

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
4/5/10 – 4/18/10**

DISTRICT 1

CO Mark Leadman was patrolling a problem litter area near Forestville when he observed three subjects unload a computer and then shoot it numerous times. When they left it behind, he contacted them and ticketed one for litter.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a deer stuck in the mud of a small bog lake in the City of Ishpeming. Two subjects were able to reach it with a small boat, lasso it and tow it to shore. The deer had to be dispatched due to numerous other injuries caused by an earlier canine attack.

CO Mark Leadman contacted three subjects coming out of the woods near Deer Lake in the City of Ishpeming. They had spent the night camping and were in possession of live bait which is prohibited. Two of the subjects didn't have fishing licenses and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett Gustafson and Sgt. Steven Burton responded to a netting complaint in Ontonagon County. The COs walked a three mile section of a stream and failed to locate any nets.

CO Ryan Aho responded to a complaint of an illegal burn in Dickinson County. Contact was made with a subject who was burning a grassy area during extreme fire danger when burning was prohibited. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund responded to a wildfire in Iron County where a fire escaped from a subject who was burning debris and burned 129 acres. Assistance was provided by fire personnel from Wisconsin; and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright worked illegal fishing activity on the area trout streams near Marquette. On one stream, they observed two subjects with a spear walking the banks. When the pair stripped to their underwear and waded into one particular hole up to their chests, they were apprehended. The subsequent contact also revealed that neither had a fishing license. They were ticketed for the violations.

DISTRICT 2

CO John Wenzel worked complaints of ORV violations on the Forest Island ORV Trail. Numerous positive contacts were made with users of the trail.

COs Reid Roeske, Robert Crisp and Jerry Fitzgibbon arrested one poacher for overlimit of salmon in the Munising area. The person arrested was the captain of a fishing boat with two other people on board. The extra fish were hidden by the anglers.

CO Jared Ferguson worked several hours conducting surveillance on streams in Schoolcraft County protecting spawning steelhead and walleye.

CO Derek Miller was on patrol checking a stretch of the Black River currently closed to fishing and that has been the target area for several complaints of spearing. When he observed a pickup truck parked in the area, CO Miller stopped to investigate and ticketed an individual for attempting to take trout in a closed section of stream.

COs Mike Hammill and Derek Miller worked a plainclothes patrol after receiving numerous complaints of snagging. COs Miller and Hammill were working the area when two subjects waded into the river next to CO Miller and began snagging suckers and steelhead with large treble hooks. The snaggers hooked several fish while COs Miller and Hammill were observing them. Upon contacting the subjects, the look of shock came over their faces when they realized they were illegally taking fish less than fifty feet from two Conservation Officers. Tickets were issued.

CO Mike Hammill issued a ticket to a group of campers in the Black River State Forest campground for failing to pay for their campsite. The campers explained they had just arrived at their camp and were on their way to the pay pipe. When asked about the smoldering camp fire and dirty dishes on the picnic table, the campers admitted to setting up camp the night before.

CO Kevin Postma witnessed an individual chasing spawning steelhead up a small creek while grasping a spear in his hands. CO Postma contacted the individual before he speared a trout and issued a ticket for possessing a spear on a trout stream.

CO Kyle Publiski watched several individuals throwing rocks at spawning steelhead in attempts to drive them toward their buddy standing on a culvert with a bow and arrow. Upon contact, CO Publiski realized the individuals were young kids and decided to educate them on the importance of being ethical sportsmen. He also explained the spawning process which helped them realize that what they were doing was not ethical.

CO Kevin Postma checked a vessel coming back to shore after a day of fishing. The anglers explained they had done quite well and had some fish to clean. CO Postma helped the anglers count out their fish and in the end they came up with 127 perch, 27 over the legal limit. CO Postma issued a ticket for overlimit of perch.

CO Kevin Postma was checking streams for spawning steelhead when he observed two men attempting to snag the fish off their beds. Upon contacting the individuals, the men denied that they had attempted to snag and reassured the CO they wouldn't do anything like that. CO Postma asked the men for their fishing licenses; both individuals were unable to produce a license. CO Postma issued a ticket for fish no license.

With high fire danger in the eastern UP, CO Mike Hammill was called to assist with an illegal burn that had caught an adjacent field on fire. The property owners had been visiting for several days' prior, burning brush and finishing other yard work. With dry

weather and strong south winds, the burn reignited itself two days later. Fire personnel put out the blaze and the property owners were contacted.

CO Reid Roeske is investigating several different fires in the area. One was started when a vehicle caught fire and another that was started by a train. One person was ticketed for allowing a brush fire to escape.

