

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
6/1/09 – 6/14/09**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Grant Emery contacted the operator of a boat pulled up to a dock and inquired if he had any fish on board. The subject stated he had four fish and had released about two dozen others that were undersized. When CO Emery stated that he wanted to check the length of the fish, the operator stated that one was hooked bad and may be a little short. Upon checking the four fish in the cooler, none of the fish met the 15 inch minimum size limit for walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Denny Gast, while searching through a litter pile on state land, found the names of two college students. He tracked both down and issued a litter ticket. All garbage was removed from the site.

CO Marv Gerlach responded to a cub bear that was caught in a live trap. The issue was complicated by the fact that two other cubs and the sow were present and the mother would not allow anyone close to the trapped cub to release it. The sow was eventually tranquilized and the cub bear released at the base of a tree containing its siblings. The cub scampered up the tree and was reunited. CO Gerlach remained on scene until the sow awoke, collected her cubs and made her way back into the woods.

CO Jason Niemi contacted a subject in a remote location in the northern part of Menominee County. The subject was found to be in possession of marijuana and other drug paraphernalia. A further search of the vehicle turned up empty potting soil bags, liquid fertilizer, small empty planters, chicken wire, and a shovel. His explanation for the material was that he was planting tomatoes at a friend's house earlier in the day. The investigation continues.

CO Mark Leadman observed three subjects fishing illegally with live bait on Strawberry Lake. He also observed them keeping undersized trout. As CO Leadman approached them, one of the subjects spotted him and quickly burned off his line. Unfortunately for him, the burned off line was still attached to a bobber and was immediately retrieved. Tickets were issued for the violations.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO John Wenzel investigated a complaint of someone shooting a turkey from the roadway and out of season. After several interviews, it was found that a youth had shot at a turkey from his father's pickup truck. The father had been driving the truck at that time. Warrants are being sought in probate court for the youth for attempting to take a turkey out of season. A warrant is also being sought for the father in district court for aiding in the delinquency of a minor.

COs Robert Crisp and Jerry Fitzgibbon, working a complaint in plain clothes, apprehended two subjects fishing a trout lake without licenses.

CO Reid Roeske and Commercial Fish Specialists Shannon Van Patten and Terry Short seized 600 feet of illegally set gill nets in Little Bay DeNoc. The nets had been located by sport fishermen who snagged the net with their lures. The two 300 ft. nets were full of decaying fish. Most of the fish were walleye. The investigation is continuing.

CO Mike Hammill checked an angler from Kentucky who was adamant that his Kentucky fishing license was good in Michigan. The angler continued to insist that he had a valid license; and after Officer Hammill advised him he did not, enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Matt Theunick assisted in the search for two subjects on Mullett Lake who were last seen in a canoe the night before. CO Theunick recovered a personal flotation device (PFD) from the missing canoe, and the canoe itself was located shortly after. Two days later, the bodies of both drowning victims were found. Neither had been wearing a PFD.

CO Matthew Theunick and Sgt. Greg Drogowski worked a large bass fishing tournament on Mullett Lake. Bass anglers and several bass were checked. The COs assisted one angler with his sinking boat when the plug came out. At the weigh-in, the COs learned that Mullett and Burt Lakes are rated in the top five of the best smallmouth bass fishing lakes in the nation.

While checking anglers on Mullett Lake, the COs were handed a fishing license that did not match the subject's identification. It was determined he was trying to pass his friend's wife's fishing license off as his own. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Theunick responded to a complaint where the caller believed there were bears living in an abandoned house next door. CO Theunick checked and determined it was most likely kids that had been in the old house.

While on patrol, CO Eric Bottorff encountered a vehicle on the rail-trail where no wheeled motor vehicles are allowed. The operator of the vehicle stated he was looking for his lost dogs. CO Bottorff recognized him as a houndsman and reminded him the dog training season was currently closed. The subject thought about it, then stated the dogs got away from his house, about 15 miles away. He was ticketed for operating a motor vehicle in a prohibited area.

