

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Report  
4/23/2017 – 5/6/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

A long night paid off for Conservation Officer (CO) Denny Gast. The spring smelt run had been hit or miss in most locations. At 4:00 a.m. this last week, CO Gast located an area where the run was on and anglers were dipping their two gallon limits in about five minutes. The last individual out of the hot spot was dipping way too long; when checked he had a five gallon bucket filled to the top with smelt. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Miller followed up on a complaint of a subject spearing walleye. Incidentally, as CO Miller was out on patrol, the suspect's mother flagged CO Miller down with an unrelated question. After answering her question, CO Miller asked her if her son was around. She responded that he was inside the house and went and got him. After a brief interview with the suspect law enforcement action was taken.

COs Dave Miller, Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes taught ORV safety classes to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Ontonagon and Baraga schools throughout the week. The students are slated to attend a field day later on in the week at Camp Nesbit. After completing the field day, nearly 100 students will receive their ORV safety certificates.

CO Brian Lasanen received a complaint of a turkey hunter who had just shot from a vehicle while within the safety zone of a residence. The complainant was able to identify the vehicle and also the suspect. CO Lasanen located the suspect and after a short interview it was determined the suspect had not shot at the turkey from in a motor vehicle. As to the safety zone violation, the suspect stated he was about 200 yards away from the complainant's residence when he shot. CO Lasanen asked about the house that was behind him, which was determined to be less than 50 yards away, and he advised that doesn't count because he was not shooting in that direction. Law enforcement action taken

COs Brian Lasanen, Nathan Sink, and Ethen Mapes assisted the Michigan State Police and Parks and Recreation Division in a search and rescue. At approximately 9:00 p.m. a man reported that his friends and family had not returned from a hike in the Porcupine Mountains near Lake of the Clouds. The search lasted all night and into the early afternoon the next day. The United States Coast Guard assisted with their chopper throughout the night and many miles were hiked in search of the group. Efforts were never eased as the search went on. Around 11:00 a.m. the following day, the group walked out after getting off the trail and having to spend the night in the woods with no hiking gear and inappropriate clothing for the below freezing temperatures. Everyone in the group was checked over by EMS, and besides being cold and hungry, no additional medical treatment was needed.

CO David Miller worked smelt dipping activities on the Falls River. He ticketed a crew for taking well over their two gallon limit per person (18 gallons = 125 pounds). He worked the Falls River and Linden Creek the following night and ticketed a subject for taking and overlimit of smelt (77 gallons = 290 pounds worth.) The 415 pounds of smelt were seized and distributed to local families in need.

CO David Miller received a complaint of an ORV group that was using a snowmobile trail to travel through private property for many of their rides, trespassing and causing property damage. CO Miller was able to contact a group of 17 ORVs who had just driven past a "NO WHEELED VEHICLES" sign, and were trespassing on private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethen Mapes and Sgt. Grant Emery assisted the Michigan State Police and the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office with the search of a Ewen man who was wanted for a resent felony situation involving a firearm. The man was apprehended several hours later and was treated for beginning stages of hypothermia.

CO Ethen Mapes and Sgt. Grant Emery were checking fishermen at a boat landing when two individuals in a canoe came to shore. Sgt. Emery was there to meet the young men and smelled the aroma of alcohol. One of the individuals was under the age of 21 and admitted to drinking. The young men were cited for failing to provide life jackets in a canoe and the minor was turned over to a parent.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy attended the Kingsford Middle School "Breakfast with the Experts" program. The COs presented on the career and job functions of a conservation officer to the 50 attending students.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon attended the hunter safety program at the Sagola Sportsman's Club. Sixty students attended the course and are now certified.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon were in northern Dickinson County when they observed a suspicious vehicle quickly turn into a driveway after seeing the COs. Further investigation found the driver was operating without a license, no insurance, and an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to the complaint of illegal camping on state land in the Groveland Mine Complex. The COs located a tent camp set up and observed two subjects farther down the shoreline of the lake. The COs approached the subjects and observed one person fishing. Contact was made with the subjects, and the male subject attempted to dump his bucket into the lake. CO Bacon quickly ordered the subject to stop what he was doing and put the bucket down. The subject was found to be in possession of an undersized bass during the closed season and he had no fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nathan Sink taught a hunter safety course in the Wakefield Middle School.

CO Shannon Kritz instructed at two Iron County hunter safety courses. The 50 students then attended the required field safety day at Camp Gibbs near Iron River.

CO Shannon Kritz spoke to Purdue University students that are studying at Covenant Point near Iron River. CO Kritz presented on safe boating practices, fishing opportunities and other recreational activities the area has to offer.

CO Jeffrey Dell received a complaint of an out of season musky being taken at the Hattie Street Bridge. CO Dell made contact with the suspects. The fish, which was 49 inches long and weighed 40 pounds, was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge was conducting a night patrol on the eve of the trout opener along a popular stream in Marquette County when he observed two individuals with flashlights leave their camp site carrying fishing gear. CO DeLonge followed the anglers for a mile under the cover of darkness to a popular fishing hole and observed the anglers start fishing the stream well before midnight. CO DeLonge then made contact with the anglers and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman reports that a subject who shot a bear last season without a license has been fined a total of \$4,500. The subject will spend five days in jail and has lost all hunting privileges until 2020.

CO Mark Leadman was patrolling along a remote trout stream several days before the trout season opener. CO Leadman located a pick-up hidden near the stream and set up between the vehicle and the closed stream. After several minutes, a subject was observed walking back from the stream carrying a fishing pole and night crawlers. The subject spotted the patrol truck and quickly hid the fishing pole and bait behind a large tree. CO Leadman contacted and questioned the subject and determined that two more fishermen were still out fishing on the stream. Both of the subjects were found fishing in different locations. One of the subjects had two steelhead in his possession. All three fishermen were ticketed for fishing on a closed trout stream.

COs Jeremy Sergey, Jeff Dell and Lt. Terry Short investigated the release of a South African Red Devil into the pond at Water Tower Park in Menominee. The investigation continues and has been handed over to local authorities.

CO Jeremy Sergey investigated a complaint involving a fire. The investigation revealed that an individual started a debris fire on a day there was a burn ban. The fire quickly spread to the neighbor's grass. The grass had burned up to the neighbor's house, catching the house on fire. There was significant damage to the house. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling a lake in Marquette County that prohibits the use of live bait when he observed multiple anglers fishing from the state owned boat launch. CO DeLonge made contact with the anglers and found that they were targeting pike and walleye; both species are closed until May 15th in the Upper Peninsula. CO DeLonge

also observed a large container of crawlers that were being used by the anglers. CO DeLonge pointed out the multiple signs explaining the bait regulations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman taught at two hunter safety classes last week. One at the West Branch Sportsman Club and one at Negaunee High School.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Kevin Postma was reviewing photos from a hidden trail camera of individuals fishing on a closed trout stream. CO Postma was able to identify the fishermen because one was wearing a sweatshirt with his last name across the back of it. A report will be sent to the local prosecutor's office.

CO Kevin Postma and Sgt. Mike Hammill made contact with two fishermen on a local trout lake in Chippewa County. When asked for fishing licenses, they advised they were both tribal and provided tribal ID cards. CO Postma asked if they had a tribal inland fishing license, they advised they didn't know they needed one. CO Postma explained the difference between the two different consent decrees and explained to the two fishermen that they did in fact need an inland fishing license. A report will be turned over to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for follow up.

CO Calvin Smith was reviewing fisher kill tags when he came across a suspicious tag. CO Smith made contact with the trapper who admitted to trapping without license. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith made contact with a fisherman who was enjoying some success on a Type D trout lake. When asked what the fisherman was using, he stated, "A black mister twister." CO Smith then asked the fisherman if he could check his tackle box. The fisherman said "Yeah you can look in there but I probably have some stuff that I'm not supposed to have back here". A quick search turned up a half dozen night crawlers that were hidden in a compartment. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson was patrolling a local Type D trophy trout lake when he observed a group of four young fishermen in a canoe and two kayaks. CO Watson watched the young men fish for some time before making contact when the canoe came to shore. CO Watson then greeted the fishermen and called for the remaining two kayaks to also come ashore. Throughout the check, CO Watson discovered the fishermen had been using live bait which is prohibited, they had retained an over limit of brook trout, and all the brook trout in their possession were undersized. Also, in an attempt to hide his catch, one of the young men dumped a zip-lock bag with an unknown amount of fish back into the lake before coming to shore. One of the fishermen also failed to purchase his 2017 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Watson was given a complaint of a trespassing issue which occurred when a young man allegedly attempted to harass some geese with a sling shot on a piece of privately

owned farm land. The landowner confronted the trespasser and was able to record his vehicle license plate and a physical description. CO Watson made contact with the trespasser and obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Tom Oberg and Kevin Postma responded to a domestic violence call near Brimley in Chippewa County. The COs arrived on scene and assisted Bay Mills Tribal Police in the investigation. The COs interviewed the victim and witnesses while the tribal officer interviewed the suspect. After completing the investigation, it was turned over to Bay Mills Tribal Police for enforcement actions.

