

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**May 15 – May 21, 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)**

No activity to report.

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

### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On May 14, RFC Joe Hill and RFC Brandon Pierce, US Forest Service LEO's Derrick Breedlove and Jeff Angel patrolled Lake Russell WMA in Habersham County. The officers issued citations for driving on a suspended license, underage possession of alcohol, and driving in unauthorized areas of a WMA. They also issued warnings for seat belt violations, violation of USFS rules on a WMA during this patrol.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On May 13, Cpl. Anne Britt and Ranger Beth Gilbert participated with GA Power, the Lake Burton Homeowners Association, and several volunteers with the annual Lake Burton litter clean-up of the lake.

On May 14, Ranger Beth Gilbert patrolled Tallulah Gorge State Park and issued citations to two adult males for consuming alcohol on a state park in the day use area adjacent to the beach at the park. She also issued a citation to an adult female for entering a posted closed area of a park. The woman and her minor daughter were swimming at the closed park beach while her husband was holding their infant daughter and taking photographs of his wife and daughter behind the "Closed" sign.

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

### **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On May 21, Cpl. Payne patrolled Richmond County for fishing and boating activity. He checked several fishing licenses at creeks and the Lock and Dam Park on the Savannah River. No violations were detected and fishing was not optimal due to high water levels. He conducted a hull identification number check on a boat in south Richmond County, patrolled Phinizy and Spirit Creek WMA's.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

On May 18 Cpl. Adams wrapped up a three week investigation. Three subjects were caught using numerous fish baskets in the Ogeechee River. Appropriate charges were issued to all three subjects.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On Friday May 20, CPL Julian Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Lake Russell boat ramps for boating and fishing activity. During the patrol a subject was observed using a cast net to catch herring and bream. The subject had both species of fish in a cooler, located in the back of his vehicle. Violations documented were taking game fish by illegal methods.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

May 19 - 21, Ranger Dan Schay was patrolling Newton County for fishing activity and fishing without a license and fishing without permission violations were documented.

On Sunday, May 22, RFC Richard Tanner and RGR Dan Schay patrolled Lake Varner by vessel. During the patrol, the Rangers came across numerous violations. Several individuals were cited for: Operating vessel without PFD, Operating vessel with insufficient PFD, and fishing without a license.

On Sunday, May 22, RFC Richard Tanner and RGR Dan Schay patrolled Newton County checking for fishing activity. While checking one local fishing spot, they encountered an individual in possession of Marijuana. The suspect was charged with Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act as well as fishing without a fishing license.

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

### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Robert Stilwell patrolled Oakey Woods WMA as well as Flat Creek PFA. Numerous fishermen were checked and no violations were detected.

### **JONES COUNTY**

On the afternoon of May 15<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jeremy Reese patrolled the Juliette Dam and Piedmont NWR. Several fishermen were checked and no violations were detected.

### **LAKE SINCLAIR /OCONEE**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, DNR LED Region's III and IV, local law enforcement and Georgia Power met for their annual Lake's meeting. Ongoing issues and concerns were addressed as well as the prior year's enforcement was discussed.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford met with court officials in reference to boating enforcement issues on Lake Sinclair for the upcoming boating season.

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

### **LAKE CHEHAW**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Eric White were on a boating safety patrol when they witnessed a subject riding the gunwale of a vessel. The officers stopped the vessel to discuss the infraction with the operator and to inspect the required safety equipment. While doing so, the officers' became aware of possible intoxication of the operator, who was eventually arrested for BUI, multiple PFD violations, child endangerment, and allowing a person to ride on the bow or gunwale.

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

### **BEN HILL**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Corporal John A Stokes documented one violation of fishing without a license on Otter Creek, off Old River Road.

### **WHEELER COUNTY**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Sergeant James McLaughlin conducted a vessel patrol at the Little Ocmulgee State Park. Two vessels were checked for registration and boating safety equipment and four anglers were checked for license and creel limit compliance. No violations were detected.

### **EVANS COUNTY**

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen checked fishing and boating activity on the Evans County Public Fishing Area. One violation was documented for fishing without a WMA stamp on a PFA.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen patrolled the Evans County Public Fishing Area. A total of 10 fishing licenses were checked resulting in violations for fishing without licenses and fishing without a WMA stamp on a PFA were documented.

### **APPLING COUNTY**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen and Sergeant Jon Barnard patrolled the Altamaha River. Numerous vessels and licenses were checked. Violations for operating a vessel without a registration and towing a skier with a PWC without an observer on board were documented.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Ranger Bobby Sanders and Corporal Kevin Joyce patrolled the Oconee River for boating and fishing activity. Several vessels and individuals were checked. Violations were documented for fishing without a license, and towing a skier without a PFD.

## **CLINCH COUNTY**

On May 20th, Ranger Judd Sears responded to a boating accident at the Griffis' Camp landing on the Suwannee River. Two fisherman were in a vessel not far from the landing when the boat operator realized his passenger was having a low blood sugar issue. These fisherman immediately went back to the landing. Upon arriving at the landing, the individual that was having the medical issue passed out and fell out of the boat and into the water. The boat operator was able to drag him to the bank and he ran and had someone call for help. Clinch County EMS responded to the scene and transported him to Clinch Memorial Hospital. Ranger Sears spoke with the individual the next day and he was in good condition and expected to fully recover.

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On May 15, RFC David Brady and Cpl. Kate Hargrove responded to a report of an overturned boat approximately 14 miles offshore of St. Simons Island. While conducting the search, RFC Jay Bright, Sgt. Damon Winters and RFC Mark Day responded and began searching from the North. A US Coast Guard helicopter was able to locate the overturned vessel and rescue one occupant from the seas. Georgia DNR Law Enforcement personnel continued to assist the Coast Guard search for the other occupant until the vessel was recovered from offshore and Coast Guard discontinued the search. This incident is being investigated by the US Coast Guard.

