



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council

### DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: April 2021**

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members.

### DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at:

[www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings](http://www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings) and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

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| April 22 | Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting (virtual) (call 906-226-1331 to attend)                      |
| April 23 | Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council (virtual) (call 517-284-5876 to attend)                          |
| April 29 | Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (virtual) (call 517-331-3790 to attend)                                      |
| April 29 | Non-Motorized Advisory Workgroup (virtual) (call 517-331-3790 to attend)                                   |
| April 30 | Waterways Commission (virtual) (call 517-284-6138 to attend)   |
| May 5    | Equine Trails Subcommittee (all 517-331-6219)  |
| May 13   | Natural Resources Commission Meeting (virtual) (call 517-599-1067 to attend)                               |
| May 14   | Michigan Wildlife Council (call 517-284-6056)  |
| May 18   | Accessibility Advisory Council (virtual) (call 517-284-5946)   |
| May 18   | Coldwater Resources Steering Committee (email <a href="mailto:zornt@michigan.gov">zornt@michigan.gov</a> ) |
| May 18   | Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board (call 906-475-7857)   |
| May 19   | Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (call 517-331-3790)  |
| May 20   | UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Escanaba (virtual)   |
| May 21   | Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council (call 517-284-5876)  |
| May 26   | UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Baraga & Bergland (virtual)  |
| June 10  | Natural Resources Commission Meeting (virtual) (call 517-599-1067 to attend)                               |
| June 15  | UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Sault Ste. Marie (virtual/location TBD)                                  |
| June 17  | Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting (call 226-1331 to attend) (location TBD)                     |

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### U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

Please check with the state park before attending activity for any scheduling changes.

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| April 22-30 | Run for the Trees/Happy Little Virtual 5K ( <a href="http://Michigan.gov/DNRHappyLittleTrees">Michigan.gov/DNRHappyLittleTrees</a> ) |
| May 1       | Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island open for the season   |
| June 12-13  | 2021 Summer Free Fishing Weekend   |
| June 19     | Fayette Historic State Park - Christmas in June  |
| July 2-4    | Baraga State Park - 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Festivities (Campers Only)   |
| July 23-25  | Baraga State Park - Christmas in July (Campers Only)   |
| Aug 16-22   | <b>UP State Fair / Pocket Park Open (Tentative)</b>  |

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### Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom>

- Rustic road trip, burn barrel basics, RAP recognition and more (4/13/21)

- Ready to buy your deer license? (4/9/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Revisiting the historic Walker Tavern and tourism in the 1920s Irish Hills (4/8/21)
- April hunting and trapping opportunities (4/8/21)
- Adopt an osprey nest, monitor reptiles and amphibians, photo ambassador snapshot (4/6/21)
- Keeping deer away from bird feeders (4/6/21)
- Windy, dry conditions boost weekend fire danger; burn with care (4/2/21)
- DNR advises paddlers of changing Dead River outflow in Marquette County (4/2/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Of spring and April showers (4/1/21)
- Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming virtual meetings (3/30/21)
- DNR reminds UP anglers to remove ice shanties by midnight March 31 (3/30/21)
- From restoration and recovery to resiliency and relevancy, DNR celebrates 100 years of conservation success (3/30/21)
- Observing baby wildlife, keeping up with the DNR, forest road maps update (3/29/21)
- NRC members to appear on 'Ask the DNR' Thursday on WNMU-TV13 (3/29/21)
- Conversations & Coffee Virtual Events (3/26/21)
- Enter DNR centennial edition deer patch design contest (3/26/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Exploring the path less traveled (3/25/21)
- Peregrine falcon nest boxes relocated from Portage Lake Lift Bridge in Houghton County (3/23/21)
- Plan now for spring treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid (3/23/21)
- Talk with fisheries staff, get new virtual views, watch invasives webinars (3/22/21)

## Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant  
 Recreation Passport Grant  
 Aquatic Habitat Grant  
 Michigan Invasive Species Grant  
 Wildlife Habitat Grant  
 U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant

Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, [carlockm@michigan.gov](mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov)  
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 Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, [parkerk4@michigan.gov](mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov)  
 Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, [scullonh@michigan.gov](mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov)

## *April UP Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey*

### **Welcome to 5 New EUPCAC Members!**

The following new EUPCAC Council members were selected by the UPCAC Selection Team through an application and vetting process. Please give them a warm welcome!

1. **Julie Timmer** of Sault Ste. Marie (Chippewa County), Affiliation: O.U.T. (Outdoor Use of Trails) House Consortium
2. **Kyle Edwards** of McMillan (Luce County), Affiliation: Tahquamenon Waterfowl Association
3. **Jarrold Biebel** of AuTrain (Alger County), Affiliation: Independent
4. **Robert Liebermann** of Newberry (Luce County), Affiliation: Independent
5. **Olivia Castles** of Newberry (Luce County), Affiliation: Independent

## **2021 License Year Sales Summary for March 2021**

We are *very* early in the sales cycles so it will be interesting to watch the trends as the progress. Online sales are up 65% over this time last year. We are again seeing the numbers for hunting and fishing pace ahead in prior year to date comparisons.

- Total unique fishing customers are up 61%
- Those that are 65 years old or older are now leading the pack up 87% while those age 17-24 are up 41%
- New fishing customers are up 71%
- Female fishing customers are up 79%

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- Total unique hunting customers are up 85%
- New hunting customers are up 55%
- Female hunting customers up 113%
- Spring turkey hunters are up 166%. It is important to note that spring turkey licenses went on sale earlier this year.

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- Nonresident fish customers are up 76% while nonresident hunt customers are up 200%

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- Recreation passport revenue is up 13.9% through the month of February
- ORV licenses are up 107% and snowmobile permits are up 120% through March

## ***Western UPCAC Update***

The WUPCAC Meeting was held on March 18<sup>th</sup> virtually via Zoom with 47 attendees, including Council members, DNR staff, legislative representatives, and the public. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Division Reports
- Election of Officers: Jim Lorenson and Warren Suchovsky were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.
- Inland Walleye Management Plan by Jay Wesley
- Carbon Credit Program on State Land & Repurposing Former Mine Sites for Renewable Energy by Scott Whitcomb
- Handout on the History of the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- CAC Membership Update by Stacy
- Reports from Committee Meetings Held: The Fisheries Committee presented 6 resolutions and only spoke about 2 of them due to time constraints: 1) Concerns about the Inland Walleye Management Plan and Underwater Spearfishing. Both resolutions were approved/passed by the Council. The Wildlife Committee reviewed two responses from the DNR on previous resolutions submitted: Moose Management Plan and Wolf Management Plan Revisions.
- Public Comments: Two registered public comments were heard regarding deer management/NRC recommendations and the inland walleye management plan.
- The next WUPCAC meeting will be held May 19, 2021 (held virtually using Zoom).

## ***April NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer***

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission met on April 15, 2021 in an online conference format.

### **Committee of the Whole**

Re-introduction of new members David Cozad and Tom Baird to the Commission.

**David Cozad**, a life-long resident of Michigan from Bay City, was appointed to the Natural Resources Commission by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in March 2021.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Alma College and a Master of Science degree in aquatic biology from Central Michigan University. He is President of Mainstream Resources, an environmental consulting firm founded in 1982 which specializes in the design, implementation and monitoring of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.

His professional pursuits have been diverse and span both the public and private sectors. David served as Director of Environmental Affairs and Community Development for Bay County from 1993-1996. As well, David was co-founder of Restoration Dredging and served as its President from 2001 to 2015.

When he's not in the field working, you'll likely find David upland bird hunting, fishing, cross country or downhill skiing, hiking, floating Michigan's rivers or participating in numerous volunteer natural resource conservation projects sponsored by grass roots organizations.

**Tom Baird** was appointed to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in March 2021. He was born and raised in Grand Rapids and now resides with his wife, Ellen, in Elk Rapids.

Tom grew up fishing with his brother and grandfather. After college and law school, he returned to fishing, learned to fly fish, and took up hunting for deer and upland game. Outdoor recreation a major part of his life - he enjoys hunting and fishing, and he and his wife Ellen bike, hike, camp, ski, snowshoe, swim, kayak and golf.

Fly fishing for trout was Tom's introduction to conservation of our natural resources and related environmental issues. Conservation groups in which he is or has been involved include the Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation (trustee), Anglers of the Au Sable (president), Trout Unlimited (legal director), the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (chair), FLOW (For Love of Water) (board member), and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (advisory board). He is also a member of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Ruffed Grouse Society and Rotary of Elk Rapids.

Following graduation from Grand Valley State College, Tom worked in the Michigan State Senate before attending the University of Michigan Law School. He spent his career in the Lansing area as an attorney and human resources executive before retiring and moving to Elk Rapids.

### **Director's Report**

Presentations from the meeting are available at the lower left-hand side of the NRC webpage at [Michigan.gov/NRC](https://Michigan.gov/NRC). A [meeting agenda](#) is available at the hyperlink. To find an order being discussed or real estate transaction information, click on hyperlinks within the agenda text.

