



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: April 2015

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members via email on April 9, 2015.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

Public Meetings

April 2	Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Division, Bay College West, Iron Mountain, 6:00pm CST
April 7	Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Division, Tahquamenon Area Public Library, Newberry, 7:00pm
April 9	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
April 13	Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Division, Sydney's Restaurant, Munising, 7:00pm
April 16	Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Comfort Inn-Newberry, 6:30pm

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

April 25	DNR ORV Safety Class (Free), DNR Pocket Park-Escanaba, 10am, 906-786-2351
May 23	Wells State Park - Memorial Day Weekend Celebration
May 25	Fort Mackinac - Memorial Day Observance on Mackinac Island

Upcoming U.P. Recreation/Sporting Shows

April 18	15 th Annual YMCA Run/Walk, Marquette, http://ymcamqt.org
April 18	Home, Business & Outdoor Rec Expo, Iron River, www.iron.org
April 24-26	27 th Annual Whitefish Point Bird Observatory Spring Fling, www.wpgo.org/node/316
April 25	35 th Annual Norway Spring Classic Run, Norway, www.uprrc.org
May 1-2	Manistique Outdoor Expo, Little Bear West Arena, Manistique (DNR Booth)
July 10-11	U.P. Trappers Convention, UP State Fairgrounds, Escanaba, 906-399-1960
August 17-23	U.P. State Fair, Escanaba (sign up to volunteer at the DNR Pocket Park!)

April 9th Natural Resources Commission Meeting-Agenda

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

1. Presentation on the Bay City State Recreation Area Lakefront and Beach Access Study Report
2. Summer Youth Employment Program Update
3. Parks and Recreation Budget Overview – 2015
4. Parks and Recreation Updates

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

1. Fisheries Division Update
 - a. State of Lake Michigan Salmon
 - b. Water Withdrawal Effects on Brook Trout
2. Wildlife Division Update

- a. Small Game and Upland Bird Regulations
- b. Bear Damage Shooting Permit Regulations
- c. Guiding Principles and Strategies Update
- d. Bovine TB Disease Surveillance Report

NRC Committee of the Whole

1. Director’s Report
 - a. Oil and Gas Lease Auction
 - b. Parks and Trails Update
 - c. Lake Committee Meetings Update
 - d. Bass Regulations Update
 - e. Master Angler Program Update
 - f. Fire Season Report
 - g. Forestlands/Timber Report
 - h. Economics Study – GAP Analysis
2. Legislative Report
3. Presentation of Shikar Safari Officer of the Year

Public Appearances Before the NRC (Pre-Registered)

Dan Kimmel, MI BASS Nation, Bass Regulations
 Dave Reault, Bass Federation of Michigan, Bass Regulations

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

1. Small Game and Upland Game Birds Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No 3 of 2015
2. Bear Damage Shooting Permit Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2015

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION

1. Approval of Minutes: March 19, 2015 Natural Resources Commission meeting
2. Natural Resources Commission Policy Review Recommendations
3. Bear Regulations and License Quotas, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2015
4. Fisheries Order 200.15A, Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations
5. Fisheries Order 202.15, Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations
6. Fisheries Order 204.15, Spawning Closures
7. Fisheries Order 206.15, Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters
8. Fisheries Order 215.15, Statewide Coolwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass
9. Fish Order 249.15, Crayfish Regulations

DIRECTOR’S ACTION

1. Proposed May 4, 2015 Oil and Gas Lease Auction
2. Order to Regulate Use of the Ishpeming to Humboldt Rail-Trail Segment of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Marquette County, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2015

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee
2. NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

April 9th Natural Resources Commission - Meeting Summary

By Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

After the NRC Meeting on April 9th, the summary will be added to this report and distributed in the meeting packet.

April 2015 Legislative Update - Trevor VanDyke , Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SB 18 – Provides for the Conveyance of Certain Property in Calhoun County after Acquisition from the Federal Government – Sen. Nofs: This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding Section 2120a requiring the Department to locate current de facto owners of certain lands in Calhoun County and convey a portion of the property to these de facto owners.

