



**2023 Annual Statistics Report**

The following report is designed to provide an overall review of the work completed by the staff of the Environmental Conservation Police Department during 2023.

The purpose of this analysis is to provide a brief review of the work productivity of the Environmental Conservation Police Department and highlight the achievements made during the year.

The first part of the review is to analyze enforcement activities between July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (Table 1). This information was compared to data extrapolated from the same time frame in 2022. This data was obtained from the Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS) of the department.

<b>Category</b>	<b>July 1, 2022, thru Dec 31, 2022</b>	<b>July 1, 2023, thru Dec 31, 2023</b>
Calls for Service	12284	12236
Arrests	64	88
Infractions issued	729	723
Written warnings	274	276
Verbal warnings	364	364

Table 1

The second data set will evaluate the information that was collected beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (Table 2). This information was then synthesized, and a comparison was drawn between 2023 data with data obtained from 2022. All the data collected and analyzed was information recorded through the CAD/RMS of the department.

<b>Category</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Calls for Service	19619	22547
Arrests	96	145
Infractions	1354	1532
Written Warnings	580	623
Verbal Warnings	654	1090

Table 2

To understand and interpret enforcement outcomes, the agency has made concerted efforts to track contacts with the public. The recorded data supports that most contacts do not result in enforcement action of any type. It is important to account for the fact that just because an officer makes a public contact it does not mean that a case number is pulled for the contact. Once the officer determines that the public contact is in violation of a law or violation, that officer then



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
 DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
 CONSERVATION POLICE  
 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
 Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



initiates a case number to record the public contact. The following table (Table 3) reflects a sampling of the constituents that officers of the Environmental Conservation Police Department had contact with engaged in outdoor activities. The information in this report was extrapolated from the department’s Connecteam app that records this information from field officers and compared with the same data set obtained from 2022.

<b>Category</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Hunters Checked	1214	1752
Fishermen Checked	8592	7838
Boaters Checked	3191	4182

Table 3

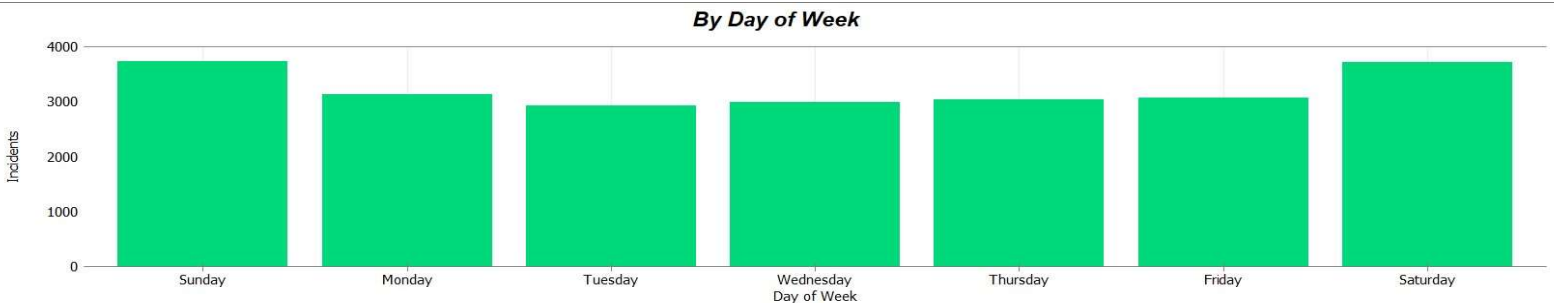
The next part of this analysis is to evaluate some of the more frequent calls for service (CFS) that officers respond to. While this table does not represent the complete call for service list, this table does reflect those calls for service which take a significant amount of time and effort by our officers to investigate. The data that comprises this list was taken from the CAD/RMS and represents a comparison between 2022 and 2023. This information is compiled into the table below (Table 4).