John Niewoonder of the DNR's Wildlife Division and Lt. Gerald Thayer of the DNR Law Enforcement Division discussed a proposed director's order to regulate target shooting and eliminate safety concerns at the Muskegon State Game Area and the Rogue River State Game Area. The order was previewed for information only with future action by the director to be considered.

Cody Norton, the DNR's large carnivore specialist, discussed updated bear harvest and license quotas.

Casey Reitz, permit specialist, and Krista Hubbard, policy and regulations analyst, discussed falconry regulations up for commission action today.

Dan O'Brien and Nancy Barr, assistant state veterinarians, provided a bovine tuberculosis update report.

### **Director's action**

The director approved Land Use Order of Director No. 3 of 2021 to consolidate and standardize watercraft use restrictions in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

In addition, Director Eichinger said he would be approving several land transactions, one each from Mecosta, Schoolcraft, Benzie, Charlevoix, Barry and Washtenaw counties.

### Commission action

The NRC received a preview Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2021 on falconry regulations. The item was presented for information only with future action on the issue by the commission to be considered.

The commission approved unanimously Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 3 of 2021 on bear regulations and license quotas. The 2021-22 Proposed Upper Peninsula Desired Harvest and License Quotas are: State allocation: 1,185 (+5 from 2019-20); Tribal allocation: 55 (same as 2019-20); State license Quota: 5,771 (-239 from 2019-20). The 2021-22 Proposed Northern Lower Peninsula Desired Harvest and License Quotas are: State allocation: 509 (+109 from 2019-20); Tribal allocation: 72 (+8 from 2019-20); State license quota: 1,230 (+160 from 2019-20).

The commission adjourned the regular meeting, retiring to a closed session to discuss a memorandum of attorney-client privilege exempt under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act laws. The commission adjourned after emerging from close session. No further action was taken.

A legislative report is below. The next meeting of the NRC is scheduled for May 13, 2021. The format for this meeting will also be a virtual session.

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### **How to Participate in the NRC Meetings**

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: [nrc@michigan.gov](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov).
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact the NRC Assistant at 517-599-1067 or email: [nrc@michigan.gov](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov). Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage ([www.michigan.gov/NRC](http://www.michigan.gov/NRC)).

### *April 2021 Legislative Updates – Craig Brunet, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office*

**HB 4026 – Provide for 2-Year Recreation Passport Renewal – Rep. Eisen:** The bill would amend the Motor Vehicle Code to allow for a 2-year renewal of the Recreation Passport when an individual obtains a 2-year vehicle registration.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and is awaiting referral to a Senate Committee.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4035 – Provide for Lake Level Assessment Fee Reimbursement Under Certain Circumstances – Rep. VanSingel:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to specify that PILT paid by the Department of Treasury to each county for Department-managed swamp and tax reverted lands is to be in lieu of all special assessments levied against these state lands under existing law, in addition to all other taxes.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and is awaiting referral to a Senate Committee.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4050 – Exempt Certain Game Location Data from FOIA – Rep. Cherry:** The bill amends the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to allow for a disclosure exemption of public records revealing the specific location or GPS coordinates of game animals.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4078 – Allow an Individual to Possess a Loaded Firearm in or on a Vehicle when on Private Property – Rep. LaFave:** The bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle, including an ATV or UTV, if the individual owns the private land or is accompanied by or has permission of the owner or lessee of the private land.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**HB 4126 (H-1) – Update Funding Formula for Pheasant Stamp – Rep. Howell:** When PA 262 of 2020 created a pheasant hunting license, it required that all the license revenue be deposited into the Pheasant Subaccount of the Game and Fish Protection Account. HB 4126 allows \$0.35 from each pheasant hunting license sale to be distributed to the Wildlife Resource Protection Fund to comply with PA 451 of 1994, Sec. 43555 and allows for payment of 7.5% commission rate to vendors operating Department license sales terminals to comply with Sec. 43541.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and Senate and signed into law by Governor Whitmer as Public Act 6 of 2021.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4142 – Decriminalize Certain Snowmobile Penalties – Rep. Coleman:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to decriminalize specific snowmobile penalties in this state such as, failure to display registration, affixing wrong registration, affixing registration improperly, lost or mutilated registration, and snowmobiling along the highway. The bill would reduce the offense to a state civil infraction subject to a civil infraction of up to \$150.00.

- The bill reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4149 (H-1) – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Damoose:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the following fishing violations to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00: fails to attach the individual's name and address to tip-ups in violation of section 48703(2); or fishes with more than the authorized number of lines in violation of section 48703(1).

- The bill reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4151 – Modify Penalties for Certain Hunting and Fishing Licensing Violations – Rep. S. Johnson:** The bill would decriminalize failure to carry your hunting or fishing license to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4152 (H-2) – Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell:** The bill would decriminalize the following hunting provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine up to \$150.00: failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a ground blind; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a tree stand, scaffold, or raised platform; and supplemental feeding of deer.

- The bill reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4315 – Require Warrants for the DNR to Enter Upon Private Property – Rep. LaFave:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict DNR employee's ability to enter upon private property unless they have permission from the land owner or lessee or if they are a DNR peace officer or park

and recreation officer with a warrant, reasonably believes evidence of a crime will be destroyed or they are in hot pursuit of criminal suspect.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4327 – Extend Temporary Speed Limit Restrictions for Low Elevation Areas – Rep. Eisen:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to extend effective period of temporary speed limit restrictions for waters offshore low elevation areas.

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

**HB 4332 – Modify Placement of Off-Road Vehicle Stickers – Rep. S. Johnson:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the license for a 2-wheel vehicle to be attached to either of the following: centered on the exposed surface of the rear fender or located at a visible place on a front suspension fork.

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

**HB 4363 – Modify Time Periods for Certain DNR Land Transactions – Rep. Howell:** The bill would extend the time-period for the DNR to approve or deny an application for a proposed exchange of state land and for a proposed sale of surplus land, from 180 days to 210 days. The bill would also require the DNR to provide public notice at least 30 days before making a decision to dispose of, lease, or develop certain public land of more than 80 acres in size.

- The bill was reported with recommendation from the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4415 – Require Probable Cause for Peace Officers to Require Individual to Display Hunting, Fur Harvester's or Fishing License – Rep. S. Johnson:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit a conservation officer, law enforcement officer, or tribal law enforcement officer to require that individual to display his or her hunting, fur harvester's, or fishing license unless the peace officer has probable cause.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4470 – Revise Penalty for Illegal Taking of Sturgeon - Rep. Allor:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to increase the fine for the illegally taking of a sturgeon to \$5,000.00. The statute currently allows for a fine of between \$500.00 to \$2,000.00.

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

**HB 4529 – Eliminate ORV Helmet Requirement for Motorcycle Endorsed Operators - Rep. Eisen:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the helmet requirement for operators or passenger on a 4-wheel off-road vehicles if operator has a motorcycle endorsement.

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

**HB 4535 and HB 4536 – Prohibit Wheeled Vehicles on Snowmobile Trails – Rep. Borton:** House Bill 4535 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to would prohibit wheeled vehicles from driving on snowmobile trails between December 1 to April 1. House Bill 4536 would allow for civil fines collected under HB 4535 to be deposited in recreational snowmobile trail improvement subaccount instead of being revenue for public libraries.

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

**SB 106 – Allow the Use of Purple Paint to Designate a No Trespassing Area – Sen. VanderWall:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit a person from engaging in recreational activity or trapping on another person's property if, among other things, the property was posted against entry with purple paint marks on trees or posts around the property.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**SB 149 – Restrict Uses for Camp Curnalia Cottages – Sen. Barrett:** The bill amends the Land Transfer Act and would clarify restricted use of conveyed land to Camp Curnalia Cottage owners association and board members.

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

**SB 160 – Require Warrants for the DNR to Enter Upon Private Property – Sen. McBroom:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict DNR employees ability to enter upon private property unless they have permission from the land owner or lessee or if they are a DNR peace officer or park and recreation officer with a warrant, reasonably believes evidence of a crime will be destroyed or they are in hot pursuit of criminal suspect.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**SB 210 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on ORVs in Certain Circumstances – Sen. McBroom:** The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for ORV use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**SB 211 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on Snowmobiles in Certain Circumstances – Sen. McBroom:** The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for snowmobile use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**SB 251 – Modify Commercial Fishing Regulations – Sen. McBroom:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act for the purpose of restricting the DNR's authority to issue Fisheries Orders for the management of the state-licensed commercial fishery. In addition, the bill would make a number of changes including putting current fisheries orders into statute.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**SB 269 and SB 270 - Create a Qualified Nonresident License for Reduced Fee – Sens. McBroom and VanderWall:** The legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a new license category for Qualified Nonresidents. The new license would be a 50% reduction from other nonresident licenses.

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

**SR 15 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to Allow for Wolf Hunt in 2021 – Sen. McBroom:** A resolution to urge the NRC to authorize, and the Department to organize, wolf hunting and trapping as part of the state's wolf management efforts beginning in 2021.

- The resolution was adopted by the Senate.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.



