

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
5/15/2012 – 5/29/2012**

DISTRICT 1

COs Matt Eberly and Denny Gast assisted with hunter safety classes at Camp Nesbitt. About 65 kids were certified.

CO Doug Hermanson assisted with a hunter safety class at the Ontonagon County Sportsman's club.

CO Doug Hermanson issued a ticket to a trapper for using untagged traps and trespass.

CO Ryan Aho and Trey Luce responded to another road-killed moose on the west side of Marquette County. Unfortunately, the meat was not salvageable.

CO David Miller issued numerous tickets at Bond Reservoir for three short walleye and three short bass. He also issued a ticket to a boat for no life jackets.

CO Trey Luce issued a ticket to a fisherman on Deer Lake for fishing with live bait.

CO Trey Luce issued a ticket to a boater on the Greenwood Reservoir for not having his boat registration or numbers affixed. Action was also taken for possession of marijuana.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Steven Burton issued one ticket to a non-resident for fishing without a license. Numerous warnings were given for minor violations.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy contacted a group of ORV operators near Iron River. A check of the group found one ORV to be unregistered and another to not have an exhaust equipped with a spark arrester. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery responded to 2 complaints of illegal burning in Gogebic County. In both cases, subjects were found to be burning illegal materials. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a subject fishing on a local river. The subject was found to be in possession of an undersize bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marv Gerlach conducted a patrol on Lake Superior with CO Trey Luce out of Marquette. Numerous contacts were made on the Lake Superior shoreline with good compliance found. One boat operator was cited for failing to register his boat.

CO Dave Painter, CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy teamed up with neighboring WI Wardens for a float of the Brule River boundary waters for Florence and

Crystal Falls High School students. 40 students from the 2 schools floated a section of the river in kayaks and were also educated by WI Fisheries staff on fish identification from a research net that was set.

DISTRICT 2

All District 2 officers have been involved in the very large fire north of Newberry known as the Duck Lake Fire. The fire began with a lightning strike and has consumed approximately 22,000 acres. They were also involved with the Seney fire which consumed over 3000 acres.

CO's have been assisting right from the beginning with everything from the evacuation of residents to security of the fire scene. They have also had many other duties and provided assistance in many forms during this disaster some of which are listed below.

CO's Publiski, Wenzel & Gustafson were working the night shift during the first night of the Duck lake Fire. The fire really took off at approximately 2am when the wind shifted direction and the fire began advancing in a different direction, very rapidly heading towards several residences. CO's were able to stay ahead of the fire and assist with the evacuation of all residents in the fire path. Officers described the fire as beyond anything they ever could have imagined a wall of flames that was boiling 40'-50' above the tree tops which sounded like a train coming at you. The winds were approximately 50mph and the trees were lying flat while burning.

Officers also described observing many animals fleeing ahead of the fire including bear, deer, wolf, partridge, rabbits and a humming bird even flew into the patrol truck of Sgt Thayer and Lt Hagy landed on the dash of the truck and rested out of the smoke before continuing on.

CO Fitzgibbon was checking residences & camps during the early days of the fire and found a spot fire had started near a very nice log home and it was advancing through the leaf debris towards the building and had started a carpet runner on fire. No fire units were available but he was able to put the small fire out before it grew and reached the building

CO Publiski & Evink were also able to put a small spot fire out that was advancing towards a residence. The fire also jumped from the main fire as embers were carried by the wind. The fire had started near a wooden break wall and was heading to the building through the leaf debris. This was put out using sand found near the wall.

CO Hammill on a predawn patrol of the fire area observed a very expensive wood processor at a logging site near the perimeter of the fire zone with the fire in the distance moving towards it. He was able to contact the owner and obtain clearance to escort the owner in and back out with the \$300,000 wood processor. The thankful logger would have suffered a catastrophic loss if it had not been for the efforts of CO Hammill. The area burned over after the removal.

COs Hammill, Wenzel, Ferguson and Sgt Shann assisted with the recovery of a water bucket that was lost off one of the helicopters in a very remote lake. Just getting a boat into the lake presented the first challenge, followed by locating it with MSP Divers and sonar and then assisting with the recovery by the air crew.

CO Panich and Sgt Thayer dealt with disorderly subjects and an assault that occurred when a very large group of people attempted to enter the active fire area after hearing rumors that the area had been opened up. One of the subjects decided against the wishes of several other subjects present to call the person who they heard just lost his camp. He had just gotten out of the hospital and the others wanted to wait to tell him due to his health, Words were exchanged after the call and the assault took place. The crowd was calmed down and ultimately dispersed and the assault report was submitted to the prosecutor.

CO Panich also dealt with subjects riding ORV's into the fire scene when the fire was still very active. The subjects were attempting to photograph the burned structures because they wanted to be the first to post them on YouTube. They told the officer they hadn't taken any photos yet. Later that night the photos of some of the residences were posted. Unfortunately some of the fire victims learned of the fate of their homes when they saw the photos of their destroyed homes on the web. This was very traumatic for many victims and caused a large concern for the security of their property as all people are being kept out of the fire area after the evacuation. Security check points are in place manned by officers from the Luce County Sheriffs Department, MSP Troopers from the Newberry Post, and Law Enforcement Division CO's

District 3 also provided CO's Erratt & VanderWall who assisted during the first part of the fire and District 1 follow up providing Sgt Burton and CO's Gerlach and Leadman all of which assisted on several different operations within the fire zone. They provided some much needed relief for the District 2 officers who were stretched to their limits without rest in the early days of both fires.

