

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/22/10 – 4/4/10**

DISTRICT 1

CO Brian Bacon ticketed one individual who did not comply with the current spring burning regulations.

COs Dave Painter and Brian Bacon responded to the Verso Mill on a complaint of a deer stuck in one of their discharge ponds. With the help of employees the COs were able to remove the deer.

CO Brett Gustafson responded to two wildlife complaints this week. One involved a dead bobcat found in an abandoned barn, which he suspects died from eating two wild housecats found on scene. The housecats may have been poisoned. The other complaint involved the care of captive black bear. A check of the owners showed the bears were being properly cared for.

CO Marvin Gerlach responded to a fire that had escaped and burned several acres of land. Contact was made and the subject was ticketed.

COs Marv Gerlach and Jason Niemi have been receiving complaints of people taking overlimits of walleye in the Menominee River. The COs located and interviewed one of the subjects which resulted in a confession.

COs Mark Leadman and Marv Gerlach were working a joint patrol near Harlow Lake when they located three ORVs operating in a closed area. Tickets were issued.

COs Trey Luce and Mark Leadman contacted an angler on Sporley Lake in Marquette County who was in possession of a short trout. A ticket was issued.

Area 3 conservation officers worked a group patrol on the Menominee River that targeted people taking overlimits of walleye. A subject was located who had an over limit of walleye. COs contacted and ticketed the offender.

CO Trey Luce followed up on a litter complaint from last fall where a subject had dumped a pick up load of litter on state land in Marquette County. After tracking the subject through numerous past addresses, contact was made. Following several more interviews with others, the original subject was ticketed for the violation. The subject also agreed to clean up the site.

CO Denny Gast worked an ORV trail in Ontonagon County and checked 30 operators. Six tickets were issued on various violations including no helmets, careless operation, and unregistered ORVs.

CO Marvin Gerlach responded to a grass fire near Powers that burned 15 acres. The fire was started when a subject failed to put out a cigarette before it was tossed on the ground. A ticket was issued.

CO Trey Luce contacted two subjects fishing the shoreline of Lake Superior. A check revealed neither had fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Jared Ferguson responded to several fires in the Manistique area. One fire involved a resident who placed foam and carpet in a burning barrel, then returned to her residence. With no cover or screen on the barrel, she ended up burning 27 acres. Several fire departments including the DNRE responded to the fire. The subject was ticketed for allowing a fire to escape.

CO Reid Roeske and Cpl. Shannon VanPatten located and seized a net that had been set at the mouth of a local stream. Pike and walleye were found in the net.

CO Reid Roeske worked several fires in the Delta County area. One subject was ticketed for allowing a fire to escape.

While CO Robert Crisp was driving through Munising, he observed a subject riding his motorcycle doing a wheely through town. CO Crisp was able to get the motorcycle operator stopped before an accident occurred.

CO Derek Miller had a complaint of three bags of household trash being dumped in a wildlife area. His investigation turned up an envelope with an address. CO Miller obtained a confession from the responsible party and a ticket was issued for the violation, along with prompt cleanup of the mess by the subject.

CO Kevin Postma caught two subjects fishing a trout lake during the closed season who were in possession of 45 brook trout. The adult subject claimed to be a tribal member from Canada and thought his rights extended to Michigan. He was not a member of the recognized tribes for the 1836 treaty area. The 2nd subject was a minor. The trout were seized and a ticket was issued for possessing an overlimit of brook trout and taking brook trout during the closed season on a designated trout lake.

CO Kyle Publiski had a busy week of steelhead activity on his area streams. He encountered two subjects with hip boots and nets trying to catch steelhead at a lamprey weir. After contacting the subjects he recognized one subject as a person he'd caught twice before for taking deer illegally. In fact, for the second act there was still an open warrant. Tickets were issued for attempting to take fish by illegal methods and for fishing within 100 ft. of a weir. The subject with the outstanding warrant was lodged in the county jail.