- SR 17 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to End Study on APR in CWD Core Area – Sen. McBroom:** A resolution to urge the NRC and the Department to end the research study begun in 2019 concerning the effectiveness of antler point restrictions as a management tool in the chronic wasting disease core area.
- The resolution was adopted by the Senate.
  - The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.

- SR 20 – Resolution Urging NRC to Add Eastern Sandhill Cranes as Game Species – Sen. McBroom:** A resolution to encourage the NRC to add Eastern sandhill cranes to the game species list and seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish an Eastern sandhill crane hunting season.
- The resolution was reported favorably by Senate Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting consideration on the Senate floor.
  - The Administration has not yet taken a position on this resolution.

- SCR 6 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to End Study on APR in CWD Core Area – Sen. McBroom:** A concurrent resolution to urge the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources to end the research study begun in 2019 concerning the effectiveness of antler point restrictions as a management tool in the chronic wasting disease core area.
- The resolution was adopted by the Senate and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
  - The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

## Division Updates

### **Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP**

- We are continuing to operate under an updated **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN** approved by the Office of the State Employer, which continues to be primarily teleworking with a tentative return to work date of July 12, 2021. The Office of State Employer continues to require health screening protocol daily during computer log in if you intend to work in a state office building.
- Finance and Operations Division held their spring customer service meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> covering new fishing regulations, wildlife updates, Retail License Sales upgrades, and roundtable Area Manager updates.
- The Department of Natural Resources is celebrating its Centennial birthday: [DNR Centennial \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)

### **April & May 2021 Regulation Reminders**

- 4/10 Last day to register non-incident Otter (see p. 11 in Fur Digest, for all deadlines)
- 4/15 Dog Training closes (also no hunting with dogs)
- 4/23 Beaver trapping closes (Units B&C, Unit A closes on 4/30/21)
- 4/17 Spring Turkey opener for the early hunts (see digest for various unit dates)
- 4/24 Trout Opener (Inland Waters)
- 4/24 Walleye and Pike season open for LP. inland (except note 3, p.13)
- 5/1 May apply for Bear and Elk hunts; Fur harvester licenses go on sale
- 5/1 Can obtain Kill Tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher (Residents Only)
- 5/1 Deadline for returning incidental trapping seals to DNR
- 5/10 Last day to register incidental Otter taken in April (see p. 11 for details)
- 5/15 Walleye and Pike open in U.P. inland / U.P. Great Lakes / St. Mary's River
- 5/29 Bass Opener (Catch and Keep Season)
- 5/29 Frog, Toad, Salamander seasons open until 11/15 (see p. 22)
- 5/31 Hand net & dip net seasons close

## **Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails: Paul Gaberdiel-Eastern UP Trail Specialist**

- **Rail-Trail Projects**
  - Various grant sponsors are working on maintenance projects throughout the EUP.
- **Snowmobile Trail Updates**
  - Snowmobile trail grooming ended the first week of March.
- **ORV Trail Updates**
  - Grant sponsors beginning to work on trails and routes.
  - Starting to receive 2022 grant applications.
- **Equestrian Trail Projects**
  - A site meeting will be held to consider development in Stanley Lake area.
- **Pathway Projects**
  - Tahquamenon Country Pathway Association: An onsite meeting will be held to review proposed forest treatment.
  - Peek-a-boo Hill Mountain Bike trail: Clark Township has submitted a Trust Fund grant application to design and build a mountain bike trail.
- **Event/Use Permits**
  - Drummond Island Jeep Jamboree 5-year permit has been approved and planning has begun for this year's June event.
  - Jeep the Mac Spring Migration: The Drummond Island application has been submitted and is in process of co-management review.
- **General**
  - Doing field work as needed.
  - Getting out to verify some project details before sending out to bid.
  - The statewide trails plan is making progress. Goals have been written and work on action items has begun to accomplish the objectives in order to meet goals.

## **EUP Wildlife Division: Dave Jentoft, Wildlife Biologist-Sault Ste. Marie**

### **Opportunities**

- Remind others...
  - Leave baby animals alone – young animals are often left alone, but the parents are never far. For example, does leave their fawns for extended periods of time to help them stay safe from predators. Young animals are rarely abandoned and their best chance for survival is to remain in the wild.
  - To avoid bear problems, take down bird feeders, remove or secure any other items that could attract bear including garbage and pet foods, and keep grills clean. Most bear complaints are resolved by removing food sources like bird feeders.
- The spring turkey season is Apr. 17 – May 31 in Unit M (the UP), except for hunters with a Hunt 0234 license which may be used May 1 – May 31. As of April 6, leftover licenses remained available in Unit M. Visit [Michigan.gov/turkey](https://Michigan.gov/turkey) for more information and a link to leftover licenses.

### **Surveys**

- During the winter, staff surveyed for deer wintering activity. Results help identify where activity is each year and will be helpful for future reviews of deer wintering complex.
- The 2020-21 winter has been mild when comparing snow results with recent past winters. Snow depths are assessed throughout the winter using results available through NOAA.
- Furbearer registrations are winding down as otter season closed on March 31. Throughout the winter and early spring, staff have registered furbearers by appointment or during designated registration hours at stations. The registration process allows information about each species to be obtained to help monitor and manage the populations.

- Staff conducted deer surveys focusing on fawn observations compared to total deer observations when deer began leaving the wintering areas. The survey is intended to provide some insight on fawn recruitment into the adult population.
- Sharp-tailed grouse surveys began April 1. The survey window continues into early May. Results of the surveys are used to help monitor the sharptail population. Sharp-tailed grouse hunting continues to be an opportunity in portions of eastern Chippewa and Mackinac counties.
- The American woodcock singing-ground survey will begin in late April. This is a federal survey, and past results have suggested a shallow long-term population decline within the flyway and nationally.

### **Staffing**

- Heather Shaw is joining the Wildlife Division team as the Wildlife Biologist at the Cusino Field Office covering the Shingleton Forest Management Unit. Her experience includes being the Region Wildlife Biologist for Ruffed Grouse Society for the Eastern Great Lakes Region (MI, OH, and IN) and a Wildlife Biologist for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
- Seasonal wildlife assistants will soon be coming on staff at each office to assist with nuisance wildlife calls, surveys, habitat management projects, and maintenance activities.

### **Habitat Projects**

- Wildlife Division is partnering with other organizations on wild rice establishment and invasive species treatments. A \$75,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant was received for these activities and outreach for the Blind Sucker Flooding Wildlife Area in northern Luce County. Wild rice planting and invasive species control projects are planned for this year in other areas of the eastern UP, as well.
- Each eastern UP unit plans to plant some red oak saplings this spring. Additionally, some units will be planting some other wildlife trees and/or shrubs to enhance habitat.

### **Forest Resources Division: Bob Burnham, Acting Eastern UP Supervisor**

- Timber Sales
  - Foresters have been implementing the newly developed timber cruise methods that the DNR adopted. All timber sales cruised starting in October 2020 will be using this new protocol.
  - 20 sales were offered for sale in February through early April. 15 sales were sold (including 1 GNA sale), 3 had no bids and 1 sale was withdrawn twice. Bid activity is low to moderate.
  - Moderate activity on timber sales with a lot of moving around due to markets and spring break up.
  - Hardwood pulpwood markets continue to be poor. Aspen markets were good until LP in Newberry limiting wood until the end of the month of April. Pine markets continue to be strong.
  - Free contract extension requests are being evaluated due to existing markets and mild winter weather conditions.
- Forest Inventory: Field work is beginning to wrap up on the 2023 YOE compartments across the EUP.
- Cultivation
  - Trenching: The Newberry Unit is getting an early start on this year's trenching POW for the EUP due to the early spring. They are beginning in the 8-mile corner area. Trenching will be done in the Newberry Unit until end of May. From there we will be moving to the Shingleton Unit for trenching.
  - Roller Chopping: The roller chopper is staged and ready to go in the Sault Unit. We are waiting on road restrictions to be able to move to sites that can be roller chopped early. A couple of sites are accessible however we can't chop those sites until after we get leaf out on the competition to avoid chopping and spurring on an increase in competition.
  - Scarification: Holli Forest Products has the contract. They are hoping to get started as soon as road restrictions are off and we have the DO in place. Currently working on the maps and DO for that contract.
  - Skidder site prep spraying: Skidder site prep spraying maps and PAP's are being worked on. The skidder spraying work won't be starting in the EUP until late June at the earliest.

