

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Report  
5/7/2017 – 5/20/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen attended the Gourmet Gone Wild banquet held in Houghton. CO Lasanen brought the hunter safety laser shot trailer to the event where 75 attendees were able to try out the system. CO Lasanen was promoting hunter safety and the modern equipment the Department is using in teaching local hunter safety classes. Very positive feedback was received from the group.

CO David Miller responded to a complaint of a cloud of black smoke and located a piece of logging equipment fully engulfed in flames. The equipment was a total loss and the fire was kept from spreading to the nearby forest lands.

CO David Miller was working the walleye opener on Huron Bay. During one of his checks, an individual who was looking for a life jacket opened up a compartment and he had a handgun sitting right on top. At this time the individual finally decided to tell CO Miller that he has a concealed pistol license. CO Miller explained to the individual that it is the license holder's responsibility to immediately notify a peace officer upon contact when in possession of a firearm.

CO David Miller assisted with an ORV instructor safety training session in Escanaba over the weekend. Twenty three student instructors participated in the course, and are now certified as volunteer ORV safety class instructors.

CO Denny Gast gave a law presentation to 26 hunter safety students this week.

CO Nathan Sink was on patrol when a call came across central dispatch of a man shooting a pellet gun in the direction of his neighbor's residence. CO Sink responded to assist Michigan State Police and deputies with the belligerent suspect who had retreated into his residence. The local emergency response team responded and the subject refused to exit his residence. After breaching the residence, the team was met by the hatchet yielding subject who was eventually taken into custody by the team and lodged in the Gogebic County jail.

CO Nathan Sink responded to a domestic violence call to assist the deputy on scene. The incident was quickly defused and the situation handled by the sheriff's department.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon presented on the career of a conservation officer to the Iron Mountain High School outdoor class.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik was checking salmon fishermen when one boat he contacted stated they had been out all day and had caught only three fish. CO Zitnik was surprised since fishing had been excellent and almost every boat had been limiting out. When he told the anglers this, they were astonished and wanted to know where they were catching them, how deep it was and what lures they were using. A quick check of the two anglers' cooler revealed an undersized splake and 14 fish in total, 4 over their limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik had checked his last lake of the night on the walleye opener when an angler walked by and stated two guys fishing from the shore that he checked earlier had just thrown a bass under a picnic table. CO Zitnik made contact with the two fishermen and asked how they had been doing. They replied they had caught a bullhead. When the CO asked about the fish under the picnic table the fisherman said it's a rock bass. CO Zitnik rinsed the mud off of the 18" smallmouth bass and advised it was not a rock bass. A ticket was issued for taking the bass out of season.

CO Pat Hartsig was dispatched to a brush fire in Schoolcraft County. CO Hartsig investigated the scene and discovered that a resident at the address had taken cardboard boxes full of trash to burn in a fire pit in the backyard. Due to high fire conditions, the fire escaped from the pit and spread to a commercial paper company land, burning around ten acres. Enforcement action was taken for burning with no permit and allowing the fire to escape.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when a call came out for a structure fire along US-2. The fire had spread across the highway and burned approximately 2/3 of an acre. CO Lynch was directing traffic for several hours until the fire was suppressed. The house and garage were a total loss. CO Lynch investigated the scene and it was determined the fire started from an unattended brush burning pile. While investigating the scene a large quantity of burned processed marijuana was located and other materials to extract the oil from marijuana were located. UPSET was notified to look into the marijuana. Enforcement action was taken for burning when prohibited and failure to prevent the spread of fire.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when a call came out of a burglar alarm that was set off in a bank after hours. A Michigan State Police trooper responding to the scene was requesting back up and CO Lynch was close by and responded to the scene with the trooper. Once on scene, cleaning personnel inside were surprised to see law enforcement personnel coming to the bank. It was determined the cleaning crew tripped an alarm inside the bank.

COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith were patrolling the opening day of walleye season when contact was made with a fisherman who the two COs had multiple contacts with in the past. The fisherman believed he was not required to purchase a fishing license due to his Native American tribal status in Canada. CO Watson and CO Smith determined the fisherman was required to purchase a state fishing license due to his tribe not being recognized by the 1836 consent decree. His fishing partner stated

that he told him before they went out that he needed a state license. The angler had previously been given warnings for fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett Gustafson investigated a complaint of trash dumped off a dead end road in Mackinac County. After digging through and collecting the garbage, a suspect was identified and an interview was conducted. The subject admitted to "most of the time" taking his garbage back with him to Auburn Hills, but could not explain how two large bags of garbage were dumped not a mile from his cottage. The subject soon admitted to dumping the garbage. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg was on stationary patrol in a closed area to motorized vehicles on Drummond Island when he witnessed a Jeep and a side-by-side ATV entering the closed area. CO Oberg contacted the subjects and asked why they were driving in a closed area. The subjects stated they did not know it was a closed area. CO Oberg pointed to the sign they drove past that stated it was closed to all motorized vehicles. CO Oberg explained the importance of the area being closed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg was on patrol on Drummond Island when he noticed the vehicle he was following did not have a license plate on it. A traffic stop was conducted. CO Oberg asked the individual why he did not have a license plate. The individual stated he just transferred the registration to his other vehicle and simply did not think he would get caught. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg received a complaint of a possible dead wolf lying in the ditch off of Rocky Point Road in Chippewa County. CO Oberg went to the area and located the wolf lying in the swamp down in the ditch. CO Oberg noticed it was badly decomposing and had been appeared to have been dumped there, due to a garbage bag that was lying underneath it. CO Oberg examined the wolf for possible bullet wounds, but nothing was found. CO Oberg turned the wolf over to Wildlife Biologist Dave Jentoft to be sent to the lab for examination.

CO Jon Busken was on routine patrol when he spotted an ORV being operated by an individual whom CO Busken knew had a suspended driver's license. Contact was made with the operator who stated that his driver's license was still not valid. A status check revealed that the operator could only operate a vehicle equipped with an interlock device. The operator stated he could have an interlock put on his ORV but did not want to spend the money on it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken was patrolling South Manistique Lake the day before the walleye and pike opener when he observed a boat trolling in a part of the lake popular for fishermen targeting pike. Contact was made with the anglers who claimed they were catch and release fishing for bass. CO Busken checked the lures being used and further questioning resulted in a confession of targeting pike and musky during the closed

season. The group was also found to not have enough PFDs for everyone on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma assisted with a hunter education class and field day in Chippewa County.

CO Kevin Postma assisted with the Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony held in Sault Ste. Marie. Eighty-four officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice were honored in this ceremony. Officers from the Upper Peninsula, Northern Ontario, bordering Wisconsin agencies and officers originally from the Upper Peninsula accounted for the eighty-four officers. COs Tom Oberg, Brett Gustafson, Jon Busken, Calvin Smith and Lt. Skip Hagy also attended the memorial.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County attended Veteran's Appreciation Day at the Boyne City American Legion. Over 300 students from local schools attended. CO Erratt displayed tanned hides from cases involving illegal bobcat, black bear, mink, beaver, muskrat, coyote and other furbearing animals. CO Erratt talked to the students about all of the furs, how she obtained them, and a conservation officer's duties. The students worked on their animal identification skills and were able to meet a very interesting World War II veteran.

CO Andrea Erratt talked to a family in Charlevoix County burning brush on a day with high fire danger. The homeowner said he was from downstate and had never heard of a burn permit. CO Erratt gave him a magnet with the Burn Permit Hotline email and phone number as she warned him for burning without a permit. They quickly extinguished the fire with a hose they had nearby.

CO Andrea Erratt attended the Boyne Falls High School Career Day. She displayed tanned hides from past cases involving illegal bobcat, mink, beaver, muskrat, and coyotes. She answered questions about the education required to become a conservation officer and explained how her job changes with the seasons. Then CO Erratt drove up to Wilderness State Park where she talked to Mackinaw City first and second graders who were camping overnight. CO Erratt covered her patrol truck with antlers from illegal deer cases and hides of seized game animals including a black bear, elk, pine martin, bobcat, mink, beaver, muskrat, and coyote. CO Erratt asked the students to identify Michigan's natural resources and she told stories explaining how she had protected those resources throughout her career.