Officers also managed to work some fish cases and CO Publiski & Panich cited a subject for fishing with too many lines while fishing for salmon. The subject has been cited before by CO Publiski. The officers observed the subject from a distance surveilled him and left little room for dispute when the contact was made.

DISTRICT 3

Area 2 COs conducted a group patrol on Saturday of the Memorial Day holiday weekend, targeting known ORV and Mudder truck problem areas in Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan Counties. Numerous violations were encountered with 8 tickets being issued for ORV's operating in a closed area, 1 ticket issued for an ORV licensing violation as well as 14 warnings being given for wetland violations, operating an ORV while driver's license is revoked, riding double and operating without a helmet.

COs Budreau and VanderWall worked Memorial Day Holiday weekend fireworks on Lake Charlevoix, providing assistance in maintaining a safety zone around the fireworks barge and patrolling for marine safety violations.

CO Feagan responded to a complaint of a fire that had escaped. The suspect was burning in a burn barrel that was located in the woods and did not have a proper cover. In addition the current fire weather conditions at the time were extreme. Luckily, DNR fire units arrived on scene in time to stop the fire from spreading through the woods and to the neighboring homes. A ticket was issued for failing to take precautions to keep a fire from escaping.

While on ORV patrol Conservation Officer Feagan observed a large plume of black smoke rising in the air in a heavily wooded area. Upon approaching the scene the officer could smell a chemical odor in the air. Located was a suspect who had just lit a pile of illegal materials, including furniture, plastics, and numerous building materials. The local fire department was summoned to extinguish the fire and a citation was issued for burning during the Governor's burn ban and a warning was given for the illegal disposal of solid waste.

During a Red Flag Warning Fire Danger day, C.O. Erratt contacted a man who was burning building materials, OSB, and pallets. The local fire department had been called by a concerned citizen. The man said he had called for a Burn Permit in the past but he was not aware of the high fire danger that day. C.O. Erratt issued a ticket for burning without a permit and warned him for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Andrea Erratt provided security for the Natural Resource Commission meeting held at the Sturgeon spawning sites on the Black River in Cheboygan County. Before the NRC Commissioners arrived, CO Erratt stopped three ORV's that were operating near the Black River in a closed area on state land. CO Erratt ticketed the leader of the group and warned the other operators.

On Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County received an early morning RAP Complaint about a Personal Watercraft (PWC) being operated on Deer Lake starting just after 6:00 AM. CO Erratt patrolled to Deer Lake and contacted the PWC Operator at the access site. The operator was on a rental PWC and said he was trying to make the most of his day. CO Erratt warned the man for operating a PWC before 8:00 AM.

CO Bottorff responded to a complaint of a fire that had escaped during high fire danger conditions. The home owner had dumped a load of hot ashes in a field and it ignited and the suspect's property as well as onto the neighbor's property before DNR fire could get it extinguished. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bottorff received a complaint from the Michigan State Police of a boat being dumped on state land off Alpena State Road. Officer Bottorff responded to the area and

was able to locate the abandoned vessel. The HIN plates had been removed and the Registration numbers had been painted over. The investigation is currently ongoing.

CO Andrea Albert attempted to stop a four wheel ATV on the roadway for operating without a helmet. The operator fled from the CO down a power line. CO Albert pursued the ATV until losing sight of it after getting slowed down on a steep hill with soft soil. CO Albert went to the location she first observed the ATV and followed the ATV tire tracks several miles back to the suspect's residence. The operator was identified and quickly turned himself in. Charges are pending for flee and elude and operating while suspended.

CO Mark DePew caught up with a person who had been using a state forest campground dumpster all winter long to dispose of his trash.

CO Bill Webster received a call from CO John Sklba who was off duty and watched an individual who was fishing with his grandkids, the kids were catching short bass and wanting to through them back but he told them to keep them. CO Webster contacted the angler and found him to be in possession of 3 short bass, this was not the first time he was ticket for the violation.

DISTRICT 4

CO Rebecca Hopkins assisted a local fire department with a reported unattended bonfire. It appeared that a group of subjects gathered at a private residence and created a large bonfire and then retired for the night leaving the fire unattended during the recent burning ban. The local fire department responded to extinguish the fire. The fire department personnel were unable to contact the homeowner despite knocking numerous times at the door of the residence. CO Hopkins was called for the follow-up investigation and eventually ticketed the responsible party for an unattended fire.

CO Rebecca Hopkins investigated a complaint of illegal dumping of solid waste by a contractor. The contractor was using a relative's backyard as a makeshift landfill, burying building demo materials in a pit. Enforcement action was taken.

While off duty and taking his daughter out turkey hunting as the season winded down, CO Rich Stowe observed a vehicle stuck along a stretch of a Consumers power line where there is ongoing problems with an illegal hill climb. The day prior, CO Stowe had responded to the same location on a different vehicle stuck near the hill climb. Enforcement action was taken on both incidents.