CO Michael Evink and his wife were returning from a shopping trip when a vehicle pulled a 180 on the road in front of them. The vehicle stopped and the driver got out and flagged them down. He proceeded to introduce himself and his dog which was very unusual. He then got back in his truck and continued driving in an erratic manner. CO Evink contacted regional dispatch and was informed that the closest units were over an hour away. CO Evink followed the truck out of fear for his safety. At one point CO Evink lost the suspect, only to have him race up behind him. The driver flagged CO Evink down again at which point it was apparent that the driver was intoxicated. CO Evink talked with the subject until a Manistique city officer arrived on scene. The individual was taken into custody without incident.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink responded to a subject's residence that was burning a large brush pile on a no burn day. The COs had dealt with the suspect last year and had issued citations for the same violation. Upon arrival, the COs had the subject put out the fire and issued him a citation for burning without a permit. The COs also advised the subject that he was currently on probation from last year's burning activity and that it was a violation of his probation. The court was notified of the incident and the subject was called in on his probation violation the following day.

CO Robert Freeborn served arrest warrants on three suspects in an illegal deer case from last deer season.

CO Robert Freeborn assisted CO Michael Evink in a firewood theft from a local logging job. The COs were able to locate the suspected camp along with almost three face cord of firewood that matched that of the reported stolen wood.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink assisted in the local spring hunter safety class in Manistique. The COs assisted in the classroom portion as well as the field day where the kids get to shoot .22s and shotguns at skeet/trap.

COs Jon Busken and Mark Zitnik attended a career fair with Alger County Michigan Works. Interested 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders from surrounding schools were able to ask many questions pertaining to conservation law enforcement and the hiring process.

CO Mark Zitnik was checking smelt dippers on the Anna River when he came across a pick-up truck with a bucket in the bed. On top was a brook trout. CO Zitnik asked the angler who was wading in the water to show him his bucket. When the angler took the

bucket out of the truck he threw the trout underneath. CO Zitnik asked the angler to pick up the trout. The young angler hung his head and gave the brook trout to the CO. The angler stated he should have thrown the undersized trout back once he netted it, but didn't. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of out of season walleye photos on social media. The anglers were contacted and it was determined no violations had occurred; however, during the investigation, CO Lynch became suspicious of some nice deer photos. It was determined the deer were harvested before the hunter purchased his deer hunting license and the hunter had been doing this for quite some time. CO Lynch contacted the hunter and received a confession on four illegal trophy bucks. The deer mounts were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when a domestic in progress call came out near his location. CO Lynch was responding to the call when the first officer on scene called out he was in a foot pursuit with a subject. CO Lynch and a Michigan State Police trooper arrived at the same time to back up the first officer on scene. The subject had fled into a house and barricaded himself inside a bathroom. After some negotiation, the subject surrendered peacefully and was placed under arrest and lodged in the Delta County Jail.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he observed a vehicle parked near the Days River. Upon looking in the vehicle, there was a container with marijuana in plain view on the back seat. CO Lynch contacted the four anglers and got a confession of whose marijuana it was and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of a logging operation going on with several violations present. CO Lynch arrived on scene to see the creek was dammed up and the heavy machinery on scene was operating through the creek. The scene was documented and photos were sent to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ personnel are continuing the investigation.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of a privately owned cervid facility not complying with turning in required inventory records. CO Lynch contacted the owner of the POC facility and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch was investigating a litter complaint near an ORV trail when he noticed a vehicle slowly coming down the trail towards him. The driver observed CO Lynch and quickly left the area. CO Lynch followed the vehicle and observed several moving violations and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver said they were simply out for a drive and didn't want to bother the CO. The driver did not have insurance on the vehicle and enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

Sgt. Mike Feagan and CO Chad Baldwin attended a Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative (NLMIC) meeting on Beaver Island. There were 18 individuals in attendance along with Wildlife Division personnel. COs shared information on new ORV legislation and addressed other law enforcement questions.

CO Andrea Albert received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint that subjects were fishing in a closed portion of the Intermediate River in Antrim County. This area of the river is closed to protect spawning walleye. From a concealed location, CO Albert observed two subjects fishing in the closed part of the river. When contacted they stated that they had caught two walleye in the same area the day before. The father and his 17-year-old son were unaware of the fishing closure. CO Albert showed them how to look up the fishing closures by county in the fishing guide. The illegally taken walleye were seized and a ticket was issued to the father for fishing in a closed stream.

On her way home at the end of her work day, CO Andrea Albert observed a truck driving erratically after pulling out of a local bar. The truck was swerving from side to side and almost hit a mailbox after rounding a curve. After CO Albert activated the emergency lights and siren, the driver didn't pull over, he just continued to a local store and parked in a parking space. In the store parking lot, CO Albert conducted sobriety tests and arrested the subject for operating while impaired by alcohol. The operator's blood alcohol level was over three times the legal limit and he admitted he never realized he was being pulled over.

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint of an animal with its head stuck in a bucket out in a field. The reporting person said it appeared to be somewhat big and it had run across the highway and into the field behind his house. CO Albert responded to the complaint with the Antrim County Sheriff's Department. Officers discovered that it was a small housecat with its head stuck in a tin can of ravioli. CO Albert was able to carefully remove the can without injuring the cat. The cat appeared healthy and was safely released.

CO Duane Budreau attended the Boy Scout Camporee at the Harbor Springs Outdoor Club over the weekend. Over 100 scouts and parents were present. There was instruction on various shooting sports such as archery, paint ball, shotgun, rifle, and black powder. There were also lessons on edged weapons and tools, first aid and outdoor cooking.

After receiving an email regarding a trash cleanup project in Pellston, CO Duane Budreau decided to patrol the area ahead of time to see what was freshly dumped this spring. CO Budreau located several bags of household garbage with each bag containing several empty packs of Marlboro "reds". The bags appeared to have been dumped recently. CO Budreau dug through three of the trash bags until he located a letter addressed to a subject from the Alanson trailer park. When CO Budreau got to the address, he observed a male subject outside smoking a cigarette. CO Budreau's first question was, "what brand of cigarettes do you smoke"? His response was of course Marlboro reds. A confession was received and a ticket was issued.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County conducted a taxidermy inspection on a taxidermist she had warned in the past for failing to keep accurate records, failing to fill out specimen ID cards, and possessing game animals without documenting proper license information. CO Erratt started the inspection but the taxidermist was unable to locate his log book. CO Erratt checked several sets of deer antlers without specimen ID tags attached and the ones that were tagged were not filled out sufficiently. CO Erratt pointed this out and asked the taxidermist to call when he found his log book. The taxidermist called and CO Erratt returned to complete the inspection. His log book did not have the required information and had game animals without license numbers noted and he had not placed ID tags on the deer antlers. CO Erratt ticketed the taxidermist for failing to keep proper records and specimen ID tags.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County was called by Antrim County dispatch to help in locating an individual in the Jordan River Valley. His wife was having their baby prematurely at Flint Hurley Hospital. Someone from the hospital had called Antrim County saying the husband was backpacking and camping near Deadman's Hill. CO Erratt patrolled to Pinney Bridge State Forest Campground and located the very unexpected father who said his wife was not due for a month. CO Erratt helped him break down his tent and gave him a ride to his truck that was parked at Deadman's Hill. On Sunday, the dad, who made it to Flint in time for his son's delivery, texted CO Erratt a thank you including a picture of his newborn son.