CO Eric Bottorff observed two men fishing from the shore of a local lake. As he approached them, both ran into the woods, and then returned, minus their fishing poles. Upon contact, both stated they had not been fishing. CO Bottorff asked what were they

doing, and they stated "Just picking worms". However, a short search of the woods produced two fishing poles. Two tickets for fishing without licenses were issued. One subject was also arrested and lodged on an outstanding warrant.

CO Eric Bottorff assisted Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM) personnel at a 50 plus acre wildfire on state land. The origin has been located, but the cause of the fire has not yet been determined. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Bill Webster observed illegal activity on state land where mudder trucks had operated in a boggy area. CO Webster stopped the three vehicles and discussed their illegal activities, and ticketed them for operating in a closed area and impounded their vehicles. CO Webster also observed illegal ORV tracks on state land and worked the area in an attempt to locate the operators. CO Webster stopped an ORV in the area and the tread pattern appeared to match. The driver was operating his quad without a helmet, no spark arrestor, no ORV license, and admitted to operating on the state land in question. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Molnar and Bill Webster worked Fletcher's Pond for marine and fish activity. They ticketed two individuals for failing to provide life jackets. One angler was ticketed for fishing without a license and another for keeping an undersized northern pike. CO Molnar, working alone another day on Fletcher's Pond, ticketed two anglers with undersized largemouth bass.

CO Mark DePew finally caught up with a subject in the illegal dumping of 50-75 deer carcasses. The subject confessed to the illegal activity and was issued a ticket for the incident. CO DePew also investigated two fires and ticketed one of the individuals and is seeking a warrant on the other.

CO Mark DePew, working ORV patrol in closed areas, stopped four motorcycles that were operating illegally. Three of the four operators had driver's licenses that were suspended. CO DePew explained the laws and took enforcement action.

On Sunday, as CO Andrea Erratt approached Adams Lake, she observed an ORV operator riding without a helmet down the road and into the access site. By the time she got to the parking lot he was spinning donuts on the unlicensed ORV. Enforcement action was taken and the operator raked out the ruts he made in the dirt.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Brian Brosky was working at Silver Lake State Park from a concealed location, apprehending persons for careless operation and speeding violations. After writing a few tickets, he decided to work from the other side of the trail. Shortly after moving he watched a person on an ORV drive up to where he had been stationed, check to see that he wasn't there, and then speed away in a careless manor. The person admitted to careless operation intentionally for his friends because he believed the CO had left.

CO Brian Brosky ticketed three persons for alcohol possession on the dunes at Silver Lake State Park. CO Brosky watched them mix the drinks and then drink them in non-descript containers.

CO Brian Brosky issued seven tickets while working a shift at Silver Lake State Park. Several tickets were issued for operating against the flow of traffic, two for failing to wear seat belts and one for failing to wear an approved helmet. One subject was warned by park personnel for wearing a ski helmet, even though he had an approved helmet strapped on his ORV. The subject switched helmets and put on the approved helmet. Park personnel advised the CO to watch for the subject. Later in the day the CO was talking to a group of park users and observed the subject again wearing the unapproved ski helmet.

CO Carolyn Dice encountered an angler who first stated he was not fishing, just trying out his new fishing rod and reel rigged with a spider lure. He then explained that he should not be ticketed because he had called the Report-All-Poaching (RAP) line a year earlier.

CO Mike Wells ticketed two subjects for fishing license violations and possession of overlimits of trout. The White Cloud Chamber of Commerce recently put on a kids fishing day at the Mill pond. Over 900 brook trout and rainbow trout were stocked in the pond and 150 of those fish were tagged for prize money. The Michigan Conservation Officers Association was also a sponsor for the event, tagging three fish for prize money. The two above mentioned subjects were observed fishing the pond prior to the event and one of the subjects was in possession of 24 trout and fishing without a license.

CO Mike Borkovich ticketed two subjects for stealing landscape rock from the West Grand Traverse Bay Arm Access site in Leelanau County. They had already loaded several basketball sized limestone rocks into the back of their vehicle when contacted by Officer Borkovich.

