

2010



ANNUAL REPORT

State of Connecticut

**Department of Environmental
Protection**

**Division of State Environmental
Conservation Police**



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

**Commissioner Daniel Esty
Department of Environmental Protection**

**Deputy Commissioner Susan Frechette
Department of Environmental Protection**

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

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

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The Environmental Conservation Police's 2010 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Captain Richard Lewis, who passed away suddenly on March 9, 2011. Captain Lewis served with honor and distinction during his twenty-eight year career with the Department. He was a friend and colleague whose sense of humor, compassion and professionalism touched all those that knew and worked with him. He will be missed.



Captain Richard Lewis

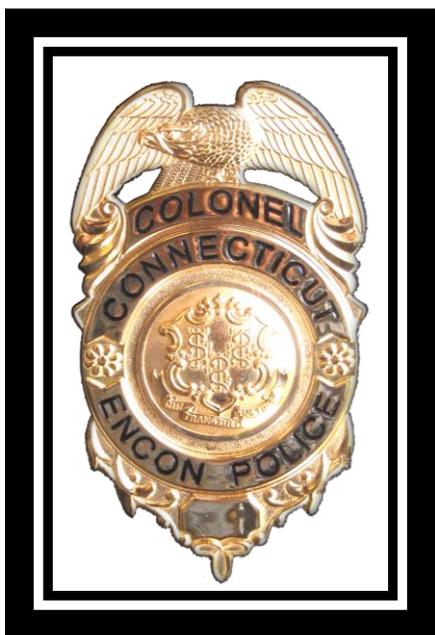


CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

Connecticut Environment Conservation (EnCon) Police Officers are appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to enforce the state's fish & game, boating, recreational vehicle, and park & forest laws and regulations as well as a majority of the state's motor vehicle and criminal laws and regulations on a statewide basis. These officers are also appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety with full police powers on all DEP owned and managed lands and facilities. These dual appointments require that all EnCon officers attend the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council Academy. All officers are also appointed as Deputy Special Agents with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. These appointments mandate that each officer receive specialized training in such areas as natural resource protection, wildlife and plant identification, vessel and recreational vehicle operation, boating safety, commercial fisheries, shell fishing, wildlife management, tranquilizing large animals, boating accident investigation, 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 2010 annual report for the Division of State Environmental Conservation Police. The past year has been one of change and growth for our Division. We hired six new officers in 2010, promoted two new sergeants, and in May I became the Director of the Division.

Over the past year, our officers worked cooperatively with the Rhode Island Environmental Police, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service on an illegal commercialization of striped bass case; arrested deer jackers in Sharon, were instrumental in the capture of a fugitive from Florida, and received training in the handling of exotic species. EnCon officers arrested a subject for manslaughter, boating under the influence, and other related charges stemming from a fatal boating accident in 2009; arrested a trapping suspect in Burlington after a lengthy investigation, participated in over 160 public outreach events and trained new officers in chemical immobilization techniques.

Looking to the future, the Division will continue to support the Department's commitment to promoting the opportunities our state offers to its residents to enjoy the outdoors through programs such as No Child Left Inside® and the extra Junior Hunting Training Days. Training our officers to a high standard will be a priority in 2011. We have scheduled advanced tactical boat operations training, and two additional officers will be trained in boating accident reconstruction. To enhance our operational effectiveness, the Division will take possession of three new 21' rigid hull inflatable patrol vessels, and upgrade our officers' mobile data terminals to include a GPS vehicle monitoring system.

Please take the opportunity to read this comprehensive document to appreciate the unique, diverse and challenging profession of an Environmental Conservation Police Officers. The dedicated women and men of the Division are proud of the heritage and 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.



EnCon Police Officers Left to Right: Paul Hilli, Sergeant Mark Shaw, Sergeant Keith Schneider

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, tags and permits, and undercover assignments. EnCon Police Officers are also Deputy Special Agents for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and may also 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.



**Wildlife seized during an investigation
EnCon Police Officers Left to Right: William Vroman, Sergeant Chris Dwyer**

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 2010, the Division investigated 84 boating accidents.



42 foot Patrol Vessel *Guardian*, Safeboat and USCG *Eagle*

EnCon Police Officers utilize various sized patrol vessels to patrol Connecticut's lakes, ponds, rivers and coastline. Officers use vessels that range from the 42 foot *Guardian* to several 16 foot aluminum boats that are critical during flood emergencies.

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 2010, Officers conducted 2,210 shellfish bed inspections in 24 different towns.



Lobster Enforcement
EnCon Police Officer: Mike Tavares

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

EnCon Police Officers respond to reports of sick, injured, or nuisance wildlife. Officers responded to 470 incidents involving sick, injured, or nuisance wildlife in 2010. 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 2010, there were 133 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.



EnCon Police Officer: Erin Crossman

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 2010, officers responded to 2,555 incidents, made 952 arrests, and issued 387 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 thirty Special Conservation Officers to assist in patrolling these areas during the busy outdoor recreation season.



EnCon Police Officer: Sergeant Jim Wolfe

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 2010, EnCon Police Officers responded to 363 incidents related to recreational vehicles and made 140 arrests and issued 22 written warnings for violations.



**ATV Enforcement
Western District Officers**

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 2010, EnCon Police Officers responded to 71 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.



**Search & Rescue Operation
Western District Officer**

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.



Patrol Vessel *Guardian* at Millstone boat basin dock

PUBLIC OUTREACH

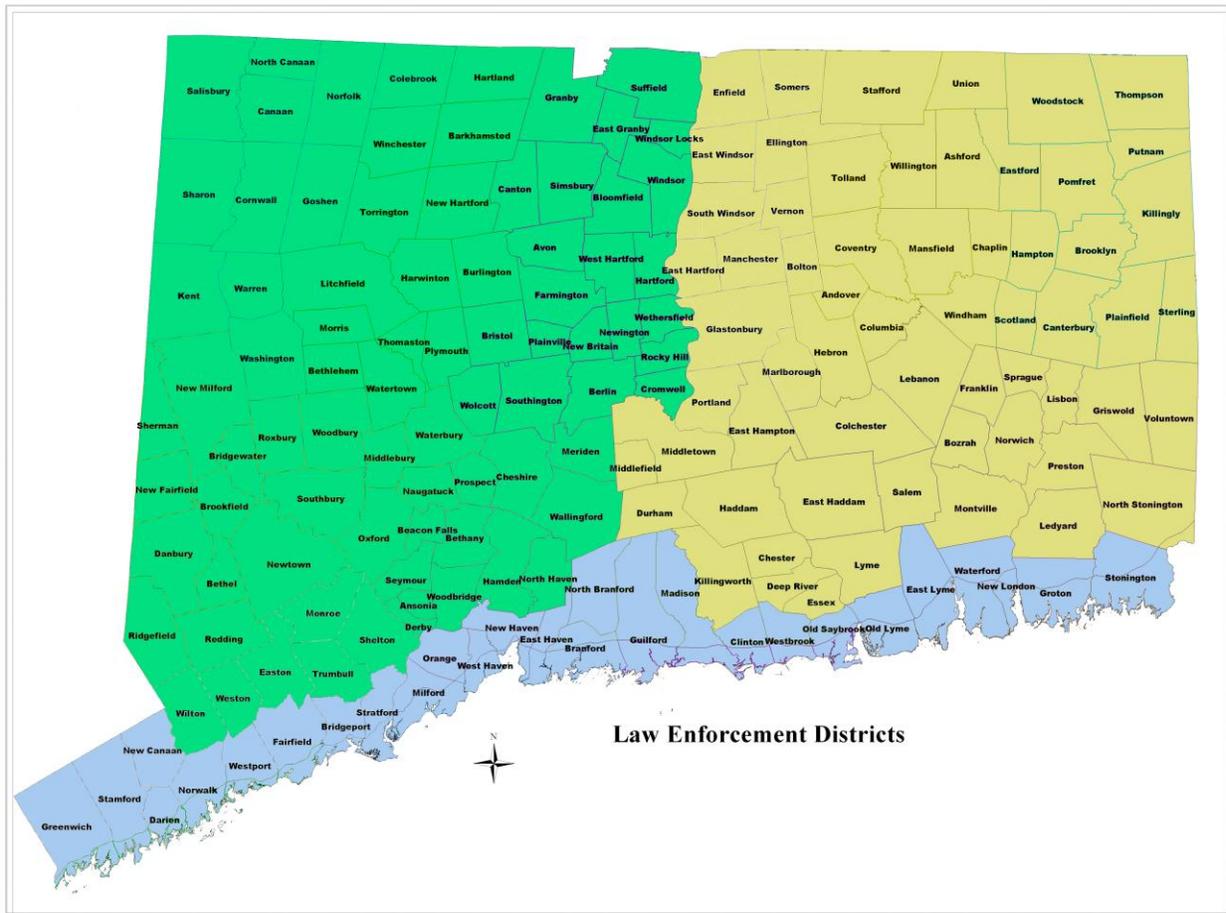
The EnCon Police Division dedicates numerous hours every year in educating the public on such topics as the protection of the state's natural resources and safety concerns while engaging in outdoor recreation activities. Officers utilize two mobile trailers that are stocked with educational material 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 2010, officers conducted 162 outreach events totaling 623 hours with thousands of contacts.



