Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Matt Eberly ran the shotgun range for Camp Nesbit where 53 kids from Lake Linden and Dollar Bay Schools participated in the hunter safety field day. CO Eberly reported that all of the students did well. CO Hermanson assisted CO Eberly at the shotgun range.

CO Ethen Mapes patrolled the Ontonagon River on opening day of walleye season. CO Mapes contacted over 40 anglers with varying success. CO Mapes took law enforcement action for several marine violations during his patrol on the river.

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen patrolled Lake Gogebic just before sundown and were able to locate a shore fisherman who was weathering the rain. The angler was surprised to see the COs out on the lake in the bad weather.

CO David Miller, while working Huron Bay on the walleye opener, located three lines along the shore hidden in the trees. CO Miller hid his patrol boat and observed the lines for almost an hour. After no one tended the lines during this time frame CO Miller walked over to the three rods, which were located near a camp, and reeled them up. No one came out of the camp, so CO Miller went over and knocked on the door. The suspect admitted that they were his and he had forgotten about them. Law enforcement action was taken for failing to attend fishing lines.

CO Denny Gast instructed the trapper education portion of the hunter safety program at Camp Nesbit, with nearly 60 sixth graders attending from Lake Linden and Dollar Bay Schools.

COs Brian Lasanen, Ethen Mapes, and Adam LeClerc served a warrant on a subject for shooting a pheasant out of season and for hunting small game with no license.

CO Ethen Mapes was checking anglers coming off of the water in Ontonagon when he observed a subject struggling to back his trailer down the boat launch. When CO Mapes approached the boat, one subject stated, “Crap, it’s the DNR.” While checking the angler’s fish they had caught, CO Mapes had to yell at the driver of the truck, who was backing the trailer, to stop before he backed into the rocks along the launch. With the trailer jack-knifed, the driver stumbled out of the vehicle. After performing standard field sobriety tests and refusing to submit to a preliminary breath test, the driver was placed under arrest for OWI. Charges have also been filed for refusing a preliminary breath test. Turned out all of the fish were of legal size.

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen patrolled Lake Gogebic and noticed that a boat had an expired registration out of Wisconsin. The anglers stated that they were in the process of renewing their registration and a Wisconsin Game Warden had told them that it was ok to take the boat out. Law enforcement action was taken for failure to display a valid registration on the watercraft after verifying that the watercraft was indeed unregistered.

CO Matt Eberly is working on a possible arson investigation, where evidence was discovered near the origin of a wildfire which burned nearly 5 acres of private timber land, just north of Hancock. CO Eberly is working with fire officers out of Twin Lakes and the Houghton County prosecutor to obtain a search warrant – the investigation continues.
CO Doug Hermanson found an elderly gentleman that had apparently drove his vehicle down the boat ramp at Parent Lake to take a look at the water. CO Hermanson found the vehicle running, still in gear, and the driver sound asleep with his foot on the brake. CO Hermanson assisted the individual with finding a better place to take his nap.

CO David Miller assisted DEQ personnel and the Army Corp of Engineers with a permit investigation on Huron Bay. While checking the location, which is only accessible by water the crew also checked the Huron Island Lighthouse dock.

CO Denny Gast attended the Hancock Schools hunter safety class. CO Gast instructed the students on the law portion of the class. Just over 60 students attended the class during the week and they are preparing for the field days at Camp Nesbit, next week.

CO Denny Gast cut short a high school senior party on state land Thursday night. Over 50 students cleaned up the site and put out the bonfire before leaving the area.

COs Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes made contact with an angler fishing from his dock on Lake Gogebic. As the COs where performing a routine fishing check on the angler, he stated his license was up at the camp. CO Mapes followed the angler to his camp to retrieve his license. As CO Mapes was walking to the camp he noticed a stringer in the water with two fish on the end of the stringer. Upon further investigation, it was determined the two fish were smallmouth bass. CO Lasanen and CO Mapes interviewed the angler on the small mouth bass, the subject stated he knew bass season was closed for possession, but he just wanted to show his wife what he had caught. Law enforcement action was taken for possession of small mouth bass out of season.

COs Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes conducted a marine patrol on Lake Gogebic. Both COs made numerous contacts with anglers and fishermen. COs addressed the following violations: unregistered watercraft, failure to display proper registration, and failure to provide a personal flotation device (PFD). Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen conducted a marine patrol on Lake Gogebic. During the patrol CO Lasanen contacted one boat with four people fishing on board. When CO Lasanen asked for their fishing licenses three of the anglers provided their 2016 fishing license and one angler handed CO Lasanen his 2015 fishing license. CO Lasanen advised the angler that had produced the 2015 license that it was last year’s fishing license. The angler shuffled through his wallet attempting to locate his current fishing license as CO Lasanen check in retail sales. It was determined the individual had not purchase a 2016 fishing license and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call from an MSP trooper regarding the larceny of lumber from a job site. CO Jared Ferguson contacted the complainant and found the suspect was already in jail for unrelated charges. The investigation continues into more possible timber thefts. COs Jared Ferguson, Adam LeClerc, Brian Bacon, and Shannon Kritz assisted with the annual kayak float on the Brule River with participating local high schools and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources COs. Several of the students stated that they have never been in a kayak but felt safe knowing the COs were assisting. Over forty students participated in the float.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint on two subjects fishing on Fumee Lake in Dickinson County. The lake is closed to fishing per a county ordinance. CO Ferguson located the two subjects on shore and found the 11 year olds to be in possession of a bass. CO Ferguson
educated them with an explanation of the ordinance and advised them that bass were not in season.

While on marine patrol, CO Adam Leclerc spotted two gentlemen fishing from a boat on Cisco Lake. After speaking with the owner it was determined that he had an expired boat registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz responded to a fire complaint that involved a fire that had escaped. No burn permits were being issued that day and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman received a complaint of a possible forest fire near Deer Lake in Marquette County. Deer Lake is a trophy fishing lake with restrictions on live bait and a catch and release only regulation. CO Leadman launched his boat to investigate the fire and discovered a campsite. Upon contact CO Leadman observed a fishing pole with a worm attached. When asked what the subjects were fishing for the response was northern pike. Northern pike season was still closed. The subjects camping also had failed to register their watercraft and were short a PFD. Enforcement action was taken with the violations. The fire was also properly extinguished.

CO Brett DeLonge received a complaint of a vehicle stuck in Harlow Lake in Marquette County. Upon arrival, the vehicle was in the water past the hood. A tow truck was called. The vehicle was removed from the lake. As the vehicle was being towed out of the lake the owner showed up and it was established that he drove into the lake on purpose. He just didn’t plan on getting stuck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling a section of the Cedar River in Menominee County when he observed a group of anglers fishing near a bridge. A quick check of the group led to one angler not possessing a fishing license. Additionally, a spear was located nearby which is prohibited from being possessed on a designated trout stream. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling for ORVs in Menominee County when he observed a four wheeler pass by him with the operator not wearing a helmet. CO DeLonge stopped the ORV and after making contact with the operator found that the ORV was not registered and the operator did not have a valid driver’s license. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 2**

During the walleye opener on Little Bay de Noc CO Pat Hartsig contacted many fishing parties on the bay. The bite was slow, but there were more than the usual amount of fishermen due to the Cabela’s Walleye tournament. Enforcement action was taken for marine violations such as expired watercraft registrations and not having enough PFD on-board vessels.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon, and COs Pat Hartsig, and Chris Lynch attended a wildlife collation meeting in Escanaba and answered many resource questions.

CO Chris Lynch worked ORV complaint areas through the week issuing 6 tickets and several warnings for violations including operating on a public highway, fail to license ORVs, no helmets, riding double, railroad trespass, operating against the flow of traffic, minors operating unsupervised, and minors operating with no ORV certificate.
COs Chris Lynch and Pat Hartsig assisted the Delta County Sheriff Department in the arrest of a subject with a felony warrant for felonious assault. The suspected was arrested without incident and lodged in the Delta County Jail. A search warrant for the suspect’s vehicle and residence was obtained and the search turned up the weapon used in the assault along with marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

CO Chris Lynch and Mark Zitnik were patrolling Little Bay De Noc checking anglers. Upon checking one angler, a northern pike was observed to be on a stringer with a slash on its side. A closer look at the fish revealed it was undersized and foul hooked. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Evink and Mark Zitnik responded to a complaint of a camp baiting deer early. The COs made contact with the complainant and were shown where the feeder was. The COs documented the violations and the investigation is ongoing.

CO Michael Evink received a call from a forester who was requesting his assistance at a small brush fire. The individual burning had not checked for burn permits. The fire danger was high and the fire started to get away. The fire was quickly contained. A ticket was issued for burning without a permit.

