

2007



ANNUAL REPORT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of State Environmental Conservation Police

**Governor M. Jodi Rell
State of Connecticut**

**Commissioner Gina McCarthy
Department of Environmental Protection**

**Bureau Chief Thomas Morrissey
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation**

**Colonel Eric C. Nelson
Director
Division of State Environmental Conservation
Police**

DEDICATION



The 2007 Annual Report is dedicated to the Department of Environmental Protection's *No Child Left Inside* initiative that was introduced by Governor Jodi Rell and Commissioner Gina McCarthy in 2006. This program is designed to reconnect families with the outdoors, build the next generation of environmental stewards and showcase Connecticut's beautiful state parks, forests and waterways. The Division of Environmental Conservation Police encourages those interested in the program to explore the following web link:

<http://www.nochildleftinside.org/>



Smokey and Friends

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Dear Reader,

Officers of the Division of State Environmental Conservation Police (EnCon Police) within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) perform a variety of missions and tasks that directly affect public safety and Connecticut's economy and quality of life. In addition to information concerning the accomplishments and activities of the EnCon Police this 2007 Annual Report provides some insight into the missions and tasks of the EnCon Police.

The fundamental mission of the EnCon Police, fisheries and game protection, continues to be the principal reason that individuals choose this profession. An interest in conservation law enforcement typically begins with a love for nature and a background in fishing, hunting or trapping. For most people a love for nature and the desire to partake of is wisely is learned from family members and friends while growing up.

Our youth are the future caretakers of our natural resources and our outdoor sports heritage. To be a better caretaker it is important to have practical knowledge of nature and the outdoors sports. An excellent way to gain this is by being an active outdoor participant with others that can teach the knowledge and skills needed to be a good caretaker. Everyone has a vested interest in the health and future of our natural resources and can help protect it by taking advantage of opportunities to learn about nature or the art and skills of the outdoor sports. The DEP offers many excellent programs to raise awareness of our natural resources and the outdoor skills. Department programs such as "No Child Left Inside" help to bring families and people together around a common interest and offer an excellent alternative to video games and TV.

EnCon Police officers have been and continue to be active participants in the protection of our natural resources both through their enforcement efforts and in teaching others about nature and the outdoor sports. Whether enforcing the law or teaching about outdoor safety; laws and regulations; hunting, fishing and trapping skills; or fisheries and wildlife, their involvement has influenced others to respect and help protect our natural resources.

I consider it an honor and pleasure to serve as the Director of the Division of State Environmental Conservation Police. I thank the officers and staff of the Division for their continued efforts, their professionalism and their dedication to duty. I also thank all those outside of the EnCon Police that practice good outdoor ethics and partake of our natural resources wisely. Your efforts help to sustain our natural resources and the continued health and stability of fish and wildlife populations.

Sincerely,
Col. Eric C. Nelson
Director
State Environmental Conservation Police



CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

Connecticut EnCon Police Officers are appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to enforce the state's fish & game, boating, recreational vehicle and park & forest laws and regulations as well as a majority of the state's motor vehicle and criminal laws and regulations on a statewide basis. These officers are also appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety with full police powers on all DEP owned and managed lands and facilities. These dual appointments require that all EnCon officers attend the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council Academy. All officers are also appointed as Deputy Special Agents with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. These appointments mandate that each officer receive specialized training in such areas as natural resource protection, wildlife and plant identification, vessel and recreational vehicle operation, boating safety, commercial fisheries, shell fishing, wildlife management, tranquilizing large animals, boating accident investigation, hunting related shooting investigations in addition to the statutory training that all police officers are required to have.

Connecticut EnCon Police Officers assist State and Municipal Police Departments in narcotics enforcement, domestic disputes, assaults and many other law enforcement functions and are the primary response units to assist the United States Coast Guard.



EnCon Officers Conducting Recreational Vehicle Enforcement

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Division of State Environmental Conservation Police is the protection of the public and our natural resources through the efficient and effective use of Division resources for education and public outreach, the prevention of crime and accidents and the enforcement of laws and regulations.

Goals

Goal 1: To fairly and impartially enforce state and federal laws and regulations.

Goal 2: To enhance the protection of the public and our natural resources through cooperative crime prevention and awareness efforts with constituency groups and the public.

Goal 3: To promote a progressive working environment through training, career development and equal opportunity for advancement.

Goal 4: To maintain the professionalism of officers and staff and promote public service.

Goal 5: To promote cooperation with other disciplines both inside and outside the Division.

Goal 6: To acquire and maintain technology and equipment to improve efficiency, effectiveness and safety.

FISH AND GAME ENFORCMENT

Connecticut EnCon Police Officers not only have the responsibility of enforcing Connecticut's fish and game laws and regulations, but are also Deputy Special Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service and as such may also enforce U.S. Federal Codes concerning the taking of fish and wildlife. Their duties in fish and game enforcement include a wide range of activities from checking sporting and commercial licenses, tags and permits to undercover assignments investigating suspected violations of fish and game law.

The purpose of enforcing fish and game laws is to ensure that the state's wildlife populations are not harvested in excess or illegally exploited for commercial gain. Excessive harvesting or exploitation of a species can lead to an overall decline of the resource or contribute to the extinction of a species. Through the enforcement of fish and game laws and regulations EnCon Police Officers help to maintain sustainable populations of wildlife species for future generations to enjoy.



Rifles Seized During Illegal Deer Hunting Investigation

BOATING

EnCon Police Officers are responsible for patrolling all waters within the State, including Fishers and Long Island Sound, for recreational boating safety enforcement. Officers enforce state boating laws and regulations to ensure a safe and enjoyable boating experience for the many recreational boaters that enjoy Connecticut waterways each year. To enhance the safety of boaters, EnCon Police Officers inspect boats for compliance with safety equipment requirements and operator certifications as well as monitoring boating traffic for moving violations.

EnCon Police Officers utilize various sized patrol vessels to patrol Connecticut's waters. A 42' Wesmac commercial fisheries patrol vessel, the "GUARDIAN", powered by a 700 HP Luger diesel engine, is equipped with a commercial hauler and state-of-the-art electronics and provides EnCon Police Officers with all weather capability for enforcement and search & rescue missions on Long Island Sound.



Patrol on Long Island Sound

The Division is responsible for oversight of lake authority marine patrol units on Lake Candlewood and Lake Housatonic. These lake patrol units work under the supervision of an EnCon Police Sergeant who coordinates their patrols and training activities. Each lake patrol officer must successfully complete a 60-hour training course that provides comprehensive training in boating laws, boating under the influence enforcement, vessel boarding procedures, officer safety and first aid. In addition to training lake patrol officers the Division provides EnCon Police Officers to serve as instructors for the Boating Safety Division's law enforcement training programs for marine police units.

EnCon Police Officers also investigate boating accidents that occur on Connecticut waters. In 2007 EnCon Police Officers investigated 60 boating accidents. The Division maintains a Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (B.A.R.U.) whose members investigate boating accidents that involved the death or serious physical injury of a

person. The B.A.R.U. consists of 10 officers supervised by a sergeant, all of whom are specially trained in the field of boating accident reconstruction.



Boating Accident Investigation

COMMERCIAL FISHING

EnCon Police Officers are responsible for enforcing Connecticut's laws and regulations pertaining to the commercial harvesting of fish and shellfish. As Deputy Special Agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service they may also enforce Federal Codes concerning the commercial harvesting of marine fish and shellfish. EnCon Police Officers routinely inspect commercial fishing vessels to ensure compliance with species limitations, licensing and permit requirements and other laws pertaining to the commercial fishing industry.

The EnCon Police Division's Marine District officers work closely with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Aquaculture and the United States Food & Drug Administration to help ensure that contaminated shellfish do not reach the consumer market. In 2007, EnCon Police Officers conducted 2,403 shellfish bed checks in 24 different towns.



EnCon Officers Hauling Lobster Pots

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

EnCon Police Officers respond to reports of sick, injured or nuisance wildlife. Officers responding to such reports make every effort to save the life of the animal or to relocate the animal to a more suitable habitat to reduce conflict between the animal and humans. In the case of injured wildlife, if possible, the officer will turn the animal over to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for care with the goal of eventual return of the animal to its natural environment.

EnCon Police Officers work with Department biologists to monitor Connecticut's growing black bear population and work to protect the public through education about living with black bears. In 2007 there were 2,451 reports of bear sightings and nuisance bear complaints. This is an 89% increase from the year before. During winter months hibernating bears are located and data regarding population, health and the number of cubs with sows is gathered.