On Sunday, CO Andrea Erratt checked two fishermen by their vehicle on Horton Creek and observed their friend walking down the hill with nothing in his hands. The first two fishermen had fishing licenses but the third individual claimed he had not been fishing. He claimed he had just walked in with his friends along Horton Creek and got lost so he walked out of the property at the top of the hill. CO Erratt asked if he knew the owner of the heavily posted property where they were fishing and he said no. CO Erratt asked him what was in the pocket of his hooded sweatshirt and he produced a box of worms. CO Erratt explained to him that it was very unusual for someone to be out walking in the rain on a designated trout stream with worms in his pocket on opening weekend and not fishing. He admitted he had been fishing on Loeb Creek earlier but claimed he had left his rod at his grandmother's house. CO Erratt asked him if she would find his fishing rod when they walked up the road to where he exited the private property and he said no. CO Erratt walked up the hill and located a fishing rod in the grass next to the road that the individual admitted was his. CO Erratt ticketed the individual for fishing without a license and warned him for recreational trespass.

CO Andrea Erratt attended the Charlevoix Rod and Gun Club Youth Day event where over 200 children attended to fish for brook trout in the pond, tie flies, and shoot archery, shotguns, and .22 rifles. CO Erratt covered her patrol truck with hides of animals and deer antlers from past cases involving illegal bobcat, mink, beaver, muskrat, coyote, and deer. CO Erratt talked to kids about all of the furs, how she obtained all the animals, and a conservation officer's duties.

Sgt. Mark DePew completed follow up on an illegal burn in Otsego County. The subject was illegally burning household trash when the wind picked up causing the fire to spread to an adjacent property. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mark DePew received information about an individual illegally trapping on private property. Upon investigation, it was determined the individual was in violation of numerous trapping laws including failing to check traps within 24 hours, no identification on the traps, and trapping out of season. Charges are being pursued through the Otsego County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Nick Torsky assisted with a hunter safety course at the Northland Sportsman's Club in Otsego County where 75 children and adults were certified.

CO Nick Torsky contacted an angler fishing at one of the trout lakes in the Pigeon River Country. Upon contact with the angler, he was found to be using live bait in a lake that requires only the use of artificial bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross and CO Brad Bellville did a presentation at Camp Daggett Science Camp in Petoskey to visiting Atlanta 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The COs discussed numerous topics ranging from hunters safety to wildlife habitat and conservation.

CO Brad Bellville along with Montmorency County Sheriff's Deputies, Michigan State Police and EMS responded to an injured ORV rider north of Atlanta. The subject was able to walk away from the scene of the accident with minor injuries and was turned over to EMS personnel for treatment.

CO Brad Bellville responded to a call of a fire escaping a burn barrel and catching a car and building on fire. When CO Bellville arrived on scene with fire personnel, the car and garage were fully engulfed in flames. Fire crews were able to suppress the fire. Enforcement action was taken for failure to prevent the spread of fire.

CO Kelly Ross was dispatched to an unattended fire in Montmorency County. CO Ross responded to the area and found the fire burning with no one home. CO Ross also noted that there was a burn ban in place for the day. The fire was extinguished by the township fire department. The homeowner was contacted a short time later and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross was patrolling the Black River in Montmorency County when he encountered a fishing camp with a large group of subjects. Several of the subjects were extremely intoxicated and very hostile toward CO Ross. There was also a large amount of trash that the subjects had scattered about. CO Ross was able to calm the subjects down. Enforcement action was taken for the litter violations.

CO Paul Fox did a presentation for a Boy Scout troop in Presque Isle County. CO Fox displayed a large fur kit and spoke to the group about all the different animal species in Michigan as well as the importance of conservation and habitat protection.

CO Paul Fox was patrolling the Ocqueoc River near Barnhart Lake in Presque Isle County. Upon contacting a subject fishing from a boat CO Fox noticed that the subject's registration had expired in 1992. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Michael Mshar was patrolling Montmorency County near Atlanta when he observed subjects installing a very tall chain link fence around a section of private property. Sgt. Mshar made a closer inspection and noted that the fence was much taller than is allowed by law. Sgt. Mshar contacted the property manager and fence contractor who advised that they were putting up almost four miles of fence. Sgt. Mshar explained the Michigan fence law to the subjects and explained the importance of the law in regard to allowing the free range of wildlife. This area has a very large population of elk that could be negatively affected by the fence. The property manager was very thankful for the contact and extremely happy they were given the proper information before they had installed the entire fence illegally.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO William Kinney was patrolling through Grand Traverse County when a complaint came over the radio of a suicidal subject attempting to harm himself. The local 911 stated the suspect had attempted to cut himself and also cut another member in the household. CO Kinney was the closest unit and responded to the area to assist Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department. As CO Kinney approached the scene, the suspect was located walking down the road holding a knife in his hand. CO Kinney and a deputy made contact with the suspect and he dropped the knife once confronted by the officers. The suspect was detained for further investigation. CO Kinney remained on scene to assist with the investigation. It was found that the suspect was possibly under the influence of a controlled substance. The suspect sustained minor cuts when attempting to harm himself, but was fortunately stopped by his family members. One of the family members also sustained a minor cut when she attempted to remove knives from his hands. She was treated on scene and the suspect was taken to the local hospital for further evaluation.

COs William Kinney and Colton Gelinias were patrolling for ORVs in the northern part of Wexford County. The COs located an illegal hill climb where ORVs had been damaging the hillside. While the COs were working the illegal hill climb, two ORVs attempted to climb the hill. The COs made contact with the operators of the ORVs and enforcement action was taken for operating in a closed area and causing erosion to the hillside.

COs William Kinney and Colton Gelinias were patrolling for ORVs in the northern part of Wexford County. The COs located a jeep parked in an area that was prohibited to motor vehicle traffic. The COs made contact with the operator to inform him of the closed area. After further questioning the driver, it was found he had several outstanding warrants for his arrest. The driver was placed under arrest and later turned over to Grand Traverse County to answer for his outstanding warrants.

COs Sean Kehoe and Rich Stowe participated in the Kingsley Sportsman's Club hunter education class where 90 students attended.

Working an ORV trespass complaint, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky hid their patrol truck on private property to watch a hill climb where trespassers were making trails and destroying the complainant's property. The COs hadn't been there two minutes when they heard a vehicle climbing the hill. The COs waited at the bottom of the hill for the vehicle to come back down, but it never did. The COs then walked to the top of the hill to see where the vehicle was only to find a male and female undressed. As the COs made contact with the two subjects, the male subject jumped out of the vehicle without clothes on and wanted to argue that he wasn't trespassing. CO Brosky had to advise the man several times to put his clothes on so that they could continue their conversation. The COs also found open intoxicants in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was patrolling Lake County when he stopped a side-by-side for displaying an expired license plate. CO Publiski made contact with the two occupants and determined the operator had a suspended driver's license. After issuing the driver a citation for operating on a suspended license, CO Publiski allowed the licensed passenger to drive the ORV from their location. A short time later, CO Josiah Killingbeck stopped the ORV for failing to stop at stop signs and for careless operation in downtown Luther. Enforcement action was again taken for the operation violations.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County checking a campground known for problems during the trout opener. While driving through, CO Killingbeck observed a camp with no camp registration displayed. The campsite had beer bottles strewn everywhere and no one was around. CO Killingbeck knocked on the camper door and woke two subjects who said they had been in the campground for two nights and were planning on paying for their campsite at some point that weekend. CO Killingbeck explained the rules to the subjects who said they knew they were supposed to pay for a camp site before use. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking fishermen at an access site on the Pine River near Luther in Lake County. After checking several anglers fishing, CO Killingbeck observed a truck parked off the access road. CO Killingbeck soon located three anglers coming up to the truck with a stringer of fish. CO Killingbeck made contact with them and they said they were having a very successful morning of fishing. CO Killingbeck asked everyone for fishing licenses and two advised that no store was open this morning prior to their arrival and they only had last year's license. The anglers told CO Killingbeck that they were normally "very law abiding citizens." CO Killingbeck then observed the plate on the vehicle was expired. CO Killingbeck asked the subject who claimed he was "very law abiding" if the plate was valid. The subject said it was not and that this was a vehicle he keeps at his cabin in this area. The vehicle had no insurance and the plate attached was not registered to that vehicle. They admittedly put the plate on it to make it look legal while driving it. A LEIN check revealed that one of the anglers also had a

warrant for his arrest. CO Killingbeck seized the fish and numerous citations were issued.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was the closest available officer to a call of a home invasion that was in progress in Lake County. CO Killingbeck responded to the area and found the suspect as he was walking away from the home he had entered without permission. Numerous witnesses told CO Killingbeck that the subject had gone into a nearby home while the homeowner was not there, and had gone through numerous items in the house, including drawers of clothing. Friends had rushed to the victim's house and ordered the subject to leave. The victim's home was completely vandalized by the suspect who was not known. The suspect had a preliminary breath test of 0.23. CO Killingbeck took the suspect into custody and charged with him with home invasion and disorderly conduct.