While following up on an ongoing fur complaint, CO Robert Freeborn finished the final interviews and was able to prove an over limit of fisher was taken. The subject stated that when he noticed that he had an over limit in his trap line, he had his buddy who had been helping set traps buy a tag and tag the fisher. Both subjects received citations.

While working opening day of walleye season, CO Robert Freeborn and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon contacted a boat that was trolling. The COs asked for fishing licenses, two of the three produced licenses. When the third subject was asked for his license, he stated he didn’t think he was fishing but when he turned around and looked at the lines in the water and counted 7 lines he stated, “Well I guess I am fishing”. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

While working the opening day of walleye season, CO Robert Freeborn and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon were closing in on a boat and noticed a subject frantically reeling in 2 lines. When the COs pulled alongside of the boat, the COs noticed two poles lying in the bottom of the boat that were still wet. When the COs asked the fishermen about the lines in the bottom of the boat, the fishermen paused and eventually admitted to fishing two lines over. A citation was issued.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint from the local foresters regarding a logger that cut ¼ acre of state land along a snowmobile trail easement. CO Freeborn made contact with the logger who stated he wasn’t aware of the easement along the snowmobile trail. The logger will be making contact with the foresters to work out reimbursing the state for the stumpage taken.

CO Calvin Smith responded to a call from dispatch for a brush fire that had gotten out of control. An elderly couple had started a brush pile on fire in a wooded area and due to the extremely dry conditions the fire quickly spread. The local police department was first on scene and advised that an individual that was attempting to extinguish the flames was missing. The
CO was able to locate the individual and escort him back to safety. In all, three local fire departments including the DNR fire division were called in to battle the fire. No open burn permits were being issued and law enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith while on routine patrol came across a fisherman that had left his truck and trailer parked in the boat launch at a small lake, frustrating others that were attempting to launch their boats. After waiting for nearly two hours the fisherman finally returned and said he was surprised to see COs because the weather was poor and didn’t think anyone else would be fishing either. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith worked the walleye opener making marine and fishing regulation checks. Multiple contacts were made and enforcement action was taken on violations consisting of no PFD’S and expired watercraft registrations.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon along with COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith responded to a complaint of illegal gill nets set in Munising bay. Several legally set nets were observed with locations recorded. The information gathered by the COs was relayed to the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit.

CO Calvin Smith arrived at a local lake and observed a fisherman preparing his kayak for the lake. When asked if he had a PFD and the fisherman replied,” no, do I need one?” CO Smith advised the fisherman that he indeed needed one. The CO gave the fisherman a marine pamphlet and directions to the closest store that sold PFDs.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Calvin Smith conducted a group patrol with GLIFWC and Bay Mills Indian Tribe on Munising bay and surrounding waters. The patrol focused on both commercial and tribal netting activity. Several net locations were documented and one tribal commercial fishing vessel was inspected while tending their nets.

COs John Wenzel and Bobby Watson were checking fishermen on the opening day of walleye season when they encountered two fishermen coming off a local lake. A check of the days catch revealed a short walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel was patrolling a remote branch of the Tahquamenon River when he encountered several fishermen. They stated they haven’t seen a CO in this area since 1999 when they first purchased a cabin on the river. Three of the four did not have their fishing licenses with them but had in fact purchased them. They were all very happy to see a CO in the area and advised they would be sure to have their licenses’ with them in the future.

COs Brett Gustafson and Jeff Panich were prepping a vessel for the marine season when central dispatch advised that a body had been located in Lake George on the east side of Sugar Island. The COs assembled the safe boat as well as a 14’ utility boat and enlisted the assistance of FRD Forester Josh Brinks. The three met with a marine officer from the Sheriff’s Office and patrolled to the location. High winds and seas hampered towing the 14’ boat behind the Safe Boat, CO Panich dressed in his “Mustang Suit”, drove the 14 footer alongside the safe boat in 2-3’ seas, heavy rain, and fog. CO Gustafson piloted the safe boat in the channel and CO Panich took the marine officer and forester to the island where the body was discovered. CO Panich and Forester Brinks waded in the water and recovered the body, which was then transported to the safe boat and taken back to the launch where the medical examiner took possession of the body.
CO Bobby Watson spent the second half of the walleye and pike opener patrolling with a college student interested in becoming a Michigan CO. Many positive contacts were made throughout the day. The wind and precipitation was keeping a lot of fishermen from fishing throughout the entire day and catch rates were down. CO Watson was checking a local river when contact was made with a boat full of fishermen. They informed CO Watson they had one pike in the boat. After a measurement was taken, CO Watson discovered the pike was undersized. CO Watson also discovered after inspecting the fishermen’s boat further, that the individual had never transferred the vessel registration after he purchased the boat from a friend. The man also had failed to apply the appropriate “MC” registration numbers and was instead displaying a very old registration out of Indiana. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Jon Busken were conducting a plain clothes patrol in response to complaints of short pike being kept near Drummond Island. COs Watson and Busken observed the nearby fishermen react oddly when CO Jeff Panich approached the bay in a marked patrol vessel. CO Watson and Busken were able to watch a single boat sneak out of the group of fishermen and head back to the launch before CO Panich was able to make contact with them. CO Watson and CO Busken approached the boat which was already in the process of loading up onto a trailer. When CO Watson inquired with the young fisherman if he had done any good, the fisherman responded that he was not fishing but his grandpa caught two. CO Watson identified himself as a Michigan CO and informed the angler that he had watched him fish for quite some time and there was no point in lying. He replied, “I know, that was stupid”.

Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett Gustafson attended the Sportsman’s Coalition Meeting held in St Ignace at the Hiawatha National Forest Office. Topics covered were: recent CAC meeting, ORV plan for the National Forrest, grouse and woodcock management, and planting of oak trees to possibly replace the mast production lost from beech disease.

CO Jon Busken received a complaint of a dead bald eagle. The caller was able to give a rough location of the animal. After walking approximately 2 miles, the eagle was located. No foul play is suspected, the bird has been submitted to the lab for necropsy.

CO Jon Busken was contacted by a resident of West Mackinac County who found what he thought was a “large coyote” on the side of US-2. The officer responded and found the animal to be a wolf that had been killed when it was hit by a car. The animal was recovered.

CO Jon Busken patrolled Cedarville on the walleye and pike opener. Contact was made with a vessel and subjects fishing the operator stated that he had forgotten all of his life jackets at the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken patrolled Hessel on the walleye and pike opener. A vessel with an expired registration passed the CO’s patrol boat in the channel. Contact was made with the operator who was found to have not transferred his title and was operating with an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken contacted two anglers on Brevort Lake, one of the anglers immediately provided his fishing license while the other took quite some time to look for his license in his wallet. After several minutes the CO asked if he had a fishing license. The individual said he did not, but provided the last license he had purchased. The CO told the man that the 2008 license was no longer valid. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3
While on patrol CO Andrea Erratt stopped an unlicensed ORV traveling on a closed roadway in Antrim County. In 2011, when the driver had been stopped by CO Erratt on the same road, he was ticketed for operating an ORV without a helmet and warned for operating an unlicensed ORV on a closed roadway without a headlight. CO Erratt ticketed the driver for operating an unlicensed ORV and warned him again for operating on the closed roadway.

CO Erratt reports the individual who fled and attempted to elude her on a motorcycle was arraigned in Charlevoix District Court. He was charged with three counts of third degree felony flee and elude, second offense OWI, resist and obstruct a CO and reckless driving.

CO Erratt brought educational materials to students at the Boyne City American Legion during the Veteran’s Appreciation Day. Over 600 students from several local schools attended. While on patrol CO Erratt received a complaint from campers about ORVs going by their campsite, operating on a snowmobile trail. Sgt. Mike Feagan and CO Erratt had recently posted “NO ORV” signs in the area to address excessive illegal ORV operation. Later that day CO Erratt stopped a group of ORVs that had just passed a “NO ORV” sign on the same trail. The ORV operators said they had traveled on snowmobile trails from Lakes of the North to Wolverine for lunch and were headed back. CO Erratt explained that the DNR manages snowmobile trails on state land to keep them smooth for future snowmobile operations and that the trails were not designated open to ORVs. They stated they followed the trails alongside US 131 in Antrim County. CO Erratt explained those snowmobile trails are not open to ORVs because they go through private property and on the state highway right-of-way. Tickets were issued for operating ORVs in a closed area on state land.

While patrolling for ORV activity CO Erratt observed a side-by-side ORV exiting a closed trail on state land being followed by a quad ORV driven by teenagers riding double with no helmets. After CO Erratt stopped the second ORV operated by a 14 year old boy with a 13 year old passenger, the father, who was in the side-by-side, backed up to the COs location with the other ORVs. CO Erratt observed a six year old boy sitting on his mother’s lap in the side-by-side. CO Erratt ticketed the father for operating an unlicensed ORV on a closed trail on state land. CO Erratt warned them for the transporting a passenger with no safety belt, the unlicensed quad, juveniles operating ORVs in a closed area on state land without safety certificates, no helmets, and riding double.