CO Budreau received a complaint from fellow CO Dennis Gast from District 1 in the UP. CO Gast reported that while following a vehicle northbound on US 31 in Oceana County he observed the driver throw an aluminum can out the window. CO Gast obtained the registered owner's information from the license plate and forwarded it on to CO Budreau as the vehicle owner lived in Petoskey. CO Budreau paid the subject a visit at his residence and informed him of his poor choice. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert gave a presentation to the Women in the Outdoors program on the history and duties of conservation officers. Forty women attended the National Rifle Association (NRA) sponsored day-long program that teaches firearm safety, target shooting and hunting opportunities.

CO Eric Bottorff assisted with local Cheboygan County agencies on locating a lost hiker in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. The hiker was located several hours after the initial 911 without injuries.

Sgt. Mark DePew responded to an accident on I-75 involving a single car in Otsego County. The operator appeared to be intoxicated by prescription drugs. Due to injuries sustained in the accident, the operator was admitted to Otsego Memorial Hospital. Charges are being pursued through the Otsego County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Nick Torsky and Eric Bottorff, Sgt. DePew, Sgt. Feagan and Lt. Gorno attended the annual Police Memorial Celebration in downtown Gaylord, May 15, 2017.

CO Tim Rosochacki contacted three anglers fishing on the Cheboygan River. Upon contact, the CO located several bass and one undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki attended a fishing seminar held at Inland Lakes High School. He provided information about the legalities of fishing and answered general questions.

CO Paul Fox was on a late night patrol in Presque Isle County when he observed a suspicious vehicle parked on state land in an area where people frequently dump trash and party. As CO Fox approached the vehicle, he detected the odor of marijuana. A search of the vehicle revealed the driver was in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken and charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Paul Fox was on patrol in Presque Isle County when he observed a couple subjects burning a very large brush fire while a burn ban was in effect. Upon contacting the subjects, CO Fox also observed shingles and other household material being burned. A ticket was issued for the violations.

CO Paul Fox concluded an investigation in Montmorency County regarding a subject taking several deer with invalid tags during the previous firearm deer season. The individual was ticketed for taking deer on private lands with public land tags.

CO Paul Fox received a complaint in Presque Isle County of a subject burning brush during a burn ban. In addition, the subject was attempting to burn brush in the middle of a woodlot and the fire escaped. Fortunately, the subject was able to subdue most of the fire prior to the fire department's arrival. Fire crews put out the remaining hot spots. The responsible party was issued a ticket for burning during a burn ban and given a warning for failing to prevent the spread of the fire.

CO Bill Webster, CO Kelly Ross, and CO Adam LeClerc assisted the DNR Wildlife Division with a privately owned cervidae facility inspection in Alpena County. Several fencing issues were addressed along with animal traps that were not removed and improperly set. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster was patrolling a sand pit in Alpena County that has boulders set around to keep vehicles from entering the area. CO Webster observed a subject driving a jeep around the boulders and into the sand pit. CO Webster made contact with the driver who said he was going through the sand pit to go fishing. However, it appeared he was just showing off for the passengers of his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster participated and helped with the Northern Michigan school program Girls On The Run in Alpena County. The grade school students had been training for ten weeks for a 5K run. Over 400 participants took part in the event.

CO Adam LeClerc received numerous complaints of a nuisance bear in the City of Alpena. A bear trap was obtained from DNR Wildlife Division and placed on private property where multiple sightings have occurred. The bear is still at large.

CO Kelly Ross was headed to a sturgeon patrol in Cheboygan County when he encountered two ORVs traveling on a state forest road. Both ORVs were traveling at a very high rate of speed down the middle of the roadway in a careless manner. CO Ross made a traffic stop on the ORVs and contacted the drivers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross was patrolling West Twin Lake in Montmorency County when he contacted an angler who kept a smallmouth bass during the closed season. The angler advised he didn't know what kind of fish it was. The fish was released back into the lake and enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Colton Gelinis participated in a training exercise in Leelanau County held by the National Park Service and Glen Lake Fire Department. The training was on Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes and focused on first responders responding to a victim that was in need of assistance. The training went well and provided first responders practice for a real life scenario prior to the summer.

CO Colton Gelinis, CO Richard Stowe, and Sergeant Dan Bigger participated in a Mass Casualty Training Scenario held by Leelanau County Sheriff's Department. The scenario was a massive explosion that occurred inside the Leelanau courthouse with a number of casualties and victims. The training was successful in terms of having multiple agencies work together in a time of crisis.

CO Rebecca Hopkins received a litter complaint and located over a dozen large trash bags of miscellaneous household garbage, boxes of tools, and buckets of liquid

equivalent to an oversized truckload. The items were hidden in trees and the view blocked by “camouflage”, which is not typical of trash dumping on state lands. CO Hopkins searched the garbage and located identification. An interview resulted in one subject confessing to “storing” his trash on state land until he could afford to take it to the local landfill. The trash had been “stored” for over a month. A citation was issued and clean up arranged.

CO Sean Kehoe investigated a report of a large amount of roofing shingles dumped on state land. A mailing label from a box was located in the pile and came back to a roofer in the area. Upon contacting the subject, he advised that he had bid that job out to someone else but was unable to provide a full name. When the subject was checked for priors, it was discovered that he had a previous litter violation. When asked about that prior litter, he indicated that he had gotten a ticket for leaving his bait bags out on state land in the area where he hunted, which happened to be in the same area where the shingles were dumped. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe responded to a local shooting range on state land to see how a volunteer effort to clean the ranges of trash was going. Upon his arrival, it was evident that they were lacking enough volunteers. CO Kehoe pitched in and helped pick up trash. CO Kehoe picked up 2-3 garbage bags of just pop cans and plastic bottles alone, along with other target type trash. After the range was clean, CO Kehoe thanked the volunteers and continued his patrol. Three hours later, CO Kehoe was contacted by one of the volunteers to respond to the range for a complaint. Upon his return, CO Kehoe found subjects shooting at various items lying on the ground. CO Kehoe gained a confession as to who put the trash out, pointed out the posted rules indicating what you are allowed to shoot, explained his findings from the clean-up and then cited the subjects for shooting at non-legal targets.

CO William Kinney attended a career fair at the Career Tech Center in Cadillac. Juniors and seniors from ten different schools from around the area attended the career fair. Approximately 650 students walked the halls of the Career Tech Center learning about new and exciting job opportunities. CO Kinney spoke on behalf of the Law Enforcement Division educating the students on what a Michigan conservation officer does.

CO William Kinney and CO Josiah Killingbeck were patrolling in Wexford County when the two COs spotted a motor vehicle displaying an improper registration. A traffic stop was made. It was found that the operator of the vehicle had been operating for almost a year without renewing the registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Stowe and CO Sean Kehoe attended a police memorial service conducted by the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department.