CO Mike Bomay assisted sheriff's deputies with a stolen vehicle complaint. The vehicle was located behind a state game area locked gate. The lock on the gate had been cut and the vehicle abandoned on state game area property. Further investigation revealed that a subject had recently purchased the vehicle and then stopped payment on the check he used to pay for the vehicle. The subject then took the vehicle to the game area and removed the tires, rims, battery and other parts.

CO Mike Bomay was called to a Big Rapids residence by the Big Rapids City Police Department. The police had been called to the residence to assist with an eviction. While COs were at the residence they observed numerous state trail signs that had been stolen from the White Pine Trail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was patrolling on Fremont Lake when he observed a boat displaying an expired registration. The boat was also displaying registration numbers that are usually

reserved for law enforcement. The registration and hull identification number indicated that the boat belonged to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. The boat was impounded pending further follow up. Evidence gathered up to this point indicated a case of registration fraud.

CO Carla Soper, Manistee County, ticketed a subject for fishing with more than three lines on Lake Michigan. The CO observed the vessel and anglers for quite some time, observing one of the anglers reel in two lines. When the CO contacted the anglers, they still had six lines out. Upon checking the anglers' licenses and running a check for prior DNR arrests. The CO learned that one of the anglers had been ticketed in 2002 for fishing with too many lines.

CO Angela Greenway checked two adults fishing with three young children off the public dock at a public lake access in Lake County. The two adults admitted to fishing and not having a license. When asked if they had any fish they both advised that none had been caught. While CO Greenway was verbally warning the two adults and advising them to go buy a license, the three year old in the group told CO Greenway they had caught fish and had hidden them in the dirt across the parking lot. At this point enforcement action was taken. The two adults were also wanted on outstanding warrants.

CO Angela Greenway worked jointly with local deputies on ORV patrol. Many contacts were made; several verbal warnings and several tickets were issued, ranging from operating in a closed area to operating in wetlands.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Steve Lockwood checked a boat that had nine occupants on board. Five were fishing without licenses and there were no life preservers on the boat. Several tickets were issued.

CO Joel Lundberg responded to a complaint of a live raccoon being caught in a leg hold trap. Officer Lundberg checked the area and found the raccoon, along with 57 additional illegal trap sets. A total of three beaver, one mink, two muskrats, and numerous raccoons were found in the illegal traps. The investigation continues.

CO Becky Hopkins and Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez checked an angler who was fishing from a dock. CO Hopkins asked the subject how the fishing was going and the subject stated that he was doing pretty good but had caught some undersized bass. Sgt. Gutierrez located the man's stringer and confirmed that he indeed had two undersized bass.

CO Jason McCullough responded to a complaint of a subject shooting a duck with a rifle. CO McCullough contacted the subject who confessed to shooting the duck and then gave the dead duck to Officer McCullough. The subject stated he was just "screwing around" and "wasn't thinking".

Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez drove into an access site and observed a subject fishing from the dock. The subject turned around, and when he saw Sgt. Gutierrez, immediately reeled in his line, cut the lure, put the rod down and began walking away. Sgt. Gutierrez asked the subject if he was fishing without a license and the subject confessed to not having a fishing license and explained that he intended to buy one but hadn't had time. The would-be violator was very happy to learn that it was free fishing weekend and he was encouraged to continue his fishing expedition.

## **DISTRICT 6**

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Larn Strawn observed two juveniles spinning donuts on an ORV on the roadway. Neither was wearing helmets or eye protection. After stopping the pair the CO discovered they were both 14 years old and neither had taken an ORV safety class. When one of the juveniles was asked if their parents knew where they were, he said his mother told him simply to have fun and be careful. A phone call to the mother confirmed she allowed the unlawful operation and had no idea of his whereabouts. The juveniles were five miles away from their supervision with over half of their route being paved highway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin received an anonymous complaint in reference to illegal baiting activity. The CO checked a hunting club in the area of the complaint and located a spin feeder full of corn. The CO contacted a member of the hunting club who admitted to placing the feeder. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was working the Saginaw River on a patrol vessel when he came into contact with a vessel occupied by four anglers. It was determined that the vessel was a charter vessel for hire without the appropriate inspection or license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was working the Saginaw Bay on a patrol vessel when he was flagged down by a vessel in distress. The drive had gone out of the vessel and it was in the middle of the shipping channel during prime-time traffic on a weekend, which posed a danger for them and other recreational vessels. The CO was able to throw them a line and pull them out of the channel where they anchored and waited for the tow boat company to pull them in.