CO Steve Converse checked a boat on a local Manistee County lake containing several subjects fishing. The boat's live well contained several undersized bass and pike. Enforcement action was taken to address the undersize fish.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Angie Greenway received a complaint in Osceola County of a Raccoon in captivity. The juvenile Raccoon had bitten a child at the residence and in

turn, the child told her teachers at school. The parents took the child to the emergency room for treatment and told the medical staff that their daughter had been bitten by a cat. The Raccoon was seized and tested for rabies. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Jeff Ginn were patrolling the Muskegon River when they witnessed a large inflatable raft drift into a deadfall lying in deep, swift water. The occupants were not paying attention as they drifted downstream and found themselves in a dangerous situation. As the raft was pushed into the deadfall, the current started to suck the raft under and into the deep water. CO Jeff Ginn maneuvered his jet boat close to the raft and managed to tow the raft just enough to clear the extremely dangerous situation for the recreational tubers. The occupants were grateful and much more attentive the remainder of the float.

CO Jeff Ginn was patrolling the Muskegon River and made contact with two subjects fishing who stated they were "catch and release" anglers. CO Ginn took a closer look and discovered that the two subjects possessed a total of 13 trout. In addition to the over limit of trout, eight of them were undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn was patrolling Federal Forest land when he made contact with a subject operating in a closed area. The operator had no identification on him and claimed his father could confirm his name. CO Ginn made contact with the father who provided the officer with a different name than the one provided by his son. The son yelled "come on dad", with the father replying, "No, I'm tired of lying for you, take care of your warrants". CO Ginn arrested the subject and transported him to the Newaygo County Jail on his multiple outstanding arrest warrants.

COs Jeff Ginn and Troy VanGelderren were patrolling Silver Lake State Park sand dunes when they responded to a vehicle crash. The operator had just met some girls and decided to let one of them drive his truck. The female driver managed to roll the vehicle over several times when jumping a sand dune, totaling the vehicle. All three occupants' sustained injuries including one having to be transported to the local hospital. The owner of the vehicle was ticketed for minor in possession of alcohol.

COs Troy Mueller and Mike Wells worked the busy Silver Lake State Park sand dunes on Memorial Day. The officers responded to a complaint of a motorcycle jumping a dune and landing on a juvenile operating an ORV. The operator of the motorcycle blamed the juvenile operator for getting in his way while jumping. The juvenile was transported off the dunes and air lifted to the hospital. The accident remains under investigation.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson assisted deputies on a domestic violence complaint where the suspect had a shotgun and was threatening a second party. CO McPherson knew the suspect and was able to calm him down so he could be taken into custody.

CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to a boating accident on Wiggins Lake. According to the complainant, a pontoon boat had collided with another vessel which was secured on a hoist. The investigation led CO Papineau to a juvenile who had taken her parents' boat out without permission. The juvenile operator engaged the engine to full speed and then turned to pick up her cell phone. She quickly lost control of the boat at a high rate of speed and collided with a vessel docked on a hoist.

While patrolling, CO Mark Papineau intercepted a BOL for a possible intoxicated driver. CO Papineau located the vehicle and the operator who was passed out behind the wheel with a half eaten cheeseburger on his lap. The subject's speech was slurred and slow and the subject continued to go in and out of partial consciousness. Field sobriety tests were performed and the subject was eventually lodged on an outstanding felony narcotics warrant and suspicion of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of narcotics. In addition, a search of the subject revealed numerous prescription pills hidden in his socks and shoes.

Several District 5 officers assisted the Roscommon County Sheriff's Office and State Police in searching for a fugitive who had escaped custody. Several COs utilized man-tracking skills in the search for this armed and dangerous person. The escapee was caught after 8 days on the loose.

CO Mark Papineau received a complaint from Gladwin County Central Dispatch with regard to a subject burning illegal materials. Upon arrival, CO Papineau discovered that the subject was burning numerous illegal objects including construction materials, plastics, and metals. The subject advised that he was unaware that burning such materials was illegal and that he was simply trying to clean up the yard debris. In addition to the illegal burning, there were no burn permits being issued due to extremely high fire danger.

CO Brian Olsen investigated a complaint of a subject who was shooting geese with a .22 rifle. CO Olsen responded and found a dead gosling lying in the yard. Brian interviewed the subject who confessed to shooting the goslings. He believed that if he killed the babies, the adults would leave. He didn't like the waste left by the geese in his yard.

CO Jason McCullough checked two subjects who had caught 41 bluegill. Only one of the subjects had a fishing license. Both subjects stated they knew the possession limit and the fact that they needed a fishing license. A citation was issued.

DISTRICT 6

CO Phil Hudson and his college intern conducted surveillance on a boat in which they received a tip that was making multiple trips to take over limits of walleye. The following morning his partner CO Nick Atkin was able to make contact with the boat that CO Hudson had been watching. Three subjects were found to be in possession of 15 fish over their limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the Saginaw River on his patrol vessel when he came across two subjects fishing from their vessel without fishing licenses. One subject stated that he knew he did not have a fishing license but wanted to take the chance hoping that they would not run into a conservation officer. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking the Pinnebog River for fishing activity, CO Bob Hobkirk encountered four anglers fishing a secluded stretch of the river. Two of the anglers were fishing without a license and were cited for the violation. One of the licensed anglers has been ticketed for a violation by CO Hobkirk or has been with another person who has been ticketed in the same location on three separate occasions.

CO Bob Hobkirk finally made contact with a subject who had shot a turkey at a baited hunting location. The individual continued to deny knowing about the bait, but CO Hobkirk had interviewed the person's hunting partner who admitted that they had been together when the bait was put out. A citation was issued for taking a turkey over bait.

