

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/1/2016 – 3/13/2016**

DISTRICT 1

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen worked a late night patrol on Lake Gogebic prior to a fishing tournament with over 1000 registered anglers. While on the patrol, the conservation officers contacted a pair of anglers at around 2:30 am. CO Mapes questioned the anglers as CO Lasanen counted tip ups. When questioned why they had over six tip ups, one of the anglers stated his son had just gone to the bathroom at their cabin just a short ways away. CO Lasanen walked back to the cabin with the angler and discovered that the 12 year old boy was sound asleep. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen continued their night patrol and located a tip up blinking just off shore at 3:30am. While waiting for someone to check the tip up another flag with a red blinking light went up. The conservation officers waited for over half an hour before approaching the tip ups. Upon closer inspection, there were ten total tip ups. While checking the grid of tip ups, a light came on in a nearby cabin. Contact was made with two anglers with winter clothes on and two additional "anglers" with pajamas on. The two anglers with winter clothes claimed to be checking their tip ups every 10-15 minutes. Enforcement action was taken for unattended fishing lines.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to a snowmobile personal injury accident in Ontonagon County. The accident involved a 16 year old snowmobiler who was trying to catch up to his group when he failed to navigate a corner. The young man suffered multiple injuries. Speed and inexperience were both factors in the accident.

CO Ethen Mapes followed up on a tip that a high school student was bragging about getting away from "the cops" on his snowmobile. Upon investigation CO Mapes was able to ID the snowmobile from a previous attempted stop. A full confession was obtained. CO Mapes educated the young man and turned him over to his parents.

CO Denny Gast reported checking on average 50 snowmobiles per hour in the Houghton area and with the warm weather this may be the last good weekend of heavy activity. CO Gast did take enforcement action with two snowmobilers who failed to purchase snowmobile trail permits.

CO Brian Lasanen was advised by the Prosecutor's Office in Ontonagon County that the suspect that fled from CO Lasanen on an ORV this past fall, was sentenced to 54 days in jail for fleeing and elude while operating an ORV with a suspended driver's license.

CO Matt Eberly organized a joint agency sound meter patrol over the weekend with conservation officers Ethen Mapes, Brian Lasanen and Denny Gast. The Houghton

County Sheriff's Department and the Houghton City Police Department also participated in the group patrol held in the City of Houghton. Over 100 snowmobiles were checked during the patrol. Officers encountered seven snowmobiles that were in violations of excessive noise, one violation for failing to display a valid snowmobile registration, two snowmobilers that failed to obtain trail permits and one citation was issued for an ORV operator that was not wearing a helmet. Other violations addressed during the group patrol: snowmobile trail permits that were not affixed to the snowmobiles and for excessive speed while operating within the City of Houghton.

CO Doug Hermanson and Sgt. Grant Emery worked a snowmobile memorial ride in the Baraga area. On the trails surrounding the event, conservation officers addressed violations for unregistered snowmobiles, snowmobiles with no trail permits and for violations of the snowmobile sound decibel law. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen gave a presentation to a local 8th grade class. He talked to the class about what a Michigan Conservation Officer does on a daily basis. CO Lasanen also answered several questions the 8th graders had about fishing and hunting.

COs Ethan Mapes and Brian Lasanen were returning from first aid training to Ontonagon County when they observed a passenger car swerving and crossing both center and fog lines behind them. CO Mapes conducted a traffic stop and upon making contact with the driver of the vehicle it was apparent that the driver was operating under the influence of something. The driver consented to a search of the vehicle, which turned up a mixture of schedule 1 drugs. The driver's 7 year old, who was also in the vehicle, was turned over to a family member and the driver was taken into custody.

CO Brian Bacon was on patrol checking local lakes for ice conditions when he observed a group of three anglers setting up to fish. CO Bacon watched the anglers each set up their three line limit and start fishing. One of the anglers cautiously looked around, and not noticing he was being watched, began to fish with a fourth line. CO Bacon made contact a short time later and took enforcement action.

CO Brian Bacon was patrolling the Felch area when he observed a group of ORVs cross onto M-69 from the ORV trail. The group continued to travel in the lane of traffic down M-69. Contact was made with the group and enforcement action was taken.

While on a snowmobile patrol on Lake Gogebic, CO Ethan Mapes stopped to talk with CO Adam LeClerc, who was off duty and walleye fishing. The two officers watched a pair of snowmobilers approaching at a high rate of speed. The snowmobilers never slowed down as they passed the two officers no more than 40' away. CO Mapes was able to stop both snowmobilers and enforcement action was taken.

After checking out of service, CO Ethan Mapes heard several loud snowmobiles operating somewhere behind his residence. The groups of snowmobilers were operating in a swamp full of mud and cattails. When the group saw CO Mapes approaching, they took off back towards the highway. The group ran and hid at the

hotel/bar just down the road. CO Mapes was able to locate the muddy snowmobiles covered in swamp grass and cattails. One of the owners was hiding in a snowmobile trailer. CO Mapes educated the four young men and explained why it is important to comply with Michigan's laws on decibel levels.

CO Matt Eberly worked the snowmobile trails over the weekend which was part of the Copper Dog dogsled race. 20 teams participated in the 150 mile race, while 13 teams participated in the 80 mile race. Several miles of both races are run on the snowmobile trails. CO Eberly reported a high number of snowmobiles also using the trail system during the races. No reports of any problems between the dogsleds and snowmobiles. In fact all the snowmobilers CO Eberly talked with thought it was cool seeing the dogs teams.

CO Denny Gast worked the Chassell VFW ice fishing tournament on Portage Lake over the weekend. CO Gast took law enforcement action with several violations with ORVs not being licensed. He also arrested one individual who was operating a snowmobile with a suspended operator's license. The fishing activity was very slow for the contest.

CO David Miller located a portable shack that was left on the ice in Baraga, as ice conditions deteriorated rapidly with the warm weather. CO Miller was able to locate the owner, who was getting a boat ready to try and retrieve it before it went through the ice.

CO David Miller checked a closed section of the Falls River and observed three teenagers getting out of their vehicle with fishing poles. CO Miller made contact with the three teens and advised them that this section of the river was closed and they avoided further enforcement action.

CO Denny Gast worked Portage Lake, which the fishing activity has picked up recently with several good catches of crappie and pike. CO Gast did contact an individual operating an unregistered ORV while on the lake and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Doug Hermanson received a complaint from an individual in Ewen who said he picked up an injured golden eagle he believed had been shot. CO Hermanson responded and identified it as an immature Bald Eagle. The injuries were consistent with those seen in a motor vehicle incident. CO Hermanson turned the injured eagle over to Wildlife Division personnel who later transported it to a raptor rehabilitation center.

COs Ethen Mapes and Adam Leclerc patrolled Lake Gogebic on their ORVs, checking over 100 anglers catching perch and walleye. While checking a group of anglers, CO Mapes noticed an angler avoiding eye contact. When the angler was asked how the fishing was he stated he had caught only one perch. When he was asked for his fishing license, the subject said he thought about getting one but decided not to. Enforcement action was taken for fishing/possessing fish without a license.

CO Brian Lasanen checked numerous ice fishing anglers this past week on Lake Gogebic. CO Lasanen found everyone was enjoying the warm weather. Enforcement action was taken with several ORV operators that were not wearing helmets.

CO Adam LeClerc responded to a wolf complaint in the village of Wakefield. He interviewed the complainant and walked the area where the animal was spotted. This time it was concluded that the animal was a coyote based on the tracks left behind at the scene.