CO Kyle Publiski, while hiding along an area stream, observed two subjects net a large steelhead and run back to their vehicle with it. Before CO Publiski could get to them they left the area. CO Publiski was able to get a partial plate and vehicle description. Later that night CO Publiski located the same vehicle. CO Publiski contacted the subjects and described how he had observed them illegally take the steelhead with a net. CO Publiski obtained a confession, seized the steelhead, and took enforcement action.

CO Kyle Publiski received information that a family of anglers was watching for the local conservation officer while the father was busy making a homemade spear to use on the steelhead in the local stream. CO Publiski observed the father making the homemade spear and contacted the subject before he had an opportunity to put it to use. A ticket was issued for possessing a spear along a trout stream.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Albert apprehended an individual who was operating his ORV on the snowmobile trail. The individual claimed he believed he was allowed to operate on the trail because of the Antrim County ordinance allowing people to ride on county roads.

CO Andrea Erratt investigated a boat dumped on state land by Chandler Hill Road. She traced the boat to three different owners in Gaylord, Petoskey and Vanderbilt. The final owner agreed to remove the boat from state land and dispose of it properly.

CO Andrea Erratt checked two fly fishermen on the Jordan River; unfortunately one angler had only purchased a 24 hour license last fall. He was ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped three ORVs operating illegally in the Jordan River Valley. They were all riding unlicensed ORVs without helmets and transporting their sons ranging from two to six years old. CO Erratt ticketed the men for operating unlicensed ORVs and warned them for no helmets, riding double and operating ORVs in a closed area on state land.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped a woman operating an ORV along US 131. She said she had driven her ORV on back roads and snowmobile trails to go to the store and get a sandwich. CO Erratt ticketed her for operating an unlicensed ORV and explained ORVs were not allowed on snowmobile trails and state highways.

CO Steve Speigl encountered seven ORV operators on state land who had started a hill climb and had damaged the land. They had named the hill "lazy boy" as there was a recliner that had been dumped there. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Stowe observed a pile of trash dumped on state land and dug through it until he found evidence leading to a local subject. CO Stowe contacted the individual

and received a confession. The responsible subject was ticketed and a clean up of the site has been arranged.

CO Richard Stowe reports an ORV fatal accident occurred in Presque Isle County. Apparently a four-wheeler was running down a county road after dark without lights and ran off the road. The accident is still under investigation by the Michigan State Police (MSP).

While on patrol, CO Eric Bottorff located and ticketed two trucks operating on the rail trail, where no wheeled motor vehicles are allowed. The trail is well signed to this effect.

CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski were tipped off to a set line along the Sturgeon River. Upon checking it, they observed a small stick with monofilament line and a sucker attached to it. Upon further checking, they found the fish to be tied, not hooked (serving as a stringer). When the owner was contacted he didn't have a fishing license and was ticketed for that offense.

CO Mark DePew contacted an individual operating a four wheeler down the county road with his three young children on board. The operator was not wearing a helmet though the children were. One child was sitting on the front rack and the other two were sitting on the rear rack. The driver was issued a ticket for driving while his license was suspended and not wearing a helmet.

CO Mark DePew stopped the operator of a vehicle who was driving erratically and observed blood in the bed of the truck along with a trap. The driver admitted to trapping a raccoon during the closed trapping season and using the animal to train his young dogs and then shot it. CO DePew searched the vehicle and found an uncased 22 caliber rifle which the driver used to shoot the raccoon and a container of marijuana which belonged to the passenger.

CO Joe Molnar received a complaint of a truck doing donuts in the Thunder Bay River. When CO Molnar arrived at the area he found the vehicle stuck in a mud hole by a nearby powerline. The driver was ticketed for operating in a river and for trespass on power company property.

CO Bill Webster was checking anglers at Ninth Street dam in Alpena when he observed a walleye and a sucker on a stringer. A nearby subject stated he had caught the fish and intended to release it after he was done fishing. He later admitted he intended on keeping the walleye and knew the season was not currently open. A ticket was issued for possessing a walleye during the closed season.

DISTRICT 4

CO Steve Converse was patrolling along a rural Manistee road when he was passed by two speeding vehicles that turned onto a public two track. CO Converse followed the fresh tire tracks past barricades and located the vehicles. After contacting the

occupants, marijuana was discovered in both vehicles. Tickets were issued for the illegal operation of vehicles and marijuana use.