While on patrol for ORV activity CO Erratt drove up to a large mud truck that had just tore up a muddy area next to a road on state land. The driver first claimed his truck was in two-wheel drive but later admitted he had been messing around in the muddy hole. CO Erratt ticketed the driver for operating in a wetland and warned him for “turfing”.

While patrolling Chandler Hills in Charlevoix County for ORV activity, CO Chad Baldwin encountered ORVs operating on a closed trail. The operators had driven past several “NO ORV” signs. In addition, the ORVs were carrying passengers when not designed to do so. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert contacted several subjects cutting wood on state land in Antrim County. The subjects did have a fuelwood permit which allows them to cut and collect dead and down trees only. The subjects had cut several large standing trees and had cut a trail through the woods to access the timber. A ticket was issued for cutting standing timber and the subjects were warned for damaging trees and cutting an off-road trail into the woods.
CO Albert received a citizen complaint of three subjects fishing the closed portion of the Intermediate River in Bellaire. The complainant advised they told the subjects the river was closed to fishing, but they continued to fish. CO Albert contacted the subjects who claimed to not know the river was closed to fishing. One of the subjects who did not buy a fishing license provided CO Albert with a false age and date of birth. The subjects were cited for fishing in a closed area and for fishing without a license.

CO Mark DePew is assisting an Alaska State Trooper/Game Warden in the investigation of an illegally killed brown bear. The witness had been on a hunt in Alaska and lives in northern Michigan.

CO Tim Rosochacki and CO Matt Theunick both responded to several burning and wildfire complaints in Cheboygan County, issuing tickets and warnings, depending on the circumstances.

CO Nick Torsky participated in the Honor Guard (rifle team) representing DNR/LED at the Otsego County Police Memorial Ceremony in Gaylord.

CO Torsky received a complaint of a contractor dumping stumps on state land in Otsego County. The suspect was apprehended and stumps removed.

CO Torsky attended the Northern Great Lakes Fur Harvester meeting in Gaylord, giving law enforcement input.

CO Mark DePew and CO Kelly Ross taught big game investigation at the DNR’s recruit school. CO Ross and CO Webster received a complaint from a property owner who evicted a tenant and upon inspecting the property located two rotten deer hanging in the garage. COs contacted the suspects and received confessions to shooting a buck in violation to the county’s antler point restriction. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor’s office.

CO Paul Fox and CO Jon Sklba were on patrol near the Ocqueoc Falls State Park when they observed multiple ORVs operating in state land that is closed to ORV use. Upon contact, two of the ORVs did not have a valid ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Fox was issuing citations to a group of ORVs when he observed a vehicle drive by without a license plate. A traffic stop was conducted and a subsequent investigation revealed that the driver did not have registration or insurance on the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken. CO Fox responded to a fire near Lake May in Presque Isle County. A subject was clearing brush and started two brush fires on the forest floor. The fire got out of control and started to burn nearby trees. Local road commission members and fire departments responded to extinguish the fire. The subject was issued a citation for burning during a burn ban.

CO Fox responded to a motorcycle personal injury accident. The operator left the roadway and struck a tree. CO Fox assisted with traffic control. The crash is currently under investigation.

DISTRICT 4

CO William Kinney was patrolling the northern part of Wexford County for ORVs, when he was approached by a Polaris Ranger with two occupants on board. CO Kinney made contact with the individuals to advise them they were not permitted to operate their ORV on this portion of state land. After further investigation, it was found that the individual was operating an
unlicensed ORV and also had an open container of alcohol in the cup holder. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney received a complaint from the local fire chief in Osceola County that his fire crews were sent to put out an illegal fire. The fire chief stated that an individual had been burning treated lumber, pieces of scrap building materials, and a tire. The individual had also been burning during high fire danger and had used diesel fuel to start the burn pile. CO Kinney responded to the area the next morning and was met by the property owner. The CO could see the remnants of the burn pile. The individual did not know that he couldn’t burn building materials and was unaware of any burn restrictions. He did state that he knew he couldn’t burn the tire, but wasn’t sure how to dispose of it. Enforcement action was taken for the unlawful burning of solid waste.

While on marine patrol on Lake Cadillac, CO William Kinney pulled alongside a boat to check for fishing licenses. Both the anglers had their fishing licenses. CO Kinney then asked if there were any life jackets aboard. The owner of the boat was unable to present the CO with any. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney was checking fishermen on Lake Cadillac when he pulled alongside a husband and wife out fishing. The couple showed the CO their fishing licenses and also showed the CO a basket full of fish they had recently caught. The lady on board was so excited to tell and show CO Kinney her big catch for the day. The CO noticed the large fish in the basket that the lady was bragging about what happened to be a large mouth bass and the season did not open for another week. When CO Kinney brought this to the couple’s attention they immediately felt terrible and stated they never would have kept it if they would have known. The husband then pulled out the fishing guide and showed the CO where he had found the season dates for bass. CO Kinney advised the husband that he was looking on the wrong page and that date did not pertain to inland bodies of water. The man then realized his error and was very apologetic for their mistake. CO Kinney was able to release the bass and the fish swam away. CO Kinney understood the couple had made a mistake, but made sure to stress the importance of understanding the regulations prior to fishing. The couple was very thankful for CO Kinney’s discretion.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed an ORV side-by-side stopped by a gated USFS road next to M-37 in Lake County. CO Killingbeck made contact with the driver who was very hesitant to answer questions. Finally the driver stated to the CO that no matter what he said he knew he would get a ticket and ultimately admitted that he had driven around the gate to operate on USFS property and admitted to several other operation violations. Two young children were also sitting in the bed of the side-by-side without restraints. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck stopped to check a group of ORVs at a Lake County trail crossing when he discovered two did not have ORV stickers. CO Killingbeck stopped the driver of the vehicle who told CO Killingbeck that he was just trying to turn around. The driver was also not wearing a seatbelt and informed the CO that it was “hard for him to turn around in the roadway” and appeared to be much easier to “drive off the road and spin the truck around.” CO Killingbeck asked the driver what he believed the signs meant and the driver stated it means “stay out.” Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck stopped to check a group of ORVs at a Lake County trail crossing when he discovered two did not have ORV stickers. CO Killingbeck asked the operators why they had
not gotten new stickers and the subjects said that it was the first time out this year, advising it was a last minute decision to go riding so they just hoped they wouldn’t get caught. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling for ORV violations in Lake County when he observed a dirt bike riding on a state highway. CO Killingbeck stopped the ORV and the operator admitted to knowing it was illegal to drive on that road. The operator also admitted that he had never transferred the title of the ORV and had owned it for over a year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski and CO Steve Converse participated in the 7th Annual Tight Lines for Troops Charity Event. Tight Lines for Troops brings together charter boats from up and down the Lake Michigan shoreline to give veterans a chance to fish the big lake, giving something back to the people that served our country. More than three dozen charter boats and their crew participated in Tight Lines for Troops this year, hosting more than 200 veterans.

CO Sam Koscinski and CO Steve Converse were checking anglers on Portage Lake when they came across two men fishing off the pier. The COs checked for licenses and found that the two were relatives, a grandfather and a grandson. The grandfather had his license, but explained that he felt his college-aged grandson shouldn’t have to buy a license as he only fishes occasionally. He wasn’t going to spend $90 dollars to purchase him a license. The COs advised that the licenses are significantly less than that, and also advised that he had the option to purchase a daily license as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski finally caught up with an angler who he had suspected to be fishing with over lines for years on Hamlin Lake. CO Publiski was able to get into a position where he observed the angler fishing with five lines total. As the CO approached, the angler began feverishly reeling in the extra lines. The angler initially began denying he had done anything illegal, but was then convinced after CO Publiski advised him he had watched him for quite some time. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking Tallman Lake in Mason County when he observed an angler who was fishing from shore. When CO Publiski approached, the angler quickly dropped the pole. Initially the angler denied he was fishing and became belligerent. The angler’s wife then got involved and told her husband to tell the CO the truth. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking vessels on Hamlin Lake when he noticed a vessel he wrote a citation for not having a registration last year again operating without anything displayed. CO Publiski stopped the 24 foot pontoon and this time the owner also had eight passengers onboard with only three PFDs onboard. When CO Publiski asked the owner why he was operating without registration again, the owner said he “didn’t use the boat enough to pay for a registration.” Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski stopped a vessel on Bass Lake that didn’t have a current registration displayed. The anglers in the boat were from Illinois and hadn’t gotten the registration renewed. The anglers were also fishing without Michigan fishing licenses and did not have personal flotation devices onboard. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky spent several days assisting with fish identification school at the DNR Recruit School.