CO Jared Ferguson ticketed two people for attempting to snag fish. He was able to sneak up on the subjects as they were snagging. The individual's father was standing nearby and told the CO that his son just doesn't want to listen.

DISTRICT 3

CO Carl VanderWall found a large litter pile on state land with names and addresses of the owners. The CO is attempting to locate the person responsible so that enforcement action can be taken and the site cleaned up.

COs Bill Webster and Joe Molnar received a call from a landowner near Long Lake who had photographed three anglers in a river which had a spawning closure on it. The landowner was able to photograph the subjects wading in the river with their nets and also photographed their license plates. All three were interviewed and one was found not to have a fishing license. They were ticketed for fishing on a closed stream.

CO Kelly Ross contacted two anglers on a closed trout stream in Atlanta. They stated they read in the local paper that 10,000 brown trout had been planted and felt it would be a great place to fish. CO Ross asked if they read the next line in the article which stated the season did not open until the end of April. They stated they did not and were issued tickets for fishing on a closed trout stream.

CO Mark Depew received a complaint of an elk which had been hit by a vehicle on the highway. When CO Depew arrived at the location the elk was gone and only a broken antler was found on the highway.

DISTRICT 4

While patrolling the Manistee National Forest, CO Jair Kollasch stopped a vehicle whose driver was operating erratically. Subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of the driver for alcohol related violations.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted numerous anglers this past weekend and issued tickets for overlimits of trout and possession of undersized trout.

CO Sean Kehoe investigated a land use complaint where a subject had constructed a road from an unimproved county road across state land to the back of her property without a permit. Enforcement action taken.

CO Sean Kehoe completed an investigation of an illegal burn and obtained confessions from two juveniles for illegally using fireworks. The juveniles admitted to lighting bottle rockets in a large drum; the last bottle rocket flew out of the drum and started a fire that burned approximately five acres of property and two outbuildings. Enforcement action taken.

CO Mike Borkovich assisted local deputies with a complaint of a despondent man parked on the side of the road. The deputies and CO Borkovich attempted to talk the man out of his vehicle for approximately 45 minutes; however, the man was completely nonresponsive. Fearing a possible drug overdose or a medical emergency CO Borkovich obtained clearance from the Leelanau County Prosecutor to extricate the man from the vehicle. CO Borkovich taped the passenger window and broke out the window with a "raptor" tool. The man was removed from the vehicle without incident and was checked by the waiting emergency medical personnel, who determined that the man was in a diabetic coma. The subject was turned over to medical personnel for care and no further enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a local trout stream CO Justin Vanderlinde observed three subjects who appeared to be smoking marijuana. Subsequent investigation resulted in the seizure of marijuana from the subject's camper and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chris Bowen received a complaint about a subject catching and keeping a walleye during the closed season. CO Bowen responded and found the subject in possession of an undersized northern pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen responded to a complaint of subjects fishing and trespassing on a hunt club in Roscommon County. CO Bowen apprehended the subjects who were both trespassing. One subject did not possess a valid fishing license and was in possession of controlled substances. Enforcement action was taken and one subject was lodged in the Roscommon County Jail.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz reviewed fur registration records and found that one subject had trapped an otter and six days later purchased the kill tags. CO Liestenfeltz interviewed the subject who confessed to not having tagged the otter. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Matt Liestenfeltz located a boat that had been dumped on state land. Follow-up investigation with the last known owner revealed the boat had been traded twice previously. The responsible person was located and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Cherry was first on the scene of a single vehicle personal injury accident. One victim was in and out of consciousness and was found to be in diabetic shock. CO Cherry administered first aid until the emergency medical personnel arrived.

CO Michael Hearn responded to a complaint of a subject retaining a foul hooked steelhead and located the subject who confessed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg completed an illegal otter investigation that led to the arrest of a subject with eleven prior DNR convictions, including one for overlimit of otter. The subject was using other individuals' kill tags to get the otter sealed.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood apprehended three anglers who were keeping walleye during the closed season. One of the subjects was posted as a "lookout", when he saw the COs and notified the other two anglers they attempted to hide the fish. Unfortunately for the poachers, the COs had been watching the whole time.

DISTRICT 6

CO Jason Smith received a complaint in Tuscola County of subjects who were attempting to start their spearing season the night before the opener. Another subject told CO Smith that he informed the individuals that spearing did not open until midnight that evening but felt that the anglers weren't going to follow the rules. CO Smith checked the area and found the entire group in the ditch, all possessing spears. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Smith, Josh Wright and Holly Pennoni received a request for assistance from the Michigan State Police (MSP) to help locate a missing kayaker on Saginaw Bay. The COs patrolled by watercraft and walking the shoreline and the shallows. After several days the rescue mission turned into a recovery mission, with CO Joshua Wright on the water with a K-9 cadaver dog searching the area where the kayak and a tackle box were located. As of April 19, 2010, the kayaker was still missing.

