



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**May 19 – May 25, 2019**

**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)**

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Brooks Varnell was checking Lake Paradise when he encountered two wanted subjects. One of the subjects ran on foot and jumped into the lake. He was apprehended by Cpl. Varnell after exiting the lake. They had in their possession stolen fishing items from the Douglasville Academy Sports. The two individuals were transported to the Carroll County Jail.

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On May 19th, Game Warden Zach Hardy and Warden Frank Pucci responded to a harassing boater complaint on Allatoona Lake. The Wardens stopped a vessel in the area of Bethany Bridge that matched the caller's description. Wardens stopped the boat and talked about what had transpired. As the wardens were talking about the incident, they noticed the multiple occupants consuming alcoholic beverages. After the safety inspection, the operator was found to be under the influence and was placed under arrest for BUI.

On May 23rd, Game Wardens Tyler Lewis, Mark Puig, and Bart Hendrix were patrolling Red Top Mountain State Park. The Game Wardens encountered a group of persons consuming alcohol near the beach area. While checking identifications and issuing warnings for consuming alcohol on the state park it was discovered that one suspect had an active warrant for a probation violation. The suspect was taken into custody and turned over to Bartow County Sheriff's Deputies.

On May 23rd, while returning from a night detail Game Warden Tyler Lewis and Corporal Bart Hendrix were travelling on Holly Springs Rd in White. Game Warden Lewis noticed a vehicle that swerved into his lane of travel. Game Warden Lewis had to put the passenger side of his truck in the ditch. Despite his evasive driving, the other vehicle still hit the driver's side mirror on Game Warden Lewis' patrol truck. After a brief chase, the suspect vehicle was stopped. Georgia State Patrol came out to work the incident and arrested the driver for DUI.

On May 25th, while patrolling Lake Allatoona in the area of the Narrows, Sergeant Jason Roberson and Game Warden Tyler Lewis observed a PWC traveling on the wrong side of the lake. After initiating a vessel stop, Game Warden Lewis observed signs of impairment from the driver. Upon completion of field sobriety exercises, it was determined that the operator was under the influence. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI and charged with Violating the Rules of the Road. The subject was transported for booking by a Bartow Deputy to Bartow County Jail.

### **FANNIN COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Cody Jones was patrolling Noontootla Creek on Blue Ridge WMA when he encountered a group camping behind two "No Camping" signs. Cpl. Jones observed a multi colored marijuana smoking pipe and a small jar containing marijuana. The evidence was seized and citations and warnings were issued for drugs and WMA violations.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, an adult male subject was arrested for BUI and Child Endangerment on Lake Blue Ridge by Cpl. Cody Jones and Game Warden Kalem Burns.

### **GORDON COUNTY**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Corporal Shawn Elmore received a call about dogs and a light on a property located in the Oostanaula area of Gordon County. Cpl. Elmore responded to the area and was able to see a light in the woods and heard what sounded like coon dogs. Cpl. Elmore was able to make contact with a Calhoun man who was in possession of a 20 gauge shotgun. The Calhoun man admitted he was hunting raccoons out of season and without permission. This Calhoun man had been caught violating hunting laws before. He was arrested, taken to the Gordon County Jail and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, hunting out of season, hunting without permission, and hunting without license on person.

## **WHITFIELD COUNTY**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Georgia State Patrol got in a brief chase in Whitfield County with a vehicle that ended up wrecking behind a house. The driver fled the scene on foot into a wooded area. Game Warden Ryan Thomas responded to the scene to assist with the search for the subject. Warden Thomas helped maintain a perimeter while Whitfield County SO searched for the subject with their K9. The search was called off after the dog lost the track. While leaving the scene, Warden Thomas was flagged down by a citizen and advised that the wanted subject was currently in a nearby driveway. Warden Thomas was able to locate the subject laying in a ditch, and take him into custody after a brief foot pursuit. Two ounces of methamphetamine were located in the vehicle that he had been driving. He also had digital scales and a quantity of methamphetamine in his pocket. Mr. Rodriguez was transported to the Whitfield County jail to face multiple charges from GSP and active warrants out of Whitfield County.



## **CATOOSA COUNTY**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Travis Shrader was contacted by the Catoosa County Sheriff's Office in reference to a body that had been located in Chickamauga Creek. Warden Shrader, GWFC Mark Moyer, and Sgt. James Keener responded to the area and assisted Catoosa County SO, Fire, County Coroner, and GBI with the investigation and recovery of an unidentified deceased male.