SBs 54 & 55 – Prohibits the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for the Taking of Game – Sen’s. Casperson and Pavlov: These bills amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the use of unmanned vehicles and unmanned devices to interfere with or harass another individual who is hunting or fishing and prohibits the use of an unmanned vehicle and unmanned device for the taking of game. Further, SB 54 would provide the NRC with exclusive authority to regulate sport fishing under Part 487.

SB 192 – Exempts Certain Excavation and Mining Activities from the Permit Requirements – Sen. Pavlov: This bill seeks to amend Section 30103 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt certain excavation or mining activities associated with an active mining operation from the permit requirements, if the activity does not create an inland lake with a surface area of 5 acres or greater.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 193 – Exempts Certain Excavation and Mining Activities from the Permit Renewal Requirements – Sen. Casperson: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding Section 30107a to exempt certain excavation or mining activities associated with an active mining operation from the permit renewal requirements, if the activity that created or affected an inland lake has not materially increased since the original permit.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 244 – Provides for Increased Reimbursement and Restitution Values for the Illegal Killing or Possession of Certain Game Species– Sen. Pavlov: This bill seeks to amend Section 40119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased reimbursement and restitution values for the illegal killing or possession of certain game species. These species include elk, moose, bear, eagle, hawk and waterfowl.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 245 – Provides for Increased Penalties for the Illegal Killing, Possessing, Purchasing or Selling of a Bear or an Antlered White-Tailed Deer– Sen. Zorn: This bill seeks to amend Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased penalties for the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of a bear or an antlered white-tail deer.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4294 – Exempts Certain Excavation and Mining Activities from the Permit Requirements – Rep. McBroom: This bill seeks to amend Section 30103 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt certain excavation or mining activities associated with an active mining operation from the permit requirements, if the activity does not create an inland lake with a surface area of 5 acres or greater.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4324 – Exempts Certain Excavation and Mining Activities from the Permit Renewal Requirements – Rep.

Pettalia: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding Section 30107a to exempt certain excavation or mining activities associated with an active mining operation from the permit renewal requirements, if the activity that created or affected an inland lake has not materially increased since the original permit.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4358 – Permits 100% Service Related Blind Veterans to be Eligible for a Free License– Rep. Goike: This bill seeks to amend Section 43537 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to permit 100% service related disabled blind veterans with a 100% service related disability due to blindness to be eligible to obtain any resident license for which a letter is not required.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Finance & Operations: Christina Hammill, Eastern UP

Dates to Remember

- 4/1 – Hand net size restrictions begin on trout streams (through 6/30)
- 4/13 – Beaver & Otter trapping close (Units A & B; designated trout streams close 4/30)
- 4/15 – Coyote season and dog training closes
- 4/20 – Spring Turkey opener (for the early hunts)
- 4/23 – Last day to register Otter from Units A & B
- 4/25 – Trout Opener (Inland Waters)
- 5/1 – Can apply for Bear and Elk hunts
- 5/1 – Deadline for returning incidental trapping seals to DNR
- 5/5 – Last day to register Otter from Unit A designated trout streams
- 5/15 – Walleye, Pike, Muskie open in U.P. inland waters and U.P. Great Lakes waters
- 5/30 – Frog, Toad, Salamander/Mudpuppy seasons open (until 11/15)
- 5/31 – Hand net & dip net seasons close
- 6/1 – Deadline to apply for Bear and Elk hunts
- 6/13 & 6/14 – Free Fishing Weekend

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (Prepared by Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Biologist)

- **Winter deer condition assessments:** With spring on the horizon, DNR staff continues the important job of monitoring snow depth and recording observations of deer condition. Several visual indices of body condition are evaluated when deer are observed to help assess the impacts of winter on deer. An early arrival of winter weather that reduces the ability of deer to reach forage on the ground is difficult for them but a late arrival of spring that continues to reduce access to vegetation that they might reach is even worse since their fat reserves are depleted by the end of winter. Assessing end of winter deer condition can be helpful in projecting potential changes in the deer population.
- **Upcoming field seasons:** As spring and summer seasons approach, field work plans for habitat projects are being finalized and projects will move into full swing. Wildlife staff across the UP are in the process of hiring summer non-career wildlife assistants to help with field work and other projects. Non-career assistants are typically pursuing a

career in a natural resource field and the experience they gain in one of these summer positions is invaluable to them in their future careers as well as helpful to wildlife staff in accomplishing goals.