In addition to black bears, Connecticut has a growing moose population. EnCon Police Officers assigned to the Chemical Immobilization team are experienced at tranquilizing and relocating moose from urban to rural areas of the state. Moose require special handling when tranquilized. Officers must cover the moose with ice to keep the moose from overheating and in many cases provide the moose with oxygen during transport. Once a moose is relocated, officers and biologists monitor the moose until it can safely return to the wild.

PARKS AND FORESTS

EnCon Police Officers serve as the primary police agency within our state parks and forests. Criminal activity of the same type that occurs in urban or residential areas also occurs within these areas. Officers conduct patrol work within our state parks and forests to act as a deterrent to such criminal activity. When crimes do occur in these areas, EnCon Police Officers respond to the complaints and conduct investigations with the goal of apprehending those responsible for the criminal activity. During 2007, officers responded to 2,600 incidents and made 941 arrests and issued 466 written warnings in our state parks and forests for crimes against people and property as well as narcotics and alcohol violations.



State Forest Snowmobile Patrol

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

EnCon Police Officers enforce state laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles on state owned or managed properties and on frozen bodies of water. Officers utilize snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles and off road

motorcycles to patrol for potential violators. In addition, the Division is assisted by the Connecticut State Police Aviation Unit. In 2007, EnCon Police Officers responded to 527 incidents related to recreational vehicles and made 229 arrests and issued 47 written warnings for violations.



ATV Accident Investigation

SEARCH & RESCUE

During 2007, EnCon Police Officers responded to 40 Search & Rescue (SAR) and missing person incidents in Connecticut State parks and Forests, on the state's lakes and rivers and on Long Island Sound. These missions ranged from locating lost hikers to recovery of drowning victims. EnCon Police Officers provide a valuable service to local and state police, fire departments and the US Coast Guard in SAR missions due to their extensive knowledge of the remote areas of the state and our offshore waters. Officers utilize patrol vessels, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles to augment these search efforts.



Search & Rescue Training

HOMELAND SECURITY

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the EnCon Police Division has been tasked with a number of responsibilities related to Homeland Security. As a result of these attacks, the mission of the United States Coast Guard has involved additional off shore patrol assignments. These assignments have had an impact on the Coast Guard's ability to respond to Search & Rescue missions on Long Island Sound. In order to protect public safety, and to assist the Coast Guard, the EnCon Police Division serves as their primary backup. EnCon Police Officers actively patrol public watershed areas by vehicle and on foot to enhance the level of security of public drinking water supplies. Officers also conduct waterborne security patrols of the major harbor areas of the state to augment U.S. Coast Guard resources to protect this infrastructure that is vital to Connecticut's economy. Officers also conduct Homeland Security patrols in the waters off the Millstone Point Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford. Officers patrol this area on a 24 hour/7day a week basis during times of elevated terrorist threat levels.



Tactical Firearms Training

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The EnCon Police Division dedicates numerous hours every year in educating the public on such topics as the protection of our natural resources and safety concerns while enjoying the outdoors. EnCon Police Officers often appear at agricultural fairs, schools, fish & game clubs, businesses, civic and youth group organizations to accomplish this important goal. Officers utilize two mobile trailers that are stocked with educational materials and mounts of indigenous wildlife. In 2007, officers conducted 186 programs, totaling 658 hours that reached approximately 181,000 people.



Officer Ed Pyznar Conducting an Outreach Program

NEW STAFFING

The Division hired seven new officers (trainees) in 2007. Three officers were assigned to the Marine District and two have since left for other positions. Three officers were assigned to the Western District and the seventh officer left state service prior to graduating from the Police Academy. Upon successful completion of the Trainee phase, the officer will be upgraded to the position of Agency Police Officer (APO). As an APO, the officer will work independently on Department owned properties. After a period determined by education and/or experience, the officer will be elevated to the position of Environmental Conservation Police Officer. The Division expects to hire six more officers in 2008.

EQUIPMENT/ UNIFORM ACQUISITIONS

During 2007, the EnCon Police Division acquired the following equipment and uniforms:

- Two Honda 225 HP four-stroke outboard motors to replace worn engines on the Marine Division's Safe Boat. Funded by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Yamaha 115 HP four-stroke outboard motor to replace worn engines on 18' Sunbird patrol vessel. Funded by State Boating Program.
- 2006 16' Grizzly Tracker Patrol Vessel with Mercury Jet outboard motor and trailer. Funded by State Boating Program
- Zodiac Patrol Vessel with Yamaha four stroke 60HP motor and trailer. Funded by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- 11 2008 F250's fully equipped with whelen emergency lighting and siren, havis shield consoles and electronic shotgun racks
- 2 2008 Ford Taurus' fully equipped with emergency lighting and sirens.
- 1 2008 Dodge Charger fully equipped with emergency lighting and siren
- GPS Plotter for Marine Division's Grady White patrol vessel. Funded by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- 6 Tomahawk Live Traps
- Twenty Weather Guard truck boxes and 1 Fold-a-cover tonneau for 2008 Ford F250 pickup trucks
- 13 Kenwood mobile radios and Vertec portable repeater radios
- 18 Panasonic Toughbook laptops with MDC software and computer mounts for officers' vehicles. 11 laptops funded by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- 5 Bushmaster Rifles
- 5 Glock- Model 23 Semi-Auto 40 Cal. Pistols
- 24 Glock- Model 22 Semi-Auto 40 Cal. Pistols
- 23 Second Chance Body Armor Vests
- 100 EnCon Tie Bars
- 100 pairs of uniform pants and 109 uniform shirts for officers

- 10 new badges for officers
- 10 new hat badges for officers

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

In April 2006, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee voted to undertake a study of the Division of State Environmental Conservation Police. The focus of the study was to evaluate their performance in enforcing fish and game laws, state park and forest rules, boating laws, and applicable criminal laws and in conducting related functions. The report examined the adequacy of the Division's authority, the deployment of officers and sufficiency of overall staffing, the trends in the nature and types of incidents and enforcement actions, the conditions of EnCon Police equipment and facilities and a number of selected management practices. In 2007, the EnCon Police Division addressed a number of issues raised by the study and are listed below:

- Drafted and submitted an attrition report to the Commissioner concerning anticipated retirements of Division staff. The document outlined the maximum rate of attrition; the problems that would be encountered by the high attrition rate coupled with parameters of the Conservation Enforcement Officer Job series and outlined the steps that have already been taken and those that should be taken to maintain a viable officer work force.
- Reallocated officer staff resources for the 2007 Bid Selection Process for more effective use of staff resources to address work locations with higher demand for EnCon Police service.
- Initiated a series of meetings with local and State Police officials to address issues of mutual concern regarding patrol and enforcement as well as response to emergencies and reported criminal activity.
- Drafted guidance policy to identify Department priorities for officer response and patrol. Policy circulated widely within agency for comment.
- Researched the requirements of Law Enforcement Accreditation through the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. This is the first step in the formulation of a Division plan to attain Law Enforcement Accreditation through POST.

- Received funding for the construction of a secure evidence storage compound for storage of large evidentiary items at Marine District Headquarters in Old Lyme.
- Implemented minimum patrol coverage policy to enhance Division response to emergencies and complaints and to enhance the safety of the public and Division officers.

The following web link fully describes the findings of the 2006 study:
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2006/PRIdata/cm/2006CM-01214-R001000PRI-CM.htm>

DIVISION STRUCTURE

The Division of State Environmental Conservation Police is part of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation along with the State Parks Division, Land Acquisition & Management and Boating Safety within the Branch of Environmental Conservation of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Colonel Eric C. Nelson commands the Division. The Division is comprised of three districts, East, West and Marine and the Hartford Headquarters Command Staff. A Captain commands each District. East and West Districts are divided into two patrol sectors each of which is under the supervision of a Sergeant. The Western District has an additional Sergeant assigned to supervise Lake Authority marine patrol.