CO Brian Brosky was working in the Fountain area when he and CO Kyle Publiski noticed a large plume of smoke from an open burn. The COs checked for a burn permit and discovered
that none were being issued for the day. As they approach the residence, they saw a large stack of railroad ties on fire next to the burn site where sparks had obviously spread and ignited the ties. The owner was sitting inside his residence watching television and had no idea the other pile had lit. When the COs knocked at the door, the owner seemed agitated that they were there and asked what the “big deal” was about his fire. The COs pointed out that his fire had spread. The man panicked, running around in an unsuccessful attempt to locate a hose or a shovel. The COs called for fire personnel and then explained to the owner what the “big deal” was about, including an education on fire safety. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Troy Mueller of Osceola County were patrolling an area of state land that has been a target of illegal tree cutting. CO Mueller was able to locate two individuals that were cutting without a permit. The subjects had a full truck of wood and working on filling a trailer when the COs made contact. A citation was issued for cutting without a permit.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County responded to a complaint of an immature owl that had fallen out of a tree. During this contact, a juvenile at the location informed CO Wells that he has been observing a subject bow fishing on an Oceana County trout stream several times in the past month. This juvenile knew that this was illegal and told the subject that. The subject responded to the juvenile that he did not care. Several days later CO Wells was on patrol when the same juvenile contacted him by phone. The juvenile advised that the subject was back and was currently using a bow and arrow to take fish on the trout stream. CO Wells responded to the location and observed the subject standing in the stream with bow in hand. The subject was contacted and explained that he did not know that this type of activity was illegal on a trout stream and that he was only taking suckers of which he had four in a bucket. Citation was issued to the subject for the possession of the bow and arrow on the trout stream.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was on patrol when he received a complaint of two subjects that had trespassed and had shot at a turkey. This information was received from a Newaygo County Deputy whom had begun the investigation of the complaint prior to CO Wells starting his shift. Information was received by CO Wells regarding the names of the two suspects. Both CO Wells and the NCSD Deputy recognized the names due to a similar contact with both subjects last year during turkey season. Contact was made with the suspects and they advised that they had received permission from the property owner several years ago to hunt the property. The issue was that this property owner is deceased and the suspects never obtained permission from the new property owner. It was also determined that the suspect that had shot at the turkey did not have his license in possession. He admitted he had left it at his residence. Citation was issued to the suspect whom shot at the turkey for no license in possession and both subjects were warned regarding the trespass due to improper postings on the property.

DISTRICT 5
CO Josh Wright was patrolling Doc and Tom Lake in Clare County and observed several subjects fishing from a boat. A female on board the boat was fishing until she saw CO Wright, who then put the fishing pole down and began using her phone. After checking the boat for necessary safety equipment CO Wright asked the subjects for their fishing license. When the female was asked for a fishing license, she stated that she didn’t have one and that she doesn’t fish. A ticket was written for fishing without a license.

CO Phil Hudson was checking anglers along the Au Gres River when he contacted an angler returning to his vehicle with a stringer of fish. A closer inspection of the fish revealed a largemouth bass contained within the creel. CO Hudson advised the angler that bass season
was not open. The angler stated he thought it was because there was a bass fishing tournament the previous week. CO Hudson explained to the angler that it was catch and release only and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Gladwin County, CO Mark Papineau received a complaint in regards to ORVs being operated in a repeated problem area near Secord Lake. CO Papineau responded to the area and made contact with the individuals. After making contact, CO Papineau recognized several of the subjects who were cited for illegal ORV operation in the same area two years prior. The same subjects, surprised to see another CO, were cited again for the illegal operation.

CO Mike Hearn assisted Kalkaska County Sheriff Department with a suicidal subject complaint. Officers arrived on scene and took the highly intoxicated subject into protective custody. The subject was then transported to the Kalkaska Memorial Hospital for evaluation and treatment. Working with the Kalkaska County Court and Kalkaska DNR FRD staff, CO Mike Hearn was able to have nearly two dozen yards of debris cleaned up from state land in Kalkaska County. The court ordered workers cleaned multiple sites that were marked and mapped out by CO Hearn. The trash was then placed in dumpsters provided by the DNR.

CO Sam Schluckbier closed out a litter case from last fall when he discovered mail identifying the suspect. After months of investigating the suspect’s whereabouts, an interview was conducted. The suspect confessed to dumping his couch, cookware, recliner and other household items on state land. Enforcement action was taken and the items were cleaned up.

CO Chris Bowen worked ORVs in an area of frequent use. CO Bowen witnessed 4 machines operating on a closed hillside. CO Bowen was able to get 2 of the 4 machines stopped and issued citations. Approximately nine hours later, CO Bowen traveled through the same area when he witnessed 2 ORV’s operating on the same closed hill. The riders admitted to being there earlier in the day and that their “buddies” had gotten tickets. The two had been teasing their friends about getting tickets and did not believe CO Bowen would return. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson was patrolling Roscommon County and witnessed a subject burning when no burn permits were being issued. Officer McPherson contacted subject and further investigation found the subject was burning construction materials consisting of insulation and large pieces of plywood. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Bowen, Chuck McPherson, Ben McAteer, Craig Neal and Sgt. Jeremy Payne instructed a Hunter Safety Field Day at the Roscommon Field Office. 15 students participated. CO Chuck McPherson was on his day off when he observed subjects burning construction materials on a job site where they were tearing down a garage. Officer McPherson contacted CO Chris Bowen. Officer Bowen contacted the suspects and enforcement action was taken. CO Brian Olsen arrived first on the scene to an ORV accident in Ogemaw County. CO Olsen provided first aid until an ambulance was able to arrive. The victim was transported to West Branch Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Speed is believed to be a major factor in the accident.

COs Brian Olsen and Nick Atkin conducted a marine patrol on Secord Lake in Gladwin County. While checking a boat with four anglers onboard, it was discovered that two people fishing did not have valid fishing licenses. After obtaining their identification, it was discovered that one of the subjects was an absconder from parole and the other had provided the officers with a false
Further investigation determined that the absconder had a “No Contact Order” with the female subject that had given a false name to the officers. They were also in possession of marijuana and had numerous other probation violations. Enforcement action was taken (the male subject was also lodged in the Gladwin County Jail).

CO Kyle Bader provided assistance to an Ogemaw County Sheriff’s Deputy on a complaint from a female subject claiming her husband was trying to kill her. After arriving on scene, the deputy and CO Bader learned that the lady was suffering from dementia. Her husband took her home. Later the same day, CO Bader was dispatched to a complaint of a woman that had walked away from home and was lost in the woods. CO Bader, along with assistance from CO Brian Olsen, responded and located the same lady wandering around her neighbor’s woodlot.

CO Kyle Bader was checking anglers at Johnson Lake in Ogemaw County when one of the anglers saw him and threw his hands up saying “we’re done.” Between the man and his wife, they had 64 blue gills and one quarter-sized painted turtle. CO Bader released the turtle and issued a warning for possessing it out of season; however, he cited the man for possessing an over limit of pan fish. Approximately a week later, CO Bader met the same subject coming out of the driveway to the lake. He asked the man how many fish he was taking home this time. When CO Bader advised he was going to count the fish, the man became irate. He claimed that someone had put a bass in his pail and he didn’t know who it was. The man was cited for possessing a bass out of season.

CO Kyle Bader received information of some illegal activity taking place at the Bush Lake Public Access Site. CO Bader checked the area late one night and found two women sitting in a parked vehicle. When he asked them what they were doing there, they responded “smoking weed.” Upon searching the vehicle, CO Bader also located two syringes, one on the driver’s side and one on the passenger’s side. One of the women eventually admitted they were there to “shoot up,” which was consistent with the original complaint.

CO Warren Macneill attended an event at Harrisville State Park where staff installed a new handicap accessible beach dock. The “Brock Dock” is constructed to allow wheelchair access across the beach to gain a close-up view of the Great Lakes. Last year, a local Harrisville resident made CO Macneill aware of her wish to get closer to the Lake Huron shoreline. CO Macneill, Harrisville State Park staff, and the entire Harrisville community stepped up and raised approximately $11,000 to make her dream come true.

