



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# 2021 FACT SHEET

Mark Williams  
Commissioner

Colonel Thomas Barnard  
Director

### LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MISSION

The Mission of the Law Enforcement Division is to conserve our natural resources and to protect the people we serve. We maintain public support through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement. We commit ourselves to our Vision and Mission by practicing our core beliefs: trust, fairness and professionalism.



### Serving Since 1911—Trust, Fairness, Professionalism

DNR has the oldest state law enforcement unit in Georgia. In 1911, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation creating Game Wardens. In those days, they patrolled the woods and waterways on foot and horseback, carrying their own firearms, wearing the now collectible “quail badge” pinned to their chests.

The people, equipment, methods, and technologies have drastically changed in the last 110 years but the core beliefs have not. Their roles continue to evolve but they still focus on their core mission of enforcing hunting, fishing, boating and environmental laws, providing public safety on all DNR-controlled properties, and serving outdoor enthusiasts and the public throughout Georgia.

Today, the agency is well-respected as one of the top conservation law enforcement divisions in North America. Utilizing new and reliable equipment, deploying the latest technology, and employing top-tier men and women are the keys to meeting the Division’s mission of conserving natural resources and protecting the people they serve.

Georgia Game Wardens are POST-certified peace officers with statewide authority and full arrest powers. They serve alongside all other local, state and federal agencies in all areas of law enforcement. They are the most versatile law enforcement officers in state government with specialized training in:

- Woodland Operations
- Waterborne Operations
- Aviation
- Critical Incident Reconstruction
- Search-and-rescue
- Disaster response
- K-9
- Urban crime suppression

The Ranger Hotline program, which provides a way for citizens to report anonymously potentially illegal wildlife and other conservation law violations, continues to be successful. If the information leads to an arrest, the tipster receives a cash reward funded by the Georgia Natural Resource Foundation.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Game Warden of the Year                 | GW FC John Rhodes   |
| Supervisor of the Year                  | Sgt. Bo Kelly       |
| Georgia Boating Officer of the Year     | GWFC Ryan Locke     |
| Investigative Game Warden of the Year   | Cpl. Eddie Tompkins |
| Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award        | GW KP Boatright     |
| James R. Darnell Award Recipient        | GWFC Tyler Lewis    |
| NWTF Officer of the Year                | GW Aaron Powell     |
| Hunter Education Instructor of the Year | Cpl. Dan Stiles     |
| Torch Award                             | GWFC Brock Hoyt     |
| Administrative Professional of the Year | Shannon Witcher     |



## CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- 196 POST certified officers
- Each Game Warden serves an average of 54,171 Georgia citizens
- 16,000 miles of rivers patrolled
- 500,000 acres of impounded waters patrolled
- Coastal Patrol: 100 linear miles of shoreline and out to 200 miles offshore
- Land Patrol: Over 37 million acres. This includes public and private land, including 132 Wildlife Management Areas, 11 Public Fishing Areas, and 63 State Parks and Historic Sites.
- 1,284,480 Licensed Anglers
- 707,508 Licensed Hunters
- 332,944 Registered Vessels

### Programs

- 86 Hunter Education
- 455 Information and Education
- 157 Boating Safety & Boating Education
- 0 Hunter Development

### Cases

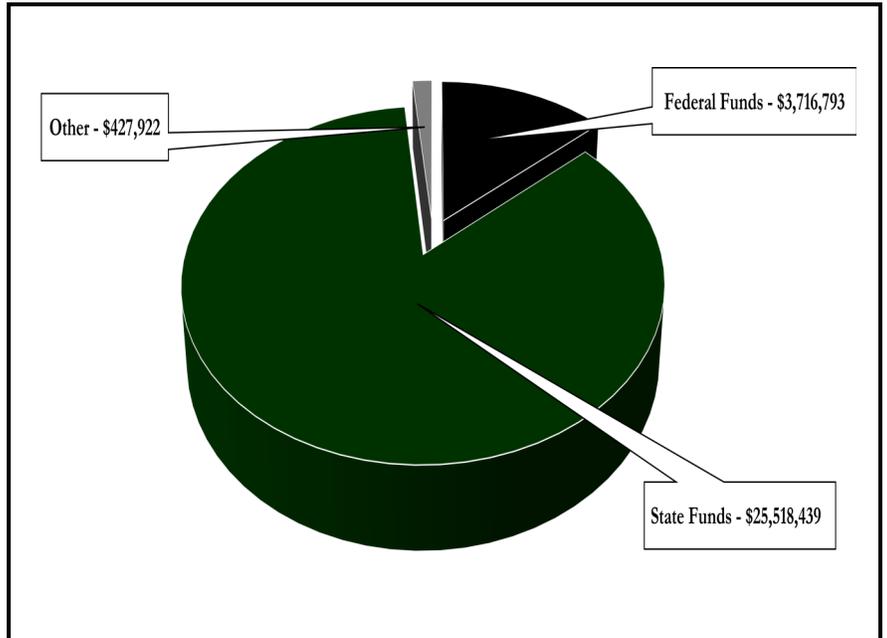
- 303 Land & Water Search and Rescue
- 27 Hunting Incidents
- 128 Boating Incidents

### Licenses Checked

- 34,505 Vessels Checked
- 29,880 Hunting Licenses
- 36,265 Fishing Licenses
- 221 Commercial Licenses

### Activity

- 5,703 Boating Contacts
- 3,596 Hunting Contacts
- 3,739 Fishing Contacts
- 700 Environmental Contacts

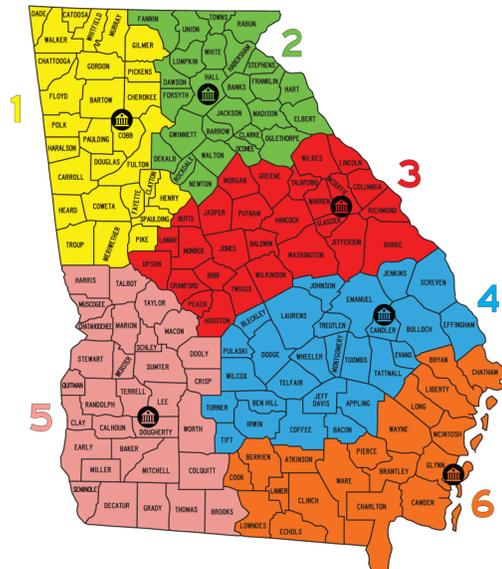


### SPECIALTY UNITS

- Special Permits
- K-9
- Chaplains
- Aviation
- Marine Theft
- Investigative
- Region Investigators
- Critical Action Teams
- Body Recovery Team
- Critical Incident Reconstruction Team
- Special Operations Group
- Side Scan Sonar/ ROV

### 2020 OFFICER TRAINING

- 34th Game Warden Academy
- Use of Deadly Force and De-escalation
- X2 Taser re-certification
- Standardized Field Sobriety and BUI Refresher
- Governor's Initiative Community Oriented Policing
- "Start the Conversation" suicide awareness and prevention training and the
- "Building Positive Community Relations"
- CPR/First Aid recertification.



Headquarters - (770) 918-6408

Region I - (770) 529-2424  
Capt. James McLaughlin

Region II - (770) 535-5499  
Capt. Derek Dillard

Region III - (706) 595-4211  
Capt. Doyte Chaffin

Region IV - (912) 685-2145  
Capt Bob Lynn

Region V - (229) 430-4252  
Capt. Rick Sellars

Region VI - (912) 264-7234  
Capt. Chris Hodge