

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



#### 2024 Semi-Annual Statistic Reports

The purpose of this analysis is to provide a two-fold review of work productivity of the Environmental Conservation Police Department. The first part of the review is to analyze calls for service between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and end June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, while comparing this data with the recorded data from the same time set of 2023 (Table 1). This data was obtained from the Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS) of the department.

Category	January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023, thru June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024, thru June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Calls for Service	10348	13270
Arrests	57	57
Infractions issued	631	672
Written warnings	293	183
Verbal warnings	609	943

Table 1

The next part of this analysis is to evaluate enforcement action in comparison with the number of public contacts officers encounter in the field. 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 contact is in violation of a law, that officer then initiates a case number to record the contact. The following table (Table 2) 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 2023.

Category	2023	2024
Hunters Checked	345	367
Fishermen Checked	3510	6637
Boaters Checked	1239	1627
		•

Table 2

The next part of this analysis is to evaluate 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.



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Data that comprises this list was taken from the CAD/RMS and represents a comparison between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, thru June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, thru June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This information is compiled into the table below (Table 3).

Category	2023	2024
Parks (General)	1795	2639
Public Outreach	123	150
ATV incidents	200	285
Disorderly Conduct	70	69
Trespass	260	274
Enforce Boating	144	187
Nuisance Bear	115	140
Paddlecraft	54	63
Accident Investigations	31	43
Hunting related CFS	427	499
Fishing related CFS	1889	2936
DUI/BUI	6	7

Table 3

Lastly, an evaluation was conducted on what were the busiest days of the week when requests for service were recorded in the CAD/RMS. This information is condensed by our CAD/RMS has a function within the system to record this information. The following table reflects the breakdown of calls for service from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by day of the week (Table 4).

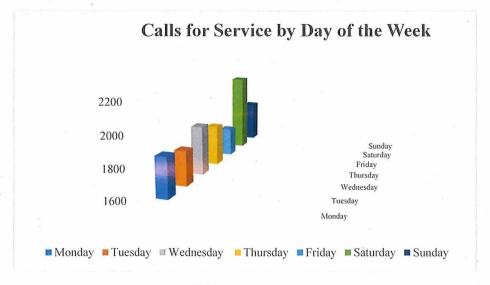


Table 4



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The next table represents the time of day that reflects the requests for police services that were entered into the CAD/RMS. This table represents the breakdown of these times from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by hour of day using a 24-hour clock (Table 5).

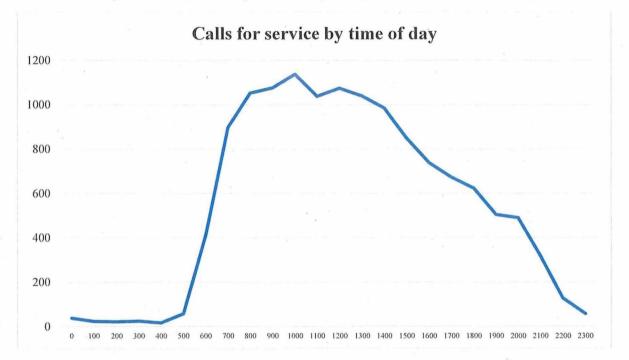


Table 5

According to the data collected, this segment of 2024 reflects an overall increase in call volume when compared to data collected in the same data set of 2023. This data reflects a consistent increase in calls for service (CFS) over the last two years where this information has been tabulated and analyzed. Several areas in this data set remain consistent as it pertains to Trespass calls, Disorderly Conduct calls, and Paddlecraft related calls. While any CFS requires time and resources, the call types that the division has been responding to require additional time and resources. Most concerning to the operations of the division is the CFS related to Parks (which saw in increase in 844 CFS from the previous year), Bear Nuisance (which saw an increase in 25 CFS from the previous year), and ATV related incidents (which saw an increase in 85 CFS from the previous year). The positive news is that, despite this increase in CFS, the Environmental Conservation Police Department was able to increase its presence on the waterways and protecting the natural resources of Connecticut. The Department experienced an increase of enforcement on bodies of water (144 instances in 2023 to 187 instances in 2024 representing an increase in 43 CFS) throughout the State and increased its contacts with individuals engaged in recreational fishing (1889 instances in 2023 to 2936 instances in 2024 representing an increase in 1,047 CFS).