While patrolling for turkey hunters in Manistee County, CO Steve Converse observed a parked vehicle near the back edge of a field. Legal shooting hours had already ended so CO Converse set up to watch the vehicle. Within a few minutes, CO Converse observed a subject in camo walking back to the truck carrying a grain bag that appeared

half full. CO Converse made contact with the subject and found that he had just put out a half bag of corn. The subject stated he thought it was legal to bait year round on private property. CO Converse advised him of the baiting laws and asked the subject if he was a turkey hunter. The subject advised that he had never hunted turkeys. A license check showed that the subject had turkey licenses the past two years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse made contact with three anglers who were fishing in Manistee County. Upon asking for licenses, two of the anglers stopped fishing to show the CO their licenses. The third angler avoided eye contact with the CO and acted like he had not heard the request. CO Converse addressed the third angler again and this time the he responded, stating that he was 16. Suspecting this was not true, CO Converse asked for his name and date of birth and was provided a date of birth that was proper for a 16 year old. CO Converse then observed the subject was wearing a "Bone Collector" hat and camo shirt and asked him if he was a bow hunter and what the biggest buck was he had ever killed. The subject got very excited and started bragging about a big buck he had killed two years prior. CO Converse then asked if he were to run the subject for a deer license by the name and DOB provided if it would show up and the subject dropped his head and said "You got me. I'm actually 18." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski, CO Steve Converse and CO Scott MacNeill participated in the 8th Annual Tightlines for Troops Fishing Tournament in Manistee. Local charter and recreational anglers take veterans fishing as a means to thank them for their outstanding service to our country. Veterans pay no charter fees and priority is given to WWII and Korean War Veterans, POWs and Purple Heart Recipients. The COs lead the vessels out of the Port of Manistee in the morning at the start the tournament and lead them back at the commencement of the fishing. COs paid special attention to any safety concerns and remained out during the duration of the tournament.

CO Ryan Andrews was on patrol along the Pere Marquette River in Lake County when he located an angler fishing on private property posted "no trespassing." The angler was contacted and it was determined that he did not have the current owners' permission to be on the property. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking fisherman in the Ludington area, CO Kyle Publiski pulled into a local access site behind another vehicle that was parked. CO Publiski walked past that vehicle and caught a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside. CO Publiski walked up to the vehicle and watched as the driver lit a cigarette and started blowing the smoke all over the vehicle to cover the smell of marijuana. CO Publiski walked up to the window and told the driver that it was going to take a lot more smoke than that to cover up the smell of marijuana. CO Publiski searched the vehicle and recovered paraphilia used for smoking marijuana and a mason jar full of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

Checking a local access site in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski watched an angler fishing off a dock and made contact with him to check his license. CO Publiski was advised by the angler, "I didn't have time to get one." CO Publiski then pointed out the fact that he had enough time to stand on a dock and fish, hence he certainly would have had time to find a license vendor. A check through the retail licensing system revealed the angler's last license purchase was in 2011. He was issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he received a tip from an informant advising that a subject who had warrants was walking down the roadway in the Luther area in Lake County. CO Killingbeck went to the area, located the man, and found him carrying a machete and survival knife concealed. CO Killingbeck confirmed that the subject had a warrant out for his arrest. A report was submitted to the Lake County Prosecutor for the weapons charge, and the subject was lodged in the Lake County Jail on the warrants.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling through a local campground in the Baldwin area of Lake County when he observed two sites that were occupied by campers, but had no camp registration cards displayed. CO Killingbeck attempted to make contact with someone at the first site but no one was around. Upon walking over to the second site, CO Killingbeck could hear talking inside the tent. When CO Killingbeck identified himself he could hear shuffling inside and noted the distinct odor of marijuana coming from the tent. CO Killingbeck made contact with several subjects and minors who had been smoking marijuana with a two year old toddler sitting in the midst of them. One subject was taken into custody for charges of possession of marijuana and child abuse/neglect and was lodged in the Lake County Jail.

CO Casey Varriale witnessed two individuals operating ORVs on a public road in downtown Hersey. The individuals were not wearing helmets and did not have ORV stickers affixed to the vehicles. During the stop, both stated that they did not know they need helmets and ORV stickers. CO Varriale explained the requirements for operating an ORV on a public road in Michigan. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn assisted the Michigan State Police responding to a suicidal subject armed with a high powered rifle. Upon arrival, the trooper and CO Ginn located the suspect in the yard with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

CO Angela Greenway participated in a hunter safety field day and provided a presentation to approximately 30 students.

CO Angela Greenway attended a 4-H field day and discussed hunting and trapping regulations and the importance of the natural resources.

CO Troy VanGelderren participated in the Fallen Officers' Memorial service in Oceana County.

CO Mike Wells received information that a subject was conducting a vehicle shuttle business involving several State access sites along the Muskegon River in Newaygo County. CO Wells had located several business cards placed on vehicles that were parked at one of these state access sites, in violation of solicitation of a business on state lands. CO Wells set surveillance on a vehicle at a state access site one afternoon and after a three hour stake out, the subject arrived at the access site and attempted to take possession of the vehicle. CO Wells contacted the subject and admission was received that this subject had not obtained a commercial permit to conduct business on state owned lands. The subject also gave admission to the placement of the business cards, admitting to the solicitation of a business violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells received information that a female subject had posted a photograph of herself with a bearded turkey on a Facebook site and that the caption with the photograph gave admission that she had harvested the turkey. A check of license sales revealed that this female had not obtained a turkey license for this year. CO Wells made contact with this subject at her residence and a full admission was obtained regarding the taking of the turkey without a license. The firearm used was documented and the turkey was seized. The female subject was issued a citation for taking a turkey without a valid turkey license.

CO Mike Wells was contacted by a local fire department regarding their response to an illegal burn a few days earlier. The information received was that this subject was burning furniture and carpet at 11:00 p.m. This subject had been warned by this fire department regarding illegal burning several months earlier. A few days later, CO Wells made contact with the subject and a full admission was received from the subject regarding the illegal burn and several others that he has conducted in the past. The subject admitted that what he had done was wrong and that he has tried to stop doing this activity in the past. He explained that it is just easier and cheaper to burn the material rather than pay to take it to the dump. The subject was issued a citation for the illegal opening burning.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO John Huspen spoke to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Crawford Au Sable Elementary School. CO Huspen explained the duties of a conservation officer and some of the laws they enforce to the eager youths. The young outdoor enthusiasts came up with some good questions for CO Huspen as well. The presentation was part of the Crawford County Junior Deputy Program where the children learn about the emergency services that work in Crawford County.

CO Ben McAteer was patrolling down a two track in Crawford County, when he encountered a truck coming from the opposite direction. While looking for a spot to pull off the trail, the driver of the truck exited the vehicle and began looking under his vehicle as if there were mechanical problems. CO McAteer approached the driver to see if he needed assistance and immediately noticed a strong smell of intoxicants. The driver

stated that he consumed a beer with dinner and must have spilled some on his shirt. After being asked for his driver's license, the man stated that he was not actually driving. He claimed he was only checking for problems with the truck and that his driving privileges were suspended. Field sobriety tests were performed and the driver showed no signs of impairment; however, enforcement action was taken for driving on a suspended license.

CO Chuck McPherson observed a vehicle pass in a no passing zone and then turn into state land. CO McPherson followed the vehicle and observed the driver throw a bottle out the window of the vehicle. CO McPherson conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and addressed the issues with the driver.

CO Sam Schluckbier received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of someone cutting trees and taking them without a fuelwood permit. CO Schluckbier patrolled the area and eventually located the vehicle described in the complaint. Upon contact, the bed of the truck was found to be filled with firewood that the subject had cut from state land. The subject admitted to taking the firewood without having a valid permit. Enforcement action was taken and the wood was confiscated.

COs Casey Pullum and Jeff Panich responded to a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of a Canada goose shot along the Au Sable River in Oscoda County. CO Pullum met the complainant who stated he was fishing along the Au Sable just upstream from a house he recognized. While fishing he heard a gunshot come from that property and saw a Canada goose start flopping in the water. As he floated downstream he saw a man standing outside of the residence. The complainant was able to direct the COs to the house where they questioned the homeowner about the incident. The man initially lied about shooting the goose. However, after further investigation and questioning, he admitted to killing it. The man claimed it was because the goose was making a mess of his lawn. The case has been submitted to the Oscoda County Prosecutor's Office for charges.

CO Casey Pullum was called in reference to a lost tuber on Alcona Pond. CO Pullum learned that the tuber was not lost but was blown by the wind into a cove and was unable to fight against the wind. CO Pullum helped the man back to shore and to his friends. As CO Pullum was finishing and recording names of the people involved, he learned one person was wanted on a misdemeanor warrant out of Iosco County. CO Pullum arrested and lodged the man in the Iosco County Jail.