While on marine patrol CO Phil Hudson stopped a vessel when he observed the young children were not wearing PFDs. Upon further inspection of the vessel, the CO found that the boat was full of crappies. After counting all the crappies, CO Hudson determined that the anglers were 31 crappies over their limit. When the CO asked the adult for his fishing license, the angler advised that he did not have one. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss responded to two littering complaints in the Flat River State Game Area (SGA). CO Goss caught up with one individual after a lengthy investigation and checking over four different addresses. The subject was upset because he missed the

5:00 p.m. closing at the landfill so he just dumped it out in the SGA. Warrants are being sought.

CO Jeremy Payne witnessed a group of tubers on the Chippewa River share a pipe containing marijuana. The tubers were surprised to see the CO in such a remote location of the river system. All evidence was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Payne assisted the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department with a pontoon fire on Rainbow Lake. The CO was able to locate the owner of the boat and inform him of the situation. The pontoon was stolen and located in the river system. The case is still being investigated.

COs Dan Lee and Holly Pennoni investigated a complaint where a witness observed a subject dump the contents of a porta potty off the stern of his boat into the Kawkawlin River. The witness was able to obtain the registration on the vessel and gave it to the COs. The COs tracked down the vessel and made contact with the operators. A warrant has been requested.

CO Joshua Wright received a flyer from an anonymous source advertising fishing charter trips on the Saginaw Bay by a subject who was unlicensed to run charters. CO Wright knew the port the charter was going out of and checked the vessel when it returned to the dock with customers aboard. The captain of the vessel admitted to the CO that he was not licensed nor had he been inspected. An inspection of the vessel turned up nine marine safety violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni received a complaint about a group of six individuals camping at a local marina and taking overlimits of walleye each day by double-tripping. CO Pennoni got to the campsites early in the morning but the anglers were already out fishing. Upon returning to the dock, CO Pennoni checked both boats and campsites and found that the six anglers were in possession of 75 walleyes and that they had a large fish fry the night before and were planning on leaving that morning. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking walleye anglers at the Bay Port State access site, CO Robert Hobkirk approached a pontoon boat that had just pulled into the dock. The two anglers on board told CO Hobkirk that they had a good day of fishing and had caught their limit of walleye. The subjects did have 10 walleye, but had also kept two pike as well. A ticket was issued for the overlimit violation.

While checking anglers at a local marina, CO Robert Hobkirk checked a boat that had an overlimit of walleye, bass and pike. CO Hobkirk advised the anglers that a ticket was going to be written for the overlimit of fish and asked the subjects who wanted to take responsibility. The oldest male in the group quickly volunteered his adult son as the one to receive the ticket. This may have had something to do with the fact that the man had already received two fish and game related tickets from CO Hobkirk in the past and didn't want another one.

While patrolling the Rush Lake SGA, CO Hobkirk encountered a pickup truck that was in the process of dragging a large stump out of its way so it could operate off the closed trail. The stump had been placed to block vehicular traffic on the trail, but this individual found an alternative way onto the trail. He was directed on how to get off of the trail and issued a ticket for operating in a closed area.

CO Seth Rhodea received a call from the Lansing Wildlife Division stating that a subject called and wanted a permit to keep and raise baby raccoons that were found. The individual was instructed to contact a local licensed wildlife rehabilitator and was given several phone numbers. A follow-up visit by CO Rhodea revealed that the individual had not contacted a rehabilitator and decided to keep and raise the raccoons himself. The raccoons were seized and the individual was ticketed for possessing wild animals without being licensed.