CO Angela Greenway worked a joint patrol with Lake County Sheriff Deputies on area trails to address illegal ORV operation causing habitat damage. Several subjects were ticketed for leaving the trail and climbing hills.

Area conservation officers conducted a joint, multiple day patrol with US Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement personnel to address illegal activities occurring near the weir and associated with the opening of the Little Manistee River to angling. Several tickets were issued to persons for entering the Bald Eagle nest closure, illegal operation of vehicles and possession of marijuana. Numerous subjects were also issued warnings for litter deposited near their fishing locations.

COs Brian Brosky, Troy Vangelder and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth worked a long standing complaint related to the annual placement of a large fish trap in the North Branch of the Pentwater River. The fish trap was placed to illegally take steelhead during the spring spawning run. After a lengthy surveillance, the COs apprehended the responsible subjects. Along with the fish trap, a long handled spear was seized from the scene. Warrants will be sought for the fishing violations.

CO Brian Lebel watched as two subjects at the Rogers Dam caught walleye during the closed season and placed the illegally possessed fish on a stringer. When contact was made with the subjects, CO Lebel was unable to locate the fish stringer. When the subjects were ordered to shore so CO Lebel could check for licenses, the stringer was discovered tied to the leg of one of the subjects. Tickets were issued to the two subjects for the possession of four walleye during the closed season.

CO Troy Mueller contacted a subject in possession of a 12 inch largemouth bass during the closed season. The subject asked for a warning, claiming to be unaware of the closed season. CO Mueller pointed out that the largemouth bass was also undersized. A ticket was issued for the closed season violation.

CO Angela Greenway and local authorities responded to a request for assistance from a DNRE Land and Water Management representative. The DNRE employee was at the scene of a stream violation where a subject refused to stop digging out the natural stream bed to create a pond. The subject was verbally abusive and refused to cooperate with the investigation. An arrest warrant will be sought through the prosecutor's office for the habitat violation.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to an ORV incident at the Silver Lake State Park Sand Dunes. An ORV operator's vehicle had an electrical short causing the engine to catch fire. CO Ginn was able to use his department issued fire extinguisher to put the fire out, resulting in minimal damage to the ORV.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson located strike bait for bear on state land and was able to contact a subject freshening up the illegal bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Cherry investigated a complaint of several kids texting and bragging about shining and shooting a deer out of season in the fall of 2009. Interviews with three subjects led CO Cherry to the shooter who was uncooperative and told the CO he didn't have anything on him. After a warrant was issued, the subject pled guilty to taking a deer out of season. The charge was also a violation of the subject's parole. The judge sentenced the subject to eight days of jail time, \$1,000 restitution, \$360 in fines and costs, and no hunting or fishing or being in the company of anyone hunting or fishing for the current year and the following three years.

CO Mike Hearn investigated a complaint of a camp on state land. The camp, along with several ORVs, was located adjacent to private property. The property owner was contacted and admitted the equipment was his. The subject was warned about storing equipment on state land and camping more than 15 consecutive days in one location. The subject was also advised that the ORV operation was in a prohibited area and illegal. CO Hearn returned to the area the next day to check for removal of the equipment and stopped two subjects who were operating ORVs on the state land closed to ORV operation. The subjects were related to the property owner who CO Hearn had spoken to the day before.

CO Bobbi Lively reports that a subject, charged with three illegal deer in the fall of 2009, was ordered to pay \$3,000 restitution and \$3,600 in fines and also had his hunting privileges revoked and his firearm condemned.

CO Joel Lundberg received a complaint of a subject who had snagged and kept a spawning musky. CO Lundberg found the subject fishing in the same spot the following day. After questioning the subject, he confessed and produced the musky he had snagged the day before.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood apprehended a subject snagging walleyes.

CO Joel Lundberg and Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez responded to a complaint of a subject who had shot at some geese. A short interview produced a freshly killed Canadian goose and a .12 gauge shotgun. The subject stated he didn't want the geese messing up his lawn.

