

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
5/3/10 – 5/16/10**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Jason Niemi responded to a seven and one-half acre fire in Hermansville and ticketed a subject for allowing a fire to escape.

CO Marv Gerlach responded to a complaint of a subject burning a large pile of debris in Carney. The pile consisted of old shingles, a couch and other assorted solid waste materials. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon contacted subjects in a boat who were fishing at the Norway Dam. The three anglers produced valid fishing licenses, but did not have any life jackets in the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Trey Luce reported a busy weekend during the walleye opener. As he approached a boat on Deer Lake near Ishpeming, he observed the boat quickly pull anchor and leave. CO Luce then observed a subject toss the contents of a five gallon bucket overboard. He stopped the boat and discovered the subjects were in possession of live bait where prohibited and were short one life jacket. In addition, they had a five year old on board who was not wearing a life jacket while the boat was underway. These violations were addressed along with the litter violation that occurred when the one subject hurriedly tossed the contents of his bucket.

CO Trey Luce contacted subjects on the Greenwood Reservoir in a 12 ft. rowboat that was overloaded. Neither subject on board had a life jacket, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach worked ORV patrol near Westman's Dam in Menominee County. He observed three subjects operating illegally in a prohibited area. The subjects were able to get around him, but CO Gerlach used his knowledge of the area to head them off a few miles away. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Matt Eberly ticketed an individual for keeping small brown trout that were just recently planted by Fisheries Division.

CO Dennis Gast has been working the dam near Otter Lake. The Lake Sturgeon are spawning and are vulnerable to illegal take methods. CO Gast issued a ticket for fishing without a license to one individual at the dam.

COs Brian Bacon and Ryan Aho checked anglers utilizing the new boating access sites in the Groveland Mine complex. Heavy use was reported and one operator was ticketed for an unregistered boat.

COs Jason Wicklund and Grant Emery worked Lake Gogebic on the night before the walleye opener. Good compliance was reported with only a few warnings issued for people fishing right before the midnight opener.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mike Hammill was on scene to assist with a personal injury ORV accident. The woman involved was taken by ambulance to a hospital here she was treated and discharged.

CO Mike Hammill wrote two different anglers for possessing undersized walleye on opening day of the walleye season.

CO Derek Miler worked a firewood theft complaint and a camping on state land complaint in Grand Marais last week.

CO Derek Miller contacted a subject trolling for pike who produced a fishing license with a date of birth that would have made the angler out to be about 50 years old. CO Miller believed the angler was quite a bit younger. When the subject wasn't able to remember the year he was born, he then admitted that he had borrowed his dad's fishing license for the day. A ticket was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Gerald Thayer observed a moped traveling down the road carrying a barricade sign. A stop of the subject revealed that the 15 year old was "simply" taking the barricade to the Michigan State Police (MSP) post to turn it in. The youth was escorted to the post where parents were called.

CO Gerald Thayer dealt with an environmental complaint of a landowner trying to drain a wetland. Environmental staff was called and the subject who, three weeks earlier was told he couldn't fill the wetland, was also advised he couldn't drain it.

CO Kyle Publiski had a busy opener with compliant boaters and slow fishing. His only report of good fishing was in Cedarville where the pike fishing was really good. It was too good for one angler who was ticketed for possessing an overlimit of northern pike.

CO Reid Roeske responded to two fires in the Delta County area. Both subjects involved were ticketed for allowing fires to escape. Neither person had taken precautions such as having water available. One had left the fire unattended.

COs John Wenzel and Reid Roeske assisted Wildlife Division with recovery of a wolf collar in the Engadine area. The COs responded to the scene and shortly afterwards located the collar which appeared to have been thrown from a vehicle near the roadway. Only the collar was recovered and it appeared to have been cut off.

CO Robert Crisp responded to a complaint in Manistique where a subject had taken bass out of season. CO Crisp located the subject and eight bass on a stringer. A ticket

was issued for the illegal possession and the bass were released back into the water.