**Mobile trailer used for public outreach
EnCon Police Officer: Holly Bernier**

DIVISION STRUCTURE

The Division of State Environmental Conservation Police is part of the Department of 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).



State map showing three districts of the EnCon Police Division

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 2,830 incidents which includes 825 arrests and 450 warnings in 2010.



EnCon Police Officers Left to Right: Capt. Paul O'Connell, Greg Ulkus, John Hey, Stan Mieldzioc, Elise Benoit, Sergeant Jim Kane, Rich Persico, Sergeant Ryan Healy, Mike Tavares, Tod Chemacki, Jeff Samorajczyk, Bill Logiodice

Marine District Highlights

Fishing

On March 23, 2010, EnCon Police Officer Stanko was patrolling an area of the Connecticut River in Old Saybrook. Officer Stanko observed a commercial gill netter unloading fish from his vessel into coolers then put the coolers into a vehicle. Officer Stanko gathered information which lead him to believe that the subject had illegally taken striped bass in the gill net. The subject left the area in the truck which was subsequently stopped in Old Lyme with the assistance of Sergeant Kane and Officer Persico. The subject stated he had taken approximately 250 lbs of white perch. Upon further questioning, the subject admitted to also taking striped bass in the gill net which is illegal. The officers seized twenty striped bass, all of which were less than the minimum legal length of 28 inches. The subject was charged with possession of striped bass over the daily creel limit, possession of striped bass less than the minimum legal length and commercialization of striped bass. The subject was released on a promise to appear and the striped bass seized as evidence.

On July 22, 2010, a joint cooperative effort between Officers from Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police, Rhode Island Environmental Conservation Police, Massachusetts Environmental Police, federal agents of both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries resulted in the arrest of a 45-year old individual from Stonington for the illegal commercial sale of striped bass from Connecticut and Rhode Island waters in Westport, Massachusetts. The suspect admitted to several years of illegal activity and the investigation continues. The arrest was due to the cooperation and diligence of the officers and agents with assistance from state of the art technology.

On August 7, 2010, Officer Persico dealt with two individuals whom he had previously arrested. One of the individuals was landing his vessel at the Dock Road Waterford launch when he was “tipped off” by his father who was already at the launch via cell phone. The individual refused Officer Persico’s commands and dumped an unknown number of illegal fish, except one short Scup. The individual was arrested for the short Scup and Failure to Standby. Both individuals had previously been arrested in June when they had off loaded a cooler of fish on a floating dock. In that instance, Officer Persico secured the aid of a Good Samaritan boater, and found that the cooler contained numerous Bluefish and Scup violations. The father had also been arrested by Officer Persico at the same launch in September of 2008 for the same type of offenses.

On August 29, 2010, Officers Chickos and Chemacki checked two individuals who were fishing in Guilford. While in the course of examining their catch they heard an unusual sound emanating from the seat of the boat. Upon further examination they discovered a hidden compartment located in the bench seat of the aluminum boat. The foam floatation had been removed after the seat had been cut, and a plywood cover with false screws and a pedestal seat were installed over the opening. The hidden compartment was found to contain 150 Scup over the possession limit and 120 of those were under the size limit. They were charged with numerous violations.

Fishing/Narcotics Violations

On March 28, 2010, EnCon Police Officer Chemacki was checking fishing activity in the Trout Management Area of the Hammonasset River in Madison. He encountered an individual who was fishing in the river with an expired fishing license. While speaking to the individual, Officer Chemacki noticed a strong odor of marijuana. The subject stated he did not have any marijuana on him, but had smoked it earlier in the day. Officer Chemacki escorted the subject to his vehicle to obtain his driver's license. At the vehicle, Officer Chemacki obtained consent to search the vehicle. When he entered the vehicle he immediately noticed the odor of marijuana. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed four bags of marijuana. The subject was arrested and released on a promise to appear.

Commercial Fishing

On September 5, 2010, Officer Tavares arrested a commercial lobsterman from the Groton area on charges of stealing/possession of lobster gear. This arrest was the result of a month-long investigation that included surveillance and statements from witnesses that stemmed from complaints from a commercial lobsterman fishing in Fisher's Island Sound that was missing numerous lobster pots he believed were stolen. Officer Tavares prepared an arrest warrant which was served on the suspect on September 5th.

Federal Warrant

Agents from the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement from the New Bedford Office requested assistance in locating a subject that was wanted on a warrant for violations of the Lacey Act, conspiracy, and mislabeling seafood containers. The warrant originated from the Mobile, Alabama office. State EnCon Police Sergeant Healy and Officer Persico assisted in the investigation for several days, checking local addresses for the subject. The subject was believed to be living in either Plainfield or New London with his wife. On February 8, 2010 at 8:00 am, NMFS Agents and EnCon Police Officers executed the warrant at the Plainfield residence and took the subject into custody without incident. He was transported to Hartford Federal Courthouse by special agents and brought before a federal magistrate.

Hunting

On February 19, 2010, Officer Samorajczyk was dispatched to the area of Nells Rock Road in Shelton to assist the Shelton Police Department in an illegal deer hunting investigation. He met two Shelton officers on-scene. One of the Shelton officers had been in the area at about 7:15 am that day when he heard a single gunshot come from behind a residence and then saw a deer stumble and fall to the ground behind that residence. The officer went to the residence and was met by the homeowner. The officer asked the homeowner about the deer and the homeowner denied shooting it. Officer Samorajczyk went into the woods and found the deer, freshly killed with a single gunshot wound. Officer Ramos arrived on scene and assisted Officer Samorajczyk with questioning the suspect. The suspect did admit to killing the deer, and the officers took possession of a .22 caliber rifle used to kill the deer. Since the residences in that area were very close together, the subject was charged with Reckless Endangerment in the second degree and Negligent Hunting in the third degree. The deer and firearm were seized as evidence and subject was released on a promise to appear.

On November 2, 2010, Sergeant Healy responded to a complaint of an illegal deer kill in East Lyme. The hunter apparently was confused about the new season for handgun hunting and

harvested a deer with a handgun during the Free Landowner Deer Season which opened on November 1st. The hunter had Private Land Permits and was warned. The deer was seized and turned over to "Hunters for the Hungry," a program that allows hunters to donate their game to charitable food organizations.

Park and Forest

Officer Chickos was called into service on June 7, 2010 at Rocky Neck State Park to a report of an unconscious female on the beach. This was the second incident involving an unconscious female within 90 minutes. In the first incident Captain O'Connell and Sergeant Lundin had responded to a complaint of female on the beach who had passed out due to alcohol intoxication and transported to Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. The second incident involved another female who passed out due to alcohol intoxication with the same group of underage youths. The volunteer who offered to drive one of the victim's cars consented to a search of the vehicle. A backpack in the vehicle, which the volunteer driver claimed ownership, was searched and Officer Chickos found 16 bags of marijuana packaged for sale. The individual was arrested for possession of and intent to sell marijuana and was processed at Connecticut State Police Troop "E" in Montville, and released on a \$500.00 non surety bond.

On the 6th and 7th of July, Officer Stanko arrested three employees of the Connecticut State Parks and Public Outreach Division for felony larceny charges after an investigation that began in June, in response to funds unaccounted for during the Memorial Day weekend. The three employees were accused of embezzling cash from the ticket booth at Hammonasset State Park in Madison. The trio was to appear in court in late August to answer charges including Larceny 1st degree and Larceny 2nd degree after posting bonds. The Parks Division has changed accounting practices as a result of this investigation.

Shell Fishing Arrest

On June 11, 2010, Officer Samorajczyk responded to the fourth report in recent days of a commercial clam dredger that was operating off of their leased shell fishing grounds in the town of Milford. The "Angela Marie" was observed by Officer Samorajczyk and Sergeant Kane commercially harvesting shell fish off their leased grounds and was photographed in the act. They also notified Sergeant Lundin who was conducting aerial shell fish patrols who was able to log the GPS coordinates of the "Angela Marie" illegally harvesting shellfish. Officer Samorajczyk and Sergeant Kane boarded a Coast Guard vessel and navigated to the "Angela Marie" from the New Haven area, boarded the offending vessel, and arrested the Captain.

Boating

On June 19, 2010, Officer Chemacki arrested an individual on a court issued warrant that concluded a 9 month investigation of a fatal boat accident that occurred on September 3, 2009 in Guilford. The individual was arrested for Manslaughter 2nd Degree, Manslaughter 2nd Degree with a Vessel, Assault 2nd Degree (2 counts), Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree, and Reckless Operation of a Vessel While Under the Influence. The charges stemmed from an accident where two victims were injured and one victim was killed when their vessel ran into a rock seawall at night. Sergeant Lundin and Officer Hilli of The DEP Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit performed the reconstruction of the vessel accident.

On June 26, 2010, Officers from the Marine District and the Eastern District participated in “Operation Drywater”, a national effort that emphasized Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Enforcement. The operation was held on the lower Connecticut River and was coordinated by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators. Connecticut State Police, Old Saybrook Police, U.S. Coast Guard and Chester Police participated as well, and the effort resulted in the arrest of two individuals for Boating Under the Influence.