- 100 acres of aerial release work
- 441 acres of aerial site prep work
- 56 acres of ground/skidder release work
- 214 acres of ground/skidder site prep work
- Planting: Planting is scheduled to begin in the EUP on April 30th. This may vary by a couple days either way based on weather and progress made by the crews as they complete the planting work in the Lower Peninsula.
- Fire
  - Early spring and low snow totals are equating to a really dry start to the spring fire season. The Sault and Shingleton Units each responded to one fire (11.8 acres and 5 acres respectively) and one non-stat fire.
  - Burn permits may be restricted during dry conditions.
  - Fire equipment is readied for use. The Newberry power bully is down for repairs.
  - Prescribed burn plans are currently being written. Three plans are waiting for approval, and one already through the approval process (2 in Newberry and 2 in Shingleton).
- Snowmobile: Season was shorter than normal due to weather conditions and early spring. Trail checks were complete and grooming/repair reimbursements submitted.
- Road and Bridge:
  - Several bridge and culvert projects are awaiting pre-bid meetings, scheduled in April and May. These include:
    - Sault Unit – Batty Doe Lake Road bridge and culvert replacement, Hog Island Creek bridge replacement and Fiborn Trout Pond culvert replacement.
    - Newberry Unit – Murphy Creek bridge replacement and Culhane Creek bridge replacement.
  - A purchase order (PO) is being worked on to purchase gravel for approved capital outlay projects in the Shingleton Unit.
  - Other projects are awaiting approvals.
- Facilities
  - Seney field office is remodeling their bathroom. Newberry is waiting on approvals for the fire shop insulation project.
  - The Mass Timber office building that is proposed to be constructed in Newberry at the location of the currently Newberry Field Office is still in the planning phases. Staff have been in discussion with a design team to discuss the over concept and layout. The design concept is mostly complete and now discussions will begin regarding costs, available funding and construction timelines. This building will house staff from the Newberry Field Office and the Customer Service Center and have garage space as well as a community room to be used by the public. There was a recent DNR Press Release about this subject.  
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-86469-541603--00.html>
- Land Use
  - Land exchange including minerals with Newton Lands in Newton Township, Mackinac County and Mueller Township, Schoolcraft County.
  - Working to resolve structure trespasses that occur on state land in the Newberry Unit.
  - Reviewing easement applications in the Newberry Unit.
- Forest Health
  - The DNR forest health program worked with local cooperative invasive species management area staff to complete a second winter of surveys for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) along the Lake Michigan shoreline. No HWA has been found in the U.P.
  - Other forest health monitoring activities are beginning as the snow has receded. Surveys of pockets of red pine mortality identified during aerials surveys will be evaluated for the presence of Heterobasidion root disease (HRD). Currently only two positive locations are known in the U.P. in Luce and Mackinac counties.

- Commercial Forest: No report
- Research: Reviewing permit applications for research in the Newberry Unit.
- Training
  - Annual Fire Refresher (RT-130) – all Unit staff
  - S290 – Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior – 2 staff
  - S270 – Basic Air Operations – 1 staff
  - S131 – Firefighter Type 1 – 1 staff
  - Michigan Firefighter Training Council – Emergency Driving/Lights & Siren
- Vacancies
  - 1 forester retired out of the Sault Unit creating another vacancy within the Unit.
  - Forester and Forest Technician positions statewide vacancy posting closed the first week of April. Interviews (virtual) will be scheduled soon. Each Unit currently has 1-2 Forester/Technician openings.
  - New surveyor has been hired and is working out of the Shingleton office.
  - Multiple Working Out of Class (WOC) positions are being filled and back-filled as needed across the state. Currently WOC positions include the EUP District Supervisor, Shingleton Unit Manager, EUP Timber Management Specialist and the Statewide Silviculturalist. The Newberry Fire Supervisor WOC position assignment should be announced soon. These positions are anticipated to last approximately 3 months, with decisions to be made at that time to either fill the positions permanently or continue with WOC assignments.
- Other
  - Offices remain closed and staff are still in telework status, which has been extended to at least July 12.
  - Multiple staff from the EUP have been dispatched for two-week assignments at the Ford Field Type 1 Mass Vaccination site with our Incident Management Teams (IMTs) to help sit up and run the operation.
  - Fire Officer (FO) Crawford was featured in the Sault News: Article referenced duties as a FO, how Shane got to where he is and how he is following in the footsteps of his grandfather (retired FO in Brighton).

### **Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Skip Hagy, Eastern District 2 Law Supervisor**

- A light winter and early spring really kicked off fish and ORV activity across the District this coupled with folks still working remotely due to Covid has lots of people out recreating, some with a little too much enthusiasm as you will read below.
- Law Division is in the process of completing backgrounds in preparation of hiring some new officer candidates this year.
- Below are some of the cases officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 2-8-2021**

- **CO Robert Freeborn** assisted MSP in looking for 2 subjects with felony warrants. The officers received a tip that they were currently at one of the subject's residence. CO Freeborn along with Trooper Repinski located the subjects at the residence that they were said to be at. Both subjects were placed under arrest without incident and transported to the local jail.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** worked the annual fishing derby on Indian Lake. The derby this year was the busiest on record with 571 registered fishermen from all over the state. As CO Freeborn made his rounds around the lake, he was thanked by several fishermen for being out there and keeping an eye on the derby. As CO Freeborn checked one group of fishermen, he observed the son of a fishermen slip and fall on the glare ice and hit his face. CO Freeborn assisted the father with medical needs and eventually transported the father and son to shore for further medical treatment due to a possible broken nose and fractured eye socket. CO Freeborn and Cpl. Mike Hammill patrolled the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the derby which was much quieter. While overall compliance was good, the COs did locate fisherman in the derby fishing too many lines, and a citation was issued. The COs also assisted the derby officials with a dispute over the winning pike which was worth \$1400.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** along with CO Mike Evink and the local Sheriff's Department participated in a group snowmobile patrol in northern Schoolcraft County. Despite having temperatures hovering around zero degrees and wind chills well below zero the trails were very busy. The officers made several enforcement stops resulting in several citations for expired registration's, no trail permit and careless operation. The officers also responded to 2 separate snowmobile wrecks a half mile apart from each other. The first wreck involved 2 snowmobiles where one crossed into the path of an oncoming snowmobile due to excess speed and nearly hit head on but ended up hitting skis. One of the operators sustained substantial injuries resulting in being removed from the trail by EMS. The operator at fault

was issued a citation for careless and suffered a possible broken ankle. The second wreck involved a single snowmobile that failed to negotiate a corner and fell off his snowmobile which then struck a large Red Pine head on. Luckily, the operator was unharmed, but his snowmobile was totaled. The operator was issued a citation for careless operation.

- **CO Mark Zitnik** was less than five minutes into his snowmobile patrol when he came upon a snowmobile accident. The CO noticed a young man lying in the woods unable to move. It was found that the 15-year-old Ohio boy was driving too fast for conditions on the rough trail and struck a tree. The CO rendered first aid with a passerby who was an off duty EMT. Shortly after, Alger County's Rescue 21 and EMS crew were on scene and transported the snowmobiler to UP Health Systems Marquette where he had to have emergency surgery before being transported further. He was then air lifted to U of M Hospital for further care.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** were on snowmobile patrol on a busy Saturday in Alger county. With the fresh snow and cold temperatures there was an over-abundance of eager riders out on the trails. The COs contacted over 90 snowmobilers, gave 10 Verbal Warnings, and 9 citations for; no trail permit, fail to attach trail permit, and careless operation.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** conducted a snowmobile patrol in the Wetmore area. COs encountered several violations including careless operation, unregistered snowmobiles, and individuals failing to obtain trail permits. In total, six citations were issued for these violations.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** successfully served an arrest warrant without incident on a subject. The warrant stems from an investigation conducted by CO Lynch. The hunter is being charged for illegally shooting a deer and recreationally trespassing.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was checking anglers on Munising Bay near the Anna River Mouth. CO Dani encountered a group fishing in a pop-up shack and requested to see their fishing licenses. One of the anglers presented CO Dani with a 2019 Fishing License and stated he could not find his 2020 license, but that he believed he bought one. The angler stated he could not remember when or where because of COVID-19. A Retail Sales System check with DNR Dispatch verified the angler had not purchased a 2020 fishing license. The angler was issued a citation for fishing without a license.
- **COs Andrea Dani, Chris Lynch, and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** were on patrol entering onto Pete's Lake when officers observed one angler running at a tip-up. Upon contact, officers noted the angler had four lines set. The angler was issued a citation for fishing more than three lines. COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten patrolled a local ice fishing tournament when they located several lines that had been left unattended overnight. The COs contacted 3 individuals the following morning at each ice shanty tending the lines and admitting to leaving lines out overnight in hopes of getting a head start on the following days tournament. Citations were issued for fishing with lines not in immediate control as well as a citation for fishing too many lines to an individual who had set 4 lines the night before. Warnings were issued for no name on shanties, no name on tip-ups and no fishing license on person.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol of Northern Luce county when he located a coyote snare set up on a remote lake. A search of the area revealed 9 total snares around the lake. The snares each had several violations including a non-relaxing lock, no deer stop, and did not have the trapper's identification attached. The next morning, COs Cole VanOosten and Justin Vinson waited for the trapper to check his traps. Contact was made with the trapper and he admitted to setting up the snares and led the COs to all the snares he had set. The trapper stated that he was unfamiliar with the laws governing snaring, so the COs were able to provide him with a furbearer's digest and explain the laws to him. A citation was issued to the individual for using an illegal snare and a warning was issued to him for using untagged snares.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Mackinac County when he found a vacant ice shack with several tip ups around. CO VanOosten tripped one of the tip-ups and waited for 40 minutes before an individual came out to the area. The individual stated that he and his buddies had left earlier in the day to look for a new fishing spot and he just came back to check the lines. In total there were 4 tip-ups set up outside the shack and a consent search of the shack revealed a fifth line inside. The individual admitted that he was tending all of the lines. A citation was issued to the individual for fishing with lines not in immediate control and a warning was issued for fishing with more than three lines and no name and address on his tip-ups.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Luce county when he contacted a group fishing in a local pike tournament. CO VanOosten located a pike that was lying next to an ice shanty. One individual admitted to catching the fish and that he was in a hurry when he measured it and was pretty sure it was legal. CO VanOosten measured the northern pike, and it was determined that the fish was 23". CO VanOosten educated the individual on the importance of properly measuring fish. A citation was issued to the individual for possessing a Northern Pike less than 24".
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was on routine patrol when he observed a large group of people ice fishing. Upon making contact CO Sumbera found one individual fishing with two tip ups and a jigging pole, the subject stated that he could not find his fishing license but knew he had one. Further investigation revealed that the individual had not purchased a 2020 fishing license, a citation was issued for fishing without a license.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** observed a vacant ice shanty with three tip ups set up outside. CO Sumbera watched the tip ups until the owner returned an hour later. The individual stated that he had to run into town quick and drop off his kid. The individual stated that he was gone for around an hour. CO Sumbera issued a citation for fishing unattended lines.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** responded to a complaint of hunters and dogs chasing bobcat across private property. Upon arrival CO Sumbera contacted the hunters involved. An investigation revealed one individual trespassed by leading his dog in on a bobcat track on private property. The individual stated that he assumed it was private when he set the dogs loose. CO Sumbera is awaiting confirmation from the landowner regarding prosecution.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Sgt. Calvin Smith** patrolled northern Luce and Alger county for snowmobile activity. Traffic was heavy both on and off the trails. Multiple violations were witnessed including failure to register snowmobile, and failure to display trail permit. Citations were issued for failure to affix trail permit.
- **CO Justin Vinson** patrolled western Luce and Schoolcraft Counties. Snowmobile trails were busy with activity. Several citations were issued for careless operation, failure to register snowmobile, failure to attach trail permit, and failure to display registration.

