

# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



**State of Connecticut**

**Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

**Division of State Environmental Conservation Police**



**Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
State of Connecticut**

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**Commissioner Daniel Esty  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

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**Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

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**Bureau Chief Matthew Fritz  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation**

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**Colonel Kyle Overturf  
Director  
Division of State Environmental Conservation Police**

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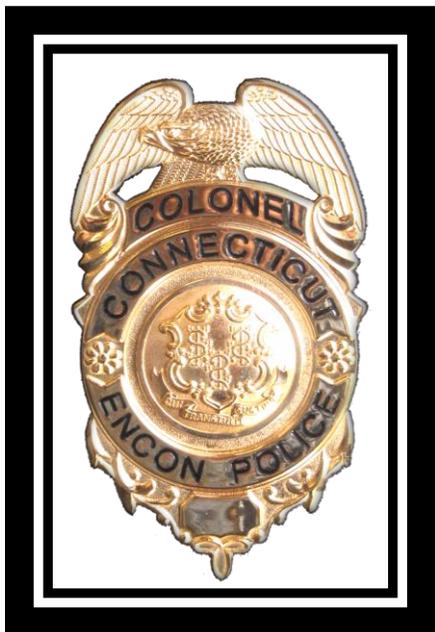


## **CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS**

Connecticut Environment Conservation (EnCon) Police Officers are appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) 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 DEEP 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, and 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; they are also the primary response units to assist the United States Coast Guard.

## DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION POLICE



Dear Commissioner Esty and the citizens of the State of Connecticut,

I would like to present to you the 2012 annual report for the Division of State Environmental Conservation Police. This past year was one in which we experienced some major successes. The most prominent being the implementation of a K-9 unit. Four teams were certified in June and have very busy ever since. The Hunting Related Shooting Incident team and the Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit were involved in several lengthy investigations which led to serious criminal charges being filed by the State's Attorney in their respective cases. Our officers conducted search and rescue missions during Hurricane Sandy and were first responders to the tragedy in Newtown.

We have outfitted the majority of the officers with Tasers in an effort to provide another option for officers to improve their safety. All field staff will be equipped with a Taser by the Fall of 2013. We continue to move forward with a new computer aided dispatch system which will improve efficiency and enhance officer safety. In 2012, we hired one new officer and promoted a new sergeant and captain.

If you are interested in an outdoor law enforcement career that is rewarding yet challenging please contact a Conservation Officer or visit our website. The Environmental Conservation Police are always looking for individuals who are up to the challenge of our unique and exciting profession.

Please take the opportunity to read this comprehensive document to appreciate the unique, diverse and challenging profession of an Environmental Conservation Police Officer. The dedicated women and men of the Division are proud of the heritage, tradition and nature of their work. Our primary mission will continue to be protecting the State's natural resources and ensuring the safety of the public that enjoy our parks, forests and waterways. Please help us in that mission by supporting our officers and reporting wildlife violations.

Sincerely,

Colonel Kyle Overturf  
Director-State Environmental Conservation Police

## **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, accidents and the enforcement of laws and regulations.

### **Goals:**

1. To fairly and impartially enforce state and federal laws and regulations.
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.
3. To promote a progressive working environment through training, career development and equal opportunity for advancement.
4. To maintain the professionalism of officers and staff and to promote public service.
5. To promote cooperation with other disciplines both inside and outside the Division.
6. To acquire and maintain technology and equipment, to improve efficiency and effectiveness, as well as safety.



**State Environmental Conservation Police Officers**

## **FISH AND GAME ENFORCEMENT**

The duties of EnCon Police Officers in fish and game enforcement include a wide range of activities from checking commercial and sport licenses, wildlife tags and permits, and performing undercover assignments. EnCon Police Officers are also Deputy Special Agents for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and may enforce U.S. Federal Codes concerning the taking of fish and wildlife.

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. Excess harvesting or exploitation of a species can lead to an overall decline of the resource or contribute to extinction of a species. The enforcement of fish and game laws and regulations help to maintain sustainable populations of wildlife species for future generations to enjoy.



**Officer Miofsky with Black Bear that was trapped and relocated.**

## **BOATING**

EnCon Police Officers are responsible for recreational boating safety enforcement for all waters within the state, including Fishers Island and Long Island Sound. To enhance the safety of boaters, EnCon Police Officers inspect boats for safety equipment requirements, operator certificates, as well as monitor boating traffic for moving violations and boating under the influence violations. Officers also investigate boating accidents that occur on Connecticut waters. The Division maintains a Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (B.A.R.U) whose members investigate boating accidents that involved death or serious physical injury of a person. The Unit consists of ten officers and one sergeant, who are all trained in the field of boat accident reconstruction. In 2012, the Division investigated 51 boating accidents.



**Officer Keith Williams patrolling Candlewood Lake on a new 21' Rigid Hull Inflatable patrol boat.**

## COMMERCIAL FISHING

EnCon Police Officers are responsible for enforcing Connecticut's laws and regulations pertaining to the commercial harvesting of fish and shellfish. Officers routinely inspect commercial fishing vessels to ensure compliance with species limitations, licensing and permit requirements, seafood dealer inspections and all other laws pertaining to the industry. As Deputy Special Agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service, EnCon Officers may enforce Federal Codes concerning the harvest of marine fish and shellfish. This may include assisting neighboring states in special investigations concerning commercially harvested fish.

Marine District Officers work closely with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure that contaminated shellfish do not reach the consumer market. In 2012, Officers conducted 1,881 shellfish bed inspections in 24 different towns.



**Officer Tavares and National Marine Fisheries Agent conducting a boarding of a commercial fishing vessel.**

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

EnCon Police Officers respond to reports of sick, injured, or nuisance wildlife. Officers responded to 516 incidents involving sick, injured, or nuisance wildlife in 2012. Officers make every attempt 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. If possible, injured wildlife is captured and turned over to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for care with the goal of eventually returning the animal to its natural environment. The division maintains and trains officers assigned to the Chemical Immobilization Team. These officers respond to tranquilize wildlife that require care or relocation including the state's growing black bear and moose populations.

EnCon Police Officers work with the Department's wildlife biologists to monitor Connecticut's growing black bear and moose populations. Officers also help to educate the public about living with black bears. In 2012, there were 125 nuisance bear complaints. During the winter months, hibernating bears are located and data regarding health, population and the number of cubs with sows is gathered for statistical analysis. In the unusual event that a moose moves into a highly populated area, EnCon Police Officers will assist in its relocation to a more suitable rural environment. Moose require special handling when tranquilized, and must be monitored until the animal can safely return to the wild.



**Black bear that was tranquilized and relocated out of Simsbury.**

## **PARK AND FOREST**

EnCon Police Officers serve as the primary police agency within our state parks and forests. Criminal activities that occur in cities and towns throughout the state also occur in our parks and forests. Officers routinely patrol the state parks and forest areas to deter criminal activity. When crimes do occur officers conduct investigations with the primary goal of public safety and apprehending those responsible for the criminal activity. During 2012, officers responded to 3,215 incidents, made 905 arrests, and issued 498 written warnings in our state parks and forest for crimes against people and property, as well as narcotics and alcohol violations. The EnCon Police Division utilizes 29 Special Conservation Officers to assist in patrolling these areas during the busy outdoor recreation season.



**Fort Trumbull State Park in New London prior to OpSail 2012.**

## **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 and all-terrain vehicles to patrol for potential violations. In 2012, EnCon Police Officers responded to 292 incidents related to recreational vehicles and made 93 arrests and issued 25 written warnings for violations.



**EnCon Police Officer on ATV Patrol**

## SEARCH & RESCUE

EnCon Police Officers provide a valuable service to local and State Police departments, fire departments and the United States Coast Guard in search and rescue operations. Officers have extensive knowledge of remote areas of the state and our water-bodies including Long Island Sound, which are an invaluable asset to search and rescue operations. Officers conducting searches use all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, mountain bikes, four wheel drive vehicles and specially equipped patrol vessels. In 2012, EnCon Police Officers responded to 67 search and rescue (SAR) and missing person incidents in Connecticut state parks and forests, lakes, rivers, Long Island, and Fishers Island Sound. The Division's officers are also called upon during weather-related emergencies such as floods and snow storms to coordinate evacuations and assist stranded motorists on state roads.