CO Jonathan Warner was checking anglers along Van Etten Creek in Iosco County when he witnessed a man and woman, fishing in the tail-waters of Van Etten Dam. After watching the couple fish for several minutes, CO Warner made contact. He quickly determined that neither person had a fishing license. Upon further investigation, CO Warner learned that there was a personal protection order in place forbidding the man from having contact with the female. CO Warner also learned that the female was on probation and had a probation condition forbidding her to have contact with the male. CO Warner issued citations to each person for fishing without a license. The male was

arrested and lodged for violating the personal protection order. The female's probation officer was notified and will be taking action for the probation violation.

CO Steve Lockwood was checking anglers near Wixom Lake recently when he noticed some activity underneath a bridge. Closer observation allowed CO Lockwood to watch the angler that was tucked underneath the bridge out of sight from the casual observer. After watching the angler for some time, CO Lockwood approached the man and asked how the fishing was going. He was surprised to see CO Lockwood and replied that the fishing was slow and he didn't have any fish. Unfortunately for him, CO Lockwood was able to locate his stringer of fish. The angler was issued a citation for possession of an undersized Northern Pike.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Josh Russell assisted Michigan State Police troopers with a "be on lookout" (BOL) for a vehicle that was driven by an individual that had taken his father's morphine from the hospital. CO Russell located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. The driver was found to have several drug related violations and was transferred over to MSP. CO Josh Russell was patrolling Montcalm County when a neighbor dispute with possible shots fired came over the radio. CO Russell was a few miles away and responded to the call. CO Russell assisted Michigan State Police troopers with collecting information and interviewing both sides.

While conducting a marine patrol on the Saginaw River, COs Quincey Gowenlock and Will Brickel were coming up to the last turnaround basin when they noted a male and female in a large speed boat that were frantically waving at the COs. Upon contacting the boaters, the COs were informed that they had hit something submerged and their lower end had ripped off and were adrift. The COs rigged a side tow and were able to tow the vessel back to Saginaw and the launch without incident.

CO Quincy Gowenlock took part in an annual fish release with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders of Freeland Elementary School at Festival Park in Freeland. CO Gowenlock was met by 130 students who had been raising Chinook salmon from eggs to fry. The students took part in learning about the river systems in the area, fish habitat, and followed up the lesson with the successful release of all fry.

CO John Byars served a warrant that was issued from opening day of walleye season. The suspect was arrested and lodged in the Saginaw County Jail. The warrant was for driving while license suspended, possession of stolen plate, and no insurance on a motor vehicle.

CO John Byars noticed two anglers on the Shiawassee River. The anglers seemed to act suspicious once they noticed the CO. While the CO was making contact, he noticed a plastic bag with fish in it. CO Byars checked the bag and found two smallmouth bass. One angler admitted to catching the undersized and out of season fish. CO Byars

checked the other angler and he had a warrant for his arrest. A citation was issued for the fish and the other angler was arrested on the warrant.

CO John Byars was the first marked unit on the scene of a house fire. CO Byars called into central dispatch and helped coordinate the fire and rescue efforts. CO Josh Russell arrived on the scene to help out with logistics and gather information for the investigation of possible arson. The house was abandoned and the investigation is still ongoing.

COs Joe Myers, Will Brickel, and Joel Lundberg worked a case for an illegally harvested muskellunge in Midland County. CO Lundberg received information of a couple of fishermen illegally taking a muskellunge at the Edenville Dam. CO Lundberg was able to track down the suspects based off the information provided. CO Brickel interviewed the first suspect and during the interview the suspect lied repeatedly to the CO and denied all involvement in the case. CO Joe Myers interviewed the second suspect and the fisherman who took the muskellunge admitted to taking the fish and showed the CO the fish in question. However, the suspect lied to how the fish was caught and retained. CO Lundberg talked with the suspect and explained that the COs knew about the fish and what happened. CO Myers later obtained a full confession and a written statement regarding the illegal snagging and retaining of the muskellunge. CO Brickel was also able to gain a full confession from the first suspect in a follow-up interview. Evidence was seized and enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Myers and Will Brickel assisted Michigan State Police, Saginaw County Sheriff's Office, and Saginaw City Police Department in a search for a missing toddler near the Tittabawassee River in Saginaw County. All area emergency personnel and multiple volunteers assisted in the search as well. After interviews and hours of searches by all agencies involved, the child was located without injury. The COs searched the river bank and swampy terrain surrounding the area. CO Myers utilized search and rescue training implemented by the department through interviews and utilizing resources.

COs Joe Myers and Mike Haas attended an "Endangered Species Day" at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. The COs answered questions regarding endangered species in Michigan and how protecting these species is essential for the longevity of their existence in the Great Lakes State.

While patrolling in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz located three subjects fishing from a canoe. While talking with the individuals and checking for required safety items, it was determined that all three subjects were without personal flotation devices. After instructing the operators of the requirement of the safety devices and why they are important, enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed a young juvenile riding an off-road vehicle without a helmet. After a parent was located and contacted, enforcement action was taken.

COs Robert Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea worked the bow fishing championship in Saginaw Bay. Even though fishing was slow, the COs checked many boats for marine safety and fishermen for licenses. Overall, compliance was good. The COs issued two citations for PFD violations.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted the operator of an ORV who was operating his ORV down a state highway. When the CO asked the operator if he knew why he was stopping him, the operator said probably because of the expired license on the back of the ORV. CO Rhodea addressed the illegal operation on the state highway and cited the operator for an expired ORV license.

While working ORV enforcement CO Mark Siemen had contact with numerous ORVs in Sanilac County. Multiple warnings were given and multiple citations were issued. One subject was operating a dirt bike on the road along with his twelve year old nephew. Both subjects were stopped and identification was obtained by CO Siemen. The adult male was checked with dispatch and his driver's license came back denied and revoked from three prior driving while intoxicated offenses. During the traffic stop it was determined the subject had also been drinking while operating the dirt bike on the roadway. CO Siemen administered sobriety tests on the subject and a preliminary breath test was given. While the subject was not intoxicated according to state law, he was not allowed to continue operating the dirt bike and was picked up by a family member. The subject was issued a citation and was given a court date for operating with a denied and revoked license. The father of the child was issued a citation for allowing his son to operate on the road without an ORV safety certificate.

CO Jason A. Smith attended a hunter safety class in the Cass City area. The class was well attended. CO Smith discussed firearm safety with the kids in attendance and discussed what the job of a conservation officer is. CO Smith also answered questions from the people in attendance.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of ORV trails in the Deford State Game Area. The area was checked and the nearest resident was contacted. The trails had been created, but were abandoned after they had been advised by Wildlife Division that their activity was illegal. After discussing the violations with the resident who had since sold his ORV, because the trails did not show any sign of recent use, a verbal warning was given.

CO Josh Wright conducted an ORV patrol in Tuscola County from his ORV Cycle. The patrol concentrated on areas of State Game Areas that have seen historically high amounts of illegal ORV activity. Although no ORV violations were discovered, multiple turkey hunters were checked for compliance.

While patrolling in Isabella County, COs Mike Haas and Josh Russell noticed a truck parked along the Chippewa River in a "no parking" zone. The COs found tracks along the river and eventually caught up to two anglers who were fishing on the other side of the river. When the anglers noticed the COs, they picked up their fishing gear and

retreated into the woods. The COs split up and waited on the roadway near the angler's truck. Approximately 15 minutes had passed when the two subjects exited the woods in between the COs; both anglers had taken off their outer jackets in an attempt to change their appearance. Once the COs approached the subjects, the men stated they had been fishing but didn't realize they had been trespassing until they saw the COs. The two men were cited for recreational trespassing since they had cut through multiple "posted" properties. One gentleman was also warned for not having a valid fishing license and arrested for an active bench warrant with the Saginaw-Chippewa Police Department.

