

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**September 11 – September 17, 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)**

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Derek Dillard, RFC Bart Hendrix and RFC Zack Hardy responded to a missing person call on Allatoona Lake. A PWC was found floating near Harbor Town Marina. The owner of the PWC a 48 year old female was missing. Immediate search and rescue efforts began by DNR LED and the Cherokee County SO and Fire/ Rescue. The search continued through the night. The following morning Cpl.'s Byron Young and Lee Burns arrived and began side scan sonar operations. Both DNR and GSP Aviation searched the lake. At approximately 1:30 p.m. the deceased victim was located in the water.

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

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park. While he patrolled the beach area, he made contact with four subjects who were found to be in possession of marijuana, and alcoholic beverages. Ranger Kernahan issued citations for the violations.

### **UNION COUNTY**

On September 17, Sgt. Steve Seitz patrolled Coopers Creek WMA in the morning for hunting and fishing activity. Sgt. Seitz checked twelve fishermen and issued four citations and four warnings for fishing without licenses and fishing without trout licenses.

### **WHITE COUNTY**

On September 15, Cpl. Anne Britt received information from Wildlife Technician IV Scott Bardenwerper around 11:00am that a vehicle was illegally parked on the Buck Shoals WMA gate located off Duncan Bridge Rd. At approximately 4:30 pm, Cpl. Britt checked two fishermen walking out towards the parked vehicle. Both adult males had valid fishing licenses. One male was in possession of two empty alcoholic beverages. Cpl. Britt warned the male for consuming alcoholic beverages on the WMA and told them about the new parking area located off River Rd.

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

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On September 17<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson checked several locations that were known to be baited for deer. One case of hunting big game over bait was documented.

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

### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup>, RFC Ronnie Beard patrolled the Perry Dove Fields. A hunter was located hunting doves on a closed WMA and a warning was issued.

### **JONES COUNTY**

On the afternoon of September 16<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jeremy Reese and Cpl. Bubba Stanford began a poaching investigation with several possible violations. Search warrants were utilized and the investigation is ongoing at this time.

### **MUSCOGEE COUNTY**

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen performed a television interview for GPTV, discussing the departments K-9 unit. K-9 Ruger was filmed locating and retrieving a shotgun and a dove which were hid in the wood line. Cpl. Brooks Varnell was also interviewed about the extensive training that the K-9's are put through. Sgt. Jim Bradfield who volunteered to play as the hunter, hid his gun for K-9 Ruger to find.

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

No activity to report

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

### **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Jason Miller closed a 4 month investigation concerning an illegal tire dump of an estimated 1,000 tractor trailer tires, located near Nevils-Groveland Rd. After numerous interviews, RFC Miller and Corporal Shaymus McNeely took felony warrants on the primary suspect. Bulloch County Code Enforcement and GA. EPD will be continue with the case for the clean-up.



### **DODGE COUNTY**

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted a night time patrol at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area in reference to alligator hunting. Three vessels were inspected for safety equipment and seven hunters were checked for license and regulation compliance. No violations were detected.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On September 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 a.m. Corporal Dan Stiles responded to a lost person report. The individual was located approximately two miles from his residence. The victim stated that he had gone fishing and became disorientated in the darkness after encountering a group of feral hogs.

## **COFFEE COUNTY**

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto completed a complaint based investigation on a subject who killed an eight point buck at night on September 10<sup>th</sup>. After interviewing witnesses and gathering evidence one subject was charged with hunting deer at night. One eight point buck and a cooler of deer meat was confiscated.