- **Spring wildlife surveys:** During April and May wildlife surveys are conducted across the UP for several species such as ruffed grouse, American woodcock, and sharp-tailed grouse. These surveys provide an index of wildlife populations to be used to compare populations from year to year. Wildlife division staff and partner agencies conduct the surveys annually between pre-determined dates and at established times and locations to maintain consistency in survey protocol. An annual spring wildlife survey report is prepared following the conclusion of each survey season to share data across the UP and with interested sports persons and the public.
- **New survey effort pilot:** Wildlife staff will begin to pilot a new survey effort this year to look at spring deer recruitment. Changes in fawn recruitment to adult age classes may aid in projecting trends in deer populations although ratios and their relationship to weather and other variables must be interpreted with caution. Surveys will be conducted when deer are most visible and will be within a DMU boundary. As with any new survey effort, modifications are expected as protocols are finalized but we are hopeful this will develop into a useful tool to wildlife managers.

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor

- The 2017 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is underway with staff gathering field information. Open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- The Graymont revised Land Transaction Application was approved by the Director at the March 19th Natural Resource Commission meeting in Roscommon. Graymont will identify specific lands to be offered in exchange for the 830-acre parcel. These parcels will be thoroughly reviewed by DNR staff and will be available for public review and comment prior to the director making a decision about the acceptance of these parcels.
- We continue to fill vacancies across the state and for the EUP this includes a forester position at Naubinway and fire officer positions at Newberry and Seney. Filling the forester at Naubinway created a fire officer vacancy at Thompson and we are moving forward with it. There will be two Temporary Fire Officers stationed out of Newberry for 12 weeks beginning April 13th.
- As of February 11th, we have 276 open timber sale contracts in the EUP. This represents 36,240 acres of timber valued at approximately \$22.9 million.
- Timber markets and sale competition is strong, especially for break-up sales. Approximately 15 sales were recently sold in the EUP, and there are upcoming bid dates for additional sales.
- There are approximately 30 active has timber sales in the EUP at this time. With the onset of seasonal county road restrictions, timber harvesting activity have mostly switched from lowland timber types to upland timber types with Class A road access in preparation for spring break up. Several winter sales were able to be completed this winter with the bitter cold February temperatures.
- DNR Forestry staff has been taking advantage of the recent weather and great snowshoeing conditions preparing timber sales and doing forest inventory. Forestry companies contracted by the DNR have also been busy preparing timber sales to be bid
- The Wyman State Forest Nursery is preparing to lift over 5 million trees this spring. These trees will be used to replant harvested sites in the UP and the Northern LP. About half will be red pine and the other half jack pine.

- Beech Bark Disease continues to ravish our hardwood forests. Beech is an important mast producing tree which feeds deer, bear and many other wildlife species. Oak trees are being planted as a replacement mast producer. To help meet the need, the Wyman nursery has converted a former jack pine seed orchard into an oak production area. To increase survival oaks must be beyond browsing height before they can be out planted. It will be several years before the trees are big enough transplant into the forest.
- FRD fire staff has been busy throughout the winter preparing equipment and making plans for the upcoming fire season. The EUP Spring Fire Meeting was held March 4th. This year is predicted to have more fires than last year. There has already been more fires downstate this year, than at the same time last year.
- FRD staff worked with Parks and Recreation Division and the snowmobile clubs throughout the winter, and the second round of snowmobile trail inspections were completed for all trails at the beginning of March. Snowmobiling activity has begun to slow down but there are some folks trailering to the area for one last ride. Weather has been very favorable this past winter for snowmobiling.
- Volunteers continue to groom the Canada Lakes and Paradise Pathways Ski Trails. This winter has been favorable for skiing and the trails as of late March were still in great shape.
- The Director recently signed a land transaction involving Burt Township. The exchange gives the 180 acres where the Grand Marais Airport currently sits to the township for 80 acres of township land that blocks in our ownership. We are still working with the township on a long term lease for an existing shooting range.
- The 2014 Farm Bill created a nation-wide initiative called the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). This authority will create a collaborative relationship between DNR and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and allow DNR to act as an agent of the USFS for conducting land management projects on national forest lands. Lansing staff have attended a workshop in Wisconsin regarding the authority and we are beginning to discuss possibilities under the authority.
- Recent USFS Good Neighbor Authority: Initial discussion has been held between FRD and USFS to establish a collaborative relationship between states and the USFS that allows the state to act as an agent of the USFS for conducting land management projects (including timber sales) on national forest lands.
- FRD hosted a training session on the Forest Stewardship Program on March 24th in Newberry. It was one of five sessions held around the state and attended by about 180 individuals. In Newberry, about 25 consulting foresters and conservation district foresters received information on the Forest Stewardship Program, Michigan's tax incentive programs and NRCS conservation programs for NIPF owners. The foresters also received Tree Farm inspector training for the 2015-2020 TF standards of sustainability.