Hartford HQ Staff

**L-R, Sgt Jim Wolfe, Capt. Rick Lewis, Secretary Carla Karle, Col. Eric Nelson
Sgt Tom Lewoc, Office Assistant Shauna Hamelin**

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

MARINE DISTRICT

The Marine District covers the Connecticut shoreline towns from Stonington to Greenwich and includes the waters of Long Island and Fishers Island Sound. There are three sergeants, eleven Conservation Enforcement Officers and two Agency Police Officers assigned to the Marine District. Capt. Kyle Overturf is the District's Commanding Officer. Their responsibilities and duties include commercial and recreational fishing, shellfish, lobster, boating safety and hunting enforcement. These Officers are also responsible for all the law enforcement at State shoreline parks and campgrounds. Officers also assist in homeland security efforts by patrolling the major ports of New London, New Haven and Bridgeport and the area surrounding Millstone Nuclear Power Plant. Officers work in close cooperation with Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound which includes stations New London, New Haven and Eaton's Neck, to coordinate boating enforcement efforts, search and rescue operations, homeland security patrols, and commercial fishing enforcement. The Marine District coordinates multi-agency Boating Enforcement Initiatives throughout the boating season with the Coast Guard and local marine law enforcement agencies. Officer from the Marine District handled 2944 incidents which included 928 arrests and 483 written warnings.



Marine District Officers Onboard the 42' Guardian.

Public Outreach

In June of 2006, the Connecticut General Assembly appropriated one million dollars to fund a lobster restoration program for Long Island Sound. A Lobster Restoration Advisory Committee, whose members were defined through legislative language, was formed to develop and implement a “V” notch program to protect female lobsters in an effort to rebuild the Long Island Sound lobster stock. The plan, which was approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for its conservation value, calls for students from three Connecticut vocational high schools that specialize in aquaculture studies to do the notching aboard commercial lobster vessels during routine harvest trips. The students will be employed by the City of Bridgeport and paid for their time and the commercial fishermen will be paid for each female lobster v notched. In October, officers from the marine district, in conjunction with the D.E.P.’s Marine Fisheries lobster biologist, began training faculty and students from the Ella T Grasso Technical School in Groton, The Sound School in New Haven and the Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School. Utilizing the 42’ Wesmac and 36’ JC, DEP staff hauled commercial pot gear in Long Island Sound with students and faculty on board. During these training sessions, students and faculty were taught the basics of personal safety equipment use and maintenance, vessel and commercial operations safety and the methodology for recording biological observations for lobsters caught, including determining the sex and length as well as proper handling for V-notching. Over sixty students and faculty were trained in October and the program began in December with students notching lobsters with the commercial fishermen.



Students from the Sound School on board the 42’ Guardian during a training session.

Boating Accidents:

Among the numerous boating accidents officers from the Marine District responded to in 2007, three resulted in fatalities. In March, a boater was reported missing from his sailboat after his two companions noticed he was missing during a trip off of Milford in Long Island Sound. An extensive search was conducted by the State EnCon Police, U.S. Coast Guard and Bridgeport Police Dept. but the boater was not found. His body was recovered several weeks later.

On 7/8/07, Officers from the marine district responded to a report of a serious boating accident in the Connecticut River in Old Lyme just south of the Amtrak railroad bridge. Officers Tavares and Kane initially responded along with Old Saybrook Fire and Rescue, Old Saybrook Police Dept. and the State Police out of Troop F. Upon arriving, it was determined that a twenty-one foot center console power boat had been traveling south on the river when the operator fell from the vessel. The unoccupied vessel was traveling at a high rate of speed and began to make large circles in the river. Minutes after the operator fell overboard, the unoccupied vessel struck a small sailboat with four persons on board. One of the occupants of the sailboat was killed and the other three were transported to area hospitals with varying degrees of injuries. Sgt. Healy arrived on the scene and determined that the operator of the power boat appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Officer Ramos conducted a series of field sobriety tests which the subject failed. He was arrested for First Degree Reckless Operation While Under the Influence

In October, personnel from the Marine District responded to Long Island Sound off of Clinton to assist in a search for persons missing from a capsized vessel. At about 5: 45 a.m., Sgt. Bull, Officer Chemacki and Officer Tavares responded in the 27' Safeboat to Long Island Sound off of Clinton to assist the U.S. Coast Guard and Clinton Police and Fire Dept.'s with a search and rescue operation. Two persons were reported overdue from a fishing trip and their vessel was found capsized about three miles off the Clinton shoreline. Officer Ramos responded to the scene along with Sgt. Warren and Officer Dwyer as members of the Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit. The EnCon Police took the lead in the investigation assisted by Clinton Police Dept. and members of the Major Crime Squad from the State Police. The body of one of the missing persons was recovered by the U.S. Coast Guard at about 2: 30 p.m. that afternoon. The second person was recovered several weeks later.



The 44' Blackhawk II after grounding in Niantic Bay

Boating Under the Influence:

The Marine District made six arrests for boating under the influence in 2007. Three were made during scheduled boating enforcement initiatives and three by officers while doing boating enforcement patrols. Boating Enforcement Initiatives were conducted in the Connecticut River with Old Saybrook Police Dept. and the Connecticut State Police and at the Niantic River Access Area. One BUI arrest was made at the Connecticut River initiative and two were made at the Niantic River Access Area during that initiative. Officer Kane made one arrest for BUI while on patrol of Stonington in the area of Sandy Point and another one while patrolling the Connecticut River in Old Lyme. Sgt. Lundin made a BUI arrest while patrolling the Housatonic River in Milford.

Training:

On 3/30/07, nine Marine District sergeants and officers were certified by Capt. Overturf and Officer Begley as X-26 Taser users. The four hour training session was conducted at Old Lyme Headquarters. The sergeants and officers were instructed on the taser operating system, its use and division policy. They were able to practice multiple times with the tasers in live fire drills.



Officer Begley Conducting Taser Training

On 3/23/07, Capt. Overturf, Sgt. Bull and Officers Chemacki, Ramos, Kane and Mieldzioc conducted an inspection of the Fulton Fish Market in New York in conjunction with New York EnCon Officers. The Connecticut officers met six New York officers at 2 a.m., in the Bronx and went to the new Fulton Fish Market. The New York and Connecticut officers teamed up and inspected the entire facility. They checked for shellfish tagging requirements, possession and size limit compliance for fish and lobster and importation violations. The New York officers made four arrests. Two were for shellfish tagging violations, one was for possession of weakfish during the closed season and one was for possession of cod less than the minimum legal length.



Officers at Fulton Fish Market in New York City.

Notable Marine District Cases:

On 5/6/07, Sgt. Healy and Officer Kane were on vessel patrol in the Thames River. A commercial fishing vessel was beginning to off load its catch at the State Pier in New London and Officer Kane and Sgt. Healy conducted a boarding of the vessel. The vessel had been scallop fishing and the captain of the vessel stated he had 400 lbs. of scallops on board, the maximum trip limit under his federal license. The captain did not have a Connecticut commercial fishing license or landing license which is required to land scallops in Connecticut. An inspection of the catch revealed that there was 439.70 lbs of scallops on board, which is over the legal trip limit for the boat. The entire catch was seized and sold to a local seafood dealer and the proceeds will be held in escrow by the state until the case is adjudicated. The violation for being over the trip limit for scallops has been referred to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Law Enforcement for action.

On 12/15/07, Capt. Overturf, Sgt. Bull and Officer Reilly were conducting seafood dealer inspections at major markets in central Connecticut. The officers were concentrating on shellfish tagging requirements and lobster length compliance. While conducting an inspection of a dealer in Southington, the officers found fourteen lobsters that were less than the minimum legal length in Connecticut. This was approximately 20 % of the lobsters inspected. The owner of the business was issued a summons for the violation. The lobsters were seized, photographed and released to Long Island Sound for the purpose of conservation.



Sgt. Bull and Officer Reilly with seized lobsters.

In November, EnCon Police received a complaint that a charter boat was taking over the daily creel limit of Tautog (blackfish) near Two Tree Island off the shores of Waterford. EnCon Sgt. Ryan Healy and Officer Kane boarded the boat and upon inspection found a total of 53 Tautog, which was 21 fish over the daily creel limit for the persons on board. The owner of the charter vessel was cited for exceeding the daily creel limit of Tautog and two counts of possession of Tautog less than the legal size limit. Ten fillets and 16 whole fish were seized from the vessel and later donated to the New London County Community Center.

On 12/7/07, Officers Reilly and Ramos were dispatched to the town of Clinton on a complaint that a subject had just illegally killed a wild turkey. When the officers arrived at the residence they could see a subject in the backyard plucking the feathers off a wild turkey. The subject stated he had just shot the turkey from the deck of the residence he was leasing. The officers located where the turkey had been killed and found it to be approximately 250 feet from another residence. The subject used #2 shot to kill the turkey and the season for hunting turkey was closed. The subject was charged with Hunting Wild Turkey during the Closed Season, Hunting Wild Turkey from a Building, Hunting Private Land w/out Consent, Hunting w/in 500 ft. of an Occupied Building and Negligent Hunting in the Fourth Degree. He was released on a promise to appear and the turkey was seized as evidence.



