

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
5/4/08 – 5/17/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Chris Holmes investigated an illegal trash pile on state land and found the leg of a deer in the pile with a kill tag attached. CO Holmes interviewed the owner of the kill tag and obtained a confession. The subject had dumped the deer parts and other garbage. A littering ticket was issued and the subject cleaned the area of trash.

COs Brett Gustafson, Brian Bacon, Matt Eberly, and Grant Emery assisted in the search and rescue of two anglers who were missing on Lake Gogebic. Unfortunately, one of the anglers drowned.

CO Grant Emery contacted and arrested two subjects for taking 11 walleye on Lake Gogebic the night before the season opened. Not only were they unlicensed, but they were taking the fish by snagging.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kyle Publiski responded to complaints of illegal walleye fishing on a local lake and issued tickets to three subjects for over limits and undersized walleyes.

COs Kyle Publiski, Mike Hammill, and Kellie Nightlinger assisted local police agencies and the United States Border Patrol in locating more than two dozen illegal aliens in western Chippewa County. The multi-agency effort was successfully completed after several hours.

DISTRICT 3

CO Carl Vanderwall ticketed a large truck for mud bogging on state land in a closed area.

CO Joe Molnar responded to a complaint of a vehicle blocking the access site at a local lake. CO Molnar observed the subjects fishing from their boat on the lake and waited for their return. CO Molnar found marijuana on both subjects and was assisted by local sheriff's deputies in arresting and lodging both of them.

Two dead elk complaints were investigated by CO Joe Molnar. Both were old with little evidence left. However, CO Molnar determined that one calf had a broken neck. The other is a possible road kill.

CO Bill Webster found several juveniles at the State Forest Campground with four of them tearing up campground roads and parking lots with their vehicles, and creating large ruts and other damage. CO Webster contacted the parents of the juveniles and set up a work day for the youngsters at the campground. The juveniles repaired the damage they caused and provided additional maintenance work at the campground.

The court in Cheboygan County recently sentenced a subject CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski had cited for shooting trophy deer during the closed season. The subject was also charged with the attempted sale of venison and an over limit of walleye. The subject was sentenced to 30 days in jail, over \$3,500 in fines, costs, and restitution and his hunting and fishing licenses were revoked for the next four years.

DISTRICT 4

CO Robert Torres checked a group of anglers at Lake Dubonnet in Grand Traverse County and observed that all three subjects had been drinking. A beer can thrown in the woods nearby matched the brand the subjects were drinking. One subject admitted to throwing the can in the woods and was issued a ticket for littering.

Sgt. Michelle Wiegand observed turkey decoys set in a field after the close of hunting hours. Sgt. Wiegand waited for the hunters to return, and when the three hunters finally exited the woods, it was one hour after the close of legal hunting hours. Sgt. Wiegand contacted one of the three subjects and found the hunter's firearm was still loaded. COs Jair Kollasch and Steve Converse assisted Sgt. Wiegand with interviewing the three hunters and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted a subject operating an Argo on a Wexford County road. The subject was also operating on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Scott Wilk was contacted by Newaygo Central Dispatch and advised that a family of three on ORVs had left in the evening to ride on federal land and not returned to their vehicle by 10:00 p.m. Sgt. Wilk began a search and found the three individuals at 1:00 a.m. One of their ORVs had run out of gas. Sgt. Wilk escorted them out of the woods to a road where they could load up their machines.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint where it was believed that a turkey had been shot illegally. When he located and interviewed a subject, the individual told him that he had shot a bird but the turkey and tag were at a taxidermist. The taxidermist mentioned he was no longer licensed, and after a lengthy investigation, a bird was recovered with the subject's son's tag on

it. The son was out of state on business. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller responded to a complaint of turkey baiting. He found a deer blind baited with a pile of corn and in the morning caught a subject walking out with a dead bird. It was also discovered that the subject was trespassing while using the blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Torres followed up on a complaint regarding a fire that had escaped. CO Torres contacted the landowner and a ticket was written for burning without a permit.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted a subject who was burning illegally in Wexford County in April. The subject invited CO Kollasch into the residence where several undersized bass were observed on a table. The subject was written a ticket for the undersized bass, and arrested and lodged in the Wexford County jail on two outstanding warrants. Charges for the illegal burning are pending.

CO Sean Kehoe received a complaint regarding a subject who was turkey hunting over bait. The subject had placed a pop-up blind behind his residence near a spin cast feeder. CO Kehoe observed the subject leave the blind with a shotgun and turkey calls. CO Kehoe contacted the subject who admitted to the violations and was ticketed.