During the 2011 waterfowl hunting season, COs Bob Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea had apprehended two hunters who were in possession of 25 ducks, 20 of which were redhead ducks. Recently the subjects plead guilty to possession of an over limit of 16 red head ducks in Huron County. Each individual was ordered to pay \$565.00 in fines and costs and \$2000.00 in restitution and lost their hunting privileges for 2 years.

On the Memorial Day weekend, CO Bob Hobkirk received a complaint of an ORV operating on Port Crescent State Park property. While enroute to the state park, the officer met an ORV matching the description of the one in the park riding down the shoulder of a state highway. When stopped, the operator told the CO that she had brought the ORV "up north" so they could use it to go to garage sales. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni received a complaint of three juveniles that were spearing carp and leaving them lay along the shoreline. CO Pennoni located the juveniles and observed them spearing carp and frogs. Officer Pennoni made contact with the juveniles and educated them regarding the fishing rules on the frog spearing season and littering by leaving their dead carp.

CO Holly Pennoni received a complaint of subjects' bow fishing and shooting pike in the Kawkawlin River and leaving them to rot on the shoreline. CO Pennoni located the vessel with two people bow fishing. CO Pennoni observed them shoot a gar pike and then throw the fish back in the water. CO Pennoni contacted the angler and discovered that they did not have any life jackets on the boat. Enforcement action was taken. A warning was given for littering.

CO Holly Pennoni responded to a boating accident that occurred on the Saginaw River and assisted the US Coast Guard. Due to high winds and strong current, the vessel owner hit another vessel and the dock while attempting to dock his vessel.

CO Scott Brown assisted Port Austin PD with a domestic violence incident at the Port Austin farmers market. One of the vendors got into an argument with her husband and smacked him in the head. He said it was the second time in a month she has been arrested and charged with domestic violence. He said they are getting a divorce. They have been married for a month and a half.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted a subject after seeing large amounts of black smoke coming from behind his residence. Upon talking with the subject about what he was burning, the subject stated he had burned a few tires and after checking the burn pile, CO Rhodea observed the remains of a mattress. A citation was issued for unlawful disposal of solid waste and the fire was put out.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint and responded to an illegal burn. Upon arrival the CO observed several subjects taking apart a trailer and had a huge hole dug with burnt wood in it. There was already a fire officer on scene and advised he had just put the fire out with 150 gallons of water. When the CO talked with the suspects they advised they were only burning wood. At this time the CO pointed out all the insulation and the mattresses and springs and then asked if they had a permit. The suspects advised they did not know they needed a permit and forgot about the insulation and other stuff. The suspects were cited for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Jay Person was called to a city park and pond reference a large snake observed swimming in the pond. Upon arrival the CO was shown the snakes location. Using binoculars, CO Person was able to observe the suspect snake. It turned out to be a muskrat.

COs Joel Lundberg and CO Jay Person observed several anglers fishing from a boat. As the COs approached the boat they observed one individual set his pole down. The COs asked the subject that sat the pole down if he had a fishing license. He advised he did, repeatedly, but just forgot to bring it. After checking in the RSS and LEIN system, it not only showed that he had never bought a fishing license but he also had a warrant for his arrest. The subject was issued a citation for fishing without a license and lodged in the Isabella County Jail on the warrant.

While working Trout streams in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell checked a couple of anglers who had caught a few trout and had them on stringers. When the fish were measured by the CO, it was found that more than just a few of the fish were under the legal size limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the evening before the bass opener, CO Ken Lowell watched as a couple on a boat caught and kept a bass. When the CO made contact with the anglers and checked their live well he located another largemouth bass. One of the bass was only 12 inches. When the CO asked what they planned to do with the fish the couple said they wanted to release them near their dock. The CO explained the open season and size restrictions and issued a ticket.

The first boat contacted by CO Ken Lowell on the bass opener had a short bass on a stringer. The anglers said they had measured the fish and it was 14 inches. The fish was measured again and was only 13 inches. The anglers advised that the bass must have shrunk. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on local lakes in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell contacted and ticketed multiple anglers for fishing without licenses. Most of the anglers stated they only fish a couple times a year and did not think they needed a license for that.

DISTRICT 7

COs Steve Mooney and Jeff Robinette, while patrolling Lake Michigan, observed an angler trolling for salmon with three extra lines. As they approached the boat, the angler began frantically reeling in lines. However, when contacted, the subject still had one extra line out and a rod in his hand. The subject was cited for fishing with too many lines.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss conducted a marine patrol on Lake Michigan in Berrien County and contacted an angler who was trolling for salmon. Upon checking, Officers found that the subject had not purchased a fishing license since 2006, even though he stated he had purchased a license this year as always. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer spoke at Lakeshore Middle School about marine safety and outdoor related laws to approximately 100 children.

COs Ivan Perez, Greg Patten and Cary Foster conducted patrols on the Grand River and Lake Michigan during the holiday weekend. Citations were issued for expired boat registrations, insufficient PFDs and boats having no fire extinguishers. COs also cited anglers for fishing without licenses and trolling with too many lines.

CO Dave Rodgers conducted marine patrols on Reeds Lake in Kent County, citing five for various fishing and marine violations. CO Rodgers and Sgt. John Jurcich patrolled the Grand River from Grand Rapids to the Bass River Recreation Area on Memorial Day, citing six for fishing without licenses, or having insufficient PFDs aboard their vessels. Numerous warnings were given for other marine equipment violations.