COs Josiah Killingbeck and Kyle Publiski received a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject keeping fish in the flies only section and catch and release portion of the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin. The COs responded to the area and were able to locate the suspect who had a brown trout on a stringer. The COs spoke with the angler who said that it was his first time fishing there. CO Killingbeck asked the subject if he had tried looking at any rules for fishing the area to which he replied he did not. The COs educated the angler on fishing regulations for the Pere Marquette River and enforcement action was taken and the fish seized.

COs Scott MacNeill, Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski attended a hunter safety class at the Big Bear Sportsman Club in Manistee County where over 40 children were certified. The COs assisted on the range teaching shooting skills and safety as well as teaching them DNR laws and regulations.

CO Steve Converse assisted with a joint recovery of a vehicle and trailer that had gone into the Manistee River. The driver of the vehicle was backing his boat trailer into the water and forgot to put it in park when he got out to unload the boat. CO Converse and the Manistee County Sheriff's Department, along with a towing service, were able to extract the vehicle and trailer from the river.

CO Steve Converse was working in Wexford County when he noticed a vehicle was parked on a closed railroad grade. CO Converse made contact with the driver of the vehicle and found that he had no registration or insurance. The driver exclaimed he was exercising his rights as a "freeman" (sovereign citizen) and didn't need the registration or insurance to operate. CO Converse told the driver not to operate the vehicle on the roadway until he got it legal and issued a citation for operating an ORV in a prohibited area. The driver told the CO he was going to operate on road anyways and followed CO Converse onto the road, continuing to operate illegally. CO Converse called the sheriff's department for backup and stopped subject for the blatant disregard of the laws. The sheriff's department took enforcement action, and this time the man was arrested and taken to jail.

CO Ben Shively was patrolling federal land in southern Oceana County when he was passed by a dirt bike on the public roadway which is closed to ORV operation. CO Shively observed that the subject did not have eye protection and he did not see an ORV sticker. CO Shively was able to catch up to the dirt bike and conduct a traffic stop. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Varriale of Osceola County was on patrol when he observed two individuals sitting on an ORV near the Muskegon River. Neither individual had a helmet in possession or an ORV sticker. During the investigation, both individuals admitted to drinking alcohol, violating their felony probation regulations. The driver admitted to having a couple of shots a couple hours prior and admitted that he had driven to the river. Field sobriety tests were conducted and the operator was determined to be OUIL. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County received a complaint of a subject that took possession of a juvenile raccoon with the intentions of rehabilitating the animal. The person who had found the raccoon was led to believe that this subject was a permitted rehabilitator due to several animals that had been dropped off to the subject in the past. CO Wells made contact with the alleged rehabilitator at her residence and received her admission of possession of a raccoon and that she is not permitted through the department as a rehabilitator. The subject did admit that she has rehabilitated several animals in the past. CO Wells recovered the juvenile raccoon which was deceased. The subject was issued a citation for rehabilitating the animal without a permit.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was on patrol when he received a complaint of a subject who had just shot two Canada geese at a cottage on a Mecosta County Lake. CO Wells responded to the cottage and made contact with the subject. The subject admitted that he breasted out both geese and that he buried the carcasses across the road from the cottage. The subject produced two vacuum packed packages of breast meat from his cottage and the two carcasses that he had buried. The .22 caliber pellet rifle that the subject admitted to using was also recovered and seized. The subject was issued a citation for the taking of the waterfowl out of season.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO John Huspen assisted Crawford County Sheriff's Department with a search for a lost woman with dementia. CO Huspen utilized a side-by-side ORV to conduct a search on forest and county roads. A DNR aircraft that was in the area on forest fire prevention also assisted with the search. CO Casey Pullum overheard the radio traffic while working the west side of Oscoda County and offered to assist. CO Pullum chose an area one mile north of the incident command to start his search. After traveling down several two-tracks, CO Pullum was able to locate the woman. He assisted the exhausted woman into his patrol truck and drove her back to incident command where she was reunited with her family.

CO John Huspen received a complaint from Crawford County central dispatch of an angler stranded on Lake Margrethe with a boat motor that would not run. The man reported that no other boats were on the lake, and he was a few miles from the access site. The weather consisted of twenty mile per hour winds which caused breaking white caps. CO Huspen launched his boat and was able to reach the subject who had anchored his vessel to keep from drifting. CO Huspen carefully hooked up a straight line tow while both vessels rocked violently due to the wind and waves. CO Huspen towed the disabled vessel and its passenger back to the access site where he assisted the subject in loading the vessel.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz was patrolling Northeast Missaukee County when he observed a pick-up truck with two occupants leaving state land with a load of wood. CO Liestenfeltz conducted a traffic stop for an equipment violation on the vehicle. Upon contact with the vehicle and its' occupants, it was determined that the driver was operating on a suspended driver's license. The driver was arrested and lodged in the Missaukee County Jail. Further investigation revealed the passenger had outstanding arrest warrants out of the State of Florida.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz along with the Missaukee County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police responded to a complaint of a large party on state land. The gathering of approximately 200 people had been organized through social media. Upon arrival, CO Liestenfeltz observed semi-truck tires being burned and multiple minor-in-possession of alcohol violations. Warrants are being sought on several individuals for illegal disposal of solid waste, littering, and alcohol violations. The "host" of the party was also interviewed by CO Liestenfeltz and additional charges will be sought for organizing the event.

CO Ben McAteer was traveling northbound on US 127 in Crawford County when a call was dispatched for a rollover accident with possible entrapment and injuries. Motorists who had stopped to help were able to successfully remove a child from the vehicle. However, the driver of the vehicle was trapped inside and having difficulty breathing due to the pressure on her head and neck. CO McAteer entered the vehicle and conducted a quick assessment of the driver's condition before cutting her free from the seatbelt. CO McAteer remained in the vehicle with the woman helping her control her breathing and remain calm until EMS and fire personnel arrived on scene. The "jaws of life" were used to extract the woman from the vehicle.

CO Chuck McPherson and Lt. Brandon Kieft were patrolling state land in Roscommon County when they conducted a stop on an ORV operator for not wearing a helmet. While talking with the subject, he advised the COs that he had been stopped by the DNR before for the exact same violation. A check of the subject's prior contacts with the DNR revealed seven prior convictions. Four of the convictions were ORV related, including two violations for failure to wear a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier checked several anglers on the Manistee River in Kalkaska County during the opening morning of trout season. One angler was using a spinning rod and treble hook baited with a worm in the gear restricted area of the river. That

particular section of the river is artificial flies only when fishing for trout. After speaking with the individual, he eventually admitted he was aware of the gear restriction rule, but failed to comply. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was conducting surveillance on anglers in Arenac County when he witnessed one of the anglers appear to keep an undersized pike. CO Atkin continued to watch before he eventually contacted the angler. In addition to possessing an undersized northern pike, the angler was also found to be fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken for the violations