- **CO Justin Vinson** responded to a complaint from RAP hotline of snowmobiles trespassing on private property. Once on scene CO Vinson contacted the complainant who explained that snowmobiles were not riding on his property but crossing his driveway. The complainant voiced his displeasure with the loud noise and claimed they are pushing snow into his driveway blocking him in. The complainant showed the officer where the issues were occurring approximately 20 feet down the road from his driveway entrance. After observing the complainant's driveway, it was determined that no snowmobiles had crossed it and were legally operating in the area.
- **COs Mike Olesen, Todd Sumbera, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** performed a group patrol of Munuscong Bay during a local fishing tournament. Throughout the patrol the COs observed ORV and snowmobile violations on the ice. Individuals were cited for operating a snowmobile without a helmet and for operating an ORV without an ORV license.
- **CO Mike Olesen** performed a snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County. CO Olesen patrolled snowmobile trails and contacted riders for operating a snowmobile with expired registration and operating a snowmobile without a valid trail permit. Citations were issued.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 2-22-2021**

- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a Saturday afternoon snowmobile patrol. CO Evink monitored numerous trail crossings and checked close to two hundred snowmobiles. Compliance was very good. CO Evink issued a few warnings for failing to attach trail permits. At the end of the patrol CO Evink responded to assist CO Andrea Dani and the Alger County Sheriffs Dept with a Snowmobile PI accident in Alger county.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was conducting a night patrol on Little Bay de Noc. While on patrol CO Butzin encountered several fishermen with lines that were not being attended, one being a tip-up that had a flag up for over 35 minutes prior to CO Butzin making contact. Upon contacting the fishermen, they admitted to setting the lines and stated they were going to check them when they woke up that morning. CO Butzin explained how lines must be in immediate attendance. Two fishermen were issued citations for fishing without lines in immediate control.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Fairbanks Township when he encountered several snares set for bobcats. CO Butzin waited on these snares which were not tagged with the owner's information at various times over several days. At the time, bobcat season for state trappers was closed but some tribal bobcat seasons remained open. Unable to determine who the traps belonged to CO Butzin seized the traps. Several days later the owner of the traps was discovered, located, and contacted. A report is being submitted to the Sault Tribal Court on one individual for using traps without name and address affixed as this is not the first time CO Butzin has encountered this individual trapping with untagged traps.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was on patrol south of Munising near Trail 8. CO Dani contacted several snowmobiles. One included a snowmobile with a registration which expired in 2013. The owner stated it was registered, but he had forgot the decal and registration in his vehicle. CO Dani ran the snowmobile by VIN and registration through Dispatch. The snowmobile came back expired in 2013, the owner then admitted the snowmobile was a back-up machine that was not registered. The operator was issued a citation for an unregistered snowmobile. Another snowmobile was contacted with a Wisconsin registration expired in 2020. The operator was unable to locate a registration certificate. CO Dani ran the snowmobile through Station 20, and it returned expired in 2020. The operator was issued a citation for failure to display a registration decal. At the same location, two operators were cited for careless operation for disregarding a stop sign at a County road intersection.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Chris Lynch** patrolled Trail 8 for snowmobile activity. Several contacts were made, and a number of citations were issued for careless operation of a snowmobile for disregarding a stop sign at a County road intersection.
- **CO Andrea Dani** responded with Alger County Sheriff Deputy Sergeant Sam Grahovac and CO Chris Lynch to a snowmobile rollover on H-58 near Kingston Lake. Officers located the injured operator via snowmobile and relayed injury information to Alger County Dispatch and EMS. The operator was alert and walking with difficulty breathing upon officer arrival and was transported by Alger County EMS to UP Health System Marquette.
- **CO Andrea Dani** responded to a call of a snowmobile versus tree personal injury accident. CO Dani was assisted by Alger County EMS via patrol sleds to catch up to the tracked EMS unit on Trail 7/8 to assist with securing the scene and loading the operator. The operator had been ejected from the snowmobile upon impact. Upon investigating the scene with CO Mike Evink and Alger County Sheriff Deputy Sergeant Sam Grahovac, officers determined a combination of speed and lack of knowledge of the trail lead to the operator leaving the south side of the trail and collide with several trees. The operator was transported by EMS to Munising Memorial Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** conducted a meat processor inspection and located a suspicious record. The COs followed up with the hunter who confessed to taking a 5-point buck without a license. The antlers and gun were seized, and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's office for review.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was conducting a snowmobile patrol in Alger County when he observed two different groups run a stop sign on the trail. The CO stopped the group, addressed the violations, and issued one citation to each group for careless operation.
- **Sgt. Calvin Smith, CO Cole Vanoosten, and CO Mark Zitnik** were on group patrol in Schoolcraft County checking for snowmobile violations. In all, the group wrote three violations for careless operation and several warnings.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on his way home when he noticed a group of 15 snowmobilers attempting to get a snowmobile unstuck from a snowbank. The CO assisted the group in shoveling out the snow and lifting the sled out of the bank. Once the snowmobile was free the group returned to riding. One rider attempted to turn around and got stuck. The CO walked back over and drove the snowmobile out of the powder. The group of riders from Detroit were thankful and proceeded to the snowmobile trail.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on his way home one evening when he noticed a snowmobile stuck on the side of M-28 in the deep snow. The rider was attempting to get the snowmobile unstuck and was concerned because the machine kept sliding down the steep bank. The CO asked if he could assist. The CO drove the snowmobile out of the steep bank and reunited the snowmobiler with his group.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** patrolled Drummond island for snowmobile activity. During the patrol CO Sumbera contacted numerous snowmobilers out enjoying the trails. Compliance with laws was high however CO Sumbera did encounter some violations such as,

operate snowmobile with expired registration, operate snowmobile without a trail permit, and operate an ORV without an ORV license, citations were issued.