CO Scott Brown received a complaint that a group of subjects were seen shooting fish in a ditch with a rifle. Upon arriving, CO Brown observed a juvenile holding a .22 caliber rifle who stated he was just plinking with the rifle. A pike was found in the ditch near the juvenile that had been shot four times. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea from Sanilac County contacted several subjects after watching them attempt to bow fish for steelhead, and then attempt to spear the steelhead. One of the members of the group entered a culvert with a spear to attempt to get the fish while another subject attempted to spear the steelhead as they left the culvert. The bow and spears the anglers used were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Hobkirk contacted anglers on the Willow River spearing suckers. Unfortunately the spearing season hadn't opened in this area. Tickets were issued to two adults in the group for spearing during the closed season.

On Easter Sunday CO Robert Hobkirk checked a group of anglers in the day use area of the Port Crescent State Park. At that time, CO Hobkirk had the group put out an illegal fire and also gave a warning to a 17 year old for fishing with no license. While

checking the area a couple of days later, the CO found litter where the anglers had been. Amongst the litter, CO Hobkirk found paperwork belonging to the 17 year old who had been given a warning for no fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking the Grindstone Access Site, CO Robert Hobkirk observed a vehicle parked in an area closed to vehicles. Upon contacting the vehicle occupants, it was discovered that they were in the process of filling their trunk with rocks and grindstone from the shore. The individuals were instructed to put all of the items back and the driver of the vehicle was ticketed for the state land violation.

COs Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin investigated an illegal dump area on an area of state land and located information on the owner of the garbage. The owner was contacted and enforcement action was taken for the littering violation.

CO Jay Person was checking anglers along the Tittabawassee River when he watched a group from a distance and determined they were using illegal gear during the gear restriction period. CO Person contacted the group and advised them of the restrictions on the river due to the walleye spawning. The group stated they had not caught any walleye but were pretty proud of the three smallmouth bass they had on their stringer. Enforcement action was taken for the bass out of season violation.

CO Jay Person was on patrol during a high fire danger warning when he drove by a residence where a fire had escaped last year and burned a large area of the neighbor's property. CO Person observed a large fire again at this same residence. CO Person contacted the husband and found he was burning a large brush pile and building materials. CO Person asked if he had called for a permit like his wife was instructed to do after last year's fire and he stated he had not. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint, CO Larn Strawn discovered a large snapping turtle taken during the closed season. The subject had the turtle in a large water filled barrel. When the CO asked about the turtle, the man described his intent to clean and eat the snapper. Further investigation determined the turtle was trapped by another and given to the second individual. Both subjects were advised that even if the season was open, they would have needed a fishing license and the trap would have needed a tag on it. The turtle was returned to the wild and enforcement action was taken.

While following up on a tip, CO Larn Strawn discovered a hunting group who got an early start to their turkey season. The hunters committed a long list of violations including taking birds over bait and out of season. On the property the CO found two bags of cracked corn stored in a barrel. The poachers had sketched drawings of bearded turkeys on the corn bags and sarcastically labeled the bags with the words "Turkey Call". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee was investigating reports of anglers fishing for walleye during the closed season along the Tittabawassee River. CO Lee observed three juveniles and four adults all using restricted tackle. None of the adults had licenses for the year. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Jeff Robinette responded to a complaint in Cass County regarding a subject catching an overlimit of bluegills on a small lake. CO Robinette observed the anglers for a period of time and then contacted them when they came to shore in their boat. They not only had an overlimit of bluegills but also had several marine violations.

CO Andy Bauer received a RAP complaint regarding an angler catching and keeping bass. CO Bauer located and watched the subject for a short time prior to contacting him. CO Bauer asked the angler if he had caught anything and the subject stated he caught bluegills and rock bass. He then opened his fish bucket, grabbed a bass and threw it into the river. The subject had prior DNRE violations for having bass out of season.

CO Ivan Perez ticketed a subject in possession of three bass out of season. The subject had the bass on a chain stringer which was attached to monofilament fishing line and tied off to hide the chain. The subject told CO Perez that he likes to catch bass and let them go later.

CO Ivan Perez received a call from CO Mike Mshar. A friend of CO Mshar's called him and reported he saw a subject come in from fishing in the morning with a limit of perch then return later in the day. CO Perez caught the subject when he returned from fishing the second time with an overlimit in possession. The subject admitted to also taking a limit of perch in the morning.