**Sgt. Keith Schneider and Officer Holly Bernier assisting with flood rescue in Fairfield in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy**

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

The EnCon Police division has been increasingly involved in Homeland Security responsibilities since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The Division continually participates in special drills and training in regards to Homeland Security issues. Officers often assist both federal and state law enforcement agencies in the event of a dignitary visit, or to provide security and patrols of critical assets within the state. EnCon Police officers actively patrol public watershed areas to enhance the level of security of public drinking water supplies, and conduct waterborne security patrols of the major harbors and ports. These patrols augment U.S. Coast Guard resources to protect vital infrastructure security. The EnCon police Division maintains a mobile command post and dock at Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford. Officers patrol this area throughout the year and on a twenty-four hour/seven-day a week basis during times of elevated terrorist threat levels.



**EnCon Police Officers conducting maritime law enforcement training in the Connecticut River.**

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

The EnCon Police Division dedicates numerous hours every year in educating the public on such topics as the protection of the state's natural resources and safety concerns while engaging in outdoor recreation activities. Officers utilize two mobile trailers that are stocked with educational material and mounts of indigenous fish and wildlife. Officers appear at schools, fairs, fish and game clubs, businesses, civic and youth group organizations, police and fire departments to accomplish this important goal of public education and recruitment. In 2012, officers conducted 135 outreach events totaling 582 hours with thousands of contacts.



EnCon Police TIP Trailer at a public outreach event

## **K-9 Unit**

In June of this year, four EnCon Police Officers and their K-9 partners completed training conducted by the Connecticut State Police and became certified handlers in the areas of search and rescue and evidence detection. The officers and their partners, Officer Erin Crossman and Ellie Mae, Officer Holly Bernier and Saydee, Officer William Logiodice and Ruger, and Officer Karen Reilly and Hunter, went through four weeks of vigorous training before becoming certified. The Agency obtained three of the dogs from Connecticut Labrador Rescue Inc, in Haddam and Michael Case, a private breeder from Colebrook Connecticut who donated the fourth K-9 to the Department.



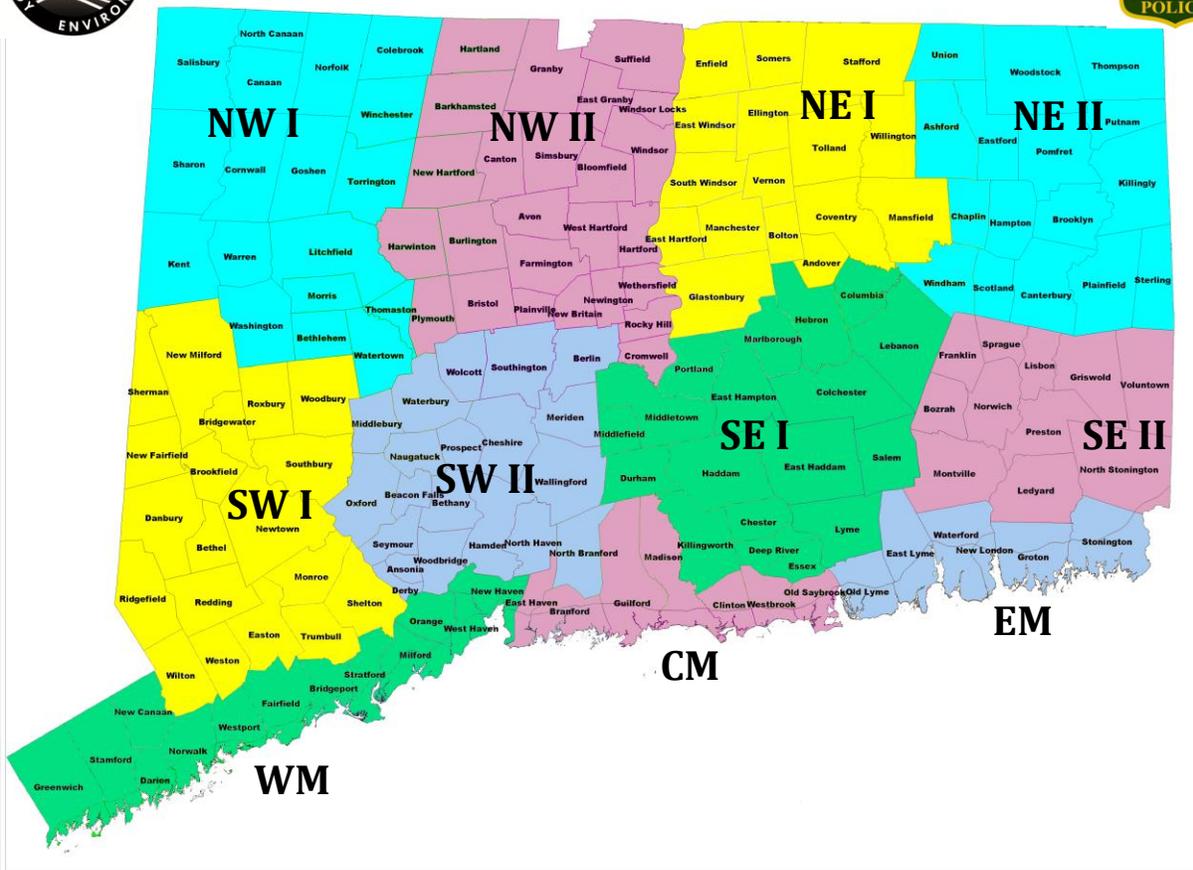
**EnCon Officers William Logiodice, Holly Bernier, Karen Reilly, and Erin Crossman with their dogs Ruger, Saydee, Hunter, and Ellie Mae**

# DIVISION STRUCTURE

The Division of State Environmental Conservation Police is part of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation; which also consists of the State Parks and Public Outreach Division and Division of Boating Safety. Colonel Kyle Overturf commands the division supported by the Hartford Headquarters Command Staff. The Division is comprised of three districts: East, West and Marine. A Captain commands each district. The districts are divided into patrol sectors each of which is supervised by a Sergeant. The Division also has specialized units that consist of a Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (BARU), Chemical Immobilization Tranquilizing Team, and a Hunting Related Shooting Incident team (HRSI).



### Patrol Map Work Location 2012



## **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 district. Captain Paul O'Connell is the district's commanding officer. Their responsibilities and duties include commercial and recreational fishing, shellfish, lobster, boating safety and hunting enforcement. The district's officers are also responsible for all the law enforcement at State shoreline parks, forests and campgrounds. Officers also assist in Homeland Security efforts by patrolling the major ports of New London, New Haven, Bridgeport and the area surrounding Millstone Nuclear Power Plant. Officers work in close cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard 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 local marine law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard. The Marine District handled 2,846 incidents which includes 759 arrests and 486 warnings in 2012.

## **MARINE DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Commercial Shellfishing**

On January 23, 2012 DEEP EnCon Police Officer Vroman was on patrol at the state owned Barn Island Boat Launch in the Town of Stonington when he observed two males harvesting shellfish in an area which was closed for this activity. Officer Vroman was met at the area by EnCon Officer Tavares and they determined that the suspects were in Rhode Island waters. Officer Tavares called for a Rhode Island DEM Environmental Police Officer who responded and observed the individuals from the RI side of Little Narragansett Bay. The suspects left the area and were met at the Westerly, RI DEM Boat Launch where they were placed under arrest for harvesting shellfish from polluted waters. One of the suspects had been arrested in Rhode Island on the same charge previously which then makes the second offense a felony. The DEM Officers seized the suspects' boat, trailer, and two totes of soft shell clams.

### **Commercial Fisheries Patrol**

On March 28, 2012 Connecticut DEEP EnCon Police Officers conducted a joint commercial fisheries patrol with National Marine Fisheries Enforcement Officers in Federal waters south of Block Island, Rhode Island and Montauk, New York. The patrol utilized EnCon's 42 foot patrol vessel "Guardian" and was focused on enforcing Harbor Porpoise regulations and the compliance of gillnet usage in these waters.