On July 5, 2010, Sergeant Healy and Officer Mieldzioc responded to the scene of a fatality in Little Narragansett Bay in Stonington. A 51-year old individual was observed summoning help from the water after being separated from his jet ski. Two boaters from another vessel assisted him into their vessel, and he immediately collapsed and was unconscious after experiencing difficulty breathing. He was pronounced dead after he was transported to the Barn Island Boat Launch in Stonington. Several other citizens assisted with administering CPR and it was later learned that victim had been experiencing recent serious medical problems that contributed to his death.

Sergeant Kane, Officer Chickos and Officer Logiodice were dispatched to a complaint of a boating accident in Branford on July 18, 2010. The collision of a vessel into rocks ejected the six occupants into the water. They were later rescued by the Branford Fire and Police Departments. One passenger was hospitalized with injuries and the operator was arrested for Reckless Operation in the 2nd degree while under the influence. His blood alcohol was measured at nearly two times the legal limit. The operator was released after posting a \$500 non-surety bond.

Motor Vehicle Enforcement

On March 4, 2010, Officer Reilly was patrolling Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. While on patrol she observed a vehicle operating in the park displaying an expired registration decal. Officer Reilly ran the vehicle’s registration through a registration database and confirmed that it was unregistered. The vehicle was stopped and the operator could not produce a valid registration. Officers Stanko and Chemacki arrived on the scene as backup. While speaking with the operator, the officers noticed a bullet hanging from a key chain, and after speaking with the operator, obtained consent to search the vehicle. The officer found a bag of suspected marijuana and a glass smoking pipe containing residue. The operator was placed under arrest and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. He was released on a promise to appear.

Officer Reilly was travelling on Route 9 in Old Saybrook on November 27, 2010, when she spotted a vehicle being operated recklessly in the southbound lane. After stopping the vehicle she developed probable cause to arrest the driver for driving while intoxicated. The individual had his 11 year old son in the car. The operator was charged with risk of injury to a child as well.

Narcotics Arrest

On January 18, 2010, Tavares was on patrol of Bluff Point State Park in Groton. He observed a vehicle parked near the entrance in the vicinity of the river and saw the operator of the vehicle leaning out of the window and attempting to light a glass smoking pipe that Officer Tavares recognized as commonly used to smoke marijuana. Officer Tavares approached the vehicle and when the operator recognized him, immediately attempted to hide the pipe in the vehicle. Officer

Tavares opened the vehicle door and saw the glass smoking pipe filled with suspected marijuana and a bag of suspected marijuana on the seat of the vehicle. The suspect was taken into custody and Officer Tavares conducted a field test on the suspected marijuana which yielded a positive result. The suspect was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and issued a promise to appear and released.

On February 2, 2010, Officers Chemacki and Reilly were patrolling Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. At approximately 2:00 pm, the officers observed a vehicle travelling in the park with an expired registration decal on the windshield. A check through DMV files confirmed that the vehicle's registration was expired. The officers stopped the vehicle and after speaking with the operator determined that the vehicle was also uninsured. The officers gained consent from the owner to search the vehicle and during the search found a plastic bag containing suspected marijuana. A glass smoking pipe containing residue was also found. The operator was charged with operating an unregistered vehicle, operating without insurance, possession of marijuana less than four ounces and possession of drug paraphernalia. The operator was released on a promise to appear.

Criminal

In the late afternoon on October 26, 2010, there was a confrontation in Rocky Neck State Park between two groups of people involving gunplay. One group from Brooklyn, Connecticut confronted another from East Lyme regarding some stolen performance car parts. Before the Brooklyn, CT group left the Park they threatened the other with a shotgun and struck an individual in the head with the butt stock of the gun. A partial plate and description of the vehicle was broadcast to local Officers and Troopers and with the aid of a cell phone the vehicle was located on I-95 in East Lyme. The vehicle was stopped at gunpoint on I-95 by Troopers from Troop "E" in a construction zone and the suspects were taken into custody without incident. Two of the guns in the vehicle had disappeared in the interim and were eventually recovered in a wooded area after some initial hesitancy by the suspects. Numerous felony weapon charges were filed against the individual who threatened the others with the shotgun. He has a prior criminal history and has previously spent time in jail. Two other suspects were also charged with numerous criminal offenses. Officers Logiodice, Reilly and Sergeant Healy responded and assisted Connecticut State Police, who were the lead agency in the investigation due to the evidence issues and the previous incident involving the stolen car parts in the Troop "D" area.

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, eleven Conservation Enforcement Police officers and one Agency Police Officer assigned to the Eastern District. In 2010, the Eastern District handled 3,419 incidents total, made 984 arrests and issued 607 warnings.

Eastern District Highlights

On February 3, 2010, Officer Pettus was assigned to investigate a possible license fraud. An anonymous source advised that an individual had procured a hunting license by fraudulent means and when Officer Pettus went to perform the initial investigation the individual was incarcerated. She later returned to the address to find the individual she was investigating was in violation of a protective order, as he was in close proximity to a female who was listed on that order. Upon further investigation the female was found to have an outstanding arrest warrant for larceny. Both subjects were arrested; the male was processed at Connecticut State Police Troop "C" in Tolland and the female was transported to Groton Town Police. The license investigation is still pending.

On June 12, 2010 at 9:00 AM, Eastern District officers responded to Pachaug Pond in Griswold to a complaint of an intoxicated boater operating a PWC on the lake that struck a dock. Investigators determined that the subject who struck the dock was stopped from leaving by the dock owner who pulled the safety lanyard out of the PWC, thus making it inoperable. The registered owner of the PWC arrived and took possession of the vessel and placed the operator in another vessel. Officers conducted field sobriety tests and placed the subject under arrest for operating under the influence, Reckless Operation of a vessel, Insufficient PFD's and Operation a PWC without a certificate. The dock did not receive any damage.

On June 22, 2010 at 11:30 PM, officers responded to a complaint of a boating accident on Ashland Pond in Griswold. It was determined that a 31 year-old male was operating a PWC on the lake when it struck an island. The subject's PFD was recovered but he was missing. CSP Dive Team located the deceased subject at 6:45 AM. EnCon Police Officer Arsenault is investigating the accident with the assistance of the EnCon Police Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (BARU).

On August 7, 2010, Officer Pettus observed an ATV operating illegally in Shenipsit State Forest. Officer Pettus signaled for the ATV to stop. Initially the ATV complied, however, as Officer Pettus approached the ATV, the operator sped towards the officer knocking her to the ground. Officer Pettus sustained a number of injuries as a result of being struck by the ATV. Officer Pettus then contacted Sergeant Dwyer who responded to the scene with Officer Danielson, Officer Williams and SCO Marvin. After a thorough and lengthy investigation, a seventeen year-old was apprehended and charged with Assault on a Police Officer, Assault and numerous ATV violations. The individual was processed at Troop "C" in Tolland. Numerous facts and circumstances were found to charge the suspect with ATV crimes that occurred in April 2010 involving Officer Danielson. An ATV was seized as a result of the arrest.

On November 27, 2010, EnCon Police Sergeant Dwyer and Officer Stone responded to a complaint of a vehicle trespassing on the State Park Airline Trail in Pomfret. They arrived in the area just after dark and drove up onto the trail where they ran into a Massachusetts registered vehicle coming at them. Upon making the stop, they discovered that the only occupant, the operator, was dressed in camouflage clothing and had a rifle in the vehicle. After questioning, the subject admitted that he was hunting off of the trail and did not have consent to do so. The subject gave his non-resident hunting license to the officers but after further questioning the subject admitted to them that he was lying and that he had used a friend's license and that he was not licensed in Connecticut. The subject admitted that he had someone hunting with him at the other end of the property and that it required driving around the block to pick him up. The second hunter instructed the driver to pull into a field and beep the horn once so that he knew it was him. Both officers got into the Massachusetts vehicle and drove in with the first subject. The driver entered the field beeped the horn and the second hunter came out of the tree line dressed in camouflage and carrying the rifle. Both officers exited the vehicle and took the second hunter into custody. That individual admitted to hunting deer without consent but did have the proper license and deer hunting privileges. Both subjects were processed at the Putnam Police Department and charged with Illegal deer hunting, Hunting without wearing the required fluorescent orange clothing, criminal trespass 3rd degree and the first subject was also charged with interfering with an officer. Both were released after posting \$500 cash bonds. Both rifles were seized as evidence.

On December 18, 2010, EnCon Police officers from the Eastern and Western Districts responded to the town of Ellington for a report of a hunting-related shooting resulting in injuries to another hunter. Upon arrival it was determined that the injured party was shot in the lower leg with a muzzleloader. The EnCon Police Hunting Related Shooting Incident team is currently reconstructing the scene and the State Police will investigate the incident.

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.



EnCon Police Officers Left to Right: Capt. Raul "Skip" Camejo, Sean Buckley, Tim Hill, Paul Hilli, Sergeant Matt Tomassone, Sergeant Mark Shaw, Erin Crossman, Ralf Concepcion, Sergeant Raul Ramos, Tate Begley, Britni Scatena, Keith Williams, Jeff Bruno, Sergeant Keith Schneider, Ed Yescott

Public Outreach

During 2010, Western District EnCon Police officers performed public outreach and education activities at a number of venues. These included the Goshen Fair, various sporting groups, school career days and boy and girl scout groups. officers also conducted training for basic recruit classes at the Connecticut Police Academy and to the Western Regional Police training program relating to fish and game laws.



