

Contact an Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) — 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Scan QR code for an up-to-date
list of ECOs in each region.



Report All Poachers and Polluters

1-844-DEC-ECOS (844-332-3267)



Approximately 250 field ECOs patrol the entire state. Their job includes enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and state environmental quality laws. ECOs rely on the eyes and ears of our dedicated members of the sporting community to report suspected violations. Poachers and other violators are stealing from you, your children, and our environment.

As soon as possible, call the hotline to report suspected violations. Dispatchers will assist you in filing a complaint.

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The sooner you call and the more detailed information you provide, the more likely the violator will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, when, where, and how” of the event.

Keep your distance.

Do not approach or confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.

Who did it?

Provide names, age, sex, height, weight, clothing, or vehicle descriptions, etc.

What occurred?

What exactly is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking deer using bait, over limit, shooting from roadway, trespass, using tags of another, after hours, non-resident buying a resident license.

When did it occur?

Dates and times. Has it already happened, is in progress, or yet to happen?

Where did it occur?

Provide exact street addresses, town/county, GPS locations, or other ways the officer can locate the scene, suspects, and evidence.

How did it occur?

What were the exact circumstances or actions associated with the violation?



Another successful mentored youth weekend in Southold, Suffolk County, for youth turkey hunter Daniel H. and ECO Cacciola. This youth hunt was possible thanks to a local farmer who gave these hunters permission to hunt on their land.



ECOs Doig (left) and Osborne (right) with three illegal deer that were seized as evidence on opening weekend of rifle season. One of the deer was illegally killed while trespassing, and the other two were killed using bait.

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