CO Shannon Kritz was patrolling lakes along the Wisconsin-Michigan border for late season ice fishing activity. She contacted one group and asked what they were fishing for. One angler replied they were targeting bluegill and northern pike. A conversation was held discussing the recent closure of northern pike on March 1st for the boundary lakes. The anglers stated they thought the season closed on March 6th. A check of their fishing site revealed five northern pike. Four of the pike were released alive. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz was patrolling on Lake Gogebic when she observed several tip-ups outside of a cabin. No one was around the tip ups so CO Kritz tripped the flag and waited for the angler to observe the lines. After 25 minutes and no angler, CO Kritz made contact at the cabin. The owner of the tip ups stated he couldn't see the tip ups from the cabin and did not know he had a flag up. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ryan Aho contacted two anglers ice fishing on the Dead River Basin. The anglers were both fishing with more than 3 lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Sgt. Ryan Aho contacted a group of angler's ice fishing on Lake Michigamme. One of the subjects in the group was fishing with six lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge conducted a snowmobile and ice fishing patrol on the Dead River Basin in Marquette County where multiple anglers were contacted. One group of two anglers was observed fishing with too many lines. Upon contact, CO DeLonge noticed that the anglers had operated an ORV riding double and without helmets, were fishing with 9 tip ups. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and CO Brett DeLonge conducted an ice fishing patrol on Schweitzer Reservoir in Marquette County and contacted multiple anglers. While patrolling one end of the reservoir the officers observed an individual operating a snowmobile without a helmet across the reservoir at a high rate of speed. The officers moved to the part of the reservoir where the snowmobile was operating and after waiting for a period of time observed the snowmobile reappear on the ice from a nearby camp. The officers watched the subject tending to multiple unattended tip ups then travel back to the camp. After the officers made their way across the reservoir they set a few of the tip ups off and waited for the subject to check the tip ups. After approximately 10 minutes the subject drove the snowmobile out on the ice and contact

was made. The subject was not wearing a helmet, had an expired snowmobile registration, was fishing with more than 3 lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman contacted two anglers fishing a closed trout stream near Silver Creek in Marquette County. Enforcement action was taken

DISTRICT 2

CO John Wenzel was on patrol when he observed a snowmobile with an expired trail permit and expired registration. After making contact with the operator, he stated he had forgot his current stickers at the hotel where he was staying. Upon running the VIN, it showed the snowmobile was currently still expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel assisted MSP Troopers and Local Deputies with a road closure due to high winds and blowing snow. Several accidents had occurred on the road and the road was closed until the vehicles could be removed from the roadway.

COs Kevin Postma and Jeff Panich were dispatched to assist a fisherman who could not get off the ice, the fisherman had gone fishing early in the morning when the weather was good. The weather began to get bad with blowing snow and white-out conditions resulting in heavy drifting. The fisherman attempted to get back to his vehicle but became stuck on his ORV. He then found his way back to his ice fishing shanty where he called his wife who eventually called 911. The COs located the subjects ORV and eventually located the fisherman and escorted him back to his vehicle.

CO Kevin Postma approached a group of fishermen on Munuscong Bay and noticed one of the fishermen running to his snowmobile. CO Postma arrived just in time to see the fisherman pull two jig poles out of the water. After about 5 minutes of the normal "how's the fishing" conversation, CO Postma asked the fisherman how many lines he had out, the angler pointed at the two tip ups. CO Postma then questioned the fisherman about the two jig poles he pulled out as CO Postma approached. The fisherman advised that the lines weren't actually in the water. CO Postma disagreed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson was conducting a plain clothes fishing patrol in response to numerous reports of illegal walleye being kept on Big Manistique Lake. CO Watson took position in a location where multiple groups of fishermen could be observed throughout the evening. Fishing was slow but when CO Watson saw a nearby fisherman have a tip up flag pop up, he witnessed the fisherman successfully land what appeared to be a small walleye. The fisherman was observed carrying the walleye to his truck, then continued moving around the area, checking his other lines. CO Watson made contact with the fisherman approximately ten minutes after the fish had been caught. When CO Watson identified himself as a Conservation Officer and addressed the walleye that was clearly under the legal length limit, the individual stated he was only transporting the

short walleye to a hole far away from any of his other lines so that he would not re-catch the walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken was on routine patrol when he came across three snowmobiles stopped on the plowed portion of M-123 near the Tahquamenon Falls. Contact was made with the operators who admitted to riding on the state highway and knew that they were not allowed to. However, one operator's snowmobile had broken a belt. Further investigation revealed one operator was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jon Busken and Brett Gustafson were on snowmobile patrol near Grand Marais, they observed a snowmobile without a registration being driven down the trail. Contact was made with the operator who stated that the registration must have fallen off. The operator then provided a registration that belonged to a second snowmobile and a paper registration that returned to a third snowmobile. It was found that the owner had never transferred the title of the snowmobile he was operating and had hoped that officers would not notice because of the additional registrations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken contacted two anglers coming off Big Manistique Lake on snowmobiles. The anglers indicated they had not caught any fish. While checking the buckets they were transporting CO Busken found two walleyes. When asked about the fish the angler said, "They are mine and they are short. I will take my ticket." The angler was also found Sgt. Mike Hammill and CO Brett Gustafson checked two fishermen on Big Manistique Lake. Both anglers were found to be fishing with too many lines, "nine each.

COs Jeff Panich and Brett Gustafson conducted a snowmobile patrol from Paradise to Little Lake Harbor, noticing a lot of traffic near the end of the season. Operators were cited for numerous violations including, unregistered snowmobile, no trail permit, and one operator from Pennsylvania who was cited for careless operation after coming over a hill on a corner, on the wrong side of the trail.

CO Chris Lynch was ice fishing on his day off when he observed an angler next to him leave out his tip ups and go to shore. After waiting for 20 minutes CO Lynch called Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon to come meet CO Lynch at the scene. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he observed an ORV trespassing alongside the railroad tracks. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with the driver was made. The driver was under the age of 16 and not supervised. The driver was educated on the ORV laws while waiting for his parents to arrive on scene.

CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon were on patrol when they observed an ORV operating down the state highway. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with the driver was made. Upon interviewing the driver, he stated he knew he wasn't supposed to operate down the state highway. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig, Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith patrolled snowmobile trails around the town of Grand Marais. Compliance was very high with only one citation being issued for careless operation of a snowmobile.

While on a group snowmobile patrol, COs Chris Lynch and Mark Zitnik stopped a group of snowmobiles. One snowmobile did not have registration stickers. After a brief investigation, it was determined the operator had failed to transfer the registration since purchasing it three years prior. Enforcement action was taken.

While on an ice fishing patrol on Little Bay de Noc, COs Calvin Smith, Patrick Hartsig and Mark Zitnik contacted over 400 fishermen. In all, the anglers were very happy to see the COs with minimal violations on the ice. A few citations were issued for ORV violations.

While patrolling Munising Bay late one evening, CO Mark Zitnik observed several young adults burning an ice shack on the ice. The CO had them put the fire out and explained to them why it's illegal to burn the shack. He advised that once they got out of school the next day, they were to pick up the shack and its contents and dispose of them properly. If they did not they would be cited. The individuals had properly disposed of the shack the following day as instructed.

CO Michael Evink was working a late night patrol when a medical call came out. CO Evink responded, along with a Sault Ste. Marie Tribal officer, MSP, and Manistique Public Safety. Officers performed CPR and deployed an AED in an attempt to aid an elderly male who had been found unresponsive on his deck. He was transported to Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital and later pronounced dead.