Parks & Recreation Division: Tom Paquin, Eastern Supervisor

- **Muskallonge Lake:** Park headquarters relocation/shoreline erosion update--a pre-bid construction meeting was held for Phase 1 of the project on March 25th. Phase 1 will include site preparation, construction of a new shop building, and a possible cold storage building. The bid deadline for Phase 1 is April 22. Interviews have been conducted for the vacant seasonal Parks and Recreation Ranger 6-E8; a candidate has been selected and is pending HR approval. Applications are being accepted for summer ranger positions. Interviews will be conducted in the next few weeks. The campground is scheduled to open semi-modern on April 17th and modern on May 13th.
- **Newberry Field Office:** The crew is continuing work on building new vault toilets for various locations in the EUP. There is still a lot of ice on inland lakes. As soon as conditions allow, staff will be working in getting skid piers in at boating access sites across the EUP.

- **Brimley State Park:** A pre-construction meeting for Conley Point boating access site has been scheduled for April 16th. We are working to fill the Park Ranger position as the former person as resigned. We are currently interviewing for state worker positions. Due to large amounts of snow in our campground, the opening date of April 10th has been pushed back to April 23rd. We attended the LSSU Job Fair on March 25th and we spoke with over 40 students about park-related careers. **The city of Sault Ste. Marie Board of Commissioners have approved the use of ORV's on South Street and Ashmund Bay Park, which allows Ashmund Bay Park to connect to the Soo to Raco Grade for a future trail proposal.**
- **Straits State Park:** Construction planning continues for the replacement of our 2 lower bath buildings with construction scheduled to begin on September 9th. Replacement of vanity tops in our N1 bath building has begun and will be completed by staff before the building opens for the season. Replacement of shower doors in our N2 bath building is continuing and should also be completed before building opening. Work continues to prepare the "new to us" boat for use as a supplemental vessel for employees to access Lime Island Recreation Area. One seasonal ranger has returned for the season. The park staff held another winter activity day March 14th with 43 attendees. Snow pack in the campground is slowly disappearing and will allow us to have some sites available for our April 3rd opening date.
- **Indian Lake/Palms Book:** Phase one of the shoreline erosion project at Indian Lake State Park is scheduled to begin this spring. The first phase of the project is out for bids with a due date of April 1st. This project has a completion date of June 25th. The bids for the new toilet building at Palms Book are in and the contract has been awarded. Construction will begin in this spring with a completion date of late June. The sewage system at the Indian Lake Park Headquarters is failing and will be replaced this spring. Park Rangers Patrick Nelson, Abbie Klink & Troy Sumbera Jr were recalled from seasonal layoff.
- **Tahquamenon Falls State Park:** The Lower Falls boathouse improvement is in the design phase. A non-commission seasonal ranger vacancy has been filled and a vacancy opened for a commissioned seasonal ranger. Events included free snowshoe rental, guided Snowshoe hikes and a lantern lit cross-country skiing event was held every Saturday in February. Total participants included: daytime snowshoers-65, skiers-54, night snowshoers-191, skiers-51. A snow shoe race was held on February 21 and had 60 participants. Maple Sugaring Day was held on March 28th at the Upper Falls with 250 participants. Winter camping has been popular this year. We had 55 camp nights in February and 40 camp nights in March. Passport compliance has improved with increased signage & enforcement.
- **Fayette Historic State Park**
 - Historic Townsite: Continuing to work to complete plans for the furnace stack reconstruction/restoration. Bids are out and due April 1st. Construction is to begin summer/fall 2015.
 - Harbor: Plans for the replacement of the old dock are 100% complete and in hand. A pre-bid meeting was held on February 25th with bids due April 1st.
 - Campground: Continuing to work to complete plans for the toilet/shower building, dump station and on-site sewage treatment. Planned construction is late 2015 into 2016.
 - Other Activities: Seasonal repair/maintenance on various pieces of equipment, snow plowing and continue work on the contact station interior remodel. We are beginning the process of selecting seasonal state workers. Two seasonal rangers returned on March 9th. The supervisor is working with a core team for the Maximo Pilot Project.