- **CO Mike Olesen** investigated an illegal burning complaint of a property that had some demolition work underway. CO Olesen checked the scene and the burnt debris, and it appeared to be trees cleared from the area. Upon further investigation, the individuals who were performing the demolition work were contacted and information was obtained to show that the material from the demolition was being disposed of through a local sanitation service.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Todd Sumbera** patrolled Luce, Schoolcraft, and Alger counties for snowmobile activity. Traffic was heavy both on and off the trails. Multiple violations were witnessed including careless operation, failure register snowmobile, and failure to display trail permit. Several citations and warnings were given.
- **CO Justin Vinson** patrolled western Luce and Schoolcraft Counties. Snowmobile trails were busy with activity. Several violations addressed included careless operation, failure to register snowmobile, failure to attach trail permit, and failure to display registration. Citations and warnings were given.
- **COs Todd Sumbera, Justin Vinson, Cole VanOosten, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** conducted a snowmobile sound meter patrol in Schoolcraft County. Citations issued included careless operation, exceeding noise emission standards, operate snowmobile with expired registration, and operate snowmobile without a trail permit.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** received a call of a personal injury (PI) accident that occurred on a snowmobile in Northern Luce County. CO VanOosten was first on scene and assisted with providing medical treatment and transporting the patient off the trail and into the ambulance. It was the riders first time riding a snowmobile and had just rented the snowmobile earlier that morning. The rider made it approximately 30 miles before he hit a tree.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol in Mackinac County when he located a tip-up placed in the middle of the lake. The flag on the tip-up was up at the time it was located and there was no name on the tip-up. CO VanOosten waited next to the tip up for approximately 45 minutes before he was able to make contact with the fisherman. The fisherman admitted to setting the tip-up earlier that morning and not tending to it. CO VanOosten issued the man a ticket for fishing with lines not in immediate control and a warning was issued for no name on tip-up.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Mike Olesen** attended an online RAD/NUC detection training offered by Counterterrorism Operations Support Team. The COs gained valuable knowledge in detecting radiation while on routine patrols.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3-8-2021**

- **CO Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** patrolled fishing activity on Munising Bay and ice climber safety on Grand Island. CO Dani encountered an angler bobbing for lake trout. The angler stated he had a small lake trout. When asked how big the angler felt was small, the angler stated he believed the lake trout was about 11 inches long, but he did not measure it. The fish measured at a legal 15.5", and the angler was reminded that if it had been 11", it would have been an illegal fish. The angler thought lake trout need only be 10", but the legal minimum size is 15 inches.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** were invited to a Northern Michigan University Zoom class. Officers explained to the students the hiring process for Conservation Officers, why they chose the occupation, and how each day and season dictates the focus of enforcement for each shift. Officers ended the class with a Q&A discussing how officers work with biologists and many other environmental organizations and law enforcement agencies to be successful.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was at the Shingleton Field Office when she heard a BOL (Be on the Lookout) for a vehicle traveling in her direction just a few miles west of her location on M-28. CO Dani observed the suspect vehicle slow down and activate a turn signal then disregard the turn and continue past her patrol truck. The driver turned his head around to stare at the patrol truck. CO Dani followed the vehicle and observed it slowly weaving throughout the lane. CO Dani conducted a traffic stop and the vehicle pulled into a convenience store. The driver exited his vehicle, gripping and leaning on the side of his truck as he walked around it. He then stated with a slurred speech that he did not see the patrol truck or know it was behind him. CO Dani observed a white powdery substance covering the driver's tongue and lips. CO Dani relayed this information to dispatch, at which time the driver tried to quickly drink a large amount of apple juice to wash it away. The driver handed CO Dani a debit card instead of a driver's license and then stated the powder must be toothpaste. A closer look indicated the same substance on and around the driver's nose. The driver then stated the powder must be snot from snow blowing earlier. Alger County Sheriff Department SGT Sam Grahovac then arrived on scene and performed Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. The driver failed the SFSTs. He was arrested and transported by SGT Grahovac to Munising Memorial Hospital for a blood draw and lodged in the Alger County Jail for Operating While Intoxicated by Drugs.
- While on routine snowmobile patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** sat on a busy trail crossing. While all the snowmobiles had the proper registration and trail permits, CO Robert Freeborn observed 2 separate groups of snowmobiles fail to stop at the stop sign and travel across a county road without even looking. CO Freeborn was able to stop both groups of snowmobiles and addressed the violation. Both groups realized what they did when they were shown the stop sign. Citations were issued for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was patrolling Grand Marais when he observed the ice breaking up rapidly in the bay due to very high winds. As CO Freeborn checked the bay, he observed an ice shack still on the ice near the open water. Due to the ice conditions CO Freeborn wasn't able to walk on the ice but was able to observe the name on the shack with his binoculars. With the help of **CO Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik**, he was able to locate the owner of the shack. CO Freeborn contacted the subject who was aware of the situation. The subject stated he would try in the am when the wind died down. CO Mark Zitnik received a call from the subject advising he had removed the shack without incident.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a snowmobile patrol on Schoolcraft County trails and Gulliver area lakes. Activity was light and compliance was good.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a patrol of Indian Lake. Co Evink issued a few warnings during the patrol. Fishing was slow and compliance was high.



- **CO Steve Butzin** patrolled Little Bay de Noc several times over the past two weeks and encountered several violations including individuals fishing without licenses and operating ORV's without permits. These individuals were issued citations for their violations.
- **CO Steve Butzin** investigated one Escanaba resident as he was suspected to have shot a deer during the past rifle season without a license. An interview was conducted, and evidence was found which proved that this individual shot a 6-point buck without a license. A report is being submitted for taking a deer without a license to the Delta County Prosecutors Office.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Andrea Danni** conducted two snowmobile patrols over the weekend. The COs issued three citations for careless operation. While on patrol the COs responded to a snowmobile personal injury accident near Kingston Lake. The operator lost control of the snowmobile and crashed. The COs assisted the Alger County Sheriff's Office with the investigation and removing the injured person to an awaiting ambulance.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Rob Freeborn** conducted a snowmobile patrol over the weekend and observed hundreds of snowmobilers due to the nice weather. No citations were issued during the patrol and a few warnings were given for failing to display trail permits and failing to display registrations.
- **COs Chris Lynch, Steve Butzin, Rob Freeborn, and Mike Evink** conducted a patrol on Little Bay De Noc over the weekend. Hundreds of anglers were checked due to the nice weather and only one citation was issued to a snowmobiler operating a snowmobile with an expired registration.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when they observed a snowmobile operating against the flow of traffic, no helmet, and an expired registration. A traffic stop was conducted and upon running the operator it was discovered he had a restricted driver's license which he was operating in violation of. The driver was issued a citation for operating without a helmet.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** assisted the Michigan State Police with a search of a man in the Chatham area who was walking on the road with a shotgun in his underwear, acting disoriented. The State Police, Alger County Sheriff Deputy Sam Grahovac and CO Zitnik searched the area for an hour looking for the man. The search resulted with no one being found walking the road with a shotgun.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** used Microsoft Teams to attend a Sportsman's Coalition meeting with the area's wildlife biologists and local hunters. The meeting consisted of upcoming changes to deer regulations, bear regulations, small game hunting, and the delisting of the Gray Wolves. In all, very few members attended the virtual meeting, but the sportsmen who did were happy with the deer regulations and upset that there has not been a wolf hunt put in place in Michigan yet and hope that this will change soon.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** were on their snowmobiles checking ice anglers on Munising bay. CO Zitnik noticed several tip-ups outside of a blue Clam shack and as he approached the angler exited the shack and started talking with the CO. CO Zitnik observed the angler had two jigging rods down and activity fishing along with two tip-ups out. The man apologized to CO Zitnik and said he has never done this before. The angler was issued a citation for using more than 3 lines.
- **COs Todd Sumbera, Cole VanOosten, and Mike Olesen** conducted a late-night group patrol on Munuscong bay focusing on fishing lines being left out over night during a fishing tournament. The COs located four lines that were left out over night with no one tending to them. Contact was made with the four individuals as they returned to check on the lines they had left out. Citations were issued for fishing with an unattended line.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted a fisheries patrol in the Les Cheneaux area. While on the ice CO Sumbera observed an individual travelling via snowmobile at a high rate of speed without a helmet. When making contact the subject stated that he was just out looking for fish and didn't realize that helmets were required. A citation was issued for operating a snowmobile without a helmet.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** came across an angler that was trying his luck, the lone angler had nine tip ups set out. CO Sumbera issued the angler a citation for fishing with more than three lines.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa county when he observed multiple snowmobiles operating on a trail adjacent to a roadway that did not appear to have valid registrations. CO Olesen made a stop of the group of snowmobiles and addressed the violations present. Two of the snowmobiles had registrations on their person but had yet to affix them to the snowmobile. The other operator failed to have his snowmobile registered. A citation was issued for operating an unregistered snowmobile and the other riders were given a warning advised to affix their valid registrations to their snowmobiles.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled Chippewa county, checking ice anglers along the Lake Superior shoreline. During the patrol CO Olesen contacted many ice anglers on Emerson and Mosquito bay and noted high compliance with the fishing regulations.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** received a call from a fisherman stating that an individual near him was fishing with too many lines. CO VanOosten contacted the fishermen on his way off the ice who admitted that he was fishing with four lines. A report was generated and submitted to the Luce County prosecutor requesting charges against the individual for fishing more than three lines.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was driving on M28 in Chippewa county when he encountered severe whiteout conditions. CO VanOosten came up on a large traffic jam of approximately 40 cars who could not navigate because of the extreme conditions. CO VanOosten notified Chippewa county dispatch and with the assistance from the Michigan State Police, US Border Patrol, Bay Mills police department the stretch of highway was closed with traffic being directed to a different route. Several accident reports were taken but fortunately no injuries were reported.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3-22-2021**

- While on patrol in Alger County, **CO Andrea Dani** encountered a vehicle with hazard lights on and front-end damage along M-28 near AuTrain, and then observed a dead deer in the ditch behind the vehicle. CO Dani contacted the driver and confirmed there were no injuries. The driver stated glare from the sun caused her to not see the deer at all. CO Dani completed a report for the car versus deer accident and waited with the driver for a tow truck.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was approached by an angler with a large steelhead. The angler was concerned about several large masses found in and around the gills of the fish. CO Dani sent photographs of the fish to DNR Fisheries Division, who identified the masses as thyroid hyperplasia, or goiters, which is associated with numerous factors, including iodine deficiency, genetic susceptibility, environmental

factors, and exposure to goitrogenic substances. Fish Biologist Cory Kovacs noted this did not make the fish harmful to eat, but that anglers should be aware of other potential risks in eating any fish whether there are visible abnormalities or not.

