

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
12/18/2016 – 12/31/2016**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen was working a snowmobile complaint in Bergland. CO Lasanen observed a group of snowmobilers fail to stop at a stop sign before crossing a county road. CO Lasanen was able to make contact with the group of snowmobilers at the next intersection. When CO Lasanen asked the snowmobilers if there was a reason why they did not stop at the stop sign at the road crossing, the group advised they did not see the stop sign. Law enforcement action was taken for careless operation and also operation of unregistered snowmobiles.

CO Lasanen came upon a vehicle that had crashed into the snowbank after trying to negotiate a turn onto a side street. CO Lasanen made contact with the driver and passenger of the vehicle to check their condition. They refused any medical attention. CO Lasanen inspected the vehicle and realized there was damage to the front of the vehicle where it impacted the snowbank. In addition, it was determined that the driver had been drinking and was visibly intoxicated. CO Lasanen stayed on scene until the Michigan State Police arrived and turned over the accident to the trooper. The driver was arrested for OWI and lodged at the Ontonagon County Jail.

CO Jared Ferguson patrolled the snowmobile trail system in his area. CO Ferguson found high compliance on stop sign compliance and road crossings. CO Ferguson contacted two operators found to not have current trail permits. The operators claimed they did not find anywhere to purchase the permits along their 400 mile trip. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson worked the local lakes in his area for fishing activities. CO Ferguson found several tip-ups frozen in and unattended. No names were found on the tip-ups which were seized.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Nathan Sink were driving down M-64 when they came across several snowmobiles operating on the highway. A traffic stop was conducted with several violations discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Jon Busken received a complaint of a shot fired at midnight. COs Busken and Gustafson responded. Officers saw a bait pile with a spot light over it and a drag mark leading to an outbuilding. Contact was made with the homeowner who claimed that he did not shoot anything. The COs followed the drag mark to an untagged 10-point buck. The COs re-contacted the landowner who confessed to shooting the deer at midnight over a large bait pile with a 30-06 in December without a license and attaching his girlfriend's license to it. The rifle and deer were seized. Charges are pending.

CO Calvin Smith received a complaint of garbage being dumped at the end of a local road. A search of the litter revealed a name and address. A follow up at the residence revealed an untagged whitetail deer hanging in the garage. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik received an anonymous complaint of possible poaching going on behind a camp in late bow season. CO Zitnik responded to the hunting camp and attempted to make contact. He observed fresh drag marks leading into the woods with a fresh gut pile at the end. CO Zitnik tracked the owner of the deer camp to his residence where he was in the process of quartering up a freshly killed doe which may not be taken during UP bow season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik recovered a deer carcass from a complaint. The complainant stated the carcass came from a residence that CO Zitnik and CO Robert Freeborn had been investigating for several months. CO Zitnik went to the residence to investigate. The investigation revealed two untagged does hanging in a shed. The home owner stated his sister-in-law had shot the does with her tribal tags that he produced from the house. CO Zitnik had CO William Haskin conduct an interview with the sister-in-law who confessed that she did not shoot the two deer in the Upper Peninsula. The following day CO Zitnik, CO Calvin Smith, and Sgt. Mike Hammill executed a search warrant on the premises, obtained a full confession from the individual, and recovered the firearm used to kill the deer.

CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon were checking ice fishermen in Escanaba Harbor. While approaching one ice shanty, the odor of marijuana could be smelled around it. The occupants were only smoking marijuana and not even fishing. During a file check, it was found the subject in possession of the marijuana had outstanding warrants for over baiting deer and failing to wear hunters orange. The subject was lodged at the Delta County jail for the warrants and possession of marijuana.

CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon worked on snowmobiles on the trails in the Munising area. Recent heavy snowfall provided excellent trail conditions and brought numerous people out to enjoy it. Snowmobile violations including no trail stickers, operating unregistered snowmobiles, and careless operation were observed. Several citations and numerous warnings were given.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Tim Rosochacki responded to a snowmobile accident near Wolverine where the operator failed to negotiate a corner and left the trail, striking a tree. CO Rosochacki

rendered first aid and accompanied the rider until the ambulance arrived. The rider left the accident scene in stable condition with head and arm injuries.

CO Tim Rosochacki patrolled the North Central Michigan State Trail by snowmobile and issued citations to two riders who did not have current trail permits.

CO Mark Depew responded to a complaint of a tractor trailer semi that had slid sideways on I-75 and blocked the lanes of travel. CO Depew secured the scene until the semi could be removed. The driver was not hurt in the accident.

CO Kelly Ross, Montmorency County, was called out on New Year's Day to investigate possible multiple illegal deer. One deer was located at the scene and two deer had previously been killed. The investigation utilized social media and computer records, in addition to more standard investigative techniques. Eventually the suspect confessed to killing two of the deer, not tagging one, and borrowing the tag of another, because he was not eligible to purchase hunting licenses. The suspect also had four outstanding warrants for his arrest. The investigation continues and charges will be sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Brad Bellville, Montmorency County, responded to a "*Be on the Lookout*" for a possible intoxicated driver. CO Bellville located the vehicle operating on the wrong side of the roadway. A traffic stop was made and the suspect was arrested for operating under the influence of liquor (OUIL).