COs Pat Hartsig and Chris Lynch worked a busy snowmobile trail crossing in Alger County where multiple violations and accidents had occurred in the past. Numerous snowmobiles were contacted. Citations were issued for no trail stickers and careless operation.

Ice fishing season on Little Bay de Noc is winding down with the warm conditions. As CO Pat Hartsig conducted a foot patrol on the upper bay, he heard a call go out of a vehicle that had gone through the ice. CO Hartsig responded to the location and checked to see if the occupants were safe and uninjured. A bystander came walking out from shore to check on the commotion. As he approached on foot, he broke through the ice. Luckily it was in shallower water, and he was able to rescue himself. Shortly after that an ORV approached the vehicle that was just pulled from the water and the ORV and its driver also broke through the ice. Again, the driver was ok, and the ORV was winched from its location by bystanders. CO Hartsig contacted fishing parties nearby and instructed them to not use the dangerous access. Local bait shops were called and informed of the unsafe ice conditions in the area as well.

While on routine patrol, CO Robert Freeborn located two fishermen fishing on a local pan fish lake. CO Freeborn noticed a couple empty beer cans in the shack.

Unfortunately for them, their licenses showed the CO that they were both just under the legal drinking age. The subjects admitted they had brought a couple beers out with them for the afternoon and that the couple on the ice is all they had. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon was checking fishermen at the Anne River Pier on Munising Bay. Unfortunately, one of the anglers had decided to fish 2 poles while watching 2 additional tip ups. A citation was issued for fishing too many lines.

DISTRICT 3

COs in Antrim and Charlevoix counties, Steve Speigl and Chad Baldwin, were checking into suspicious license purchases from the previous firearm deer season. The first hunter they encountered was found to be in violation as he purchased his license after he had taken a deer. Evidence was seized and a ticket was issued.

CO Chad Baldwin was driving on the bridge over the Jordan River in Charlevoix County when he heard a call over the radio regarding a dog that had fallen through the ice on Lake Charlevoix at the mouth of the river. CO Baldwin looked out his window and observed the dog struggling in the water. CO Baldwin pulled into the launch site and was met by the dog's owner. The owner asked CO Baldwin if he had a rope that he could tie around him so he could go after his dog. CO Baldwin advised the subject that he could not go out on the ice because the ice would not hold him. CO Baldwin turned his back on the subject for a moment and when he looked back, the subject was crawling out on to the ice after his dog. As the subject neared his dog he broke through the ice, approximately 25 yards from shore, in water well over his head. CO Baldwin retrieved his throw bag with rope from his patrol vehicle and headed for the shore. In the meantime, a city officer arrived on scene and headed out on the ice to assist the subject. However, in doing so the officer also fell through the ice in water over his head. CO Baldwin was able to maneuver his way on the ice to the officer and pull him out of the water and assisted him back to shore. Officer Baldwin then made his way out on the ice, and with the aid of his throw bag and rope, was able to get a rope to the dog owner still in the water. As CO Baldwin pulled the owner and his dog towards shore the ice kept breaking, not allowing them to get on top of it. At this point the dog finally made it onto the ice making it improbable to safely pull the owner from the water. CO Baldwin picked up the dog, at which point he broke through the ice up to his waist. CO Baldwin was able to get the dog to shore and then return to the owner and got him out of the water and to shore as well. All subjects recovered from their exposure at the scene.

COs Eric Bottorff, Matt Theunick, Mark DePew and Sgt. Greg Drogowski did a group patrol on Burt Lake, checking about one hundred ice fishermen. Nine tickets were issued for fishing, ORV and snowmobile violations and several warnings issued for minor violations.

CO Matt Theunick responded to a complaint in the Cheboygan area of a subject with two freshly killed deer in his yard. Evidence and a report are being turned over to tribal officers for prosecution in tribal court.

CO Nick Torsky received a complaint of two subjects fishing during the closed season on the Pigeon River in Otsego County. Through his investigation, CO Torsky was able to determine who the subjects were and contacted them. The subjects readily admitted to fishing and were quite confused to where it was legal and illegal to fish. A warning was given to the 16 year old subjects and a thorough explanation of the regulations was provided.

COs Brad Bellville, Tim Rosochacki, and Sgt. Joe Molnar spoke at a hunter safety class at the Alpena Sportsman's Club and interacted with approximately 50 students.

COs Paul Fox and Brad Bellville were driving down a rural county road near Hillman when a pickup truck came speeding up behind their patrol vehicle. The truck passed the officers at a high rate of speed. CO Fox paced the truck at speeds over 75 mph. CO Fox conducted a traffic stop and contacted the driver, who admitted to driving 85 mph. A citation was issued for exceeding the posted speed limit.

CO Paul Fox talked to a group of high school students in Posen about becoming a conservation officer and the importance of conserving and protecting our natural resources.

DISTRICT 4

CO William Haskin went to speak with an elementary school class on the life cycle of a Michigan black bear. CO Haskin brought in a full sized bear mount, a bear rug, a bear skull and lots of items to hand out. CO Haskin spoke on the life of a bear, what bears need to survive, how they are similar to humans and what to do if you encounter a bear.

CO William Haskin found a deer that was tagged improperly in Wexford County. He went to the individual's residence to talk to him about the deer. While at the residence, CO Haskin uncovered seven hunting violations ranging from harvesting a deer illegally to tagging violations, hunting without licenses, and hunting with no hunter safety certificate. CO Haskin assisted the individuals involved in getting enrolled in hunter safety and educated them on what violations they had committed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin and CO Steve Converse went to a residence to investigate a deer that they suspected to be shot before the license was purchased. While at the residence interviewing the suspect, they also discovered a second deer that also had been shot before a license had been purchased. After interviewing both suspects, they admitted to buying their licenses after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin was working in Wexford County when he approached several anglers and asked to see their fishing licenses. One angler claimed he wasn't fishing. CO Haskin informed the angler that he had already observed him fishing for quite some time. Enforcement action was taken.

While waiting at a traffic light in Grand Traverse County, CO Sean Kehoe and CO Rich Stowe noticed a subject hooking rappelling gear to the side of a bridge/dam. CO Kehoe and CO Stowe contacted the individual who informed the COs that he was going to climb down the bridge wall because there was nowhere else to climb. CO Stowe and CO Kehoe pointed out the "no trespassing" signs and advised the subject that the owner of the bridge/dam probably did not want to assume the liability if he were to get injured. The subject was given a warning for recreational trespass and advised to leave.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Rich Stowe along with Sgt. Torres attempted to assist a subject whose snowmobile went through the ice on a lake in Grand Traverse County. After a lengthy attempt and the fact that the snowmobile eventually sank due to weak ice, the subject had no choice but to hire divers to recover the sled. No one was injured and the sled was removed.

CO Kyle Publiski of Mason County stopped a group of two wheeled cycles operating on a county roadway without registrations. As soon as the CO contacted the operators, he heard one state, "I think we are in trouble." Two dirt bikes were being operated without registration and another had failed to title his machine. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking fishermen at the launch in Ludington near the Lake Michigan harbor when two men approached him advising there was a man who had gone out in a kayak and was extremely intoxicated. The men also advised they were sure the kayaker didn't have a life jacket. They said they had last seen him in between the pier heads, lost sight of him, and were concerned he had sunk. CO Publiski looked for the man and was finally able to see him, although it was difficult due to the large waves. CO Publiski called out to the kayaker to come to shore and the guy immediately yelled to him "you aren't arresting me" along with other obscenities. The kayaker evaded CO Publiski and went to the opposite shore where backup from the sheriff's department was waiting. Once the sheriff's department contacted the kayaker, he became assaultive and punched a deputy in the face. The man was taken into custody and arrested for assaulting a police officer, disorderly conduct and failing to have his personal flotation device onboard his kayak.