CO Greg Patten patrolled Silver Lake State Park with CO Perez during the holiday weekend, citing two operators for taking vehicles beyond the ORV boundary areas, operating without seat belts and operating an ORV while license is suspended.

COs BJ Goulette and Chris Simpson patrolled Silver Lake State Park assisting at the scene of two injury accidents involving rental vehicles being operated in the dunes.

DISTRICT 8

COs Shane Webster, Damon Owens, Derek Miller, Dan Bigger, and Sgt. Troy Bahlau conducted a group ORV patrol on the CIS trail from Corunna to St. John. The patrol covered over 60 miles of trail. Two tickets were issued for illegal ORV activity and several other violations were addressed including locating two set minnow traps in the river located next to the trail with no name or address.

Just as the COs were concluding their group patrol at the end of the day a call came out to assist at a possible drowning at the Shiatown Dam on the Shiawassee River. COs Dan Bigger, Shane Webster, Damon Owens, Derek Miller and Sgt. Troy Bahlau all responded and assisted in the search and recovery effort. The five Conservation Officers made the trek to the far side of the river across from the other responding units of EMS, Firefighters, County Sheriff Deputies and MSP. The Conservation Officers were able to get a line stretched across the base of the dam and over the fast moving water and secure the line that assisted throughout the search with tending the rescue divers. Sadly the 12 year old victim did not survive and was located by the MSP diver at approximately 9:30 PM.

CO Rich Nickols was preparing to launch his boat at Round Lake, when he observed a subject putting a basket of fish in the trunk of a vehicle. CO Nickols made contact with the subject who advised he and his brother had caught all the fish in the basket. CO Nickols counted 57 bluegill (average 3-4 inches) and one bass that was 9 inches. Both subjects did have fishing licenses. The over limit was seized and a ticket issued for the out of season bass.

CO Rich Nickols received a RAP complaint of several subjects taking fish from Sycamore Creek with a cast net. CO Nickols arrived on scene as the subjects were leaving and also met with the complainant. One subject was found to be in possession of a cast net but no fish were found. The complainant advised he had seen the subjects throw fish back into the creek but they could not be located due to darkness. Another subject in the group was in possession of a high power pellet rifle and could not provide an explanation as to why he had it. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor's office.

While on foot patrol in the Maple River State Game Area, CO Rich Nickols located tracks along the river bank of a large tracked vehicle similar to a bull dozer. CO Nickols followed the tracks to a power line, back tracked them and located a hydraulic saw parked on a dead end road. Apparently a tree service contracted by Consumer's Energy had taken a short cut through the game area and along the river bank causing considerable damage. Follow up is continuing.

CO Damon Owens received a complaint of huge truck loads of trash being dumped on state lands bordering the Jackson/Washtenaw County line. CO Owens and CO Derek Miller are diligently investigating the violation and are determined to locate the responsible party. So far the investigation has lead to several interviews and the COs

are narrowing down the primary suspect and will be seeking charges through the prosecutor's office.

CO Daniel Prince did marine checks at Indian Lake in Livingston County. Six PFD violations were found and one subject without a fishing license was contacted. Also, one subject was contacted for a slow no wake violation. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Bigger and Todd Thorn were able to sneak up on 3 subjects that were trespassing on a gravel pit adjacent to a local river. The subjects had been contacted the day prior by COs Miller and Owens at which time they were fishing and stated they had Tribal rights. Although the area is not in a tribal area, warnings were given at that time. This time, however, tickets were issued for the recreational trespass. A warning was given for no navigation lights on their vessel and CO Bigger had the boat launch illuminated by local PD to avoid them missing the launch and going over the dam.

CO Dan Bigger patrolled downstream from a new launch point on the Shiawassee River on his PWC and came across to subjects fishing. The one subject stated that he had no idea that the CO could come from that direction and did not think he would get caught. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the River Walk trail per the request of local law enforcement agencies, CO Dan Bigger was able to approach and make contact with several unsuspecting anglers and others utilizing the river resource. CO Bigger located one subject who would not acknowledge the CO and upon further investigation it was found that the subject had 5 felony warrants including assault with a firearm, aiming a firearm, and felony MDOP amongst not having a fishing license. A ticket for the fishing without a license was issued and the subject was turned over to the Owosso PD for lodging.

CO Dan Bigger located 2 anglers fishing at night on a secluded portion of the Shiawassee River. Neither subject had a license and stated they had been dropped off by their friend. While CO Bigger wrote tickets the friend showed up and stated that he had seen the CO and since he didn't have a license either chose to leave his fishing gear in the van until he purchased one.

CO Dan Bigger was on his way home for the night and took the River Walk trail along the Shiawassee River where there has been several incidents including assaults recently. CO Bigger observed two subjects on the trail at nearly 11:00 pm and tried to approach them. The subjects ran and other agencies were unable to assist due to the remote location. CO Bigger shut off all lights and searched for the subjects through the woods. A purse, clothing, and a tent were found and CO Bigger was able to guide other agencies to his approximate location by cell phone. The subjects had been trespassing on the airport property and had set up tents to live in. CO Bigger contacted the airport manager through central dispatch and advised to hold all incoming and outgoing flights as there was concern as to where the subjects had fled and what they had been doing so close to the runways. All airport lights were lit up to assist CO Bigger in attempting to locate the fleeing suspects. CO Bigger was able to locate one female and information

was obtained through interview of the second subject whom has current valid warrants. Since 9-11, trespass on airport property is a federal offense and the subject was advised of this. Charges are uncertain at this point however the personal belongings and tents were removed from the airport property and the airport was back operational without incident.