Eastern UP Fisheries Division: Steve Scott, Eastern UP Field Units Supervisor

- **Field Units (Steve Scott, Unit Manager):** Staff have been busy entering collected information in our computers and analyzing the information for summary. Fish scales are also being prepared and read to determine age and growth rates of those fish collected. Equipment and net repairs continue also. Some of our technicians may be heading to

the southern part of the State to assist in some survey and egg take programs as the waters in the south usually open up while our lake are still frozen in.

The ice conditions will soon be diminishing on most of our inland lakes. Anglers should take precaution before venturing on to the ice for fishing purposes.

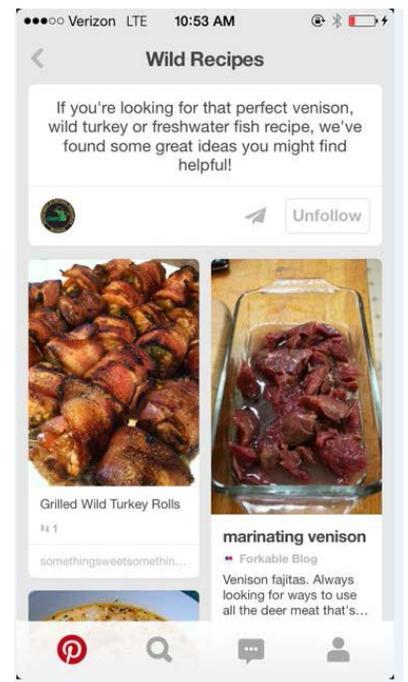
Given the heavy snowfall in the Eastern U.P., we are anticipating the rivers to be very high for this year's spring trout season. So getting off the bank to chase steelhead may be problematic. Make sure to check the water depth before wading in the rivers.

- Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager): We have just begun downstate fish planting at Marquette and Thompson hatcheries.
- Marquette Research Station (Ed Baker, Manager): Currently prepping for field season and finishing up winter work (gear maintenance and repair, fish aging, data analysis, report writing, etc.).

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Education Services Section

Following are highlights of Marketing and Outreach Division work over the last two months:

- The Marketing and Outreach Division (MOD) is working with the Department of Management and Budget to contract for lead reclamation at the Pontiac Lake and Sharonville shooting ranges this summer.
- Marketing staff completed the logo design and color palette for Michigan's Iron Belle Trail.
- The 2nd annual NASP State Tournament was held at Central Michigan University March 13-14th. Nearly 640 student archers participated in the tournament.
- MOD is working on a partnership with the Parks and Recreation Division, Pheasants Forever and the National Wild Turkey Federation to provide BB-gun shooting opportunities in the parks this summer.
- Marketing staff added a Pinterest account to the DNR's mix of social media channels. The Pinterest demographic is 73% female, which enables us to reach a different audience than we currently reach through Facebook and Twitter, which are 40% and 30% female respectively. New "boards" include State Parks, Wild Recipes, Fish Hatcheries, Michigan Wildlife, Michigan Fishing and Invasive Species.
- Education Services Manager Kevin Frailey presented a session on Environmental Literacy at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana in early February. Frailey is chairing the Education Symposia subcommittee for the Michigan hosted conference in January 2016.
- Education services staff Natalie Elkins, Shana Ramsey and Kevin Frailey all presented at the Michigan Science Teachers Association Conference in Grand Rapids in February. Their combined eight presentations attracted 216 educators to sessions ranging from angling education to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts in natural resources. The DNR exhibit also drew hundreds of Michigan educators.