CO Steve Converse of Manistee County received a complaint after dark of a snowmobile that had broken through the ice on the Pine River. The snowmobile was left running with nobody in sight. CO Converse immediately responded, concerned that the riders had fallen into the freezing water. After arriving, he found footprints leading away from the water and was able to track down two subjects walking down the roadway. The operator and his passenger had attempted to cross the unstable ice and had gone through. Both individuals were soaking wet and freezing cold. CO Converse called EMS to treat both for potential hypothermia and frostbite, and then went to

attempt to retrieve the snowmobile from the water. Once the CO pulled the sled from the water, he discovered there was no trail permit affixed and the owner had failed to transfer and register the machine. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse of Manistee County was driving by a residence when he noticed a man walking a fence line with a firearm. CO Converse stopped to check the hunter and when the man realized that the CO was there, he quickly set his rifle up against a tree. CO Converse made contact with the man to ascertain what he was doing and found two more individuals accompanying him, one with a firearm. The men all claimed to be squirrel hunting. CO Converse advised them that squirrel season was currently closed and subsequently ran the individuals through LEIN. CO Converse discovered that one was a convicted felon with a warrant for his arrest and another with personal protection order that prohibited him from possessing a firearm. Enforcement action was taken and one individual was lodged at the Manistee County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck observed several subjects ice fishing on a local lake near Baldwin. After watching the subjects fishing for quite some time, CO Killingbeck witnessed one angler who exposed himself to urinate while facing a group of children playing outside. CO Killingbeck then observed the same man giving alcohol to a minor and was also smoking marijuana. When CO Killingbeck contacted the group, he discovered that the 17 year old didn't have a fishing license. The adult with the marijuana was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting near a snowmobile trail intersection in Lake County when he saw a snowmobile disregard a stop sign and was displaying an expired registration. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobile and discovered the operator had purchased the snowmobile in 2014 and failed to transfer the title as well as operating with an expired license. A LEIN check revealed that the operator had a warrant for his arrest for operating a snowmobile while intoxicated. The operator told CO Killingbeck that he didn't intend to ride the trails, but his friends wanted to ride. He said he just hoped the CO would not be out, and he just took a chance. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting at a snowmobile trail intersection in Lake County when he checked a snowmobile displaying an expired out of state registration. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobile and the operator told CO Killingbeck he had not been able to ride much this year and did not realize that his snowmobile was expired until arriving in northern Michigan. The operator told CO Killingbeck that he knew it was illegal to ride but he had decided to risk riding for the weekend with the expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting at a snowmobile trail crossing when he observed four snowmobiles displaying expired out of state registrations and expired trail permits. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobiles and discovered that the snowmobiles were actually registered, but the operators had failed to put the decals on as required. CO Killingbeck asked why no one had trail permits. The leader of the group told CO

Killingbeck that this was a last minute decision to ride the trails, and since it was the last of the riding season, they decided to chance riding in hopes they would not get caught. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received a call reporting a large plume of black smoke coming from an illegal burn in Lake County. CO Killingbeck responded and as he pulled up to the scene, he witnessed a female dumping plastic and composite flooring into the fire. CO Killingbeck discovered the occupants of the house had remodeled the kitchen and were burning all the cabinets, flooring and other construction material. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received a Report All Poaching complaint of tree stands left on public land past the March 1st deadline for removal. CO Killingbeck located the stands and a residence nearby where numerous subjects were sitting around a campfire. The homeowner admitted he had placed three stands on public land and advised that he had left the stands out for several years without name or address. The hunter also admitted he placed deer bait at his stands all summer long. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting at the top of an illegal hill climb when he observed a side-by-side ORV climbing the illegal hill climb. The ORV soon became stuck at which time CO Killingbeck made contact. The operator was belligerent and would not provide CO Killingbeck with identification. He was adamant he had done nothing wrong and refused to follow any commands from CO Killingbeck. CO Killingbeck called for back-up and the operator was placed under arrest for resisting and obstructing a police officer. He was also ticketed for various ORV violations and lodged at the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

While on patrol, CO Ethan Gainforth and CO Craig Neal checked multiple anglers on Lake Miramichi in Osceola County. Two of the three anglers did not possess a fishing license. The anglers stated they do not fish often and did not think they would get checked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway received a complaint in Newaygo County of a group of vehicles on state land tearing things up and going through streams and wetlands. When CO Greenway arrived on scene, there was a vehicle still stuck at the bottom of a 60 foot steep hill with two subjects trying to get the vehicle unstuck. The vehicle owner stated he left his vehicle with the keys in it at the top of the hill the night before. He stated he didn't know how it got to the bottom of the hill. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells conducted an inspection of a Newaygo County taxidermist. During this inspection, several raw pelts of bobcats, fisher, and otter were located with no indication that they had been tagged or sealed. The taxidermist was lacking in his records, but was able to recall the name of the subject that had dropped the pelts off several years earlier. CO Wells made contact with this subject and an admission was received that at least one of the bobcat pelts had not been registered. Law enforcement action was

taken against both the owner of the bobcat for failing to register the animal and the taxidermist for his failure to maintain his records. A re-inspection has been completed on the taxidermist and all specimens in possession are now on record.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol one evening at a Newaygo County access site checking the area for charter activity when he observed a vehicle parked and running in the parking lot. CO Wells approached the vehicle and located a male and female engaged in less than acceptable conduct in the back seat. On his approach, CO Wells also observed open alcohol containers in the vehicle. Contact was made with the subjects. During file checks, it was determined that the registration of the vehicle was expired and that the passport fee had not been paid for entrance into the access site. Appropriate enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 5

While patrolling, CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to an injury ORV accident on state land in Gladwin County. Upon arrival, CO Papineau was advised the injured operator was still out on the trail. CO Papineau was provided an ORV by a witness who provided him access to the crash scene. Once on scene, CO Papineau was able to provide medical treatment and safely evacuate him from the woods to waiting medical personnel. It was later determined that the subject collided with a tree after losing control. Following the collision with the tree, the ORV reportedly rolled on top of the individual causing injuries.

COs Josh Wright and Ethan Gainforth were partnered up in Clare County when they heard radio traffic about a possible breaking and entering in progress. The COs responded to the scene and assisted Clare County sheriff's deputies with the apprehension of a suspect. The suspect was lodged in the Clare County Jail.

COs Kyle Bader and Brian Olsen attended a sportsmen's wild game dinner at a church in Ogemaw County. There were 190 people in attendance who asked the conservation officers a variety of questions about the hunting and fishing laws. Gabe VanWormer from Michigan Out-of-Doors also attended the event as a guest speaker.

CO Kyle Bader received an anonymous complaint through the DNR Dispatch Center indicating a deer had been taken out of season with a firearm. He was able to locate a possible address for the suspect. CO Bader, assisted by CO Casey Pullum, arrived at the address and made contact with multiple subjects who were involved. During the interview, a man confessed to shooting a deer on March 7th with a 12-gauge shotgun. He processed the deer with friends and bragged about the incident. The firearm was seized and charges are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

While on patrol, CO Sam Schluckbier observed a single ice fishing shanty on a small inland lake in Kalkaska County. The shanty had multiple tip ups surrounding it with only one angler inside. CO Schluckbier approached the shanty without being seen. The

occupant quickly reeled up his jigging line that he had inside once contact was made. The fisherman stated he wasn't fishing with too many lines anymore so he was no longer in violation. CO Schluckbier explained the law and enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.

