

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
7/26/10 – 8/8/10**

DISTRICT 1

CO Brian Bacon is investigating the complaint of illegal wood cutting on state land in Dickinson County. Numerous live trees have been cut along with a roadway created for access.

CO Grant Emery responded to the complaint of a large bear getting into a landowner's chicken house. The bear destroyed the fencing and chicken house and killed several chickens. A trap was deployed to attempt to catch the bear on a return trip.

CO Dennis Gast, while on patrol at Keystone Harbor, observed two ORVs tearing it up along the beach. The operators were stopped and ticketed for operating on the beach.

CO Brett Gustafson responded to a dog attack on a three year old child. The family dog mauled the three year old in the face. The child is expected to recover. The dog is under a 10 day wait period for a rabies check then will be destroyed by the animal control officer.

COs Elton Luce, Mark Leadman, and Jason Niemi worked the Waterfront Festival in Menominee. Numerous contacts were made, a few marine warnings were given, and one ticket was issued for no personal flotation device (PFD). The COs also assisted along the perimeter of the safety area during the fireworks display.

Brian Bacon contacted three ORV operators who were operating in a wetland. The area was posted closed to ORVs and two of the operators were buried in the mud. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Bacon, Ryan Aho, and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted a group ORV patrol in the Groveland Mine area. The COs patrolled closed wetland areas that had recently been damaged. Good compliance was found as the ORV operators paid attention to the new signs and avoided the wetland area.

CO Ryan Aho responded to the complaint of an illegal burn where the subject was burning a pile of illegal materials. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho stopped two ORV operators who failed to stop at posted stop signs along a roadside in Dickinson County. The pair had also failed to register their ORVs, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery responded to the complaint of a possible capsized boat in Lake Superior. A camper at the Presque Isle State Park reported the possible sighting of a sinking boat. CO Emery, along with the Gogebic County Sheriff's Department and US

Coast Guard (USCG) checked the scene and shoreline for any sign of a boat that had sunk. No vessel was found and further investigation led officers to believe the caller had observed kayaks that were in the area at the time of the call.

DISTRICT 2

CO Robert Crisp contacted two anglers in a motorized canoe on an inland lake in Alger County. One subject did not have a fishing license and the boat was not registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson contacted four different boaters on an inland lake channel who were operating their boats too fast through the channel. Warnings were given.

While driving down a road CO Kyle Publiski observed occupants of a vehicle in front of him throw coffee cups out the window. A traffic stop and enforcement action followed.

COs Kevin Postma and Gerald Thayer contacted an angler fishing for salmon with four lines. He tried to convince the COs that the extra line was just a flasher to attract the fish. After bringing all of his lines into the boat he acknowledged that he had indeed fished with too many lines.

COs Kevin Postma and Gerald Thayer conducted a nighttime marine patrol in the Cedarville/Hessel area with several warnings given for navigation light violations.

DISTRICT 3

CO Kelly Ross was called to an ORV accident where the operator had hit a wash-out and fell off the ORV. The machine then fell on top of him. He went home, called for an ambulance the next day, then reported the accident. Enforcement action taken.

CO Nick Torsky encountered the operator of an unregistered ORV parked in the middle of a county road who was making traffic go around him. CO Torsky contacted the operator, who immediately became belligerent. The operator told the CO he had no previous DNRE tickets or a driving record. A check of DNRE priors found he had been ticketed twice, once by CO Torsky. When presented with this information the subject became even more belligerent. The subject was ticketed and initially refused to accept the ticket. The subject finally took the ticket and left the scene.

CO William Webster worked a remote area closed to ORV use in Montmorency County. Recent restoration and damage to the area has been the source of several recent complaints. Five ORV operators were located in the area and tickets were issued.

CO William Webster contacted several subjects fishing on various area lakes. CO Webster ticketed one subject for fishing without a license who admitted to fishing every year, yet had not purchased a fishing license since 2004. CO Webster also contacted

another couple in possession of a short bass. Several minor marine safety violations were also addressed during the patrol.

CO Mark Depew has been working a specific early bear bait that has been in place since June. He finally contacted the subjects baiting the site. In addition, the subjects had unlicensed dogs and too many bait sites. Enforcement action taken.

CO Matt Theunick and Sgt. Greg Drogowski evicted a "camper" staying under an old railroad bridge on the rail trail. His 15 days in one location had expired.

COs Eric Bottorff and Matt Theunick conducted a patrol of Bois Blanc Island on ORVs. Several ORV operators were contacted and enforcement action was taken on those found in violation.