<b>Category</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Parks (General)	2810	4096
Public Outreach	222	234
ATV incidents	325	345
Disorderly Conduct	191	183
Trespass	585	593
Enforce Boating	2196	1857
Nuisance Bear	226	197
Paddle craft	64	108
Accident Investigations	106	87
Hunting related CFS	1674	1361
Fishing related CFS	3000	2214
DUI/BUI	12	11

Table 4

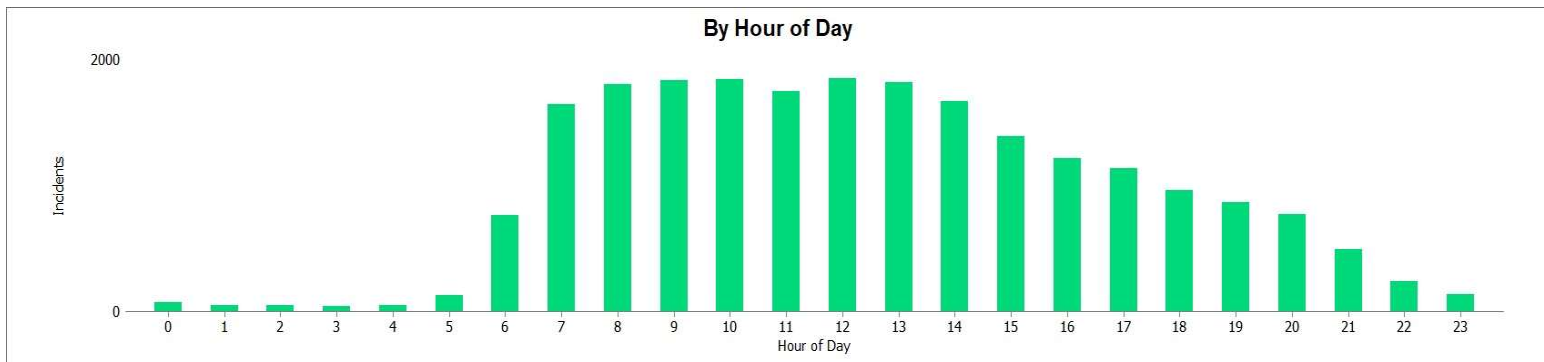


An evaluation was conducted on when were the busiest times of the day and what days during the week reflected the most requests for calls for service. This information is condensed by our CAD/RMS as requests for calls for service are recorded and reflects all calls for service received and dispatched by the Dispatch Center. The following table reflects the breakdown of calls for service for 2023 by day of the week (Table 5).



**Table 5**

The next table represents the time of day that reflects the most requests for police services from the Environmental Conservation Police Department. This table represents the breakdown of these requests for 2022 by hour of day using a 24-hour clock as referenced in Table 6.



**Table 6**

**DEEP COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

The Environmental Conservation Police Division provides 24-hour public safety communication services for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Department of Consumer Protection, the Candlewood Lake Authority, the Lake Housatonic authority, Aquarian Water Company Police Department. The information to follow was obtained through DEEP approved radio recording systems and telephone recording systems.



The first set of data points reflect the phone traffic coming into the Dispatch Center. The table below (Table 7) reflects the activities of the Dispatch Center from July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. This list includes data for the Environmental Conservation Police Department tracking the number and type of calls, the phone lines, and the duration of those calls that came into the Dispatch Center. The information in Table 8 includes data from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to provide a complete analysis of the work performed by DEEP Dispatchers. This data was obtained through the phone recording systems of DEEP.

**Semi-Annual Review of Calls into Dispatch Center (7/1/2023 – 12/31/2023)**

<b>July to December 2023</b>			
<b>Phone Line</b>	<b>Extension</b>	<b># Of Calls</b>	<b>Duration Of Calls</b>
TIP Line	5166	628	13:30:58
Emergency	3333	10,538	315:24:20
DAS Towing		81	3:15:18
Hamzat	3338	2,768	104:14:49
Officer Line		1,851	65:07:30
Shellfish		873	7:06:18
All Dispatcher Ext		4,601	138:14:24
Fax	4069	219	4:30:25
<b>Totals</b>		<b>21559</b>	<b>651:24:02</b>

Table 7

**Annual Review of Calls into Dispatch Center (1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023)**

<b>January to December 2023</b>			
<b>Phone Line</b>	<b>Extension</b>	<b># Of Calls</b>	<b>Duration Of Calls</b>
TIP Line	5166	1249	27:08:08
Emergency	3333	19,497	574:51:53
DAS Towing		144	3:15:18
Hamzat	3338	5,219	201:31:00
Officer Line		3,304	110:38:43
Shellfish		1736	15:09:31