CO John Wenzel received a call about a young bear in a tree near a residence in the Cornell area. The bear stayed in the tree for over two days. On the third day, the bear came down but stayed around the area. CO Wenzel and Sgt. Darryl Shann went to the area and persuaded the bear to leave. Area residents were asked to remove all bird feeders and other food sources so as to not draw the bear back near the residences.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Mark DePew has been digging through several piles of garbage on state land and locating personal information in the piles. Officer DePew contacted the individuals responsible for the litter, received confessions and issued them tickets. The subjects were also required to pick up their garbage.

While patrolling an area known for poaching and illegal dumping, CO Mark Depew witnessed a vehicle park for awhile and then drive off in a careless manner. CO Depew stopped the vehicle and discovered the underaged occupants had been drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. Enforcement was taken.

While checking anglers on a slow, no-wake section of the Thunder Bay River, CO Bill Webster had a bass boat drive by him at a high rate of speed. CO Webster stopped the boat and asked the operator if he'd seen the slow, no-wake signs at the launch site. The operator stated he saw them and thought the regulation only pertained to the launch. He was ticketed for the violation.

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Quincy Gowenlock observed two anglers on Burt Lake catching and keeping a lot of walleye. When the pair were checked, they stated they caught their limit of 10 walleye. Upon checking their catch, 17 walleye were found. Enforcement action was taken and 17 walleye were seized.

CO Steve Speigl observed a couple fishing on a remote stream. When he contacted them neither had any identification and verbally identified themselves. Further investigation revealed the female subject had given false information and that neither had fishing licenses. Both were ticketed for fishing without a license.

COs Steve Speigl and Andrea Erratt were working a steelhead netting complaint on the Medusa Creek. From a concealed location they observed a car pull up and two subjects doing something in the car. They approached the car and found two juveniles smoking marijuana. Enforcement action was taken and the juveniles were turned over to their parents.

Later the same night, COs Speigl and Erratt observed a second vehicle pull in and again saw suspicious activity in the car. They approached and contacted the driver who was also smoking marijuana. When asked to step out of the car the subject fled the

scene in his car, but not before his license plate was obtained. The subject was not pursued as the patrol vehicle was hidden a distance away. Warrants are being sought. COs Speigl and Erratt observed a third vehicle pull up to the stream and the juveniles began smoking marijuana. Once again enforcement action was taken. All incidents were also forwarded to the local DARE officer for his information.

CO Steve Speigl and three local deputies responded to a complaint of an enraged woman with a gun who was headed to the East Jordan School. As the officers arrived on scene and exited their vehicles the subject pulled into the parking lot and was apprehended without incident before entering the school.

CO Andrea Erratt observed an individual who was trying to snag a trout. He ran up and down the bank yelling and frantically trying to hook the fish. He succeeded in gaining Officer Erratt's attention and a ticket.

COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau worked a section of the Mackinaw railroad grade closed to wheeled motor vehicles. Two separate ORVs were stopped for operating on the grade and enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped a mushroom picker riding an ORV down the road with no helmet. He was ticketed for operating an ORV without a helmet and warned for operating the unlicensed ORV in closed areas on state land.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Brian Lebel responded to a trespass complaint in progress and observed two subjects stealing asparagus from an unharvested field. CO Lebel contacted the subjects and was informed by dispatch that both subjects had outstanding arrest warrants. The subjects were also in illegal possession of numerous prescription drugs. Both subjects were lodged with warrants being sought on the narcotic violations.

CO Brian Brosky and PCO Mike Evink were patrolling near Sippy Creek in Mason County when they saw a subject fishing. As they approached, the person looked over at them and quickly reeled in his fishing line. The subject then placed the fishing pole on the ground and walked away from it. As the subject stood next to his vehicle containing a collection of fishing gear, he explained that he had not planned on fishing this trip and had therefore not purchased a fishing license. A ticket was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near Hodenpyl Dam in Wexford County when he observed an angler bring in a large walleye that was hooked in the tail. The subject landed the trophy fish, looked around carefully and then placed it on a stringer. CO Converse contacted the subject and informed him of his observations. The subject admitted to his wrongdoing and was ticketed for keeping a foul-hooked fish. The fish was in good condition and released.