CO Steve Speigl received a call from central dispatch of an ORV rider who was long overdue to return. CO Speigl coordinated a search and rescue operation along with volunteer firefighters. After several miles of tracking in the dark, the ORV rider was safely picked up about five miles away from where she crashed her ORV. Her ORV was recovered and returned to the owner.

CO Steve Speigl overheard radio traffic of ORVs trespassing near his location. He stopped to talk with the owner of the property when he watched the suspected ORV speed down the road. He followed the dirt bike to a nearby residence and addressed several violations.

CO Steve Speigl was dispatched to a fire that had rekindled from a bonfire the night before. Fire crews had the flames out by the time he arrived on scene. The fire only burned about one acre, but narrowly missed three residences. A ticket was issued for failing to prevent the spread of a fire.

CO Steve Speigl was called to assist with traffic control due to a personal injury accident. While helping direct traffic he observed a vehicle almost run a stop sign into oncoming nearby traffic. He contacted the driver, who was not only operating under the influence but texting as well. The driver was arrested for operating while impaired (OWI) and taken to jail.

CO Carl Vanderwall and PCO Jon Turner spent several hours watching an early bear bait. After observing a subject tend the bait, contact was made and the subject stated that he'd kept looking over his shoulder because he knew he would eventually get caught. A ticket was issued for the early bait.

CO Duane Budreau assisted Emmet County with a report of a breaking and entering and stabbing assault. CO Budreau searched a remote area of state land where the stabbing suspect was reported to have fled.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall assisted local agencies with a search for an overdue kayaker on Lake Michigan. The kayaker was reportedly kayaking from Harbor Springs to Petoskey when he came up missing. His kayak and personal effects were found. The recovery operation continues.

DISTRICT 4

CO Jair Kollasch was first on scene at a vehicle rollover accident. Officer Kollasch secured the scene and rendered first aid to victims while waiting for assistance from local Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

CO Michael Borkovich located an individual who had driven around road closure signs and embankments to fish a small lake on state land. CO Borkovich contacted the angler and found that the angler had several outstanding warrants, had been arrested seven times for driving on a suspended license and was fishing without a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Vanderlinde reports that an individual he ticketed for hunting rabbits without a small game license was found guilty by a jury, placed on probation for two years and served 14 days in jail.

CO Steve Converse was working near Hodenpyl Dam on the Big Manistee River when he encountered two subjects who were trout fishing. The two had kept six trout that were under the legal size limit. One person blamed their poor measuring on a tackle box that they guessed was about 13 inches long.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint of a family who had a large litter pile building up at a camping site on state land. A visit to the site revealed that the family was homeless and had set up house at the site. Child Protective Services was called to the scene and the family was temporarily put up in a motel to allow the small children to get cleaned up. The family was also given a lead on a local apartment to move into.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a personal watercraft (PWC) operating recklessly on a Newaygo County lake. When CO Wells contacted the operator he determined that the vessel registration was expired. CO Wells followed the PWC to the dock and observed three additional vessels displaying expired registrations. A ticket was issued.

CO Mike Wells was patrolling Newaygo County for illegal ORV activity and contacted the operator of a golf cart trespassing on Consumer's Energy property. The operator of the golf cart was in possession of marijuana and possessed open containers of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren was patrolling a rural lake in Oceana County when he contacted three anglers. One angler stated he forgot his license and attempted to provide CO VanGelderren with false information about his identity. The angler decided not to

purchase a fishing license because summer was almost over. CO Vangeldereren checked the angler's catch and found 83 bluegills. Tickets were issued for an overlimit of fish and failure to purchase a fishing license.

CO Troy VanGeldereren checked two anglers fishing a lake in Oceana County. The anglers explained to CO VanGeldereren that they did not have licenses with them, but that they always get checked by an Oceana County Sheriff's Deputy and that their licenses were good. A check with DNRE dispatchers revealed that neither angler had purchased a license this year. Tickets were issued.

CO Troy VanGeldereren checked four anglers fishing from a boat in Oceana County. After speaking with the anglers, CO VanGeldereren discovered that one angler did not have a fishing license, one angler was in possession of an undersized bass, one angler was a minor in possession of alcohol, and that the boat operator had failed to provide a sufficient number of life jackets. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn assisted the Traverse Narcotics Team with locating a marijuana grow location and determining if the grow operation was on state or private property.