CO Joel Lundberg heard a BOL broadcast for a subject with felony drug and domestic warrants who might be attempting to flee the state. A short while later, CO Lundberg passed the subject's vehicle. The subject was heading southbound out of the state when CO Lundberg stopped and arrested him on the warrants.

Conducting a night patrol, CO Steve Lockwood observed a subject hauling a bag of illegally harvested walleye from the river to his vehicle. The subject fled on foot when

he saw Officer Lockwood. CO Lockwood identified the subject and obtained an address. The subject later called and confessed to CO Lockwood, hoping to avoid prosecution. Charges are pending.

CO Brian Olsen assisted with a wildfire where a name and address were found on paper items at the origin. Follow-up led to the individual who had camped in the area and admitted to having a fire but thought it was out when he left the area.

COs Becky Hopkins and Steve Lockwood were conducting a night fish patrol when they found four individuals spearing fish in the river. When the subjects were stopped, they had already speared 27 walleye totaling 81 pounds of illegal fish.

CO Warren MacNeill investigated three separate wildfires and issued tickets to three individuals for allowing fires to escape.

Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez was conducting a fish patrol along a local river and observed a subject standing at a tailgate of a truck. When the subject saw Sgt. Gutierrez, he took off running back toward the river. Sgt. Gutierrez caught up just in time to see the subject throw a walleye back into the water. The subject confessed to catching it and thought he could return it to the water before Sgt. Gutierrez could see the fish.

DISTRICT 6

CO Chad Foerster received a complaint of two subjects fishing in the Saginaw River. The witness saw the subjects pull up a stringer containing 10 walleyes. The subjects left the area and returned several hours later wearing different clothing, but in the same boat. CO Foerster watched the subjects for several hours and notified CO Holly Pennoni of their location and direction as they were heading to shore. CO Pennoni stopped the subjects, who had seven additional walleyes. The pair admitted to catching 10 walleyes earlier in the day and that they had them filleted at home. The COs followed them home where they located the additional filleted walleyes. Enforcement action was taken and the 17 walleyes were seized.

CO Ken Lowell was checking anglers along a canal in the Six Lakes area and contacted an angler who was leaving. The subject was in possession of an overlimit of bluegills. CO Lowell issued the angler a ticket for possession of an overlimit of panfish.

CO Ken Lowell responded to a complaint of litter being dumped along a remote road in Montcalm County and found names on pieces of paper from the trash. The CO contacted one of the subjects whose name appeared in the trash. The man claimed that he did not know that it was illegal to dump trash on someone else's property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly were patrolling along the Flint River on the spearing opener. The COs stopped a vehicle leaving the river at 3:30 a.m. and while walking up to the passengers observed a large pike that still had a spear in it. The COs

also observed two more pike flopping around in the bed of the pick-up truck. Also in the bed of the truck was a five gallon bucket with 13 northern pike that had been speared. The COs confiscated the pike, two lanterns, four spears and three pairs of waders. The three subjects were issued tickets for spearing northern pike.

CO Dan Lee and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly patrolled the closed area of the Tittabawassee River. As the COs came around the bend they observed a small boat pulled up onto the Dow property. Both anglers were fishing with lures and one had just landed a walleye. Enforcement action was taken on both subjects.

While checking an angler who was sucker fishing on the Rifle River, CO Nick Atkin checked the birth date on the angler's fishing license. After questioning him about the birth year, the angler admitted he was attempting to use his father's fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While working surveillance on a group of anglers on the Rifle River, CO Nick Atkin watched them catch and stash walleye in the woods. As the anglers were leaving, CO Atkin contacted them and located several walleye in their vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was called to the Consumers Power Hot Ponds for a recreational trespass complaint. A group of anglers were fishing in the Hot Ponds but one angler in particular, even after being asked to leave by security, continued fishing in the closed area that had high voltage warning signs posted. CO Wright observed the angler casting up into the closed area and catch a fish. Contact was made with the angler and a ticket was issued for recreational trespass.