CO Mike Bomay responded to a complaint of an illegal camp on state land along the Little Muskegon River where the campers were harassing anglers who passed by. CO Bomay located the camp and discovered that the individuals camped there were living on the site. Their camp area was littered with debris and the occupants did not have a permit. A file check of one subject

revealed an outstanding fraud warrant. He was lodged in jail and the camp was removed.

DISTRICT 5

CO Jon Wood apprehended a subject who shot a turkey over bait. The hunter had also failed to immediately validate the tag and place it on the bird.

CO Jon Wood obtained warrants for a subject who was burning items he had cleaned out from his cabin, including furniture. The fire escaped and became a wildfire.

CO Jon Wood responded to a complaint of a subject who shot a sharp-shinned hawk. A witness observed a subject with a gun next to the bird that was still moving on the ground. The bird died a short time later. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jean Davis responded to a wildfire where the property owner was burning tent caterpillars and the burning material then spread to the dry leaves. The fire then burned onto a neighbor's property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Glenn Gutierrez attempted to stop two ORVs operating on state land where prohibited, and when they fled, CO Gutierrez pursued for a short distance. The two ORVs split up and CO Gutierrez continued to pursue one of them. A short distance later, the subject stopped and called the other subject on his cell phone and convinced him to turn himself in. Both subjects were issued tickets.

COs Glenn Gutierrez and Brian Olsen responded to a complaint of subjects keeping bass during the closed season. The COs located the boat and observed three subjects fishing in a canal. When the subjects were contacted, they did not have any bass;

however, two of the three subjects did not have fishing licenses. Tickets were issued.

CO Brian Olsen contacted a turkey hunter who was using a long bow without a hunting license. The subject tried to convince CO Olsen that he was just target shooting. A ticket was issued for no hunting license.

CO Joel Lundberg observed three anglers catching northern pike in Gladwin County. Upon contacting the individuals, CO Lundberg discovered that two of the three subjects did not have fishing licenses and that the pike taken were undersized. A computer check revealed that one of the anglers was wanted on an arrest warrant. Tickets were issued for the fishing violations and the one subject was lodged in the county jail on his outstanding warrants.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a litter complaint of approximately 100 tires dumped on state land, and interviewed witnesses who gave a description of a vehicle coming out of the area. Officer Hearn remembered a pile of tires located behind a local residence, and when he checked on them, discovered they were gone. CO Hearn interviewed the property owner who claimed that several individuals had offered to clean up his yard in exchange for the metal. While CO Hearn was conducting the interview, the subjects described by the witnesses returned for more metal. After a lengthy interview, the subjects admitted to dumping the tires. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

While patrolling Isabella County, CO Larn Strawn stopped a vehicle that pulled out in front of him, almost causing an accident. CO Strawn discovered a partially uncased shotgun inside the

vehicle of the two turkey hunters. Further investigation revealed that one of the hunters was AWOL from the U.S. Military.

While checking fishing activity on the Pinnebog River, CO Bob Hobkirk checked an angler sitting on a bucket. When he asked him if he had any fish in the bucket, the individual stood up and revealed three smallmouth bass taken out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Jeff Ginn checked a boat at an Ionia County lake access site and found three occupants with a bucket containing 48 bluegills. A check of the boat's live well turned up 50 additional bluegills and a cooler in the front of the boat contained a largemouth bass that was possessed during the closed season. Tickets were issued to address the panfish overlimits.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a complaint of two subjects killing a swan on an Allegan County lake. CO Mshar's investigation revealed that two juveniles had killed the male mute swan by hitting it with a boat oar. Warrants will be sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Gary Raak investigated a complaint of 14 large bags of trash dumped on state land. CO Raak located evidence that led to a subject currently lodged in the Barry County jail. The subject was issued a ticket for the littering and arrangements were made to clean up the site.

COs Ivan Perez and Dave Rodgers were investigating a trespass complaint along a trout stream when they located a large tent occupied by several subjects. The area around the tent was littered with alcohol containers. The subjects were contacted and all were found to be under the legal drinking age. A further

search of the illegal camp turned up marijuana and additional alcohol. Tickets were issued for trespass and minors in possession of alcohol.

COs John Jurcich, Greg Patten, Ivan Perez and Chuck Towns executed a search warrant on a wildlife rehabilitation facility to address escaping animals and permit violations. Animals on the loose included a black bear and an exotic cat. The bear has since been recaptured and the investigation continues.