CO Mike Haas was patrolling through Isabella County near Coldwater Lake when he witnessed an ORV speeding down the center of the roadway towards him. As the ORV noticed CO Haas, he slowed down and began to operate on the side of the roadway. CO Haas made contact with the operator who asked if he was doing something wrong. CO Haas advised the operator there were multiple issues that drew the COs attention to him. The operator was operating in the center of the road, was not wearing a helmet, was operating over 25 mph and did not have an ORV license on the machine. The man was educated on Michigan's ORV laws and received a citation.

Lt. Jeremy Payne, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas participated in the Environmental Education Day at the Chip-A-Waters Park in Mt. Pleasant. The COs spoke with multiple school groups about the roles and responsibilities of a CO. The COs also displayed animal pelts and specimens and talked about numerous animals that live in Michigan.

While on patrol, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were called to investigate a Montcalm County woods fire. The COs made contact with the property owners and discovered that the subject had some large piles of items that they had been burning over a long period of time. The subjects were educated about the harmful materials they were burning and were given several warnings concerning the improper disposal of solid waste.

While on marine patrol in Isabella County, COs Dan Robinson and Josh Russell checked several area lakes. The COs gave several warnings for missing marine equipment, two citations for fishing without a license and a citation for no PFD on a personal watercraft. The COs also issued a ticket to an individual who had not registered his boat since 2013. Overall the COs had positive interactions with boaters getting out for the first time this season.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson made contact with two groups of people who were trespassing on property owned by a local gravel pit. CO Robinson watched the groups for some time and established that both groups were fishing and were planning on staying on the private property. After making contact, the CO found that both groups had crawled under the fence to access the property, one group had brought their alcohol with them and the other group brought along their medical marijuana. Citations were issued for recreational trespass and fishing without a license and a warning was given for public use of medical marijuana.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol checking boat launches when he came across a boat with three anglers at a launch. The anglers had 30 bluegill in their possession. Further investigation revealed two of the anglers did not have current fishing licenses. Both anglers stated to have caught about 8-10 fish. Two citations were issued for fishing without a license.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol when he noticed a subject fishing near a local dam. While making contact, CO Bauer noticed a stringer of fish near the angler. There was a large mouth bass on the stringer. A citation was issued for possessing a large mouth bass out of season.

CO Matt Page observed a subject wearing camouflage, a facemask, and carrying something in his hands that appeared to be a firearm. Upon trying to make contact, the subject ran into the woods. With the assistance of MSP and the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department, a minor was located in the woods, who was carrying a pipe that was taken from a nearby property. The minor was also in possession of several knives. When asked why he was running, he stated that police scare him. The minor was turned over to his parents and advised not to take items off of private property or run from the police.

CO Tyler Cole was patrolling Witco Ponds in the city of Dowagiac and came across two subjects fishing. CO Cole observed the two subjects until they packed up their gear and began heading to another area to fish. Contact was made with the subjects and both claimed to have not been fishing. After CO Cole informed them that he had observed them fishing for nearly 30 minutes, both admitted to fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling near Marcellus, CO Tyler Cole came across a vehicle parked in a popular turkey hunting area. Hunting hours closed soon, so CO Cole waited at the vehicle for the hunters to return. When the hunters returned, a check of licenses, firearms, and ammunition was conducted. It was found that one hunter was afield without a kill tag on person. A citation was issued for hunting turkeys without a valid kill tag in possession.

CO Jeff Robinette received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint regarding an individual that had thrown a tire into the Three Rivers State Game Area. The complainant had been turkey hunting and had taken pictures of the suspect's vehicle, license plate, and the vehicle occupants. CO Robinette contacted the suspect the following day and obtained a confession. CO Robinette issued a ticket for littering and ordered the suspect to remove the tire from the SGA property and dispose of it properly. The suspect apologized for littering and removed the tire from the SGA property that evening.

COs Ivan Perez and BJ Goulette were patrolling Bass River Recreation Area and came across a Jeep Wrangler stuck in a mud hole and a pickup was trying to pull it out. Another truck had already tried to pull the Jeep out but gave up after getting stuck themselves and left. The next try resulted in the pickup breaking a U-joint on his drive shaft. Upon successfully getting dislodged from the mud hole, CO Goulette issued a ticket for operating in a closed area on state land.

COs Dave Rodgers and Justin Ulberg have patrolled several different bodies of water in Kent County recently. CO Rodgers and Ulberg were following up on complaints of individuals keeping bass during the closed season. During the course of a week, the COs contacted multiple individuals who were in possession of bass during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg received information that anglers were catching good numbers of crappie on one of Kent County's inland lakes. CO Ulberg checked an angler while he was leaving the lake and discovered the angler was 16 fish over his daily limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg investigated a complaint of a subject who shot a turkey during the wrong season. The subject had purchased a private turkey license in which he could take a turkey from April 17 - April 30. The subject posted a photograph on a social media website indicating the turkey was shot on May 14th. While speaking with the subject, CO Ulberg asked what season his tag was good for. The subject proceeded in taking the tag out of his wallet. The tag was never validated and never attached to the turkey. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Simpson received a complaint of a subject stuck in a wetland on state land in Muskegon County. The complainant sent pictures via text to Station 20 to assist in identifying the suspect. CO Simpson was able to respond to the area and located the subject sitting in his truck still stuck on the edge of the wetland. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO David Rodgers and Justin Ulberg came across two individuals fishing Lake Leota at Millennium Park in Kent County. One of the subjects did not have a fishing license. A count of the pan fish in the bucket showed that they were 45 fish over their limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Rodgers received a call from a subject who thought a turkey hunter may be trespassing on some property near his residence. CO Rodgers went to the location and found a parked vehicle and proceeded to patrol on foot to locate the hunter. The hunter was found on property he did have permission to be on; however, the subject did not have a current turkey hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Rodgers reported spending some time working the 6th Street Dam area along the Grand River in Kent County during some evening patrols because of the amount of bass that were being caught and the increased fishing activity and

complaints. During a couple of these patrols, individuals were ticketed for fishing without licenses, snagging, and a warrant was satisfied out of Ottawa County. The individual, who was overtly snagging fish, argued that he felt a fish on every cast and that's why he had such an aggressive hook set. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez contacted CO David Rodgers about some individuals who he checked at Harbor Island in Grand Haven earlier in the day. They had some salmon and one of the subjects did not have a fishing license. A citation was issued and CO Perez allowed the subject to keep the fish. Later CO Perez happened to check the subject's Facebook page and it had a recent post of the same four individuals posing at the location where he had checked them. In the picture were 32 salmon, which put them grossly over their limit. The subjects all lived in Kent County, so CO Perez asked CO Rodgers to investigate. CO Rodgers contacted COs Justin Ulberg and Richard Cardenas and they were able to assist in attempting separate interviews. CO Rodgers made contact with the subject who made the social media post. When he pulled into the drive there was a plastic garbage bag which had 19 salmon carcasses. After a lengthy interview that had many different stories, the subject finally admitted that they took an over limit because they just couldn't count all the fish in the cooler because it was too full. Their fishing trip started at 6:30 a.m. and only one subject had a valid fishing license at that time. Two of the subjects purchased their license on line as they were heading back to the docks in the afternoon. All the subjects were gathered at the suspect's residence and all ticketed for the over limit and their fish were seized.

While on patrol in Ionia County, CO Jeremy Beavers checked angler activity at the Portland Dam. During his checks, CO Beavers made contact with two subjects with a bucket containing a largemouth bass. The subject was cited for possession of largemouth bass during the closed season.

During a patrol in Ionia County, CO Jeremy Beavers responded to an ORV complaint he received from Central Dispatch. CO Beavers was told that a group of subjects were riding ORVs in the road, fish tailing, and operating carelessly. Once in the area of the complaint, CO Beavers spotted four subjects on ORVs. One subject on a four wheeler was not wearing a helmet and did not have the ORV sticker necessary to operate an ORV on the roadway in the county. CO Beavers explained the rules for proper ORV operation on the roadway to the group. The subject not wearing a helmet was cited for the infraction and given a warning for not having an ORV registration sticker.