While checking ice fishermen on Manistee Lake, CO Sam Schluckbier made contact with several shanties in close proximity to one another. When checking the last shanty on the ice, he found the occupant to be in possession of two northern pike. The fisherman stated that he measured the fish with his fingers because he forgot his tape measurer, but to trust him that they were both legal size. After properly measuring the two fish, CO Schluckbier discovered that both were undersize. The fish were confiscated and released alive. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier responded to a snowmobile fatality accident in Kalkaska County where a grandfather and a grandson were involved. Once on scene, CO Schluckbier rendered CPR to the grandfather while Emergency Medical personnel assisted the young child. Local sheriff's deputies arranged for a medical transport by helicopter to Grand Rapid's hospital for the grandson. The grandfather was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. The investigation determined that the snowmobile and both occupants hit a large tree at a high rate of speed.

CO Sam Schluckbier responded with local emergency medical support to a snowmobile accident in Kalkaska County. Once on scene they treated the individual for lower back and pelvic injuries. The group of riders were from Ohio and stated it was their last ride of the season. The injured subject stated that he lost control when he hit an ungroomed portion off-trail and was thrown from the snowmobile. The subject was treated at a local hospital.

COs Craig Neal and Ethan Gainforth were patrolling Lake Miramichi and checking anglers. After checking one group of anglers, the officers noticed a second group beginning to pack up their gear. The conservation officers immediately checked the second group and discovered that two of the three anglers did not have fishing licenses. Citations were issued.

COs Craig Neal and Chuck McPherson were checking an ice shanty on Higgins Lake. The three anglers inside the shanty each had a line in hand and numerous tip ups outside the shanty. Two of the three anglers did not have a fishing license. Citations were issued.

CO Craig Neal pulled into the Crooked Lake access to check the fishing activity. Two anglers were watching the officer through binoculars. CO Neal decided to check them first. The two anglers had eight lines in the water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal was watching two anglers through binoculars fishing on Lake Missaukee. The anglers had numerous holes drilled with four tip ups out and each angler was jigging. CO Neal watched the anglers for a length of time and as he

watched, the anglers put out more tip ups and continued jigging. CO Neal made contact with the two anglers and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen found two anglers on Houghton Lake using a total of twelve lines. CO Bowen also discovered the anglers had buried 2 fish in the snow. The anglers had thought the pike they had buried was too short but due to regulation changes the pike was legal. The bass they had buried however was out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson and Craig Neal were patrolling Higgins Lake and contacted a group of anglers inside a shanty. During the contact with the anglers the Conservation Officers could smell the odor of burnt marijuana. Further investigation found that the subjects had smoked marijuana earlier in the day and that two of the subjects were fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson presented material on the job duties of a Michigan Conservation Officer to a Citizens Police Academy put on by the Roscommon County Sheriff's Office.

DISTRICT 6

While on snowmobile patrol in Gratiot County, CO Jill Berry stopped an ATV in the state game area for not having an ORV license and ORV trail permit. The subject stated he was unaware he needed them for his ATV. The subject was educated on the rules and regulations and a ticket was issued.

While on routine patrol, CO Quincy Gowenlock stopped in at the Patterson state launch checking subjects coming in from fishing. While at the state launch, the CO observed a vehicle which was parked in a suspicious manner. The driver had to go out of his way to back into this spot. The CO exited his patrol truck and checked the vehicle. As the CO walked around the back of the vehicle he noticed that it did not have a license plate. Upon running a registration check with Station 20, it returned that the vehicle was unregistered and did not have a recreation passport. The CO issued a citation to the registered owner for the expired registration and no recreation passport.

COs Mark Siemen, Robert Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea conducted a joint snowmobile patrol on the MSA trail system in Sanilac County. There were several tickets issued for trail permit violations; however, most snowmobilers were found to be in compliance. CO Mark Siemen investigated a complaint in Watertown Township, Sanilac County, involving a subject who had shot a deer with a handgun. After shooting the deer the suspect fled in a white van pulling a trailer. According to the property owner the suspect pulled to the shoulder of the road, stepped out of his van, and shot a deer that was lying in his field. During the investigation at the scene, it was determined by CO Siemen that the deer was dead before the suspect shot it. With assistance from local law enforcement and CO Matt Zultak from Lapeer County, the suspect was later located driving the white van in Lapeer County. CO Siemen was able to respond into Lapeer County and stop the vehicle. The driver of the van stated he did kill a wounded deer that was lying in the field just off the road. The suspect stated he had a CPL and thought it

was a waste of time to call a police officer to shoot the deer. The suspect was advised that he did not have the authority to shoot a wounded deer and did not have permission from the home owner to be on the property. Enforcement action was taken by CO Mark Siemen and the suspect was advised that the deer he shot was already dead before he shot it.

CO Will Brickel was checking anglers for marine safety equipment and for walleye at the Zilwaukee Bridge boat launch. During the patrol, several anglers were found to have walleye under the 13" minimum size limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Will Brickel was leaving Patterson boat launch after doing marine checks when he noticed an ORV riding along the side of the road. The ORV made an illegal U-turn and it did not appear that he had any trail permit or ORV stickers. CO Brickel initiated a traffic stop and immediately received the finger from the driver who then refused to stop the ORV. CO Brickel pulled up next to the driver and told him to pull over and received the finger again, and was told "wait a minute!" After about a half mile the driver stopped at his residence. When asked why he didn't pull over the driver stated, "I wanted to get home". The driver did not have a license and no ORV stickers were present. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers along the Chippewa River, CO Mike Haas encountered a fisherman who had not purchased a fishing license. After further investigation, it was confirmed that the man also had two outstanding warrants from Muskegon County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person was called to a complaint of a pheasant wandering in the back yard of a home owner with an object obstructing his face that appeared to be stuck to its beak. Upon arrival, CO Person noticed the bird did not seem to match the coloring of a wild ringneck pheasant. Upon closer inspection, the obstruction seemed to be placed on purpose. After some research into private pheasant rearing, it was determined that the pheasant was a privately owned bird and was wearing "specs". These are put on the birds in the cage to discourage fighting and egg destruction. The bird was eating and moving with no problem and left to find his way back to his pen.

While on patrol on state land in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson discovered a large pile of household trash that had been freshly dumped the night before. CO Robinson took photographs of the trash, tire tracks, and found mailings. The suspect was contacted and admitted that he dumped the trash there. A citation was issued for litter and the subject agreed to go back and pick up the trash.

While attempting to contact a suspect at his residence, CO Dan Robinson witnessed another adult male riding with a small child on a snowmobile getting ready to enter the roadway from a field. Both riders were not wearing helmets. The operator stopped at the edge of the roadway and turned off his snowmobile. CO Robinson approached the subject and concluded that they were not on their own property and issued a citation for not wearing helmets.

While on patrol, CO Mike Haas and Dan Robinson were called to an address in Montcalm County where multiple complaints had come in about illegal burning and litter blowing onto the state land nearby. The COs investigated the area and took pictures. It was determined that the subject, who was not home at the time, was in the process of burning a large pile of household trash along with chemical containers, furniture, and other large plastic items. A citation was issued for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

DISTRICT 7

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling the Barry State Game Area when he encountered a small game hunter who believed that the orange gloves he was wearing met the hunter orange legal requirements. Hunters must wear a hunter orange hat, vest, or coat and it must be the outer most garment and visible from 360 degrees. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andy Bauer and Jeff Robinette responded to assist Cass County Sheriff's Office when a subject that had fled a narcotics warrant service, stole a truck, and a vehicle pursuit ensued. The suspect fled the vehicle on foot into a muddy farm field. The COs gave chase across the field with their four-wheel drive patrol trucks which routed the subject to an area behind a residence, where a Cass County Deputy was able to apprehend the subject and take him into custody.