### **Sale of fish and drugs**

On May 24, 2012 Officer Stanko received information that a man was selling undersized striped bass out of his pick-up truck in Manchester. He conducted surveillance on the area for some time before watching the exchange between two men of cash and an intact fish. He approached the men and upon further investigation learned there were also marijuana sales taking place. One of

the men had several prior fish and game arrests, and both had lengthy criminal histories. Both men were arrested on scene for multiple violations including Illegal sale of striped bass, Illegal possession of striped bass, and Illegal possession/sale of marijuana.

### **OpSail 2012**

Officers from the entire division were tasked with numerous duties during OpSail festivities in New London from July 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>. Planning and preparation for the major shoreline event was done months in advance by Sergeant Kane. Officers provided vessel patrols and security in and around Niantic Bay and Millstone Power plant. Niantic Bay was the mooring location for several tall ships and the Navy Warship “Carter Hall”, including a Landing craft (LCAC) demonstration. Officers were assigned to the parade of sail, port security and at several State Parks, some of which hosted the ships and thousands of visitors. The event included a visit from several dignitaries, including Governor Malloy and one of the largest fireworks displays on the east coast the evening of July 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Boating Accident/ Arrest**

On September 14, 2012 Officer Bouthillier, Monday and O’Brien responded to the Niantic River for a report of a boating accident. Witnesses reported to East Lyme Police that a sailboat entering the river from the Bay struck a Charter vessel as it was leaving the river and then struck several other docked boats in a marina. A total of three vessels sustained minor damage as well as the sailboat. The operator of the sailboat, Kenneth Elyosius, age 59 from Bristol was charged with Reckless Operation of a vessel first degree and given a court date in New London Superior Court. The operator was on supervised parole and likely will face additional charges as a result of his arrest.

### **Shellfish Enforcement**

During the month of December officers Tavares, Logiodice, Bouthillier and Sergeant Kane were busy conducting shellfish enforcement in the Niantic River area. The area was busy with shellfishing activity due to an abundance of scallops. On four separate occasions, officers arrested individuals taking over their daily limit of scallops. During one such instance, officers were given information of a secret compartment in a vessel and arrested the suspect and seized the scallops. In another investigation, Officer Logiodice, with the assistance of the town shellfish warden, arrested a suspect for taking over his daily limit on multiple trips.

In all four cases the scallops were seized and release back into the River, the suspects were given a court appearance date or allowed to forfeit a \$200.00 bond in New London Superior Court.

### **Exotic Animal Amnesty Day**

On March 31, 2012 EnCon Police Sergeant Cynthia Schneider coordinated the state’s second “Exotic Animal Amnesty Day” in cooperation with the Beardsley Park Zoo. A recent change to Connecticut law prohibits the possession of certain exotic or dangerous animals, reptiles or amphibians. Seven animals were surrendered at the event including two American alligators; two Burmese Pythons, one of which was twelve feet long; two other larger boas and an alligator snapping turtle. The animals were turned over to Rainforest Reptiles of Massachusetts, a reptile

educational facility that works with conservation law enforcement agencies throughout the Northeast dealing with dangerous or illegal reptiles. The animals that were voluntarily surrendered were all subjected to physical examinations to determine the state of their health and will then be placed with zoos or other educational organizations with the proper facilities and permits to possess the animals.

### **Presidential Protection Detail**

On August 6, 2012 the President of the United States visited Stamford and Westport. Sherwood Island State Park was utilized by the United States Secret Service as a landing location for the President's helicopters which transported him and his entourage to Connecticut from a New York airport. EnCon Police officers from the Western District and West Marine Sector were detailed to assist the Secret Service in securing Sherwood Island State Park and providing perimeter and landing zone security for the Presidential aircraft.

### **Hurricane Sandy**

During the period of October 29<sup>th</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>, Connecticut was impacted by Hurricane Sandy which came ashore south of Connecticut in New Jersey. Damage as well as significant coastal flooding was experienced across the entire Connecticut coastline. EnCon Police from the Western District and West Marine Sector responded to calls from the Fairfield Fire Department to assist with flood rescues starting late October 29<sup>th</sup> and continuing through October 31<sup>st</sup>. EnCon Police officers crewed EnCon Police rescue boats and along with Fairfield firefighters searched numerous flooded neighborhoods along the Fairfield coastline. EnCon Police officers rescued 28 persons from flooded homes. In addition, EnCon Police were requested to transport two Fairfield Police officers to a flooded area where they had received a report of possible looting. Officer Paul Hilli located, detained and identified the two persons who had been reported looting and turned the incident over to the Fairfield Police.

EnCon Police officers continued assisting with searches on October 31<sup>st</sup> by going house to house with Fairfield Firefighters checking for any possible fatalities or injured persons who could not call for help.

In other areas of the Western District, EnCon Police officers responded to numerous calls of trees and wires blocking roadways, working with state and local police to ensure public safety during the storm.

# **EASTERN DISTRICT**

The Eastern District includes the 60 towns in the eastern part of the state north of the Marine District. There are two Sergeants, and eleven Conservation Enforcement Police officers assigned to the Eastern District. In 2012, the Eastern District handled 3,309 incidents total, made 798 arrests and issued 538 warnings.

## **EASTERN DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Hunting arrest**

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Officer Lindo was working the Northeast Sector when he received a complaint from D.E.E.P. dispatch of a man in full camouflage hunting with a rifle in the Town of East Windsor. Upon arrival to the area Officer Lindo found a vehicle fitting the description he had been given and upon further investigation found the suspect attempting to hide in the woods. Initially the suspect was non-compliant but then followed the orders of Officer Lindo and came out of the woods. Officer Lindo found the suspects rifle where he had been in hiding. He was charged with hunting deer during the closed season, hunting deer during closed hours, hunting deer without consent of the landowner, hunting deer without permit, hunting deer with a rifle without wearing required orange clothing, and hunting without a license. The suspect was issued a summons to appear in court at a later date and had a \$500.00 bond placed on him.

### **Bank Robbery**

On February 27, 2012 Officers from the Eastern District headquarters in Marlborough assisted the State Police in the apprehension of an armed bank robber. A white male armed with a knife robbed a bank in Hebron and attempted to elude police by driving his BMW at a high rate of speed away from the bank. The pursuing troopers were assisted by ENCON officers as he traveled on Route 66 in Marlborough. The suspect was stopped after he drove over stop sticks deployed by the State Police while attempting to drive on to Route 2 in the wrong direction. Officers assisted in retrieving money that the suspect had thrown from his vehicle during the pursuit along Route 66 and were directly involved in taking the suspect into custody due to their quick actions and timely response.

### **Boating Accident Investigation Results in Arrest**

Officer Pettus arrested Michael J. Antol, 41 of Middletown, CT on Friday, August 3, 2012 for multiple boating and criminal charges stemming from an incident that occurred on Mashapaug Lake in Union on April 21, 2012. Antol was arrested by EnCon Police at the Vernon Police Department on a warrant and arraigned on a \$250,000 court set bond at GA 19 in Rockville, CT. Antol turned himself in to EnCon Police after learning of the warrant for his arrest through his attorney.