CO Jonathan Warner was checking fishing activity on Tawas Lake when he noticed a male subject clearing weeds away from the launch area to recover his boat. Inside the boat, CO Warner noticed a bucket full of pan fish. CO Warner made contact with the angler, who was initially evasive. Further investigation determined the angler was 8 fish over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on a Montcalm County lake, CO Ken Lowell located a boat with three anglers. A check of their licenses showed that one angler had not purchased his license for the past two years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling the Six Lakes area when he noticed two anglers fishing from shore. The CO made contact with the individuals and asked how the fishing was. They stated they had only caught little ones but had not kept any. CO Russell then asked to see the angler’s
fishing licenses and one of the anglers stated that they didn’t have any of those. When asked why neither of them purchased a license, the response was they were only going to fish for a couple of hours so they didn’t think they needed one. Tickets were issued.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly made contact with an elderly husband and wife fishing in the middle of the Shiawassee River State Game Area along the Shiawassee River. The 80 year old couple had parked their truck in a parking area and rode their bikes several miles to get to their fishing spot. When Sgt Kimmerly approached, both were fighting fish on the line. The couple had 19 huge white bass, two large northern pike and eight huge carp in the 20 pound plus class. Sgt. Kimmerly watched while they caught their last white bass. When asked what they were planning on doing with all the carp the female advised that she was going to put them in her rose garden. When asked how they planned on getting all the fish back to their truck, they advised they weren’t sure yet. Sgt. Kimmerly then advised that he would be happy to load up all the fish into his truck and drop them off at their truck. The two gladly accepted the help.

CO Robert Hobkirk cited a turkey hunter for trespassing after seeing two people on property which he was recently requested to watch for trespassing activity. In addition, the female hunter was using illegal shot size for turkeys. The male hunter claimed responsibility for choosing the hunting location and also for giving the shells to his girlfriend. Enforcement action was taken at the scene.

While passing through Caseville, CO Robert Hobkirk observed an off road vehicle travelling down the side of the state highway. The ORV was stopped and the operator was cited for no ORV license.

CO Kyle Bucholtz assisted the Huron County Sheriff’s Office with a property damage accident. CO Bucholtz was first on scene and attempted to locate the driver who had left the scene to return to work. The driver was later located and cited by the Sheriff’s Office as CO Bucholtz assisted the family and with the removal of the heavily damaged vehicle.

CO Kyle Bucholtz attended the Bay County ISD to speak with two separate law enforcement classes. CO Bucholtz gave a presentation to both classes and answered numerous questions they had.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint about a person in Tuscola County who shot a turkey and did not buy a license. The suspect posted pictures on Facebook of himself with the turkey. When CO Wright met with the suspect he did not hesitate admitting that he shot the turkey and that he did not buy a license. Charges are being sought through the Prosecutor’s Office.

CO Joshua Wright was working on a motorcycle for activity on state land in Tuscola County when he came upon a vehicle with two occupants. CO Wright could see what appeared to be marijuana in the vehicle. While searching the vehicle he also located open containers of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling along the Black River when he observed several people fishing from the bank. When he pulled into the boat launch to make contact with the anglers CO Rhodea observed one of the anglers set his fishing pole down and walk away from it. CO Rhodea contacted the anglers and the fisherman that walked away from his pole told CO Rhodea that he was not fishing but just casting for his dad. CO Rhodea advised the angler that he observed him fishing and issued a citation for fishing without a license.
COs Bob Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea worked the Saginaw Bay area contacting large numbers of bow fishermen during the weekend of the Great Lakes Bow Fishing Championship, a tournament with over 250 teams. Compliance with marine and fishing laws was high with over 75 contacts being made. One citation was issued for fishing without license and a few marine safety warnings were also given.

CO Seth Rhodea has made contact with numerous ORVs being operated on the roadway for licensing and safety violations. Citations were issued to address the violations.

CO Mark Siemen observed an adult and two small children that were fishing in the Black River for suckers. After watching the three subjects, contact was made. When CO Siemen asked the adult if he had his fishing license, the adult stated he was not fishing and does not have a license. CO Siemen asked if they caught any fish, and the man advised they caught one sucker.

CO Siemen asked the young child who caught the fish and the child pointed at the adult while the adult pointed at the child. The adult then stated he caught the fish and did not want to lie in front of the kids. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen while traveling to Tuscola County to assist with a search warrant responded to a two vehicle personal injury accident that occurred in Sanilac County. Being the first officer on scene CO Siemen rendered first aid to a female passenger that was complaining of pain in her back and legs. The ambulance arrived and transported the female to the hospital.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint from Sanilac County Central Dispatch advising that a caller had watched a farmer cutting hay intentionally run a fawn deer over with his tractor. Contact was made with the caller who stated that the farmer had seen the fawn in the field, turned the tractor around and intentionally ran it over. After speaking with the caller contact was later made with the farmer. The farmer stated he had accidently injured the fawn earlier while cutting hay and did not want it to suffer so he ran it over to kill it. No enforcement action was taken.

CO Jill Berry attended an open house for the Auburn Williams Township Fire Department. CO Berry spoke to many adults and children and explained what a CO career consists of. While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson observed an ATV enter the roadway. CO Robinson could see that the rider was not wearing a helmet and he followed the rider. They turned onto private property where there was also a young person riding a three-wheeler. CO Robinson made contact with the riders and several other people who came over to where the young girl was stopped. The CO explained the laws regarding ORV operators under 16 and helmet use to the adult who was supervising the girls, who were only supposed to be riding on private property.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson was called to a recreational trespass complaint where a truck was parked on private property to gain access to a lake. The CO waited for the subjects to return to their vehicle and made contact with them. They stated that they did not realize that they could not park there, even though they had driven by “No Trespassing” signs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg was working state land in Midland County when he came across an enormous pile of trash and building materials. After a couple hours of digging through the pile of garbage, enough information was gathered to follow-up on with a possible suspect. Upon just missing the suspect at his residence, CO Lundberg drove the suspected route to town and
located the suspect’s vehicle. CO Lundberg initiated a traffic stop and after a short interview, the subject admitted to dumping all of the trash. Enforcement action was taken and the subject received 10 days of community service to be completed by cleaning up trash sites on state land.

DISTRICT 7
While patrolling the Grand River in Ottawa County, CO Justin Ulberg checked three anglers fishing from a boat. All three of the anglers had not purchased a 2016 fishing license and there were only two life jackets on the vessel. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Justin Ulberg contacted a group of anglers fishing from shore along the Grand River in Kent County. One of the anglers did not have a fishing license. A further check revealed that the subject had multiple warrants for his arrest with Kent County. The subject was taken into custody and turned over to the Kent County Sheriff’s Department.

While checking the Rouge River State Game Area for ORV activity, CO Ivan Perez and CO Justin Ulberg contacted two subjects in a truck. Both COs observed an open container of alcohol and noticed the smell of marijuana. When questioned, the driver of the vehicle produced a plastic bag of marijuana that he retrieved from the center compartment of the vehicle. A further check of the vehicle revealed a concealed loaded 9mm handgun that was not registered to either occupant of the vehicle. The marijuana and handgun were seized and a report will be submitted to the prosecutor’s office for charges.

CO Greg Patten responded to a forest fire in Holton Township, Muskegon County and assisted local and state fire personnel. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

CO Greg Patten stopped an ORV on the road. The operator had no helmet or ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Crisp responded to a complaint on Stoney Point Road in Barry County in reference to a person who shot a goose in their front yard. CO Crisp met with CO Richard Cardenas who had also responded. While checking the area, CO Crisp observed the goose floating in the lake. CO Crisp recruited the help from an operator of a vessel on the water to retrieve the goose. The COs were able to contact the suspect and obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Crisp responded to M179 and Irving Road in Barry County in reference to an owl that had been struck by a vehicle. CO Crisp determined that the owl had a broken wing and transported it to a wildlife rehabilitator.

CO Richard Cardenas was on patrol, back from Detroit, after a Belle Isle shift when a vehicle passed at a high rate of speed. CO Cardenas paced the vehicle at 100 miles per hour and conducted a traffic stop. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas assisted Barry County Sheriff’s Department and Michigan State Police with several domestic violence complaints. During one of the complaints the officers located a large amount of suspected marijuana.

CO Paul Higashi received a complaint of a subject fishing on Sherman Lake in Kalamazoo County who was keeping largemouth bass out of season. CO Higashi met the angler at the access site and discovered two very large bass in the live well of the boat. The subject stated that he had kept the bass so that he could bring them back to the dock to take pictures of them.
The only camera the subject had; however, was the flip phone in his pocket. The angler had also forgotten to renew his fishing license. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jeff Robinette was on marine patrol in Cass County when he made contact with a fisherman. CO Robinette asked how the fishing was going and the subject stated that it was slow and that he had a bass in his bucket that he was going to let go. CO Robinette asked the subject how old he was and he stated that he was 17 years old. CO Robinette then asked for a fishing license and the subject stated that he thought that his license had expired just a few days earlier. CO Robinette was suspicious and asked for ID and the subject stated it was in his vehicle, so he followed him back to the vehicle. Upon arriving at the vehicle, the subject stated that he had been confused and had given him the age of his twin and that he was actually 23 years old. The subject was issued a citation for the keeping the bass out of season and warned for the fishing license violation.