CO Chad Baldwin received a complaint of a hunter taking an illegal antlered deer on state land. While conducting the investigation, CO Baldwin determined that the hunter was not allowed to purchase a hunting license due to previous violations. CO Baldwin located and interviewed the hunter who stated he thought he was able to hunt during the 2016 season. After the evidence was presented to the hunter, he also admitted that the deer he harvested was only a 'four-point', which is illegal due to the antler point restrictions in place where the deer was shot. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO William Kinney was contacted by a DNR forester regarding damage to a large parcel of state owned land in Wexford County caused by the use of a bulldozer. CO Kinney and the forester did an onsite inspection where they discovered multiple trees uprooted by the aid of a bulldozer and trees cut down from a chainsaw. CO Kinney and the forester were able to establish a suspect from the rental company who owned the bulldozer. The bulldozer was used to widen a two-track that led to a parcel of private property owned by the suspect. During an interview, the suspect admitted to using the

bulldozer and chainsaw to gain easier access to his property. The case is under review by the local prosecutor's office for damages to state land trees.

CO William Kinney and CO Bill Haskin assisted the Michigan State Police in search of a fleeing suspect in the Cadillac area. The suspect had fled on foot into the woods after a state trooper had conducted a traffic stop. State, county, and city police worked together and the suspect was later arrested as he exited the woods and got into a friend's car.

CO Justin Vanderlinde, while hunting off-duty, encountered a subject driving up and down a near-by road. CO Vanderlinde contacted the subject who advised he was waiting to pick up his son who was hunting on a nearby property. When CO Vanderlinde returned to work, he contacted the property owner who advised that the subject he talked to did not have permission to be there and wanted the subject prosecuted. CO Vanderlinde and CO Sean Kehoe revisited the property and located where a deer had been shot, where it was gutted, and where it was drug out to the road. With the information that CO Vanderlinde gained from his follow-up, he and CO Kehoe contacted the son of the man who had been driving up and down the road. Upon arrival at the subject's house, a small doe was observed hanging from the porch. The subject confessed to shooting the deer while trespassing and also put an antlerless tag on it from the wrong county. The subject tried to explain to the COs that the road adjacent to the property he was trespassing on was prone to a lot of car-deer accidents and he was just trying to reduce the chances of an accident for people who drive on that road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck observed a subject operating an ORV across a state land food plot in Lake County. CO Killingbeck stopped the ORV and discovered that the subject still had his rifle loaded. The subject exclaimed to the CO, "It's not like I would shoot a deer from my quad or anything." CO Killingbeck asked the subject if he drives around with a loaded gun in his motor vehicle and he stated, "Most of the time, no." The subject was advised of regulations pertaining to ORV operation and how to transport a firearm legally and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck discovered a discrepancy with a 9-point buck with a kill tag on it that was purchased after dark on November 15th and notched out for the 15th. CO Killingbeck contacted the hunter who soon admitted that he did not want to spend the money buying tags before shooting a deer. The hunter told CO Killingbeck that he had gone hunting and seen the big buck chasing a doe and shot the deer, and then drove to the store to purchase a license for it. The hunter admitted that he knew it was illegal to hunt without a license. Charges are being requested through the Lake County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky made contact with a husband and wife who both had shot antlerless deer. The COs checked the tags on the deer and immediately saw a

discrepancy. It was found that both hunters had been successful in the antlerless drawing, but went out hunting without purchasing their kill tags. The couple both shot antlerless deer and then picked up the tags on their way to processor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky found an antlerless deer at a Mason County processor with a restricted combo tag attached. The deer had clearly been taken with a firearm and was validated for opening day. The COs paid a visit to the female who tagged the deer at her residence. At first, the woman tried to convince the COs that she had shot the deer, but it quickly became apparent that she had no knowledge of where or when it was killed, or if it was taken with a bow or a firearm. A male subject who was also present realized the situation was going downhill quickly and interjected that they both have been giving their tags to someone else to fill for them for years and said he wanted to come clean. The COs then paid a visit to the hunter who had been filling their tags and found he hadn't purchased his own tags for three years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky responded to an anonymous complaint of too much bait in Mason County. When the COs found the suspect hunting with over-bait, CO Brosky realized he had written the same guy for the same violation in the past. While there, they also found several untagged traps near the blind. Enforcement action was taken for the over-bait and for the trapping violations.

CO Ryan Andrews responded to a complaint of an illegal bait site in southern Lake County. The site was found and a hunter was in a tree stand overlooking the bait. There were multiple bait piles and each was in excess of the legal amount. In addition, the hunter's stand had no name affixed to it. Enforcement action was taken along with an order to remove the excessive bait.