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The final portion of this review reflects the Dispatch Center operations portion of the Environmental Conservation Police Department. The table below (Table 6) reflects the activities of the Dispatch Center from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This data provides an overall breakdown of the number of calls that came into the center and how those calls were categorized by the line in which the call taker received the call.

January to June 2024			
Phone Line	Extension	# Of Calls	Duration Of Calls
TIP Line	5166	626	11:37:22
Emergency	3333	10,436	307:14:10
DAS Towing	7 7	70	2:38:46
Hamzat	3338	2,499	91:53:48
Officer Line		1,470	44:54:54
Shellfish		513	4:46:38
All Dispatcher Ext		4,115	116:02:23
Fax	4069	220	4:19:14
Totals		19,949	583:27:15

Table 6

The next table provides a comparison analysis on the Communications Center phone system. The data collected in this analysis includes phone calls received by the Communications Center from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Each year is uniquely identified in the table displaying how many calls came into the Communications Center from each respective extension. The information was tabulated below into Table 7.



CONNECTICUTY TANK

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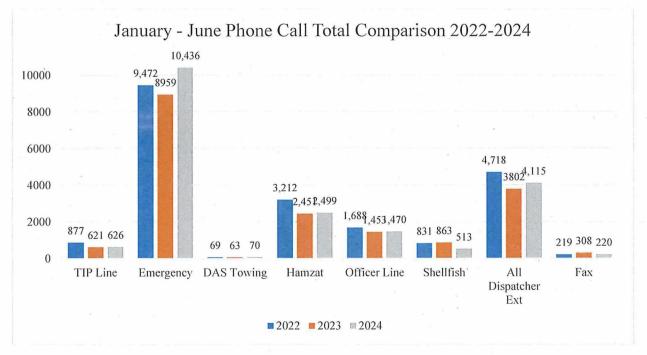


Table 7

Radio communications is another function of the Communications Center. The Communications Center is responsible for dispatching officers to calls for service and recording these calls into the CAD/RMS of the Environmental Conservation Police Department. However, that is not the only function of the DEEP Communications Center. They are also responsible for monitoring and communicating with the different Divisions that make up DEEP. The Communications Center is the hub for operational communication between all the DEEP divisions. Table 8 provides a breakdown of radio communications that were communicated through the Communications Center from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For simplicity, PTT refers to "Push to Talk" indicating each time a Dispatcher transmitted over the DEEP radio system communicating with field staff, and Total Time is broken down into hours, minutes, and seconds of those communications.



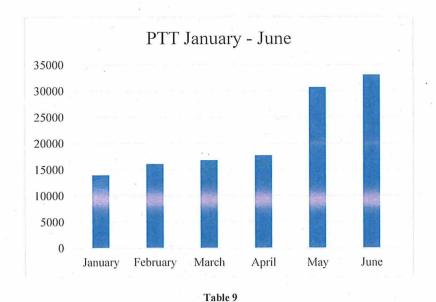
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Р	PT Jan - June 2	.024
Month	PTT	Total Time
January	13994	17:33:41
February	16105	19:44:42
March	16858	21:23:16
April	17774	22:33:05
May	30772	39:17:37
June	33125	43:46:35
Total	128628	164:18:56

To be expected, as the warmer weather begins to take hold, the increase in activity across the radio frequencies also increases. Call data collected by the Environmental Conservation Police Department also confirms this trend. A table was created to provide a visualization (located in Table 9), that supports the fact that radio activity also increases with the change of recreational activities in our areas of responsibility.



In the Summer of 2023, the Environmental Conservation Police Department purchased Prepared Live as a tool to assist Dispatchers assigned with the Communications Center for triaging calls



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for service and to better equip staff by obtaining situational awareness of a potential scene directly from the caller. While the Prepared Live feature is still a new program, the agency has seen the obvious benefits from this program. Table 10 provides a call breakdown of instances where the Prepared Live feature was activated by a Dispatcher.