CO Tyler Cole and CO Jeff Robinette stopped two young ORV riders that were operating on a public road. Upon contact, they stated that their grandfather had allowed them to ride on the road. The young subjects were followed back to the grandfather’s residence, where the grandfather was cited for allowing the young riders to operate without supervision.

CO Andy Bauer was on marine patrol on Big Paw Lake in Berrien County when he encountered a pontoon boat with eleven occupants. A check for life preservers was made and it was discovered that there were no life preservers on the boat. A citation was issued for failing to provide life preservers. CO Bauer also encountered a boat with an expired registration, which was also cited. Numerous warnings were given for minor violations.

CO Brad Brewer contacted a father and son who were catching frogs using a hook and line setup. The father was not aware that frog season was not yet open. CO Brewer explained the season dates and issued a verbal warning.

CO Brad Brewer made contact with a group of fishermen at a popular shore fishing location and discovered a small bass in a bucket. The subject who possessed the bass stated that he was unaware that there was a season on bass and did not know the size limit. The subject was cited for possessing the bass during the closed season and the bass was released. While on marine patrol on a local lake, CO Matt Page heard a call of a subject being assaulted with a baseball bat in the area of the lake. CO Page loaded his patrol boat and assisted deputies with the incident. A female subject had an escalated argument with her boyfriend and she struck him with a baseball bat. The female was taken into custody by the local deputies.

CO Tyler Cole made contact with three motorcycles that had trespassed on City of Niles property. Of the three motorcyclists, not one had an ORV license for their motorcycle. CO Cole cited all three motorcyclists for ORV trespass and issued a warning regarding the licensing issues.

**DISTRICT 8**

CO Daniel Prince was contacted at his home by a turkey hunter who self-reported he shot two turkeys with one shot by accident. The hunter reported that the second turkey was standing behind some foliage when he shot at the first turkey. An investigation was completed and CO Prince seized one turkey and provided a verbal warning.

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, CO Daniel Prince talked to a hunter safety class at the Livingston Conservation and Sports Association in Brighton. CO Prince talked with 52 students and
parents about hunting regulations, gun safety and ethics. CO Prince also talked about spring
turkey hunting laws, ethics, and assisted with the class field day.

CO Peter Purdy spoke to the Portage Chain of Lakes Homeowners Association meeting at the
Portage Yacht Club in Dexter Township, Washtenaw County. There were approximately 100
people in attendance. Many questions were answered regarding hunting, fishing, and boating
laws.

CO Peter Purdy made contact with a husband and wife fishing in Livingston County, neither had
a fishing license. Additionally, the male had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest for workers
compensation fraud. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Peter Purdy assisted with hunter safety classroom and range instruction at the Livingston

CO Peter Purdy made contact with a male and female fishing on Thompson Lake. The female
advised she forgot her fishing license at home. CO Purdy advised that he could look up her
license on the computer. She then advised she hadn’t purchased one and didn’t think she
needed one. A check of retail license sales revealed she had never purchased a fishing
license. She was issued a ticket for the violation.

CO Peter Purdy made contact with an angler along the Huron River. When CO Purdy
requested his fishing license he began searching his pockets and wallet and advised that he
forgot it at home. CO Purdy requested the subject’s identification and advised his license could
be looked up. The subject produced a Florida driver’s license and advised he was visiting
family in Michigan and didn’t purchase a license. He then went on to say that in Florida one can
fish the ocean from shore without a license. CO Purdy explained the differences between the
Huron River and an ocean. The subject was issued a ticket for the violation.

CO Michael Drexler attended a jury trial for an operating while intoxicated arrest he made in
Detroit. The subject was ultimately charged with four violations including operating while
intoxicated and carrying a concealed pistol under the influence. The subject accepted a plea to
a lesser charge just before the case went to jury trial.

COs Michael Drexler and Brandon Hartleben patrolled for marine activity during the warm
weather in Washtenaw County. During the patrol, they contacted two anglers in possession of
an undersized walleye. When the COs requested to look in the live well of the boat, they located
a second undersized walleye. The angler stated he was just about to put the fish back knowing
it was undersized. Tickets were issued to both anglers for take or possess undersized walleye.

CO Brandon Hartleben investigated a complaint of a homeowner stomping baby goslings to
death in his backyard. CO Hartleben responded to the location and recovered two dead
goslings with apparent head trauma but was unable to make contact with the homeowner. CO
Hartleben and CO Mike Drexler were eventually able to make contact with the homeowner to
interview him about the dead goslings. The homeowner repeatedly denied any involvement in
the killing of the goslings, but his distaste for geese and other wildlife that interfere with his yard
became clearly evident during the interview. A report will submitted to the Washtenaw County
Prosecutor’s Office for taking waterfowl out of season.

CO Brandon Hartleben conducted a marine patrol on South Lake in the Pinckney State
Recreation Area. Contact was made with numerous vessels out enjoying the warm weekend
weather. One verbal warning was issued for failure to display current registration decals.
CO Brandon Hartleben was the guest speaker at a breakfast hosted by the Lenawee County Men’s Club. CO Hartleben answered numerous questions during the breakfast covering a wide array of topics including hunting regulation changes, ORV use, laws, bass tournament regulations and many others. The informal breakfast gathering was a great success and the club was very appreciative of the opportunity to meet and talk with CO Hartleben.

CO Andrew Monnich was patrolling the Onsted State Game Area when he observed two individuals fishing from a public launch. CO Monnich observed the two anglers from a distance and watched as each caught fish. As CO Monnich pulled in to the launch, one individual put his fishing rod down and began walking the bank in the opposite direction. Contact was made with the individual who stated he wasn’t fishing and hasn’t fished in years. CO Monnich let the individual know that he had been watching for quite some time. The subject then went on to say he didn’t think he needed a license in the game area and that he was fishing. Enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license.

While on patrol in the Dansville State Game Area, CO Matthew Neterer encountered two subjects fishing in a gravel pit. Only one of the anglers could produce a fishing license. After running the other subject through RSS and LEIN it was discovered that he did not have a fishing license and had a warrant out for his arrest. The subject was arrested and lodged in the East Lansing jail and issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Matthew Neterer contacted an angler fishing from shore on Jones Lake in Lansing with his two children. As CO Neterer was walking towards the subjects, he noticed that the adult bent over and quickly put something in the water. When CO Neterer asked how the fishing was, the angler replied that they hadn’t done any good and that only his children were fishing. CO Neterer walked to the edge of the water and discovered a dead 4lb largemouth bass hidden in the weeds and an adult sized rod and reel with the line still in the water. The subject was ticketed for the violations.

CO Chris Maher was on patrol when he witnessed two individuals fishing in Jackson County. After making contact it was determined that one of the individuals did not have a license. When CO Maher asked why she did not have a license the suspect said this was her first time and she did not know she needed one. However, her Retail Sales Services history showed she had purchased fishing licenses in the past. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Maher attended a youth fishing event at Hawk Island Park in Lansing. He taught over 50 youths and their parents how to properly measure fish and the importance of ethical behavior when fishing. The event was a big success and both the kids and their parents said they learned a lot and would be interested in attending similar events in the future.

CO Jason King was conducting a fishing patrol along the Shiawassee River near the city of Owosso when he discovered an oily substance being discharged from one of the city drains. CO King contacted DEQ and waited for the arrival of DEQ Investigators. Once an investigator arrived, CO King showed him the substance and the complaint was turned over to DEQ. CO Jason King received a complaint from Shiawassee Central Dispatch regarding a fawn found near a subject’s residence. CO King made contact with the resident and informed her that fawns may seem to be orphaned but are most likely being hidden so their mother can feed throughout the day. CO King advised the owner to leave the fawn alone.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol at Hopkins Lake in Shiawassee County when he checked an individual fishing on the east bank. CO Slick made contact with the angler and asked for his
fishing license. The individual asked how often he needed to renew it. CO Slick informed him that he needed to buy a license every year. The individual then stated that he didn't have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol when Station 20 called with a complaint about individuals taking a fawn. CO Slick gathered the information and went to the address. When CO Slick arrived at the address in Ingham County no one was present. CO Slick returned the next day and spoke with the suspect. The suspect stated that they gave the fawn to someone that was going to take it to a rehabilitation facility in Livingston County. CO Slick made contact with the rehabilitation facility and found that the fawn had not been dropped off. Further investigation to follow.

CO Chris Reynolds, with help from COs Josh Jackson and Isaac Tyson, attended the Riverfest event in the town of Jonesville in Hillsdale County. The COs ran the hunter education trailer with laser shot for young children and answered several questions on hunting, fishing, ORV riding, marine laws, and hunter safety for hundreds of people during the two day event.