While in the parking lot at Webber Dam, CO Cary Foster observed a subject walking back to his vehicle carrying some fishing gear and a bucket. CO Foster observed a fish hanging on the side of the bucket from a stringer, but could not observe the type of fish due to the distance. Upon approaching the subject, the subject informed CO Foster he had not caught or kept any fish. Upon looking through the bucket and bed of the pickup, CO Foster was unable to locate any fish. The subject stated he needed to use the outhouse and walked from the area. Upon looking further, CO Foster located a short walleye on a stringer underneath the pickup on the ground. Upon returning to the truck, the subject stated, "I see you found the fish." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck Towns attended the local Turkey Tracks Banquet and spoke to the participants about hunter safety. Turkey Tracks is a nonprofit charity devoted to getting young hunters with disabilities into the outdoors that otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity. The group was able to fund 15 special needs hunters and provide them with individual guides and private land to hunt.

CO Greg Patten reported patrolling the area of the Cedar Creek trails in the Manistee National Forest. Within two hours, CO Patten stopped multiple riders operating off the designated trails. CO Patten issued five tickets and ten warnings for various violations, and took one of the riders to jail for a child support warrant. The suspect who was arrested on the warrant was also operating an ORV with a suspended driver's license. CO Greg Patten checked three people fishing in the Bear Lake channel in Muskegon County. All three anglers were fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten stopped a vehicle that drove by him and several other vehicles at high speed in the turn lane. The driver exited his vehicle and fled on foot. Norton Shores Police and CO Patten were unable to locate the subject. CO Patten positively identified the fleeing suspect and will be seeking a warrant for his arrest.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler was checking anglers along the Huron River in Ypsilanti when he contacted one angler who stated right away that he did not have a fishing license. A computer check revealed the subject had spotty license purchases over the past several years as well as several outstanding warrants for his arrest. CO Drexler arrested the subject and lodged him in the Washtenaw County Jail for the warrants and a citation was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Mike Drexler was checking anglers along the Huron River in Ypsilanti Township and as he exited his patrol vehicle at one spot, two subjects sitting at a picnic bench whistled and yelled for a friend that was fishing along the river. The friend fishing along the river did not hear the "warnings" and was also found to be fishing without a license. Enforcement action taken.

CO Eric Smither was checking fishermen in Lake Hudson Recreation Area when he assisted a Lenawee County Deputy with a drunk and disorderly female at a campground south of Lake Hudson. CO Smither and the deputy were able to deescalate the situation and she was given 24 hours to leave the campground.

While investigating an in-progress fishing complaint, CO Smither made contact with an individual who had two warrants for his arrest out of Lenawee County. CO Smither arrested the subject who was transferred to Tecumseh Police Department personnel to be lodged at Lenawee County Jail.

While checking fishermen in Tate Park, CO Eric Smither was approached by a mother and child who stated that a suspicious individual was hanging around the playground watching the children. While making his way toward the playground, CO Smither was stopped by a park worker stating the same thing. CO Smither and an officer from the Clinton Police Department made contact with the individual. He was identified and ejected from the park.

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither responded to a complaint of a hunter shooting an over limit of turkeys in Lenawee County. While at the suspect's residence CO Christopher Reynolds located a set of whitetail antlers on the back porch. CO Monnich asked the home owner if that was his set of antlers and he proudly answered yes and told the story of shooting the deer during the firearm deer season. CO Monnich knew that the tag on the antlers did not belong to the homeowner and questioned him about it. The man ultimately confessed to borrowing a tag from a buddy. A report and warrant request is being submitted to the Lenawee County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither received a tip from a farmer that some ORVs were out tearing up the roads and the operators were not wearing helmets. The COs patrolled the area and, after a short wait, observed the ORVs operating on the roadway. The COs initiated a stop and the ORV operators fled the area. After a short pursuit, the COs were able to stop two of the operators. An extended search located the remaining ORV hidden in a barn nearby. Enforcement action taken.

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither spoke at a local lake association meeting with over 75 people in attendance. The COs answered a number of questions pertaining to marine and fishing regulations.

COs Pete Purdy and Jason King conducted a marine patrol on Lobdell Lake. Fifty five contacts were made. Violations encountered were fish w/o license, expired boat registration, fail to provide PFDs, no fire extinguisher, and child less than 6 years old not wearing PFD. Enforcement action was taken in each circumstance.

CO Pete Purdy taught the legal portion of a hunter safety class at the Livingston Conservation and Sports Association. There were 46 total students in attendance.

CO Pete Purdy checked the Portage Lake boat launch and observed an angler along the shoreline. The angler set the fishing pole he was holding on the ground and walked back to his truck. The angler walked from his truck to the shoreline a few times but never picked back up the fishing pole. The subject eventually drove away. CO Purdy conducted a traffic stop and asked the subject why he left the fishing pole behind. The angler advised he found the fishing pole and was just holding it. He admitted he didn't have a fishing license. He also admitted his driver's license was suspended. Enforcement action taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben and a ride-along were checking fishermen on Baseline Lake and made contact with two subjects that were eager to show off the large bluegills that they

had caught. One subject was able to produce a fishing license and the other subject thought that his base hunting license was also good for fishing even though he had previously purchased fishing licenses. Enforcement action taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben attended and assisted with instructing at a fly fishing clinic hosted by the Eddy Discovery Center at the Waterloo State Recreation Area. A representative from The Painted Trout in Dexter and a Michigan Fly Fishing Club instructor also taught at the clinic. There were classes on fly fishing tackle and equipment, basic insect identification and life-stages, fly tying, and fly casting. There were sixteen students in attendance and the clinic drew rave reviews from the participants.

CO Chris Reynolds observed an angler fishing for an extended period of time. When the CO made contact the angler said he was just checking the gear to see if it worked. The officer advised the angler that he had been observed for several minutes fishing before contact was made. When the angler was asked for his license the angler stated he had a license but could not find it. As the CO checked the anglers license purchase history, the angler stated he was just getting ready to go purchase a license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

COs Chris Reynolds and Carter Woodwyk attended the Riverfest event in the town of Jonesville in Hillsdale County. The COs ran the hunter education trailer with laser shot for young children and answered questions on hunting, fishing, ORV riding, marine law, and hunter safety for hundreds of people during the two day event.

CO Josh Jackson was talking with shore anglers in the village of Union City, discussing seasons and regulation. The CO overheard the county radio as the local police officer asked for central dispatch to send another unit, and have them 'step it up.' Officer Jackson excused himself from the conversation with the anglers and rushed to the aid of the local officer. As CO Jackson arrived, he noticed one female on the porch with blood running down her face and a male sitting in the back yard shaking his head. CO Jackson and the Union City police officer attempted to talk with the suspect sitting in the backyard but he quickly became agitated. Additional officers arrived on scene and the suspect was placed in custody for the assault. While the suspect was in the back of the patrol vehicle he began hitting his head against the window until it shattered. The suspect was treated by EMS and lodged at the Branch County Jail.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling in Jackson County when he observed a subject walking in a field. The CO located a vehicle that he believed the subject was using. The CO waited for the subject to return to the vehicle. When the subject returned he advised that he was mushroom hunting. The CO informed the subject that he was on private property. Upon further investigation, the subject was found to have a warrant out for his arrest. The CO arrested the subject on the warrant and gave him a warning on the trespass.

CO Carter Woodwyk received a complaint of a channel blockage restricting travel between Bass Lake and Boot Lake in Hillsdale County. The CO responded by boat and successfully removed the blockage and the flow of vessel traffic was restored.

CO Troy Ludwig assisted two youth anglers after they had taken on water in their canoe. While removing their gear from the boat, the CO noticed a mesh bag containing three smallmouth bass, taken out of season. After the youth's father arrived and the canoe was loaded CO Ludwig discussed the violation with the youth. The CO explained the importance of season dates and the potential effects of their actions.