Officers Ramos and Reilly with illegally killed turkey.

In March, Officer Chemacki was patrolling Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. While checking the park, he noticed a vehicle in the West Beach parking lot with a female in the drivers seat that seemed to acting violently. A male subject waved to Officer Chemacki and stated he believed the female was having a seizure. Officer Chemacki radioed for an ambulance and went to check the female. The female was incoherent and violently sick. Officer Gregonis arrived on scene and assisted Officer Chemacki with keeping the female's airway open until the ambulance arrived. Officer Chemacki noticed two bottles of prescription medication next to the female. Ambulance personnel took over care for the female and Officer Chemacki attempted to identify her. While checking the vehicle he found an apparent suicide note. The female was transported to a local medical facility and family members were contacted about her situation.

In November, the Encon Police received a request from the Wallingford Police Dept. to check Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison for a suicidal female. A female had left a note threatening suicide at her home in Wallingford. Wallingford Police detectives were able to determine she was somewhere in the Clinton/Madison area using her cell phone. Officers from the marine district immediately responded to the park. Officer Gregonis was first to arrive and found the subject's vehicle in the West Beach parking lot. The female was still in the vehicle and when Officer Gregonis approached her, found that she was semi-conscious and had taken a large quantity of sedatives and was preparing to take more. Madison ambulance was called and the female was taken to Yale-New Haven Hospital for treatment.

Marine District's 2007 Officer of the Year Nomination

The Marine District nominee for the 2007 Officer of the Year Award is Environmental Conservation Police Officer John Esteban. A nineteen-year veteran officer, John worked primarily inland areas throughout the first eighteen years of his career when in 2006 he came to work in the Marine District, Western Sector. Since this time, he has enthusiastically worked to become familiar with many new recreational and commercial fishing, shellfishing and lobstering laws and procedures, as well as learning new patrol areas in this thirteen town shoreline sector from New Haven to Greenwich. In the summer of 2007, with a severely reduced sector staff due to medical and military absences, Officer Esteban readily provided extra coverage in this sector as requested, and was a great asset in maintaining EnCon Police presence throughout the western shoreline towns during this time of low officer availability. Along with the normal duties of responding to hunting / fishing violations, nuisance and public safety animal calls, boating and park enforcement, Officer Esteban was instrumental in maintaining full sector patrols (by land and vessel) of Long Island Sound shellfishing areas, to keep in compliance with Federal Food & Drug Administration shellfish sanitation standards. Officer Esteban also completed numerous vessel patrol checks of commercial shellfishermen and lobstermen, often establishing a personal knowledge and rapport with numerous resource users. He assisted the annual FDA Shellfish Enforcement Evaluation by completing three days of on-water inspections of shellfishing areas and harvesters

with a Federal inspector, resulting in a very favorable review of the Division's Enforcement program with recognition of Officer Esteban's industry knowledge. Officer Esteban also provided extra coverage throughout the summer of 2007 at Sherwood Island State Park, maintaining public safety and enhancing public enjoyment by enforcement of park rules and regulations, including an alcohol ban, assisting with missing children and with medical and motor vehicle incidents. Officer Esteban has also vastly improved his knowledge of boating enforcement, and his vessel operation skills have been enhanced and allowed him to assist with several water search and rescues, as well as with boating accidents. An efficient worker, Officer Esteban completes all of his assignments effectively, in a very timely manner. His attitude toward working in the Marine District has been very positive and enthusiastic, and it is in this same manner that he is nominated as the Marine District Officer of the Year.

EASTERN DISTRICT

The Eastern District includes the 60 towns in the eastern half of the State north of the Marine District. There are two Sergeants and twelve Conservation Enforcement Police Officers assigned to the Eastern District. Captain John Smutnick is the District commanding Officer.



Eastern District Officers

The officers assigned to the Eastern District handled 3472 incidents in 2007, which resulted in 1004 arrests and 583 warnings.

Several high profile law enforcement initiatives were continued in 2007, including patrol of Pachaug State Forest and Campgrounds, which resulted in 62 arrests and 47 warnings, patrol at Miller's Pond State Park which resulted in 19 arrests and 47 warnings, striper fishing enforcement on the Thames River which resulted in 85 arrests and 34 warnings. Fishing/boating enforcement at the Southeast area lakes and boat launch areas (Pachaug Pond, Beach Pond, Billings Lake and Amos Lake) resulted in 71 arrests and 100 warnings. Boating enforcement at Coventry Lake resulted in 56 arrests and 25 warnings. Recreational Vehicle Enforcement initiatives, including the use of the State Police aircraft resulted in 163 arrests and 25 warnings.

Wildlife

On 1/7/07, Environmental Conservation Police Officer Eric Johnson received a complaint that a pick-up truck had been shining fields after dark with a high-powered light on Crane Hill Road in Mansfield. On the evening of 1/19/07, Officers Johnson and Larry Golet conducted a surveillance of the area. At 8:15 p.m. they observed a pick-up truck drive slowly along the road and shine two separate fields. The officers conducted a motor vehicle stop and encountered two men in the vehicle. There was a .22 magnum caliber rifle on the front seat along with a 2 million-candle power spotlight. One of the men had a box of .22 magnum caliber ammunition. Both subjects admitted to looking for deer to shoot. They were both arrested and charged with Possession of Jacklighting Equipment. The rifle, ammunition and spotlight were seized.

On 2/11/07, Environmental Conservation Police Officer Bill Myers responded to an illegal trapping complaint in East Haddam. He met with the landowner who explained that he had found a trap near a beaver hut on his property. They walked to the pond and found a man tending a trap. Officer Myers recognized the trapper and asked him what he was doing. The trapper said that he had permission to trap the area. When the landowner asserted that he had not given anyone permission to trap, the trapper admitted that he did not have permission. Officer Myers found six traps in the area and several were illegally set too close to the beaver huts. The trapper was charged with Trapping without written permission, Failure to have name and address on traps (2 counts), Setting traps within 10 feet of a beaver/muskrat house (4 counts). The six traps were seized as evidence.

On 4/5/07, EnCon Police Sgt. Mike Enright and Officer Ed Yescott were provided with information that a resident in Enfield had possession of a Monacle Cobra snake, which is highly venomous and illegal to possess in Connecticut. The officers made contact with the 23 year-old owner who was keeping the snake in a cage in the cellar of his grandparent's home. He agreed to voluntarily turn over the snake to a Massachusetts licensed reptile facility. He was charged with Illegal Importation of a Reptile.

On 11/7/07, EnCon Police Officer Bill Myers received a complaint that hunters were exceeding their limit of pheasants at Babcock Wildlife Management Area in Colchester. He arrived at the area and stopped a vehicle being operated by a pheasant hunter. The hunter initially denied to the officer that he had shot any pheasants. Officer Myers noted that there was fresh blood on his hands and clothing and a check of his vehicle revealed six untagged pheasants hidden under a towel. The hunter was charged with Taking Pheasants Over the Limit (4 Counts) and Failure to Tag Pheasants (6 Counts). One other hunter at the area was found with one untagged pheasant and he was charged with that violation.

On 11/8/07 at 10:15 PM, EnCon Police Sgt. Bob Zabilansky received a complaint at his home office that a resident in Lyme had witnessed gunshots being fired from a pick-up truck at deer in a field. The complainant followed the truck and reported the vehicle description and registration plate number to Sgt. Zabilansky. Sgt. Zabilansky and EnCon Police Officer Dean Wojcik responded to the area. Officer Wojcik found the vehicle and conducted a motor vehicle stop. Sgt. Zabilansky responded to the scene and the officers found a shotgun and eight live rounds and one expended round in the vehicle. There were three occupants in the vehicle. One of the occupants admitted that the three men were jack lighting deer. All three men were charged with Jack lighting Deer, Possession of a Loaded weapon in a MV and Hunting from a Public Highway.

Recreation Area Enforcement

On 7/14/07, EnCon Police Officers Jason Williams, Dan O'Brien and Eric Johnson responded to Wolf Den Campground in Pomfret where they had received a complaint regarding a loud campsite and possible neglected children. They found two adults and two children at the site. Their investigation revealed that the 43 year- old mother had an outstanding arrest warrant for Failure to Appear. They also learned that the adult male at the site had a Protective Order against the mother. She was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Failure to Appear 2nd, and Violation of a Protective Order. The complaint of possible child neglect was referred to DCF.