CO Dan Bigger had just gotten his equipment secured for the day when a call came into his residence from the local dispatch requesting assistance in finding a father and small children who had left in a canoe from a park on the Shiawassee River and were not at the end point. With sunset approaching, CO Bigger requested to talk to the wife/mother who was anxiously waiting for them to arrive at the designated end point. CO Bigger had just kayaked this portion of the river. CO Bigger guided the woman to an area where he knew there was a vantage point from which a large section of the river could be seen. Just as CO Bigger got into his patrol truck to respond and begin the search, the woman arrived at the location she had been advised about and got a visual on the rest of the family. CO Bigger remained on the phone to insure all members were present and accounted for.

CO Pete Purdy was checking anglers along Shaw Lake in Shiawassee County when he came upon a group of three anglers. One angler produced a fishing license; the other two anglers didn't have fishing licenses. A check through LEIN revealed one of the anglers had a federal felony warrant through the US Marshall Service and ATF for felony firearm possession and considered armed and dangerous. CO Purdy took the subject into custody without incident and he was lodged in the Shiawassee County Jail to await pick up by the ATF.

CO Pete Purdy observed a dirt bike riding on the road not yielding to traffic causing a back up. CO Purdy stopped the ORV and discovered the operator had a suspended operator's license for multiple drug crimes. The operator was allowed to call his father to pick up him and his dirt bike. The subject was issued two tickets. CO Purdy spoke with the father over the phone who stated "That's all DNR COs do is write tickets, and don't give anyone breaks", CO Purdy advised he could impound the dirt bike and lodge his son, the father apologized. It was later discovered CO Purdy issued the father a ticket for an ORV violation in 2009.

CO Pete Purdy made contact with two fourteen year old ORV operators on the roadway without supervision. CO Purdy was shocked to discover it was the same two operators CO Purdy contacted approximately one year ago that ran from CO Purdy on ORVs. That day the subjects were later located by COs Purdy and CO Dan Prince and Trooper Gonzalez, and the parents were issued tickets for allowing juveniles to operate an ORV without supervision. Because of the past contact CO Purdy issued a ticket to the parent that allowed the under age operators to operate without supervision, again. This time however the ORVs were impounded.

CO Shane Webster was patrolling the Michigan Center Lake Chain when he encountered three anglers fishing from a bridge over the channel. CO Webster made

contact with the individuals and asked about their success? One angler announced they had caught a bass but stated they had released it. A check of fishing licenses revealed two of the three anglers were not licensed. As the anglers began to complain about the need for fishing licenses a check of their bucket revealed a 13 inch large mouth bass. The anglers acted surprised at the discovery of the fish in their bucket. Tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Shane Webster worked marine patrol over the Memorial Day Weekend. The patrol resulted in multiple warnings issued for various violations including, fail to provide type IV pfd's, fail to display valid registrations, fail to provide "functioning" fire extinguishers, and 100 foot distance violations. A ticket was also issued to a parent who allowed their underage son to operate a PWC during one of the busiest weekends on the lake. The minor had not taken a boaters safety class and operated at faster then "slow no wake" within two feet of swim buoys in an occupied swim area. The minor was given warnings for his violations.

COs Shane Webster, Damon Owens and Sgt. Troy Bahlau worked a marine patrol on a small Jackson County Lake. Several violations were addressed including expired registrations and failing to display valid registrations. One vessel stopped showed no registration whatsoever, and upon investigation revealed that the vessel had not been registered in over 13 years. Along with the registration violation the vessel did not have a single life jacket on board for any of its ten passengers. The owner of the vessel stated, "Well, we're pretty spoiled out here because it's too hard for law enforcement boats to get on the lake". Enforcement Action was taken.

COs Shane Webster, Damon Owens, and Sgt. Troy Bahlau responded to a drowning of an 18 yr. old male in a swimming area along with search and rescue and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. The victim's body was located and recovered.

CO Todd Thorn located two individuals retrieving scrap metal from a local wildlife area. CO Thorn contacted the individuals and found them to have a permit for the scrap metal but he also found that one of the men had a warrant and neither of the men had a valid driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn was patrolling the Grand River in Lansing and made contact with a group of bass anglers. One of the individuals was found to be fishing without a license and he had a warrant for his arrest. The man had not purchased a fishing license since 2009. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a RAP complaint of anglers who were attempting to use a large salmon net to catch fish in a creek within the city limits of Lansing. CO Thorn located the anglers and watched them from a secluded location. CO Thorn observed one of the males walking along the bank of the creek with what appeared to be a rifle. CO Thorn then watched as the man shot a Canada goose with the rifle, jumped into the creek after it and then slit its throat with a knife. CO Thorn then made contact with the group of anglers and arrested the man who had shot the goose out of season. CO

Thorn located the goose and the rifle, finding that the rifle was an air rifle with a scope mounted on it. A warrant is being sought against the man who took the goose out of season.

