Boat Landing. CPL Hargrove found a minor in possession of Cobia caught out of season. CPL Hargrove spoke with the minor's father and vessel captain and provided information on South Atlantic Marine Fisheries regulations.

#### **BRANTLEY COUNTY**

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, RFC John Evans and Sgt. Chris Ridley assisted Brantley SO with a drowning in Herrin Lake off the Satilla River. The victim's vehicle was at the boat ramp with his wallet and cell phone on the front seat. A search of the area began by boat and RFC Evans and Brantley Search and Rescue were able to locate and recover the body of the victim a short distance from the boat ramp.

#### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On August 13, RFC David Brady conducted a patrol of Village Creek. While checking numerous fishing vessels in the area Brady made contact with a vessel that had a total of 23 undersize fish from Village Creek. The three men were charged with possession of undersize fish and operating a vessel without PFD's.