CO Angela Greenway received a complaint of a person fishing with live bait on the flies-only section of the Little Manistee River. CO Greenway located the subject and discovered that not only was he fishing illegally, but he had also caught and kept an undersized Brown Trout. The subject stated that he had not checked the regulations prior to fishing that stretch of river. A ticket was issued for the undersized fish.

COs Steve Converse and Carla Soper assisted Manistee County Emergency Services team with the apprehension of a mentally unstable subject who had killed an elderly person in the residence with a firearm. The COs assisted by providing rear security at the property.

A group patrol was conducted on state ORV trails in Lake County by COs Brian Brosky, Angela Greenway, PCO Mike Evink and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth. Violations encountered included three subjects riding the trails with small children riding double, ORV license violations, two subjects lodged on outstanding arrest warrants and one subject caught riding wheelies across M-37. The patrol utilized patrol trucks and a Polaris Ranger utility vehicle.

CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint of an intoxicated subject trespassing in a boat house on Hamlin Lake in Mason County. CO Espinoza responded to the location, contacted the subject and found that he had trespassed in order to conceal two set lines in the boat house. CO Espinoza located three additional set lines along the shoreline belonging to the subject. A ticket was issued for too many fishing lines and the subject was removed from the property.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Matt Liestenfeltz responded to a complaint regarding a spin-cast feeder being used behind a residence and discovered corn being used in the feeder. CO Liestenfeltz also found two dead raccoons at the baited site.

CO Chris Bowen investigated a complaint of heavy equipment being used in a wetland and determined the subject was also trespassing on state land adjacent to his property. CO Bowen also found several illegal hunting blinds that were baited.

CO Chuck McPherson and PCO Jeff Panich assisted deputies with a domestic violence complaint. They were able to calm an irate male subject as deputies conducted their investigation.

CO Chuck McPherson and PCO Jeff Panich investigated a complaint of asphalt being dumped on state land. The investigation revealed that a contractor hired by the road commission had decided to dump the excess asphalt on state land close to the project rather than hauling it to the road commission property as directed.

CO Mike Hearn assisted MSP with a suspicious incident on state land in which mushroom hunters located a suspected grave site. The rectangular shaped area was

covered with fresh sand and surrounded by a ring of grass. The site was excavated but no remains were located.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol when he contacted a subject who was not wearing a helmet operating an unlicensed ORV down the roadway. The subject stated he knew he needed both items. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea and a MSP trooper were dispatched to a complaint of shots fired from the roadway in the Port Sanilac area. CO Rhodea located and stopped the vehicle in the area and found turkey feathers and an uncased firearm in the vehicle. The subjects first stated they had no idea how the turkey feathers got in the truck and denied knowing anything about the complaint. The Officers tracked one of the subject's footprints in a field and located a freshly shot 12 ga. shell and turkey feathers where they suspected a turkey was shot. After a lengthy interview and faced with the evidence found in the field, one of the subjects admitted to shooting the turkey and turned the bird over to the Officers. The subjects were both ticketed for their violations.

CO Josh Wright received a tip that there was a deer running around Wells Township with a tag in its ear. After investigating, CO Wright found that a person with a captive cervid facility had lost three deer. There were no holes in the fence but the owner told him that the week before he found the door open and the lock missing to his facility.

On Sunday morning CO Jason Smith received a call from Station 20 advising that there was a capsized vessel off shore from Fish Point. The boat initially had two people on board, and their truck and trailer were in Sebewaing harbor. One of the subjects was picked up by anglers who were heading out, brought into Sebewaing and taken to the hospital for treatment. CO Smith headed north and hopped on the boat with MSP troopers. They located the vessel, and a short time later recovered a body.