EnCon Police Officer Sergeant Mark Shaw with black bear display at the Goshen Fair



EnCon Police Officer Sergeant Raul Ramos on PWC patrol – Candlewood Lake

Western District Highlights

Timber Theft

On January 20, 2010, Officer Hill was contacted by a commercial logger who advised him that someone was stealing wood at the Roraback Wildlife Management area. The logger had a permit from DEP to harvest timber and someone was going in to the area after his crew left for the day and began cutting up harvested logs for firewood and removing them. Officer Hill responded and located an individual in the act of cutting the wood. The subject was arrested by Officer Hill for Larceny in the 6th degree.

Illegal Trapping Arrests

On January 29, 2010, Officers Tomassone and Hilli arrested a suspect from Burlington, CT with an arrest warrant charging him with 16 counts of illegal trapping; violation of regulations for taking a wild quadruped; failure to carry written consent of the landowner while trapping; illegal trapping of a bobcat; 3 counts of criminal mischief 3rd degree; 2 counts of criminal trespass 3rd degree; and violation of regulations for hunting by a minor. This arrest is the culmination of an

investigation Officers Tomassone and Hill began in early December 2009 after they received a report of a bobcat caught in an illegal snare trap in Winchester. Officer Tomassone tranquilized the bobcat and was able to release it back into the wild with no injuries. Officers located a number of other illegal snare traps set on the property and began surveillance of the area. The next day the officers observed the suspect in the area where he began searching for the illegal snares. The officers seized a quantity of trapping equipment that the subject had in his possession. The investigation determined that besides using illegal traps, the suspect had allegedly been trapping on the property without permission of the property owner. Evidence seized at the scene and equipment seized from the suspect was brought to the State Police Forensic Laboratory in Meriden where forensic examination of the evidence positively linked the suspect to the illegal trapping activity.

On January 31, 2010, EnCon Police received a complaint from a citizen that while walking his dog on a trail along the Farmington River in Avon his dog was caught in an illegal snare trap. The dog was not injured. On February 2, 2010, officers Hilli and Yescott located several more illegal snare and unpadding leg hold traps set along the river area. While conducting the investigation the officers observed a subject approach them carrying additional illegal snare traps and other trapping equipment. Officers Hilli and Yescott seized a quantity of traps and trapping equipment and arrested the subject on charges alleging 5 counts of Illegal trapping (for using the snare traps); 7 counts of Illegal coyote trapping (out of season); 2 counts of Illegal trapping (using unpadding leg hold traps); and 7 counts of Failure to tag traps with the name of the owner.

EnCon Police participate in manhunt

On April 5, 2010, information was developed by the United States Marshal's Service that a fugitive wanted for assaulting a Florida State Trooper with a firearm was suspected to be in the Winsted

On April 6, 2010, additional information was developed by the U.S. Marshals and the Connecticut State Police that the subject may be in a wooded area of the Mad River Flood Control area on the north side of RT 44 in Winsted. The area involved consists of rough terrain and is heavily wooded.

A Command Post was established at the Winsted Police Department comprised of members of the U.S. Marshals, Connecticut State Police, Winsted Police and EnCon Police. EnCon Police initially provided technical support with regards to knowledge of the terrain in the DEP-owned property. As the manhunt evolved, EnCon Police officers were requested to assist in the manhunt for the fugitive. The State Police also requested that EnCon Police ATV assets be made available for deployment as needed.

Capt. Raul "Skip" Camejo, Sergeant Keith Schneider and Sergeant Mark Shaw responded to the Command Post where they were responsible for coordinating EnCon Police activities with the Connecticut State Police. Officers Paul Hilli, Tate Begley, Ed Yescott, Erin Crossman and Keith Williams were assigned to field positions as part of the manhunt. Sergeant Matt Tomassone was assigned to the aircrew for the Connecticut State Police Trooper 1 helicopter to serve as an observer/spotter due to his intimate knowledge of the terrain and area of the search.

Information was developed that the fugitive had been utilizing a black van with Michigan registration plates and a green van with Massachusetts plates. As the manhunt continued through

the afternoon and evening the focus of the search shifted from the northern side of RT 44 to the southern side near and around Crystal Lake and Highland Lake.

At approximately 9 pm, Officers Crossman and Williams observed a black van and green van with Massachusetts registration plates on Platt Hill Road near Crystal Lake and RT 263. Despite knowing that the manhunt was for a fugitive who had already shot at a police officer, Officer Crossman activated her emergency lights to stop the two vans, which had turned on to RT 263. Both vehicles stopped and pulled to the shoulder of the roadway. Seconds later both vehicles began to pull away from the shoulder and continued westbound on RT 263. Officer Crossman having already relayed the location information regarding the stop to the command post, continued to attempt to stop the vehicles which she was able to do approximately 1/4 mile later. Officers Crossman and Williams conducted a high risk stop and contained the two vehicles until backup from the Connecticut State Police arrived on scene. Two females who were operating the vans were identified as known accomplices of the fugitive and were taken into custody. The State Police Emergency Services Unit then arrived and conducted a tactical entry of the two vehicles searching for the fugitive. The fugitive was not located in the vehicles.

On November 16, 2010, the Connecticut State Police awarded a Unit Citation to the EnCon Police Western District for their part in a manhunt.

Fatal Boating Accident

On June 4, 2010, EnCon Police responded to a report of a capsized canoe in Crest Brook Park in Watertown. It was determined that there were three people in the canoe fishing when the canoe capsized. Two of the people made it to shore, however, the third person did not. Dive teams were called in from area fire departments to conduct a search. The victim, who had drowned, was located the next morning. The victim was not wearing a life jacket.

Exotic Cat Seized

On June 10, 2010, Sergeant Cynthia Schneider developed information from a complainant that a person in Bethel had a tiger which was being kept in his basement. Sergeant C. Schneider and several other officers from the Western District met with the homeowner who eventually allowed the officers into his home where he surrendered a Serval Cat that he was keeping as a pet. Servals are medium sized African wild cats that can grow to 50 lbs. Servals are not permitted as pets in Connecticut. The owner of the cat was arrested for illegal possession of a wild quadruped. The Serval cat was shipped to a game preserve in Florida for permanent placement.

Bobcat Seized from Simsbury resident

On June 19, 2010 EnCon Police Officer Ed Yescott received information from the Simsbury Police Department that an individual in their town had possession of a kitten that appeared to be a Bobcat. Officer Yescott determined that the kitten was in fact a young Bobcat. Due to the fact that Bobcats have been known to have rabies, Officer Yescott was forced to euthanize the Bobcat for rabies testing as a number of people had physical contact with the Bobcat during the day.

Off duty Officer Initiates Boating Under the Influence Arrest

On June 29, 2010, Sergeant Keith Schneider was off duty, fishing on Bantam Lake in his personal boat with his two young children. While operating his own boat, Sergeant Schneider saw a ski boat approaching him from the opposite direction. As the two boats passed each other

the operator of the ski boat made an obscene gesture and pointed at Sergeant Schneider. Sergeant Schneider and his children continued over to the east side of Deer Island, anchored and began to fish. Another small boat with two friends of Sergeant Schneider's son as passengers approached and began to have a conversation with them. At that point the same ski boat that had earlier passed Sergeant Schneider approached again. The operator of the ski boat then looked right at Sergeant Schneider and began shouting obscenities which were heard by the Sergeant Schneider and by all the children in the two fishing boats. Sergeant Schneider contacted DEP dispatch and requested that an on-duty officer respond. EnCon Police Officer Erin Crossman arrived and apprehended the ski boat operator who was in the process of tying up his boat at a marina on Bantam Lake. Officer Crossman conducted a Field Sobriety test on the ski boat operator who was then placed under arrest after failing the tests. The ski boat operator was transported to State Police Troop "L" where he refused to submit to any type of sobriety test. The subject was arrested for Breach of Peace and Boating under the Influence. He was held overnight as he was not able to make bond and was transported to Superior Court Part B in Bantam for arraignment.

ATV operator attempts to run down officer

On 8/20/2010, EnCon Police Officer Keith Williams was on foot patrol of Osbornedale State Park when he observed a subject operating an ATV in the fields behind the upper Pavilion of the park. As Officer Williams approached the ATV, the operator saw Officer Williams and began to flee the area. Officer Williams shouted several times at the subject to stop his machine. Officer Williams then ran through a wooded area and intercepted the subject who was cutting back through a field towards the upper parking area. Officer Williams again shouted to the subject to stop and signaled him to stop. At that point the subject accelerated the ATV towards Officer Williams who had to jump out of the way to avoid being hit. The ATV continued on for about one hundred yards and stopped. Officer Williams continued his foot pursuit and the ATV turned around and was headed towards the officer again. Officer Williams was able to get the ATV stopped at which point the operator was arrested for Operating an unregistered ATV, Operating an ATV on state land without permission and Interfering with an officer.

