

MEDIA STATEMENT



LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Law Enforcement Off The Pavement

Contact:

Mark McKinnon, Public Affairs Officer Office: (706) 557-3106 Cell: (404) 387-7780

mark.mckinnon@dnr.ga.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2019

Charges Filed by GA DNR Game Wardens in Fatal Camden County Boat Incident

CAMDEN COUNTY, Ga. – At approximately 10:30 p.m. on June 22nd, Georgia Game Wardens responded to a boating incident in the Hell's Gate area of the Satilla River in Camden County. Upon arrival, they learned that a bass boat had collided with a small aluminum Jon boat while taking part in the Flathead Catfish Tournament. A passenger in the Jon boat, Sonny Lewis, 31, of Berrien County, was knocked into the river. After a thorough search utilizing sonar-equipped boats and the DNR Aviation Unit, Lewis' body was located and recovered by the Game Wardens on June 24th and turned over to the Camden County Coroner. No injuries were reported from other occupants of either vessel involved in the collision.

On Thursday, July 18th, Georgia DNR Game Wardens charged Robbie McInvale, 31, of Folkston, GA with Homicide by Vessel, Reckless Operation of Vessel, Boating Under the Influence, and Party to Crime. They also charged Nicholas Seyler, 19, also of Folkston, with Providing False Statements.

GA DNR Law Enforcement's Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT) is investigating the incident and additional charges are possible. More information will be available when the investigation is complete.

###

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division is committed to conserving our natural resources and protecting the people we serve through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement.

TRUST, FAIRNESS, PROFESSIONALISM.