While on marine patrol on Crystal Lake, CO Ken Lowell checked a group of anglers on a pontoon boat. When the CO asked the group if they had any luck they showed him a basket full of fish. While digging through the basket the CO found a largemouth bass and a smallmouth bass. Tickets were issued taking bass out of season.

While off duty and hunting turkeys one morning, CO Ken Lowell was surprised to hear another hunter calling on the same property. The property is closely watched and no one else has permission to hunt there. The CO made his way to the other hunter and asked the man if he had permission to hunt on the property. The hunter told the CO that he was not sure whose land he was on but heard the turkeys gobbling in that area. The CO informed him that he was trespassing and after talking with the landowner the CO issued the trespasser a ticket.

CO Chad Foerster was working the Saginaw Bay when he saw what appeared to be occupants on a vessel throwing things into the bay when they saw the CO. Upon closer

inspection, the CO found the occupants frantically bailing water from the vessel as they were quickly taking on water. The CO advised the captain to follow him as he escorted the vessel through the slow, no-wake zone to the nearest launch. The vessel did make it to the launch and was pulled from the water before it sank. Further investigation revealed numerous out-of-season and short smallmouth bass inside a cooler on the vessel. Enforcement action was taken for the bass along with other marine violations.

A subject who was arrested last fall for shooting at a deer decoy from a vehicle in Saginaw County was sentenced last week. The man was fined \$1000, paid \$225 for damages to the decoy, had his hunting license revoked for two years and his firearm condemned.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Andy Bauer responded to a RAP complaint of two subjects possibly hunting turkeys before the season opened, but the two were gone prior to CO Bauer's arrival. CO Bauer checked the area and located two dead turkeys that had been stashed in the woods. He then searched the area and located a vehicle with turkey hunting gear in it. Several hours later CO Bauer contacted the owner of the vehicle, who denied being involved with the illegal taking of the two turkeys. Interviews were conducted by CO Bauer over the course of several days and the owner of the vehicle was issued a ticket for violations encountered as a result of his investigation.

CO Ken Cerny contacted three subjects fishing at Sturgis Dam. One of the subjects walked away as CO Cerny approached. When the subject returned he no longer had a fishing pole in his hand. None of the subjects had a fishing license. All subjects were ticketed for fishing without a license and the fishing pole stashed by the one subject was located.

CO Steve Orange had warrants for a subject who was cutting wood in the state game area and gave a false name. CO Orange located and arrested the subject in the state game area on the outstanding warrants and also on warrants from the sheriff's department.

CO Dave Rodgers assisted Canadian wildlife officers on an illegal deer case. CO Rodgers and CO Gerard Goulette interviewed a subject who shot a mule deer illegally. The information was turned over to Alberta officers. Charges are pending.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols observed a subject carrying a shotgun and a turkey decoy into a field. When CO Nickols asked to see a hunting license the subject responded that he didn't buy one as he didn't think he would be checked hunting in the rain. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens and PCO Jonathan Warner checked a subject who seemed particularly nervous as he was loading his boat at an access site. The COs asked the subject about his fishing success and he responded that he had caught a few. The few included 23 bluegills over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster contacted a subject who was fishing and asked to see his fishing license. The self-described "avid angler" stated that he had not yet purchased a 2010 fishing license. A check by CO Webster revealed that he had not purchased a fishing license in 10 years. The subject's excuse was that he didn't think he would ever get checked in the lousy weather and out-of-the way fishing location. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Webster contacted a boater who did not have any personal flotation devices on board the vessel and had also failed to register the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Bader and Jeff Goss assisted CO Chris Holmes on a case where a subject was in violation of his parole. The subject's parole orders showed that he was not to be in possession of any type of weapon. The COs located him bow fishing with archery equipment. Enforcement action was taken.

While on routine patrol, CO Brian Fish located a very large tree that had fallen across and active railroad line. The railroad company stopped train traffic in the area while emergency crews removed the fallen tree from the tracks.

