



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**May 6– May 12, 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)**

### **HALL COUNTY**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Ryan Locke and Kevin Goss conducted a vessel patrol on Lake Lanier. A PWC was observed creating wake in a no wake zone. The PWC was stopped and the operator was found to be operating a vessel under the influence. He was arrested and transported to the Hall County Detention Center.

Later that night, GW Locke smelled the odor of marijuana coming from a vessel. The Officers identified the vessel and conducted a vessel stop. GW Goss boarded the vessel and interviewed the occupants of the vessel for marijuana. During the investigation, one subject was found to be in possession of cocaine and marijuana. In addition, the operator of the vessel was found to be operating a vessel under the influence. Both subjects were addressed and transported to the Hall County Detention Center.

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

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On May 5<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Julian Wilkins and GWFC. Tim Butler patrolled portions of Elbert County. Violations encountered during the patrol were possession of illegal size fish and fishing without a license.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On May 5<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson and GWFC. Phillip Nelson patrolled portions of Wilkes County checking several complaints. One subject was charged with fishing without permission during this patrol.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **WORTH COUNTY**

On the afternoon on May 6<sup>th</sup>, Worth County 911 contacted Cpl. Greg Wade in reference to several subjects fishing a private pond without permission. Cpl. Wade made contact with the trespassers and issued citations for the violation.

May 9<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Wade began investigating a complaint on an individual killing an alligator out of season. After a thorough investigation, two subjects were charged with hunting alligators out of season and possession of alligator parts.

### **COLQUITT COUNTY**

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tommy Daughtrey checked two subjects fishing from a boat on the Little River. While checking licenses and safety equipment, it was determined that one subject was unlicensed and the boat did not have sufficient PFD's. The operator of the vessel was cited for operating a vessel without life jackets and the angler was warned for not having a license.

In addition, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, while patrolling Reed Bingham State Park, Corporal Daughtrey observed two subjects on two separate PWC'S, towing skiers without an observer. The subjects were stopped and their violations were documented.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden David Jones received a complaint from Game Management Headquarters regarding a raccoon that was being sold on Facebook Swap and Shop. After a thorough investigation, the suspect was located and questioned. She admitted to picking the juvenile raccoon up in the woods and attempting to sale it on Facebook. The suspect was charged with possessing a game animal without a permit. The raccoon was turned over to a local rehabilitator for reintroduction into the wild.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, while patrolling Reed Bingham State Park, Corporal Daughtrey observed a person being pulled on a tube while not wearing a life jacket. The vessel was stopped and the violation of skiing without a PFD was documented. While speaking with the previous subjects, Cpl. Daughtrey observed another subject operating a PWC without wearing a life jacket. This subject was also stopped.

### **BROOKS COUNTY**

Later on May 12<sup>th</sup>, while patrolling the Little River, Corporal Daughtrey checked two subjects who had just taken their vessel out of the water at a local landing. After a brief safety inspection, it was determined that the subjects did not have sufficient PFD's and one of the subjects was unlicensed. The violations were documented.

Also on May 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Daughtrey was at a local river landing and observed an individual throw a 2-liter coke bottle into the woods. The subject was charged with littering.

### **THOMAS COUNTY**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden David Jones received a complaint regarding an illegally harvested alligator. The following day, Cpl. Greg Wade and Game Warden Jones made contact with the primary suspect at his residence. A brief interview with the first suspect revealed two more individuals were also involved. After questioning the three suspects, and another subject they had supposedly given the alligator meat too, all three suspects were charged with hunting alligators out of season, possession of alligator parts and selling parts of an alligator.

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

### **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Kevin Joyce and Game Warden Randall Meeks conducted boating patrols along sections of the Altamaha, Ocmulgee, and Oconee Rivers. Violations were documented for fishing without a license and operating a vessel with improper lights.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Chase Altman and Game Warden Bobby Sanders patrolled a section of the Altamaha River by vessel. One violation was documented for fishing without a license.

### **APPLING COUNTY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Chase Altman and Game Warden Bobby Sanders patrolled Lake Mayer outside of Baxley. Two violations were documented for individuals not wearing life jackets while operating personal watercraft.

## **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller was investigating a fishing without permission and possible hunting without permission complaint. During the investigation, GWFC Miller discovered that the suspect was a convicted felon on probation and should not possess a firearm. GWFC Miller enlisted the assistance of GWFC Jordan Crawford, probation officers, and Bulloch County deputies. During a search of the suspect's residence, multiple violations were discovered. The subject was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine (felony), possession of firearm/ammo by convicted felon (felony), possession of drug related objects, possession of alligator parts, possession of game animals without permit, and numerous probation violations. The subject's probation has been revoked.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller was checking local boat ramps for boating and fishing activity. While checking the Oliver Bridge WMA boat ramp, he noticed two subjects leaning into their vehicle. When the subjects noticed, GWFC Miller, they quickly shut the doors of the vehicle and walked into the wood line. GWFC Miller walked next to the vehicle and saw fishing rods and a tackle box inside of the SUV. Objects known to be used for smoking marijuana were also observed in the vehicle. GWFC Miller located the suspects in the woods next to the Ogeechee River and began interviewing them. Neither person had an identification and the driver was discovered to have a suspended driver's license. GWFC Miller called for a Bulloch County deputy and when he arrived, the driver was arrested for driving while license suspended. During the search of the driver, a bag of methamphetamine was located. The passenger was then interviewed and searched and a large quantity of marijuana was located in his socks and was then arrested. The vehicle was searched incident to arrest, and an amount of marijuana and drug related objects were located. The driver was arrested for possession of methamphetamine (felony), driving while suspended license, possession of marijuana less than 1 oz. and possession of drug related objects. The passenger was arrested for possession of marijuana (felony) and possession of drug related objects. In total, over a gram of methamphetamine and ¼ pound of marijuana was seized. The vehicle was towed.

## **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, after receiving information from a complainant, Game Warden First Class Daniel North was able to locate a large pile of trash that had been dumped in the woods off of Hwy 376 near the Alapahoochee River bridge. After a brief investigation it was discovered that the items had been cleaned out of a house in Hahira and dumped in west Echols County. Warden North met with the violator at his place of business in Valdosta and issued a citation for unlawful dumping of egregious litter.



*Trash dumped in Echols County*

**PIERCE COUNTY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mark Pool, Game Warden First Class Daniel North, and Game Warden First Class Judd Sears patrolled Little Satilla Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for illegal activities. During this patrol the game wardens encountered multiple WMA-users at a popular swimming location on the Little Satilla River. These subjects were checked for required licenses or land passes that allow them to access the area. It was found that many of these people were consuming alcohol and did not possess the proper licensees or passes to enter the WMA. Violations of illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA and entering into designated Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) area without WRD lands pass were documented.

**LAURENS COUNTY**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted a night patrol at the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. No persons were encountered on the property night fishing.

**Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**

No activity to report.