- **CO Andrea Dani** was called to check on a wolf dead along M-28 near Wetmore. CO Dani inspected the animal and determined it to be a coyote.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was on patrol on a windy day when she observed a constructed ice shack in the lane of traffic on Sand Point Road. A few anglers pushed the shack out of the road. CO Dani contacted the owner and arranged its removal.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a complaint from Parks Division in reference to a photographer taking photos at Palms brook State Park. The photographer was flying a drone over the Big Springs Kitchi ita kippi. He was then using those photographs to promote his photography business and rental properties. He was flying his drone in contrast to state land use orders. He was issued a ticket.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on his way home from an evening patrol. He observed a vehicle pulled off the road with three occupants roaming around the vehicle. The CO stopped to see if they were ok. The owner of the vehicle informed the CO they were sledding and lost her mother's wedding ring. The CO gave the group contact information as to where they could rent a metal detector to assist in locating the lost ring.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** patrolled the river mouths of Alger County attempting to locate anglers and see if all of the rivers were accessible by vehicle. No anglers were located, but it was found that the majority of the river mouths are accessible by vehicles.
- **Sgt Jerry Fitzgibbon** attended the Zoom meeting for UPSA on Saturday.
- **COs Steve Butzin, Rob Freeborn, and Chris Lynch** worked on background investigations for our next class of COs
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Corporal (CPL.) Kevin Postma** conducted a patrol on Munuscong Bay during a weekend fishing tournament. Participation was high with most anglers in compliance with fishing laws. CPL. Postma observed an individual fishing with four lines in the water catch a 12-inch jumbo perch. The angler's celebrations after the catch were quickly abated when realizing CPL. Postma was observing. A citation was issued for fishing too many lines. CO Sumbera contacted a group that claimed fishing was slow, after disclosing they had caught one walleye, one angler stated I'm pretty sure it is 15 inches. CO Sumbera measured the fish to find that it was an undersized fish at 14 inches. CO Sumbera issued a citation for possession of an undersized walleye.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was checking ice fishermen on the St Marys River over the weekend, making contact with one individual with an unlicensed ORV and a jet sled with blood in it. The angler stated that he caught one northern pike and took it back to camp when he had left for lunch. A warning was issued for the ORV license. The next day CO Sumbera contacted the same individual operating his ORV back to his vehicle when his belongings fell out of his jet sled. Upon arrival the angler quickly covered his jet sled with plywood. CO Sumbera asked if he had any luck fishing. The angler stated, "I saw a lot of fish." Further investigating revealed that the angler had speared five northern pike. CO Sumbera issued a citation for an overlimit of northern pike and seized three pike all over 30 inches in length.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** ran into the same angler for the third day in a row on the St Mary's River. The angler stated that he saw some fish but not as many as the days prior, still bringing in a limit of two northern pike. CO Sumbera asked how many fish he had back at camp and the individual thought he had twelve fish. Meeting at the angler's camp, CO Sumbera located 11 fish, none of which had been processed. A citation was issued for an overlimit of northern pike.
- **CO Mike Olesen** followed up on a complaint of a loon and goose carcasses dumped along the side of a road in Chippewa County. CO Olesen patrolled the area, making contact with the complainant and then locating the carcasses. Upon examining the dumped bird remains, it was determined that 4 of the 5 carcasses were of domestic chickens and the final carcass was that of a domestic duck. CO Olesen cleared the scene and is checking the area for a potential suspect for littering.
- **CO Mike Olesen** received a call from Report all Poaching (RAP), regarding an eagle that may have been hit on I-75. CO Olesen patrolled down to the Chippewa/ Mackinac county line and checked the area for the eagle. CO Olesen located a deer carcass along the east side of the road and just beyond the roadkill deer a deceased eagle was located. The bird was transported and stored at the Sault Sainte Marie field office to be sent to the repository and the deer carcass was moved further away from the highway to prevent future vehicle collisions with the eagles.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol in Mackinac County when he observed a fisherman with several tip-ups out. As CO VanOosten approached, he observed 5 tip-ups around where the individual was fishing. When asked to see his fishing license the fisherman stated "Fishing license? I don't need a fishing license". The fisherman stated that the state had no power over him, and he could do whatever he wants. The individual admitted to having 5 tip-ups out as well as jigging a pole in another hole. The fisherman stated that he was part of a "non-treaty" tribe from Canada that did not sign the 1836 Treaty. CO VanOosten informed him that he was in the 1836 treaty area and had to follow state law unless a member of one of the recognized tribes of the 1836 treaty. A license check determined that the individual did have a Michigan fishing license. When asked why he did not provide his fishing license the individual laughed and stated he always does that just to be difficult. A citation was issued for fishing more than three lines, no name/address on tip-up and failing to provide fishing license on demand of a conservation officer.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a call of an individual with a possible heart attack was called out near his location. CO VanOosten was first on scene and provided first aid until EMS was able to arrive.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4-5-2021**

- **CO Michael Evink** assisted MSP with a domestic disturbance in Schoolcraft County. CO Evink was able to assist in securing the scene and talking to one of the subjects while a trooper talked to the other. The issue was resolved without further incident.
- **CO Michael Evink** was patrolling the suburbs of Garden, MI late on a Saturday night when he observed a field on fire. CO Evink waited on scene for anyone to come and take responsibility for the fire. After a few minutes' CO Evink made the decision to call for a fire response. Garden Twp. fire was dispatched and arrived on scene a short time later. The fire was put out, no structures were damaged and there is currently no suspect.

- **CO Chris Lynch** recently had a deer case adjudicated in court where the subject illegally shot an 8-point buck. The subject was sentenced 5 days jail, fined \$450, ordered to pay \$6000 in restitution, loss of hunting privileges until 2027, and the crossbow forfeited. The case stemmed from a multi-agency investigation where several subjects were charged with various hunting and fishing violations.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** responded to 5 separate grass fires in a two-day period of time. Dry conditions and high winds have made for high fire conditions. Reasons for the fires starting varied from people burning vegetation, dumping ashes from the wood boiler, kids playing with lighters, and people having recreational campfires.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when a call for CPR in progress came out. Several first responders were ahead of the COs already responding to the call. The COs quickly learned the difficulty it was going to be to find this location and the poor conditions the dirt roads and two treks where to get there. The COs proceeded towards the location just in case. The COs arrived at the area and learned first responders couldn't find the exact location. The COs figured out how to get to the location utilizing their mapping programs and coordinating with Masonville EMS. An Masonville EMS unit arrived on scene just ahead of the COs who were second on scene. Masonville EMS rendered aid to the unresponsive subject who didn't have a pulse and the COs began CPR. While the COs were conducting CPR more Masonville EMS personnel arrived on scene along with two Michigan State Police troopers, and Rampart EMS. The COs along with a MSP trooper, and medic continued CPR until the subject got a pulse. After the subject got a pulse he was loaded into the ambulance and was being transported to Marquette hospital. The ambulance made it just down the road before the subject lost his pulse again and had to pull over to render required immediate first aid. The COs went to the location to assist and the subject regained a pulse. The ambulance then continued to the hospital.
- **CO Steve Butzin** concluded a several month investigation on one individual taking deer without licenses in Maple Ridge Township. CO Butzin was following up with an individual from another illegal deer case from back in 2018 when he discovered information that another individual possibly had taken a deer without a license. After further investigation it was discovered that an individual in Rock, MI had been taking deer without licenses since at least 1995. The suspect bragged about shooting hundreds of deer in his life. A search warrant was executed on the residence of the suspect which uncovered approximately 50 sets of deer antler skull caps, many of these deer were large mature bucks. Along with the antlers, other evidence was collected at the scene to corroborate the suspects claims to have shot many deer without licenses. Several interviews and genetic testing of evidence collected all point towards the fact that this individual has taken many deer both in season and out of season without licenses. CO Butzin was assisted in this investigation by CO's Chris Lynch, Sgt Jerry Fitzgibbon, Mike Hammill, Andrea Dani, and Rob Freeborn as well as the Delta County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police. A report has been submitted to the 94<sup>th</sup> district court of Delta County requesting the charge of taking the following deer without licenses; two 8-points in 2020, one 6-point in 2019, and one 8-point in 2018. If convicted this individual could face restitution to the state of \$20,000.00 along with fines and costs of prosecution as well as loss of hunting privileges.
- **CO Steve Butzin** served and arrest warrant on an individual from an incident that occurred in Ford River Township. This warrant was for taking a 6-point buck without a license in 2020. The suspect is pending arraignment.
- **CO Mike Olesen** followed up on RAP complaints in Chippewa and Mackinac County. CO Olesen received a complaint that gates were left open to the snowmobile trail crossing private property, leading to ORVs traveling down the trail. CO Olesen responded to the scene and closed the gates. CO Olesen then followed up with the individuals that oversee maintaining the trails to ensure they were properly locked for the summer season.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled the Lake Superior shoreline for smelt fisherman. Contacting multiple people dipping for smelt but not having much luck.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled several fishing locations in Chippewa County checking closed trout streams to ensure there was no one fishing until the opener. Fisherman were checked on the Lake Superior shoreline and a few type 4 streams across Chippewa County.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to a grass fire that got out of control and burned approximately 15 acres including an old fallen down barn on the neighbor's property before being put out, warrants being sought for the person responsible.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling Chippewa county when he observed three individuals operating ORVs on a state highway before turning down a side road and racing one another in the south bound lane, two of the individuals did not have helmets on. Upon making contact CO Sumbera informed the riders that they cannot legally operate on a state highway. A citation was issued to the lead rider for no helmet.