While checking a boat launch in Eaton County CO Troy Ludwig encountered three anglers that had just returned from kayak fishing. One angler reported that he had just dumped his kayak after trying to anchor-up in the Grand River. Luckily the angler was able to hold onto his friends kayak and was brought to shore. The man was soaking wet and showing signs of hypothermia. CO Ludwig turned the heat on in his patrol truck and had the man get in. With the assistance of other anglers in a boat, the kayak was recovered and returned to the angler. Since none of the anglers were able to produce personal floatation devices for their kayaks, enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster was patrolling Jackson County when he discovered a vehicle stuck off road. The young driver insisted he had slid off the roadway. However, up and down the roadway, which is located alongside prison property, there was evidence of the subjects mud-bogging off the side of the road. The tire tracks leading to where the vehicle was stuck indicated it had been purposefully driven off the roadway. The subject was confronted with the facts and admitted he was "having some fun." Enforcement action taken.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a complaint at a residence in Eaton County where the homeowners had been observing a deer acting abnormally for the past five weeks. CO Thorn was able to locate the animal and dispatch it. The carcass was then sent to the DNR lab for testing.

CO Todd Thorn attended the most recent Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing event at Hawk Island County Park in Lansing. CO Thorn educated parents and their children on some of the laws and ethics regarding fishing. CO Thorn spoke to approximately 85 individuals.

CO Todd Thorn did four presentations to biology students at the Eaton Rapids High School. Approximately 80 students learned about conservation officers, DNR conservation efforts, and safety habits relating to outdoor recreational activities.

CO Matthew Neterer followed up on a social media complaint where a hunter posted a selfie of herself and a friend sitting in a tree stand on opening day of the firearm deer season. CO Neterer recognized the hunter in the picture because he had given her a warning for a violation during the 2015 firearm deer season. A check of the RSS system showed that the hunter never purchased a hunting license for the 2016 season. When

questioned, the hunter admitted to hunting without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher is looking into reports of a domesticated deer near Lake Columbia in Jackson County. CO Maher has received several reports from witnesses who claim a whitetail deer has been coming up to individuals and displays no fear of human activity. The witnesses claim the deer has an orange collar around its neck and one man stated he was able to put a leash on the deer. The investigation continues as CO Maher has not witnessed the deer himself or determined who is raising the animal.

CO Jason King received a complaint from Shiawassee Central Dispatch about a sick/injured grey fox. CO King located the fox and was able to crate it. It was determined that the fox had a high probability of having distemper. The fox was transported to the Rose Lake Field Office and submitted for testing.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Joseph Deppen was following up on an illegal turkey case when he finally was able to find the suspect at home. CO Deppen conducted an interview with the subject and was able to obtain a full confession about shooting a turkey without a license as well as shooting an antlerless deer without a license last season. Charges are pending and reimbursement will be sought for the turkey and antlerless deer.

While on marine patrol on Lake St. Clair, CO Joseph Deppen contacted several vessels fishing for walleye. One vessel heading into a local canal was not displaying proper registration numbers. A stop was conducted and the angler was found to be in possession of an undersized walleye, no fire extinguisher, and no type IV PFD. The walleye was seized and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey participated in a group walleye patrol in Port Huron, conducting surveillance of shore anglers at Lincoln Park and providing information to other Area 3 COs on the taking of over limits of walleye. Many anglers were observed catching a limit of walleye and giving extra fish to others and also hiding them on other stringers. Multiple over limits were observed and arrests were made.

While in route to his residence after a group patrol, CO Kris Kiel responded to a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of a subject taking a lake sturgeon during the closed season. Two Sturgeon for Tomorrow members observed a shore angler catch a large lake sturgeon and place it on a stringer along the bank of the St. Clair River in Marine City. When CO Kiel arrived, he made contact with the angler, who was also trespassing in a gravel storage facility. The subject was in possession of a 59 inch female lake sturgeon. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Deppen, Brad Silorey, Kris Kiel, Ben Lasher and Ken Kovach conducted several group patrols for over limits of walleye around St. Clair County. Numerous

cases of subjects taking over limits of walleye were made from their efforts. Some of the arrested individuals were more than twice their legal limit.

CO Ken Kovach encountered several ORVs operating at a high rate of speed in northern St Clair County. The subjects were riding on the roadway well after midnight. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey attended Police Day at the Federal Reserve in Detroit. The Reserve holds the event each year and invites various law enforcement agencies to attend. Youth from several nearby schools attend the event and are given the opportunity to meet with the officers and view their equipment. CO Silorey brought a DNR Law Enforcement airboat to show the kids. The children were very ecstatic to meet with the officers and get a first-hand up close view of the equipment.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol when he pulled into the parking lot of a local fishing pier on the north channel of the St. Clair River. CO Silorey contacted two anglers exiting the pier, who stated that they were given six walleye by two anglers fishing by boat in front of the pier. CO Silorey found one undersize walleye in the bag. CO Silorey then hailed the vessel to shore. When the vessel docked, CO Silorey asked the anglers how many fish they had on board. The anglers stated that they had a two man limit of 12 walleye. CO Silorey questioned the suspects on the additional 6 fish that they had given away. The suspects admitted to giving 6 fish away, on top of the 12 that they had in possession. The fish were seized and enforcement action was taken on the anglers.

COs Brad Silorey and Kris Kiel were working a late night walleye patrol checking anglers exiting the river in the early morning hours after fishing all night. COs Silorey and Kiel arrived at a popular access site and positioned their vehicle in the shadows of the parking lot. While walking to the water's edge to check several anglers returning to shore, CO Kiel spotted a cooler in the bed of a truck that was parked in a secluded corner of the lot. While it may have been nothing, COs Silorey and Kiel noted the information. After several hours of checking anglers at that location, a vessel with two anglers returned to the launch. CO Silorey conducted a marine safety equipment check and asked to see the angler's fishing license and what they had caught that night. The anglers stated that they had caught their limit of walleye. CO Silorey counted the fish in the cooler and found them to be over limit of walleye by one fish. The anglers also failed to have any personal floatation devices aboard their vessel. COs Silorey and Kiel obtained their identification and questioned the anglers further. One of the anglers stated that they had driven separately and he was parked over in the corner. The suspect pointed to the vehicle that had the cooler in the bed of the truck. CO Silorey and Kiel questioned the angler about the cooler in the bed of the truck and asked if there were any fish in the cooler. The suspect admitted to having another 6 walleye in the cooler. Both anglers were found to be over limit on walleye, along with the lifejacket violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak observed and contacted a subject fishing at the Holloway Dam. The subject confessed to possessing a smallmouth bass out of season and an undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a local area frequented by off road vehicles, COs Jason Becker and Chris Knights came across two subjects fishing in a gravel pit pond. The subjects stated they were mother and son spending time together for Mother's Day. CO Becker asked if they had permission to be in the gravel pit. The subjects stated that they used to live nearby and it was okay. CO Becker pointed out the gate and a no trespassing sign that they drove around. CO Becker also pointed out that if it was ok that they were in the gravel pit, then it would not have been necessary to hide their vehicle in the brush. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer and Sgt. Stephen Mooney conducted a patrol along the Flint River in the city of Flint. Sgt. Mooney and CO Dragomer made contact with multiple anglers fishing along the Flint River. CO Dragomer and Sgt. Mooney observed two individuals fishing separately along the shoreline of the river, after conducting fishing checks it was determined the individuals did not have fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County looking for spring turkey hunters. CO Griffin spotted a vehicle parked on the side of the road in a state recreation area. CO Griffin located the hunter to conduct a hunting check. After looking at the subject's hunting license, CO Griffin noticed the subject's license was for a different area north of Oakland County. When CO Griffin asked the subject about not having the proper license, the subject stated he didn't know. CO Griffin explained the issue and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin received a complaint that a pontoon boat was anchored in a lake simply to advertise a business. CO Griffin made contact with the owners of the boat. The owner admitted to putting the boat in place so that drivers from a main road could see. CO Griffin explained to the subject that it is illegal to permanently moor a boat in public waters and that it was a navigational hazard and needs to be removed immediately. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Oakland County, CO Christopher Knights was checking a small lake in Oxford Township. He found five anglers out on the water and advised them to come to shore for marine and fish checks. After checking three of the kayakers, CO Knights noticed none of them had any life jackets on board. CO Knights issued all three citations and advised them of the law and how important it is to have them.