CO Brian Fish was the first on the scene of an accident where a tow truck ran into a tree but there were no occupants in the truck. Further investigation revealed that the tow truck had been stolen and the alleged operator had stolen a handgun earlier in the day and made threats against law enforcement. The investigation continues.

Responding to a complaint of a subject taking turtles illegally, CO Damon Owens and PCO Jonathan Warner contacted two subjects in a boat who had in their possession an undersized snapping turtle and a painted turtle. The pair were lacking personal flotation devices in their boat and neither one possessed a current fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince received information that there was an illegal ski slalom course on a local lake. CO Prince was able to locate the 90 foot course but was unable to locate a responsible party. CO Prince canvassed the local residents to see if anyone had knowledge of the course. When CO Prince returned to the area of the ski course it was gone. CO Prince located the buoys hidden near a residence. As CO Prince was attempting to make contact with the homeowner, a subject pulled up in an unregistered vessel and admitted that the ski course buoys were his. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy observed a subject fishing. When the subject noticed CO Purdy watching him, he gathered up his fishing equipment, laid it by a vehicle and walked

away. When CO Purdy asked for his fishing license he stated that he wasn't fishing. The subject then changed his story and stated that he bought a fishing license in 1991 and thought it was good for a lifetime. Enforcement action was taken.

While working an area known for ORV trespassing activity, CO Shane Webster contacted a subject who was operating in a closed area, without a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While leaving CO Mark Papineau's residence, Sgt. Tom Wanless observed two ORVs on the roadway slowing down traffic. Sgt. Wanless stopped the ORVs in front of CO Papineau's residence and found that both operators were juveniles. CO Papineau came out to assist. While the COs were getting information from the juveniles, an adult male in a vehicle slowed down and yelled, "I told you to stay in the yard" then pulled off the side of the road. This subject was an uncle of one of the juvenile boys. There were numerous violations with each ORV. Parents were contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau closed out a case in which a subject had shot a deer during the firearm deer season while trespassing. During the course of the investigation the CO also located a dead dog that was hidden under a bush. The subject confessed to all counts and was convicted and sentenced to pay \$2,350 in fines, costs, and restitution, loss of hunting privileges for four years, 18 months probation, and forfeiture of a shotgun and bow. In addition, the subject was sentenced to serve 45 days in the Genesee County jail.

In January 2010, CO Mark Papineau received a complaint from the Report-All-Poaching (RAP) hotline in regard to a subject who had placed deer feed in a populated area of the City of Fenton. While investigating the illegal feed pile, CO Papineau located several arrows which contained fresh deer blood and hair. In addition, CO Papineau discovered a fresh blood trail leading away from the feed pile. After a lengthy investigation, a suspect was developed and a full confession was obtained. The individual was convicted of taking a deer during the closed season and was sentenced to pay \$1,810 in fines, costs, and restitution, loss of hunting privileges for four years, and serve 20 days in the Genesee County jail.

CO Mark Ennett issued tickets to two anglers for fishing without a license. In the first case, the subject did not know he needed a license to fish in Michigan. The other subject stated he'd bought a license the day before, but the information could not be verified through the license system.

CO Mark Ennett contacted a group of four adults and one juvenile who were fishing at Sterling State Park. Due to a language barrier, CO Ennett asked for assistance from the U.S. Border Patrol. Translations were made and it was found that only one of the four adults had a fishing license. CO Ennett allowed him and the juvenile to keep 25

panfish each and one of the unlicensed anglers received a ticket for possession of 53 panfish.

While checking anglers, COs Dan Walzak and Jonathon Sklba contacted a subject who presented a wrist band from a county jail as identification. The subject was told by the jail to use it as his ID until he received his driver's license back. Running the subject through LEIN, the COs found that he had a warrant for his arrest for a traffic offense. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (SGA), CO Jonathon Sklba contacted a group of anglers who had been drinking all morning. The CO advised the group of five that possessing or consuming alcohol on the SGA was illegal. Tickets were issued and the group was instructed to pick up the 40 plus beer cans.