On 8/26/07, EnCon Police Officer Johnson responded to Mansfield Hollow State Park in Mansfield for a complaint that a subject was yelling from shore to kayakers that he was going to kill everyone. EnCon Sgt. Wolfe, EnCon Police Officers Yescott and Bernier, SCO Marvin, three State Troopers and a Mansfield Town Constable responded to the scene. The suspect was known to law enforcement as being mentally unstable and a threat to any responding police officers. The 43 year-old male was located near the lake drinking beer. He became very upset with the presence of the officers and dove into the water yelling obscenities and stating, "cannibals were after him". He swam to an island and then to a point near shore where officers in two boats confronted him. He began to attack the police and was subdued with a taser by the State Police. He was charged by the State Police with numerous crimes and taken to Windham Hospital for an emergency psychiatric evaluation.

Boating Enforcement

On 8/06/06 Environmental Conservation Police Officer Bill Myers was on boating patrol at Pickerel Lake in Colchester. He observed a Jet Ski underway on the lake, which was not displaying a registration or expiration decal. He followed the operator to his dock on the lake where Officer Myers observed a second Jet Ski that also was not displaying a registration or decal. He also observed a 20' Carvelle powerboat moored at the dock, which did not display a registration or decal. Further investigation and inspection found that all three vessels and three nearby trailers had obliterated, removed, or altered Hull Identification Numbers and Vehicle Identification Numbers. Officer Myers conducted a lengthy and extensive investigation, which confirmed that all three vessels and trailers were stolen. The 43 year-old owner was arrested by warrant on 3/3/07 and charged with 3 counts of Possession of Mutilated, Removed, Vehicle Identification Numbers and two counts of Mooring an Unregistered Vessel. The stolen vessels and trailers were seized and will be returned to the original owners.

On 6/12/07, EnCon Police Officer Hans Danielson received a complaint that a boating accident had occurred at Gardner Lake in Salem. He arrived at the boat launch and learned that two personal watercraft were involved in the accident. Two men had been operating on the lake together when one of the watercraft struck the other. One of the vessel operators was transported to Backus Hospital with chest and leg pain. The other operator was not injured. There was minor damage to the watercraft. One of the men was charged with Operating an Unregistered Personal Watercraft and Towing an Unregistered Trailer and the other was charged with Reckless Boating 2nd and Illegal Operation of a Personal Watercraft.

On 7/28/2007, EnCon Police Capt. John Smutnick and Officers Eric Johnson, Paul Hilli, and Ed Yescott responded to a boating accident on Coventry Lake. A 15 year-old had launched a 15' Boston Whaler at the State Boat Launch and was taking it to the family rental cottage on the lake. As he accelerated the vessel, a towable tube on the bow of the vessel was blown into him, knocking him out of the vessel. The unmanned vessel continued across the lake and struck a pontoon boat anchored on shore, coming to rest on top of the vessel. There were no injuries and the accident is under investigation.

Recreational Vehicle Enforcement

On 3/31/07, EnCon Police Officers conducted a joint All Terrain Vehicle Enforcement operation with State Police Troop D in Danielson, Troop K in Colchester, the State Police Aviation Unit and the Plainfield Police Department. Sixteen illegal all-terrain vehicle operators were apprehended and charged with a variety of violation including Operating Unregistered ATVs, Simple Trespass, Operating on a Public Highway and Interfering with Police. Two ATV operators fled from EnCon Police Officers on Plains Road in Windham and were followed by aircraft for over three miles on public highways and then into a wooded area. EnCon Police Officers found the two dirt bikes and operators hidden in the woods. They had covered themselves and their dirt bikes with leaves in an attempt to hide from the aircraft. Both 25 year-old men were arrested and charged with

Interfering with Police, Operating an ATV on Public Highway, Operating Unregistered ATV, Operating ATV on State Property without Permission, Failure to Stop Upon Request, and Negligent Operation of an ATV.

On 9/2/07, EnCon Police Officer Hans Danielson responded to a reported ATV accident at Pachaug State Forest in Plainfield. At the scene he learned that five people were illegally riding ATV's in the State Forest and that one of them had struck a large rock and was thrown off of his vehicle. The 19 year-old operator suffered a broken arm and was taken to a local hospital. All five young men were issued infractions for Operating Unregistered ATVs and warned for Operating ATVs on State property.

Drugs/Narcotics

On 3/15/07, Environmental Conservation Police Officer Eric Johnson was on patrol at the Mansfield Hollow State Park Boat Launch where he observed two males sitting in a parked vehicle and another vehicle parked alongside. The second vehicle left the area immediately. The driver of the first vehicle made several quick furtive moves inside the vehicle as Officer Johnson approached on foot. Officer Johnson observed a slingshot in plain view. The occupants said that they had been shooting rocks at park signs. Officer Johnson had the driver exit the vehicle and instructed him to empty his pockets to check for additional weapons. The driver exposed an empty bag, which had contained marijuana. He then checked the inside of the vehicle and found a gym bag that contained 23 baggies of cocaine, a plastic bag with over 1 ounce of cocaine and another bag with 29 baggies of cocaine. Officer Johnson also seized \$2230.00 in cash from the driver, who admitted that the drugs were his. He later stated that he did not have a job and sold drugs to support himself. The 29 year-old male was arrested and charged with Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Sell, and Possession of Cocaine.

On 6/9/07, EnCon Police Officer Eric Johnson was on patrol at Mansfield Hollow State Park. As he drove in to the main park area, a vehicle with two occupants quickly started the vehicle and left the area. Officer Johnson stopped the vehicle for a seat belt violation and observed a male driver and female passenger. The female had numerous open sores on her face and arms, which Officer Johnson recognized as signs of possible illegal intravenous drug use. He separated the vehicle occupants and his investigation revealed that the 53 year-old man had picked up the 27 year-old female in Willimantic and had driven her to the park and given her \$20 for an act of prostitution. The female was using the money to pay for her two bags a day heroin addiction. She was in possession of several pieces of drug paraphernalia. The man was charged with Patronizing a Prostitute and the woman was charged with Prostitution and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Eastern District's 2007 Officer of the Year Nomination

Environmental Conservation Police Officer Hans Danielson is a seven year veteran of the EnCon Police Division. He has demonstrates a high level of interest in his position by generating a large volume of incidents in a wide variety of categories. In the last year, Officer Danielson has handled 276 incidents which resulted in 123 arrests and 33 written

warnings issued. This enforcement activity includes 40 boating incidents resulting in 46 arrests and 8 written warnings, 73 inland fishing incidents resulting in 46 arrests and 13 written warnings and 41 recreational vehicle incidents resulting in 30 arrests and 4 written warnings. Officer Danielson has been a Field Training Officer (FTO) for several years and continues to serve in that capacity. He has demonstrated a willingness and ability to provide new officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their job. Officer Danielson is also an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) operator instructor. He has provided yearly training for new department officers as well as officers from other police agencies.

WESTERN DISTRICT

The Western District is comprised of the 96 towns in the western half of Connecticut. The territory that the district encompasses covers a wide variety of terrain and population densities. The District is divided into two patrol sectors, each supervised by a Sergeant. The Northwest Sector of the district stretches from the highest point in Connecticut and the Litchfield Hills to the Connecticut River Valley. The population of the Northwest Sector varies from sparsely populated farm and forest areas in the northwest corner to the densely populated areas of greater Hartford. The Southwest Sector which was primarily farm land in the past is now large tracts of suburban development and industrial parks with pockets of forest and farmland. The Southwest Sector also covers the highly industrialized lower Naugatuck Valley, Waterbury, Danbury and the towns surrounding Bridgeport and New Haven.



Western District Officers

Officers assigned to the Western District are responsible for patrolling the larger inland water bodies including Connecticut's largest lakes. These include Lake Candlewood; Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Winchester Lake, Twin Lakes, Lake Zoar, Lake Lillinonah and Lake Housatonic. In addition to the smaller lakes, ponds and rivers, the Western District is also responsible for the Connecticut River from the Massachusetts border to Portland and the Housatonic River from Massachusetts to Shelton.