CO Troy VanGelderren was on snowmobile patrol when he came across a vehicle parked along the White River which is closed to fishing. A subject was observed along the river with what appeared to be a fishing pole. CO VanGelderren walked down to the river to make contact with the suspect and informed him that the river was closed. Another subject then walked up from down river. The CO asked the subject if he had left a fishing pole down river. The subject denied having a fishing pole, but acted nervous. CO VanGelderren followed the subject's tracks through the snow and found a dead deer. After interviewing both suspects, it was determined that the second suspect had been dropped off earlier to shoot the deer that was lying under some Hemlock trees. The shooter did not have a license, and the deer was shot out of season. Both subjects returned after dropping off the rifle at a cabin. Citations were issued for the fishing violation and the illegal deer and the rifle was later confiscated.

CO Troy VanGelderren checked some ice fishermen and was handed a 2014 fishing license. The fisherman said that his 2016 license was at home. CO VanGelderren told

the subject that he needed to keep his license with him from now on, but that he could check the angler's license over the radio in his truck. As CO VanGelderren was sitting in his truck about to check for license confirmation the angler walked off the ice and informed the CO not to waste his time because he had not bought a license since the fishing has "stunk" anyways. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Varriale received a complaint about an individual harvesting a doe with a rifle during muzzleloader season. CO Varriale contacted the individual. During the interview, the suspect admitted to shooting a doe with a rifle during the muzzleloader season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel was working the late antlerless season when he observed a deer on top of a vehicle turn into a local store. CO Lebel turned around and checked the antlerless deer which had a tag attached that was not validated. When the owner returned to his vehicle, a short interview revealed that the deer was shot with a rifle in Osceola County which is closed to taking antlerless deer during the late season. The subject also did not purchase an antlerless license. The un-validated tag that was attached and used belonged to a friend. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel received a tip that a subject was shooting deer during the late antlerless season up to two hours after dark. CO Lebel set up in the area one night and asked the complainant to call if he heard the late shooting. CO Lebel received a call 45 minutes after shooting hours stating that two shots were just fired. CO Lebel was on scene within a few minutes and located a subject out in a corn field standing over a steaming deer. The suspect admitted he shot the deer well after dark. A search of the residence revealed another deer that the suspect had shot without a license and put his son's tag on. This deer was also shot after dark. The deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was conducting a deer processor inspection when he located an antlered deer head with a 2016 deer kill tag displayed on the antlers. Inspection of this kill tag revealed that the license was validated for November 21 and was also purchased that same date at 9:44 am. An RSS check of the license owner revealed that there was no record of hunter safety for the female hunter. CO Wells made contact with the father of the tag owner whom advised that he had dropped the deer at the processors and he guaranteed that his daughter had taken hunter safety. CO Wells obtained a phone number for the female hunter and later discovered that it was not a working number. Several weeks went by and CO Wells checked four separate addresses in Muskegon and Kent counties and was unable to locate the female hunter. Several weeks had gone by when the owner of the kill tag contacted CO

Wells and he arranged to meet with her. Upon speaking with the subject, she advised that she had shot the deer at 7:30 am on November 21st. CO Wells asked her what she had tagged the deer with and she stated she used her license. When it was brought to her attention that her license was purchased two hours after harvesting the deer, she admitted to purchasing a license after harvesting the deer. Enforcement action was taken for the unlawful possession of the deer, with a warning for hunting deer with no license.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO John Huspen was on patrol in Crawford County when he stopped a snowmobile operating without a valid registration. When contact was made with the operator, it was also determined that the trail permit was affixed by Velcro. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Schluckbier and Matt Liestenfeltz investigated a complaint received about a deer being shot from a motor vehicle in Kalkaska County. While following up on the complaint, additional information was received about a possible suspect. During an interview conducted by COs Schluckbier and Liestenfeltz, the suspect confessed to shooting the deer from a vehicle. Further investigation at the suspect's property revealed a freshly killed deer head and cape. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal contacted a Missaukee County bow hunter who turned himself in after shooting a sub-legal antler point restriction whitetail buck. The hunter stated that he thought the deer was a doe when he shot; however, it was determined to be a 4-point buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a Report All Poaching complaint in Ogemaw County. The complaint stated that a person had killed a deer with a firearm in late December from his house. After multiple interviews, CO Bader determined that a female subject associated with the residence had actually killed an antlerless deer after dark. It was determined that she was hunting over excessive bait, without a license, and within the safety zones of multiple houses. She also stated she had never attended a hunter safety course. Ogemaw County does not have a late antlerless deer season. Her boyfriend, who is a convicted felon, is prohibited from possessing any firearms. He confessed to loading the firearm for her and showing her how to shoot it. He also tagged the illegally taken deer with one of his hunting licenses. Charges are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Kyle Bader and Kyle Cherry responded to a complaint of deer carcasses having been dumped onto federal land in Iosco County. The COs located the carcasses along

with a large frozen block of deer guts and parts that had retained the distinct shape of the container it had been dumped from. A tip from a passerby led them to a nearby residence. While looking for the homeowner, the COs noticed a large round tub that matched the shape of the frozen block of deer parts. The tub also contained blood and hair. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich responded to a RAP complaint of trespass and shots fired on private property in Alcona County. CO Panich spoke with the complainant who stated he heard a gunshot on his property early in the week. The complainant investigated the shots and was able to locate fresh blood during a snow storm. An unusual heat wave had melted most of the new snow when CO Panich arrived. The bare ground revealed not only blood, but drag marks onto the nearby railroad tracks. CO Panich followed the drag marks and blood to a residence where he located an untagged deer. After looking around, CO Panich was able to locate four more deer all without kill tags. After a short interview session, CO Panich confirmed there were five deer shot illegally on railroad property. Further follow up led to confessions by four subjects, residing adjacent to the railroad tracks. Enforcement action was taken.