CO Jeff Rabbers ticketed several subjects for keeping bass out of season on Gun Lake. CO Rabbers also caught a subject who was spearing and had blocked a closed trout stream to trap fish.

CO Jeff Rabbers caught a subject fishing without a license who was ticketed by CO David Rodgers earlier in the season. The subject told CO Rabbers he thought it was worth the risk to do it again. The subject was ticketed again.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rich Nickols contacted two subjects fishing who were in possession of a short bass, out of season. One of the subjects was wanted on an outstanding warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Dan Prince received a complaint that two subjects dressed in camouflage had entered a feed store carrying a dead turkey. When contacted, the

subjects stated they wanted to weigh the turkey they had just shot. When the COs explained turkey season had not yet opened, the subjects argued the dates should be clearer. The COs proceeded to show the subjects the hunting dates on their turkey licenses, which were still in their wallets. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Peter Purdy and Brian Fish assisted local deputies with a suicidal subject who was wielding a knife. When the COs arrived on scene it was obvious that the subject had used the knife to cut himself. The subject was taken into protective custody without incident.

COs Shane Webster, Kyle Bader, Jeff Goss and Chris Holmes worked a group patrol to address illegal ORV activity. The COs observed violations which included ORV trespass, operating ORVs without the proper safety equipment, operating ORVs without proper registration and driving while licenses were suspended. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau encountered a subject operating an ORV on the roadway. The ORV operator had a juvenile passenger and neither one was wearing a helmet. The operator of the ORV had a suspended driver's license and was wanted on two outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols located a large amount of trash dumped in the local game area. CO Nickols' investigation took him to two different residences where he was unable to make contact with the owners. A few hours later, a subject called the county dispatch to turn himself in for the litter violation. CO Nickols received a full confession and the subject cleaned up the trash site. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster received a complaint of a number of deer carcasses dumped on the side of the road. CO Webster's investigation led him to a subject who gave him a full confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy was leaving a boat access site on a dirt road when he was almost struck head on by a pick up truck travelling at excessive speed. When CO Purdy contacted the occupants of the vehicle, he detected a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle and observed open containers of alcohol inside. CO Purdy's investigation showed that the operator, who was under 21, had almost twice the legal limit of alcohol in his system and that he was currently on probation for a previous operating while impaired conviction. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Mark Papineau was conducting surveillance on anglers at the Holloway Reservoir Dam when he observed a subject catch a small walleye out of season and hide it in a bag inside a bucket. Not wanting to blow his cover, CO Papineau contacted CO Linda Scheidler to assist. A short time later another subject caught a walleye and gave it to the first subject. The subject put the walleye in the same bag and returned to his

vehicle carrying the walleyes. As he was leaving the area he was met by CO Scheidler who recovered both walleyes. CO Papineau observed three other subjects fishing with illegal tackle during the walleye closure. When CO Papineau checked them, none of them had fishing licenses. The COs took enforcement action on all five subjects.

CO Todd Szyska was called to transport a prisoner from the 42-2 District Court to the Macomb County jail. In 2008, COs Todd Szyska and Mark Papineau issued tickets to the subject for recreational trespass and for taking deer illegally. The subject was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine and restitution for the deer, which he failed to do. The judge sentenced him to 45 days in jail and he will have to pay \$1,000 restitution when released.

While working the Flint River in downtown Flint, Sgt. Tom Wanless observed a subject casting and reeling an artificial lure during the walleye closure. As the angler attempted to leave, Sgt. Wanless contacted the subject who stated he thought the season opened on that day and did not understand why no one else was down there fishing. After a short discussion the subject admitted he knew the season did not open for another week. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson and Sgt. Tom Wanless patrolled for illegal fishing activity on the Flint River. The first subject they contacted in downtown Flint was fishing with minnows in a closed area and was in possession of two smallmouth bass out of season. Another subject was fishing with artificial bait during the closure, did not have a fishing license, and had two warrants for his arrest. The COs also contacted a group of anglers fishing without licenses and using artificial bait during the closure. One of these subjects had five prior violations for targeting walleye out of season and one subject had seven personal protection orders on him along with three officer safety cautions for assaulting a police officer and resist and obstruct an officer in two different states. In all cases, enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett assisted at the scene of an accident on I-75. An individual driving a pickup truck lost control and rolled over into the ditch alongside the highway. He was pinned in the truck between a marshy ditch and a pair of small multi-branch trees. The truck could not be rolled over to extricate the driver due to the marshy ditch, and the trees had to be cut to help safely reach the victim. CO Ennett used equipment that he carries to cut the limbs out of the way and then assisted with traffic control shutting down all lanes of I-75 until the driver could be removed and transported.