The Lake Patrol Sergeant is assigned to the Western District and is responsible for supervision of the Candlewood Lake Marine Patrol and the Lake Housatonic Marine Patrol. The officers employed by the two marine patrols have limited authority and are only able to enforce boating infractions and violations. EnCon Police officers are responsible for all serious boating violations and any criminal violations that occur on the water. During 2007 EnCon Police officers dedicated 1807 hours of patrol time to Candlewood Lake. 571 of the hours were for boating enforcement patrols. EnCon Police Officers made 142 arrests and issued 50 written warnings on Candlewood Lake for the year, 105 of the arrests and 15 of the written warnings were for boating violations. Candlewood Lake Marine Patrol officers provided assistance to the EnCon Police by providing 861 hours of boating safety patrols on Candlewood Lake. Candlewood Lake officers issued 116 summonses and 26 written warnings for boating infractions or violations.

Public Outreach

During 2007 Western District EnCon Police Officers performed public outreach and education activities at a number of venues. These included the Goshen Fair, various sporting groups, school career days, boy and girl scouts and tours at the State Fish Hatchery in Burlington. EnCon Police Officers also conducted training for basic recruit classes at the Connecticut Police Academy and to the Western Regional Police training program relating to fish and game laws.



Goshen Fair

Fatal Boating Accident

On 1/1/07, Western District Environmental Conservation Police Officers responded to Twin Lakes in Salisbury where a boat had capsized with three fishermen aboard. Salisbury volunteer firefighters and State Police also responded to the call. The Salisbury fire department reached the three men in a rescue boat and pulled them from the water. One occupant, a 52-year old fisherman was pronounced dead at Sharon Hospital. The man was fishing with his 54-year old brother, and his brother's 22-year old son, when the boat capsized around 10:15 a.m. All three were taken to Sharon Hospital by a local ambulance. The two survivors were treated for hypothermia, shock and other non-physical injuries and were released. The Salisbury firefighters attempted to revive the victim, who was unresponsive when pulled from the water. The three men had apparently been fishing for three hours before the accident occurred. The boat appeared to be about 30 feet from shore when it capsized. A resident along the lake heard the shouts of the men and called 911. The EnCon Police Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit is investigating the accident. EnCon officers noted that although weekend temperatures were warm, the water temperature in the lake was in the low 30s.

Recreational Vehicle Enforcement

With the continued growth of complaints regarding all terrain vehicles, EnCon Police purchased additional all terrain vehicles for patrol use. A training program was implemented and a number of the Western District officers attended. Western District officers responded to 143 ATV complaints, made 48 arrests and issued 17 written warnings during 2007. EnCon Police officers also conduct snowmobile enforcement and public safety patrols in state forests.

Stolen ATV's Recovered

On 2/25/07, Environmental Conservation Police Officer Tim Hill was on patrol in the Nepaug State Forest in New Hartford when he observed ATVs being unloaded on the Tunxis Trail by three individuals. Officer Hill stopped the ATVs and after checking the identification numbers on the ATVs, determined that one of the machines had been reported stolen by the Hartford Police Department in January 2007. Officer Hill seized the ATV and arrested a subject from Hartford for Larceny 3rd degree. The Hartford Police Department was contacted and the stolen ATV was returned to the rightful owner in Hartford. It was then determined from the owner of the ATV that a second ATV and two ATV snowplows were stolen at the same time as the first ATV. Officer Hill determined that one of the other ATVs that he stopped in Nepaug State Forest was the second stolen ATV. Officer Hill went to the Hartford residence of the person he arrested and seized the second stolen ATV and the two snowplows. The subject was then charged with a second count of Larceny 3rd degree and released on \$2000 bond. The other two

ATV operators were issued infractions for operating an ATV on State Land without permission.

YouTube Video Arrest

On 4/6/07, EnCon Police Officer Matt Tomassone issued a summons to a 20 year-old Canton resident for Unauthorized Use of a Forest Trail. The subject had been operating his 4-wheel drive vehicle off of the forest roads and was driving over rocks and through the forest. The subject was identified because he had a friend videotape his illegal acts, then posted them on the Internet. The vehicle was identified in the video, as there was a close up of the registration plate. When confronted with the evidence, the subject admitted to driving off road and stated that he would pay the fine.

Park & Forest Enforcement

On 7/8/07, a large disturbance broke out at Indian Well State Park among a group of park visitors involving sticks and knives. There were two EnCon Police officers on duty at the time in the park that were forced to deploy pepper spray against the crowd to stop the fight and disperse the people fighting. The persons involved in the fight ran back into the remaining crowd of park visitors preventing the officers from taking them into custody. The park was closed early and all park visitors were told to leave the park for safety reasons.

On 8/24/07, EnCon Police Officers Matt Tomassone and Keith Schneider responded to Mattatuck State Forest in Plymouth to assist the Plymouth and State Police in searching for a murder suspect. The suspect had killed his wife then fled into the state forest with a firearm. The suspect was located in the forest where it was determined that he committed suicide.

Fishing Enforcement

On 2/17/07, Environmental Conservation Police Officers Paul Hilli and Keith Schneider were checking ice fishermen on Bantam Lake where the officers approached a group of two adult and one youth fishermen and inquired if they had caught anything. One of the fishermen replied that they had caught some smallmouth bass. One of the other fishermen went over to one of their holes and pulled up a stringer of fish that they had caught. There were several smallmouth bass and the officers also observed three Northern Pike that were all less than 25 inches in length. When questioned as to who had caught the Pike, neither adult would take responsibility for catching the Pike. One of the fishermen told the officers that his 8 year-old son had caught them. Eventually the father admitted that he had caught the Pike. The officers released the Pike and the father of the 8 year-old was issued a summons for violation of sport fishing regulations. The other adult was issued a summons for failure to have his name and address on his tip ups.

On 9/1/07, EnCon Police Sgt Paul O'Connell and Officer Paul Hilli were patrolling Bantam Lake by vessel. Sgt O'Connell checked a fisherman who advised him that earlier in the morning, while fishing the north cove of Bantam Lake, he had tangled his boat's propeller in a net situated just east of the Litchfield Town Boat Launch. He advised Sgt O'Connell that there were numerous fish in the net and that there were soda bottles being used as buoys. Sgt O'Connell proceeded to the area and observed green soda bottles floating in the area just east of the Litchfield Town Launch. Approximately 15 minutes later, Sgt O'Connell observed two male subjects in a canoe paddling towards the area of the suspected net then after a few minutes they proceeded to the shoreline, leaving the canoe and appeared to be dragging a heavy object into the bushes. The two subjects got back into the canoe and paddled back out into the lake where Sgt O'Connell stopped them when he observed that they did not have personal flotation devices in the canoe. The canoe was ordered to shore where the subjects were detained. Sgt O'Connell then went to the shoreline area where the subjects had appeared to be dragging a heavy object into the bushes. Approximately ten feet beyond the shoreline through matted and broken vegetation, Sgt O'Connell found a net that was wet and contained numerous fish, both alive and dead. It was determined that the two subjects had caught 59 fish of 8 different species. There were 26 perch, 13 bullheads, 5 white perch, 1 calico bass, 2 blue gills, 3 Northern Pike, 6 suckers and 3 Alewives. The live fish were returned to the water and the dead fish, net and canoe were seized as evidence. Both subjects were arrested for Illegal method of harvest, 3 counts of possession of Northern Pike less than legal minimum length and insufficient personal flotation devices.

Wildlife Enforcement

On 5/6/07 EnCon Police Officer Tim Hill served an arrest warrant charging a Barkhamsted man with Negligent Hunting 4th degree and Illegal hunting/shooting of a black bear. The arrest was a result of the subject shooting bear on 4/17/07 in his backyard for eating birdseed and damaging a fence. The bear suffered a wound to the front leg and was tranquilized, treated and released at a different location.

On 10/5/07, EnCon Police Officers Steve Stanko and Sean Buckley stopped at Bennett's Pond State Park in Ridgefield to check a vehicle that was in the park after sunset. The officers had located an illegal campsite in the park earlier in the afternoon. The officers observed a subject wearing a headlamp come out of the woods. When the officers asked the subject what he was doing, the subject stated that he had been archery hunting, which is legal in Bennett's Pond State Park. The subject did not have any hunting equipment with him and the officers asked where his hunting gear was. The subject stated that he had a medical issue so he left it in his tree stand. Officers Stanko and Buckley located the tree stand and found an easily accessible crossbow, which was cocked and had a bolt in place. The crossbow was hanging from a metal hook about 15 feet up in a tree, had a small webbing strap lightly holding it to the tree, and was not locked or secured in any manner. The subject's climbing tree stand was approximately 15 feet below on the same tree, providing direct access to the crossbow, and was also not locked or secured to the

tree in any manner. Attached to the opposite side of the tree from the crossbow was a quiver containing 2 more bolts with mechanical hunting broad heads affixed. Attached to the tree stand was a small camouflage fanny pack containing miscellaneous hunting equipment, knife, and a camouflage shirt, face cover, and gloves. The subject was arrested for Reckless Endangerment 2nd degree. The officers used the climbing tree stand to quickly and easily recover the crossbow from the tree and then all hunting equipment was seized and transported out of the woods.