While following up on a trespass complaint in Gladwin County, COs Ethan Gainforth, Josh Wright and Phil Hudson discovered an untagged deer in the backyard of a residence. During contact with the suspect, it was also discovered that the deer was taken without a license and the suspect confessed to shooting it over a lighted bait pile at approximately 2 a.m. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ethan Gainforth and Josh Wright received a call from Clare County Central Dispatch about a snowmobile operator that had just gone through the ice on a nearby lake. The COs quickly responded to the lake and discovered first responders had already pulled the man out of the freezing water. The snowmobile was also recovered from the lake. The operator was educated on the dangers of riding on frozen bodies of water and both snowmobiles in his riding group were inspected. It was determined that each snowmobile was lacking a trail permit and one of them was not registered. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Joe Myers and Will Brickel were driving south on US-127 when they witnessed a hunter kill a deer in a field. The COs stopped and made contact with the hunter who was found to not have any hunter orange on and was trespassing. Upon inspection of the vehicle, it was found that the rifle used to kill the deer was uncased and the hunter was about to use his son's deer tag to tag the animal. The hunter had explained to the COs that he had shot from next to the building, which was a violation of the safety zone

law. While questioning the hunter about his deer season it was found that he had shot an eight point buck on opening day. The buck was not tagged and citations were issued for the multiple violations.

CO Joe Myers checked a waterfowl hunter on the Tittabawassee River during the last weekend of the waterfowl season. The hunter was found to not have a personal flotation device (PFD) on board his kayak, not having any identification on his person, and not having endorsed his federal duck stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint regarding a hunter dumping a deer carcass on state land in Montcalm County. The CO was able to locate the carcass with an attached deer tag in a state parking lot. The CO made contact with the hunter and a citation was issued for littering.

While checking lakes in Montcalm County for fishing activity, CO Ken Lowell located a single vehicle at Swan Lake. The CO ran the plate and found that the registered owner did not have a fishing license. The CO walked out and checked the angler on the ice. Upon contact with the angler in his shanty, it was discovered that the angler was not the registered owner of the vehicle, did have a fishing license, but was using four lines to fish. A citation was issued for using too many lines to fish.

CO Will Brickel responded to a complaint of an individual who was taking too many deer. CO Brickel went to the suspect's residence and found that he was not home and noticed two untagged deer hanging in the suspect's garage. It was determined that the suspect was again out hunting. While patrolling towards the area the suspect was hunting, the CO heard two shots after legal hunting hours had ended. The suspect was located in the back of a neighbor's barn and during questioning, he admitted to already shooting two deer. The suspect had two deer tags in his pocket that belonged to the neighbor. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Myers and Will Brickel were on patrol and received a complaint of a hunter taking a deer without a license. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the suspect had dumped an untagged deer along a roadway. The hunter also admitted to not wearing hunter orange and two uncased weapons were located in his vehicle, one which was still loaded. CO Myers also talked to the suspect's girlfriend and it was determined that she had also shot a deer without a license during the firearm deer season. Enforcement action was taken

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly worked a Facebook complaint where the suspect posted that he shot an 8-point buck. The only two problems were that he had no license and tagged it with his dad's tag. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly is investigating a case where a deer was shot from a vehicle at approximately 2:30 a.m. on January 1, 2017. The suspects drove out into the field to retrieve the deer after it was shot, but were scared off by a neighbor that shined them with a spot light. The location was on Stevenson Road north of Colby Road in Evergreen Township, Montcalm County. Sgt. Kimmerly is asking anyone with information to contact the RAP hotline at 1-800-292-7800.

After observing a subject burning an old house, CO Seth Rhodea made contact with the contractor who was cleaning up the property the house was on and had directed the fire to be started. A citation was issued for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Mark Siemen conducted follow up on an investigation about a large white-tailed buck that was originally thought to be poached in Tuscola County. CO Siemen received a call from the complainant advising that the buck was found dead, along with three other deer on his property. During the follow up investigation, it was determined that an electric line was hanging low to the ground and it appeared that all four deer had been electrocuted while trying to walk under the powerline. The electric company was on scene fixing the line at the time the deer were located.

CO Chad Foerster was leaving the Bay City District Office when he came across a snowmobile traveling on the roadway in Bay County (illegal operation) without wearing a helmet. By the time the CO was able to turn around and track down the snowmobile, a second rider did the same on the same machine in the same fashion. CO Foerster made contact with the two subjects and found that both were operating on a suspended driver's license and found the machine to be unregistered. Further investigation revealed that one of the subjects had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken along with an education.