CO Joshua Wright was first on scene of a grass fire on state land that spread from an unattended fire. CO Wright was able to put the fire out with his issued fire extinguisher before the fire department arrived. The investigation is ongoing at this time as to who started the fire and left it unattended.

As CO Robert Hobkirk was watching anglers along the Pigeon River, he overheard them betting on who would catch the first bass. After watching the individuals for some time, one of the two caught a smallmouth bass. The men immediately released the bass, but continued to fish. CO Hobkirk contacted the men and advised them of the opening date of the bass catch and release season. Also in the same location, CO Hobkirk observed an unattended line on a dock across the river. After speaking with the two anglers, CO Hobkirk contacted the owner of the home with the unattended line. The homeowner told CO Hobkirk that he was too busy cooking dinner to walk down and check his fishing pole.

CO Holly Pennoni received a complaint from sucker anglers on shore and in boats on the Tittabawassee River that two anglers were catching several walleye and stashing them in the rocks just up the river bank. As CO Pennoni arrived with CO Dan Lee, she contacted the witnesses who positively identified the violators and led them to the

hidden walleye. Poles and gear were confiscated and tickets were written for taking walleye during the spawning closure, using illegal gear in a gear restricted area and possession of overlimit of walleye.

DISTRICT 7

COs Gerard Goulette and Chris Simpson worked on a night time spearing complaint on a Muskegon County lake. The COs caught two subjects spearing largemouth bass with the use of a light. The subjects' boat also had no navigation lights. Tickets were issued for the violations.

COs Steve Orange and Dave Rodgers wrote eight tickets for various fishing violations on area trout streams in Kent County. COs also caught a father and his four sons engaged in "family" activities, netting and snagging steelhead late at night in the Rogue River. Another subject was cutting wood in Rogue River State Game Area (SGA).

While on patrol CO Chris Simpson and Acting Sgt. Greg Patten observed a large smoke plume on the north side of the City of Muskegon. The COs contacted Muskegon Dispatch to report it and were requested to the scene. A marsh area in the City was on fire, threatening homes in the area. DNRE firefighters also responded to the scene. While at the fire, CO Simpson was pressed into service by the Muskegon Fire Department. CO Simpson assisted by using one of the fire hoses to extinguish part of the blaze. The COs also provided assistance by coordinating with DNRE and local firefighters.

CO Greg Patten assisted the Holton Fire Department and DNRE firefighters on a woods fire. When CO Patten arrived he recalled a fire at the same location two years ago. Both fires were started when the homeowner disposed of hot ashes from his wood stove adjacent to a burning pit full of brush. The ashes ignited the brush causing a wildfire. While at the scene CO Patten discovered that the homeowner was baiting and feeding deer with sugar beets, corn, and a mineral block. Enforcement action was taken on both violations.

While working a closed trout stream, CO Zach Doss observed two subjects with a compound bow and arrows with broadheads attempting to take steelhead.

CO Mike Mshar responded to numerous complaints at the Hamilton Dam in Allegan County during the period relating to foul hooking of spawning steelhead. CO Mshar conducted plainclothes surveillance on several occasions and ticketed two persons for retaining foul hooked fish. CO Mshar turned over two other subjects to COs Patrick McManus and Jeff Rabbers after he witnessed violations. On one occasion CO Mshar witnessed a subject foul hook and retain three steelhead, then snag a sucker which he threw behind him into a wooded area with no intention of recovering the fish. CO McManus arrived to issue tickets to this individual for retaining foul hooked fish.

CO Mike Mshar, with assistance of Plainwell Area 1 COs, conducted taxidermist inspections from January to March. He reported the inspection of several businesses in Ionia County which resulted in 13 tickets and six verbal warnings for violations that included unlicensed taxidermist, failing to maintain taxidermy records, deer and turkey tagging violations, untagged specimens and whole deer heads imported and possessed from positive CWD states. Inspections were conducted of several Allegan County taxidermists during this period, which resulted in 12 tickets and two verbal warnings for similar violations. COs seized 17 sets of deer antlers, wild turkey parts, and a bear rug as evidence of illegal kills and tagging violations.