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
 DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
 CONSERVATION POLICE  
 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
 Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



<b>All Dispatcher Ext</b>		8403	249:15:37
<b>Fax</b>	4069	527	19:53:81
<b>Totals</b>		<b>40,079</b>	<b>1,208:38:49</b>

Table 8

The next tables describe the amount of radio traffic that was managed by the Dispatch Center managed over the year 2023. The information in Table 9 represents the radio communication traffic analysis from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Table 10 represents the same data points, but the evaluation period was conducted from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Finally, in Table 11 and 12 the entire 2023 year was compressed together to reflect totals and highlights peak activities. The data in this list provides the month of evaluation, how many times a field radio was activated, and how much airtime (hours, minutes, and seconds) was for that specific month. This information was obtained from our Radio Recording systems managed by DEEP.

<b>PPT Jan - June 2023</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Total PTT</b>	<b>Total Time</b>
<b>January</b>	11297	10:33:50
<b>February</b>	14117	18:02:11
<b>March</b>	19387	19:17:07
<b>April</b>	21721	27:46:03
<b>May</b>	20758	30:56:34
<b>June</b>	29637	37:53:53
<b>Total</b>	<b>116917</b>	<b>144:29:38</b>

Table 9

<b>PPT July - Dec 2023</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Total PTT</b>	<b>Total Time</b>
<b>July</b>	34,194	44:37:56
<b>August</b>	38,457	37:54:57
<b>September</b>	21,873	24:04:09
<b>October</b>	19,025	23:33:58
<b>November</b>	15,216	19:06:20



<b>December</b>	17,172	21:24:55
<b>Total</b>	<b>145937</b>	<b>170:42:14</b>

Table 10

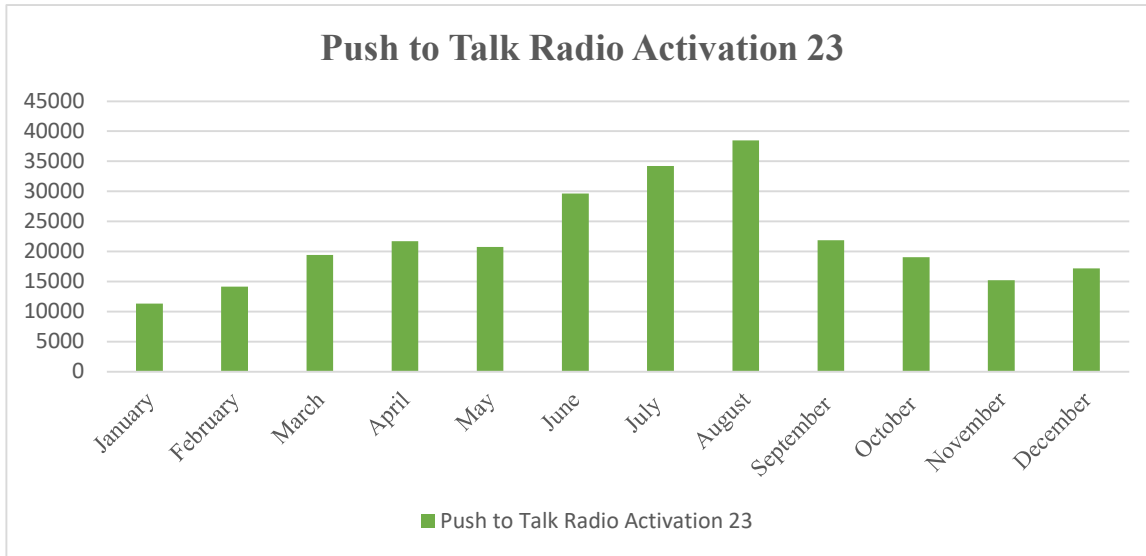


Table 11

<b>Radio Usage Totals Jan - Dec 2023</b>		
<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Total PTT</b>	<b>Total Time</b>
<b>Jan – June</b>	116917	144:29:38
<b>July – Dec</b>	145937	170:42:14
<b>Total</b>	<b>262,854</b>	<b>314:71:52</b>