CO Chad Foerster and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly stopped two anglers who had just pulled their boat out of the Saginaw Bay. The COs found that the two anglers had their limit of walleye. CO Foerster checked the same two anglers the day before with their limit of ten walleye. After interviewing the two subjects it was determined that the two anglers possibly possessed more than 50 walleye at a motel where they were staying. The COs went to the motel and found a third subject and 62 walleye between the three of them. The three told the COs that they had no idea that the daily possession limit of five walleye per person included all the fresh walleye fillets back at the motel. Each angler was issued a ticket for possessing overlimits of walleye.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Patrick McManus has conducted numerous patrols in the Allegan SGA after heavy rains led to increased "mud running" in the area. CO McManus reports finding two persons in a passenger vehicle buried to the frame after illegally operating within the game area. The driver of the vehicle was found to be operating under the influence of alcohol and underage drinking. That driver was arrested and lodged for operating while impaired and the vehicle was removed.

COs Patrick McManus and Jeff Robinette were on patrol in the Allegan SGA when they were flagged down by a jeep operator who was running illegally and had become stuck in the mud. A wrecker was called to the scene upon the request of the owner and the vehicle was pulled free. When the owner refused to pay for the removal, CO McManus advised the owner he would have to impound the vehicle if the bill was unpaid. The owner paid a tow bill and was ticketed for illegal operation before leaving the scene.

CO Ken Cerny received a complaint regarding a subject shooting Canada geese. CO Cerny arrived on scene and observed a goose with an arrow wound. During the investigation it was discovered that an 18 year old had shot the goose with a compound bow then fled into the woods to avoid being contacted by CO Cerny. With the help of the subject's father, CO Cerny was able to contact the individual. The subject advised he was trying to scare the goose away but accidentally hit it instead.

## **DISTRICT 8**

No report.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Jonathan Sklba contacted three anglers who were in possession of 76 channel catfish. The subjects claimed to have thrown a few back but had no explanation as to why they had more than the ten fish allowed for each person. Tickets were issued and restitution is being sought.

CO Jonathan Sklba contacted an angler fishing along the River Raisin who lied about her name. She was fishing without a license and lied because she had four outstanding warrants. She was issued a ticket for fishing with no license and advised on the warrants because she was out of the pick up range.

While working a late night patrol on the St. Clair River, CO Kris Kiel checked two anglers who said they had caught 11 or 12 walleye. After checking their cooler and finding 12 walleye, CO Kiel checked the rest of their boat and found five walleye hidden in a tarp that was rolled up and stuck under a seat. The anglers said they were being greedy because the last time out they didn't get any. A check for DNR priors revealed both subjects had been ticketed by CO John Borkovich for overlimit of geese last fall.

CO Todd Szyska issued a ticket to a subject who was in possession of perch and had not purchased a fishing license since 2004. CO Szyska asked him why he didn't have a fishing license, and his reply was he "didn't need a fishing license to keep perch and smaller fish." CO Szyska explained the law to him and he was left with a ticket.

CO Mark Papineau responded to an early morning call of a deer trapped inside a warehouse in Flint. The deer crawled through a six inch opening. After using a fork truck to move pallets and inventory around, the CO was able to capture the deer using a trap and rope. The animal was released and no one, including CO Papineau and the deer, were seriously injured.

With the assistance of CO Brandon Kieft, CO Linda Scheidler obtained a warrant for a subject who took a deer last fall without a license. The charges are the result of a taxidermist inspection CO Scheidler conducted in the late winter.

CO Al Schwiderson found two subjects trespassing in the wildlife refuge in the Lapeer SGA. The subjects parked their vehicle in front of the locked gate that had a sign on it reading "No Trespassing". Tickets were issued.

CO Ken Kovach was the first law enforcement officer on scene of a female who cut her wrists in an attempt to commit suicide. While CO Kovach and the paramedics rendered first aid to the woman, she grabbed a pair of scissors from a pocket of a paramedic and

attempted to stab him with them. The first responders were able to secure the woman so she would not injure herself or others. She was transported to the hospital.

CO Ken Kovach stopped a pair of ORVs operating recklessly on the roadway. One of the subjects had multiple warrants for his arrest and was driving while having a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich checked several underwater divers over the last week. The CO was making sure they were not in possession of any shipwreck artifacts. Several of the divers reported seeing very few fish in the upper portion of the St. Clair River.

CO John Borkovich contacted a subject who was in possession of three undersized bass. The fish were still alive so the CO released them back into the water and took enforcement action.