At approximately 11:30 PM on Saturday, April 21, 2012, EnCon Police responded to Mashapaug Lake in Union, CT for a reported boating crash with injuries. EnCon Police, assisted by the

Connecticut State Police, investigated the report of a seventeen foot power boat that allegedly ran aground with two people on board. The passenger of the vessel, Richard J. Franas Jr., 40, of Amston, CT was rescued by EMS personnel from area Fire Departments and was taken to Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford. He was treated and later transferred to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford due to the severity of his injuries. Franas succumbed to his injuries and died on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The operator of the 17 foot vessel, Michael J. Antol, escaped with only minor injuries in the incident. Antol was charged with Manslaughter Second Degree, Manslaughter Second Degree with a Vessel, Reckless Operation of a Vessel First Degree While Under the Influence, Failure To Maintain Proper Lookout While Operating Vessel, Operating a Vessel at Speed in Excess of Slow-No-Wake within 100 Feet of Shore, Failure to Comply with Federal Requirements Regarding Anchor Lights, Insufficient Personal Floatation Devices, and Exceeding 10 M.P.H. Speed Limit on Mashapaug Lake

### **Firearms Investigation**

On Sunday, October 7, 2012 Officer Pettus was on patrol in Shenipsit State Forest in Stafford on a complaint of ATV's in the area. While searching for the ATV's she came upon a male with two handguns and a large 'Bowie' style knife on his person. Both firearms were visible as well as the large knife. She approached the subject and asked him for his identification and his permit to carry the handguns. She secured all the weapons and asked for back up from the Connecticut State Police. While checking the paperwork she determined that the subject was a suspect in an earlier incident in the same area where a man brandished a firearm and had a large knife on his belt. Ultimately, the firearms and knife were confiscated and the subject was issued an infraction for unauthorized weapons in a State Forest. Knowing the statute of limitations was quickly approaching with regard to the incident in 2011, Officer Pettus re-interviewed the original complainant and provided a photo line-up for him to view. The complainant identified the suspect and Officer Pettus received the arrest warrant from the court on October 18<sup>th</sup> with a court set bond of \$10,000.00 dollars. Officers Pettus and Stanko arrested the suspect at Troop C in Tolland on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Upon release of the suspect, Officer Stanko applied for and received a 'risk' warrant due to the strange actions and behavior of the suspect. The warrant was received and executed on October 20<sup>th</sup> by Officers Stanko and Ruggiero, Sgt. Tomassone, Col. Overturf, and several State Police Troopers. During the search of the suspect's residence a 'pineapple style' hand grenade was found and CSP Emergency Services Unit was called in to clear the residence. The grenade was later determined to be inert and was destroyed by CSP ESU. Over seventy firearms were recovered during the search and seizure. The suspect was given a court date at GA 19.

### **Hunting under the influence**

On November 26, 2012 Officer Arsenault received a complainant from an individual who observed a male hunting with a rifle and not wearing the required florescent orange clothing. The property was located off of route 49 in Voluntown. Officer Arsenault arrived and was given a description of the illegal hunter. Officer Arsenault conducted a foot patrol of the area and located a subject matching the description. The suspect was in full camouflaged clothing, lying down next to a stone wall, covered with leaves. Upon contact the subject was non compliant and exhibited erratic behavior. The hunter was taken into custody and positively identified by the

complainant. The illegal hunter had the smell of an alcoholic beverage on his breath. He was transported to the State Police Barracks and charged with hunting under the influence of alcohol and or drugs, interfering with an officer, criminal trespass, third degree and deer hunting private property without landowner consent.

## **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 farm land. The Southwest Sector also covers the highly industrialized lower Naugatuck Valley, Waterbury, Danbury and the towns surrounding Bridgeport and New Haven.

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 Haddam and the Housatonic River from Massachusetts to Shelton.

In 2012, the Western District handled 3,155 incidents, made 750 arrests, and issued 417 warnings.



**EnCon Police Western District**

# WESTERN DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

## Homeowner kills black bear

On January 4, 2012 EnCon Police Sergeants Keith Schneider, Cindy Schneider and Officer Erin Crossman responded to a call received from the Windsor Police Department involving a homeowner who shot and killed a black bear. The subject had reported the bear to the Windsor Police and while the Windsor Animal Control Officer was attempting to haze the bear to move it from the area the subject shot the bear with a rifle. EnCon officers arrived at the scene, found a dead black bear and observed another bear, which appeared to be approximately one-year old, roaming in the area. The dead bear was 5-6 years old, weighed approximately 250 lbs. and was allegedly shot while it was in a tree on homeowners property. The bear had apparently caused damage to subject's bird feeder. The juvenile bear was tranquilized by DEEP Wildlife biologists and relocated.

The subject was charged with illegally killing a black bear and Negligent hunting in the fourth degree.

## Hunting under the Influence

On Wednesday, April 25, 2012, the first day of spring turkey hunting season –EnCon Police Officers Sean Buckley and Keith Williams were on patrol on Kuhne Road, Southbury when they observed a vehicle parked in an area adjacent to a section of private land that borders Aldo Leopold Wildlife Management Area. The officers checked the area and located a subject hunting on state land. The subject was hunting from a popup blind and as officers approached the blind they smelled what they believed to be a strong odor of burning marijuana. The officers looked into the blind and observed the subject smoking what appeared to be a marijuana cigarette. Officers seized a quantity of suspected marijuana and conducted a field sobriety test on the subject, which he failed.

The subject did have a hunting license and the necessary permits to turkey hunt. He was arrested and released on a written promise to appear in Superior Court in Waterbury on May 9.

## Missing person in state forest

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, EnCon Police Officer Mike Curran responded to the Highrock Range in Naugatuck State Forest, Naugatuck to a report of an abandoned vehicle in the range parking lot. Officer Curran determined from the registration number of the vehicle that the owner of the vehicle had been reported as a missing person in Waterbury two days earlier.

EnCon Police personnel including Officer Erin Crossman and EnCon Police K9 *Ellie Mae* started a search of the area in an attempt to locate the individual. As it became apparent that additional resources were needed the State Police K9 unit was contacted for assistance. A search using six K9's continued through sunset without finding the individual. On June 10<sup>th</sup> the search

continued with EnCon Police personnel, State Police K9's and members of the Oxford and Beacon Falls volunteer fire departments. After a day of searching with K9's, on foot, with ATV's and on horseback the individual was still not located. Canine units continued the search for three more days until the missing individual was located next to the railroad tracks along the Naugatuck River by a DOT employee. The individual stated that he had fallen while hiking and was trying to crawl to the river for water. The subject was transported to Waterbury Hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

### **Armed robbery in state park**

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> EnCon Police Officers Matt Stone and Sean Buckley responded to a report of an armed robbery in the parking lot at Osbornedale State Park in Derby. The officers arrived and met with the victim who had a laptop computer stolen from him. The victim advised the officers that he had posted an add online to sell the computer and was contacted by a buyer who requested that they meet at Osbornedale. When the victim got to the park and got out of his vehicle he was approached by two individuals, one of whom told the victim that he had a knife and took the laptop computer. The two subjects then fled the area. Based upon information provided by the victim, witnesses and the Derby Police, Officer Stone was able to identify one of the subjects. That subject was located at his home in Waterbury and taken into custody. The subject still had the laptop computer in his possession when arrested. The subject was charged with Robbery 2<sup>nd</sup> degree and Larceny 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. EnCon Police are still attempting to locate the second subject.

### **Deer hunting arrest**

On November 10, 2012 EnCon Police Officer Tim Hill received a complaint from two hunters that while they were legally hunting in the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management area in Burlington, another hunter in the area pointed his bow and arrow directly at them. According to the complainant, the archery hunter claimed he thought they were deer and stated they shouldn't be walking around because it might get them killed.

Officer Hill contacted Officer Erin Crossman who responded with canine Ellie-Mae to search for the individual. Officer Crossman and her canine partner located the subject in a tree stand on the Wildlife Management area property. The subject was issued an infraction for Creating a Public Disturbance and a warning for illegal acts in a Wildlife Management Area.

### **Exotic snake arrest**

On November 27, 2012 EnCon Police Sergeant Cynthia Schneider, Officer Holly Bernier and John Chickos investigated a report of an Anaconda being offered for sale on the internet. The officers determined that the snake was in a condo apartment in Waterbury. Anacondas are illegal to possess in Connecticut.

Sgt. Schneider made arrangements to meet the seller at their home under the guise of purchasing the snake. Sgt. Schneider, Officer Bernier and Officer Chickos went to the location in Waterbury where they confiscated a Green Anaconda (which can grow up to over 22 feet long) and a Reticulated Python (which can also grow up to 20 feet long) which is also a prohibited species in Connecticut. The owner was arrested for Illegal Possession of a reptile.

The two snakes were transferred to Rainforest Reptiles, a Massachusetts educational and reptile rescue organization for legal placement in a zoo.