CO Steve Mooney checked fishermen at the South Haven pier and observed a good number of trout and salmon being caught. CO Mooney also located a subject fishing without a license and cited the subject.

CO Brad Brewer and Sgt. Zach Doss checked a fisherman at the Mottville Dam that had trespassed around the fence that keeps people safe from the spillway. It was observed that the subject had to hang on to the fence and walk sideways with half his feet over the river to reach his desired fishing spot next to the dam. CO Brewer issued the subject a ticket for recreational trespass.

CO Andy Bauer was second on scene of a reported drowning in progress near the Benton Harbor boat launch. Upon arriving on scene, a deceased person was found floating near the shore of the river. Investigation revealed that the subject had been in the river for an extended length of time. Benton Harbor Police Department will be in charge of the death investigation.

CO Chris Simpson made contact with an angler and his three year old son who were coming in from walleye fishing on Muskegon Lake. The two were in possession of eleven walleye. The father indicated that they both caught their limit while trolling and had gotten so excited from their success that they had mistakenly threw an extra walleye in their bucket. Further investigation revealed that they didn't have life jackets on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg assisted the Wisconsin DNR in the investigation of a smallmouth bass that was illegally taken in a lake in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin DNR discovered a YouTube video showing a subject spearing the smallmouth bass and learned the subject lived in Michigan. CO Ulberg was able to locate the subject and obtain a full confession regarding the violation. A report was forwarded to the Wisconsin DNR for further action.

While patrolling the Rouge River State Game Area in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg located some fresh tire tracks going off road and through some mud bogs. CO Ulberg continued his patrol and located the vehicles operating on a closed logging road. The vehicles were stopped and enforcement action was taken.

While working in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg checked two anglers fishing along the Flat River. Neither angler had a fishing license. While speaking with the subjects, CO Ulberg noticed the smell of marijuana. CO Ulberg questioned the anglers about the marijuana and one of the anglers confessed as he revealed a small baggy full of dope. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

While patrolling the Rouge River State Game Area in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg observed three subjects carrying guns walking along a wood line. Two of the subjects were wearing the proper hunter orange requirement while the third subject was not. Contact was made with the hunters and the violation was addressed.

CO Justin Ulberg was conducting a foot patrol on state lands when he located a 330 conibear trap. CO Ulberg was able to locate the owner of the trap and questioned the trapper about setting too large of body gripping trap on state land. The young trapper stated that he went to retrieve the trap after realizing his mistake, but the trap was gone. CO Ulberg educated the young trapper on the rules of trapping on state land and returned the trap.

DISTRICT 8

CO Larn Strawn was contacted by the USDA and was requested to assist them by patrolling areas in Clinton County. CO Strawn was specifically requested to investigate incidents of persons interfering with the hunters attempting to take deer for the CWD sampling efforts in the CWD Zone. While patrolling a field being hunted, CO Strawn observed a person enter the field with an ORV and chase deer from the field. CO Strawn attempted to contact the ORV operator on foot at which time the operator struck CO Strawn with the ORV and fled the area. CO Strawn pursued the ORV operator and was able to catch up to him and arrest him.

CO Larn Strawn received a Report All Poaching complaint of a person shooting a deer during the closed season in Ingham County. CO Strawn patrolled to the complaint location and conducted an investigation. CO Strawn located a dead deer in a field and contacted several persons for interviews. CO Strawn developed information and will patrol the area in future efforts to locate the suspect vehicle.

CO Matthew Neterer received a complaint from Ingham County central dispatch of suspicious men with rifles who parked on the side of a road and walked into the woods. Upon running the license plate CO Neterer recognized the names as individuals he had dealt with on two other occasions during deer season. CO Neterer discovered the subjects were parked on property that was for sale and were hunting on property owned by a development company. CO Neterer followed tracks in the snow and found two individuals sitting in a fence row hunting coyotes. The suspects stated they had been hunting the property for years but couldn't remember who had given them permission. One of the subjects was also found to be hunting with a semi-automatic firearm capable of holding more than 6 rounds. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer, working Ingham County, observed a pickup truck driving too fast for conditions with multiple equipment violations. Upon running the license plate CO Neterer discovered that the plate did not match the vehicle. CO Neterer stopped the truck and found that the operator's driver's license was suspended and he had no proof of insurance or registration. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Jackson County, CO Christopher Maher witnessed a disabled vehicle stopped in the middle of the road. The driver, an elderly woman, needed assistance contacting a towing company. CO Maher contacted a local towing company and stayed with the woman until the vehicle could be moved.

CO Christopher Maher received a complaint through Station 20 of a buffalo carcass on state land. CO Maher has been in contact with several local farmers but was unable to determine where the animal came from.

CO Jason King conducted a check on a fisherman that was actively fishing on Hopkins Lake in Shiawassee County. When the officer asked to see the subject's fishing license he stated he did not have one and that he did not think that he needed one. CO King explained the fishing rules and regulations to the subject and enforcement action was taken.

CO Daniel Prince responded to a dumping complaint in the Oak Grove State Game Area in Livingston County. CO Prince was able to locate a possible suspect from items located at the dumping scene. The investigation is continuing.

CO Daniel Prince and the Livingston County Sheriff's Department responded to a target shooting complaint in the Brighton Recreation Area. Two subjects were located target shooting with an AK-47 and pistols. There is no designated shooting range in the Brighton Recreation Area and target shooting is not allowed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy responded with the Livingston County Sheriff's Department to a 911 call of a breaking and entering in progress. Two young children that were home alone locked themselves in an upstairs room when they heard a noise downstairs and

observed an unknown vehicle in the driveway. Officers arrived and determined it was a family member.

CO Pete Purdy received a complaint of an abandoned ice shanty in Livingston County. The complainant advised the owner of the ice shanty to remove his shanty from the lake when the ice began to melt. The subject didn't, so people in the neighborhood moved it off the ice to the shoreline. The subject was advised to remove it from the shoreline but still didn't. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben was on foot patrol in the Sharonville State Game Area when he observed an individual sitting next to a tree with a rifle. After making contact with the hunter CO Hartleben learned that he was out enjoying an afternoon of squirrel hunting. CO Hartleben informed the hunter that squirrel season closed on March 1st and that he needed to wear hunter orange while small game hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben swore to and submitted a warrant request on a case involving the illegal harvest of a 10-pt white-tailed deer on Washtenaw County Park property.

CO Brandon Hartleben continues to follow-up on numerous tree stands that have been left on state land past the March 1st removal deadline in both the Sharonville State Game Area and the Waterloo State Recreation Area.

CO Brandon Hartleben worked the Huron River from Rawsonville Road to the Mast Road Bridge during a busy Saturday and made contact with over 50 anglers. Nearly every angler checked was in compliance with the law. One verbal warning was issued to an angler fishing in downtown Ann Arbor without a fishing license.