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

### **WHITE COUNTY**

On May 19, Sgt. Steve Seitz and GWFC David Webb patrolled the Chattahoochee River on Chattahoochee WMA. The game wardens checked a large number of fishermen and campers on the WMA during their patrol. The game wardens issued sixteen citations and warnings for violations such as: fishing without a license, fishing without a trout license, fishing without permission just outside the WMA, and driving in unauthorized areas on a WMA.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On May 19, Game Wardens Chad Chambers and Beth Gilbert patrolled the trout streams on Warwoman Wildlife Management Area for fishing activity and rule compliance. Eight citations and warnings were issued for fishing without license on person, fishing with an expired license, and open container in a motor vehicle.

### **STEPHENS**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Jonathan Segars received a complaint of some litter that had been dumped in Stephens County. GW Segars responded to the location and was able to locate mail with names and addresses on it along with a significant amount of trash. After speaking with the individuals named, it was discovered that they had paid an employee to take the trash to the dump. The employee had taken the trash to a dirt road and dumped it. The employee admitted to GW Segars that he had dumped the trash. GW Segars then issued the individual a citation for dumping.

## **FRANKLIN**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Craig Fulghum and Jonathan Segars patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating violations. During their patrol the Game Wardens documented ten safety violations and responded to a boat explosion near Harbor Light Marina. The subject involved was air lifted to Augusta Medical for his injuries. The violations consisted of operating vessel with insufficient PFD's, allowing underage children to ride in moving vessel without wearing a PFD, allowing another to ride bow/gunwale of a vessel, and failure to obey regulatory marker.

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

### **WALTON COUNTY**

On May 24<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Tim Butler documented three violations of fishing without permission.

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

### **BALDWIN COUNTY**

On the afternoon of May 25<sup>th</sup> 2019, Game Warden Sgt. Bo Kelly and Kevin Hurley patrolled the Nancy Branch area of Lake Sinclair. While on patrol a PWC was stopped and the operator was screened for impairment. The operator was then placed under arrest by Kevin Hurley and turned over to Baldwin County.

### **BIBB COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Jeremy Bolen, Cpl. Josh Swain and Game Warden David Fisher worked Lake Tobesofkee. While working the lake the officers encountered numerous violations. The violations included 2 Allowing Underage Child To Ride In Moving Vessel Without, Wearing A PFD, 1 Towing Skier Without An Observer, 1 Fishing Without a License, 2 Failure To Obey Regulatory Marker, and 1 Riding the Bow/Gunwale. All the violations were documented.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Tony Fox and Cpl. Josh Swain patrolled Lake Tobesofkee. While working the Lake the Officers encountered numerous violations. The violations included 2 Operating A Vessel Without Registration, 1 Towing A Skier With A PWC Without An Observer, 1 Operating A Vessel Without PFDs, and 3 Operating PWC During Hours Of Darkness. All the violations were documented.

### **BUTTS COUNTY**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, CPL Wil Smith and GWFC Niki Spencer were on a routine boat patrol on Lake Jackson. While on patrol that day the two Game Wardens detected and arrested two BUI suspects. At approximately 7PM they spotted a blue jet ski violating the 100' law at Lloyd Shoals. As they went to pull the jet ski over it quickly headed back to the park and the driver got off and walked up the bank. They were able to get the suspect back onto the DNR patrol boat and conduct field sobriety. The suspect was charged with BUI and violation of the 100' law. At approximately 9PM they made a vessel stop on a ski boat plowing through the no wake zone at Reasor's Landing. They conducted field sobriety exercises and determined that the suspect was under the influence of alcohol. They charged him with BUI, Child Endangerment, and failure to obey regulatory markers.

### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Mitch Oliver concluded an investigation of illegal dumping that involved construction materials and household furnishings. One pile of trash was dumped on the county right of way of Hines Gap Road and the second site was located on state property located at FDR State Park. Items that were in the trash assisted Cpl. Oliver with identifying a possible suspect. Cpl. Oliver interviewed the suspect and through the investigation learned that many of the items came from two separate job sites. After talking with the suspect's employer, it was learned that extra money had been paid so the items could be taken to the landfill. Cpl. Oliver swore out two felony warrants for the suspects arrest for illegal dumping for commercial purposes.