CO Mike Hearn contacted two subjects in a boat on Twin Lake. A female subject originally lied to the CO about her age in order to get out of a ticket for fishing without a license. When faced with possible charges, she confessed her real age. Both subjects were ticketed for fishing license violations.

COs from Roscommon, Crawford, Missaukee, Kalkaska, Oscoda, Clare and Gladwin Counties conducted patrols on Houghton Lake for the annual "Bud Bash". The COs encountered numerous violations including marine violations, littering, drunk driving, minors in possession of alcohol, and disorderly conduct. The COs also assisted with several medical emergency situations.

In response to a complaint of trespassing, CO Bowen arrived to find two subjects fishing on a private lake. The subjects walked past approximately 15 "No Trespassing" signs and under a private gate to get to the lake. The subjects had 17 large crappies on the bank. They were ticketed for recreational trespass.

CO Jason McCullough was called to assist the local drug team when they were serving a search warrant and located a deer carcass hanging in the garage. The deer was not fresh but was still whole. The owner confessed to shooting the doe last fall and not tagging it because he didn't have an antlerless license. The deer then hung in the garage and went to waste. Warrants are being sought.

CO Rebecca Hopkins assisted a local police department in the search for a missing boy. Five hours into the search, CO Hopkins located the boy who was lost on public land. He was returned safely to his parents.

DISTRICT 6

CO Joshua Wright was on patrol on Saginaw Bay when he stopped a boat for what appeared to be a child on board who wasn't wearing a PFD. Upon further investigation he discovered that the child was only three years old and not wearing a life jacket. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joshua Wright and Seth Rhodea assisted the Thumb Narcotic Unit on hemp patrol. The COs were able to assist on the eradication of over 500 plants and six pending cases of manufacturing of marijuana. Tickets were also issued for illegal ORV operation in a state game area (SGA).

CO Joshua Wright was on patrol on the Cass River in a remote area when he discovered a turtle trap that was placed below the water level, where a captured turtle could not come up for air. Upon further investigation, he discovered four more turtle traps that were placed illegally and the trapper not having the proper licenses to trap turtles. Traps were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person and Sgt. Tony Soave responded to a complaint of an illegal burn where the neighbor called due to heavy black smoke engulfing his yard and residence and making it impossible to sit outside. The COs found a large pile of tires, rubber pool toys and other illegal items still smoldering and smoking. The township fire department was called in and the fire was put out. The homeowner was not home at the time but was later contacted and ticketed for the illegal burn.

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol when he came across an illegal camp on state land. During the investigation one of the subjects at the camp was found to have an outstanding criminal warrant. While interviewing the subject CO Atkin located drug paraphernalia that the subject had thrown under a vehicle in the immediate area. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Nick Atkin and Steve Lockwood were on patrol in Arenac County when they contacted four subjects operating ORVs in a prohibited area of state land. The subjects were stopped and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell observed a subject riding an ORV on state land. The CO contacted the operator and explained that it was not legal to ride an ORV in a SGA. The operator was not wearing a helmet and did not have an ORV license. He had also been ticketed the month before for not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

COs Chuck Towns, Zach Doss, and Sgt. John Jurcich patrolled Lake Macatawa, Lake Michigan and the Kalamazoo River during the Venetian Festival at Saugatuck. The COs located and ticketed the operator of a 51' boat for no registration. The operator

had purchased the boat in Ohio and had spent weeks operating on three Great Lakes with no attempt made to register or pay tax on the vessel.

COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar were assigned marine patrol duties at the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival. They rendered assistance in several cases with swimmers jumping from the pier into heavy waves and then having difficulty reaching safety. At the conclusion of the event, a 38 foot vessel backed into the patrol boat which resulted in an investigation and arrest of the operator for OWI. During the investigation and arrest another vessel impacted the patrol boat, and the COs requested assistance which led to the arrest of that operator for OWI.

CO Mike Mshar reported continued progress with Michigan Treasury into the investigation of misuse of "Dealer Registrations" on large vessels in the Allegan and Ottawa County area. He advised two more vessels, 32 foot and 38 foot in length, have been located and are under investigation for misuse of registrations and failure to pay sales tax.

CO Mike Mshar and Sgt. John Jurcich patrolled Silver Lake State Park using ORVs during a directed park patrol. Four operators were ticketed for violations of directional travel rules, which led to serious safety concerns for other operators in the park.

CO Mike Mshar, acting on a complaint, located 38 marijuana plants being grown in the Allegan SGA. The plants were destroyed by a local narcotics enforcement unit and the investigation continues.

