



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report August 19 – August 25, 2018

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- Acworth (Northwest)

No activity to report.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On August 24th, GWFC Chris Kernahan conducted a State Park patrol at Fort Yargo. While on patrol, he made contact with multiple non-residents who were fishing without licenses, and fishing by illegal methods. Additionally, GWFC Kernahan found multiple other subjects operating vessels without registration, and illegally in possession of alcohol. The violations were addressed.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On August 19th CPL Julian Wilkins and GWFC Tim Butler patrolled the county for fishing and boating activity. Violations addressed during the patrol were failure to obey a regulatory marker, violation of the 100 foot rule, and allowing a passenger to ride over the gunwale of a boat. Additionally, one person was arrested for driving on a suspended license after the game wardens initiated a vehicle stop for excessive speed at Richard B. Russell State Park.

NEWTON COUNTY

On August 24th, GWFC Schay patrolled Newton County for fishing activity. During this patrol several violations of fishing without a license were documented.

LAKE OCONEE

On August 25 and 26th, SGT Gartright, CPL Worth, and GWFC Schay, patrolled Lake Oconee for boating activity. During these patrols, violations of allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD were documented. CPL Worth and GWFC Schay responded to a drowning incident and worked to recover the victim along with Greene County Fire and Sheriff's Office. SGT Gartright responded to a boat incident as well.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

BROOKS COUNTY

On the afternoon of August 19th, Cpl. Greg Wade was patrolling river access points along the Little River in Brooks County. While speaking with several subjects sitting in an SUV, Cpl. Wade smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. When asked if they had anything illegal in their possession, the driver handed Cpl. Wade a glass bottle containing marijuana. While questioning the passengers, it was discovered that two of them were in possession of alcohol (underage). The fourth subject was a juvenile and claimed he had not consumed any illegal substances. The driver was arrested and charged with VGCSA and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Both passengers were charged with underage possession of alcohol.

The following day while entering the juveniles' information for reporting purposes, it was discovered that he was a missing person (runaway) from Bay County Florida. After confirming to missing person status to be true, Cpl. Wade went to the suspect's residence and located the juvenile. He was then turned over to Colquitt County Sheriff's Office for transport to Bay County Florida.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BULLOCH COUNTY

On August 23rd, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller was patrolling the Oliver Bridge WMA. GWFC Miller was attempting to locate two vehicles that were thought to be involved in unlawful dumping near the GA Highway 24 boat ramp. While trying to locate the suspects, GWFC Miller came across a suspicious truck that had a male driver and a female passenger inside. GWFC Miller ran the tag to determine who the registered owner was. The tag came back a completely different vehicle and the registered owner had warrants from the adjacent county. GWFC Miller questioned the individuals and determined that they had nothing to do with the unlawful dumping violations that he was previously investigating. The driver was cited for “driving while unlicensed” and “improper tag” on the vehicle. The passenger was placed under arrest for the warrant and transported to the Bulloch County Jail. GWFC Miller allowed the driver to call someone to get the vehicle and avoid a tow bill.

JENKINS COUNTY

On August 25th, Corporal Mike Wilcox was patrolling Jenkins County and checked several people fishing in Buckhead Creek. While Cpl. Wilcox was checking the licenses of the fisherman, one individual stated that he did not have a fishing license because he had not paid child support. Cpl. Wilcox documented the violation of fishing while privileges are suspended.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On August 25th, Game Warden Joseph Cowart and Game Warden First Class Sam Williams were conducting an area check at the Burnt Fort Boat Landing on the Satilla River. The officers observed two subjects in kayaks approaching the boat ramp. The officers checked the boaters to ensure that they were in possession of the required personal flotation devices (PFD's). The officers discovered that one of the boaters did not possess the required PFD's. A violation for operating a vessel without Coast Guard approved PFD's was documented.

WILCOX COUNTY

On August 25th, Game Wardens Dan Stiles, Allen Mills, and Rodney Horne conducted a night vessel patrol on the Ocmulgee River for alligator hunting and fishing activity. Two alligator hunters were checked for license and equipment compliance and their vessel was checked for registration and safety equipment. One additional vessel engaged in removing logs from the river was checked for vessel registration and safety equipment. No violations were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Saturday August 25, 2018, RFC Morris and Sgt. Scott investigated a dumping complaint that RFC Morris had taken earlier in the week. There were two separate dump sites investigated. After a brief investigation into the first site, a man was charged for dumping several bags of household garbage on the side of the road. When asked why he dumped the trash there instead of taking the trash to the dump, the man shrugged his shoulders and offered no verbal response. The second site required a good bit more investigation but finally the facts led the two Game Wardens to the house that was the source. This site also had several bags of household garbage including a large screen TV box and many used diapers. After talking with the man at the residence he admitted to dumping the trash on the side of the road because a trash can had not been delivered to the residence. The man was cited for unlawful dumping.



LIBERTY COUNTY

On Saturday August 25, 2018, Game Wardens RFC Morris and Cpl. Morgan were dispatched to a medical emergency in St. Catherine's Sound. The caller stated that a vessel had two juveniles on board and that one juvenile was intoxicated, dehydrated, and not very responsive. The caller was towing the vessel when the Game Wardens arrived on scene. Game Wardens Morgan and Morris picked up two juvenile subjects and transported them to the Sunbury public landing. EMS then transported one of the two boys to the hospital. The guardian of the juvenile taken to the hospital was notified and went to the hospital. The other juvenile, and the vessel the two boys were in, were turned over to that juvenile's mother. The case will be turned over to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

CAMDEN COUNTY

On August 19th, Game Warden David Brady was working alligator hunting activity around 2:00 am along the Satilla River. Brady made contact with multiple boats and individuals hunting alligators and cited subjects for operating vessel at night without lights, operating vessel without pfd's and hunting alligators without a license. On August 24th, Game Warden David Brady responded to a call from Camden County 911 concerning a subject that had gone into the Little Satilla River while fishing and not come back up. Brady responded and began searching for the man with the Camden SO. Sgt. Chris Ridley and Kate Hargrove responded to the area as well to assist with the search. The Game Wardens searched until late into the night and the following day. Late on the afternoon of the 25th, Game Wardens David Brady, Cpl. John Evans and Camden SO were able to make the recovery of the missing fisherman.

While finishing up with the drowning incident, the Game Wardens received a call from Glynn County PD Concerning a male subject that had been on the run since Tuesday the 21st. Boaters had spotted a naked man in the marsh off Colonels Island on the Little Satilla River. Game Wardens responded to the area, transporting multiple agencies to assist in the apprehension of the felon. The man was found floating in the river and arrested without incident.