On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Ethan Franklin and Dean Gibson patrolled Lake Harding by vessel for boating activity. The Game Wardens located one subject operating a vessel without a visible stern light during hours of darkness. The violation was documented and the vessel was escorted to their dock safely.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Ethan Franklin and Dean Gibson patrolled Lake Harding by vessel for boating activity. The Game Wardens located 1 subject operating a vessel without any navigational lights during hours of darkness. During the boating safety check, it was also discovered the operator possessed insufficient PFD's for the passengers. The violations were documented, and the vessel was escorted to their dock safely.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Ethan Franklin and Game Warden Dean Gibson were patrolling for boating activity on Lake Harding. The Game Wardens stopped a vessel which was observed riding down the lake after dark with no navigational lights on. After a brief investigation the operator of the vessel was cited for operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs and given a written warning for operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

## **LAKE SINCLAIR**

On the evening of May 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Josh Cockrell and Jason Bennett were patrolling Lake Sinclair when they stopped a vessel for failing to obey a regulatory marker. During the stop the officers began to suspect the operator was impaired. After administration of field sobriety exercise, the operator was arrested for boating under the influence. In addition, the operator was also charged with failure to obey a regulatory marker and 1 citation for 100 foot violation.

On the afternoon of May 22<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Bo Kelly and Cpl. Bubba Stanford stopped a vessel on Lake Sinclair. During the stop, officers began to suspect the operator was impaired. Upon administration of field sobriety exercises, the operator was arrested for boating under the influence (under 21).

## **MUSCOGEE COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Ethan Franklin and Dean Gibson patrolled the Chattahoochee River and Rotary Park boat ramp for fishing and boating activity by vessel. The Game Wardens located three subjects fishing without a license and documented the violations.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Ethan Franklin and Dean Gibson patrolled Lake Oliver by vessel for boating activity. The Game Wardens located a subject operating a PWC towing two subjects on a tube without an observer. The violation was documented and the subject was instructed to have one of the passengers ride on the PWC as an observer.

## **TROUP COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Keith Page and GW Charlie Follin patrolled West Point Lake. They found multiple violations including several people operating kayaks without PFD's. They also charged two people with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

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

### **CLAY COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Steve Robinson and Scott Carroll received a call in reference to an abandoned jet ski in Lake George. The wardens located the vessel and determined it to be stolen out of Ozark, Alabama. The vessel was recovered and transferred to the custody of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pending investigation.

### **TIFT COUNTY**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Warden Kristie Carpenter located multiple trash bags thrown in a ditch alongside the roadway. After going through the discarded trash, Carpenter was able to locate multiple items linking the litter to a subject in Irwin County. Carpenter made contact with the subject and issued him a citation for littering.

### **DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Eric White and Kristie Carpenter located a large illegal dumpsite. The Wardens were able to locate a temporary car tag in the discarded trash, which led them to a local business. Two witnesses had observed four people cleaning up the property and hauling trailer loads of trash and old furniture off. Carpenter was able to secure the contact information of the property owner, whom had hired someone to clean up the property. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the suspect was charged with unlawful dumping of egregious litter (Less than 500 lbs. / 100 CU Ft.).

### **COLQUITT COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, while patrolling the Little River, Warden Tommy Daughtrey had two boats under observation when an occupant of one of the boats threw three beer cans into the river. Neither boat had sufficient life jackets and only two of the six subjects had a fishing license. The subjects were cited for littering, operating a vessel without PFD's, and fishing without a license.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Tommy Daughtrey and Kristie Carpenter were patrolling Reed Bingham State Park Lake when they stopped a boat with an underage child riding in the boat without wearing a life jacket. It was then discovered that there were no life jackets on board the vessel. The operator was charged with insufficient PFD's and issued a warning for allowing an underage child to ride in a vessel without wearing a PFD.

Later that day, the Game Wardens made contact with three more subjects fishing without fishing licenses. The three anglers were charged with fishing without a license.

May 18<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Eric White and David Jones were made aware of possible arson on Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog WMA. The Game Wardens met Wildlife Resource Division personnel on scene at the WMA, where an information kiosk, two wooden bridges, and approximately 60 acres of woodlands had been burnt. While examining the area, a pile of recently burned household garbage, which contained names and addresses, was located. After locating the names and addresses in the debris, Game Wardens were able to make contact with the subject and obtain a confession. The subject was charged with Damage to Government Property, Unlawful Burning of Egregious Litter, Unlawful Dumping of Egregious Litter and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Arson.

### **BROOKS COUNTY**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Tommy Daughtrey and Kristie Carpenter checked two subjects fishing in the Little River, it was discovered that neither subject had a fishing license and both were charged with fishing without a license.

Later that evening, Daughtrey and Carpenter observed a subject in a vehicle along the Little River with a bag of marijuana. The wardens and a Brooks County deputy arrested and charged the driver and passenger with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

### **CRISP COUNTY**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Jesse Harrison and Clint Martin stopped a vessel on Lake Blackshear in Crisp County for improper lights. The operator was arrested and charged with operating a vessel under the influence and operating vessel with improper lights.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Kristie Carpenter and Al Greer patrolled Lake Blackshear. The game wardens issued multiple citations for the following infractions; Towing Skier during Hours of Darkness, Operating Vessel w/Improper Lights, and Operating Vessel w/o Throwable Device.