While patrolling through Isabella County, CO Mike Haas observed a snowmobile traveling towards him operating on the wrong side of the road. After stopping the operator, CO Haas noticed numerous other violations including a broken headlight, no snowmobile trail permit, expired registration and the passenger on the snowmobile was not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson made contact with several snowmobiles operating on an unmaintained public roadway. Several warnings were given for improper registration and a few citations were issued as well. One subject

stopped was a minor operating without proper supervision. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson witnessed a snowmobile traveling down the middle of a county road. The CO followed the sled and initiated a traffic stop. The subject did not have the proper trail permit to be operating off private property and also had a warrant for his arrest. The subject was taken into custody and transported to the Isabella County Jail.

CO Joel Lundberg encountered two individuals who had been firearm hunting during the late antlerless season. CO Lundberg located a large buck hanging at one of their residences. After interviewing both subjects, it was determined that one individual had shot a buck with a small caliber rifle in the late antlerless season and the other subject had shot a doe without an antlerless license. CO Lundberg also located multiple deer racks at the one subject's residence and it was determined that he was doing taxidermy without a license. The subject used to be a licensed taxidermist, but has not had a valid taxidermy license in multiple years. One buck was seized and taken for x-rays to determine the cause of death and enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 7**

CO Andy Bauer responded to a RAP complaint of trespass on his day off. CO Bauer was able to arrive and locate the suspect's vehicle just before the two subjects returned. After speaking with the two subjects, it was determined that the subjects thought they were hunting on Commercial Forest property, but found the property to be swampy and then trespassed on numerous other properties, getting the landowners in the area very upset. Each subject was issued one citation for recreational trespass and warned of the numerous other properties involved.

CO Matt Page responded to a RAP complaint of a subject who had shot an 8-point buck during the antlerless deer season with a gun. CO Page responded to the suspect's residence and located the deer, which was tagged with an un-validated kill tag. An interview of the suspect led to a confession of shooting the 8-point buck with a gun during the antlerless deer season. The subject was cited for the illegal possession of a white tail deer.

CO Andy Bauer conducted a deer processor inspection and located a deer that had been shot in Illinois and illegally brought into Michigan in violation of the CWD regulations by bringing the whole deer intact into the state. CO Bauer was able to arrange to meet the Illinois resident in Michigan and the subject was cited for the illegal importation in violation of the CWD regulations.

PCO Scott MacNeill and CO Greg Patten followed up on a RAP complaint of a subject who took a deer without a license in early October. CO MacNeill interviewed the father and his son. The adult son confessed to shooting a deer without a license. The father confessed to purchasing a deer license after the fact and putting it on the deer that his son killed. Neither subject had taken a hunter safety class. A report will be sent to the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office for enforcement action.

CO Justin Ulberg followed up on an illegal deer complaint for COs Rich Stowe and Sean Kehoe from Grand Traverse County. COs Stowe and Kehoe located a 4-point buck tagged with an antlerless crop damage permit and the suspected hunter resided in Kent County. CO Ulberg was able to contact the subject, who at first claimed that he only shot a doe, while hunting in Grand Traverse County. After the subject was informed that COs Stowe and Kehoe had already observed the 4-point buck with his crop damage permit, he admitted to shooting the deer. The subject stated that several deer ran passed him and he thought the deer he shot was a doe. The subject was unaware that his crop damage permits were only good for antlerless deer. The deer was seized and a report was forwarded to the COs in Grand Traverse County. Charges will be considered by the Grand Traverse County Prosecutor.

#### **DISTRICT 8**

CO Pete Purdy responded to a Livingston County 911 call of a deer with a broken leg. When CO Purdy arrived at the caller's residence he was told the deer had been in the backyard for two days and couldn't get up. He also advised his neighbor had been bringing food to the deer hoping it would recover from its injury. CO Purdy approached the deer and it was unable to stand. The deer was put down in a humane manner. A salvage tag for the deer was issued to a family member of the caller.

CO Brandon Hartleben was out checking Washtenaw County lakes for ice fishermen and made contact with a fisherman on North Lake. As CO Hartleben approached the ice shanty he could smell the odor of burnt marijuana coming from the shanty. CO Hartleben had observed two tip-ups as he approached the shanty and once the subject opened the door he noted an additional two rods were being used in separate holes inside. The subject attempted to explain that he wasn't actually "fishing" with one of the rods. After a brief discussion with CO Hartleben on what type of actions constituted "fishing", the subject conceded that a pole with the baited line in the water was in fact fishing. Enforcement action was taken for the fishing violation and the marijuana.

CO Brandon Hartleben responded to a RAP Complaint of recreational trespass in Livingston County. The complainant led CO Hartleben to a blood trail that he had found on his property. CO Hartleben followed the blood trail onto a neighboring property and identified where the deer had initially been shot. The suspects had tracked the deer onto the complainant's property to the complainant's garage where the deer eventually expired. They removed the deer from the property using the complainant's driveway.