Prepared Live		
January to June 2024		
Type of Call	# of Created Incidents	
Injured Wildlife	1,478	
Nuisance Wildlife	441	
Wildlife Reporting	309	
Hangup/Abandoned	10	
Rescue/Lost Person	11	
Animal Incident	18	
Suspicious Item/Activity	2	
Vehicle/Driving Incident	4	
<b>Missing Person</b>	3	
Self-Harm/Suicide	3	
Training	12	
Fawn Rehab	23	
Other	10	
Unknown	3	
Spill Incident	2	
Totals	2,329	

Table 10

## Prepared Live Highlights January 1st, 2024, through June 30th, 2024

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Communications Center received a report of two lost 11-year-olds in Mount Tom State Park. The mother, who was the reporting party of this incident, was extremely panicked and spoke broken English. The Prepared Live feature was used for overcoming the language barrier by enacting a feature that enabled the Dispatcher to translate English to Spanish. Information communicated through the feature assisted the dispatcher with obtaining names, clothing descriptors, and the last known direction travel of the children. This feature allowed for the quick discovery of the children who were successfully reunited with their parent.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Communications Center received a report of a suicidal child (12 years old) at Devil's Hopyard State Forest. After building a rapport with the child, the Dispatcher was able to locate the subject by convincing the child to share pictures of what they looked like, the clothing they were wearing, and their location. That information led officers to the child's



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location where they received assistance. In this circumstance, the timely information and response of officers undoubtably prevented an already serious situation from becoming much worse.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Communications Center received a call from a caller regarding a found gun on the Airline Trail in Windham. The caller was able to share the exact location of the gun as well as videos of it. This enabled officers to promptly respond to this location and recover this weapon resulting in maintaining a safe environment for the public.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Communications Center received a report of an individual who was lost at Chatfield Hollow State Park. The individual was able to share their location and the officer was able to quickly locate this lost individual.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Communications Center received a report of an illegal dumping incident that occurred in the Naugatuck State Forest. The dispatcher was able to obtain from the caller the exact location of dumped pallets by using the "Share location" feature of Prepared Live. The caller was also able to send pictures of the vehicle that was involved in this illegal dumping complaint. The individual was positively identified by using the Prepared Live feature and returned to the area and cleaned up the pallets.

# Highlights for the Environmental Conservation Police Department June 2024

## Marine District

The District Captain reports that the district has seen a noticeable increase in the shoreline parks due to the warmer weather. The District Captain also reports that the district is undergoing planning operations for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend and Sailfest.

#### Cases of Significance

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, officers from the Marine District responded to a Boating Accident at the Barn Island Boat Launch. It was determined that a father and his 14-year-old child were coming into the dock at the Barn Island State Boat Launch when the father unexpectedly fell out of the boat while trying to get onto the dock. When the operator fell out of the vessel the vessel was still in gear. The child attempted to gain control of the vessel, but as it moved back out into the harbor the vessel hit a large wake, which ejected the child overboard. The vessel circled several times before it finally ran aground on the shore. Fortunately, there were no injuries to either of the parties involved in this incident.



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On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an officer from the Marine District responded to the Thames River for a report of an individual keeping tautog during the closed season. The individual was found to be in possession of two tautog and failed to have a fishing license. The individual was issued an infraction for the violations.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, officers from the Marine District responded to Rocky Neck State Park for a report of possible drowning victim. The male was pulled from the water where lifesaving efforts were administered by lifeguards and two off-duty nurses. The victim was transported to a local area hospital and was listed in critical condition. The individual survived and made a full recovery.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, officers from the Marine District were dispatched to the West Beach area of Hammonasset State Park for a report of an elderly female who had drowned. The individual was recovered from the water where lifesaving efforts were administered. The individual was transported to a local area hospital where she later passed away. This is an ongoing investigation.

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Rangers assigned to the Marine District responded to a report of an out of state vehicle that avoided parking fee at Hammonasset State Park. The Rangers were notified of an out of state patron that failed to pay the entrance fee to the park. The Rangers were able to track down the individual and issue an infraction for avoidance of fees.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, officers from the Marine District responded to the middle beach parking lot at Hammonasset State Park for a report of a motor vehicle accident. Investigation later determined that the operator of a vehicle had driven into the guard rail of the parking lot causing damage to the vehicle. Because of the condition of the operator, officers conducted Field Sobriety Tests on scene, which the individual failed too satisfactorily complete. The individual was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or drugs.

#### **Open Investigations**

The district captain reports the following cases still open and under investigation:

Center Marine

23-16456 - 9/19/23 - Larceny Hammonasset - Waiting for TD Bank Survielence Videos 23-13729 - 8/11/23 - Larceny Sherwood Island State Park - Waiting for Rhode Island to release the suspect.



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East Marine

22-10736 - 7/9/2022 - Domestic Violence - Numerous attempts have been made to contact accused to serve the arrest warrant. Suspect lives in Massachusetts.