CO Ethan Gainforth checked a local dam and observed two female anglers fishing. Meanwhile, CO Gainforth tucked in and was waiting for a vessel to come to the launch to check their catch. As he waited for the vessel, the female anglers noticed him and immediately stopped fishing. They put their fishing gear into their car and started to pull away when CO Gainforth made contact with them. He asked the driver how the fishing was and she stated that she had not been fishing. CO Gainforth advised her that he had watched her fishing a couple minutes prior. In addition to fishing without a license, the angler was also found to be operating a vehicle without a driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Wright was advised of a subject who had shot and killed numerous Canada Geese on his property. Unable to immediately respond, CO Steve Lockwood was contacted and responded from Gladwin County. CO Lockwood secured the scene until both COs were able to search the area. They located numerous feathers that appeared to be from geese. CO Wright contacted the property owner at his place of employment and questioned him about the incident. The man held his head low as he admitted to shooting the geese while on his pond with a .17 caliber rifle. He was upset at the geese for soiling his lawn around the pond. The man led CO Wright to the dead carcasses and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Gainforth was out checking his local trout fishing hot spots in the southern end of Clare County when he made contact with a local angler who he recognized. After talking with the angler, it was brought to CO Gainforth's attention that there were some setlines near the bridge and on the banks of the river. CO Gainforth checked the lines and confirmed that they were indeed setlines and were baited with night crawlers. Bright and early the next morning, CO Gainforth sat patiently for the "setliner" to arrive. About two hours later, a vehicle pulled up and parked near the bridge. CO Gainforth observed the angler walk over to the first setline and pull it up to check for fish. He reset the line and promptly walked over to another line and checked it. CO Gainforth made contact with the subject and determined he had multiple arrest warrants. He also drove from his house to check the lines on a suspended driver's license. After interviewing the subject, CO Gainforth determined he had not set the lines initially, but knew about them and had been checking them for fish. CO Gainforth and CO Josh Wright continued to check the area of the setlines in an attempt to catch the owner of the lines. After several days, contact was made with male and female anglers who were in the process of checking and re-baiting the lines with fresh night crawlers. The male subject admitted to running the setlines for a week. He also complained about

other anglers in the area 'messing' with his lines and removing weights. In addition to the fishing violations, both the male and female subjects had outstanding arrest warrants. The male subject was lodged in the Clare County Jail. Enforcement action was taken for using illegal fishing methods.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars observed an ORV going the wrong way down a county road. CO Byars conducted a traffic stop and observed the driver did not have his seat belt on or an ORV license. A citation was issued.

CO Joe Myers was patrolling the Tittabawassee River the night before the walleye season opened and witnessed a fisherman tie on and use illegal gear in an attempt to catch walleye. CO Myers watched the man for a while before making contact. A citation was issued.

COs Joe Myers and Quincy Gowenlock had a trial in the Gratiot County 65B District Court over a deer case from last season. The incident involved a baiting case where an excessive amount of bait was used and a number of illegal deer were shot over the bait. The COs estimated a minimum of two metric tons of bait was placed on a section of property. The COs made contact with four hunters hunting over the illegal bait including one hunter that was not wearing hunters orange. The hunter who was not wearing hunters orange was the property owner and admitted to placing the bait. The property owner was tried and convicted of his crimes. A sentencing hearing will be set in the near future.

CO Joe Myers did a presentation at the Hampton Elementary School about safety precautions as the warm weather months approach. CO Myers discussed the importance of staying safe while boating, recreating on ORVs and safe hunting practices. He also discussed what a conservation officer does and how they are connected to the community.

While working the walleye opener in Saginaw County, COs Quincy Gowenlock and Ken Lowell had multiple contacts with anglers on multiple rivers. The COs dealt with multiple violations including: expired watercraft registrations, failing to provide life jackets in boats, and possession of under size walleye. Citations were issued for all of the violations.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling the Montcalm and Mecosta County line when he noticed an ORV behind him and pulled over to let it pass. The ORV was traveling at high rate of speed down the middle of the road and CO Russell did not see an ORV sticker. The CO conducted a stop and asked the operator if they knew the rules for operating an ORV on public ground. The operator stated he just bought the ORV two days prior and thought he knew the rules. Enforcement action was taken and the operator was educated in the ORV laws.

CO Quincy Gowenlock was called to Gratiot County to assist the Saint Louis Fire Department with a possible illegal burn. Upon arrival, the CO was met by the Fire Chief who advised his department responded to a call of a structure fire. When they arrived on scene, they found the land owner tearing apart an old camping trailer and burning it. The suspect was questioned and admitted to burning the trailer stating that the fire got away from him and ended up burning a large garbage pile which included approximately 20 tires. The suspect stated that he didn't know that it was illegal to burn the trailer and asked what he was supposed to do. CO Gowenlock advised that he should have taken the trailer to a landfill for proper disposal. The subject was issued a citation for illegal disposal of solid waste.

During the walleye opener, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly observed vehicles entering and leaving Imerman Memorial Park in Saginaw County. Sgt. Kimmerly observed an older truck drive into the park exceeding the 15 mph speed limit and continued over the large speedbumps without slowing. After parking the truck, two subjects left the vehicle and carried fishing poles through the woods to a boat that they had tied up to shore. While the two subjects fished, Sgt. Kimmerly ran the license plate and found that the vehicle came back stolen. Sgt. Kimmerly contacted CO John Byars to wait for the subjects to come back to their vehicle. Not only was the plate stolen but the driver had several suspensions on his driver's license, the vehicle was not insured and neither subject was wearing a seatbelt. Tickets were issued and warrants will be issued for the stolen property. On a positive note, the boat was properly registered, the subjects both had their fishing licenses, PFDs and were not in possession of an over limit of walleye.

CO Kyle Bucholtz observed an individual throw litter from a moving vehicle. After making contact with the suspect and discussing the violation, enforcement action was taken.

COs Seth Rhodea and Mark Siemen were patrolling the Saginaw River on the opening day of walleye season when they observed two subjects fishing from the bank. When the COs pulled their patrol boat to shore to check the anglers fishing licenses one of the anglers put his pole down, proceeded to sit in a vehicle and tried to ignore the COs. When he was asked to show a fishing license he claimed to not be fishing. A records check showed him to not have a valid fishing license and he was cited for fishing without a license.

COs Seth Rhodea and Mark Siemen received numerous complaints about boaters violating a no wake area of the Saginaw River while patrolling on the opening day of walleye season. Stops were made on numerous vessels for observed violations of the no wake rule and citations were issued to several of the boaters.

CO Joshua Wright checked a camp of turkey hunters in Tuscola County. While checking the tag on a bird that was harvested he could smell the odor of marijuana. When CO Wright questioned the campers about the odor they admitted there was some at the site. They produced the marijuana and while checking the vehicles CO Wright noticed a magazine to a handgun. When CO Wright asked who the handgun belonged to, the subject that had produced the marijuana said that he had a concealed weapon

license. The weapon was secured and when the person was questioned about not notifying the CO for over fifteen minutes the subject stated that he forgot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright spoke to a group of boy scouts in Tuscola County. They discussed the importance of hunter safety, firearm safety, wildlife regulations, the job of a conservation officer and their role in the Department of Natural Resources.

COs Chad Foerster and Jay Person assisted the local Midland County Fire Department with a rescue on the Tittabawassee River at the Dow Dam. During the walleye opener, two anglers were in their small boat when they lost power and ended up washing into the upstream side of the dam. The boat got lodged sideways on a 45 degree angle with the anglers sitting on the port side gunnel to keep it from rolling over. COs Person and Foerster maneuvered their boat on the down side of the dam in case the boat let loose and the anglers went over the dam. The Midland Fire Department maneuvered a boat on the top side of the dam and retrieved the anglers from the boat. Both anglers were extracted without incident and the boat later washed over the dam resulting in a total loss.

COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were patrolling an area along the Chippewa River where they had received numerous trespassing complaints. As the COs were leaving the area, they observed two people walking through the private property. The COs contacted the individuals as they exited the property. The individuals first denied that they were on the private property but after learning the COs had been watching them they stated they were on the property but they didn't realize they were trespassing. The COs pointed out that walking by numerous posted signs and crawling under a fence should have been a good indicator that they were trespassing. Recreational trespassing citations were issued.

While checking anglers on the Kawkawlin River, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas made contact with a boat that had an expired registration. The operator of the boat stated he had noticed the registration was expired while loading his boat earlier in the morning but he wanted to go fishing and didn't think he would run into the DNR. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Russell and Mike Haas were conducting a late evening patrol through state forest land in Isabella County when they encountered a truck stuck in a deep mud hole. The two men in the truck were both sitting in the driver's seat due to the large amount of water in the passenger side of the truck. When the COs questioned the men about who had driven into the large water hole both men denied driving the truck. After some discussion, it was discovered that neither of the subjects had a driver's license but both had active bench warrants for their arrest. The truck was towed out of the mud and a family member came to retrieve it while one of the subjects was transported to the Gratiot County Jail and the other to the Montcalm County Jail.

While on patrol in Montcalm County, COs Dan Robinson and Josh Russel assisted Michigan State Police troopers with a stolen vehicle that had been taken by an unlicensed teen. The COs helped search the area for the teen driver and the vehicle when an MSP trooper stopped the vehicle. The COs assisted at the scene and the teen was arrested on numerous criminal violations.