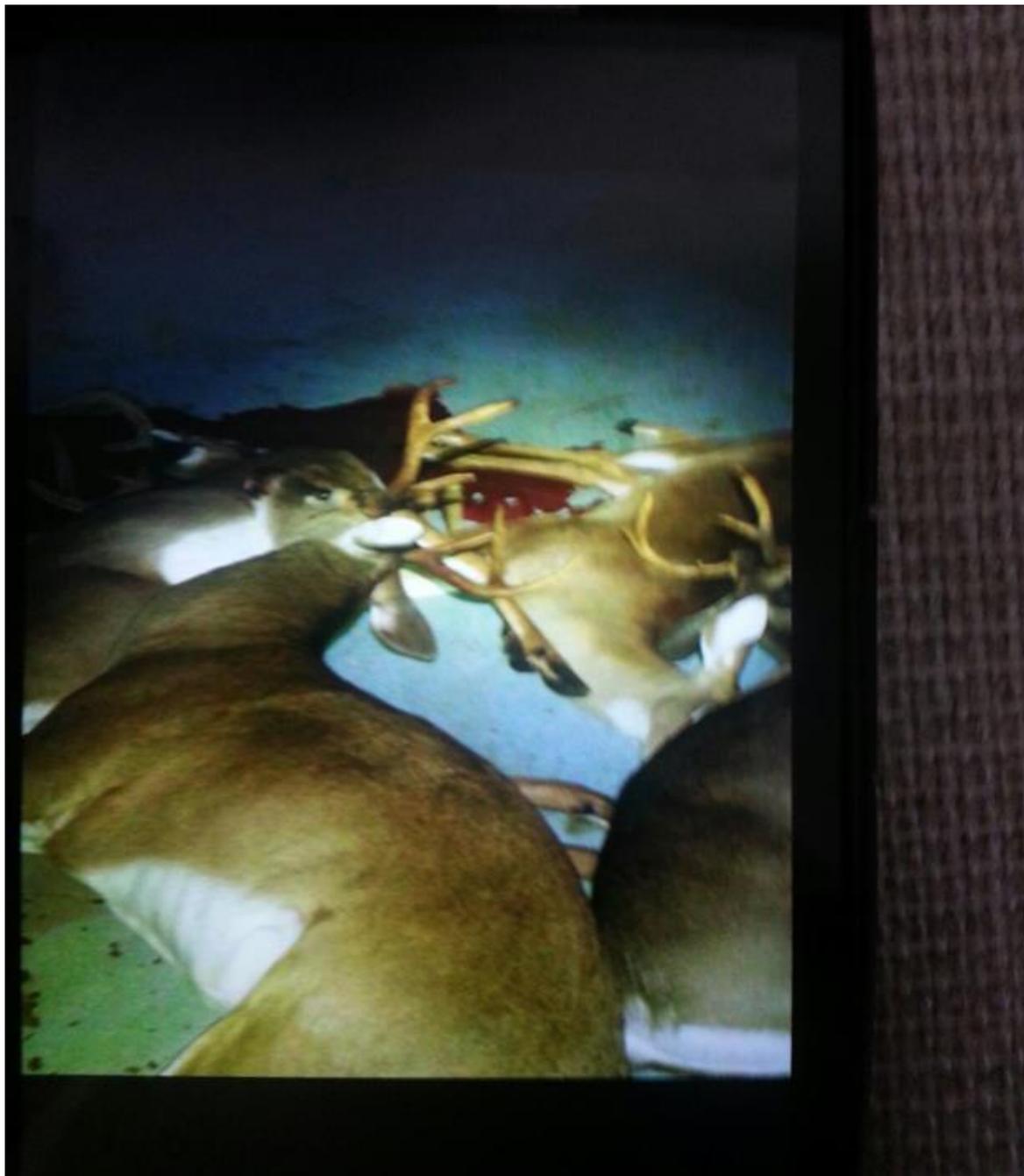
*September 11 Atkinson County Buck on Top  
September 12 Coffee County Buck on Bottom*

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto worked a complaint based investigation into a subject who was thought to be hunting deer and rabbits at night. At around 11:00 p.m., Corporal Hutto made contact with the subject at a camper in a wooded area behind the Douglas Municipal Airport. While interviewing the suspect, Corporal Hutto noticed the hides of several freshly skinned rabbits. Corporal Hutto also noticed that the subject seemed to be under the influence of some type of illegal drug. After finding a methamphetamine pipe, a small amount of marijuana, and a bag of crystal methamphetamine, Corporal Hutto called the Coffee County Sheriff's Department Drug Task Force. A further search of the area revealed that the camper could in fact be a methamphetamine cooking site. The subject was arrested and the case was turned over to the Coffee County Sheriff's Department. One violation was documented by Corporal Hutto of hunting rabbits out of season.

## **ATKINSON COUNTY**

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Sergeant Morty Wood completed a two week investigation on a subject that killed a seven point buck on a crop damage permit in Axson. One subject was charged with possession of illegally taken wildlife and one subject was charged with violation of a deer kill permit. One seven point buck in velvet was also confiscated.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto finished an investigation on a subject in Pearson who was illegally taking antlered bucks on a crop damage permit. Corporal Hutto located a picture of numerous bucks that were killed in one night on the permit and dropped off at a local deer processor in Axson, Georgia. The subject was charged with violation of a deer kill permit and the local deer processor was charged with possession of illegally taken wildlife.