### **Arrest for illegal trapping with snares**

On December 2, 2012, EnCon Police Officer Ralph Concepcion received a complaint that two beavers and a blue heron were found dead in the Hop Brook in Middlebury. All of the animals had been caught in illegal snare traps and died. A trail camera was installed at the location to determine if the actions were ongoing. The trail camera successfully provided photographic evidence that a suspect was returning to the area after dusk to check the traps. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Officer Concepcion conducted surveillance of the area involved and apprehended the subject who had been observed on the trail camera. The subject, whose home is on the property adjacent to where the snares were set, stated to the Officer Concepcion that he had set the snares in an effort to trap beaver that had been damaging trees on his property. The subject admitted to setting 5 snares along the brook.

In addition to not having a Connecticut trapping license, the subject did not have permission to trap on the private property and was using snares which are illegal in Connecticut. Officer Concepcion arrested the subject for Illegal trapping with a snare, Trapping on private property without permission and Trapping without a license.

### **Sandy Hook School Shooting**

On December 14, 2012 Newtown Police responded to a report of shots being fired at Sandy Hook Elementary School. A request for assistance was broadcast to all area law enforcement agencies. EnCon Police Captain Raul Camejo, Sergeant Keith Schneider, Sergeant Chris Dwyer and Officers Paul Hilli, Keith Williams, Jeff Bruno, Holly Bernier, Matt Stone, Tate Begley, John Hey and Sean Buckley responded. Officers Hilli and Williams arrived minutes after the initial call and evacuated hundreds of students from the building. At the time there were reports that there may have been two or three shooters involved and police assets were actively searching the school. As remaining EnCon Police officers arrived they deployed to lock down the perimeter of the building while a tactical team conducted a search of the entire building for additional suspects and victims. While the interior search was still active Officer Begley was on a wooded hill immediately adjacent to and overlooking the school. Officer Begley heard movement behind him and observed two individuals who appeared to be surreptitiously attempting to approach the school. Out of concern that the two individuals might have been part of a coordinated attack on the school, Officer Begley apprehended both and took them into custody. State Police units responded to back up Officer Begley and it was determined that

the two individuals were reporters from two major New York newspapers trying to get a story. The EnCon Police maintained the perimeter of the scene until it was declared secured four hours after the shooting.

# NEW OFFICERS AND PROMOTIONS IN 2012

## Promotions



Sgt. Jeff Samorajczyk and his wife Debra at his promotional ceremony in March of 2012



**Colonel Overturf and Deputy Commissioner Whalen with Capt. Ryan Healy**

## New Hires



**Officer Liam O'Brien and Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen at his swearing in ceremony in June**

## **TRAINING**

Environmental Conservation Police Officers are certified Connecticut police officers through the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council. Each officer has attended and graduated from the Connecticut Municipal Police Academy. All officers are required to complete sixty hours of training every three years to maintain their police certification, in the subject areas such as Gangs, Rape Crisis, Domestic Violence, Firearms, Handling Juveniles and Police and the Law. In 2012, eighteen officers completed their review training in accordance with academy standards.

Officers voluntarily attend training at the police academy which benefits both the individual officer and the agency. Officers learn new skills and techniques which can be brought back and shared within the agency. In 2012, twenty nine officers participated in academy offered training, and attended seventeen different courses. Officers attended training in the following areas: Mid-Management Training, Police Applicant Background, Instructor Development, First Line Leadership, Mandatory Police Training, Law Enforcement Active Diffusion Strategy, Physical Fitness “Cooper” Standards, Career Survival, Performance Accountability, Discipline and Termination, Management Rights, Use of Force, Driving While Intoxicated, Crime Scene Processing, Basic Survival Spanish, Officer Safety Awareness and Autism and Law Enforcement.

In addition to voluntary training, officers must attend mandatory training, such as firearms qualification ( including Pistol, Rifle and Shotgun), CPR certification, and COLLECT training.

## **AWARDS**

### **Sergeant Chris Dwyer, Officer Joseph Ruggiero, and Officer Stephen Stanko – Medal for Lifesaving**

On November 11, 2011, Officers Stanko, Ruggiero and Sergeant Dwyer responded to Sleeping Giant State Park in the town of Hamden for a female who was lost in the park. A search was already underway for the lost nineteen year old female by the Hamden Police and Fire departments. Hamden Police had contact with the lost female by phone and she appeared disoriented.

Officers Stanko, Ruggiero and Sergeant Dwyer joined the search by foot on the trails and were able to locate items that were thought to be from the lost hiker. Hamden Police canine teams involved with the search were near exhaustion and returned to the staging area. Officer Stanko and Sergeant Dwyer continued up the mountain and after climbing a rocky outcropping of the trail near the northern boundary discovered the lost female lying on the ground in a thick cover of mountain laurel. The lost female was wearing only a thin dress with no shoes on her feet and temperatures were dropping. The female appeared disoriented, suffering from hypothermia and could not stand or walk. After wrapping the victim in Officer Stanko's uniform shirt the officers decided that the only way to get her to medical care was to carry her out of the remote location. After carrying the victim for a significant length of time the officers were able to get her to a location where medical personnel were located and she was transported by the fire department to an area hospital for treatment. The actions of the officers on this evening contributed to saving the life of the nineteen year old hiker.

### **Officer Matthew Stone – Medal for Meritorious Service**

On July 7, 2011 Officer Stone responded to Bigelow Hollow State Park for a report of a suicidal male who was believed to be on foot in the park. The distraught male had left a suicide note at his home and his family members indicated he liked to sit by the water. The search parties consisted of numerous State Troopers, some with canines, as well as fellow officers from the agency.

Officer Stone began searching several locations that were close to the water by vehicle and foot. During his search of Breakneck Pond he encountered several males in a canoe who stated they had seen the white male matching the description on the other side of the pond. Officer Stone went to the location that he was given by the witnesses and found the distraught male sitting inside a camping shelter. Officer Stone determined that the individual had not harmed himself and escorted him back to the staging area. The distraught male indicated to Officer Stone that he didn't want to be a burden to anyone anymore and had attempted suicide twice in the past. The male was transported to an area hospital for evaluation.

### **Officer Tate Begley, Officer Nicholas Miofsky, and Officer Keith Williams – Medal for Meritorious Service**

Over the past several hunting seasons the division has received numerous complaints in the Sharon Mountain area regarding illegal deer hunting activity. Area residents reported

suspicious vehicles bearing Massachusetts license plates dropping off and picking up hunters in areas posted as private property. On October 8, 2011 Officer Begley observed a white van with Massachusetts license plates on a residential street in Sharon. Officer Begley was able to obtain the license plate information for his investigation. Later that morning Officer Begley saw the same van parked behind a gas station in Lakeville and requested assistance from Officer Miofsky and Williams. Officers obtained information from the van operator that three individuals were dropped off in Sharon with their hunting equipment. They would illegally hunt for deer on the private property and then get picked up later that afternoon. None of the hunters had legal permission to hunt the private property and indications were that they would flee if encountered by an officer. Information gathered also indicated that this activity had occurred numerous times over the past years. Officer Begley and Miofsky accompanied the cooperative van operator to pick up the three hunters. Officer Keith Williams and two State Troopers followed to provide assistance. Once the van got to the pre-determined pick up location, the suspects would emerge from the woods and run toward the van where officers were waiting to take them into custody. All three suspects were apprehended along with their equipment as well as an illegally killed deer. Officers Begley, Miofsky and Keith Williams demonstrated exceptional skill, ingenuity, perseverance and initiative in conducting what was a complex investigation that resulted in the apprehension of four out of state hunters that repeatedly violated state fish and game laws.



**Commissioner Esty and Colonel Overturf with Officers Nicholas Miofsky and Keith Williams**

### **Officer Joseph Ruggiero – Medal for Meritorious Service**

On October 10, 2011 Officer Ruggiero established surveillance in the parking lot at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth following a series of automobile burglaries at the park and at other state parks in the area. Officer Ruggiero observed two individuals break into cars in the parking lot at the park. The two suspects were attempting to steal personal items from the unoccupied automobiles. Officer Ruggiero requested assistance from another officer and both suspects were quickly apprehended. Both suspects were charged with Burglary, Larceny, Criminal Mischief and Possession of Burglary Tools.