Table 12

In June of 2023, the Environmental Conservation Police Department included new software into its Dispatch Center to improve service delivery to the citizens of Connecticut. This program is Prepared Live. Prepared Live is a software program that allows the Dispatch Center to identify caller location and observe the incident through the caller's camera on their Smart devices. The software sends a text to a caller, and once that caller accepts the message, it provides real time information to the Dispatcher allowing them to be able to assess situations as officers respond to the call. Table 12 represents the data obtained from Prepared Live along with the call type in which the software was used, and the number of incidents recorded by the Prepared Live system.



<b>Prepared Live</b>	
<b>July to December 2023</b>	
<b>Type of Call</b>	<b># of Created Incidents</b>
Injured Wildlife	1,168
Nuisance Wildlife	371
Wildlife Reporting	361
Hangup/Abandoned	22
Rescue/Lost Person	18
Animal Incident	17
Suspicious Item/Activity	5
Vehicle/Driving Incident	4
Missing Person	3
Domestic/Disturbance	2
Training	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,972</b>

**Teams End of Year Report**

The Environmental Conservation Police Department provides several unique services to the citizens of the State of Connecticut. While all the officers at this agency receive a higher level of training that traditional police officers receive, the services provided by this agency requires our officers to receive specialized training to perform these functions that go beyond the scope of what an Environmental Conservation officer normally receives. These teams are necessary for the agency to achieve its mission and to continue to provide the highest level of service to its constituents.

**Hunting Related Shooting Incidents (HRSI)**

Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-62 directs the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to hold a hearing when any person who, with any weapon or instrument used in hunting, injures, or causes the death of any person, or injures or causes the death of any animal other than a wild animal, or damages the property of another. It also authorizes the Commissioner to suspend, (for cause), the hunting license or hunting privilege of any such person for an unspecified period. To fulfill this statutory obligation, the Environmental Conservation Police Department trains and utilizes a group of officers who have specific training on how to investigate incidents that fit within the parameters of this statute.

For the year 2023, the HRSI team responded to one incident where an individual had been target shooting and shot into a residence. While this incident did not fall under the direct intentions of





**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION POLICE  
79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



the statute, the HRSI team was able to assist another law enforcement agency in providing its specialized training and guidance to assist that agency with its investigative outcome.

**Trainings:**

This year, Officer Buonocore and Officer Heath received HRSI training in Wisconsin to help assist the team in future investigations. Additionally, Sergeant DeFelice and Officer Buonocore attended Total Station Training and Map 360 training to help utilize technology to better document these investigations for prosecution in court.

The team also provided district level trainings on “Officer Response to HRSI incidents”, “Evidence preservation for HRSI and hunting related injuries”, and an “introduction to the Total Station system”.

**Honor Guard**

The Honor Guard for the Environmental Conservation Police Department is a ceremonial unit comprised of sworn members of the police department who are highly motivated and maintain exceptionally high standards of appearance, conduct and who show aptitude for ceremonial duty. The goal of the unit is to render honors, preserve tradition, instill pride, and stimulate Esprit-de-corps. The Honor Guard exists to pay respect and to give honor to those who in the exemplary fashion, and more importantly, to remember those whose lives were dedicated to the service of their community.

For the year 2023, the Honor Guard responded to three activations. The Team Responded to the State of Vermont for an Officer who Died in the Line of Duty, the 9/11 Memorial that took place at Sherwood Island, and the 25-year remembrance of Officer James Spignesi EnCon line of duty death.

**Trainings:**

Officer Heath received training at the Honor Guard Academy which will ensure that the team continues to hold and reflect the traditions and standards of the agency.

**Public Outreach**

The Environmental Conservation Police Department places the need for community engagement at a high priority level. The relationships created at these events provide several key benefits. First and foremost, engaging with residents demonstrates law enforcement officers care about building strong relationships in their communities. This helps to build trust between police departments and citizens.





**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION POLICE  
79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



Improved community trust leads to more residents seeking law enforcement guidance and following best practices as it relates to the outdoors. Additionally, citizens tend to feel supported when emergencies occur.