CO Chris Reynolds encountered an ORV on a secondary road. A stop was conducted on the ORV due to multiple violations observed. The operator immediately asked why he was stopped and the CO explained the violations observed. The operator said he didn't think any laws applied since he was only riding on a back road. The CO educated the rider on ORV laws for the county, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds made contact with a few subjects who failed to turn themselves in on warrants for taking deer without licenses from the 2014 season. The subjects were very surprised to see the CO at their homes. Bond was taken from the subjects and court dates were set for their appearance.

CO Jason McCullough went to career day presentations at Bellevue High School in Eaton County and spoke with approximately 100 students.

CO Jason McCullough completed a lengthy investigation involving a subject who killed multiple deer over multiple years without licenses. CO McCullough was able to recover a rack and other evidence that linked the shooter to the crimes. CO McCullough obtained a full written confession and enforcement action was taken.

COs Al Mendez and Rich Nickols conducted an LED presentation at Hawk Island County Park for the Bill Earl Youth Fishing Workshop Program. They spoke to approximately 60 children about fishing regulations and ethics.

CO Joshua Jackson received a tip from a local citizen that a person was fishing with more than three lines in a nearby river. CO Jackson watched the suspect from the neighboring woods and counted four fishing poles. He made contact and questioned the individual who admitted to fishing with four poles. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Branch County CO Isaac Tyson checked multiple groups of fishermen at a local dam. The first group checked had no fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken. COs Isaac Tyson and Joshua Jackson conducted presentations at the Branch Area Career Center's Criminal Justice Program. About 25 junior and senior high school students were in attendance.
While on patrol in Branch County CO Tyson located two fishermen at a local park. Both men were Alabama residents and were only in town for a week for work. Neither one had fishing licenses. Officer Tyson followed the nonresidents to a local store where they each purchased an annual non-resident fishing license.

CO Isaac Tyson was given a tip about a group of 17 year olds who had lied about their age back in the winter when checked while ice fishing. Reportedly that same group has been doing a lot of spring fishing and had stated they were going to lie about their age again rather than buying licenses. Officer Tyson located three young men that he suspected were part of that group. As expected, two of the young men stated that they were 16 and did not have ID with them. After further questioning, both subjects admitted to lying about their age and stated that they were 17 years old. Both subjects were issued tickets for fishing without a license.

CO Shane Webster attended a meeting for the Triangle Hunting Association in Tompkins Township, Jackson County on May 15th. Approximately 21 persons were in attendance. CO Webster spoke about working together with the local hunters and farmers in order to ensure the protection of our natural resources.

DISTRICT 9

Michigan State Police contacted CO Christopher Knights for a dumping complaint. After arriving at the residence, Michigan State Police advised CO Knights of the situation and stated that the resident was tearing up her front entry way patio and dumping the remaining slate and concrete into the lake behind her home. CO Knights walked the property with the property owner to the waterfront and found large amounts of concrete and slate going from the shore into the water approximately ten feet. CO Knights questioned the property owner as to why she would dump it in the lake; she stated it would make for a better compact surface into the water. The suspect stated she didn’t know this was illegal and thought that because the concrete was made of sand, it would just dissolve. CO Knights told her to start cleaning up all of the concrete and dispose of it legally. CO Knights took pictures of all the damage, as well as the buckets that were full of concrete she was about to dump. A report will be filed with the Prosecutor’s Office for review.

While on patrol in Oakland County, CO Christopher Knights was patrolling past a park in Pontiac when he noticed a small pickup in the far back. CO Knights turned around and entered the city property and found large trails where ORVs and vehicles have been tearing the area up. After a few minutes CO Knights contacted two dirt bikes coming at him from one of the trails. Both riders stopped for CO Knights at their vehicle. CO Knights asked why they were riding on city property with dirt bikes. Both riders stated they thought it was an ORV park and were pointed here from a local cycle shop down the road. CO Knights advised the riders they were trespassing and it was illegal to be there. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he spotted two subjects fishing from shore at a local park. During a fishing check, CO Griffin discovered that neither of the two subjects purchased a fishing license. After obtaining the subjects identification, CO Griffin discovered that one subject had one warrant for his arrest and the other subject had three warrants. Both subjects were taken into custody and lodged in the county jail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he spotted multiple people fishing from the dock at a city park. CO Griffin observed the group of people from across the lake to verify
who was fishing. CO Griffin made his way around to the other side and approached the dock. Two anglers standing towards the end of the dock immediately set their poles down. As CO Griffin conducted a fishing check he discovered that the three subjects on the end of the dock did not have a fishing license. CO Griffin educated them on some of the fishing rules and regulations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he spotted a group of ORVs operating on city property. As CO Griffin made contact the three ORVs he noticed one operator was not wearing a helmet and none of the operators had safety glasses. Once CO Griffin started talking to the group he was able to identify two adults and two juveniles. One of the adults was the father of the juveniles and took full responsibility. He explained to CO Griffin that there were no signs posted stating ORVs are prohibited. CO Griffin explained to the group that private and/or public property does not have to be posted when entered using an ORV. When CO Griffin asked who gave permission to ride on the property, none of the operators knew who the property belonged to. CO Griffin later discovered that one operator had a warrant for his arrest and the other adult operator was in violation of his probation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he heard that Oakland County Sheriff’s Deputies were searching for a suicidal subject on state land. As CO Griffin arrived on scene he was advised the approximate location of the subject in the woods. CO Griffin was able to give the Deputies a brief layout of the land and discovered that the subject may walk out into a clearing in the woods. CO Griffin was able to utilize his patrol truck to get though the clearing and search for the subject. Approximately 200 yards into the woods CO Griffin spotted the subject and communicated his location and direction to the Sheriff Deputies on scene. Once CO Griffin was closer to the subject he was able to approach the subject on foot. When the subject spotted CO Griffin he picked up his pace and went back in the woods. As CO Griffin was right behind him he noticed through the woods that there were multiple units on the other side. CO Griffin communicated to the units that the subject was almost to their location. As local officers rushed towards the subject he turned around, spotted CO Griffin behind him and then stopped. The subject was placed into custody and taken to get evaluated by medical personnel.

CO Justin Muehlhauser encountered a man fishing from the river walk in downtown Flint. From the beginning of the contact, the man seemed shocked to see him. The man was sitting on a bench with a woman setting up some lines while three of his grandchildren played further downstream. When asked for his fishing license, the man said that he was just helping his grandkids fish. CO Muehlhauser pointed out the fact that the kids weren’t fishing at all. The man said that he did not have a fishing license. CO Muehlhauser asked the man for his ID and he became fidgety and nervous. The man told CO Muehlhauser that he had an outstanding DNR warrant for an over limit of cat fish from the previous year. CO Muehlhauser was able to confirm the warrant. The man was able to come up with bond for the outstanding warrant but was also cited for fishing without a license.

Genesee County central dispatch advised of a domestic disturbance in progress in Argentine Twp. where the subject was actively assaulting several others at the residence. CO Justin Muehlhauser wasn’t far away when the call came out. The township police department was tied up on another call further away so CO Muehlhauser responded to the disturbance along with the City of Linden Police Department. Linden Police Department was first on scene with CO Muehlhauser not far behind. CO Muehlhauser assisted in securing the subject and interviewing the victims until the Twp. Police department could arrive. The subject was taken into custody and charges are pending.
CO Justin Muehlhauser observed a four-wheeler operating on the roadway in Argentine Twp. The ORV was occupied by two minors, both were not wearing helmets. CO Muehlhauser stopped the ORV and discovered the operator was only 13; she did not have an ORV safety certificate and was not under direct adult supervision. CO Muehlhauser gave the younger passenger a ride while he escorted the ORV back to their residence. CO Muehlhauser was met by the mother who stated that she thought they were just going to ride in the back yard and usually they wear helmets. CO Muehlhauser pointed out several violations and cited the parents for allowing operation of person under 16 without supervision and without safety certificate. Enforcement action was taken.

Genesee County central dispatch contacted CO Justin Muehlhauser regarding an injured owl that was found at the Linden County Park. The caller said that the owl could not fly and appeared to have an injured wing. CO Muehlhauser arrived at the park and was able to locate the owl and confirm that it was injured. It appeared to be an adolescent that had fallen from the nest. The owl was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator who advised that there were no major injuries. The owl would be monitored for a few days and re-nested in the park where it was found.

