



**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



## **Highlights for the Environmental Conservation Police Department**

### **December 2024**

#### Marine District

The District Captain reported that officers have been focusing enforcement efforts on the wintering watersheds for striped bass.

#### **Cases of Significance**

December 4th, 2024, officers from the Marine District were patrolling the Housatonic River in the Town of Shelton enforcing illegal striped bass activity. Four individuals were observed fishing and keeping striped bass. K9 Luna was deployed and was able to locate a black plastic bag hidden in the rocks of the shoreline revealing five undersized striped bass. In total there were 11 undersized striped bass located resulting in 19 violations including undersized and over the daily creel limit. The individuals were issued infractions, and all fish were seized.

December 8th, 2024, officers from the Marine District responded to Smith-Hubble Wildlife Sanctuary in the Town of Milford for a report of a deceased person involved with a vehicle fire. The incident originated in the Town of Milford, and the Milford Police Department took over the primary responsibility for this investigation. EnCon assisted the Milford Police Department with this investigation.

December 13th, 2024, officers from the Marine District responded to Messerschmidt Pond Boat Launch, which is in the Town of Westbrook, for a report of a male who was seen walking out of the pond after capsizing his kayak while waterfowl hunting. The kayak was located along with the individual's wallet and firearm. This subject was found shortly thereafter along with his girlfriend. This male subject had a valid protective order issued against him barring him from contact with his girlfriend. The individual was arrested for violating this order of protection.

December 16th, 2024, officers from the Marine District responded to Pawcatuck Avenue in the Town of Stonington for a report of an illegal deer kill. Officers observed a white-tailed deer with only the backstraps removed, a broken arrow, and other evidence. A potential suspect has been identified as someone who is from out of state. This is an ongoing investigation.

#### **Open Investigations**

The District Captain reports the following cases still open and under investigation:

##### Center Marine



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23-13729 - 8/11/23 - Larceny Sherwood Island State Park - This is an ongoing investigation.

24-18849 - 9/2/2024 - Fatal Boating Accident CT River Old Saybrook - This is an ongoing investigation.

24-22130 - 10/18/2024 - Vessel Explosion CT River Old Saybrook - This is an ongoing investigation.

24-10263 - 5/26/2024 - Boating Accident Clinton - This is an ongoing investigation.

East Marine

20-2982 - 1/20/2020 - Commercial Fishing Violation - Warrant on File.

24-18499 - 8/30/2024 - Commercial Fishing Reporting Violations. This is an ongoing investigation.

22-10736 - 7/9/2022 - Domestic Violence - Warrant on File.

24-9866 - 5/23/2024 - Rec. Marine Lobster violations - This is an ongoing investigation.

West Marine

23-10929 - 7/5/23 - Larceny Sherwood Island State Park - Warrant on File.

23-3427 - 3/13/2023 - Illegal Exotic Species Possession - Warrant on File

Eastern District

The District Captain had no new information to report.

**Cases of Significance**

The District Captain reports the following:

On December 14th, 2024, officers from the Eastern District were dispatched to Shenipsit State Forest, which is in the Town of Somers, on a report of a suspicious vehicle parked on the road. A passerby reported that the vehicle had been seen in the same spot for two to three days. Shortly after the Officers' arrival they saw the accused had returned to the vehicle with a muzzleloader in their possession. The investigation determined that the accused was hunting deer with a muzzleloader on state land without possessing a Non-Resident State Land Muzzleloader Permit. The accused was issued a Misdemeanor Summons for Negligent Hunting in the Fourth Degree.



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On December 14th, 2024, officers from the Eastern District observed a vehicle parked in a crop field, in the Town of Ellington. A query of the online sportsman's database revealed that vehicle owner/accused held valid hunting permits for 2024. Upon approaching the vehicle one of the officers noticed a bag of corn, which is known to be used by hunters to bait deer. Officers located the accused, who was sitting in a tree stand armed with a cocked Barnett crossbow with a bolt in place. The investigation determined that the accused was hunting deer over bait, failed to carry their written landowner permission slip while hunting and did not have it signed. The accused was issued Misdemeanor Summons for Hunting Deer Over Bait. The accused was educated on his requirement to carry written permission from a landowner while hunting deer.

On December 20th, 2024, an officer from the Eastern District conducted a patrol check of the Ross Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in the Town of Sterling. The officer observed the accused, with a compound bow, exited the WMA and returned to their vehicle. The subject was wearing full camouflage clothing and an orange baseball style cap which was covered by his camouflaged hood, which was less than 400 square inches of fluorescent orange as required by regulation. The officer also noticed the subject's eyes were blood shot and glossy and detected an odor of alcoholic beverage from the accused's breath. Investigation also determined that the individual was hunting over a baited site and was using a "natural" deer urine to attract deer. The accused was charged with Killing of deer regulated, Carrying a firearm or bow while hunting under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug, possession of illegally imported deer parts, hunting deer over bait, and failure to wear 400 inches of orange.

On December 30th, 2024, an officer from the Eastern District responded to a complaint in the Town of Bozrah, that an individual had shot a buck (male) deer with a rifle on Sunday, December 29th, 2024. The complainant had received this information directly from the Accused, who had shared a photo of the dead deer. Hunting on Sunday is prohibited per Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) 26-73, which states "Sunday shall be a closed season except for hunting deer with bow and arrow on private property". The officer spoke with the Accused, who eventually explained their actions. The accused was issued a Misdemeanor Summons for violating Negligent hunting in the third degree, which includes hunting out of season or on a Sunday.