On 10/27/07, EnCon Police Officers Paul Hilli and Keith Schneider responded to a report of shots fired in Salisbury on a piece of private property where previous illegal hunting complaints have been received. Officer Hilli and Schneider arrived and entered the property, stopping by a metal Quonset hut to listen for shots. There was a sudden volley of shots that struck the Quonset hut. Officers Hilli and Schneider split up and circled around where they thought the shots originated from. Officers Hilli and Schneider then found three subjects who had been target shooting. Officers found .32 caliber bullets on one of the subjects and determined that the subject had thrown a .32 caliber pistol into the underbrush when the officers approached. A second subject was found to be in possession of a narcotic substance. Officers also discovered a quantity of marijuana, along with additional ammunition for the pistol near the subjects. Two of the subjects were arrested for possession of marijuana and the third, who had thrown the pistol into the underbrush, was arrested for Reckless Endangerment, Possession of Marijuana and Interfering with an officer.

On 11/26/07, EnCon Police Officer Stan Kucia arrested a resident of Hartland, CT for illegally killing of a moose. The arrest was based on an investigation conducted by Officer Kucia into a complaint that the subject had illegally shot and killed a moose behind his home. The investigating officer found the remains of a moose carcass in a wooded area behind the subject's home. When questioned by EnCon Police Officers, the subject admitted to shooting the moose for the meat. Officers recovered 35 pounds of moose meat in individually wrapped packages and a 12-point set of moose antlers taken from the animal. The meat and antlers are being held as evidence. The subject was charged with Illegal taking of a wild quadruped.

On 12/8/07, EnCon Police Officer Chris Dwyer was on foot patrol on a section of property owned and maintained by the Meriden Water Company in the Town of Berlin. After walking for approximately 1/2 mile from the road, Officer Dwyer discovered fresh ATV tracks on the snow. Officer Dwyer followed the tracks and eventually heard someone in the woods talking. Officer Dwyer walked through a wooded area and discovered an ATV parked on the trail. Two subjects were standing to the side of the ATV. As Officer Dwyer approached the two subjects he saw that there was a trailer attached to the ATV. Inside the trailer were the remains of two male deer. One of the deer was an 8-point buck. The head had been cut away from the body. The other deer was a 7-point buck. The body and the head of this deer were fully intact. Neither deer had a deer permit attached as is required by state law. Both subjects were escorted back to the

road where EnCon Police Officer Steve Stanko and members of the Berlin Police Department met Officer Dwyer. Officer Dwyer seized the ATV, trailer and the deer as evidence. Both subjects have an extensive record for illegal hunting and other criminal violations. They were charged with Illegal Deer Hunting, Hunting without a license, Criminal Trespass 1st degree, Negligent Hunting 3rd degree, Operating an unregistered ATV and Operating an ATV without written permission of the property owner.

On 12/15/07, EnCon Police Officers Steve Stanko and John Hey responded to a complaint of illegal hunters in the same block of Meriden Water Company property in Berlin where Officer Dwyer had arrested two subjects on 12/8/07. Officer Stanko located fresh boot print tracks that exited a vehicle in a one-way direction into woods adjacent to the vehicle. Officer Stanko and Hey followed the tracks approximately 300 yards into the woods where they encountered a subject walking towards them carrying a muzzle-loading firearm. Officer Stanko determined that the firearm was loaded and that the subject was one of the two subjects arrested by Officer Dwyer on 12/8/07 at the same location. The subject was arrested for illegal deer hunting and the muzzleloader was seized.

West District's 2007 Officer of the Year Nomination

Environmental Conservation Police Officer Chris Dwyer has been an officer since January 2000. During that time, Officer Dwyer has proven to be a very knowledgeable Officer and has investigated a broad range of cases during this period. The cases transcend from the traditional Fish and Game through serious criminal investigations. Chris can transition very easily from Fish and Game on-sight violations to investigations that involve Search and Seizure and or Arrest warrants. Officer Dwyer takes great pride in maintaining a professional presence, be it working at a Public Outreach event or working out in the field. Officer Dwyer is found to be one of those Officers that willingly accept assignments, in or out of his assigned Patrol area. Chris is found to “step up to the plate” to offer assistance to brother Officers and assists them as needed.

Officer Dwyer has voluntarily taken on the duties and is actively involved in:

- 1) Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit.
- 2) Firearms Instructor. (Live rounds and Simunitions)
- 3) Chemical Immobilization Team.
- 4) Field Training Officer.

As a Field Training Officer, Chris shows great enthusiasm and puts forth that extra effort to instruct and prepare Trainees for their future job classification upgrades.

Officer Dwyer shows a great commitment to our profession. Chris's reports are well written and great attention to detail is evident in his reports

2007 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

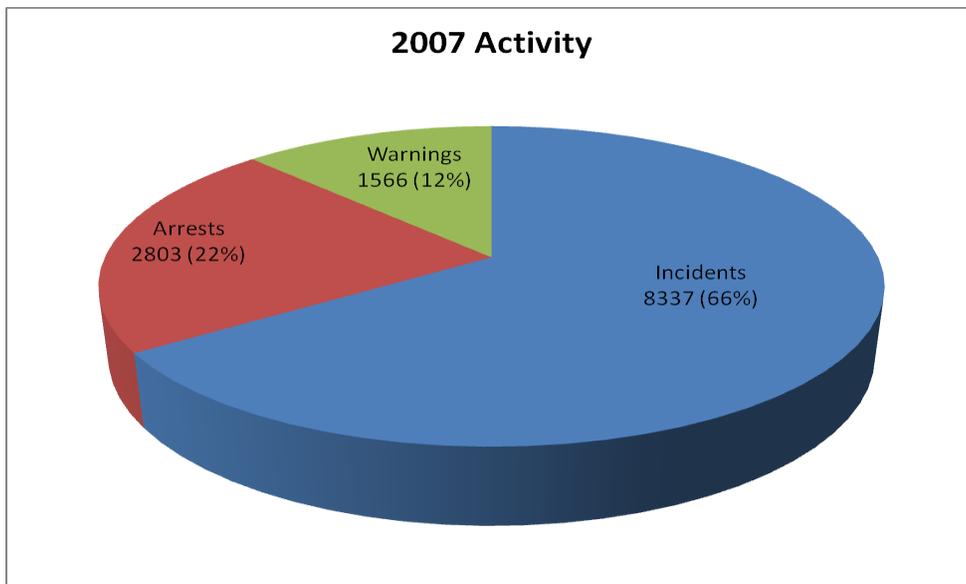
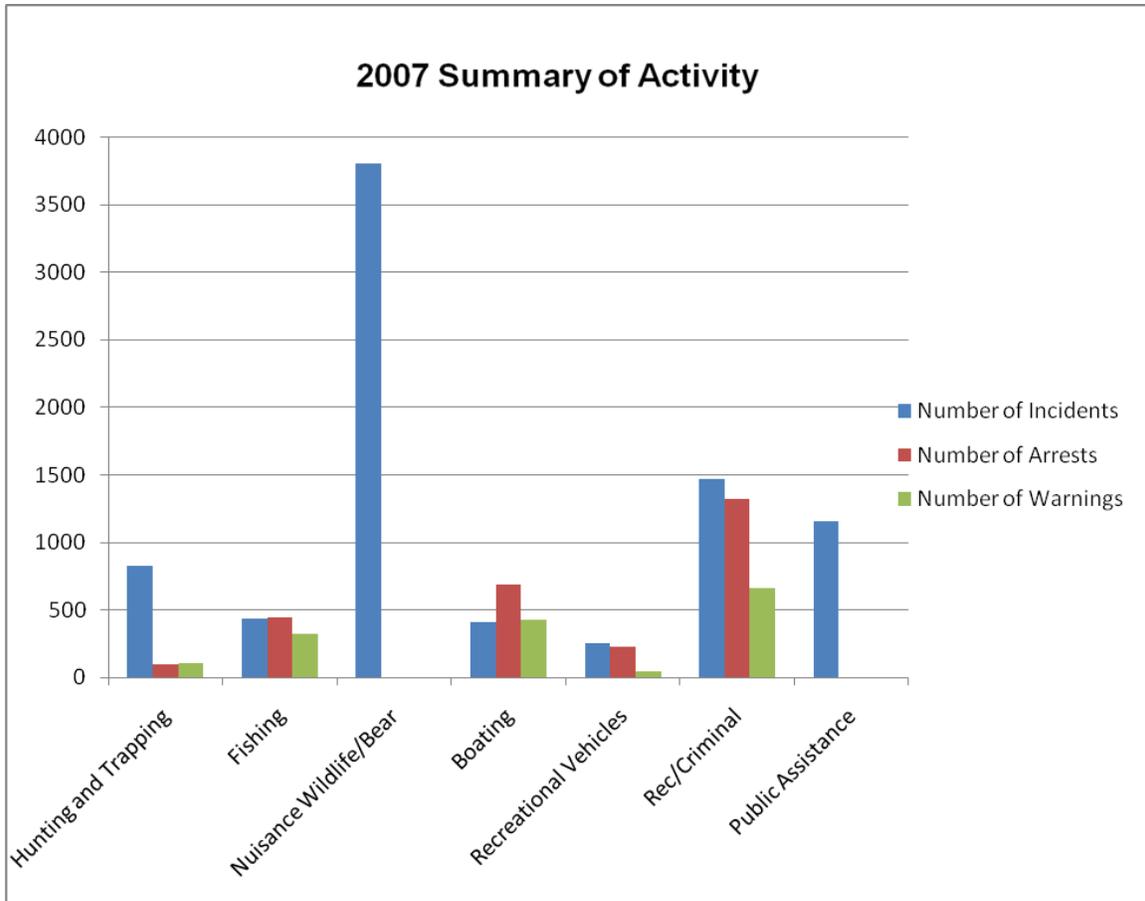
Incident Type	Number of Incidents	Number of Arrests	Number of Warnings
Hunting & Trapping	1,029	102	105
Fishing	1,198	446	321
Boating	1,530	692	429
Motor Vehicle	853	406	202
Park & Forest	1,986	692	408
Recreational Vehicles	527	229	47
Alcohol & Narcotics	220	171	37
Crimes against persons	162	30	7
Crimes against property	232	25	8
Safety & Medical	1003	6	0
Search & Rescue, Missing persons	40	0	0
Nuisance Bear	2,451	1	0
Sick, Injured & Nuisance Wildlife	1355	3	2
Background Investigations	120	0	0
TOTAL	12,706	2,803	1,566