CO Justin Muehlhauser observed an ORV towing a log splitter in Atlas Twp. The operator was stopped at M-15 then continued across the highway. CO Muehlhauser stopped the operator who was also not wearing a helmet. The operator stated that he was heading to a friend’s property to cut and split some wood. The CO then questioned the man about his helmet; he simply shrugged his shoulders and said “I don’t have one.” Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting marine safety checks on Holloway Reservoir CO Justin Muehlhauser encountered two fishermen tucked into a cove. When asked how the fishing was going the anglers said that they had done pretty well. They said that they were out for most of the day. CO Muehlhauser asked to see the fish. The men opened the live-well which consisted of 7 channel catfish, some crappie, bluegills, and a walleye. One of the catfish caught the COs eye. Upon closer examination it was determined to be an inch and a half short. CO Muehlhauser then checked the walleye which was also too small. One of the men owned up to both of the short fish. CO Muehlhauser was able to document and photograph the catch then released the fish back into the water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker received a call from a turkey hunter at Proud Lake Recreation Area that a vehicle drove off road to get to his turkey hunting location and walked past the complainant to get there. CO Becker responded and arrived as the hunter was coming back to his vehicle. CO Becker asked the man if he saw the sign prohibiting vehicles as he drove past it. The man said that he was just trying to get closer to his hunting spot. CO Becker pointed out that the field he drove across was freshly planted for wildlife. CO Becker had several encounters with the man in the past and gave warnings. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was checking anglers at a popular fishing site on Lake St. Clair. Several anglers were contacted who stated that they had not been fishing long. After requesting to see their fishing licenses, one angler stated that he had not purchase a fishing license this year.

CO Silorey ran the subject’s identification and it found that he had seven warrants for his arrest in multiple counties around the state. The CO transported the subject to a meeting location where the subject was turned over to a Wayne County Sheriff Deputy to satisfy one of the warrants. Enforcement action was also taken on the fishing violation.
CO Brad Silorey was on patrol, checking shore anglers in Macomb County. CO Silorey approached two anglers and asked how their fishing was going. The anglers stated that they had not caught any fish. After checking the angler’s fishing licenses, CO Brad Silorey observed a small amount of movement coming from the subject’s cooler. The anglers were asked about the cooler. They stated that there was only water in it. When the cooler was finally opened, the CO observed several bluegill, yellow perch, and a smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher contacted a boat anchored in Lake St. Clair. Upon approach CO Lasher noticed that there were four set lines and the angler in the front of the boat was casting with another line. The male angler advised CO Lasher that his wife was not fishing. CO Lasher conducted a marine safety check and found they did not have a throw able PFD or enough child PFDs for both of the small children in the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a homeland security detail, COs Matt Zultak and Ken Kovach observed several fishing poles set up on a dock. CO Zultak was dropped off on shore to try and contact the anglers. After some delay, an angler came to the door and said he and a friend had their poles in the water for the day. When asked where the angler’s friend was at, he replied he must have run to the store. The COs waited nearly 30 minutes and the angler’s friend failed to return to the over limit of lines. Enforcement action was taken. Upon following up on the case, it was discovered CO Ben Lasher had warned the same angler for fishing with too many lines in the past.

CO Ken Kovach worked a late night patrol checking walleye anglers on the St. Clair River. CO Kovach observed numerous limits of fish in most of the vessels that were contacted. On one such vessel check, CO Kovach completed a routine marine inspection for safety equipment. The two anglers were insufficient in several of the required safety items. CO Kovach checked the registered owner for DNR priors, and it was discovered the owner had received multiple citations from other COs for similar violations in the past. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Al Schwiderson and Kris Kiel worked a marine patrol on Lake St. Clair. Many contacts were made in the high seas. Enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license, taking a largemouth bass while the possession season was closed, and operating a vessel with no PFDs for the three people on board.

While conducting a fish patrol in Lapeer County, CO Matthew Zultak encountered three subjects on shore. CO Zultak noticed the subjects were in the possession of alcohol in an area where it is prohibited. Upon further observations, the CO witnessed one of the subjects tending a fishing pole. When the angler was contacted, he was not in possession of any fish, but had not purchased a current fishing license. During the investigation, it was also discovered the subject had a warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger was out checking shore anglers when he came across one angler who stated he did not have a fishing license. The subject also refused to give CO Schaumburger any identification nor give his name to the CO. With the aid of US Border Patrol and Detroit Police, the subject was fingerprinted on a mobile terminal, which revealed his full name and that he also had two outstanding warrants for his arrest. The subject was lodged on the warrants, and enforcement action was taken.
CO David Schaumburger was checking a popular white bass shore angling spot when he observed an angler quickly leave the area. CO Schaumburger was suspicious, and followed the angler to his vehicle and made contact. In the vehicle, the subject was in possession of an undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger spotted an angler fishing in the back of a park and immediately when the angler saw him, the angler stated, “Uh ohh.” CO Schaumburger asked what was wrong, and the angler stated he did not have a fishing license. While searching through his fish, CO Schaumburger also located an undersized northern pike. CO Schaumburger asked for the anglers ID and asked if he had any warrants. The angler stated that he had a child support warrant out of Macomb County. The warrant was confirmed and valid, the angler was turned over to the Macomb County Sheriff’s Department and enforcement action was taken on the fishing license and undersize northern pike.

COs David Schaumburger and Bradley Silorey worked a patrol targeting over limits of white bass. CO Schaumburger sat in an unmarked vehicle and relayed information to CO Silorey who was waiting in his marked patrol truck. CO Schaumburger documented anglers taking fish back to their vehicles and then resuming fishing. When the suspect vehicles would leave, CO Silorey was given a description and he conducted a traffic stop on them. The COs worked together and between 5 traffic stops, 351 white bass were seized as over limits. Enforcement action was taken and reimbursement is being sought.

CO Mark Ennett transported a subject with a warrant to be arraigned at the Monroe County Courthouse. The subject did not pay his citation for having a loaded firearm after hunting hours. The Judge sentenced the subject to time served of 4 days in jail and ordered him to pay an additional $110 fine.

CO Dan Walzak checked three anglers who, by their own admission, were not trying very hard to catch fish. They stated that it was such a nice day and they just wanted to be out. One of the anglers stated that he celebrated his 21st birthday the day before and wanted to be with his friends. After a few minutes of talk and checking their licenses, CO Walzak asked the subject what he might have in his cooler. The angler stood still and looked at the CO but didn’t answer. He finally lowered his head and opened the cooler to reveal a 12 pack of beer. The CO explained that the beer was not allowed to be possessed on the game area. Noting that there were three bottles missing, the CO asked the other two subjects if they had consumed any of the beer. Both of them replied “no” and that they were both under 21 years of age. CO Walzak asked the 21yr old where the bottles were at and, again, the subject looked at the CO but didn’t respond. While looking around the area, CO Walzak found one of the bottles – with beer inside – lying in the grass. Enforcement action was taken.

**BELLE ISLE**

While working Belle Isle, CO Dan Walzak observed a vehicle travelling much faster than everyone else and changing lanes to get through the traffic. CO Walzak was able to stop the vehicle and make contact with the driver. When told that he was driving 47mph in a posted 25mph zone the driver replied “Oh, I wasn’t paying any attention. CO Walzak asked why he was driving so fast and the driver stated that he was in a hurry to meet some other people on the island so that he could take some pictures. The officer then asked the driver how his driving record was and he responded that he was just issued a ticket for speeding about a month ago. Enforcement action was taken. Upon receiving the citation the driver asked if there were any speed limit signs. When CO Walzak told him that there was the driver said, “I’ve driven all the
way around the island and I didn’t see any.” He further told the officer that he was going to drive around the island again to make a video and if he didn’t see any speed limit signs he was going to take the ticket to court. At the point where the motorist was stopped he would have passed 25 posted speed limit signs in addition to the speed limit being painted on the roadway at the entrance to the island.

While working on Belle Isle CO Joshua Wright came upon a vehicle with an open beer can out in plain sight. While checking the occupants of the vehicle, he discovered one of them had seven warrants for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken for the alcohol and the subject with outstanding warrants was taken to jail in Detroit.

CO Robert Crisp worked a day shift patrol on Belle Isle with numerous contacts. CO Crisp responded to the Detroit Yacht Club for a person who had fallen and injured themselves. CO Crisp provided first aid until EMS arrived. Also while on patrol, CO Crisp stopped and changed a flat tire for a motorist.

CO Shane Webster worked a Belle Isle shift with CO Matthew Neterer. During a trip to Milliken State Park the officers encountered three individuals who had been fishing. It was found that none of the subjects possessed a fishing license, and one had outstanding warrants. Enforcement Action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey and Mark Siemen were on Belle Isle when dispatch requested assistance with a hit and run injury accident on the MacArthur Bridge. The dispatcher stated that a woman was run over. COs Silorey and Siemen responded to the scene where MSP troopers were just arriving. The victim involved was a woman who was rear ended by another motorist. When the woman contacted the driver of the other vehicle, he took off, dragging the victim several feet. Luckily, the victim escaped with only minor bumps and scrapes. EMS arrived on scene to make sure that the woman was alright. After recording information from the victim and witnesses, she was released. The investigation continues on the hit and run driver.