CO Joel Lundberg worked the walleye season opener and conducted nighttime surveillance from several vantage points on specific groups of anglers at midnight on the opener. Later in the day, CO Lundberg observed two individuals come back to the river that had already taken their limit of walleye. CO Lundberg seized the fish in their boat and went back to the angler's residences and seized the other fish they had caught the night before. The individuals had entered their fish in the local walleye tournament and kept their two largest walleye alive in a live well in one of the angler's basement. The individuals were going to re-enter those fish in the tournament the following day with their next day's catch of fish. Enforcement action was taken and the tournament officials were contacted in regards to the anglers' conduct. The tournament officials are looking at banning the anglers from entering the tournament in the future.

CO Joel Lundberg contacted two individuals fishing in a boat on the walleye opener. The individuals stated they had nine walleye but an inspection of their cooler revealed eleven fish. CO Lundberg asked each individual how many fish they each had, as one person had a limit of five walleye no matter how the fish were totaled. CO Lundberg advised them they were over the legal limit and also asked why they were still fishing. The anglers explained they messed up counting and they were still fishing because they were trying to "sort" fish and possibly catch bigger fish and throw other smaller ones back. The problem was the fish were in a cooler on ice and were all dead as well as they were already over their limit to begin with. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg received a tip from a former complainant of two anglers that had intentionally snagged a large muskellunge at the local Midland County dam. COs Lundberg, Will Brickel and Joe Myers did follow up interviews with the two anglers and received confessions that they intentionally snagged the muskellunge after being frustrated they could not get the fish to bite. The individuals put the fish on a stringer and left the area after another angler advised them not to keep the fish due to the fact that it was snagged. The COs recovered the 49 inch, 25 pound muskellunge and issued citations.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs Chuck Towns, B.J. Goulette, Greg Patten and Ivan Perez assisted in training 60 new marine deputies from various counties across Michigan in a week long, multi-agency marine training academy. The training included marine safety law, enforcement issues, and boat handling and maintenance.

CO Cary Foster responded to a Report All Poaching complaint that linked him to a "YouTube" video showing a subject killing two turkeys with one shotgun blast. A quick look at the suspect's RSS purchases revealed the suspect had not purchased any 2017 turkey tags. Upon making contact with the suspect, a confession was quickly obtained. The suspect admitted he shot both turkeys with one shot and he had not purchased any tags. He advised he did not know why he put it on "YouTube." Both turkey parts were seized as evidence and enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas located multiple illegal ORV trails leading off of unmaintained roadways in the Barry and Middleville State Game Areas. Trail cameras were set up on these trails and multiple photos were obtained of illegal ORV activity. CO Cardenas made contact with multiple subjects and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol near a closed trout stream in the Manistee National Forest, CO Greg Patten stopped two ORVs operating in an area closed to ORVs. The ORVs were not near any of the trails open to ORVs. Both ORV operators had failed to obtain titles for their vehicles after they were purchased. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten received a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject with a juvenile cottontail rabbit in possession. The complainant said that the person in possession was told that they could not possess a wild rabbit. CO Patten contacted the suspect and seized the rabbit. The suspect purchased a cage from a pet store for the rabbit before CO Patten arrived. The suspect said that she had no idea that it was illegal to possess a wild rabbit, but then said that she was going to call the DNR about it. The rabbit was in possession for at least two days. The rabbit was taken to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Ulberg and BJ Goulette came across a boat in Stearns Bayou in Ottawa County where three guys were in a boat that was approximately ten feet long. They had no registration, only one life jacket between them, and one subject didn't have a fishing license. CO Ulberg and CO Goulette terminated their voyage and followed them back in to make sure they got in safe. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tyler Cole was patrolling a city-owned piece of property in Cass County when he came upon a vehicle parked well past what is allowed. Nobody was found in or near the vehicle, so CO Cole patrolled on foot to attempt to locate the owner of the vehicle. CO Cole located the owner approximately ten minutes later mushroom hunting and questioned as to why he had parked where he did. The subject stated that he did not realize he was not allowed to park there and did not see any signs when pulling in. After talking further with the subject, it was found that he had entered the property where it was obviously marked and he decided to ignore the sign and take his chances. A citation for ORV trespass was issued.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Pete Purdy made contact with two anglers at the Bishop Lake fishing pier. One of the anglers advised she left her fishing license in the vehicle. CO Purdy confirmed through DNR Station 20 the angler did have a 2017 fishing license. The return also advised that she didn't have a valid driver's license. A little while later CO Purdy observed the subject without a driver's license drive past him. CO Purdy followed the vehicle and observed it driving extremely slow and driving on the shoulder of the road impeding other vehicles. CO Purdy initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the two occupants. When asked why she was driving the vehicle, the female driver advised that she didn't realize the CO could enforce traffic law. The male passenger who had a valid driver's license and also was the registered owner of vehicle advised he knew the CO could stop them but went ahead and let her drive because she never drove on a dirt road before. Marijuana was also found in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was patrolling the Lost Nations State Game Area when he was passed by a vehicle without a license plate. CO Monnich caught up to the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver. The driver was unable to produce any form of identification, CO Monnich ran the driver's information through central dispatch and discovered the driver had an outstanding warrant. The driver was arrested and lodged in the Hillsdale County Jail.

CO Andrew Monnich received a call from a Michigan State Police trooper who was working a possible litter complaint and found a trap with a small kit fox caught in it. CO Monnich arrived and assisted the trooper on releasing the kit fox unharmed. With the trooper's assistance CO Monnich was able to locate a possible suspect. After several days and attempts to contact the possible suspect, CO Monnich was able to locate the individual at his residence. After interviewing the suspect, CO Monnich was able to gain a confession that the trap was his. Enforcement action was taken for setting a trap on a railroad right away, trapping out of season, and not having proper trap tags on the trap.

CO Andrew Monnich was on patrol when he spotted a large cloud of smoke coming from behind a barn. CO Monnich located an individual burning a large fiberglass fishing boat and a number of tires. CO Monnich had the individual put the fire out. Enforcement action taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was patrolling Hudson Recreation Area when he spotted an individual carving into a tree near the parking area. CO Monnich contacted the individual who stated that he was just carving his name in the tree. CO Monnich asked for identification and while the individual was reaching in his vehicle for his ID he dropped a bag containing marijuana. CO Monnich conducted a search of the vehicle and located open alcohol containers and a number of pills in the vehicle. Enforcement action taken.

CO Eric Smither received a litter complaint from Lenawee Central Dispatch where a trash bag had been left on the side of a road. CO Smither responded to the area and contacted the caller. CO Smither was able to get a name and address for the possible

suspect. CO Smither made contact with the suspect and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds received a tip that a group of individuals were trespassing. When the CO made contact with the group he asked if they knew whose property they were on. No one knew the landowner, and one of the people said they had just been using the property for years. The CO explained to the group that the landowner doesn't want anyone on their property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson contacted a fishing boat on a local lake. CO Tyson asked if the subjects had any fish in the boat. One of the subjects stated he had a pike in the live well. CO Tyson informed the subject that pike season was closed. The subject stated they were not going to keep the fish. CO Tyson explained that if a fish is in their live well then they illegally possess the fish regardless of their intentions. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk was working an area in Hillsdale County with trespassing issues. The CO observed a vehicle parked with no one around it. The CO waited in the area for the owner to return and observed two subjects approach the vehicle. When the CO made contact with the subjects, it was discovered they did not have permission to be on the property. Additionally, the CO noticed an unusual shaped object in one of the subject's pockets and asked to see what it was. The subject advised it was his phone and pulled it out. When the subject pulled out his phone, a clear Ziploc bag fell out which contained marijuana. When the CO asked what else he had in his pockets, the subject pulled out a glass smoking pipe. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was dispatched to a possible suicide in Clinton County. CO Nickols arrived on scene and found the subject deceased with a single gunshot wound to the chest. Evidence collected at the scene suggests the gunshot was unintentional and the subject was cleaning his handgun.

COs Rich Nickols and Al Mendez taught rules and ethics of fishing to 60 kids at the Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing event at Hawk Island Park in Lansing on Saturday, May 6. The event is designed to introduce young people to fishing and provides them with all the equipment they need.