CO Patrick McManus patrolled Grand Haven State Park during the USCG Festival acting on numerous alcohol violations and assisting with persons attempting to swim in heavy waves.

CO Paul Higashi was in the process of ticketing a subject for possession of three undersized bass when he learned the subject was wanted on two outstanding warrants. When CO Higashi approached the subject at his vehicle, the subject fled, striking CO Higashi with the vehicle door. This required treatment at a local emergency room. Additional warrants are now being sought for resisting arrest, motor vehicle and fishing violations.

CO Chris Holmes, working in Kalamazoo County, overheard radio dispatch traffic of a vehicle found abandoned approximately one mile away and matching the description of the vehicle that fled from CO Higashi earlier in the day. CO Holmes worked with local police to identify the owner or driver of the badly damaged vehicle which had struck a cable gate, posts and rocks placed as barriers. After several hours of investigation the subject was arrested by CO Holmes. The subject was hiding in a shower at a family member's home. The subject was wanted on two warrants, was on probation and driving on a restricted drivers license. The investigation revealed the subject fled from CO Higashi and attempted to hide his vehicle about a mile from the scene. The subject struck multiple objects and caused heavy damage to the vehicle. He then fled on foot,

swam a short distance and called relatives who arrived by car and transported him to the residence where he was located by CO Holmes and Kalamazoo Police. Warrants charging the subject are being sought.

CO Chris Holmes reported nine other tickets issued during the period for fish and marine violations, the arrest of a driver for third offense driving while license suspended and reports requesting a warrant for a subject who fled on foot after contact during a fishing violation.

Three Conservation Officer marine patrol units, as well as two COs on foot in the State Park worked the annual USCG Festival on August 7th in Grand Haven. Over a hundred contacts were made by the group patrol which resulted in three arrests for operating a boat under the influence, misuse of dealer registration on a boat, breaking up of two fights, helping two lost children reunite with their parents, assisting Grand Haven Public Safety with an armed subject and enforcement of the alcohol ban in the State Park.

While working marine patrol at the USCG Festival, COs Chris Simpson, BJ Goulette, and Gary Raak responded to the report of three people who jumped off the pier and could not make it back in the three to five foot waves. Once they were located, CO Simpson was able to maneuver his boat to all three subjects where COs Goulette and Raak were able to pull them onto the boat. The three victims were taken to the USCG Station in Grand Haven for medical attention.

CO Steve Mooney observed a dirt bike operating on a public roadway in Van Buren County. When CO Mooney attempted to stop the bike, the operator fled and turned off the road into an orchard. While going up a steep hill the bike stalled and the operator abandoned the bike and fled on foot. A short foot chase ensued and CO Mooney caught the subject in a yard at a nearby residence. The subject was on probation.

CO Steve Mooney contacted an angler coming off Three Mile Lake in Van Buren County. When asked how he did, the angler advised CO Mooney that he did well on bluegills. When CO Mooney asked how well the angler responded so well I think I have more than my limit. The angler was seven fish over the limit.

CO Zach Doss contacted an angler collecting bait fish for personal use from a creek in Van Buren County. When CO Doss inspected the bait fish collected he observed that one of the fish was a three inch bass. The angler admitted to knowing that particular fish was a bass. He intended to use it as bait.

CO Andy Bauer was contacted by Warren Dunes State Park personnel reference three subjects who ditched bags of ginseng and fled on foot. A perimeter was set up and several hours later two of the subjects came out of the woods. Both were contacted and admitted to illegal harvesting of ginseng. The third subject stayed in the woods overnight and was contacted coming out of the woods, all mosquito bitten, the next morning. The three subjects had illegally harvested 98 ginseng plants.

DISTRICT 8

All District 8 Conservation Officers assisted at the scene of the Talmadge Creek/Kalamazoo River oil spill. The COs have assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service with assessment and collection of dead and injured wildlife, security at the scene of the pipeline break, security at the public meetings and media briefing sessions, and are providing geographical assistance. The detail continues with all D8 COs proving to be valuable resources in the cleanup effort.

COs Damon Owens, Jeff Walker, Dan Prince, Shane Webster, and Sgt. Troy Bahlau worked the Clark Lake Raft-o-Rama event. Numerous violations were encountered including minors in possession of alcohol, no PFDs on board the vessels, fishing without licenses, and marine registration violations. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Dan Bigger was able to wrap up a case from last deer season that involved a subject who took a deer illegally over bait and was not wearing any orange garments when hunting. The subject awaits sentencing.