Sgt. John Jurcich, CO Chuck Towns and CO Mike Mshar conducted an inspection of an Allegan captive cervid facility with a history of violations and escape of swine. COs conducted this inspection with Wildlife Division staff from the Plainwell office. Numerous violations were documented and the facility is to be ordered to quickly come into compliance or face enforcement action and shut down.

CO Patrick McManus reported heavy "mud runner" activity has started in the Allegan SGA with the recent rains. He advised two trucks were ticketed for violations and two other ORVs were contacted with one operator ticketed for no helmet.

CO Jeff Rabbers responded to a grass fire that was started by a subject illegally burning a mattress and leaves during a burn ban. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Rabbers was called one evening to Thornapple Lake in Barry County on a report of a boat which had become entangled in a DNRE trap net that was set as a part of Fisheries Division muskie brood stock program. Several marked nets had been in place during the week while fish are handled for brood stock muskie rearing operations. The boat occupants were rescued that evening and the net was recovered the following day mostly destroyed.

CO Chris Holmes observed a subject operating a dirt bike illegally down a busy county road. Upon contact with the rider who was committing numerous violations, it was discovered he had a suspended operator's license. He was ticketed for driving while suspended and operating an ORV in the roadway.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jeff Goss handled several ORV trespass complaints on commercial forest and Consumers Energy land. The ongoing problems have concentrated the work effort. Six tickets for recreational trespass were written along with numerous verbal warnings.

CO Kyle Bader checked two subjects fishing, one of whom he recognized as being the same person to whom he had previously written tickets. The subject was overlimit again and became belligerent with CO Bader. Back up arrived to assist with arresting the subject. A warrant was authorized for resist and obstruct and overlimit of panfish.

CO Kyle Bader recognized the vehicle that belonged to a subject who was known to trap out of season parked near a channel. He located the subject and observed him paddle up to several muskrat houses and shoot two of the animals that were swimming in the water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster responded to a complaint of a subject driving an ORV onto state/federal land in Jackson County which is closed to motor vehicle use. The subject had pushed over the berm at the illegal ORV trail and left a sign with some "not so polite language". While at the site taking photos, CO Webster and another DNRE employee encountered the subject, who returned in a golf cart. The subject began cursing, claiming they had no right to block off his trail. CO Webster then observed a pistol tucked into the subject's pants, which he retrieved and found unloaded. Another firearm was located within the golf cart; a loaded uncased .22 long rifle, which the subject claimed was for shooting woodchucks. After enforcement action was taken, the subject apologized for his attitude and admitted he had been in the wrong.

While working the river, CO Jason Smith checked an angler who was in possession of a 6 ½ inch bass. The angler knew that he was not supposed to have the bass but advised the CO that he was holding onto the fish because he was afraid that if he threw it back into the water he may catch it again. He assured the CO that he was going to throw it back when he was done fishing for the day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince and PCO Joe Pena, while conducting marine patrol, made 22 contacts, gave six verbal warnings, and issued one ticket for towing without an observer. The warnings included three unregistered vessels, no Type 4 PFD, no fire extinguisher and one expired fishing license.

CO Dan Prince reported that a plea of no contest was entered to the charge of careless/reckless discharge of a firearm from a November, 2009 incident. Prior to shooting hours, a subject shot into a field at what he thought was a deer, killing the animal; however, the deer was actually a horse. A sentencing and restitution hearing is set for the near future.

COs Pete Purdy and Dan Prince assisted other law enforcement agencies on a call of a suicidal subject whose vehicle was parked in a remote location in a state recreation area. The subject was not in the vehicle, but the COs were able to get in position with their patrol truck to watch as the subject spoke on the phone with a law enforcement officer from another agency. The COs were able to take the subject into protective custody without incident.

CO Shane Webster located two subjects operating ORVs illegally on the railroad tracks. The subjects stated they were operating on the tracks to gain access to an area on Consumer Energy property, where it is also illegal to operate. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster investigated a large pile of refuse dumped on state prison property. CO Webster's investigation led him to a subject who admitted to the illegal dumping as he didn't want to pay the landfill fees. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was ordered to clean up all of the illegally dumped garbage.