CO Rich Nickols contacted a subject removing his camper trailer from state land. CO Nickols had issued the subject a citation the previous week for leaving the trailer on the state game area for an extended period of time. The subject admitted to setting the trailer up on the opening day of firearm deer season 2016.

CO Shane Webster investigated a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject who took a turkey without a license. It was found that the suspect shot the turkey nearly two hours prior to purchasing his license. The subject gave a full confession and the turkey was seized. Charges are pending through the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster received a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject who shot a turkey and possibly used another person's license. CO Webster investigated and found the subject was still a resident of Ohio and had used his father's resident turkey license. The subjects confessed to their actions and the turkey was seized. Charges are pending through the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster assisted Jackson County sheriff's deputies in responding to a situation where a subject had overturned in a kayak. The subject had managed to swim to shore by the time the officers arrived. However, due to the cold water she was beginning to feel the effects of hypothermia. CO Webster was able to provide blankets from his first aid kit to aid the subject until advanced medical assistance arrived.

CO Todd Thorn was first on scene of an accident involving a man in a car in a ditch in Stockbridge Township, Ingham County. The accident occurred at approximately 1:10am. CO Thorn found that the man was not injured but the vehicle was immobile. CO Thorn found an open bottle of whiskey on the passenger seat floor and an open 24oz can of beer behind the passenger seat. Further investigation revealed that the man ran a stop sign prior to crashing in the ditch. The man blew a .28 BAC on the PBT and was lodged on DUI charges.

CO Todd Thorn located two vehicles parked in the Dansville State Game Area and noticed that there were firearm cases in both vehicles. CO Thorn ran the license plates and found that the registered owners of both vehicles had public land turkey kill tags for the hunt period beginning the next day. CO Thorn was able to locate two hunters who were hunting a day earlier than their licenses allowed. After conversations with both hunters, CO Thorn decided to educate and warn them and had them end their hunts immediately.

CO Todd Thorn checked fishermen and boaters at Hawk Island in South Lansing. Before leaving, CO Thorn decided to check two kayakers who were heading towards the dock. CO Thorn contacted both persons and learned that neither had a fishing license or a PFD. Further investigation revealed that the individuals had five warrants between them. The warrants were for shoplifting and aggravated assault. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer followed up on a bald eagle harassment case in Lansing where the complainant stated there were people flying drones near the eagle's nest but did not provide any suspect information. CO Neterer responded to the nest and observed two healthy eaglets.

CO Chris Maher attended a local law enforcement appreciation event. On his way home he came across a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road, the driver appeared to be unconscious and several bystanders were gathered around. CO Maher announced himself and knocked loudly on the window of the vehicle and the driver responded. CO Maher tried to get the driver to open the locked door or window but the driver would not comply. Moments later deputies from the Jackson County Sheriff's

Department arrived and forced entry into the vehicle. Several alcoholic drinks were found in the vehicle and the man was arrested for suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

CO Robert Slick received a complaint of juveniles causing damage to a hunting blind in Shiawassee County. The owner of the blind had trail camera photos of the individuals. CO Slick recognized the individuals in the photos and made contact with them. During the interview, the individuals admitted being on the site, but only one time. CO Slick informed them about the photographs showing them on site multiple times. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While on a group ORV patrol in Macomb County, COs Joseph Deppen, Kris Kiel, and Brad Silorey responded to a complaint about ORVs operating on private property. Upon responding to the area, the COs contacted three individuals trespassing on private land. Two out of three of the ORVs were unregistered. The riders were also in possession of marijuana and consuming alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen received an in progress Report All Poaching complaint of hunters shooting turkeys out of a moving vehicle. CO Deppen drove to the suspected location and observed the hunters in the field. CO Deppen contacted the hunters as they were leaving the field. After extensive questioning, the hunters admitted to shooting at turkeys while in a motor vehicle and possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. CO Deppen followed the hunters to their hunting location around the field and found four spent shotgun shells that were the same as the shotgun shells in the hunter's pockets. When CO Deppen asked for the hunters' identification and hunting licenses, one hunter did not have his turkey license on him. The other hunter had a turkey license; however, it was not valid until the following day. The hunter admitted to an error in judgement and hunting turkeys without a valid hunting license. The hunters' firearms were documented and enforcement action was taken.

While on fisheries patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen received a Report All Poaching complaint of an angler keeping largemouth bass out of season. CO Deppen responded to the location and spoke with the angler at his residence. The angler admitted to fishing, but swears that he threw all the largemouth bass back into the water. CO Deppen asked to check the angler's house for further evidence of any fish. The angler allowed CO Deppen into his house to verify his fishing license and identification. Upon entering the house, CO Deppen noticed largemouth bass fillets out on the counter. There were also largemouth bass carcasses in the trash can. The angler finally admitted to catching fish and eating them on a daily basis. A consented search of the angler's freezers yielded a total of twenty nine largemouth bass, along with another suspected thirteen bags of largemouth bass and catfish fillets. There were also rock bass, perch, catfish, bowfin, and sheepshead in the freezer. Upon checking the angler's license, it was found he had not purchased a license since 2008.

Enforcement action included seizing all of the illegal fish, reimbursement will be sought for the illegal fish, and possible license revocation will be sought for the angler.

CO Joseph Deppen received a Report All Poaching complaint that an angler thought he had purchased suspected VHS minnows at a local bait dealer. CO Deppen responded with fisheries division and together they looked at the minnows. Samples were collected by fisheries division to be tested.

COs David Schaumburger, Kris Kiel, Brad Silorey, and Joseph Deppen worked a group patrol in Trenton on the Detroit River checking anglers. COs Kiel and Silorey stopped a vehicle with two occupants and checked their coolers for fish. The subjects had 188 white bass, 138 over the limit. Reimbursement of \$1,245.00 will be sought. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and David Schaumburger, during a group patrol the following day, checked a vessel coming off the Elizabeth Park boat ramp. A check of the live-well produced 71 white bass for the two subjects, 21 over the limit. One of the subjects admitted to not counting their fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was requested at the scene of a B&E, which resulted in an assault and then a stolen vehicle. CO Kovach was able to assist with the recovery of some of the stolen items which helped to identify the suspect in the case. CO Kovach assisted in searching for the suspect with the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department. The investigation continues.

CO Ken Kovach received a tip of a subject who shot a turkey and then likely bought their tag after the fact. CO Kovach interviewed the subject and obtained a confession to shooting the trophy turkey. After shooting the turkey the hunter then borrowed a tag from another hunter to tag the bird. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach swore to a warrant on an investigation of a subject who went to Ohio and shot a trophy buck without a license. The hunter then traveled back home to Michigan, bought his Michigan deer combo license and tagged the Ohio buck with his Michigan tag. The subject went on to shoot two Michigan bucks and failed to tag one of the deer. A court trial is scheduled for later this week.

CO Ben Lasher received a turkey baiting complaint in St. Clair County. CO Lasher responded to the area and found two suspects walking out of the woods with an empty corn bag, turkey decoy and a shotgun. Further investigation found the hunting blind setup over the baited area with only five days left on the hunter's turkey hunt period. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol when he received a text to Report All Poaching complaint from DNR dispatch. The complaint was in regards to an angler who overheard another angler talking about how he was over limit on walleye and had already dropped off his daily possession limit of 6 fish. CO Silorey contacted the

complainant to gather additional details and headed towards the river where the subject was fishing by boat. CO Silorey arrived at the St. Clair River and found a location where he could watch the subject from shore. The complainant called CO Silorey to let him know that he watched the subject pull to shore, and give his fish to an unknown subject on shore and then return to fishing. After several hours of surveillance, CO Silorey had watched the angler catch several more walleye. When the angler returned to the boat launch, CO Silorey made contact with him. The angler stated that he had caught 8 fish and had given 6 away to another boat on the water. CO Silorey questioned the angler's story, and asked about the fish he dropped off on shore. After interviewing the angler for several minutes, he confessed to dropping the fish off on shore to a friend. CO Silorey seized the two fish that the angler had and told the angler to take him to the other six fish. Upon arrival to the "drop off friend" residence, CO Silorey found the remaining six fish in the front yard, in a net that the complainant described. The angler's friend came out of the residence and confirmed the story. Enforcement action was taken for over limit of walleye.