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Quinn Fogle and Taylor Brown conducted a boating safety patrol on the Flint River. During the patrol the wardens encountered and arrested one individual for boating under the influence.

### **BROOKS COUNTY**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Tommy Daughtrey checked several boaters and fishermen while patrolling the Little River. Numerous violations were noted, including operating a vessel without PFD's and taking/possession of undersize fish (bass).

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

### **LANIER COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Johnny Robinette Patrolled ramps and fishing areas on the Alapaha River. While on patrol, the Warden saw a man in a vessel coming towards the ramp. The Warden approached the subject as another man came around the edge of the ramp, claiming to have been fishing with the first guy. The subject had multiple fishing poles and a cooler with several fish. The Warden asked for both subject's fishing license and to see the life jackets onboard the vessel. The subject explained he did not have a life jacket on the vessel. While running the subject's driver's license, he came back wanted. The Warden contacted Tri County Dispatch for assistance and a Lanier County Deputy arrived on scene shortly after. The operator was taken into custody due to the valid warrant and was also charged with operating a vessel without PFD's.

### **COFFEE COUNTY**

On Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Thomas Sibley was performing an area check at Barr's Bluff Landing on the Ocmulgee River when a male subject was observed operating his boat. Game Warden Sibley noticed the boat did not have registration numbers displayed on the side of the hull. After talking with the individual Game Warden Sibley was able to smell a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage on his person and the individual displayed signs of impairment. After performing field sobriety exercises with the individual, Game Warden Sibley determined the individual was under the influence of alcohol. The boat operator was placed under arrest for operating a vessel under the influence.

On Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jon Penuel and Game Warden Thomas Sibley conducted a boating safety patrol on the Ocmulgee River looking for boating and fishing violations. The water patrol resulted in two fishing without a license citation and one insufficient PFD's citation.

### **DODGE COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> Corporal Dan Stiles began investigating a report of a possible illegal alligator kill. After multiple interviews with two suspects one individual admitted to the shooting an alligator in a pond on his property. On May 24<sup>th</sup> the remains of the alligator carcass were located and documented. One violation for hunting alligator out of season was documented.





On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Warden First Class Allen Mills patrolled the Dodge County Public Fishing Area for boating and fishing activity. Two vessels were inspected for safety equipment and several visitors were checked for license compliance. Two violations for entering designated Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) area without WRD lands pass were documented.

Later that day, the officers were checking bridges and creeks for fishing activity. One violation for fishing without a license was documented.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne was patrolling for persons fishing and boating on the Oconee River. RFC Horne checked a vessel operating on the river without having a valid registration or Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) onboard their vessel. The operator of the vessel had two violations documented for operating a vessel without registration and operating a vessel without any PFD's.

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Daniel North and Joseph Cowart were checking compliance with boating and fishing laws at the Burnt Fort boat landing on the Satilla River. Wardens North and Cowart checked several boaters throughout the afternoon. One vessel was observed passing by the bridge and boat dock above idle speed and with an underage child who was not wearing a life jacket. Another vessel with two anglers aboard were checked and it was found that one of the fishermen did not possess a valid fishing license. Violations of fishing without a license, operating a vessel within 100ft of object above idle speed and allowing underage child to ride moving vessel without wearing a PFD were documented.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Sam Williams and Daniel North conducted a vessel patrol of the St. Mary's River in the area of Traders Hill and Camp Pinckney. Several boats were checked throughout the day and into the night and found most to be in compliance with boating and fishing laws. One vessel was stopped because a nine-year old was riding in the boat without a PFD on and a kayaker did not have a PFD on board. Later while patrolling after dark, two people were encountered riding a jet-ski after dark and another boater was operating his vessel without any navigation lights. The violations of allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, operating a vessel without a PFD, operating a PWC after hours of darkness, and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness were documented.

### **WARE COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mark Pool was checking local boat landings for boating and fishing activity. While checking the GA highway 84 bridge boat landing, Cpl. Mark Pool observed a vessel coming to the landing. After a boating safety check, Cpl. Mark Pool determined that the operator had all the required safety equipment except he had no personal floatation devices (PFD's) on board. A violation for operating a vessel without PFD's was documented.