CO Todd Thorn checked a group of anglers bass fishing from their boat and learned that although one of them stated he had fishing licenses from 15 different states, neither one of them had a fishing license for the State of Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer worked a complaint from a resident who lives next to the Lost Nation Game Area. The complainant called CO Brewer just before dark one night upset that his neighbor might be shooting deer. CO Brewer responded to the location and found the subject standing in the drive of his hunting property. During the check and conversation it was apparent that he had been turkey hunting with two of his buddies. They each had shot numerous times at different turkeys but nobody actually hit anything.

CO Brian Fish responded to a call of a baby owl on the ground. CO Fish retrieved the owl from persons watching out for its welfare and turned it over to a rehabber.

CO Brian Fish was called regarding homeowners removing young raccoons from their home. It was determined that the parents had nested between the homes siding and insulation and the raccoon family had to be removed by a rehabber.

CO Brian Fish was called to a home in Battle Creek regarding a fawn being picked up at a cemetery in the center of the county. The fawn was returned to the cemetery to its waiting mother.

COs Dan Bigger and Derek Miller worked the Shiawassee River and checked an angler with an ID card. CO Miller asked the subject if he got all of his court work taken care of. The subject said he had everything up to date, and that he shouldn't have any warrant. The subject was transported to jail and lodged on 2 outstanding warrants from the neighboring county.

DISTRICT 9

CO Kris Kiel was checking shore anglers at Lake St. Clair Metropark when he came across a subject with a severe language barrier. The CO had to show the subject his own fishing license to get him to show his. When the CO made a motion with his hand to show a swimming "fish," the subject took him to his tackle box where a 22" northern pike was found curled up in the bottom. At that time, the subject asked a one word question, "Ticket?" Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a complaint of a passerby taking what appeared to be a road killed turkey. The complainant was able to obtain a license plate, which led to a house and a suspect. The suspect readily admitted to having taken the bird, which did

turn out to be killed by a vehicle. His reasoning was he did not want it to go to waste. CO Ennett explained in detail the strict regulations regarding the possession of turkeys. Suspect had, but did not use, a turkey permit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Drexler and Mark Ennett conducted a marine patrol on Belleville Lake during the Holiday Weekend when they were flagged down by a vessel in distress. The operator and his two very young sons were stranded on the busy lake when a bracket broke on their motor, leaving it hanging off the boat and inoperable. The COs assisted by returning the vessel to shore safely.

While checking anglers along the Detroit River, CO Lacelle Rabon contacted one angler who did not have a valid fishing license and had an over limit of white bass, with reimbursement of \$325.00. The angler commented had he known he was going to be checked, he would have purchased a new fishing license.

CO Lacelle Rabon responded to a RAP complaint reported by a retired Detroit Police Officer who gave a description of two vehicles belonging to suspects taking bass out of season. On arrival, CO Rabon located a bucket with water containing two smallmouth bass under the rear wheel well of one of the vehicles that was described. The driver of the vehicle stated he was not aware the bass were dead and his intentions were to return them to the water. The suspect was ticketed for taking/possessing smallmouth bass out of season.

CO Lacelle Rabon was conducting a foot patrol of Milliken State Park on the east end when he came upon two anglers who had 29 white bass between the two of them. Neither of the anglers had a fishing license and both were ticketed for fishing without a license. One angler stated he did not have time to get his license because he had to get an early start and the store was not open early in the morning. While checking the anglers, CO Rabon noticed other anglers were attempting to walk away from the shoreline. CO Rabon had five anglers lined up, who were ticketed for fishing without a license and taking an over limit of white bass.

CO Lacelle Rabon and Sgt. Arthur Green conducted a patrol of Belanger Park and noticed some anglers attempting to walk away soon after they started checking for fishing licenses. The subjects were stopped in the parking lot and asked for fishing licenses. One subject had no license and had 65 white bass. He was ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Mike Drexler checked a vessel coming off the Detroit River with three anglers on board. The anglers realized they had a little more success than they thought when CO Drexler counted out 100 white bass, making the anglers 25 fish over their limit. A citation was issued for over limit of white bass.

CO Mike Drexler was just about to leave a boat launch along the Detroit River when a vessel in distress was pulling up to the dock. The boat was smoking very badly and appeared to be on fire. CO Drexler grabbed his fire extinguisher and assisted with

securing the vessel at the dock. While the over heated engine cooled down, CO Drexler checked the four anglers on board. While counting out the white bass on board, one undersized and out of season smallmouth bass was located. A citation was issued for taking the bass during the closed season.

CO Mike Drexler received a RAP complaint in River Rouge where shore anglers were taking over limits of white bass along the Detroit River. COs Drexler and Dan Walzak responded and the first angler CO Drexler checked received a citation for possessing 10 white bass over the limit. The second angler CO Drexler checked did not have a fishing license but possessed 24 white bass. CO Drexler also could detect the strong odor of marijuana that was coming from the partially burned marijuana cigarette in the subject's pocket. The angler received a citation for possessing 24 white bass without a license and enforcement action was taken on the marijuana.

COs Mike Drexler and Ben Shively responded a RAP complaint where a subject was observed taking a smallmouth bass during the closed season. The COs arrived at the location shortly after receiving the complaint and found the subject to be in possession of an undersized smallmouth bass during the closed season. A citation was issued.

CO Mike Drexler checked a vessel coming off the Detroit River with three very quiet anglers on board. The first problem CO Drexler noticed with the anglers catch was an undersized smallmouth bass taken during the closed season. The more serious issue involved the anglers possessing 137 white bass over their limit. Citations were issued for take/possess bass during the closed season and possessing 137 white bass over the limit. Reimbursement will be sought in both violations, totaling \$700.