CO Hartleben interviewed the neighbor and determined that two other suspects had been hunting with him (a husband and wife) and had actually been the ones that had trespassed and recovered the deer. During the course of the interview, the neighbor admitted to shooting the deer with a shotgun on the last day of muzzleloader season. He also revealed that the other man that had been hunting with him also shot a deer with the same shotgun during the same hunt. CO Hartleben seized the antlerless deer that was still hanging in the barn and went to interview the other suspects at their residence. The husband was out of town for work, but the wife was very cooperative during the interview. She had just gone along with her husband as a spectator and did not participate in the hunt. She was able to confirm that her husband did shoot an antlerless deer with a shotgun that day, but it was not the one they recovered from the complainant's property. The wife also revealed that her husband did not have an antlerless deer tag, and the neighbor had told them it would be fine, that he had one that they could use. Because they shot two antlerless deer that evening, the husband ended up buying and tagging his deer the next day. After thanking the wife for her honesty during the interview, CO Hartleben seized the second partially processed antlerless deer from the garage. Charges are currently being sought through the Livingston Count Prosecutor's Office.

CO Brandon Hartleben was contacted by the Chief of Police for the City of Chelsea to assist with a possible illegal deer. Earlier that morning, Chelsea Police Department had responded to a complaint of a man hunting within the city limits on city property around the waste water treatment plant. Responding officers had located a substantial blood trail on the property and had followed the drag marks back to a neighboring property where a ladder stand was set-up on the property line. CO Hartleben responded to the suspect's residence and checked the area with the officer that had initially handled the call. In addition to the trespass, it was discovered that the suspect had been hunting over an over-limit of bait. CO Hartleben interviewed the suspect and he admitted to shooting an antlerless deer with his bow from the ladder stand overlooking his bait pile. He also acknowledged that he trespassed on city property while recovering the deer the previous morning. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

COs Andy Monnich and Chris Maher received a RAP complaint about a taxidermist who found a .22 caliber bullet in the skull of a deer he took in. COs Monnich and Maher interviewed the hunter who dropped the buck off at the taxidermist and discovered that the hunter was only 15 years old and was hunting alone on a family friend's property. The COs were able to obtain a statement from the juvenile, stating that he did initially shoot the whitetail with a muzzleloader and ended up finishing it off with a .22 handgun, which he didn't think was illegal. The COs educated the young hunter on the laws pertaining to firearm hunting in Michigan, and enforcement action was taken for the minor being afield alone, unsupervised.

CO Isaac Tyson checked an ice fisherman on a local Branch County lake. While checking the suspect's license, CO Tyson smelled the odor of marijuana. CO Tyson asked the suspect if he had any drugs on him and the suspect pulled out a container of marijuana. CO Tyson remembered that he had given the suspect a warning last winter for using tip-ups with no name or address affixed to them. CO Tyson asked if he had his name on all of his tip ups. The suspect said that he did not. After further discussion, the suspect admitted to driving to the lake with a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale when he observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road. He went to investigate the vehicle for hunting equipment and noticed a container of suspected marijuana. CO Woodwyk waited for the hunter to return to the vehicle to inquire about the container. The container was found to have marijuana inside of it. A further search of the vehicle produced approximately 16 grams of marijuana. Charges are being sought through the prosecuting office.

CO Chris Maher received information about two individuals taking multiple deer during closed season with a firearm on state land in Jackson County. CO Maher tracked down the registered owner of the vehicle who stated he gave the truck to his grandson. The investigation led from the grandson to another individual who had been given the truck to use. The suspects were eventually tracked to Wayne County. After a lengthy interview, CO Maher uncovered the true identities of the individuals that shot the deer. Enlisting the help of CO Schaumburger, the COs were able to recover the deer and the firearms used to take the deer at two separate residences. The deer were seized and donated to a needy family and a written confession was obtained. Charges are being sought through the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol when he received a complaint of an individual trespassing on a neighbor's property in Shiawassee County. The complainant showed CO Slick where an individual had come on the property and shot a deer. CO Slick then went and interviewed the neighbor. The neighbor stated he had shot a deer on another neighbor's property, but had permission to be there. Upon further investigation, CO Slick discovered that the individual was not supposed to be on either property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Neterer was catching up on some paperwork in the parking lot of a Lansing business when a truck pulled into the lot and parked in front of him. The driver exited his vehicle and walked to a nearby restaurant, staring at CO Neterer's patrol truck the entire time. CO Neterer thought the behavior was suspicious so he ran the truck's license