Officer Ruggiero's initiative resulted in two arrests that ended a string of burglaries at area State Parks and the return of personal property.



**Commissioner Esty and Colonel Overturf with Officer Joseph Ruggiero**

### **Sergeant James Wolfe and Officer Stephen Stanko – Medal for Meritorious Service**

On February 27, 2012 at approximately 2:15 PM, Officer Stanko and Sergeant Wolfe were on duty at Eastern District Headquarters in Marlborough. After being alerted to a bank robbery in Hebron they both took a post on Route 66 at the Headquarters and monitored State Police radio transmissions. State Police were pursuing the bank robber which was heading toward their location. Sergeant Wolfe and Officer Stanko observed a Trooper pursuing the suspect vehicle and followed to assist if needed. The pursuit led south on Main Street where the suspect threw the stolen money out of his car onto the road. After driving over stop sticks the suspect entered the westbound off ramp to Route 2 in the wrong direction only to reverse direction after encountering another Trooper. The suspect then drove directly towards Sergeant Wolfe and Officer Stanko who were now blocking the highway overpass. The suspect was taken into custody by Officer Stanko while Sergeant Wolfe and the pursuing Trooper provided cover and assistance. The entire amount of stolen money was recovered and turned over to the State Police.

Due to their alertness and timely judgment the armed suspect was apprehended, the stolen money was recovered and the pursuit was ended safely.

### **Officer Keith Williams, Officer Sean Buckley, and Carl Hornbecker – Medal for Outstanding Service**

On November 26, 2011 at approximately 3:15 PM, State Police received a cell phone call for assistance from a hiker who had gotten lost near the trails by Lake Zoar. The only description of the area that the lost 81 year old hiker could provide was that he could see water and buildings to the north of his location. Officer Keith Williams and Sean Buckley as well as State Police Troopers with canines and Oxford Police officers responded to the area to begin searching. Officer Williams started to search by foot on the trail while Officer Buckley responded to Lakeside Marina in Southbury to obtain a vessel. Officer Buckley believed that the hiker was located in an area that was more accessible by vessel due to steep terrain. Officer Buckley requested assistance from the marina and from boat owner Carl Hornbecker.

Officer Buckley and Mr. Hornbecker checked the shoreline and soon saw Officer Williams climbing down a steep rock face towards the lost hiker's location near the water's edge. Officer Williams had found the victim by following his footprints from where he had turned off the main trail. The lost hiker was transported back to the officers' vehicles by vessel. The 81 year old hiker did not require medical attention but was near exhaustion. Due to their knowledge of the area and quick action, the lost hiker was found in a timely fashion unharmed.

### **Officer Sean Buckley – Medal for Outstanding Service**

On March 28, 2009 Officer Buckley responded to a report of a smash and grab style larceny from a vehicle at Huntington State Park in Redding. Upon arrival at the scene, Officer Buckley determined that a second larceny from a motor vehicle had also occurred at Putnam Memorial State Park. At the time there was no further evidence available to develop suspects in the case. Officer Buckley took the initiative to continue this investigation. There had been several similar incidents in state parks throughout western Connecticut. Officer Buckley developed information by working cooperatively with State Police, Redding, Middlebury,

Naugatuck and Ansonia police departments. Through his diligent efforts Officer Buckley was able to develop a suspect and obtain an arrest warrant. The suspect was located in Virginia where he had been imprisoned for crimes he committed in that state. Officer Buckley, with assistance from the State Attorney's Office, was able to have the suspect charged in Virginia as a Fugitive from Justice. The suspect is currently awaiting extradition proceedings to Connecticut. Information obtained in the investigation may also tie the suspect to other similar larcenies that occurred in Connecticut State Parks.

In October 2011 an early winter storm struck Connecticut. Tree crews clearing downed trees in the area of Putnam park located a pocketbook containing personal belongings. Officer Buckley determined the purse belonged to one of the victims in the 2009 larcenies. Officer Buckley returned the item to the owner who determined that the only items missing were cash and medications. All of the victim's identification and other personal belongings were still inside. Officer Buckley conducted an intensive criminal investigation that required exceptional investigative skills. His ability to coordinate his activities with numerous agencies and a high level of diligence led to the apprehension of a suspect and the return of items to the victim of the crime.

### **Michael Ralbovsky – Medal for Outstanding Service**

Michael Ralbovsky has been assisting the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police Division with the handling, seizure and placement of dangerous reptiles for many years. In addition, he has also voluntarily conducted several training classes for police officers on the handling and capturing of dangerous reptiles, such as venomous snakes and crocodilians.

Since 2009, the number of complaints received on the possession of dangerous animals has increased greatly, with the largest increase being exotic snakes and crocodilians. Mike has assisted in some capacity with every one of those incidents. In August 2009, Rainforest Reptiles was a key participant in the first ever Exotic Animal Amnesty Day in Connecticut. On that day alone, Rainforest Reptiles assisted with the handling and placement of over 100 reptiles which had been voluntarily surrendered.

In 2011, Mike assisted in fourteen incidents involving such species as an African Spur tortoise, pythons, boa constrictors, caimans and American alligators. Mike took possession of all these animals and in most cases utilized them to educate the public about conservation and the dangers of owning exotic animals as pets. Michael Ralbovsky's outstanding service to the division is invaluable. His assistance, knowledge and experience are not only significant to officer safety and the animals' well being, but also to the safety of the citizens of Connecticut.

### **SCO John Marvin – Medal for Outstanding Service**

On August 19, 2011 at approximately 5:15 PM, Special Conservation Officer John Marvin was travelling eastbound on Interstate 84 in Union. As he neared exit 74 he came upon a motor vehicle accident in which one person had died at the scene of the crash and another person was in critical condition. Officer Marvin was the first police officer on scene and immediately called for medical services and notification of the State Police. Officer Marvin directed arriving EMS personnel to the injured parties and helped guide the Life Star helicopter to a safe landing zone in order to transport the injured motorist. He was able to obtain witness names and also

provided traffic direction on a busy interstate. Officer Marvin rendered service above and beyond the normal scope of his duties and his professionalism and quick actions were paramount to the investigation and to the safety of all those involved.

### **Officer Stephen Stanko – Medal for Outstanding Service**

On June 9, 2011 Officer Steve Stanko overheard a State Police radio transmission regarding a possible intoxicated driver traveling on Route 9 in Haddam. The State Police advised that the offending vehicle had nearly caused an accident due to the erratic operation. Officer Stanko was in the immediate area and observed the complainant who was following the offending vehicle. Officer Stanko safely stopped the vehicle and then continued his investigation as to the cause for the erratic and unsafe driving. For officer safety reasons the driver was checked for any weapons. Officer Stanko found several knives on the driver and noticed he attempted to hide items in his pocket. The driver became combative and had to be subdued by Officer Stanko. A subsequent search revealed numerous plastic glassine bags. A total of 72 packages of heroin and \$2,249.00 in cash were seized from the driver. Also found in the vehicle were 17 oxycotin pills, 3 methadone pills, 3 prescription Motrin pills and 1 Viagra pill. The driver was arrested and charged with Possession of Narcotics, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Sale of Narcotics and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.



**Commissioner Esty and Colonel Overturf with Officer Stephen Stanko**

## **Officer Stephen Stanko – Boating Officer of the Year**

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boating Officer of the Year for Connecticut in 2011 is Officer Steven Stanko. Officer Stanko patrolled the Central Marine Sector covering Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River. He distinguished himself this past year by making 17 boating arrests and issuing 11 written warnings for boating violations both on Connecticut's waters and at the State's boat launches. Among the arrests he performed, two were for Boating Under the Influence (BUI), one of which resulted in an arrest of a passenger for narcotics.