- At the end of February, licensing and reservation staff successfully migrated the Retail Sales System to a secure cloud hosting platform, refreshing hardware and software and reducing operational costs. We are the first customer-facing State of Michigan program to host on the cloud.
- The campground reservation system is currently booking advanced camping reservations for September and moving into the popular harvest festival season bookings.
- MOD worked with the Law Enforcement Division to develop an updated “time of death” application to help conservation officers identify when a deer died in potential poaching cases.
- Sent license retailers and hunting and fishing customers a survey on their 2014 license buying and selling experience.

Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Skip Hagy, District 2

Law Division’s latest Recruit School which began on January 4th is still underway at this time. The school began with 44 recruits and as of this writing we are at 37, no assignments have been determined at this time.

Below are some of the activities our District offices have been involved in since the Joint CAC in March.

- CO Rob Freeborn and Acting Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon patrolled the frozen waters of Little Bay De Noc from Ford River to Rapid River. A very busy day resulted in eight tickets and several verbal warnings being given. Violations included fish without license, non-resident purchasing resident licenses, undersized pike, undersized walleye, unregistered snowmobile, no ORV license, riding double and triple on ORVs, and not wearing helmets.
- COs Rob Freeborn, Brett Gustafson, Jeff Panich and Acting Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon patrolled Little Bay De Noc on Sunday. The weather was colder and fewer anglers were out, however six tickets were written and numerous verbal warnings were given. Violations included unattended lines, possession of marijuana, littering, no ORV license, riding double, and no helmets. Officer Panich also seized what appeared to be cocaine from an individual. A warrant is being sought through the Delta County Prosecutor.
- Acting Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon was up before daylight on Sunday to work a complaint of “set lines” on Little Bay De Noc. As the morning light revealed several anglers setting up, a large group of tip-ups surrounded a very quiet camper. Officer Fitzgibbon approached and contacted a single angler jigging outside of his camper with a total of 15 lines out. He explained that the lines have been out all night and that his friends were in the camper sleeping. Officer Fitzgibbon woke up the sleeping anglers and gave them an education on how to stay in attendance of their lines, and a need to pull them out when they no longer desire to fish. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jared Ferguson and Acting Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon worked a two day patrol over the previous weekend on the waters of Little Bay De Noc from Ford River to Rapid River. The very busy patrols resulted in 15 tickets being written and several verbal warnings being given. Violations included undersized pike, fish without license, fish too many lines, no ORV license and unregistered snowmobiles.
- CO Robert Freeborn assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) with a one car personal injury accident on US 2. The truck had landed on its roof causing fuel to leak from the vehicle, luckily not starting a fire while the occupant was inside. CO Freeborn and the MSP Trooper were able to secure the scene until fire personnel arrived and could get the vehicle right side up.
- CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint of a subject cutting the back straps off a deer while it hung in front of the subject’s garage. CO Freeborn made contact with the suspect who stated that the deer had been hanging in his back shed since the end of deer season and he finally had enough time to butcher the rest of the deer. After CO Freeborn inspected the remnants of the deer carcass, it was determined that the suspect’s story did match that of the current

condition of carcass which appeared to be hanging for quite some time. The suspect also had the proper tag that was still attached to the deer.

- CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint of a snowmobile that hit a groomer on the snowmobile trail north of Shingleton in Alger County. The suspect was not injured but his snowmobile was totaled. CO Freeborn submitted his report to the Alger county Prosecutor for review.
- CO Jared Ferguson was checking anglers on Little Bay De Noc when he observed a group of anglers who had an unregistered ORV. After making contact with the group, CO Ferguson located an undersized northern pike hidden in a snow bank. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint of a subject with too many lines fishing on Little Bay De Noc. CO Ferguson responded to the area and found the angler, who had three tip-ups out and was jigging with two poles. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Michael Evink was conducting a patrol of Big Bay de Noc and Garden Bay. Officer Evink made contact with two brothers at their shack. He noticed that the sled next to the shack had an expired registration. After a few attempts to explain the expired registration, the owner of the sled admitted he had not transferred the title and failed to register the sled.
- COs Michael Evink and Rob Freeborn conducted a snowmobile patrol of western Schoolcraft County. During the patrol the COs checked sleds on the trails and contacted subjects fishing on small inland lakes. The two officers encountered a group of snowmobilers who said they simply were out riding as last minute plan for the day, which may have explained the lack of trail permits. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Robert Crisp, Mike Evink and John Wenzel patrolled northern Alger County on snowmobiles. Activity was slow due to the warming weather, but at the end of the day several contacts were made with those out enjoying the trails. Several comments were made that the snowmobiler's were glad to see the Conservation Officers out patrolling.
- CO John Wenzel was checking lakes in northern Delta County for fishing activity when he spotted fishing equipment out on the ice of one of the lakes with no one around. There was a jig pole set up with a line through the ice. After waiting 45 minutes, a snowmobile operator returned to the area and began reeling in the line. CO Wenzel made contact with the subject, who also admitted to not having a fishing license. The subject, who was from out of state, said he didn't expect to see a conservation officer out in such a remote location. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Robert Crisp and John Wenzel responded to a snowmobile personal injury accident in the Munising area. The Conservation Officers were first on the scene and stabilized the victim who had a broken leg. The victim was then transported by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) crew to the waiting ambulance.
- CO John Wenzel was patrolling snowmobile trails in northern Delta County when he came across a subject operating without a snowmobile trail permit. The subject stated he hadn't purchased one and figured he'd take his chances of not running into law enforcement. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO John Wenzel responded to a complaint of unattended tip-ups near Farmers Dock on the Stonington Peninsula. The complainant said that subjects were putting out tip-ups and then going to sleep for the night and checking the tip-ups in the morning. CO Wenzel arrived before daylight and located the tip-ups. Contact was made with the subjects. Enforcement action was taken.

- CO John Wenzel was patrolling the Ford River for activity when he observed two snowmobile operators not wearing helmets. After stopping the sleds, CO Wenzel observed that one of the sleds had an expired registration. Warnings were given for the lack of helmets and a ticket was issued for the unregistered snowmobile.
- CO Bobby Watson was nearing the end of his patrol in Grand Marais when a pair of snowmobiles that lacked proper registration drove past the intersection he was observing. CO Watson travelled into town looking for the pair who had accelerated quickly once they saw the patrol truck. The two sleds were again observed but continued on an irregular path through town making it difficult to perform a stop. Eventually CO Watson could no longer see the sleds and assumed they had come to a stop behind a local business. CO Watson quickly found the snowmobilers who were now on foot near their sleds. A quick check of their snowmobiles showed both were unregistered. The riders informed CO Watson that one of them had received a ticket the previous night for operating on a state highway. Enforcement action was taken.
- While on snowmobile patrol, CO Bobby Watson performed a stop on a group of snowmobilers operating carelessly through town. A ticket was issued to one of the snowmobilers in the group. As CO Watson delivered the ticket, the rider asked if the CO was an ordained minister, or if he knew of one. The rider explained he was looking to get married to his fiancé on the trails. CO Watson relayed he is not an ordained minister, and could not marry the couple.
- COs Mike Hammill and Bobby Watson were checking local anglers on Big Manistique Lake and observed several unattended tip-ups approximately a half mile off shore. While operating toward one of the tip-ups, the flag tripped and began spooling out line. The COs moved away and observed the tip-up from a distance waiting for an angler from a residence to tend the line. After ample time, CO Hammill made contact with the angler at his residence and enforcement action was taken. One week later the COs again were checking anglers and came across the same situation - a flag up on a tip-up near the same residence. The COs again made contact at the residence to find the same individual from the week earlier and a friend claiming the unattended lines. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Bobby Watson and Mike Hammill worked a snowmobile patrol in northern Luce and Alger Counties. The COs encountered numerous violations and issued several tickets and even more verbal warnings. During one contact, a seasoned nonresident snowmobiler attempted to convince the COs that they were mistaken when he was advised his snowmobile must be registered. The snowmobiler explained he's been operating for years and all he's ever needed was a trail sticker. After the snowmobiler realized the COs didn't buy his story, he admitted to "not getting around to it yet". Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Kevin Postma responded to a report of a car vs wolf accident north of Hessel. CO Postma arrived on scene to find a crowd of people around a very large adult male wolf that appeared to have been killed by a vehicle.
- COs Bobby Watson and Mike Hammill were on routine snowmobile patrol when they observed two adults on a snowmobile pulling a third adult on a small sled. The two individuals on the snowmobile were lacking helmets, the snowmobile had no trail permit or current registration and one of the subjects had two warrants out of the Detroit area. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Kevin Postma followed up on complaints of dogs that were running deer. CO Postma made contact with the owner of the dogs at about 12:00pm in the afternoon and explained the situation to the dog owner. CO Postma inquired as to the dog's location, to which the owner responded, "I let them out about 30 minutes ago, I'm not sure". CO Postma then proceeded to follow fresh tracks to a neighbor's house. The tracks then led into the woods on deer runways. After roughly an hour of trying to locate the dogs, CO Postma informed the owner that the dogs would have to stay on a leash. Enforcement action was taken.