CO Andrew Monnich was patrolling in Lenawee County during a heavy snowfall looking for snowmobile activity when he observed an individual pulling out of a gas station riding on an unregistered snowmobile. CO Monnich attempted to conduct a stop of the snowmobile, and as the driver pulled the machine off the road, he mistakenly confused the gas for the brake and sped down the city street, eventually striking a tree. The operator was ejected off the snowmobile narrowly missing the tree. The snowmobile was heavily damaged but the operator was not injured. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich responded to a complaint of snowmobiles and ORVs damaging a local Lenawee County park. Upon arrival CO Monnich noticed a group of snowmobilers on a nearby road. CO Monnich made contact with the group and while talking to them another snowmobile raced by and into the park. CO Monnich observed the operator riding through the park recklessly without a helmet and without a registration. CO Monnich stopped the operator and found it was a 13 year old juvenile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds assisted a local Hillsdale County sheriff's deputy on a domestic disturbance call that had turned physical. The deputy will be submitting a report on the incident.

CO Al Mendez received and responded to a 911 complaint in Eaton County related to a subject in a bed of a truck with a rifle. CO Mendez contacted two vehicles with subjects hunting coyotes. As CO Mendez was walking to the first vehicle, he noticed a rifle in a case with the zipper three quarters shut laying in the front seat. CO Mendez continued to the second vehicle where there was a subject standing by a truck talking to another hunter sitting in his vehicle. After advising the subjects why they were being contacted CO Mendez asked for their hunting licenses. The first subject stated he had a license but did not have it with him at this time. The subject admitted he was hunting coyotes. The second subject readily produced his hunting license, but wanted to take off to help their other hunting buddies track a coyote. CO Mendez advised this subject to standby and not to leave until he checked the rifle he had observed in the vehicle. CO Mendez walked back to the first vehicle and inspected the rifle and found it was loaded with a round in the chamber and with a 5 round magazine. The subject who owned the firearm stated he had been in a hurry from the previous spot they had been sitting at and forgot to unload the firearm before putting it in the case. CO Mendez explained the rules and regulations of hunting coyotes and enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Jackson assisted local Branch County officers in a two-person search. The two suspects had stolen bottles of alcohol and other items from a local convenience store. The two suspects fled the scene and led the local officers on a short pursuit before hiding their vehicle and fleeing on foot. CO Jackson helped search nearby fields, woodlots, and out-buildings for suspicious activity. The incident is currently under investigation.

CO Al Mendez was patrolling the Windsor State Game Area and observed a single car parked in the parking area. CO Mendez continued to patrol around the game area and observed a subject wearing a bright lime green colored hoodie. The subject had a small beagle on a leash and what appeared to be a shotgun in his right hand. After further observation, CO Mendez confirmed that the subject was in possession of a shotgun without wearing any hunter orange. CO Mendez could not immediately make contact with the subject because of a deep drainage ditch and two fences. CO Mendez was able to get close enough to talk to the subject and confirm he was hunting small game and that the subject owned the only vehicle at the parking area. CO Mendez told the subject to meet him back at the vehicle. Once at the vehicle, CO Mendez confirmed the subject had no hunter orange and no hunting license in possession. The subject also stated he had never taken a hunter safety class. CO Mendez was able to confirm that the subject did purchase a base license, but did not have it on his person. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Isaac Tyson located a canoe in a small local Branch County lake. While observing the canoe, CO Tyson determined that the man was checking traps.

Contact was made and the trapper did not have a PFD aboard his canoe. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Dan Walzak received a complaint of a subject taking archery equipment out onto public land where hunting was prohibited. CO Walzak responded to the area and found that, in fact, the subject was out on a small parcel of state land that was made into a state game area and managed specifically for hunting. CO Raymond Gardner also responded to the area and the two COs made contact. The COs found that the subject of the complaint was in the area practicing survival skills and looking at the area as a place to hunt next season. The subject had no archery equipment with him as was alleged in the complaint but did have some tools that he was using to achieve his objectives. One of the activities that the subject was involved in was taking downed wood and building a bridge over a creek. CO Gardner explained to the subject that it was unlawful for him to place the wood into the stream and that it would have to be removed.

While checking anglers at Bolles Harbor, CO James Zellinger contacted a boat coming back to the access site after fishing. CO Zellinger discovered multiple pan fish in the live well of the boat. Later it was determined the subject operating the boat did not have a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs David Schaumburger and Raymond Gardner were checking anglers in Detroit when they came upon one particular angler who said he did not have his fishing license on him. The angler stated it was at home and he forgot it but he definitely had one. After contacting Station 20 dispatch for an RSS check, it was discovered that the angler did not have a fishing license since 2009. The angler was then recontacted and finally admitted that the bait store was not open today and he could not buy his license. Enforcement action was taken.

Sergeant Damon Owens spoke to approximately 120 students at Owen Intermediate School. The students were educated about the duties and responsibilities of a conservation officer.

CO Mark Ennett spoke at Wagar Middle School in Carleton for their annual career day. A total of 115 students revolved through five classes learning and asking questions about the career of a Michigan conservation officer.

CO Kris Kiel inspected a suspicious bobcat brought into Wildlife Division at South River Rd. in Harrison Township, Macomb County to get sealed. The bobcat was brought in by the taxidermist for sealing for a client. CO Kiel explained to the taxidermist the legality of the situation, and that you could not bring an animal taken by another in for sealing. CO Kiel obtained the owner information and contacted him to have him come and have the animal personally sealed. The subject did arrive at the DNR office, but it was determined by talking to the subject that he was also not the successful

hunter. The subject explained to CO Kiel that it was actually his 14 year old son that had harvested the bobcat. To make matters worse through the interview CO Kiel found that the kill tag was acquired after the animal was taken. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in Macomb County for snowmobile activity after a recent snow storm, CO Brad Silorey observed a person at a busy intersection of roadway operating a snowmobile. CO Silorey then activated the emergency lights on the patrol vehicle and performed a traffic stop on the snowmobiler. After talking with the operator of the snowmobile it was discovered that the subject was suspended, and that the snowmobile was unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher responded to an in progress Report All Poaching complaint of angler harassment on Harsens Island in St. Clair County. When CO Lasher arrived on scene the complainant explained he was upset about another angler fishing too close to him and felt harassed. After talking with both parties involved, CO Lasher found there was not enough evidence to charge the subject over the disagreement. However, when doing LEIN checks through Station 20 the accused subject did have two warrants out of Detroit courts. Both warrants were for failing to appear; one for traffic and one for child support (statewide pick-up). The warrants were valid and confirmed. CO Lasher then transported and lodged the subject at the St Clair County Jail to be picked up by Wayne County.

CO Ken Kovach was patrolling the Port Huron State Game Area in St. Clair County when he observed a vehicle track in the snow going back into a closed area. CO Kovach followed the tracks to a location where he was able to observe a pickup truck parked approximately a half mile into the game area. As CO Kovach watched, the subject began looking around, and began unloading household garbage. CO Kovach made contact with the subject as he was finishing unloading the bed of his truck full of garbage. CO Kovach addressed the violations and had the subject clean up the area. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Lapeer State Game Area, CO Matthew Zultak observed individuals shooting at the 'Pit', a well-known area used by many recreational shooters. From his position in the wood line, CO Zultak observed one individual was wearing rubber gloves and digging around in the back of his SUV. The subject pulled a very large plastic car (like a child's power wheels type) from his vehicle and brought it out onto the impact area. The subject then proceeded to shoot the plastic car. Upon the subject's rounds impacting the toy, the car exploded in a fireball. CO Zultak immediately exited from his place of observation and called the range to a cease fire. The subject who shot the target was confronted by CO Zultak, and immediately admitted to shooting an explosive substance. This substance known by many as "Tannerite" violates the state land use order for the game area. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey were conducting surveillance on a large group of anglers at the Hall Road Access Site targeting over limits of pan fish. CO Silorey witnessed

three anglers catching and keeping a large number of pan fish. One of the anglers took a heavy bucket back to their vehicle, placed it into the covered truck bed, and then went back to fishing. Hours later, when the anglers packed up to leave, they had an additional two buckets with fish in them. CO Kiel stopped them as they were leaving the access site. The anglers showed CO Kiel their two buckets that had 19 and 27 pan fish in them and said that was all they had. CO Kiel then asked where the third bucket was, the one they had taken back to the truck earlier. The anglers produced the third bucket which contained 61 additional pan fish. One angler stated that the bucket with 19 pan fish in it was his which left the rest to the other two anglers. This put the other two anglers at 38 pan fish over the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey received a complaint regarding a minor hunting unsupervised. The minor was injured while hunting from being struck in the head by the scope of the gun after a shot was taken. While investigating the incident further, CO Silorey was told that the minor shot two antlerless deer and did not have antlerless deer tags. The incident is still under investigation, and determination will be made on whether or not charges will be sought on the minor's legal guardians.