Illegal boater arrested in Cornwall

On September 3, 2010, EnCon Police Officers Tate Begley and Keith Williams responded to a complaint of a boat with a motor being operated on Cream Hill Lake in Cornwall. By regulation the use of any type of motor is prohibited on this lake. Officer Williams observed the boat being powered by an electric trolling motor. He also observed the operator occasionally use a set of oars to make it look like he was rowing the boat. There had been a number of complaints at the lake previously regarding someone accessing the lake by trespassing on posted private property. Officer Williams and Begley approached the boat when it landed on shore and determined that the boat operator and his passenger had accessed the lake over the posted private property and launched the boat. Access to the lake was by way of a private driveway with a locked metal gate on it. Officers Williams and Begley determined that the operator of the boat had cut the lock off the gate and replaced it with his own. The subject was arrested for a number of boating violations and warned not to return to the lake through private property.

Connecticut EnCon Officers teach and attend annual Hunting Incident Investigation Academy

From September 24th through September 30th, the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) conducted their annual "Hunting Incident Investigation Academy" in Georgia. This

program is a specialized crime scene investigation course for conservation law enforcement officers. Upon completion of the course, officers will be prepared to conduct in-depth investigations of hunting-related shootings, be able to properly document and secure evidence and make determinations as to the cause of the shooting.

The training cadre for the course was made up of experienced conservation law enforcement officers from Iowa, Florida, New York, Georgia and Connecticut. Connecticut EnCon Police Sergeant Keith Schneider and Officer Paul Hilli were selected by IHEA to serve as instructors for the course.

In addition to Sergeant Schneider and Officer Hilli serving as instructors, EnCon Police Officer Keith Williams completed the training program and has been assigned to the EnCon Police Hunting Incident Reconstruction Unit (HIRU). The EnCon HIRU is responsible for reconstructing hunting-related shootings in Connecticut.

Jack-lighting Arrest

On December 6, 2010, EnCon Police Officer Tate Begley observed fresh tire tracks in the snow leading back to a field in Sharon. Officer Begley checked the field and observed a silver pickup truck with a man in full camo dumping corn at the edge of the field. On December 7, 2010, prior to sunrise, Officer Begley returned to the field where he observed two people in the cab of the same pickup truck observed the previous day, parked behind the pile of corn with the truck's headlights pointed in the direction of the corn pile.

Officer Begley approached the pickup truck and upon checking, located a loaded bolt action .308 rifle in the cab of the truck between the man and woman in the cab. Officer Begley then determined that corn in the field was only 306 feet to neighboring houses. Both suspects, who were determined to be husband and wife, were arrested for Jack-lighting, Illegal Deer Hunting over bait and Negligent Hunting 4th degree.

Deer hunter too close to homes

On December 16, 2010, EnCon Police Officer Keith Williams responded to a complaint of a hunter too close to homes in Newtown. Officer Williams found the hunter, a resident of Vermont, in a camouflage hunting blind at the rear of a house. Officer Williams approached the blind and observed a single individual sitting on a milk crate inside the blind with a muzzleloading rifle. Officer Williams determined from the subject that he did have written permission to be within 500 feet of the house he was directly behind, however, it was determined that ground blind was set up 231 feet away from one neighbor's residence, 315 feet away from a second residence and 363 feet from a third residence. All three of the houses were visible from the blind. Officer Williams arrested the subject for Negligent Hunting in the 4th degree and released him on a \$500.00 bond.

NEW OFFICERS AND PROMOTIONS IN 2010

Promotions

In May of 2010, Captain Kyle Overturf was promoted to the rank of Colonel and Division Director. Colonel Overturf has been with the Department for over 24 years had previously served as the District Commander in the Marine and Western Districts. Colonel Overturf was a field sergeant for twelve years and was assigned in that capacity in every district in the state. He is the vice chair of the Law Enforcement Committee for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, he serves on the Patrol Committee on the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission and is the Department's representative on the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners. Colonel Overturf served as an adjunct instructor for recruit training at the Connecticut Police Academy for over ten years. He has his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut.

Officer Matthew Tomassone was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2010 and brings sixteen years of field experience to the position of Administrative Sergeant. Sergeant Tomassone grew up hunting, fishing, trapping and boating along the shores of the CT River and his college experience in Fisheries and Wildlife Management took him to upstate New York, Maine, and finally back to Connecticut, where he then obtained the job of Conservation Officer in 1994. He has worked his entire career in the Western Region of the state with short stints in the Marine and Southwest Districts and a majority spent in the Northwest Sector where he investigated numerous poaching cases over the years. He has been very active with the Chemical Immobilization Team since being hired and has also worked extensively on the Connecticut River performing boating, hunting, fishing, and trapping patrols. Sergeant Tomassone's experience in these many areas of patrol has made him an asset to the Division.

Officer Raul "Ray" Ramos was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in October 2010. Sergeant Ramos came to the Division in 2005 with five years prior experience as a patrolman with the West Hartford Police Department. He was a member of their Honor Guard and was assigned to the department's training division as a Firearms Instructor. Sergeant Ramos integrated into the EnCon Police immediately and has worked in the Marine and Southwest Sectors and has varied experience in boat patrols on Connecticut's lakes and rivers, as well as investigations into illegal fishing, hunting and Park and Forest enforcement activities. He has been a Firearms Training Officer with EnCon Police for several years now where he has excelled in the Training Division. Sergeant Ramos is assigned as the supervisor for the Candlewood Lake Patrol.



Commissioner Amey Marrella and EnCon Police Officer Sergeant Ramos

New Hires

On August 17, 2010, the DEP Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police Department swore in its newest officer, Michael Curran. Mr. Curran was the sixth new officer sworn into the department during 2010. With the addition of these new officers there are now 53 sworn members of the EnCon Police Department. These officers bring much needed support to the demanding and diverse responsibilities of the EnCon Police. The Department experienced nine retirements over the past two years prompting the search for qualified individuals to carry on the rich tradition of the Environmental Conservation Police Department. Becoming an Environmental Conservation Police Officer is an extremely competitive process; therefore, the department is pleased to announce the addition of these highly qualified men and women. Each new officer brings a unique passion for the outdoors and is committed to serving the citizens of Connecticut as well as the diverse wildlife and natural resources throughout the state.

Below is a brief background of each new officer and the diverse skills and abilities they bring to the division:

Elise Benoit is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Animal Science, Natural Resources and Engineering. She has served as a firefighter for the town of Putnam, CT for the past two years. Elise's collegiate career presented her with a variety of experiences within the fields of biology, ecology and natural resources. As part of a Public Lands and Wildlife Management course, Elise spent three weeks traveling from Connecticut to South Dakota studying various state parks. Elise grew up near the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire where she developed her love for hiking, plant/animal identification and camping. Elise brings a great mix of outdoor and educational experiences to the EnCon Police Department.

Jeffery Bruno is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford where he received his degree in American Studies. Jeff was previously employed by the New London Police Department where he served as a police officer for three years. During his time with the New London Police Department he was part of the Statewide Narcotics Task Force and the NLPD's Anti-Violence Team. Jeff is an avid fisherman, hunter, diver and outdoorsman; he is also a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain and has extensive boating experience. Jeff's law enforcement background and outdoor experiences make him a great fit with the EnCon Police Department.

Michael Curran is a recent graduate of Unity College in Maine where he received a Bachelors of Science degree in Conservation Law Enforcement and Wildlife. Michael grew up in rural Connecticut where he developed a passion for fishing and hunting. Michael took full advantage of attending college in Maine where he enjoyed hiking, snowmobiling and kayaking. Throughout Michael's collegiate career he utilized the volunteer/internship opportunities presented to him to become a member of the Unity College Search and Rescue Club and an intern with the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police. Michael's passion for the outdoors and educational background will be an asset to the EnCon Police Department.

Nick Miofsky is a graduate from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO with a degree in Business Administration, and the University of Missouri – St. Louis with a Master's degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice. Nick was previously employed by the Massachusetts State Police where he worked as a civilian in the Critical Infrastructure Unit as the Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) Program Manager. He was tasked with developing a new technology targeting critical infrastructure protection planning for local and state first responders throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Nick grew up in rural Missouri where he learned to hunt and fish at a young age. Prior to moving to the Northeast, Nick spent three years in the central mountains of Colorado where he fed his passion for fly-fishing, hunting and snowboarding. Nick's love for the outdoors led him to pursue a career with the EnCon Police Department.

Matthew Stone is a graduate of Western New England College in Springfield, MA with a degree in Criminal Justice. Matt was previously employed by the Montville Police Department where he served as a patrol officer for eight years. In addition to his law enforcement background, Matt served in the Army Reserves for nine years and served a year tour of duty in Iraq. Matt grew up in Vermont where he learned to hunt and fish at a young age. He now resides in Connecticut where he enjoys passing along his knowledge of fishing to his daughter. Matt's experience in the military and law enforcement will add to the depth of knowledge within the EnCon Police Department.

Gregory Ulkus is a graduate of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida where he received a degree in Sociology and Environmental Studies. At a young age Greg was introduced to the outdoors by his father where they enjoyed canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, camping and ice fishing. Greg grew up near Columbia Lake spending numerous summer days wakeboarding and swimming. Through these activities Greg developed a passion for the water. He obtained his Safe Boating certificate at a young age and later acquired his U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License; he has extensive experience in boating, sailing and marine habitat restoration. Greg joins the EnCon Police Department from the Department of Environmental Protection Boating Division where he held positions as a Marine Patrol Officer and Environmental Analyst. His extensive experience on the water will be an asset to the EnCon Police Department.