- CO Jeff Panich was checking ice anglers on Munuscong Bay when he found two excited anglers stating they were having a great day of fishing. One of the anglers claimed they were currently going to school to be a Conservation Officer someday and showed CO Panich his fishing license. When CO Panich asked to see their fish, he was more than a little surprised to see a bucket with what looked like minnows. A quick measurement showed that they had a 10" pike, three 12" walleye, and six very small perch. The anglers claimed they didn't realize there are size restrictions on the Great Lakes. CO Panich explained the length requirements on the different species of fish. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Jeff Panich, Brett Gustafson, Robert Freeborn and Acting Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon conducted a group patrol on Little Bay DeNoc. The COs contacted two anglers fishing with nine tip-ups. The two anglers said their buddy was fishing the extra three tip-ups. When asked where the third angler was, they pointed to a small red dot on the other side of the bay. CO Panich took his snowmobile to the third angler who verified they were his tip-ups. When asked how he could tell if he had a fish, the angler stated that he uses binoculars. CO Panich explained that it was just short of a mile to his tip-ups and asked to see the angler's apparently very powerful binoculars. The angler then told CO Panich that his binoculars were with the other two anglers a mile away. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Jeff Panich and Michael Evink worked their way over to Mackinac Island to conduct a snowmobile patrol in response to several complaints of careless and reckless operation. During the afternoon, the two COs made numerous contacts checking snowmobiles. Several tickets were issued that day for failing to transfer registrations, expired registrations and careless driving. The Conservation Officers were greeted by several of the local island residence who thanked them for working the patrols on the island. The local residents on the islands advised that it's been very busy with visiting snowmobilers due to the ice bridge being open for a much longer than usual and welcomed the Conservation Officers patrols to keep everything in order.
- CO Jon Busken contacted two anglers riding their snowmobile off Millecoquin Lake. The anglers stated that the fishing had been quite good and that they had both caught their limit of panfish. After asking to see their catch one angler told the officer, "Are you really going to count all those fish?" The pair was six fish over the daily possession limit. The officer also found that the snowmobile owner had never transferred the machine's title. Both individuals had prior fish related tickets. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jon Busken was on snowmobile patrol in Mackinac County when he observed a snowmobile with no registration and expired trail permit. The operator indicated he had not purchased the trail permit because he had just bought the snowmobile and had not yet gotten it transferred. The officer told him that the 15 day title transfer period only applies to the registration and that a trail permit must be purchased immediately. The investigation revealed that the snowmobile was purchased more than two months ago. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jon Busken was on snowmobile patrol in Mackinac County when he observed a snowmobile operator riding down a trail with no helmet. The operator lowered his head upon seeing the officer while his young son rode up behind him. The son was also not wearing a helmet. When contacted he said that he was not wearing his helmet because he was just going for a short ride. The short ride encompassed crossing multiple driveways, a county road, and US-2. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jon Busken was returning from training to Mackinac County when he saw a Clinton County Sheriff's Deputy initiate a traffic stop on the freeway. The officer stopped to assist the deputy. The distinct odor of marijuana was present in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed marijuana and marijuana wax. The driver had a suspended license, a warrant, and did not have valid insurance on the vehicle. The driver was lodged in the Clinton County Jail.