Ultimately, this helps the officers of this agency to do their jobs better. It also keeps our community safer and boosts public perception of the Environmental Conservation Police Department. As a result, law enforcement officers can go to work each day knowing they're proactively impacting their community and providing the best level of service to our constituents.

In 2023, the outreach team participated in 35 events across the state. This is only the number of scheduled public outreach events not the total efforts of community outreach by officers. Of the 35 the team attended 9 Career Fairs throughout the state, both the statewide Boating Show and Outdoor Expo, 3 Fairs including Woodstock, Durham, and Harwinton, and other events including Child Safety Events, Boy/Girl Scout group meetings, Fishing Derby's, NCLI events, Earth Day, the Chief State's Attorney DCJ Camp Justice, and several touch a truck events.

As an agency, officers participated in 134 such outreach events across the state in 2023. While the outreach team focuses directly with large scale planned events, the efforts of the entire division to tell the story of the Environmental Conservation Police Department has received positive attention and will continue to have a beneficial impact for the agency.

### **Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (B.A.R.U.)**

Within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Law Enforcement Division has statutory authority under sections 15-121(c), 15-149a, and 15-149(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes assigning administrative responsibility for the provisions within those statutes, acting as a repository for official state records, preparation of required forms or reports, and acting as liaison to the United States Coast Guard for boating accidents.

In instances where there is a death of an occupant, there is an accident involving a law enforcement vessel, serious physical injury to an occupant of a vessel that may be life threatening, or a member of the vessel is missing/unaccounted for, the B.A.R.U. may be activated to respond.

For the year of 2023, members of the BARU team conducted the following:

- Assisted in a serious boating accident and helped to conduct a Forensic download of a GPS on a vessel involved in the accident.
- Assisted with a boating accident investigation by providing capabilities and requirements pertaining to a potential GPS download.



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION POLICE  
79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



-Responded to the scene of 4 boating accidents for evaluation of incident/potential activation of the team. Each of these responses, members from the team provided technical assistance, interpretation, or suggestions for the investigation.

-Responded to 3 boating accident scenes where members of the team took photographs with DSLR camera for documentation of the case.

-Provided assistance with the court and case officer on prior year fatal accident investigation Portland resulting in arrest.

Trainings:

The members of the BARU team attended the following trainings:

- 1 Group Meeting / Pre-season familiarization
- 1 New member completed a digital photography course and was issued a DSLR camera.
- 3 New members completed NASBLA Navigation Rules Course
- 3 New members completed NASBLA Level I Boat Incident Investigation
- 2 New members completed NASBLA Level II Boat Incident Investigation
- 3 Members attended 2-week Total Station and Map 360 training

### **Chemical Immobilization Team**

Chemical immobilization equipment and drugs used by this Division are primarily for the purpose of capturing wild animals for relocation, rehabilitation, euthanization, and/or scientific or research purposes in conjunction with the Wildlife Division.

For the year 2023, the Chemical Immobilization Team responded to several incidents with Immobilization equipment; however, not every scenario allowed for the safe deployment of these systems. The team was successful at deploying on two occurrences this year, one where they removed a bear out of the City of Hartford, and the second occurrence was a white-tailed deer from the City of New Haven.

Trainings:

The year the following officers received Safe Capture training in accordance with department guidelines: Sergeant DeFelice, Officer Chickos, Officer Buonocore, Officer Huber, and Officer Johnson.

### **Division K9 Teams**

The Environmental Conservation Police Department utilizes canines as a valuable supplement to police resources. Utilization of canines requires adherence to procedures that properly control the superior senses of smell, hearing, and their physical attributes. As such, this agency seeks to



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION POLICE  
79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



channel their specialized capabilities into legal and acceptable crime prevention and control activities.