The first BUI arrest was in Long Island Sound off the shore of Westbrook on May 28<sup>th</sup> where the operator of a vessel failed the standard field sobriety tests, also failed the Intoxilyzer breath test and was arrested for BUI with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) that was two times the legal limit. During the course of this arrest he also arrested a passenger who inadvertently displayed illegal narcotics to Officer Stanko when he asked the individual for identification. The individual was found to be illegally in possession of Oxycontin, a prescription drug, and had been using a razor blade to cut the pills in order to snort it. The second BUI arrest occurred while participating in "Operation Drywater" a national Boating Under the Influence initiative sponsored by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators at Candlewood Lake on June 26<sup>th</sup>, when he arrested an individual who was found passed out, adrift in his vessel. The operator failed all standard field sobriety tests and also failed the Intoxilyzer Breath Test with a result for blood alcohol concentration that was twice the legal limit.

Officer Stanko also investigated five boating accidents in 2010-11, several of which involved injuries. He also was the lead officer investigating the untimely death of an individual at the Baldwin Bridge Boat Launch in December. He is a four year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division and consistently generates a high volume and variety of incidents. He willingly accepts all assignments and has demonstrated his leadership abilities as a Field Training Officer instructing new officers in an effective manner. His dedication, enthusiasm, professionalism and willingness to cooperate make him a worthy recipient of the NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year Award for Connecticut for 2011.

## **Officer Keith Williams – Wildlife Officer of the Year**

Keith has been employed by the Department Of Energy and Environmental Protection as a member of the Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police since June of 2008. He is assigned to the Western District and works in the South West Sector. Prior to joining the EnCon Police Officer Williams was a Shell Fish Warden on Cape Cod in Massachusetts where he actively enforced Shellfish laws and regulations. Keith is a very proactive officer and does his job with diligence. He had one of the highest case loads of the year in the district and continued to work each case with attention to detail in successfully completing them. He was well rounded in all of the aspects of the job. His self motivation and determination has helped him succeed in doing the job of a Connecticut Conservation Enforcement Officer.

Officer Williams worked with minimal supervision and was very diverse with his activity. He was a team player with the agency and his fellow officers. He made himself available and responded to many after hour callouts when needed and continuously assisted other

sector officers without being asked. He was always willing to take the lead in anything that came his way, whether it was minor cases such as littering/ illegal Dumping or extensive investigations such as serious or fatal boating accidents. He was well rounded in the performance of his duties as a game warden. Some of those included waterfowl hunting, deer hunting, fishing, boating, and recreational vehicle type cases. He gained valuable experience and was conducted numerous criminal cases, public safety incidents, weather emergencies, narcotics, domestic violence, motor vehicle law and DUI enforcement.

Keith received a medal for Meritorious Service in which he and another officer located a suicidal / emotionally disturbed person who was in possession of a 12 gauge shotgun, ammunition and several knives. His recognition and thorough investigation resulted in the safe return and help of this person in need.

Keith also received a Unit Citation for his role in assisting in the capture of a Florida Fugitive in Winsted who was wanted for assaulting a Florida State Trooper with a firearm. Keith and other EnCon officers provided invaluable assistance to the U.S Marshal Service, State Police, and Winsted police in apprehending the violent fugitive. In this case he acted in a professional manner which showcased the unwavering dedication, technical and practical knowledge and capabilities of an EnCon police officer.

Some examples of Keith's diverse busy year are listed below:

He investigated numerous illegal ATV activities one of which resulted in the operator being arrested when the operator attempted to run him down. Keith was in the process of intercepting the subject in an attempt to stop his machine when the subject accelerated the ATV towards him. He had to jump out of the way to avoid being hit. Keith continued on a foot pursuit and finally stopped the ATV at which time the operator was arrested for numerous ATV violations which included interfering with an officer.

Keith's boating activity type cases resulted in a wide array of investigations and arrests one of which included a boater who had cut off a lock of an access gate that led to a lake that prohibited the use of a motor on boats. The violator replaced it with his own lock in order to gain sole access to boating and fishing activity. Numerous complaints were made on this illegal activity and Keith's efforts and perseverance into this investigation resulted in the arrest of the subject. He also assisted and made BUI arrests on Candlewood Lake and the Housatonic River. He investigated several serious boating accidents one of which recently led to an arrest by warrant of the operator after submitting search and seizure warrants to court in order to prove his case against a subject.

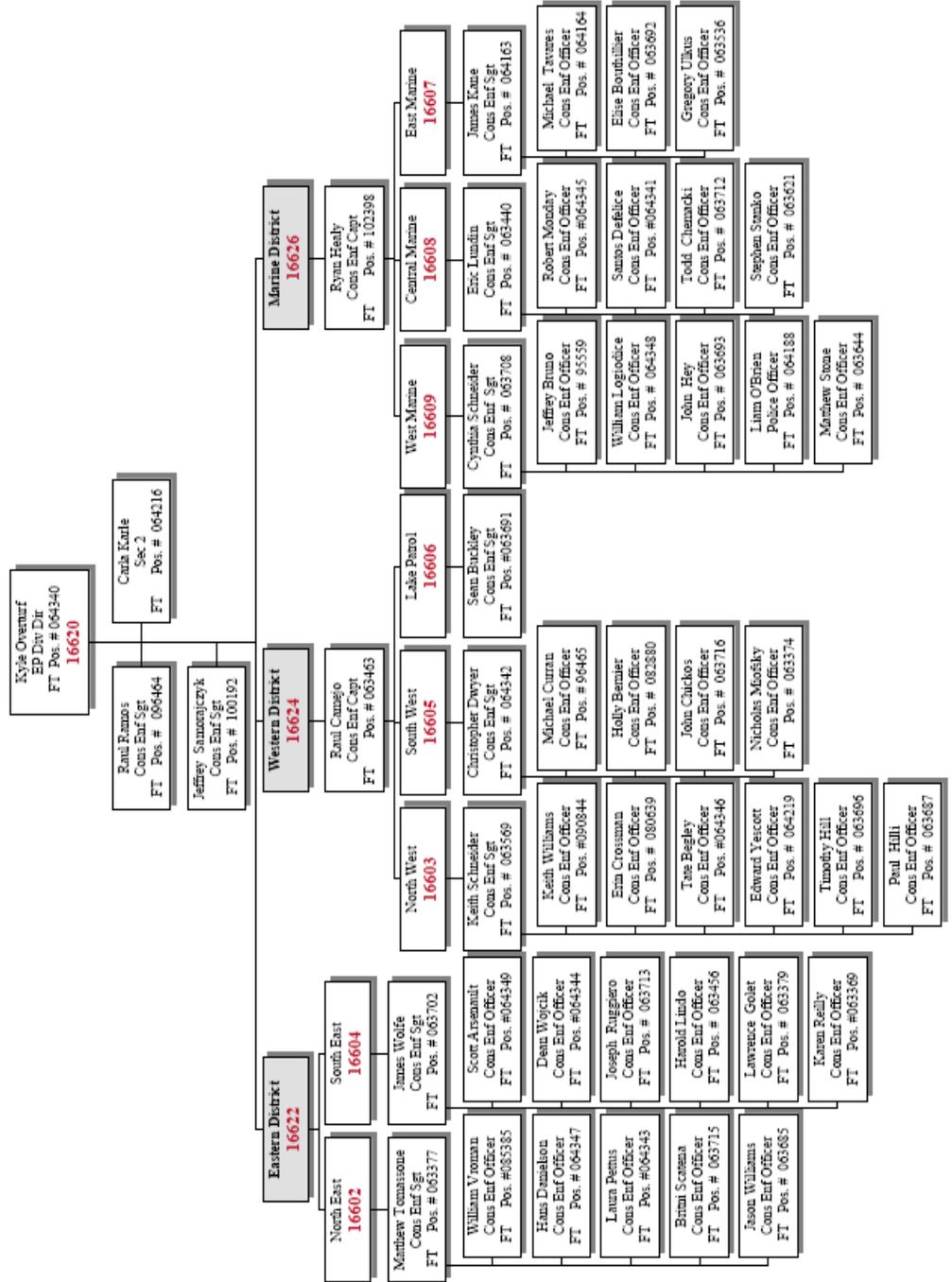
Officer Williams' fish and game investigations included catching violators hunting deer over bait in no bait zones, violation of the 500 foot rule when he caught a Vermont resident hunting with a muzzle loading rifle two hundred thirty one feet from a house. He also investigated an extensive trapping case where he apprehended an illegal trapper setting and tending illegally set fox traps well outside of the legal trapping season.