CO Brad Silorey had been working on a case that involved a subject who had shot a 9-point whitetail deer in 2014, and did not purchase a deer kill tag. After an extensive investigation, obtaining social media records through a search warrant, CO Silorey was finally able to locate the subject who was living with family. COs Brad Silorey and Kris Kiel made contact with the subject on a day that they observed the subject's vehicle in the driveway. Upon contact the subject invited the COs into the residence, and after several questions he confessed to taking the 9-point buck without purchasing a kill tag that year. He stated that it was hanging on the wall in the next room. CO Silorey was able to seize the evidence and obtain detailed information on where and when exactly this incident occurred. The subject stated that he knew what he did was wrong and he did not have a reason for doing it. CO Silorey informed the subject that a report was going to be generated and submitted to the prosecutor's office.

CO Travis Dragomer observed an individual operating a dirt bike along N. Dort Highway in Genesee County. CO Dragomer conducted a traffic stop on the bike. CO Dragomer advised the individual that the roads are closed to the operation of ORVs. It was determined the individual was not wearing a helmet, he was driving on a suspended license, and did not have an ORV sticker. After running the individual's information through dispatch, it was also found that the individual had two outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken and the individual was lodged on the warrants.

CO Justin Muehlhauser was checking anglers in the days leading up to the walleye opener. On one occasion the CO encountered several fishermen around Mott Lake. As the CO started checking licenses he observed a man on the north side of the lake start walking up the hill. The CO thought it was suspicious and went to talk to the fisherman. When CO Muehlhauser arrived he located the man at a nearby residence and asked if he was the one just fishing. The man agreed that he was and stated that he just came home to get more worms. He said his gear was still at the location and that he was going back down there. He said that he just had one perch in his cooler down by the lake. When the CO checked the cooler he noticed a smallmouth bass rather than a

perch. The man said he couldn't see very well and thought it was a perch. The fish measured only 10.5 inches. Enforcement action was taken for the out of season bass.

While monitoring fishing activity at Holloway Dam in Genesee County on the eve of the walleye opener, CO Justin Muehlhauser observed two men fishing from the north side of the dam with artificial bait. The CO contacted the men and advised that the gear restrictions were still in effect until midnight. The men claimed that they were unaware of the restrictions. The CO then noticed a 2016-2017 fishing guide in one of the men's tackle boxes. Enforcement action was taken for the gear violation.

CO Justin Muehlhauser contacted a group of anglers behind Atwood Stadium in Genesee County, and checked for fishing licenses. As CO Muehlhauser checked their bucket one of the anglers stated that there was a walleye in it that he had just caught. However, walleye season was still closed. It was then discovered that the man had multiple warrants for his arrest. CO Muehlhauser cited the man for the violation and he was lodged at the Flint City Lock-up.

Checking shore anglers, CO Dan Walzak made contact with a subject carrying a fishing rod, a long handle landing net and a bucket with five catfish. When asked to produce a fishing license, the subject claimed that she was not fishing. CO Walzak asked the subject how she acquired the fish and she responded that as soon as she arrived another angler asked her if she wanted the fish. CO Walzak asked the subject to describe the person that gave her the fish and she could only respond that it was "some guy". Dispatch advised the CO that the subject had no license purchased. The subject was relieved of the fish and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a local fishing pier COs Dan Walzak and James Zellinger encountered a group of three subjects carrying fishing poles and a bucket with channel catfish inside. One of the subjects claimed to not be fishing, this subject was not carrying any fishing equipment and the other two subjects confirmed she was not fishing. The subject carrying the fish said she was fishing, but she did not have a fishing license. The third subject was carrying fishing poles and claimed to be fishing. The third subject claimed he bought a fishing license, but couldn't remember when and did not have the license on him. After checking, the third subject bought a 2016 fishing license, but not a 2017 fishing license. The third subject also had two outstanding warrants. The warrants were satisfied and enforcement action was taken.

Checking anglers coming off the Detroit River, CO Dan Walzak checked a boat with four anglers at Elizabeth Park in Trenton. Counting the fish in their possession, it was determined that one of the anglers had kept several white bass over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking shore anglers along the Detroit River, COs Raymond Gardner and Dan Walzak made contact with two non-resident subjects with an over-limit of white bass. Both subjects were in Michigan visiting a family member and decided to go fishing for the morning. After the fish were counted and it was determined that the subjects were

in possession of more than the legal limit of white bass, COs Gardner and Walzak advised them that they would be receiving a citation for the over-limit. When advised that they would also need to post bond on the citation, one of the subjects began demanding to talk to a lawyer. After several demands to speak with an attorney, CO Walzak informed the subject that if he chose to contest the citation, he could certainly speak with counsel, but since he was not in a courtroom, not in custody and merely receiving a citation, his conversation with an attorney would have to wait. The subjects eventually posted the bond money and both were issued a citation for the over-limit of white bass.

CO David Schaumburger observed 6 anglers walking back to their vehicles from a known white bass fishing spot pulling 3 heavy coolers. CO Schaumburger met the anglers at their vehicles and counted 150 fish between the 6 of them. CO Schaumburger asked if there were any fish in the two vehicles, the anglers opened their vehicles. Inside the car, the angler had hidden white bass in coolers and bins underneath black trash bags. CO Schaumburger then counted the fish out and found the angler was over his daily white bass limit by 181 fish. Enforcement action was taken and CO Schaumburger will be seeking reimbursement of \$1,775 for the over limit.

CO David Schaumburger arrived at a shore angling spot and picked out two individuals to check first as they had 2 stringers beside them. As CO Schaumburger was checking them, he observed an angler approximately 50 feet away reach into his cooler and walk over to the trash can and also another angler walk to his vehicle. CO Schaumburger immediately walked over there and located an undersized walleye behind the trashcan the angler attempted to hide and inside a different cooler, a separate undersize walleye. CO Schaumburger located the angler in his vehicle who admitted that the cooler was his but he did not have a fishing license. Upon verifying his name, a warrant check revealed he had a felony warrant for his arrest. The undersize fish were seized, a citation was issued to both anglers, and the felon was turned over to the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

CO David Schaumburger checked an angler targeting white bass who had two 5 gallon buckets filled with fish already. CO Schaumburger asked the angler to count his fish, and the angler counted out 38 white bass, putting him 13 fish over the limit; however, a nearby angler motioned to the CO that the angler was also walking fish back to his vehicle during the day. CO Schaumburger met the angler at his vehicle and the angler told the CO he wanted "to be honest with him". The angler stated he had more fish in his vehicle and he knew it was wrong. An additional 37 white bass were located, putting the angler 50 over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

While working Belle Isle, CO Jason Becker contacted a subject that entered the island after 10:00 p.m. CO Becker asked if the driver noticed the security guard and the construction barrels blocking the MacArthur Bridge. The subject stated that he should

have realized the park was closed when he drove around them. The subject did not have a driver's license in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on Belle Isle, CO Joseph Deppen saw two individuals smoking on a public beach. While coming from downwind, CO Deppen smelled the distinct odor of marijuana. The subjects were contacted and the marijuana was verified. One of the individuals also had nine outstanding warrants. The marijuana was confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on Belle Isle, CO Joseph Deppen noticed some teenagers walking out of the woods. Contact was made and CO Deppen could smell alcohol. The teenagers were found to have alcohol and marijuana in their possession. The alcohol and marijuana was confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Steve Mooney and CO Zach Bauer assisted CO Todd Thorn with a traffic stop. Sgt. Mooney and CO Bauer lodged two of the three subjects for outstanding traffic warrants. One of the subjects had 17 warrants for his arrest.

While patrolling Belle Isle, CO Matthew Neterer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed pull into the yacht club. CO Neterer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and discovered that the driver had 18 traffic warrants out of Detroit. The driver was also found to be using an improper plate, did not have insurance, and had a suspended driver's license. CO Neterer lodged the subject at the Detroit Detention Center.

CO Todd Thorn was on patrol on Belle Isle and made a traffic stop on a vehicle driving over the speed limit. Upon contact with the occupants, CO Thorn learned that none had an ID with them. Further investigation revealed that all three occupants had warrants; 23 in all. All three individuals were lodged.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint on Belle Isle about multiple dead muskellunge. CO Siemen responded to the location of the dead fish and found eight dead muskellunge washed up on the shore. After the investigation was complete and a biologist was contacted, it was determined the Muskie had been dead for a period of time and could not be tested. The biologist also advised that he was aware of the issue and that it is not uncommon.