Deputy Commissioner Susan Frechette with EnCon Police Officers Elise Benoit and Greg Ulkus

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 2010, sixteen 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 2010, twenty officers participated in academy offered training, and attended thirty different courses. Officers attended training in the following areas: Supervisory Training, Interview and Interrogation, Crime Scene Processing, Management Training, Legal Updates, Excel, PowerPoint, D.U.I. Enforcement, Accident Investigation, Use of Force, Close Quarter Combat, Vehicle Theft, Child Sexual Abuse Investigation, Record Retention, Situations Involving Persons with Mental Illness and a ten week State's Attorney Legal Training class.

In addition to voluntary training, officers must attend mandatory training, such as firearms qualification, CPR certification, and COLLECT training. In 2010, officers also attended Federal Marine Patrol Officer training.

This year numerous officers attended a seven-hour training class on Handling Dangerous Reptiles. This was a hands on class where officers practiced techniques for capturing and handling venomous snakes, lizards, alligators and crocodiles.



Reptile training: EnCon Police Officer Rich Persico

AWARDS

Officer Karen Reilly and SCO Ken Savage – Medal for Lifesaving

On July 3, 2009, Officer Karen Reilly and Special Conservation Officer Ken Savage were the first responders to a medical call at Hammonasset Beach State Park. Officers Reilly and Savage arrived on scene and determined that the victim had no pulse and was not breathing. They immediately began CPR and both were relieved of that duty by responding medical personnel. It was later learned that the victim had not survived. Both officers made a valiant attempt to save the victim's life under very stressful conditions.

Sergeant Cynthia Schneider – Medal for Meritorious Service

During the first half of 2009, Sergeant Cynthia Schneider was tasked with developing a plan to coordinate and complete a day of amnesty for Connecticut residents to surrender any exotic animal in their possession, without fear of penalty. On July 25, 2009, all of her hard work culminated in Connecticut's first ever EXOTIC ANIMAL AMNESTY DAY, held at Beardsley Zoo. Sergeant Schneider was charged with carrying out this day in a compassionate, but safe manner for all people and surrendered animals involved. She was responsible for providing amnesty to the people surrendering the animals, processing the animals, and coordinating long-term placement. In addition, she provided security and traffic control at the event, as well as conducted media relations for the day which received national attention. This day was a complete success which resulted in the surrender of more than 130 exotic animals, all of which were placed with zoological facilities equipped with the ability to properly care for these animals. Amnesty Day also had the desired outcome of demonstrating to Connecticut residents that the Department is truly concerned with the health and welfare of exotic wildlife, in addition to maintaining the safety of our citizens.

Officer Stephen Stanko – Medal for Meritorious Service

On December 2, 2008, Officer Stanko was on a routine hunting patrol in the city of Meriden. He noted a vehicle containing hunting paraphernalia parked in an area behind the Connecticut Police Academy. He was unaware of any legal hunting areas in the vicinity and began a foot patrol. Shortly thereafter Officer Stanko made contact with a man hunting deer with a shotgun. Officer Stanko conducted a thorough investigation and learned that the man was a twice convicted felon: for carrying a dangerous weapon and murder. Officer Stanko arrested the suspect and took him into custody without further incident.

Officer Edward Yescott – Citation of Achievement

On March 17, 2009, Officer Yescott responded to a call for two lost hikers, one of them reported to be injured. While responding to the scene Officer Yescott received conflicting information as to the location of the lost hikers. Upon arrival to the area he was met by police and fire personnel from four different municipalities, as well as the Connecticut State Police Air Support Unit. Officer Yescott obtained the cell number for the lost hikers and determined they could only be in one location. He set off with a West Hartford officer that had a medical kit, to lead him to the lost hikers. A short time later he found the lost hikers and provided medical attention. Officer Yescott's intimate knowledge of his patrol area allowed him to provide a timely response to the call and to direct a response vehicle to the location enabling the injured hiker to be transported out of the area.

Officer Stephen Stanko – 2010 Officer of the Year

Environmental Conservation Police Officer Stephen Stanko has been a member of the Connecticut Division of State Environmental Conservation Police since February 2007, recently taking assignment in the Marine District following his early years in the Western District. A veteran police officer who previously served with both the East Hampton and Middletown police departments, Officer Stanko has always shown high enthusiasm in his job. His extensive police background and willingness to learn new tasks and procedures have helped him complete many types and complexities of marine cases, as well as having one of the highest case loads in the Marine District.

Officer Stanko voluntarily transferred to the Marine District in early 2010, in order to expand his conservation law enforcement experiences and learn the marine side of the EnCon Police division. He eagerly worked with his sector officers and supervisors, and put his new knowledge to good use in numerous enforcement actions in the areas of recreational and marine fisheries, as well as inland fishing. In March of 2010, he arrested a commercial gill net fisherman for possession of twenty striped bass; later 2010 investigations resulted in numerous striped bass, scup and blue crab enforcement arrests and investigations, as well as lobster equipment violations.

A well-rounded En-Con Police officer, Officer Stanko also worked progressively during the winter hunting season, particularly in his previous patrol sector, investigating and prosecuting a number of illegal hunting cases. In early September 2010, he went to extra lengths to catch up with poachers who were waterfowl hunting after hunting hours and avoiding detection by boating after dark without using navigation lights. In April 2010, Officer Stanko received an Award of Achievement for a notable hunting arrest in December 2008. He has often helped other law enforcement agencies around the state during his patrols, including assisting State Police with a night time state forest search for home invasion suspects in Killingworth, a bank robbery suspect search in Durham and a roadside domestic violence incident in Old Saybrook, as well as assisting local and state police on various motor vehicle and DUI stops. Officer Stanko serves as a Field Training Officer for the division and is a three year member of the Chemical Immobilization Team.

Officer Stanko has become more proficient with vessel operations and patrols in the Marine District and makes numerous safety checks of boats and boaters to ensure safe experiences on our state's waters, as well as compliance with various boating statutes and regulations. These include proper carrying and use of lifejackets, wake zone violations and detection of Boating while Under the Influence of alcohol and/or drugs (BUI). Officer Stanko made two BUI arrests in summer 2010, one during the nationwide Operation Drywater BUI campaign, and another involving the suspected use of drugs by both the vessel operator and passenger. He has also investigated various boating accidents in his patrol sector.

Already well-versed in police investigative procedures, Officer Stanko had several opportunities to use these skills in various criminal investigations at Hammonasset Beach State Park. Previously noted for his interviewing techniques (Officer Stanko was recognized for his skills, empathy, and compassion interviewing the family of a suicidal hunter in October 2009), he attended a week-long Interviewing and Interrogation course in June 2010. Immediately afterward, Officer Stanko was tasked with the investigation of a considerable amount of missing money from the ticket gates at Hammonasset. Drawing on previous experience while using

newly learned techniques, he incorporated and used the expertise of other officers and park personnel, effectively used surveillance equipment loaned by another agency, developed suspects, and gained direct confessions leading to three felony arrests for the larceny of several thousand dollars of park entrance fees. As with other cases, he remains involved with this case by providing court officials with further information to ensure proper prosecution.

Officer Tate Begley – Citation of Achievement

On July 25, 2009, Officer Begley was travelling eastbound on Route 84 in the town of Willington. He witnessed a car spin out of control and crash just ahead in the roadway. The vehicle stopped and was facing the wrong direction in the middle of a busy highway. Officer Begley's quick decision to engage his emergency lights, slow and then stop traffic, limited the potential severity of the accident and allowed the operator of the vehicle to safely retreat from the scene without further injury.

Officers Erin Crossman and Keith Williams – Medal for Meritorious Service

On February 17, 2009, Field Training Officer Crossman and Agency Police Officer Keith Williams were patrolling rural Hartland when they came upon a NY registered vehicle that appeared to be abandoned. They made phone contact with the owners' of the vehicle and learned that their son, who is mentally challenged, had access to a 12 gauge shotgun, for which ammunition was found in the vehicle. The son had been severely depressed, but seemed at peace recently. The officers recognized this as a typical sign of a suicidal person. Officers Crossman and Williams called for additional personnel from EnCon Police, State Police, MDC Police and local emergency personnel to commence a search of the vast area. Almost eight hours later, the subject was found approximately five miles away, on the opposite side of the reservoir from where he parked. A shotgun, a large quantity of ammunition, and several knives were taken from him when he was taken into custody. The subject was transported to a local hospital for a psychological evaluation. Rather than simply tagging the vehicle and calling for a wrecker, their recognition that something wasn't quite right, and thorough investigation, led them to facilitate the safe return of an emotionally disturbed person.

Sergeant Ryan Healy and Officer Raul Ramos – Citation for Outstanding Service

On July 8, 2009, EnCon Police personnel responded to a serious boating accident on the Connecticut River in the town of Old Lyme. Upon arrival, Sergeant Healy assessed the scene and determined there were three severely injured victims and a fatality. After making contact with the operator of the offending vessel, Sergeant Healy recognized that the subject appeared to be under the influence and assigned Officer Ramos to conduct field sobriety tests. The subject failed the tests and was placed under arrest by Officer Ramos. It was later determined the subject's BAC was over twice the legal limit. Due to the thoroughness, professionalism, and outstanding work of Officer Ramos and Sergeant Healy, the subject pled no contest to the charge of Second Degree Manslaughter and Reckless Operation Under the Influence.