plate. The plate showed that the registered owner had four warrants for his arrest including a felony warrant for aggravated stalking. CO Neterer verified that the driver was in fact the registered owner through the Secretary of State's photo database. A few moments later the suspect exited the restaurant and began to drive away. CO Neterer called for backup and was assisted on his traffic stop by Michigan State University Police. After securing the suspect a search of the vehicle turned up an illegal double edged knife. The suspect was lodged in the Lansing City Jail on the warrants and felony CCW charges are pending with the Ingham County Prosecutor.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking anglers in Macomb County, COs Joseph Deppen and Kris Kiel were checking anglers in a local canal. Two anglers were outside of the shanty fishing and two anglers were inside the shanty fishing. There was also a tip-up on the ice nearby. When the shanty was opened the COs noticed it was two anglers from the previous day who were given warnings on violations. They now were using a tip-up without a name or address on it. To make matters worse, the two anglers outside the shanty did not have fishing licenses. When asked, they said they were not fishing; they were just playing with the fishing poles. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was watching one angler sitting alone in the middle of a marina. While fishing, the angler was smoking and a distinct odor of marijuana emitted from the anglers general direction. When approached, the angler threw something down the hole, but could not get it past the ice formed in his hole. The marijuana was recovered and more marijuana was found on his person. Upon further inspection the angler had six perch and did not possess a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen came across two men pulling a shanty off the ice and into their truck. Both anglers said the fishing was decent and they had caught 15 perch. When asked for their licenses, one angler produced a Michigan resident license and ID, and the other angler out of Ohio produced a fishing license purchased online. When comparing the license with his Ohio driver's license, they did not match. When presented with the facts that this was not his license, the angler admitted to not having a fishing license and he was hoping it would go unnoticed at first glance and the PDF would seem legitimate. The angler was apologetic about lying and trying to use his friend's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel was checking ice anglers in a marina off of Lake St. Clair when he came upon a shanty with one subject occupying it. The subject stated that he was doing very well on perch. A count of the fish in his bucket produced 59 yellow perch. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a taxidermy inspection, CO Christopher Knights located a few specimens which needed to be followed up on. CO Knights conducted an interview with a husband and wife in regards to the tag found on one of the 8 point bucks she had

shot. The date and times of the pictures of the deer were not consistent with the date the tag had been validated for. CO Knights met both at their residence. The female stated she shot the deer the same day the tag was purchased; the store was on the way to deer camp. But, after CO Knights asked to see a picture of the deer with a time and date stamp, she couldn't provide one. CO Knights asked to see a picture on the husband's phone, which he provided, but it was of him holding the deer and not the wife. CO Knights suspected he used his wife's tag. CO Knights left the residence and waited down the road in parking lot. Just a couple minutes later the husband called CO Knights and stated that the story they had given him was not accurate. CO Knights went back to the residence and spoke with both of again. The husband stated he had forgotten his tags in a different vehicle after they had already drove up north. He instead used his wife's tag to tag the 8 point buck. The wife then confessed to using his tag on the 8 point she shot later in the year. Enforcement action taken

While conducting follow up interviews from the deer season, CO Ken Kovach observed a truck in the back of a farm field in St. Clair County. After watching the truck for nearly 30 minutes, CO Kovach determined the subjects were gutting a deer. CO Kovach walked back into the field and listened to the subjects as they gutted two deer. The hunters verbally debated back and forth on whether or not to tag the deer as CO Kovach listened from the shadows. After finishing gutting, the subjects loaded the deer into the back of their truck without tags, and as they walked to the cab of the truck they were confronted by CO Kovach. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received information of a hunter that had shot a male white tailed deer during the firearm deer season without a tag. An interview was conducted, and CO Kovach was able to obtain a full confession from the hunter. The subject said they were going to use a tag of a family member if they got caught. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a subject trespassing and dumping several deer carcasses on the property of another in St. Clair County. To CO Kovach's surprise, a deer tag was located on one of the carcasses. CO Kovach paid a visit to the owner of the tag and questioned him as to what he had shot during the deer season. The subject said he didn't even see a deer. After some more questioning, the subject admitted to shooting several deer, and decided to dump the remains on the neighbor's property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher responded to a road hunting complaint from St. Clair County Central Dispatch. A subject had shot from the vehicle and killed a deer inside the Detroit Edison Belle River Plant property and drove off. Deputies responded to the area and set up to watch for the subject to return to pick up the deer. CO Lasher responded to the DTE Plant and set up on the deer. A short time later a vehicle matching the subject vehicle pulled up and stopped directly in front of the deer. The deputies stopped the subject and CO Lasher recovered the deer and responded to the subject vehicle. The driver denied shooting the deer and did not have the firearm in the vehicle. After an interview that involved having the subject recant his original story, he admitted to

shooting the deer and turned over the muzzleloader he used to shoot the deer. Warrants for the loaded gun, road hunting, illegal deer and trespass will be sought through the St. Clair County Prosecutor's office.