DISTRICT 9

While working the Flint River, COs Mark Papineau and Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of subjects fishing with illegal equipment in Montrose Township. The COs contacted two subjects who were both fishing for walleye during the closed season and using illegal equipment. During the check, the COs located two walleye that had been hidden in the tall grass. One subject had multiple prior violations and enforcement action was taken.

While checking property known for trespassing, COs Mark Papineau and Brandon Kieft contacted two subjects who were fishing with unlawful fishing tackle. While observing the subjects, the COs observed the subjects littering numerous beer cans along the shore of the Flint River. During contact the subjects admitted to fishing for walleye and bass; both seasons being closed. During consent searches of the subjects' property, the COs located a small quantity of marijuana and narcotic paraphernalia. In addition to the multiple violations, one of the subjects had an outstanding warrant from Gladwin County for another DNRE related issue. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau closed out an out of season deer case from the early antlerless season. The subject was convicted of taking a deer during the closed season and ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution and loss of hunting privileges for four years.

CO Mark Papineau assisted the Fenton City Police Department with a deer that had jumped through the window of a local residence. CO Papineau and local authorities managed to safely remove the injured deer from the residence and return it to the wild without further injury.

COs Linda Scheidler and Al Schwiderson, along with Sgt. Tom Wanless and Lt. David Malloch, conducted a group patrol on the Flint River in Genesee County. Due to dropping temperatures and rain showers, activity was down. While conducting surveillance near Atwood Stadium, CO Schwiderson and Sgt. Wanless observed a subject fishing with illegal tackle. The subject landed a walleye and immediately put it in his vehicle then continued fishing. A short time later the subject attempted to leave and CO Scheidler and Lt. Malloch contacted the subject and recovered the walleye hidden in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Tom Wanless was working the Flint River in downtown Flint during the walleye closure when he observed two subjects fishing with illegal tackle. When the CO contacted the first subject, the subject put his head down and told the CO, "I knew we should not have come down here. We saw you earlier, but thought you had left for the day." The second subject cut his line when he saw the CO; however, it was too late,

Sgt. Wanless had already taken a picture of him fishing with the illegal tackle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau observed a large amount of smoke in the area near the Flint River in Montrose. As he went to investigate, Genesee County Central Dispatch advised that the fire department was en route to a controlled burn that got out of hand. CO Papineau assisted the fire department with extinguishing the fire.

While checking anglers on one side of the Flint River near Atwood Stadium in Flint, CO Mark Papineau observed a subject on the opposite side of the river. The subject yelled over to the subjects the CO was checking to ask if that was the "DNR". When he was told yes, the subject took off running away from the river. The CO drove around the block and found the subject hiding in some bushes. The subject had a warrant and several prior convictions for fishing with illegal tackle during the walleye closure. Two of the priors were from previous years in the same location. He did not have a fishing license and was again fishing with illegal tackle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler was conducting surveillance on anglers on the Flint River in Flint Township who were fishing with illegal tackle during the walleye closure. As she was hiding in some brush within a few feet of one subject, another subject came over and showed that subject his fish he had hidden in a bag. Both subjects were within arms reach of the CO, so she stepped out and asked to see the fish too. It was a 5½ pound walleye. The CO seized over 20 pounds of walleye from the two subjects. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a complaint of subjects in possession of a walleye out of season, CO Dan Walzak contacted two subjects who had placed a large walleye in the trunk of a vehicle. The subject who actually caught the fish stated he had never caught a fish that large and believed that the season was open for the taking of the fish. The subject also stated that he placed the fish in the trunk of the car because he did not have a stringer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett conducted a night patrol at the Huron River in Flat Rock for ongoing after hours walleye violations. He observed the anglers from different vantage points for almost 90 minutes before starting to make checks. One pair that he observed did not have any fish, but one of them denied fishing when they were contacted. CO Ennett explained that he had been in the area with binoculars for most of the night and had watched him fishing. Once CO Ennett explained he could be arrested for the violation, he finally admitted he had been fishing. The subject also had an outstanding warrant from a local police agency. CO Ennett ticketed him for fishing without a license and advised and released him on the warrant. The subject did apologize for lying after CO Ennett advised him that he had not purchased a license in five years.