For the year 2023, the K9 teams of the Environmental Conservation Police Department responded to 160 incidents, of which 69 usages of the K9 were deployed. A breakdown of these deployments is as follows:

- 15 Search and Rescue
- 16 Public Outreach events
- 8 Tracking/Evidence recovery calls for service
- 28 Fish and Game searches

The K9 teams not only lead to the apprehension of Fish and Game violators, but also worked to clear innocent people who were lawfully engaged in hunting activities. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, K9 Luna was utilized by her assigned handler to locate a deceased deer that was allegedly harvested illegally on land trust property. As with many of these types of investigations, officers had no information as to the location the hunter was hunting at the time of this incident. Because of the report made, it was necessary for investigating officers to determine if the deer was taken legally by identifying the location where the deer was harvested. K9 Luna was deployed near the hunter's vehicle. The officers detected intermittent drag marks, blood, and deer hair, but it was visibly inconsistent. K9 Luna eventually led officers to a gut pile approximately 500 yards from the hunter's vehicle. The gut pile had the presence of both deer blood and hair among other parts. After locating the gut pile and further interviews with the hunter, it was determined there was no criminal aspect to this reported violation. In this instance, the use of the K9 validated the importance of these teams but also demonstrated the excellent police work by patiently developing an investigation without jumping to a conclusion.

### **Accreditation**

This year, the Environmental Conservation Police Department formally began its journey to become an accredited law enforcement agency. This process has initiated several positive changes to the physical structure of the agency, improving case management, evidence control, updating policy, implementation of new policy, and better forms control. This process begins with the self-reflection of the agency and a concerted effort by all its members to be a part of meaningful change.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, assessors from the Police Officers and Standards Training Council (POSTC) conducted an on-site inspection of the agency. They made recommendations as to improvements that needed to be made, and the department responded to those suggestions. The Environmental Conservation Police Department successfully cleared the first hurdle of the accreditation process and attained Tier I accreditation.



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION POLICE  
79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the accreditation team was able to implement all the suggestions provided by the POSTC assessors, that it was able to align the policy manual with Tier III accreditation status. Tier III accreditation represents the highest level of state accreditation and is the highest standard a law enforcement agency can achieve. The Environmental Conservation Police Department successfully passed its assessment and achieved Tier III status, becoming just the 14th law enforcement agency in the State of Connecticut to achieve this standard. The Environmental Conservation Police Department also became the 3<sup>rd</sup> law enforcement Fish and Game agency in the country to achieve any level of state or nationally recognized accreditation.

To improve the team, the Environmental Conservation Police Department is also seeking to add an accreditation manager to the team. This manager will be responsible for providing proofs of standard, managing the accreditation process, and policy development for the agency. This position represents the agency's commitment to the accreditation process and ensuring that the department is providing the highest level of service to the citizens of Connecticut.

### **Background Investigation Unit**

To protect the integrity of the Environmental Conservation Police Department, a background investigation is conducted on each candidate for employment for full time sworn officer positions, and administrative support positions prior to appointment. Background investigations are conducted by sworn officers of the Environmental Conservation Police Division who have had specialized training on conducting such investigations which includes training in collecting personal data and interviewing persons in matters of a confidential nature. Additionally, officers assigned to this position are also responsible for conducting background investigations on Seasonal Employees who work for the Division on a seasonal basis.

For the year 2023, the Background Investigation Unit conducted 127 background investigations on prospective applicants for employment for the Division. Of these investigations, the agency hired 10 full-time officers, and 21 Seasonal Rangers.

### **Conclusion from Colonel Lewis**

The year 2023 brought significant progress in several areas of our operations. Most impactful is the work in achieving Connecticut Police Officers Standards Training Commission Tier III accreditation. Meeting and following the accreditation standards will ensure the division will consistently meet our mission of protecting our state's natural resources and providing public safety in a professional manner.

This past year saw significant growth in our officer numbers by adding 8 new officer positions to the division, which will bring our total sworn officer position count to 62 once current recruitments are completed. The additional officers better enable the division to meet the demands from the increase of use of the state's outdoor resources.



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION POLICE  
79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Tel. (860) 424-3012 Fax (860) 424-3672



As we look back at 2023 work the division is planning to continue progress into 2024 by completing recruitment and hiring of four (4) new officers and an Accreditation Manager. Working within in DEEP to continue to make improvements to the physical security for division office spaces and our handling and storage of evidence and sensitive equipment. And to continue to invest in our officers and administrative staff by offering relevant training, establishing dedicated investigative officer assignments, and fostering a team environment that respects each person and seeks ways to improve services to our constituents.