CO David Schaumburger approached two anglers that were counting perch on Lake St. Clair. One angler was shoving fish down the hole quickly and the CO counted 6 fish thrown back. The angler was told to stop and he stated he was at about 50 perch. The other angler stated that he had exactly 50 in his bucket but the CO located an additional 2 dead fish in his hole. The anglers were done fishing and the fish were counted at the CO's truck. One angler had 62 perch and the other angler had 52 perch. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger was checking pan fish anglers at Metro-beach when he contacted an angler sorting through his catch. The angler stated he thought he was at 25 bluegills, but as he finished counting, he realized he was over by one fish. The angler stated that he lost count and understood that it was his fault. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey made contact with three anglers exiting the ice on Lake St. Clair, walking towards their vehicles. CO Silorey asked how their day on the ice went, and the anglers stated they had speared three northern pike. CO Silorey took a look at the northern pike the anglers had speared and noticed that one of the northern pike looked as if it may be under the legal size limit of 24". CO Silorey took the northern pike and laid it on a flat surface and measured it out to be only 23 inches. The angler admitted that he probably should not have speared that one and took responsibility. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey made contact with an ice angler on Lake St. Clair that was very happy because he stated that the fish were starting to bite again. The angler was catching sunfish and bluegill and had roughly eight to ten fish on the ice. CO Silorey asked the angler how many fish he had caught that day, and the angler stated that he had not caught 25 yet. CO Silorey looked into the anglers half full bucket and dumped the fish on the ice. After counting, the total number of pan fish came to 32, which is 7 fish over the legal daily possession limit. The angler stated that he was surprised and he did not realize he had caught that many fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak observed a motor vehicle enter into a parking lot at Sterling State Park well after dark. The headlights of the vehicle lit up a deer that was standing in the lot but instead of stopping to watch the deer the vehicle kept rolling toward the deer. When the deer decided to bolt the vehicle, a full size SUV, accelerated and kept the running deer in its headlights. After a few seconds of pursuit, the SUV had to stop because the deer ran up over a curb and through some brush. Stopping the vehicle and making contact with the driver, CO Walzak asked him what he was doing. The young driver stated to the CO that he wanted to follow the deer to see where it was going and thought that maybe it was going to join a larger group of deer. CO Walzak pointed out that he had observed the vehicle accelerate to keep up with the deer and therefore the

driver appeared to be chasing the deer. CO Walzak then asked the driver if he had a deer hunting license with him. The driver stated that he did not and doesn't hunt. The CO then advised him that, in the law, words like "pursue", "chase" and "follow" are found under the definition of "hunt". Further, the hunting of deer requires a license and that it be done during legal hours. The driver sat silent for a second putting together what the officer was telling him. Collecting the paperwork for the vehicle, CO Walzak observed that the driver's father's name was on the insurance certificate. CO Walzak made contact with the father and explained what his son was doing with the vehicle that he was insuring. The father was quite disappointed with what he heard and assured the officer that his son would never do this again. He also told the officer that if he could see clear to give his son a stern warning he would gladly take care of the rest. The driver of the vehicle, who turned 17 years old only two months prior, was given the warning and advised to head straight home because his father was timing his arrival.

CO James Zellinger received a RAP complaint of two hunters in the Brownstown State Game Area in possession of firearms. Brownstown SGA has a local ordinance prohibiting the use of firearms for hunting or target shooting. Once on scene, CO Zellinger was able to locate a pickup truck with a gun case in its bed. CO Zellinger waited and met with the hunters as they exited the woods. The subject's vehicle was parked illegally on private property of a developer. One of the subjects was in possession of a firearm. The other subject was observed carrying two orange vests in her hand. Neither subject was wearing any hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 21**

An Indian River man pled guilty to one count of Water Protection Violation. The case stems from a call of an oil and sheen channel that connects to the Indian River. Local Police, DEQ Staff, CO Tim Rosochacki, and EIS responded to the scene. An investigation revealed the suspect had been digging in the channel to place a boat lift in the water for the season and his backhoe apparently slid partially into the water. While removing the equipment; diesel fuel spilt and a hydraulic line ruptured, releasing both substances into the water. The suspect additionally placed spoils from the excavation into the adjacent wetland. The suspect had no permits for the excavation and did not report the spill. The suspect said his clean up measures were nothing more than "Squirting a couple of bottles of Dawn dish soap" on the oil. The incident was discovered several days after its occurrence. DEQ assisted at the scene and a contractor was hired to do the cleanup. The suspect pled guilty and was placed on one year probation with delayed sentencing. If all terms of probation and restitution and costs are paid within the year, the conviction will be dismissed.

Detective Ken Cerny reports the conclusion of a three year investigation/court case in VanBuren County. A subject had illegally filled a wetland and refused to comply with DEQ orders to restore. The case initiated in 2011 with DEQ staff and EIS investigation commenced in 2013. The subject was subsequently arrested in July of 2014 after

failing to surrender on a misdemeanor warrant. The case lingered in the court process with extensions to restore. A no contest plea was accepted and a restoration date of February 2016 and fines and costs totaling \$2920.00 were ordered. The subject failed to completely restore by the ordered dates and was arrested again in August of 2016 for a probation violation. After a site visit by the prosecutor and restoration finally being completed, the case was resolved and closed November 22, 2016.

Detective Dan Lee reports the conclusion of a Clinton County case. The case stems from contact by the Delta Township Fire Department and the assistance of CO Rich Nichols from incidents in April of 2016. The initial complaint was illegal disposal of solid waste-burning of shingles and construction debris. Follow up investigations revealed the burning also included illegal filling of wetlands at the Eagle Township property. The property owner failed to comply with clean up and restoration and was subsequently arrested on nine misdemeanors counts. The subject also received additional citations for burning over the investigation period by responding fire department staff. The subject pled guilty to one count of wetland violations and one count of illegal disposal/burning solid waste. On November 22, the subject was sentenced to \$2935.00 fines/costs, one year probation and 30 days in jail which began immediately after the court proceeding.