CO Dan Bigger was the first on the scene of a complaint where numerous vehicles had gone around construction barriers and were driving through freshly poured asphalt. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler conducted a marine patrol on Byram Lake and contacted several vessels with expired registrations, including the operator of PWC. The operator explained that he did not renew his registration because he rarely sees any law enforcement on the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on Holloway Reservoir, CO Linda Scheidler observed a subject towing a skier who did not have an observer on board. When the subject was stopped by the CO, he became very defensive stating that he had been on a boat since he was five and never heard of that law and felt it was stupid. During the discussion, the subject admitted he was familiar with other marine laws; and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau and Sgt. Tom Wanless conducted a patrol along the Flint River through Genesee County. The COs contacted several anglers and a few boaters. One subject they contacted was wanted on a felony warrant out of California for arson. California would not extradite. The COs also contacted three individuals in three different locations with undersized catfish or smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler was on marine patrol on Holloway Reservoir when she heard a loud vessel coming around a point. The CO stopped the vessel and conducted a sound test

of the exhaust system. The results were 100 decibels, well over the maximum allowed of 90 decibels. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received a complaint of three subjects near New Haven with an overlimit of panfish and undersized bass. The CO contacted the three subjects who had a total of 90 panfish between them. Enforcement action was taken and restitution is being sought.

CO Ben Lasher, along with an Ontario Conservation Officer, conducted a marine patrol on the St. Clair River. By working together the COs were able to enforce laws on the entire river. Tickets were issued on both sides of the international line, including one to the operator of a vessel with three occupants and no wearable life jackets. The subject had five prior violations from the DNRE.

While checking anglers, CO Ben Lasher contacted a subject who was in possession of an undersized northern pike. The subject also had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. The warrant was valid; however, the originating agency did not have the resources to pick up the subject. CO Lasher issued a ticket for the fishing violation and released him with a notice to appear on the warrant.

CO Mark Ennett responded by boat to a report of a near drowning victim who had been rescued from the water at Sterling State Park. The call stated he was at the beach. CO Ennett was close enough to patrol the area from the water and render assistance to the responding ground units from the sheriff's department and medical rescue. The victim was not at the beach but was swimming at the south end of the Park. The rescuers had pulled him from the water and partially revived him after he had been underwater for nearly five minutes. They were on the opposite bank of the deep canal from where all the rescue units were and they were unable to reach him. CO Ennett arrived by boat and took two paramedics on board. They were able to load the victim into the patrol boat and transport him to the docks at the launch ramp. Medical personnel continued treating the victim while underway. Once at the docks, he was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

CO Mark Ennett checked a vessel and found six undersized bass in a cooler. The two anglers originally stated the cooler contained "a few catfish". One angler finally admitted to being responsible for catching and keeping the bass and he stated that he did not measure the bass, because they "looked big enough". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jonathon Sklba contacted a group that had an undersized snapping turtle at Halfway Creek. The group also admitted to having completely submerged traps. The turtle was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jonathon Sklba contacted a 15-year old on a work horse ORV operating on the roadway. The driver was operating carelessly, not wearing a seatbelt, no training certificate, no supervision, no eye protection, and had more passengers than the

machine was designed to carry. The other passengers were five, six, and eight years old. The driver's mother was aware of the children taking the ORV out and she was ticketed.

CO Kris Kiel was at the fisheries research station at the Harley Ensign Access Site when he observed two subjects carrying fishing equipment walk by the window toward the parking lot. Through the window, the CO asked the subjects if they had any luck. The subjects replied, "Not really." CO Kiel also observed that the handle of a small cooler being carried by one of the subjects looked bent from the weight of its contents. The CO met them outside and checked their fishing licenses. The subject carrying the cooler replied that he just bought it that morning and that it was his birthday. CO Kiel asked to see the contents of the cooler. The individual opened the cooler to reveal two undersized bass. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska were checking Lake St. Clair for late PWC operation. They observed two vehicles in the parking lot with PWC trailers and waited. Fifteen minutes after sunset, the PWCs returned. Before coming into the dock, both subjects switched with their female passengers and allowed them to operate for a few minutes more. While talking to the subjects at the dock, it was found that none of the four subjects had boater's safety certificates or knew what time they had to stop operating. The two original operators were ticketed.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel were checking vessels coming into a launch ramp on Lake St. Clair and encountered a boat out of Tennessee that had an expired registration. After talking to the boat owner and the passengers the COs found that the owner was operating an illegal charter boat. Enforcement action was taken and charges are pending from the prosecutor's office.