COs Steve Orange and Dave Rodgers responded to a complaint of ten feral pigs observed running free in Kent County. The COs located the owner of the facility from which the pigs had escaped. With the owner's help and permission, the COs destroyed nine of the ten pigs. The heads of the feral pigs will be tested for disease.

CO Mike McGee followed up on a complaint where several deer carcasses were found. After talking with the property owner, he admitted to shooting two of the deer and using someone else's tags on them. A ticket was issued for the violation.

DISTRICT 8

CO Troy Bahlau investigated a complaint of a subject hunting turkey over bait. When contacted, the subject thought it was permissible to hunt near bait if you were at least 100 yards away. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith contacted two subjects who were taking walleyes before the season opened. One subject was hiding them under a rock while the other subject was wanted on two outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Wright, Brad Brewer, Jeff Goss, Rick Villerot, Troy Bahlau, and Sgt. Joe Kellam conducted a very successful group patrol. Numerous violations were encountered, including fishing without licenses, possession of undersize and out of season fish, minors in possession of alcohol, and subjects with outstanding arrest warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Brewer and Jeff Goss received a complaint of a subject illegally hunting turkeys. Upon investigation, it was discovered that a mother and son team killed a turkey while trespassing and failed to tag the bird. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Wright worked the Huron River and contacted numerous subjects in possession of fish out of season, fishing without licenses, in violation of marine laws and had outstanding warrants for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

COs Pete Purdy and Mark Ennett were working a popular fishing location when they encountered several subjects with a large number of channel catfish. While trying to determine if the subjects had fishing licenses, a check through LEIN revealed one of the subjects was wanted on several misdemeanor warrants and a felony warrant. The subject was lodged at the Monroe County jail.

CO Purdy stopped a dirt bike operator for operating his bike on the roadway. While issuing the ticket, CO Purdy checked the vehicle's identification number in LEIN and discovered that the bike was reported as stolen out of Ohio. The operator was arrested and lodged in the local jail.

In responding to a complaint, CO Pete Purdy observed a subject catching and keeping bass out of season. When questioned, the

subject denied catching bass, became aggressive and attempted to fight with the CO. The subject was arrested and charged with taking bass out of season and resisting arrest.

CO Todd Szyska wrote numerous tickets after receiving complaints of subjects keeping overlimits of panfish. During questioning one of the subjects gave his brother's name who was wanted on an outstanding warrant. When the subject was told he was under arrest he gave another name that came back with no record on computer. When CO Szyska called for a local county car to come and transport the subject to jail, the subject was able to find his ID in his shoe. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacelle Rabon was on patrol when he observed several people trespassing on power company property. A closer look revealed three street vehicles and two ORVs stuck in the mud up to the frame of the vehicles. Private property and no trespassing signs were clearly posted at the location. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacelle Rabon and Sgt. Arthur Green responded to a complaint that a subject had caught and retained a large sturgeon. On arrival, the COs located the subjects' vehicle and observed a cooler on the back seat that contained six out of season bass. One subject attempted to flee and threw the cooler out the window as he was driving away. The subject was caught and ticketed for possessing bass out of season. No sturgeon was found.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of anglers taking overlimits of trout. CO Kieft contacted six anglers with 13 trout over their limit. The group was ticketed for the violation and ordered to pay restitution for the fish.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively responded to a complaint of an individual cutting trees on state land. Upon their arrival, they observed several trees that had been freshly cut. They also observed a subject with cutting shears operating an ORV in an undesignated area of the state land. The COs obtained a confession from the subject and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel, Ben Lasher, and Ben Shively worked a group patrol to address illegal fishing activity. Numerous tickets were written for using gobies as bait, over limits of fish, and fishing without licenses. One subject was 21 fish over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Gerard Goulette and Ken Kovach observed anglers attempting to snag fish. The COs watched one subject catch three small walleye and throw them up on shore, and then try to give the fish to another angler who refused to take them. A few minutes later the COs contacted the subject, and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Lacelle Rabon worked a popular fishing location and wrote 19 tickets for recreational trespass along with several over limit of white bass tickets. One subject was 414 fish over the limit.

CO Kris Kiel checked an angler who stated that he had not had any luck. While checking the area, CO Kiel found a bucket hidden in the weeds that contained a perch and an 11" bass. The angler confessed that the bucket and the fish were his, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy and Lt. David Malloch were checking anglers when they observed a group of adults and children fishing. The adults concealed the fish they had caught in one child's backpack and had him attempt to ride his bike past the COs. Lt. Malloch

stopped the 14 year old and when he observed fish moving in the backpack, found 12 white bass. The adults were also fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.