COs Mark Ennett and Jonathon Sklba responded to a report that a small fishing boat was seen overturned on Brest Bay on Lake Erie. CO Ennett checked the location from the vantage of Sterling State Park, even though it was well away from the reported

location. A local deputy went to the original location that was reported. CO Ennett checked the area with his binoculars and noted an object in the water about a mile off the beach of Sterling State Park. At almost the same time, the boater lit a flare. CO Ennett then radioed dispatch and confirmed an overturned vessel with a person in the water. CO Jonathon Sklba responded and met with local deputies at their Safe Boat and joined in the rescue. The water was very rough due to the high winds but they were able to locate the vessel and both subjects were rescued. The two subjects told CO Sklba that the boat began taking on water after the bilge pump gave out. Shortly after that a wave flipped the boat and the two stranded subjects, along with their dog, had to cling to the overturned vessel. The dog was unable to survive the cold water and strong waves. As both occupants were taken back to the ramp at Sterling State Park, local deputies were able to recover the dog.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a report from Wildlife Division of a wildfire at a section of Pointe Mouillee SGA was burning a portion of the marsh. CO Ennett assisted with traffic control and keeping gawkers out of the area. Five different agencies responded to help contain the fire. Included were units from Wayne and Monroe counties, as well as State DNRE equipment and personnel. Preliminary results indicated the fire was intentionally set.

COs Jonathon Sklba and Pete Purdy patrolled the Edison Fishing Pier and contacted a group of anglers who were fishing without licenses. One of the subjects had warrants and was recently released from jail. Enforcement action was taken.

While on routine patrol, COs Ben Shively and Brandon Kieft encountered four motorcycles operating on City of Pontiac property. All of the subjects were trespassing, were not wearing helmets, and had no ORV licenses. The COs obtained identification from the subjects and followed them to their parked vehicles. Once back at the vehicles, the COs observed four other vehicles "mud bogging" in the distance on the City property. CO Shively stopped two of the trucks and obtained identification from the drivers and sent them to CO Kieft as he attempted to catch up to the two other trucks that were quickly leaving the area. CO Shively stopped one of the two trucks and escorted the subject back to CO Kieft's location. The motorcycle operators were issued tickets for no helmet and eye protection and the truck operators were issued tickets for ORV trespass.

CO Ben Shively responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a subject keeping bass on Sylvan Lake. When contacted, the angler possessed six bluegill but did not have a life jacket and had no registration for the vessel. The subject was issued a ticket for not having a life jacket. CO Shively later contacted the complainant and found that he had confronted the subject from shore and told him that he had called the DNR and that the subject had gotten rid of the bass.

CO Kris Kiel, with assistance from local authorities, responded to a complaint of a subject with a whitetail deer in a pen. Through his investigation, CO Kiel determined that the subject found a fawn on his property almost three years ago. He put the fawn

in a pen and raised it. CO Kiel advised him that he was not allowed to have a deer in captivity. He stated that he thought he was doing the right thing by saving the deer from being shot in the future. Two animal control officers tranquilized the buck and it was removed from the property. The subject was visibly upset and so was the deer's roommate; a sheep. He was written a ticket for possession of a deer without a rehabilitation permit.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint of a subject who was fishing and keeping bass from a city fishing pier on Lake St. Clair. The subject was observed catching a bass and hiding it in his backpack. CO Kiel arrived and checked the subject and found a 14½ inch smallmouth bass wrapped in a grocery bag at the bottom of his backpack. The subject stated that he was going to turn the fish in to the DNR for testing since he saw a few dead bass at that location last year. He was written a ticket for possession of a smallmouth bass during the closed season and arrested on three warrants. He was turned over to a Harper Woods police officer.

CO Todd Szyska contacted numerous shore anglers and issued tickets to two subjects fishing without licenses. One subject hadn't purchased one since 2006 and had a warrant out of Macomb County for over \$1,200. CO Szyska arrested the subject and turned him over to the Macomb County authorities.