## **Eastern UP Fisheries Division – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist, Lake Superior Management Unit**

### **Unit Update**

- Newberry field crew conducted two walleye population estimates in the Eastern UP. Muskallonge Lake (Luce Co.) and Thunder Lake (Schoolcraft Co.). One week of netting effort followed by one night of electrofishing was completed by the crews. The estimate for Muskallonge Lake was 1,062 adult walleye or 1.35 fish per acre. Not enough walleye were captured in Thunder Lake to calculate an estimate.
- Staff participated and attended the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Committee meeting in March. All upper Great Lakes Committees met and discussed ongoing research, projects, and management actions.
- Upper Peninsula Fisheries staff for Michigan DNR and US Forest Service (Hiawatha National Forest) held a meeting to discuss 2021 work plans. These meetings prove to be important every year for staff to engage on survey topics, management actions, and coordinate fieldwork. Huron Pines and Trout Unlimited participated in this meeting as well to discuss their staffing and new upcoming projects for 2021.

- Michigan Sea Grant in partnership with Michigan DNR hosted a Fisheries Workshop for Lake Superior on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Topics included Great Lakes Angler Diary Program overview, Offshore food-web and status of lake trout, Buffalo Reef acoustic telemetry project, Coaster brook trout rehabilitation, and sea lamprey control in Lake Superior. A total of 37 people attended. This meeting was recorded and is available on the Michigan Sea Grant website. Two upcoming Michigan Sea Grant Workshops will be held on April 22 and 29<sup>th</sup>. These workshops will cover the nearshore and offshore fisheries of Lake Huron.
- The Lake Superior Management Unit held two virtual Coffee and Conversation meetings. These meetings covered regulation proposals for the coming year and highlights for current regulation changes. Mostly, these meetings are an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide feedback on regulations and fisheries management. There will be one more Coffee and Conversations meeting held by the Lake Huron Management Units on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Details are available on the Michigan DNR website.
- On March 31, the Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee met. Topics discussed during this meeting were 2021 stocking plans, Lake Superior Management Plan, Charter data review, and regulation proposals for 2022. Meeting notes can be found on the Michigan DNR website.
- Muskellunge harvest registration summary: Following the closure of the harvest season for muskellunge on March 15, 2021, 46 muskellunge have been registered for the 2020/2021 fishing season. For the 2019/20 fishing season a total of 23 muskellunge were harvested.

### **Fish Production Updates by Dan Sampson, Manager of Marquette, Thompson & Oden State Fish Hatcheries**

- **Staffing** - Lots of changes are occurring with our team!
  - Jan VanAmberg retired in March. His vacancy has been filled by Dan Sampson, from Oden State Fish Hatchery, who will be managing all three hatcheries.
  - Dan Korhonen, an Electronics Technician, has been hired to replace Chris Klage, who retired last May. He is stationed in Marquette and will work with the emergency alarming systems and related electronic equipment at all three hatcheries.
  - Fisheries Technician Kynzie House has been hired to replace a vacancy at Marquette, created when Jeremiah Blaauw advanced into a statewide biologist role.
  - We are in the process of filling a Fish Assistant position at Thompson to help with the coolwater facility.
  - We are also in the process of filling the Natural Resource Manager position at Oden, caused when Dan promoted.
- **Marquette State Fish Hatchery**
  - The Cherry Creek stabilization project is in the bidding stage. This project will reduce risk for the facility by stabilizing the creek banks that are literally along the side of the fish rearing buildings and significantly reduce the risk of losses from flooding events.
  - Fish Culture:
    - All fish culture is going well, including the brook trout, lake trout, splake, and brood Arctic grayling.
    - Stocking is in full swing. The crazy early spring conditions are allowing many sites to be stocked easier and ahead of the normal schedule.
- **Thompson State Fish Hatchery**
  - Coolwater facility: We are happy to say that we have occupancy of the new coolwater facility, have ponds filled to prepare for fish, and have walleye eggs incubating in the building. A few items still need to be completed with the construction, including finishing soil grading & stabilization once we are well into late spring conditions.
  - Coldwater facility: Most of this portion of the project is complete. The automated feeding system should be up and running by the end of April.
  - Fish Culture:
    - The Chinook salmon are growing well. Mass marking will occur in early May with stocking occurring a few weeks later.
    - Steelhead: We are expecting to receive eggs from the Little Manistee Weir before the end of April.
    - Walleye: Eggs are in the early stages of incubation, split between the old and new facilities to reduce risk while we learn the best techniques for the new facility.

- **Oden State Fish Hatchery**

- Needed upgrades will be occurring with the air handling in the brood building, which has our captive brown and rainbow trout brood lots. This will end the raining that occurs in the building and will help protect the building better.
- Fish Culture:
  - Some UP fish stocking has begun, a few weeks early due to the lack of snow. Currently, brown trout are being stocked. We should be finished by mid-May.
  - The facility is gearing up to receive the next brood lot of Arctic grayling from Alaska. These will arrive as eggs and will spend one and a half years in quarantine, ensuring no invasive diseases are brought back into Michigan with them.

**Public Information: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer ([pepinj@michigan.gov](mailto:pepinj@michigan.gov))**

- DNR staffers have been given clearance to conduct in-person interviews with media, as long as coronavirus protocols are followed. If any of you would like a copy of those measures, please contact me. These are simple, commonsense actions to take which will again allow for on-camera interviews.
- “Ask the DNR” will conclude its 2020-2021 season May 6 at 8 p.m. on WNMU-TV13 in Marquette. Scheduled guests include Cory Kovacs, fisheries biologist, Newberry; Kelly Somero, Baraga State Park in Baraga; Chris Lynch, conservation officer, Delta County; and wildlife biologist Don Brown of Escanaba.

The March broadcast of Ask the DNR featured Michigan Natural Resources Commission U.P. representatives J.R. Richardson and Dave Nyberg. The program included both men offering a good discussion on wolf issues. To view the program, visit [Ask the DNR | Fishing Season, Wildfire Prevention | Season 2021 | Episode 4 | WNMU](#). The show will return to live broadcasts in the fall.

- Thanks to several great contributions from DNR staffers across the state, the department’s Showcasing the DNR weekly feature story series is enjoying a great year and continues to increase in readership. The series currently has more than 28,000 subscribers. The stories are reprinted by numerous media outlets across Michigan. If you would like to contribute a story to the series, or a story idea, please contact me. The weekly “Outdoors North” column continues to be a popular feature, published in daily newspapers in the Upper Peninsula, including The Mining Journal, Houghton Daily Mining Gazette and the Escanaba Daily Press.

**Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager**

- We are looking for a Summer Worker for the Pocket Park in Escanaba. This is a great opportunity to gain experience in a job with lots of responsibility and independence. Contact Jon Spieles [spielesj@michigan.gov](mailto:spielesj@michigan.gov) for more information.
- Education Services is planning to hold the Academy of Natural Resources again this summer. The week-long event offers educators the opportunity to learn about Michigan’s diverse natural resources, discover current trends in their management and experience activities that bring knowledge to the classroom. Learn more at [www.michigan.gov/ANR](http://www.michigan.gov/ANR).
- Spring school programs have been largely replaced by virtual programs. During a typical spring season, we welcome more than 40,000 school children to our state parks and fish hatcheries for educational programming. This year those programs are being offered virtually and often. Education staff are on pace to have completed more than 500 programs in the virtual format for nearly 15,000 school kids around the state.
- Education Services continues to look for qualified candidates for jobs as Seasonal Interpreters, Explorer Guides (seasonal programming staff) and maintenance staff at the Porcupine Mountains, McLain, Van Riper, Bewabic, Indian Lake, Tahquamenon Falls and Brimley State Parks as well as 27 additional parks and state fish hatcheries in the Lower Peninsula.