Officer Paul Hilli – Medal for Meritorious Service

On November 17, 2008, Officer Hilli was on patrol in the town of Warren and heard a BOLO issued by Troop "L" for a person wanted for a murder that had just occurred in the town of Southbury. Officer Hilli came upon a trooper working a highway construction project, and while talking to him about the BOLO, the suspect pulled behind Officer Hilli's patrol truck. As they

were deciding a plan of action, the suspect fled in his vehicle in the opposite direction. Officer Hilli pursued the suspect, which ended a short time later, with the suspect now dumping the vehicle and fleeing on foot. Officer Hilli deployed with his shotgun and engaged the suspect. The suspect fled into a very large tract of wooded and swampy terrain where he was apprehended the next day following a large manhunt by Connecticut State Police Troopers, canine teams and EnCon Police. Officer Hilli's knowledge of his patrol area was paramount to the capture of this very dangerous individual.

Stratford Officer Joseph Legen and Shelton Dispatcher Matthew Legen – Medal for Lifesaving

On February 11, 2009, Joseph Legen, an off-duty Stratford Police Officer, and his brother Matthew Legen, an off-duty Shelton Police Dispatcher, were walking with friends at Indian Well State Park in Shelton. They noticed a man and woman walking their dogs along the edge of Lake Housatonic. They watched as one of the dogs went out onto thin ice, fell through, and then saw the man follow the dog out in an attempt to rescue the dog. The man fell through the ice as well and went under. Joseph and Matthew ran to the scene and Joseph attempted to crawl out onto the ice, but also ended up falling through into the water. Joseph located the man and pulled him to the edge of the ice. Matthew had also gone onto the ice at this time to assist in the rescue and he also fell through. Matthew was able to use a tree limb to help his brother Joseph, the dog owner and the dog back onto the ice and to shore. All were treated and released by medical personnel. The immediate and selfless actions of the Legen brothers resulted in the rescue of the dog owner and his dog, and potentially saved their lives.

SCO Stephen Rebelowski – Medal for Lifesaving

On July 9, 2009, Special Conservation Officer Stephen Rebelowski was the first responder to a medical call under the Route 156 highway bridge over the Niantic River. Officer Rebelowski arrived on scene and determined that the victim had no pulse, was not breathing and had traumatic injuries resulting from a jump off the bridge. He made sure medical personnel were en route and immediately began CPR and was relieved of that duty when medical personnel arrived. It was later learned the victim had not survived. Officer Rebelowski made a valiant attempt to save the victim's life under very stressful conditions.

EnCon Police Western District receives Unit Citation from the Connecticut State Police



**EnCon Police Western District Officers with Unit Citation Award
L to R: Officer Paul Hilli, Officer Keith Williams, Sergeant Keith Schneider, Sergeant Mark Shaw, Officer Erin
Crossman, Captain Raul "Skip" Camejo.**

Missing from photo: Sergeant Matt Tomassone, Officer Tate Begley and Officer Ed Yescott.

On April 5, 2010, information was developed by the United States Marshal's Service that a fugitive wanted for assaulting a Florida State Trooper with a firearm was suspected to be in the Winsted.

On April 6, 2010, additional information was developed by the US Marshals and the Connecticut State Police that the subject may be in a wooded area of the Mad River Flood Control area on the north side of RT 44 in Winsted. The area involved consists of rough terrain and is heavily wooded.

A Command Post was established at the Winsted Police Department comprised of members of the US Marshals, Connecticut State Police, Winsted Police and EnCon Police. EnCon Police initially provided technical support with regards to knowledge of the terrain in the DEP-owned property. As the manhunt evolved, EnCon Police officers were requested to assist in the manhunt for the fugitive. The State Police also requested EnCon Police ATV assets be made available for deployment, as needed.

Capt. Raul "Skip" Camejo, Sergeant Keith Schneider and Sergeant Mark Shaw responded to the Command Post where they were responsible for coordinating EnCon Police activities with the Connecticut State Police.

Officers Paul Hilli, Tate Begley, Ed Yescott, Erin Crossman and Keith Williams were assigned to field positions as part of the manhunt. Sergeant Matt Tomassone was assigned to the aircrew for the Connecticut State Police Trooper 1 helicopter to serve as an observer/spotter due to his intimate knowledge of the terrain and area of the search.

Information was developed that the fugitive had been utilizing a black van with Michigan registration plates and a green van with Massachusetts plates. As the manhunt continued through the afternoon and evening the focus of the search shifted from the northern side of RT 44 to the southern side near and around Crystal Lake and Highland Lake.

At approximately 9 pm, Officers Crossman and Williams observed a black van and green van with Massachusetts registration plates on Platt Hill Rd near Crystal Lake and RT 263. Despite knowing that the manhunt was for a fugitive who had already shot at a police officer, Officer Crossman activated her emergency lights to stop the two vans, which had turned on to RT 263. Both vehicles stopped and pulled to the shoulder of the roadway. Seconds later both vehicles began to pull away from the shoulder and continued westbound on RT 263. Officer Crossman having already relayed the location information regarding the stop to the command post, continued to attempt to stop the vehicles which she was able to do approximately 1/4 mile later. Officers Crossman and Williams conducted a high risk stop and contained the two vehicles until backup from the Connecticut State Police arrived on scene. Two females who were operating the vans were identified as known accomplices of the fugitive and were taken into custody. The State Police Emergency Services Unit then arrived and conducted a tactical entry of the two vehicles searching for the fugitive. The fugitive was not located in the vehicles.

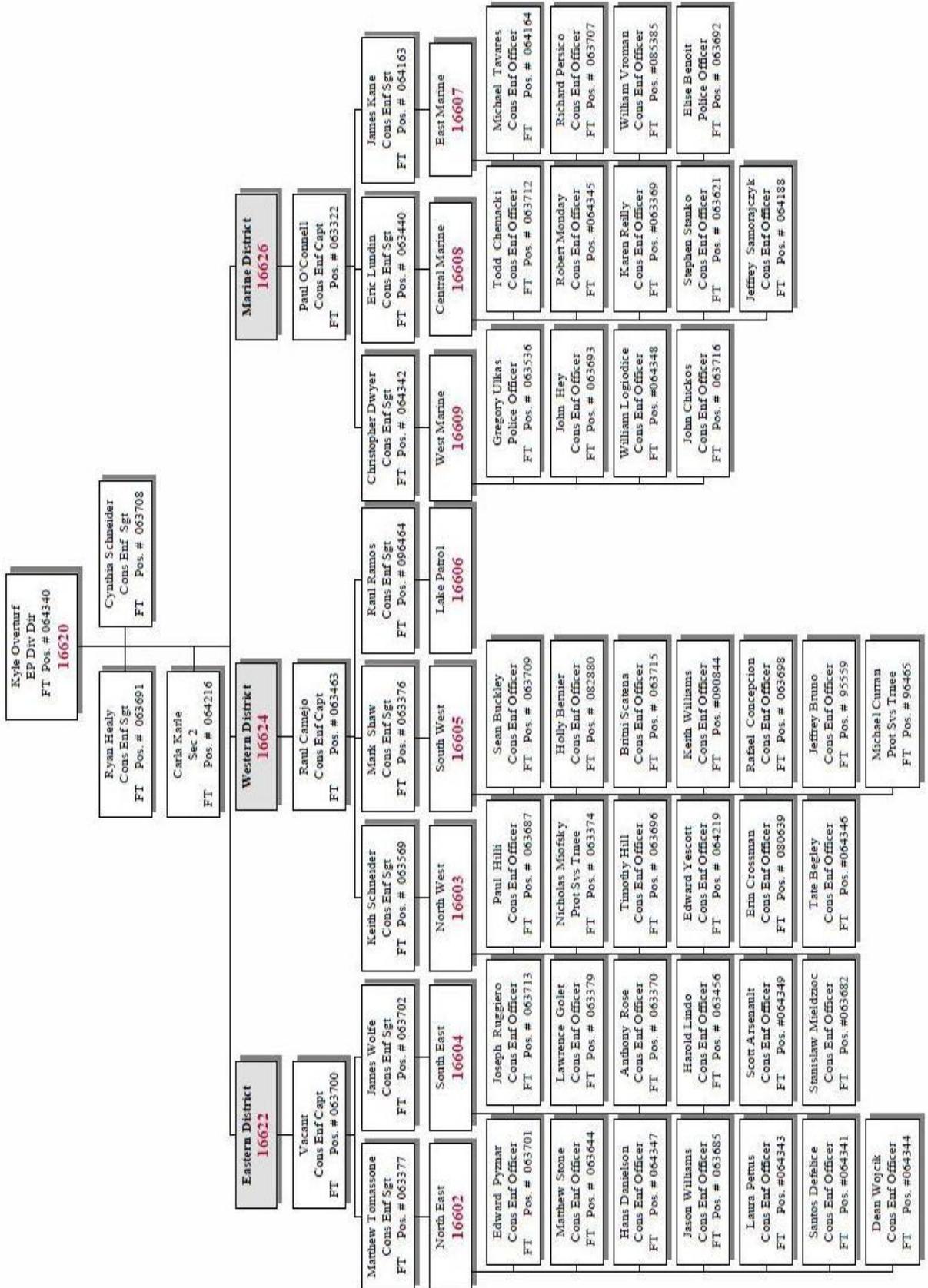
Officer Crossman was the only female officer on scene and assisted the State Police in searching the two females in custody. She then accompanied Troopers to Troop "L" with the females where she assisted in processing them.