24-9866 - 5/23/2024 - Rec. Marine - Ongoing investigation of illegal lobster pots

24-12588 - 6/22/2024 - Larceny from a Motor Vehicle OLHQ

West Marine

23-10929 - 7/5/23 - Larceny Sherwood Island State Park - Waiting for Rhode Island to release the suspect.

#### Eastern District

The District Captain reports that the district is currently under preparations for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and Operation Dry Water.

#### Cases of Significance

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, officers from the Eastern District responded to a report at Salmon River State Park of an individual that was shot in the foot with a pellet gun. The offender was located, and a firearm was observed through the rear window of a vehicle parked at an illegal campsite. The vehicle was seized and held upon approval of a search warrant. The offender was arrested on scene. The complainant was transported to a local medical facility and treated. This case is still currently under investigation.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an officer from the Eastern District was patrolling Ross Pond when they effected a traffic stop on a vehicle in the park. Once approaching the operator, the officer was able to determine that the operator had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from their person. The operator was administered the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, which the individual was unable to successfully complete. The operator was arrested charged with Driving Under the Influence of alcohol/drugs, and later released.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an officer from the Eastern District responded to Bolton Lake, lower boat launch, on a report of an individual walking around in underwear while causing a disturbance. When the officer arrived, they located the individual in question and determined that the individual appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. The individual was charged with breach of peace.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an officer from the Eastern District responded to a complaint of a Great Horned Owl trapped. The officer spoke with the property owner, who advised that they were attempting to prevent predatory birds from harming the birds they are



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raising. Because of the facts obtained throughout the investigation, the officer submitted an arrest warrant for the homeowner.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an officer from the Eastern District responded to Miller's Pond State Park on a report of two individuals engaging in sexual intercourse between the trail and the pond. Investigation into the allegation revealed that not only did this act occur, but provided information leading to the identification of those individuals who were engaged in this act. The individuals were later located and were both issued misdemeanor summons for the charges of public indecency CGS 53a-186 and possession of alcoholic beverages in a state park CGS 23-4/RCSA23-4-1(e)(M).

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Officers were dispatched to a report of a missing teenager at Day Pond. Upon arrival, Officers identified two individuals that were together. The two individuals were the parents of the unaccounted-for teenager who both had current protective/no contact orders against each other. Both were arrested for failing to abide by the legal protective order.

#### **Open Investigations**

CFS# 24-3651 On 03/02/2024, Service of an arrest warrant.

CFS# 24-10106 On 05/25/2024, subject reportedly committed leud acts in state park, case pending.

CFS# 24-9523 05/19/2024 vandalism to trails. The case is still currently being investigated.

CFS# 24-8401 05/04/2024 Arrest warrant at the court.

#### Western District

According to the District Captain, officers in the Western District witnessed an increase bear/human interactions during the month. The calls for service regarding these requests increased by over 200% this month with many of the calls for service being bears that entered dwellings.

#### Cases of Significance

On Monday, June 10th, 2024, an arrest warrant from a pending criminal investigation was serviced. The accused turned themselves in on an active arrest warrant at CSP Troop A. The warrant was for the Violation of CT General Statute 15-156(b): Operating a Personal Watercraft (PWC) with a Suspended License. The subject was able to post their \$5,000.00 bond as set by the Court.





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On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at approximately 1530 Hours, an officer assigned to the Western District was patrolling Seymour Reservoir 3 in the Naugatuck State Forest in Oxford. During the patrol, a COLLECT inquiry was conducted on a vehicle which was parked at the entrance of the state forest. The COLLECT inquiry indicated that the registered owner had an active PRAWN Warrant. The subject was located and positively identified and then placed under arrest for Failure to Appear 2nd Degree. The PRAWN warrant had a court set \$1500 cash/surety bond. The subject posted bond and was released from custody.

#### ATV- Enforcement- Joint Operation

On Sunday June 16th, 2024, officers assigned to the Western District met at the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department to conduct ATV enforcement. They were met by two officers from Naugatuck Police Department, two officers from Middlebury Police Department, and a Sergeant from Oxford. Enforcement efforts were focused on various locations and patrols were extended into Naugatuck and Oxford as town lines were in proximity. Positive community feedback was received for these enforcement efforts.

#### **Open Investigations**

22-14357- 680- Pennwood State Park- larceny-Warrant approved and entered by dispatch.

23-9088- 679- Blackrock SP- Domestic dispute-Arrest was issued and is pending service.