CO Jonathon Sklba patrolled the area near the Consumers Energy water discharge and located a man who was "just holding" a fishing pole but denied fishing. The line was baited and in the water. The subject advised that he loves fishing yet has never purchased a Michigan fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a local gravel pit CO Ben Shively located two trucks parked near the lake. CO Shively observed two small boats on the lake with three subjects fishing. When the boats came in, CO Shively contacted the anglers and asked for their fishing

licenses. Only one of the three had purchased a license. The two anglers without licenses stated they buy licenses each year and always buy their trout stamps. A check of the license system showed that one angler had not purchased a license since 2000 and the other had purchased a restricted license in 2007. The anglers were issued tickets for fishing without a license and given warnings on recreational trespass and expired registration on the boats.

While working on the Huron River in Proud Lake Recreation Area, CO Ben Shively observed four subjects fishing downriver from the dam. CO Shively watched as two of the anglers took out a marijuana pipe and passed it back and forth between them. As one of the anglers was walking toward him in the river to give him his license, CO Shively observed the pipe in the pocket of the angler's fishing vest. The pipe was seized and neither subject possessed a fishing license. The other two subjects stated they were fishing for bass and were using illegal gear on the artificial fly only section of the river. The first two subjects were ticketed for fishing without a license and issued warnings on the marijuana and pipe. The second set of subjects were issued tickets for using lures other than artificial flies and given warnings on attempting to take bass during the closed season. One of the subjects fishing for bass also had nine outstanding warrants for traffic violations and three DNR prior convictions for snagging.

CO Ben Shively was watching two anglers in the Huron River in the Proud Lake Recreation Area when one of the anglers went to a downed tree and broke off a branch and began poking the branch under the downed tree in an effort to move the trout out from under the tree. Once the angler felt he had gotten the trout out, both anglers began to fish downstream from the tree. As CO Shively watched the anglers, they attempted to snag the trout along the bank. Through his binoculars, CO Shively saw that both anglers had large, bare treble hooks on the end of their lines. CO Shively stepped from the brush and called both subjects into shore. Once seeing the CO, both anglers broke their lines. Both subjects were ticketed for snagging.

CO Ben Shively was working on the Huron River in the Proud Lake Recreation Area after dark and watching the closed section of river at the dam for illegal activity. CO Shively observed a vehicle pull into the parking lot and two subjects with one pole exit the vehicle and walk to the dam. CO Shively watched with his night vision goggles as the subject began to fish at the dam. After about 10 minutes and being unsuccessful the subject gave up and began to walk back to the parking lot. CO Shively contacted the subject who denied fishing at the dam. When the CO pointed out he had watched him for 10 minutes and showed him the night vision goggles the subject put his head down and stated he was sorry. The subject was ticketed for fishing closed trout waters.

CO Kris Kiel reports that a case involving two subjects that he and CO Todd Szyska investigated last fall for taking overlimits of bucks and purchasing too many deer licenses has come to an end. The subjects pled guilty to three illegal deer counts and three counts of purchasing too many deer licenses. Together they paid \$3,000 restitution, \$1,655 fines and costs and they both lost their hunting privileges through 2013.

CO Kris Kiel conducted surveillance on a problem area on Lake St. Clair where bass are being taken during the closed season. The CO observed a group of three anglers fishing for over an hour. CO Kiel did not see the subjects catch a bass but observed a white plastic grocery bag flopping around next to one of the subjects. The subject soon hid the bag among the broken concrete that lined the shoreline. When the subjects started to pack up their gear to leave, the CO watched as one of the subjects placed the bag into the bottom of a small tackle box. CO Kiel met the subjects in the parking lot and checked their fishing licenses. Of the three, only the subject with the tackle box had a license. He stated he had not caught a fish all day and that his two friends did not fish, they were only there for the fresh air. After CO Kiel opened the tackle box and pulled out a smallmouth bass, the other two admitted to fishing. All three subjects were written tickets. One of the subjects was arrested on six outstanding warrants.

CO Todd Szyska received a RAP complaint of two subjects keeping smallmouth bass at the Nine Mile pier in St. Clair Shores. CO Szyska responded and found the two subjects who had five smallmouth bass on a stringer and were using live gobies for bait. The smallmouth bass ranged in size from one pound to five pounds. All bass except for one were able to be released. The subjects stated they were keeping the bass on a stringer in order to take a photograph before they left. Enforcement action was taken.