COs in Genesee County received a complaint of people catching and keeping smallmouth bass on the Flint River in downtown Flint. COs increased patrols in the city and uncovered multiple anglers keeping bass out of season. On one occasion, CO Justin Muehlhauser observed a group of anglers at the Hamilton Dam. After approximately 30 minutes, the CO watched the group pack up and head back to the parking area. The CO made contact with the anglers as they returned to their vehicle.

CO Muehlhauser located a smallmouth bass in the angler's bucket. The fish, which measured roughly 12", was seized and enforcement action was taken for possessing a bass during the closed season.

As CO Justin Muehlhauser checked anglers on the Flint River at Riverbank Park in downtown Flint, he noticed a stringer in the water. As the CO pulled in the stringer one of the anglers stated that they weren't keeping the fish and were planning on releasing it when they leave. When the CO pulled the stringer from the water, there was a smallmouth bass hooked through the gills. The anglers insisted that they were not going to keep the fish. However, the CO informed them that by placing it on the stringer they have reduced it to possession. CO Muehlhauser explained catch and immediate release. The fish was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ray Gardner received a complaint about an angler keeping undersized walleye at Bishop Park in Wyandotte. Upon arrival, CO Gardner tried to locate a subject matching the description given but was unable to. CO Gardner then started to check the anglers that were there for their fishing licenses and what species of fish were being caught. After checking a few anglers without any violations, CO Gardner made contact with an angler who said he did not have his fishing license or driver's license with him. CO Gardner then asked the man for his name and date of birth. The angler said his American name was "Eddie". CO Gardner informed the angler that he needed to provide the name on his driver's license. At that time, the angler got mad and started to yell at CO Gardner, saying that he did not have a fishing license and that he didn't understand why CO Gardner was only checking him. CO Gardner explained to the angler that he checked approximately ten anglers before him and he was just next in line on the pier and asked for the angler's name again. The angler said he didn't want to give it and CO Gardner told him that it is illegal to fish without a fishing license and that he would be arrested if he did not provide his name. The angler then changed his demeanor and asked if he could get his driver's license from the vehicle. CO Gardner followed the angler to his vehicle and got his driver's license and seized the 17 white bass the angler had. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ray Gardner and Danny Walzak received a complaint that a turkey was taken outside of the hunt period the turkey license was good for. COs Gardner and Walzak made contact with the subject and asked him when he shot the turkey. The subject stated he shot it during his hunt period. CO Gardner, knowing the subject posted a photo on social media of the turkey prior to the hunt period his license was good for, told the subject that he did not believe him and asked him if he took any pictures of the turkey. The subject said that he did and was asked to see the pictures. When the subject showed CO Gardner the photos of the turkey, the time and date stamp on the photo was prior to the hunt period. Upon telling the subject about seeing the social media post and confirming the time and date with the photos just shown to him, the subject admitted to shooting the turkey outside of the hunt window. The subject said he didn't realize he shot the turkey outside of the hunt window, only noticing his mistake when he went to put his kill tag on the turkey. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger was conducting surveillance on a local fishing hole which is known to be popular for taking smallmouth bass during the closed season. He observed an angler catch a smallmouth bass and put it on a stringer. Contact was made with the angler who stated that the bass was not his, instead he told the CO, "There are a lot of old people at the park so I reel the poles in for them." The CO asked for his fishing license and his ID, which the angler did not have either. While giving the CO his name, the CO recognized the name from a previous contact in which CO Schaumburger issued citations for taking bass during the closed season. The angler told the CO he paid his tickets from the previous year. The CO checked the angler for a fishing license and dispatch notified the CO that he had two warrants for his arrest from the previous citations the CO issued to him and that he did not have a fishing license for 2017. The angler was issued two citations for the current day's violations and arrested and lodged on his two outstanding warrants.

COs David Schaumburger, Brad Silorey, Joe Deppen, Kris Kiel, Travis Dragomer, Ray Gardner and James Zellinger conducted a group white bass patrol at a local hot spot known for anglers to hide fish in their vehicles. A few COs set up surveillance on the area with the rest of the COs checked the anglers as they exited the park. A total of 13 white bass over limits were found and a total of 581 fish were seized. The COs will be seeking reimbursement in excess of \$2,900 for the white bass.

CO David Schaumburger was on marine patrol and came across a boat of anglers fishing for walleye. The CO asked the anglers what their shortest fish was and the anglers said 16 inches. The CO asked to see what the anglers measured the fish with and one of the anglers said, "I am a general contractor and I know that between my elbow and the tip of my thumb is 16 inches, in order to measure the distance between studs." The CO measured two fish that were 14 inches, which is undersize for the Detroit River. Enforcement action was taken and the angler was advised to re-measure his arm.

COs James Zellinger and Ray Gardner conducted a joint agency patrol with three officers from the Monroe City Police Department on a local fishing pier. During the patrol several arrest warrants were addressed and CO Zellinger encountered a subject who did not purchase a 2017 Michigan fishing license and was in possession of ten channel catfish and carp. Enforcement action was taken.

While participating in a group patrol along the Detroit River in Wayne County, CO James Zellinger approached a vessel, which was just pulled from the water, at the Elizabeth Park boat launch. CO Zellinger asked the anglers how the fishing had been. The four subjects replied they had caught their limit of walleye. Upon further inspection, CO Zellinger discovered two of the walleye the subjects had in their live well were only thirteen inches long. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Ray Gardner was investigating a theft of yellow bricks from Belle Isle. CO Gardner made contact with the suspects in possession of the yellow bricks and received information from them about who they bought the bricks from. CO Gardner seized the yellow bricks and made contact with the suspect who allegedly stole them from Belle Isle. The suspect immediately admitted to stealing the yellow bricks approximately one year ago, saying that he had never seen bricks like those before and thought they were cool. CO Gardner informed the suspect that he can't just go around taking things that don't belong to him. Enforcement action was taken.

Working on Belle Isle, CO Dan Walzak and CO Joshua Jackson observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The COs caught up to the motorist when he stopped at one of the comfort stations on the island and when asked why he was driving so fast, he explained that he was trying to find the comfort station for his wife. Checking the subject through LEIN, it was revealed that the driver had two warrants for his arrest. Neither arresting agency was able to pick the subject up and requested that the subject be advised and released. A citation for speeding was issued.

COs Matthew Neterer and James Zellinger were assigned to Belle Isle and patrolling the area near the Outdoor Adventure Center when they were flagged down by community members. When the crowd cleared, they observed a cyclist lying face down on the sidewalk. It was apparent that the man was having some sort of medical episode so they immediately called for EMS. While waiting for EMS to arrive the officers identified the patient, provided first aid, and established a medical history to pass on to the medics. EMS arrived and determined that the patient's vital signs were outside of a normal range and transported him to Detroit Receiving Hospital for further evaluation.

CO John Byars and Sgt. Zachary Doss were the first to respond to a vehicle accident on Belle Isle. The accident was not indicative of the normal travel and speed limits of Belle Isle. One passenger was in critical condition, taken to the hospital and an investigation from Michigan State Police is still pending.

CO Mark Siemen and CO Andy Monnich heard radio traffic from the Detroit Police advising shots had been fired on Jefferson Ave. CO Siemen and Monnich responded to the location to give assistance to Detroit Police. Once on scene, it was determined that it was an officer shooting and the suspect was in custody, and no further assistance was needed.