# DEC Arrests Schuyler County Man in Connection with Hunting-Related Shooting Incident

Investigators from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Law Enforcement arrested a man today for shooting his step brother in a hunting incident that police believe was reckless.

Scott R. Brooks, 27, of Beaver Dams, was charged with Assault in the Second Degree, a Class D felony, Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree, a Class A misdemeanor, and Hunting Deer Outside of Legal Hours, a violation.

The charges stem from a hunting-related shooting incident that occurred in the town of Dix, Schuyler County, early in the morning on Nov. 19, the opening day of the Southern Zone deer season.

Brooks illegally discharged one round from his .30-06 rifle nearly two hours before legal hunting time. Legal hunting hours for deer in New York State start at sunrise and end at sunset. The round that he fired struck a member of his hunting party, a 24-year-old male, who Brooks had mistaken for a deer.

The victim survived but required surgery that day.

Brooks pleaded not guilty to the charges, was released, and is due back in Town of Dix Court Jan. 13.

To report an environmental crime call the DEC's toll-free hotline number at 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267).