2007 Summary of Activity (Incidents Inclusive of Arrests and Warnings)			
Incident Type	Number of Incidents	Number of Arrests	Number of Warnings
Hunting and Trapping	1029	102	105
Fishing	1198	446	321
Nuisance			
Wildlife/Bear	3806	4	2
Boating	1530	692	429
Recreational Vehicles	527	229	47
Rec/Criminal	3453	1324	662
Public Assistance	1163	6	0
Total	12706	2803	1566

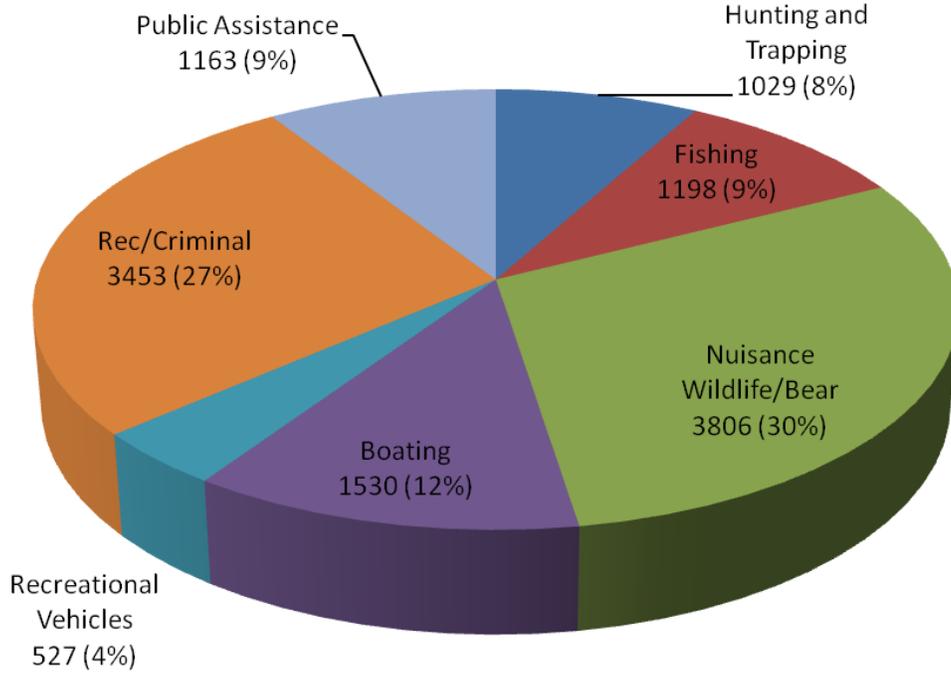
2007 Summary of Activity (Incidents Independent of Arrests and Warnings)			
Incident Type	Number of Incidents	Number of Arrests	Number of Warnings
Hunting and Trapping	822	102	105
Fishing	431	446	321
Nuisance			
Wildlife/Bear	3800	4	2
Boating	409	692	429
Recreational Vehicles	251	229	47
Rec/Criminal	1467	1324	662
Public Assistance	1157	6	0
Total	8337	2803	1566

*Incidents, Arrests, and Warnings Graphs and Charts draw data from Incidents Inclusive of Arrests and Warnings

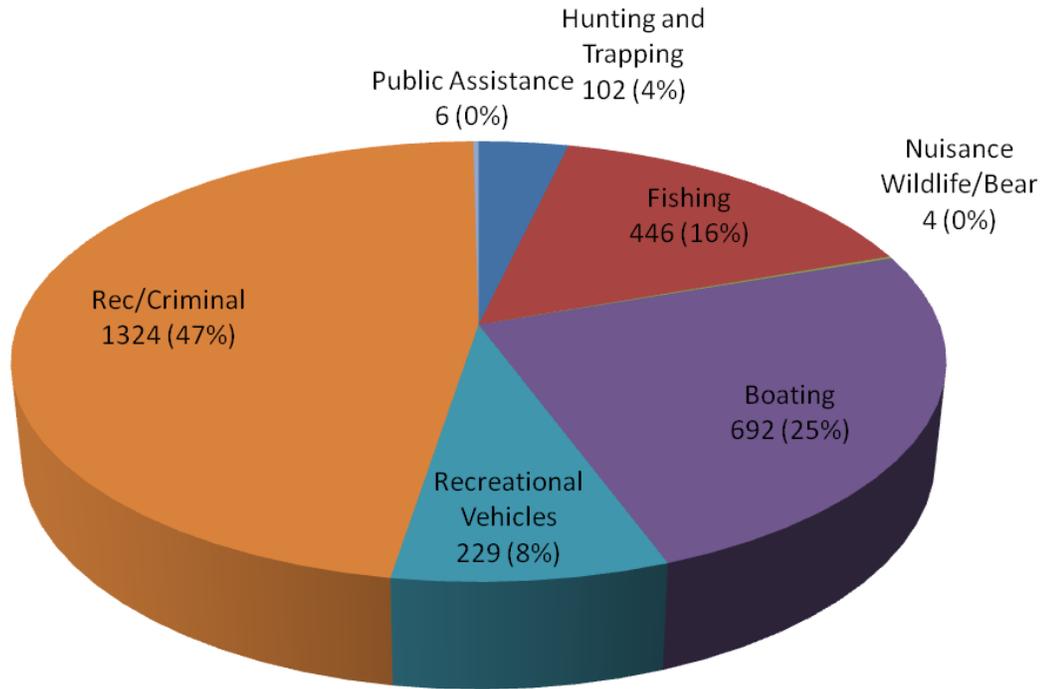
**Summary of Activity Graph, Activity Graph, and Activity Chart draw data from Incidents Independent of Arrests and Warnings



2007 Incidents



2007 Arrests



2007 Warnings

