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Kenneth W. Bailey

NEAR BOWERS BEACH, Del. - A commercial conch waterman has been arrested in Delaware, according to Wildlife officials.

DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers arrested a New Jersey-based, Delaware-licensed commercial waterman July 24 on numerous fisheries-related charges and a felony after he tried to evade a fisheries compliance boarding on Delaware Bay and steered his vessel away and into the path of a police boat, that's according to Wildlife officials.

Natural Resources Police said Tuesday that as their patrol boat neared the commercial vessel, its captain, Kenneth W. Bailey, 61, of Heislerville, N.J., put the motor in gear and turned hard, nearly causing a collision with the approaching patrol boat. His crew was also observed dumping the contents of several bushel baskets of conch into the bay, despite a police command to stop, according to Cpl. John McDerby, Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police.

Officials said Bailey was charged with felony tampering with physical evidence, second-degree reckless endangering, unlawful possession of horseshoe crabs for use as bait without a valid receipt and 103 counts of possession of undersized knobbed conch. Bailey was arraigned July 24 in Justice of the Peace Court 7 in Dover and released, pending a court date in the Court of Common Pleas.