



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
July 15 – July 21, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On July 15 CPL Bart Hendrix and SGT Jason Roberson were on patrol at Allatoona Lake near Holiday Harbor. The Game Wardens stopped a boat with improper registration and spoke to the operator. After noticing several beer cans throughout the boat and the operator admitting to having drunk 3 to 4 beers, CPL Hendrix performed field sobriety tests. At the completion of the tests CPL Hendrix determined the suspect to be under the influence of drugs. The suspect admitted to marijuana being on the boat. Marijuana was recovered from the boat and another male claimed the marijuana. One suspect was charged with operating vessel under the influence and the other charged with possession of marijuana less than one ounce.

On July 15 Game Warden Frank Pucci responded to a call of an impaired boater on Allatoona. A boat rental marina on the lake had been looking for a customer for approximately 2 hours. Workers located the customer and asked him to follow them back to the marina. The workers were concerned when the male operated the boat in a careless and reckless manner. Game Warden Pucci arrived and spoke to the workers about how the male was driving the boat; they completed statements to the how he was driving. Game Warden Pucci spoke to the male driver and performed field sobriety tests. The male suspect was determined to be under the influence of alcohol and charged with operating vessel under the influence.

On July 16 CPL Bart Hendrix and SGT Jason Roberson responded to a call about indecent activities near Webster's Ferry. A caller advised people were skinny dipping from a large pontoon boat. While responding to the area by boat the Game Wardens passed another large pontoon and smelled burning marijuana. Game Wardens could see approximately 15 persons on the boat some of them were small children. The boat was stopped and upon investigation an amount of marijuana was recovered from one of the passengers. The suspect was taken to the gas dock at a nearby marina and turned over to Bartow County for transport to the jail. He was charged with possession of marijuana less than one ounce. While leaving the gas dock the Game Wardens observed a fishing boat come into the no wake zone well above idle speed. The Game Wardens stopped the boat to talk to them about the violation. A further investigation resulted in 2 persons from the boat being charged with possession of marijuana less than one ounce. As for the skinny dipping complaint, the complaint was unfounded.

On July 21 CPL Bart Hendrix, GWFC Mark Puig, and CAPT Kevin Amason (Cherokee County Sheriff's Office-Reserve Unit) were patrolling Allatoona Lake near the area of Bartow Carver beach. The officers noticed a male riding the gunwale of a passing boat. The boat was stopped and it was discovered that an 11-year-old girl was driving the boat and not wearing a life jacket. While speaking with a male on the boat CPL Hendrix smelled marijuana and another male on the boat claimed the drugs. One male was cited for allowing an underage child to ride a moving vessel without wearing a PFD and warned for riding the gunwale. The other male was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana less than one ounce.

On July 21 Game Warden Frank Pucci and SGT Jason Roberson were patrolling Allatoona Lake near Flamingo Cove. The Game Wardens noticed a PWC operating in a careless manner close to a large cabin cruiser. The Game Wardens stopped the PWC and detected the odor of alcohol coming from the operator. Game Warden Pucci completed field sobriety tests and determined the operator to be under the influence of alcohol. The male was arrested and charged with operating vessel under the influence. His PWC was stored at the DNR boat house because the operator did not know who owned the PWC. The PWC was returned to the owner the following day.

FULTON COUNTY

On July 19 CPL Bart Hendrix gave a presentation to Atlanta's Boating Club-Power Squadron. Their meeting was held at Dave & Busters at North Point Mall in Alpharetta. CPL Hendrix spoke to the group about being a Game Warden and boating related topics.

MURRAY COUNTY

On July 17 CPL Byron Young and GWFC Zach Hardy responded to assist with drowning recovery efforts on Carter's Lake. An abandoned boat was found by other fishermen on the lake. CPL Young responded with the ROV unit in the early morning hours and met with other Game Wardens on scene. The boat had been left as it was found. CPL Young deployed the ROV unit and within 30 minutes had located a victim in the water. GWFC Hardy assisted with the family members that had responded to the scene. According to family members the victim had went out fishing by himself the night before.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

No activity to report.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

LAKE OCONEE

On 11-12th, Cpl. Allen taught a boater education class and certified 50 students. Sgt Kelly and Sgt Garthright assisted. On 11-15th, SGT Garthright, CPL Allen, and Game Warden Schay, patrolled Lake Oconee for boating activity. During these patrols, multiple violations of allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, towing without an observer onboard, operating a PWC within 100' of an object in the water above idle speed, operating PWC without wearing a PFD, failure to obey regulatory marker, operating a vessel with improper lights, fishing without a license, and operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs were documented.

ELBERT COUNTY

On July 21st Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Julian Wilkins patrolled portions of the county. Violations documented were consuming alcohol on a WMA and fishing without a license.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BIBB COUNTY

On July 16th, GWFC David Fisher, GW Lamar Burns, and Captain Chris Hodge responded to a call of an overdue boater on the Ocmulgee River. DNR LED Wardens worked through the night and with the help of a GSP helicopter, were able to locate the subject approximately 15 miles south of where he originally launched his vessel. The subject was evaluated by Macon/Bibb EMS and later released.

TROUP COUNTY

On July 21st GWFC Russell Epps and Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled West Point Lake. They issued two citations for operating a PWC without wearing a personal floatation device and two warnings for violation of a no wake zone marker. They also issued a citation for reckless operation of a vessel after they witnessed a person on a PWC spray another person. Additionally, the officers cited an individual for towing a person on a PWC without an observer on board.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

TOOMBS COUNTY

On July 17th Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders was working a complaint of night deer hunting and documented one citation for violation of a deer kill permit.

EMANUEL COUNTY

On July 17th, Game Wardens Patrick Gibbs and Bobby Sanders followed up on a complaint in reference to several geese being shot from a vehicle with a high-powered rifle. Throughout the investigation, the Game Wardens also discovered that a deer had been illegally killed at night. Violations were addressed for hunting deer at night, hunting out of season, and hunting from a vehicle.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On July 21st, GWFC Randell Meeks was patrolling Bullard Creek WMA. One violation of illegal use of ATV on WMA was documented.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On July 21st, Game Warden Patrick Gibbs and Corporal Bobby White patrolled the Altamaha River near Adamson's Fish Camp for compliance with boating laws during the annual Float-A-Maha event. Roughly 800 people were in attendance. One subject was arrested for boating under the influence. Another violation was addressed for allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD.

TELFAIR/WHEELER COUNTY

On Saturday July 21, 2018 Corporal Stiles along with Game Wardens Thompson and Horne patrolled the Ocmulgee River from Lumber City to the Altamaha River confluence. While patrolling 14 vessel inspections were performed along with 22 fishing license inspections. Two citations were issued for fishing without a license and operating a vessel without Coast Guard Approved Person Flotation Devices (Life Jackets). A warning for operating a vessel without registration displayed was also issued.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.