*Photo Taken at Illegal Deer Processor in Axson, Georgia*

#### **APPLING COUNTY**

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Jon Barnard, Corporal Kevin Joyce, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel, and Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders patrolled different areas of the county for possible dove hunting activity. Multiple fields were checked and a violation was documented for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders was checking creel limits on the Altamaha River and spoke with two individuals who had a successful day of mullet fishing.



On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders received a complaint about a possible baited dove field. Sanders traveled to the complaint location and upon arrival located the baited area. The field owner was contacted, and the field was posted for no hunting.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders was contacted by an Investigator from the Baxley Police Department in reference to an alligator head and hide behind a residence of an individual they were investigating. After arriving at the location RFC Sanders talked with the individual involved and subsequently charged one individual with illegal possession of an alligator or parts thereof. The head and hide were confiscated.



## **EVANS COUNTY**

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel and Corporal Kevin Joyce patrolled an area on Deer Run Circle Rd in an effort to check dove hunting activity. Many hunters were checked and one violation for hunting without a license was addressed.

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Jon Barnard responded to a complaint of hunting without permission. Upon Sgt. Barnard's arrival he met with the land manager who was standing by with the offender. The offender stated he used to hunt the lease and was told by the land manager not to hunt and to have all his property removed by hunting season. The offender also said he had one stand left and decided since he was getting the stand he would hunt. Sgt. Barnard then met with the new lease holders who promptly filled out a request for prosecution. The offender was cited for hunting without permission and the lease holders were given a landowner affidavit.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Jon Barnard and Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders were patrolling Evans County PFA, when they received a complaint of a missing 7 year old female from the camp ground. The child's parents stated that a white male who was in his mid-twenties, who was a friend of a friend of the family left to go to the store. That the child had asked to go to the store and was told no. That the child was noticed missing and one of the other children stated she went with the man. The friend who brought the man to the PFA tried calling his friend repeatedly for over two hours without an answer. Evans County Sheriff's Department was notified and came to the scene. The suspect's cell phone was pinged by Evans 911 and Evans County Deputies were able to locate him on a secluded county road in eastern Evans Co. with the child. The suspect was intoxicated and was arrested for DUI. The child was unharmed and returned to her family.

## **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders was patrolling Bullard Creek WMA when two UTV's and one vehicle were found to be driving on non-improved roads and were charged accordingly.

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

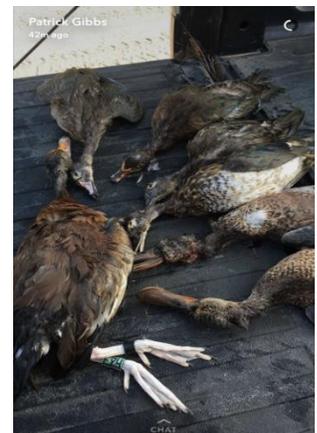
On September 10<sup>th</sup>, CPL John Evans was patrolling Paulk's Pasture WMA. He checked a baited area on the WMA and found two archery hunters over bait. After investigating further Evans found that both men were nonresidents hunting with resident licenses. Both were charged with Hunting big game over bait, Nonresident hunting with resident license, and placing bait on a WMA.

Later on Saturday, while patrolling the Altamaha River around Champney boat ramp, CPL Evans encountered two alligator hunters who had not purchased the alligator hunting license. They were also operating a vessel without lights and had two undersized fish they had caught earlier in the day. Both were charged for hunting without the alligator license. The operator was charged for the light violation and the undersized fish.

On September 12, RFC David Brady and CPL Kate Hargrove conducted a TED boarding detail offshore of Jekyll and St. Simons Islands. Three shrimp trawlers were boarded with no violations noted.

### **MCINTOSH COUNTY**

On September 10, 2016, Cpl. Randy Aspinwall, RFC Patrick Gibbs, and RFC David Brady worked the early Teal season on Altamaha WMA. Through surveillance and aggressive enforcement the Rangers documented 18 violations and confiscated illegally taken Wood Ducks, Shovelers, Whistling Ducks, and a Wood Stork.



## **WAYNE COUNTY**

On September 10, 2016, Cpl. Bobby White worked an investigation about an alligator that was taken out of season. After interviewing the suspect Cpl. White obtained an admission of guilt and charged the suspect with hunting alligators out of season.

## **LONG COUNTY**

On September 11, 2016, Cpl. Randy Aspinwall and Cpl. Bobby White worked an illegal fish shocking complaint at Morgan Lake. The Rangers contacted the individuals at the landing and confiscated approximately 60lbs of catfish. It was determined the suspects discarded the shocking device in the river.