CO Brad Silorey contacted an angler at a very busy fishing spot in Macomb County. Upon request of CO Silorey the angler was unable to produce a valid fishing license. CO Silorey contacted DNR Law Enforcement dispatch to verify whether or not the angler had purchased a 2015 fishing license. The angler had not purchased a license for 2015. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey and Kris Kiel were on patrol checking anglers, when they decided to check a local DNR boat access site. CO Silorey pulled into the access site where there were dozens of people lining the seawall fishing from shore. After parking, one angler in particular stood out of the crowd. The angler packed up his gear in a hurry and headed straight to his vehicle. CO Silorey jumped out of the patrol vehicle to speak with the angler to see if he had any success. CO Silorey checked the angler's fishing license, and asked to see his fish. After counting the fish, CO Silorey told the individual that he was over his daily limit of sunfish. Enforcement action was taken.

While CO Ben Lasher was getting a warrant through the Prosecutor's Office in St. Clair County, the County building was evacuated due to a threat made toward the Judges. CO Lasher stood by to assist, the building was cleared, and CO Lasher was able to finish having his warrants signed at the District Court.

In St. Clair County, CO Ben Lasher assisted with a search for a six year old boy who had walked away from an area elementary school. The boy was found, by a St. Clair County Deputy, in a pool house down the road from the school.

CO Ken Kovach was patrolling rural St. Clair County when he was approaching an intersection on a gravel road. CO Kovach observed a car travelling toward the intersection. The car sped up, and ran a stop sign as CO Kovach was about to enter the intersection. CO Kovach conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. When CO Kovach

approached the vehicle, the driver stated a passenger needed to use the bathroom. The driver had a lengthy driving record, and previous citations for the same violation. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the shorelines in the Holloway Reservoir, Conservation Matthew Zultak came upon two men fishing under a bridge. CO Zultak asked if they had caught any fish. They told him a few catfish. Upon further investigation CO Zultak located a hidden stringer, with two catfish and seven undersized walleye. When CO Zultak confronted the anglers, they admitted to each possessing undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Northern Lapeer County, Conservation Officer Matthew Zultak located piles of garbage on the side of the road. CO Zultak located articles within the garbage identifying the litterers. CO Zultak went to the residence, and made contact with the suspect's wife who informed him her husband does throw garbage on the side of the road. She also informed CO Zultak that the suspect was currently in jail. CO Zultak went to the jail and talked with the subject. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Genesee County, COs Jeremy Beavers and Justin Muehlhauser checked anglers who were fishing at the Holloway Dam. The officers approached the dam on foot and were able to clearly observe everyone who was actively fishing. After determining who was fishing, the COs began their checks of the anglers on the south side of the dam. The COs checked all individuals and found no violations during the contacts. During the checks, CO Beavers noticed that two subjects who were fishing on the north side of the dam were no longer fishing and made their way to the south side. As the anglers approached, COs Beavers and Muehlhauser made contact with the subjects and asked for their fishing licenses. Both subjects said they were not fishing and did not have licenses. At that time CO Beavers informed the subjects they have been at the dam for an hour and observed both subjects fishing. At that time they admitted to fishing and lied because they did not have licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

In Genesee County, COs Jeremy Beavers and Justin Muehlhauser were on patrol when they were contacted by a Michigan State Police trooper requesting assistance on recovering an injured red tail hawk. The trooper informed the COs the hawk was found in Thetford Township and appeared to be shot. The people who found the hawk were able to catch the bird and put it in a pen for safe keeping. COs Beavers and Muehlhauser responded by making contact with the individuals that found the red tail hawk. They stated that it was found near a wooded part of their property and they believe it was shot in the wing. The COs inspected the bird and found a large wound on the left wing. After obtaining all pertinent information, the COs transported the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator. The rehabilitator inspected the bird and determined that it was likely shot. The rehabilitator went on to say that the wound looked infected and believes the wing was likely broken. The investigation into who shot the hawk is ongoing.

While patrolling in Oakland County, CO Jason Becker was checking an area known for activity for a suspect vehicle from a Report All Poaching complaint. CO Becker noticed a dirt bike operating on the private property near the Report All Poaching complaint area. CO Becker made contact with the ORV operator and asked if he had permission to ride there. The subject stated that he was out riding the road and noticed a trail and wanted to check it out. CO Becker pointed out that even though his dirt bike was licensed through the secretary of state, it did not give him permission to operate on other people's private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser assisted Genesee County deputies on a snowmobile crash in Atlas Twp. The snowmobile was being operated by a 17 year old male who was on his way home with a passenger. The snowmobile was being operated in a ditch when the operator hit a hidden culvert and lost control of the machine. The young man was pinned underneath and the passenger was tossed from the machine. Both occupants were transported to the hospital to be evaluated for injuries. Fortunately, both were wearing helmets. Upon further investigation, CO Muehlhauser discovered that the machine was not registered and did not have a valid trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking the area around the Linden County Park, CO Justin Muehlhauser noticed four snowmobiles operating against the flow of traffic along Linden Rd. When CO Muehlhauser got closer he observed that at least two of the machines did not have valid registration or trail permits. CO Muehlhauser turned around and attempted to initiate a stop on the snowmobiles. When CO Muehlhauser activated the emergency lights on his patrol truck, the first two snowmobiles fled west bound through a farm field toward Hogan Rd. The fourth operator fled on foot into the woods abandoning the snowmobile. One operator remained stopped at CO Muehlhauser's patrol truck. Genesee and Livingston County deputies assisted in attempting to locate the other operators. After a short search of the area the deputies located one of the operators and returned him to the scene. CO Muehlhauser questioned the man who stated that he figured he was already in trouble and was going to get a ticket so he just tried to get away. He said that he thought it was illegal to operate on the roadway. CO Muehlhauser explained how fleeing just made the situation worse. CO Muehlhauser was able to get the names of the other operators. The abandoned machine was impounded and warrants will be requested through the prosecutor's office.

BELLE ISLE

CO Ben Lasher assisted Detroit Emergency Medical Service with an eleven year old girl who had fallen off the monkey bars at the playground on Belle Isle and hurt her arm. EMS stabilized the girl and took her to the hospital.

After leaving a night shift on Belle Isle, CO Jill Berry was first on scene when a subject lost control due to a light snow during the night and hit the median of I-75. The subject was uninjured and no citations were given.

While working on Belle Isle, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly observed a van that stopped in the middle of the road and threw something out the window. The Sgt. then witnessed a large flock of seagulls descend onto the road and about 50 Canada geese run out onto the road and started feeding on all the bread that was tossed from the vehicle. The Sgt. made a traffic stop of the vehicle for the illegal feeding of birds. The driver was suspended and had seven traffic warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.