CO Ben Shively contacted three subjects on dirt bikes trespassing in a gravel pit in southern Oakland County. The subjects stated that they didn't see a problem with riding in the gravel pit since they never saw anyone even though the pit is posted and fenced. All three subjects were cited for ORV trespass.

CO Ben Shively contacted a vessel which displayed an expired registration. When asked for a current valid registration, the subject stated that he did not know that the registration was expired because he had not transferred the registration over into his name when he bought the boat. When asked when he bought the boat, the subject stated in the fall of 2010. The subject was cited for expired registration and given a verbal warning for failing to transfer title.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel conducted a joint angler patrol. Thirty nine contacts were made in different locations along the water. Six different subjects were found to be fishing without licenses. One of the subjects also had two misdemeanor warrants; one for failing to appear for an alcohol violation and the other was out of Macomb County Friend of the Court for child support with a statewide pickup. Bond was \$9,548. The Macomb County warrant was validated and the subject was placed into custody and turned over to the Macomb County Sheriff's Office.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel conducted a midnight patrol on Lake St. Clair up into the St. Clair River. Many anglers were contacted due to anglers being entered in the Marble Eye Walleye Tournament. Two vessels were anchored in the North Channel off of Decker's Landing. The subjects were fishing for walleye. One subject was fishing without a license and was found to be revoked from purchasing hunting/fishing licenses by the friend of the court. The other vessel could not provide enough PFDs for the occupants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich received a complaint of a construction site destroying endangered plants in Kimball Township. The CO worked with Detective Ken Montgomery and could not locate the species on site. The site will be monitored when the plant is typically in full bloom which is late summer.

While checking anglers on the St. Clair River, CO John Borkovich approached a subject who had just landed a smallmouth bass. When the subject saw the CO, he dumped a bucket which contained three smallmouth bass. Unfortunately for the subject, he forgot about the fish he had just landed and put on a stringer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson received an in-progress dumping complaint in Lapeer State Game Area from Lapeer Central Dispatch. The complainant witnessed three younger males dump a dishwasher, two TVs and other household items. He also got a license plate number and description of the vehicle. CO Schwiderson ran the registration and responded to the registered owner's residence. When he arrived he observed a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle. The CO contacted a young male subject and his father at the residence. The young male admitted to dumping the material. The subject's father was not happy with his son; he told his son to take the garbage to the landfill. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and Intern Chris Brown conducted a marine patrol on Holloway Reservoir. While entering the slow-no wake zone, they observed a PWC being operated on plane down the middle of the slow-no wake zone throwing a wake that traveled to both shores. The operator was stopped and CO Kovach noticed the registration was expired. Enforcement action was taken. The pair also contacted a subject fishing and when asked for a fishing license, the subject could not produce one. He was cited for fishing without a license. The subject also had two warrants for his arrest; however, due to over crowding, he was released with a notice to appear.

CO Kris Kiel conducted marine patrols over the holiday weekend. Activity was slow due to the weather until Sunday afternoon when it got very busy. Eight vessels were stopped for displaying expired registration decals. Only one of the vessels had failed to renew their registration. The subject stated that he knew that it was expired, but thought he would take the chance. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on the St. Clair River, CO Ben Lasher observed a 30 plus foot vessel anchored in the middle of the river. He contacted the two occupants who informed the CO they ran out of gas. They explained they had just purchased the

vessel in Sandusky Ohio and were going to drive the vessel around Michigan to Chicago, through the channel that leads to the Mississippi River and then down to Alabama. The vessel was in poor shape and the ship-to-shore radio did not work. CO Lasher was unable to free the anchor of the vessel to pull them in so he stayed with the vessel until a tow company could assist.

While on marine patrol, CO John Borkovich was conducting surveillance on a vessel whose occupants were fishing. After a few minutes, the CO watched as one of the anglers had a large fish on and was fighting it for so time. When the anglers landed the fish, they were excited as it was a large sturgeon. The officer waited to see what the subjects were going to do with the fish since it was snagged in the tail. The anglers took a photograph of the fish and released it. When the CO contacted the subjects they admitted to walleye fishing and knew better than to take a 36 inch sturgeon snagged in the tail and out of season.

CO Ken Kovach received an in progress RAP complaint of a subject in Port Huron fishing from the boardwalk and keeping bass. The complainant informed the CO that the subject was keeping the bass in a large bag and that this has been an ongoing problem. The CO watched the subject for a few minutes. The subject caught a bass, pulled up a burlap bag out of the river, and placed the fish in it. CO Kovach contacted the subject, who was an out of state resident without a fishing license. The burlap bag was half full of bass, some of which were undersized. Enforcement action was taken along with bond for the various out of season violations.

CO Ken Kovach was conducting surveillance on a subject who was fishing from a vessel on Rosie Lake in central Lapeer County. The CO watched as the subject caught several bass in a very short period of time. When he made contact with the subject, the CO found a bucket with eight under sized bass out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received an in-progress complaint in the Port Huron State Game Area of a subject who allegedly knocked down a gate and drove his vehicle back into a closed area. The complainants stated they thought the subject drove back to get closer to the water to fish. CO Kovach responded and located the subject. After talking with the subject, the CO got a confession and enforcement action was taken.