Keith is also a member of the department's Hunting Incident Reconstruction Unit which is responsible for reconstructing hunting related shootings in Connecticut. Keith attended the IHEA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy in Georgia where he learned special crime scene

investigation techniques including how to properly document and secure evidence and make determinations as to the cause of the shooting. Upon graduation he quickly put this training to use when he and other HIRU members investigated a deer hunting related shooting during last year's hunting season in the eastern part of the state.

# Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Environmental Conservation Police Division **DEP44300-16620**

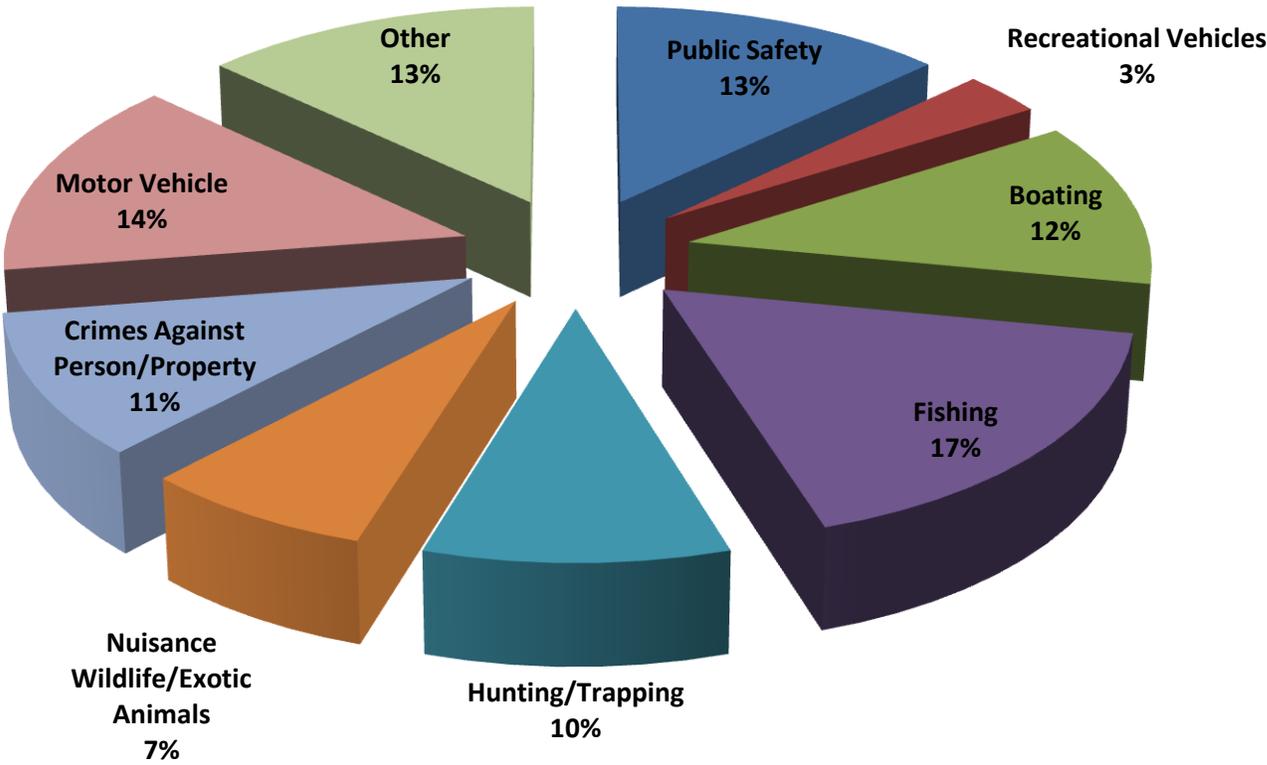
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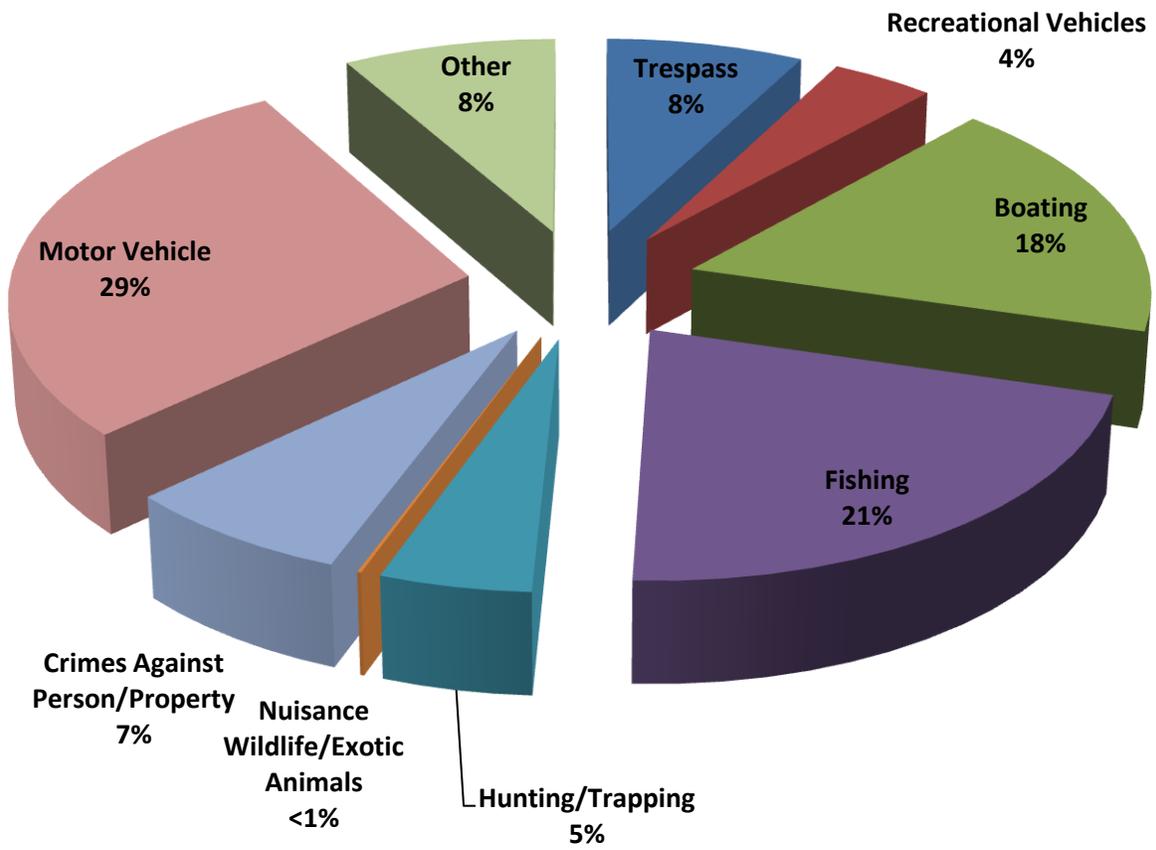
## 2012 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

<b>Enforcement Areas</b>	<b>Total # of Incidents</b>	<b>Total # of Arrests</b>	<b>Total # of Warnings</b>
Hunting/ Trapping	897	111	67
Fishing	1595	490	495
Boating	1112	410	310
Motor Vehicle	1337	661	235
Trespassing	570	178	146
K-9 Violations	115	13	41
Recreational Vehicles	292	93	25
Alcohol/ Narcotics	246	161	42
Crimes Against Persons	574	126	57
Crimes Against Property	394	43	16
Public Safety/ Medical Assist	1205	12	2
Search and Rescue/Missing Persons	101	0	0
Nuisance Bear	117	2	0
Exotic Animals	68	0	2
Sick, Injured, & Nuisance Wildlife	501	1	2
Background Investigations	32	0	0
Homeland Security/ Suspicious Person	131	6	1
Untimely Death	23	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9310</b>	<b>2307</b>	<b>1441</b>

# 2012 Activity by Incident Type



## 2012 Arrests by Incident Type



# 2012 Warnings by Incident Type

