



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**June 3 – June 9, 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)**

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox, GWFC Daniel Gray and Cadet Garrett Pownall patrolled on Sweetwater Creek State Park. During the patrol 24 individuals were checked fishing and 5 vessels were checked. 1 citation and 4 warnings were issued for fishing w/o license and one individual was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

### **POLK COUNTY**

June 9<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown, Cpl. Chad Cox, Cpl. Brooks Varnell with K9 Taz, GWFC Daniel Gray and Cadet Garrett Pownall set up and attended the Polk County Kid's Fishing Rodeo. There were 392 kids age 15 and under that registered to fish. Everyone at the event enjoyed free food, drinks, and ice cream. The kids also had a chance to win fishing rod and reels, tackle boxes and other items.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **GREENE**

On June 6<sup>th</sup> CPL Worth began an investigation regarding an illegally taken bear. On June 8<sup>th</sup> CPL Worth completed the investigation, and a violation of hunting out of season was documented.

### **LAKE OCONEE**

Between June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>, SGT Garthright, CPL Worth, CPL Patterson, Game Warden Nelson, 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 a PWC without a PFD, jumping the wake within 100' of another vessel, failure to obey regulatory marker, failure to meet boater education requirements, and operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs were documented.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> SGT Garthright and CPL Worth investigated a drowning that occurred at Old Salem Park.

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

On June 6<sup>th</sup> Gwfc. Tim Butler checked several boats and fisherman. Violations addressed during the patrol were operating a vessel without registration and non-resident fishing without a license.

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

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the morning of June 9<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens Jon Segars and Josh Cockrell conducted a boating safety program for MADD at the Oconee Springs Park on Lake Sinclair. Approximately 30 kids were present.

Later that afternoon Game Warden Stephen Payne and Corporal Bubba Stanford patrolled Lake Sinclair. The officers stopped 20 boats with citations, written and verbal warnings issued.

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

### **QUITMAN COUNTY**

On Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>, while patrolling Lake Walter F. George, RFC Quinn Fogle stopped a personal watercraft near the causeway in Georgetown. Upon inspection of the vessel Fogle became aware that the operator had been consuming alcohol. Fogle conducted field sobriety exercises and determined the operator to be under the influence of alcohol and subsequently arrested the subject for BUI.

### **CRISP COUNTY**

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Dean Gibson and Clint Martin responded to a vessel fire on Lake Blackshear. The operator said the vessel's engine was running rough and possibly backed fired setting the engine compartment on fire. An off duty Crisp County Sheriff's Deputy was boating nearby and saw smoke coming from the vessel. The two occupants on the burning vessel boarded the deputy's vessel to escape the flames. The burning vessel was towed to shore, where it was extinguished by the Crisp County Fire Department. The vessel was a total loss, but no one was injured.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Al Greer, Jesse Harrison and Logan South responded to an unoccupied kayak on Lake Blackshear in the Loren Williams Park area. Witness said they saw the occupant in the kayak go into the water and he did not resurface. Game Wardens, Crisp County Sheriff Deputies and the Sumter County Dive Team are currently searching.

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

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Intern Terry Gibbs patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Seven anglers were checked for fishing licenses and two vessels were checked for registration and safety equipment. One violation was documented for operating a vessel without registration. Later in the day Cpl. Stiles and Intern Gibbs patrolled boat landings on the Oconee River. Two vessels were checked for registration and safety equipment. One boat operator received a citation for operating a vessel without registration.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted an evening patrol at the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Four anglers were checked for fishing licenses and creel limit compliance and two vessels were inspected for safety equipment and registration. No violations were documented.

### **WHEELER COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Dan Stiles, Randell Meeks, and Chris Thompson responded to a report of a possible drowning on the Oconee River. After interviewing witnesses and a search, the body of the missing person was recovered from the river.

### **BACON COUNTY**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Judd Sears received a call from Bacon County dispatch about an illegal burning complaint. GWFC Sears and Corporal Mark Pool responded to the area and Bacon County Sheriff's deputies and fire department personnel were already on scene. A citizen was burning tires beside his residence and when the fire began to put off heavy black smoke he fled the scene. Bacon County deputies were able to initiate a traffic stop on the citizen's vehicle and both occupants had active warrants for their arrest. They were also found to be in possession of illegal drugs and drug related objects. GWFC Sears and Cpl. Pool interviewed the two suspects at Bacon County Sheriff's Office about the illegal burning. The driver of the vehicle admitted to starting the fire and fleeing once he thought law enforcement would be called. The violation of unlawful burning of egregious litter less than 500 lbs. was documented by the game wardens.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On June 9<sup>th</sup> Corporal Mark Pool, Game Warden First Class Judd Sears, GWFC Daniel North, and Game Warden Joseph Cowart assisted Laura Walker State Park staff with their annual Triathlon event. The game wardens controlled public access to the lake during the event and provided a vessel on the water during the swimming competition.

## **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On the evening of June 9<sup>th</sup> Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders encountered several individuals illegally operating ATV's on Bullard Creek WMA, two violations were documented.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Game Warden Randell Meeks patrolled the Oconee River area for boating and fishing activity. One violation of operating a vessel with insufficient PFD, one violation of allowing an underage child to ride in moving vessel without a PFD and one violation of operating vessel without registration was documented.

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

### **CHATHAM COUNTY**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Toney was on salt water patrol in Chatham County with Sgt. Miller. While patrolling the county several boaters were cited for not having PFD's, children not wearing PFD's, and other required safety equipment.

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens David Brady and John Evans were conducting a late evening patrol on Turtle River when they observed a small fishing vessel heading toward a local ramp. The Game Wardens stopped the vessel and upon inspection discovered the two men to be in possession of 11 undersize sharks. Both subjects were cited for possession of undersize fish and the sharks were seized as evidence.



Later that night, Game Warden David Brady was checking St. Andrews Beach off Jekyll Island for subjects illegally seining for food shrimp. After observing a group of men that were pulling a beach sein and watching them sort the shrimp they were catching, Brady made contact with the group to investigate further. After interviewing the men and inspecting the catch, the 5 men were cited for Seining during closed season (food shrimp).