One of the females apprehended by Officer Crossman's and Williams' stop provided information that led officers to believe that the fugitive was located in a residence on the southeast side of Highland Lake approximately 3 miles from where Officers Crossman and Williams conducted the motor vehicle stop.

The State Police were able to obtain a search warrant for the residence where the fugitive was believed to be located. The warrant was executed at daylight and the fugitive was successfully captured.

For their exceptional collective efforts in providing invaluable assistance to the United States Marshals Service, Connecticut State Police and Winsted Police in apprehending a violent fugitive, on November 16, 2010, the Connecticut State Police awarded a Unit Citation to the EnCon Police Western District. All of the EnCon officers involved in this manhunt acted in a professional manner which showcased the unwavering dedication, technical and practical knowledge and capabilities of the EnCon Police. Their actions served to bolster the professional prestige and high regard in which our officers, our Division and our Department are held among their law enforcement peers.

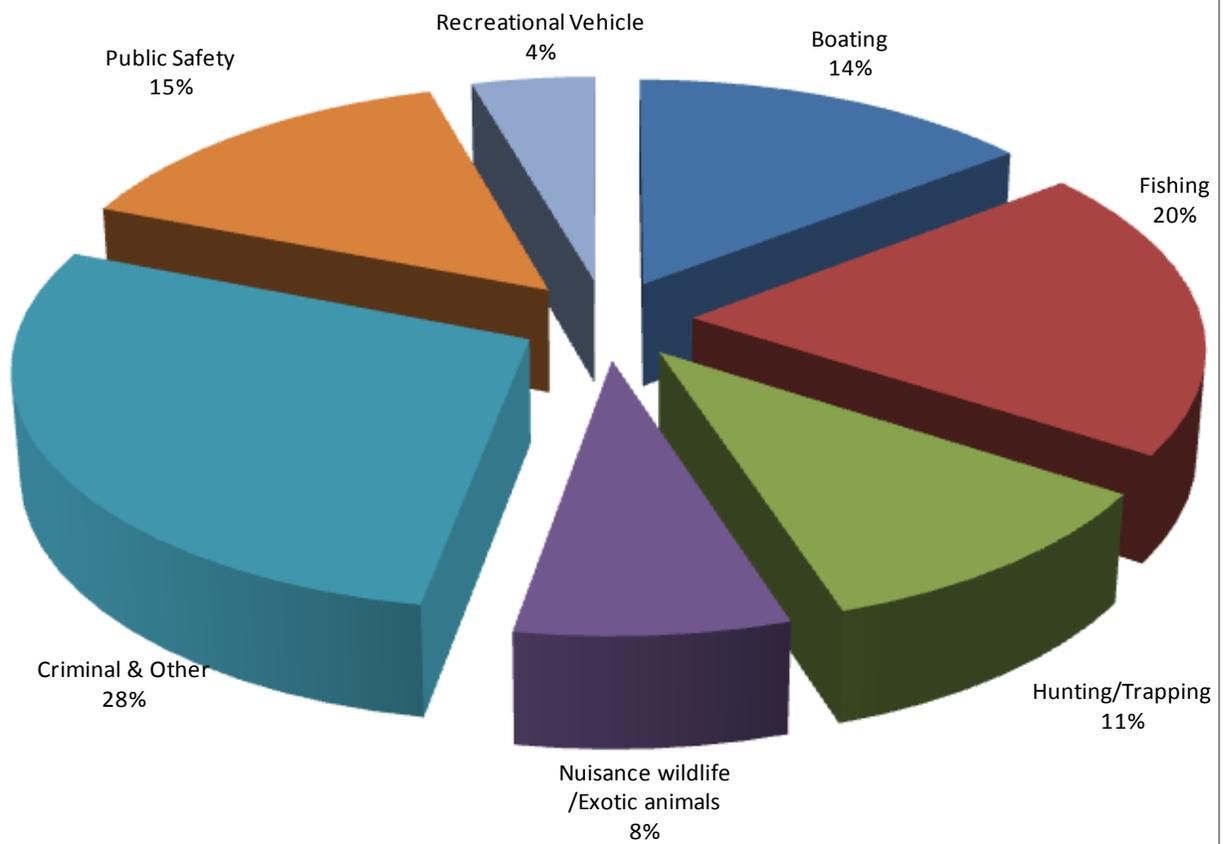
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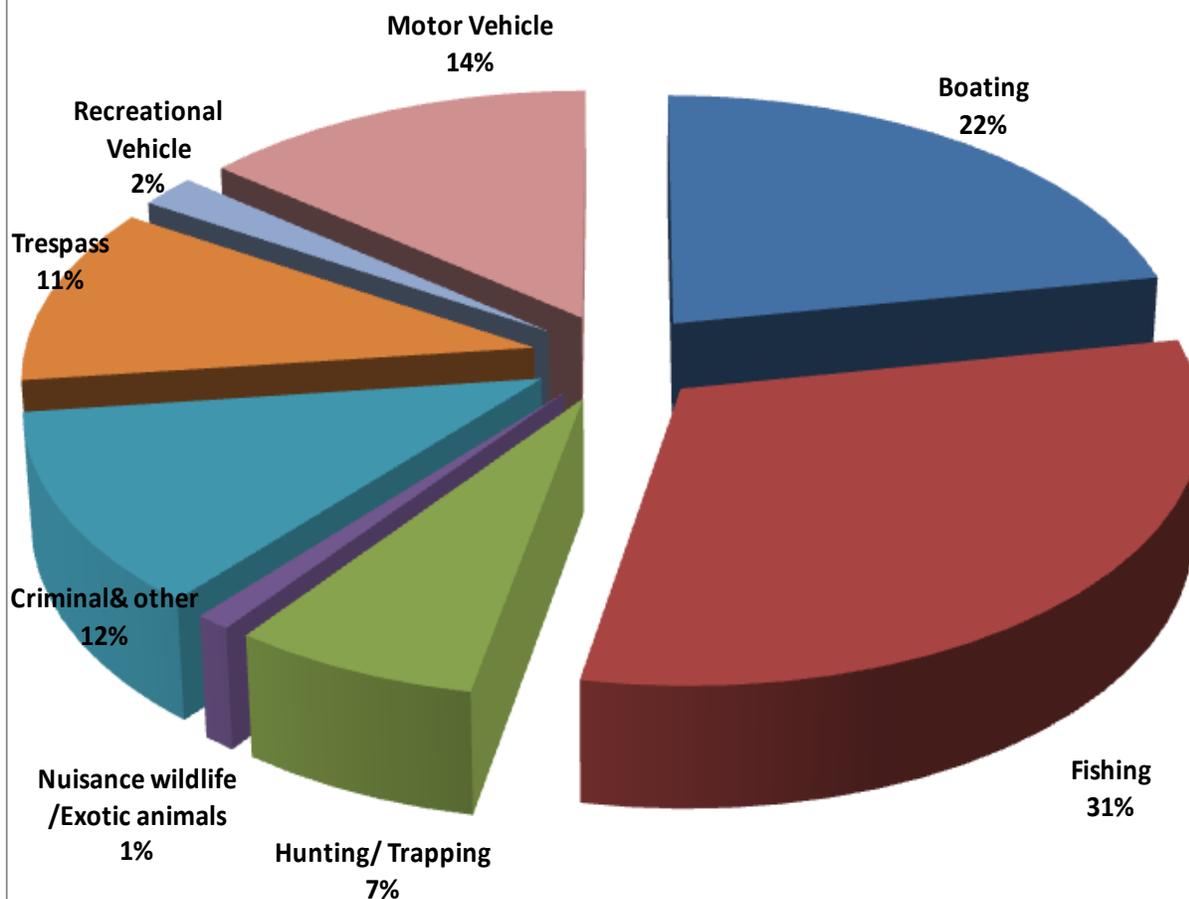
2010 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS
Summary of Primary Enforcement Areas

Incident	Total # of Incidents*	Total # of Arrests	Total # of Warnings
Hunting/Trapping	888	110	100
Fishing	1640	637	466
Boating	1189	406	339
Motor Vehicle	1217	609	216
Trespassing	660	242	160
K-9 Violations	106	10	47
Recreational Vehicles	364	140	22
Alcohol/Narcotics	512	149	63
Crimes Against Persons	435	120	81
Crimes Against Property	539	58	13
Safety/Medical	1001	11	9
Search & Rescue/Missing Persons	71	2	2
Nuisance Bear	133	1	0
Exotic Animals	27	1	0
Sick, Injured, & Nuisance Wildlife	473	1	3
Background Investigations	74	0	0
Homeland Security/Suspicious Person	226	4	2
Total	9554	2501	1516

2010 Activity by Incident Type



2010 Warnings by Incident Type



2010 Arrest by Incident Type