On December 31st, 2024, an officer from the Eastern District was dispatched to the City of Norwich on a report of a neighbor hunting on property that they did not have permission to hunt. After investigating the complaint it was determined that the subject did not have a proper hunting license and used a rifle that did not meet the minimum requirements to take a deer. The Accused was issued a Misdemeanor Summons for violation of CGS 53a-217e(e)(1); Negligent Hunting in the 4th degree, which includes hunts without purchasing a license, permit or stamp and Prohibited Weapons, rifle smaller than six millimeters.



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**Open Investigations**

CFS# 24-10471 May 29th, 2024, this is an ongoing investigation into a boating accident at Candlewood Lake. The case is currently being investigated by the Investigation Unit

CFS# 24-19308 September 10th, 2024, this is an incident that took place at Silver Sands where an individual had harassed and touched another individual inappropriately. Investigation is ongoing with the Investigation Unit

CFS# 24-23433 October 3rd, 2024, this is an investigation where an individual may have been hunting illegally on Land Trust property in the Town of Bolton. The investigation is ongoing.

CFS# 24-22505 October 22nd, 2024, officers responded to the Sugar Brook Wildlife Management Area which is in the town of Plainfield Connecticut on a report of an individual actively on an ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) with a chainsaw which had been caught on a trail camera. The complainant also stated there was evidence of harvesting large cedar trees on the property. The investigation is ongoing.

CFS# 24-22855 October 26th, 2024, officers responded to a report of a boating accident involving a single paddle craft. The investigation is ongoing.

CFS# 24-23386 November 2nd, 2024, an officer responded to a report of a past sexual assault that occurred at Bolton Lake boat launch on October 29th, 2024. The case is currently assigned to the Investigation Unit for further follow-up.

CFS# 24-26078 December 11th, 2024, an officer received information directly from a victim, regarding a stolen beaver trap. This case is currently under investigation.

CFS# 24-26395 December 17th, 2024, an officer responded to the report of a hunter trespassing on private property in the town of Griswold. This case is currently under investigation.

CFS# 24-27131 December 30th, 2024, an officer was dispatched to Mashamoquet Brook State Park in Pomfret for a report of a burglary. This investigation is ongoing.

CFS# 24-27168 December 30th, 2024, officers responded to Haddam Meadows State Park in Haddam for a report of a body floating in the water. This case is currently under investigation.



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Western District

The District Captain had no new information to report.

**Cases of Significance**

The District Captain reports these significant cases:

On December 7th, 2024, an officer from the Western District arranged to service an arrest warrant that the Division had on file from a previous investigation regarding a Burglary that occurred on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. On this date, the accused surrendered themselves on the active warrant and was charged with conspiracy to commit Illegal Use of Credit Card, conspiracy to commit Larceny 6th, and conspiracy to commit Burglary 3rd. The accused was processed and released with an order to appear in Court for these charges.

On December 7th, 2024, while on patrol in the Naugatuck State Forest in Naugatuck, an officer from the Western District observed an individual wearing blaze orange carrying a long gun. The individual was seen exiting the woods walking toward the roadway. The Officer stopped the subject to conduct a hunting compliance inspection. Investigation revealed that the individual did not have a valid license to hunt deer with a muzzleloader. The accused was issued misdemeanor summons and assigned a court date to appear for this charge.

On December 7th, 2024, an officer from the Western District investigated a complaint about a subject hunting illegally on private land in the Town of Yalesville. While on scene the officer saw an individual, in a ladder stand and hunting with a firearm on private land. A hunting compliance check was completed. This check revealed that the subject did not have written permission for the property that they were hunting on, and they were wearing no fluorescent orange as required. The accused was charged with violations of Hunting Private Land with a Firearm without Permission and a violation, and failure to Wear 400 Square Inches of Fluorescent Orange as Required While Firearms Hunting. This subject was issued a misdemeanor summons for these violations.

On December 12th, 2024, Officers from the Investigative Unit and the Western District executed a search warrant at a residence in Beacon Falls. Further investigation into the execution of the search warrant led to two (2) arrests. This case is still currently under investigation by the investigative unit.



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The first suspect was charged with 2 counts of Risk of Injury to a Minor, Failure to Store Firearms Responsibly, and Failure to Store Marijuana Properly. This individual was processed and released with a court date.

The second suspect was charged with Cultivation of cannabis plants in consumer's primary Residence, 2 counts of Risk of Injury to a Minor, and Criminal Possession of a Firearm. This individual was currently on Parole and because of this arrest, their parole was revoked. The individual was remanded to the custody of the DOC in Bridgeport.

## Open Investigations

The District Captain reports these open cases:

### ARREST WARRANTS ON FILE

- 22-14727 & 22-15611- 680- Larceny- two warrants on file
- 23- 9088- 679- Blackrock SP- Domestic dispute- Arrest warrant on file pending warrant service.  
- will turn over to investigative unit  
for follow-up- last known location SC.
- 24- 4752 -643 Penwood SP-Larceny- Arrest warrant on file
- 24- 4759-643 & 645 Penwood Break-in- arrest warrant on file.
- 23-11141 & 23-11145-680- Larceny- two warrants on file
- 24-13959- 680 & 645-Larceny- an arrest warrant is on file

### ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

#### Northwest

- 24- 22780- 681- Untimely Death- waiting on OCME paperwork
- 24- 26475- 680- Sex Assault- ongoing investigation
- 24-25640- 679 & 687- OJ- needs to be followed up
- 24-26884- 661-MV Accident- ongoing investigation

#### Southwest

- 24- 17962-661- Untimely Death- waiting on OCME paperwork
- 24- 25265- 665- Enforce Deer- ongoing investigation
- 24- 25340-676- Possible illegal hunting- ongoing investigation