CO Jonathon Sklba patrolled an area that had not been checked in a couple of days. As the CO neared a group of anglers the group began taking photos of stringers full of channel catfish. CO Sklba contacted the group of four and located two additional stringers of fish. He asked the anglers for their fishing licenses and only one of them had purchased a fishing license this year. The one angler with a license had 17 catfish on his stringer. The other three anglers possessed 53 catfish between them. Three anglers were ticketed for possess fish without a fishing license and the licensed angler was ticketed for taking an overlimit of channel catfish. CO Sklba seized the catfish, processed the evidence by photographing, and weighed the fish. The total restitution of the illegally taken catfish was \$1,040. One member of the group was advised and released on multiple warrants.

CO Brandon Kieft finalized an illegal deer case from November of 2009. CO Kieft took pictures of three antler racks that were tagged by the subject. Armed with the pictures when he conducted the interview, CO Kieft got the subject to admit to taking an overlimit of deer.

CO Kris Kiel checked a shore angler's fishing license and catch on Lake St. Clair at Metro Beach. The subject had a bucket containing a sheephead, sunfish, redhorse sucker, and a golden shiner. When asked, the subject stated he had no more fish. CO Kiel checked the subject's baby stroller only to find no baby, but a smallmouth bass wrapped up in a garbage bag. The subject stated that it was his first time fishing; however the CO noticed that the subject had also purchased a fishing license the previous year and was knowledgeable enough to hide the only illegal fish he had. Enforcement action was taken.

Checking shore anglers at the 9 Mile Pier on Lake St. Clair, COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel checked a subject who had a bucket containing a number of rock bass. CO Kiel asked the subject how many rock bass he had and the subject stated that he needed 10 more. CO Kiel dumped the subject's bucket on the grass and counted 30 rock bass, five over the limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich stopped the operator of an ORV being operated on the roadway who wasn't wearing a helmet. Along with the numerous ORV violations, the operator had a suspended driver's license and a felony warrant out of California for dangerous drugs. California would not extradite and local enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich was conducting a marine patrol with intern Britton Simon and contacted a subject who was fishing. The subject had not purchased a fishing license and had multiple warrants out of the City of Jackson. The City of Jackson would not pick up and enforcement action was taken for the fishing violation.

While patrolling in southern Lapeer County, CO Al Schwiderson observed an ORV being operated on a roadway. The CO stopped the ORV and found numerous other violations. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Lacelle Rabon were on patrol on the Detroit River and observed a boat entering the channel to the Delray launch ramp at high speed. Sgt Green contacted the operator and asked if saw the no-wake sign at the entrance and the subject laughed, stating "Yeah I saw it, I guess I didn't slow down before I passed it". Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers, CO Dan Walzak contacted two subjects with outstanding warrants. One of the subjects had one felony warrant for being a parole absconder and one misdemeanor warrant for a traffic offense. The other subject had one felony warrant for dangerous drugs and 12 misdemeanor warrants; five for traffic offenses and seven for various narcotics charges. Both subjects were taken into custody and lodged.

CO Dan Walzak saw a subject with a bow standing on a bridge posted "No Fishing from Bridge". The subject saw CO Walzak walking toward him and said, "I know I don't have a license". CO Walzak got the subject's driver's license and ran a license check and found he had not purchased a fishing license since 2006. The subject stated he was driving by and saw the carp and decided to try to get one. A ticket was issued.

CO Kris Kiel contacted an angler at Metro Beach Metropark who was fishing with his girlfriend. When asked to see his fishing license, the angler said it was in his girlfriend's purse. After five minutes of digging, the angler was still sure that it was in the purse. CO Kiel ran the subject through the RSS license system along with a file check. The subject had purchased a license, but not since 2002. He also had a warrant for driving on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.