### **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders patrolled the landing at US Hwy 1 on the Altamaha River, resulting in several violations being documented for operating a vessel without registration and operating a vessel within a 100ft of an object above idle speed.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Cameron Dyal and Game Warden Bobby Sanders were on vessel patrol of the Altamaha. Game Wardens checked several vessels and fisherman for compliance. The Game Wardens conducted a vessel stop on a pontoon boat for not having a legible registration displayed and the operator was subsequently arrested and charged for operating a vessel under the influence.

## **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Chase Altman patrolled Big Hammock WMA for land pass and range violations. Four individuals were stopped and given citations for entering into a designated area w/o a WRD land pass.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Clint Jarriel and Corporal Chase Altman patrolled the Altamaha River on the south end of the county for holiday activity. In this effort, numerous boats were checked and issues addressed. Citations were written for operating a vessel within 100' of a stationary object above idle speed, operating a vessel without lights, operating a vessel without lifejackets, and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

## **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Cameron Dyal was on patrol in Jeff Davis County and received a tip about a large amount of trash that had been dumped on Sharpe Road. Dyal located the trash and upon further investigation located several names inside. Dyal was able to contact one of the subjects and after a brief interview the subject admitted to dumping the trash. One violation for unlawful dumping of egregious litter was addressed.

## **APPLING COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Cameron Dyal responded to a call from Appling County Dispatch on Russell Road in reference to unlawful dumping. Dyal located the dump site and upon further investigation located several names inside. Dyal located the subjects at a residence not far from the dump location and after a brief interview one of the subjects admitted to dumping the trash. A violation for unlawful dumping of egregious litter was addressed.

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

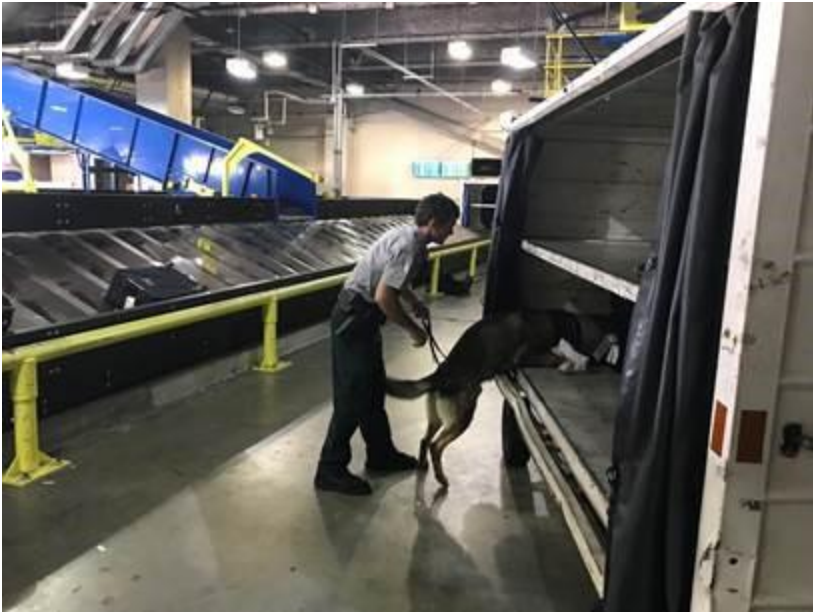
### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Cassidy Gerstorff, Corporal David Brady and Sgt. Mark Carson were patrolling waters off Jekyll Island and conducted a boarding of a Commercial Shrimp Trawler. Upon inspection of the vessel's fishing gear, the Captain of the boat was charged with Commercial Fishing with Illegal Gear (Turtle Excluder Device).

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Cassidy Gerstorff and Sgt. Chris Ridley patrolled Glynn County waterways along Brunswick, Jekyll Island, and St. Simons Island. Multiple boats charged for 100' violations, Insufficient PFD's and Violating the Boating Safety Zone.

### **CHATHAM COUNTY**

On Wednesday May 22, 2019 Game Wardens Douglas Chambers, Phillip Scott and K9 Case conducted inspections at the Savannah International Airport and at the Ga Port Authority on the Savannah River. These inspections were conducted along with National Atmospheric and Oceanic Officers Hughes and Dover as a part of DNR's Joint Enforcement Agreement. International items were checked for illegal wildlife. No contraband or illegal items were found. Below is a photo of Game Warden Thain with K9 Case checking containers and baggage for illegal wildlife at the Savannah International Airport.



**LIBERTY COUNTY**

Sunday May 19, 2019 Game Wardens Bryson, Hargrove, and Thain patrolled the areas of St. Catherine's Sound, and offshore areas of CAT Reef, the KTK Reef, and Sapelo Sound checking off shore fishing vessels. No violations were found.