

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
6/17/2018 – 6/30/2018**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Josh Boudreaux patrolled various lakes in Marquette County over the weekend preceding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Sporadic thunderstorms and heavy rain put a damper on boating activity but the periods of sunshine were taken advantage of by many who partook in fishing, tubing, waterskiing, and other boating activities. Compliance was found to be high across all lakes and many people stated they were happy to see the presence of COs on the water during the holiday. A few warnings were given for various violations and a citation was issued to a boater who was operating at night without navigation lights.

CO Josh Boudreaux heard Marquette County Sheriff's deputies receive a report of an individual who had dammed up a creek behind his residence. CO Boudreaux and a deputy responded to the scene and met with the homeowner who showed officers the makeshift dam. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Josh Boudreaux received a complaint of a gill-net tangled in some trees on the Michigamme River near Witbeck Rapids. The caller stated there were a couple fish caught in the net. CO Boudreaux responded to the scene and used a kayak to retrieve the net. The net appeared to have washed downstream at some point before becoming tangled up along the shoreline. In the net was a northern pike and a couple small panfish, which due to decomposition were unidentifiable. Unfortunately, there was nothing on the net which revealed the identity of the owner. The net was removed from the river and disposed of.

CO Josh Boudreaux observed an ORV being operated illegally, carrying a passenger and not having the proper safety gear. Upon stopping the ORV, it was discovered that the ORV was also unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Cody Smith and Josh Boudreaux conducted an ORV patrol in the Baraga Plains area due to previous ORV issues during the holiday weekend. The COs spent several hours patrolling the area but observed very little ORV activity. It is believed the high temperatures and humidity may have been a deterrent. The COs stopped by Big Lake Campground and spoke with campers who had taken the week off for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. One group has been coming back every 4<sup>th</sup> of July for the last 23 years and stated they were happy to see the area patrolled to prevent some of the illegal activity that has happened in the past.

CO Cody Smith patrolled to the Huron River Beach where he put up signs for no motor vehicle use. Many ORVs have been driving illegally along the beach near the river mouth causing erosion and destroying vegetation. Future patrols are planned for the area.

CO Cody Smith was patrolling in Baraga County when he saw smoke rising from the Baraga Plains Road. CO Smith confirmed that there were no scheduled burns in the area and attempted to locate the property. Upon finding the residence, CO Smith noticed a fire behind a barn that was producing a large amount of black smoke. Upon contacting the resident, CO Smith was told he was burning plastic and other scraps. CO Smith confirmed that they were burning siding and other building scraps. The land owner was issued a citation for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

CO Mark Leadman assisted at a hunter safety class at the West Branch Sportsman's Club in Marquette County. The hunter safety class was well attended with over 20 students participating including several parents. Hunting laws were discussed, and many questions were answered.

Acting Sgt. Doug Hermanson and CO Brian Lasanen assisted DNR Parks Division with secondary assessments of Houghton County trails that were damaged during recent flood events and affected by further rain storms.

CO Jenni Hanson assisted in teaching an ORV safety class at Gogebic Community College. Approximately 40 children and a few parents attended an eight-hour safety course administered by the Gogebic Range Trail Authority. The future ORV users learned how to be comfortable and familiar with their machines as well as how to operate safely and legally.

COs Jenni Hanson and Zach Painter patrolled the Cisco Chain in response to a complaint that a resident had been blocking off part of a bay with buoys to protect a loon nesting platform. No violations were observed.

CO Zach Painter was at his residence in Gogebic County when he received information from CO Ethen Mapes regarding a subject on Lake Gogebic whose boat was stuck on the rocks of the east shore and was taking on water due to a storm with high winds. CO Painter located the subject and assisted him in getting his boat off the rocks and back to the boat launch.

District 1 COs participated in Operation Dry Water. Operation Dry Water is a boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign with a heightened awareness near holidays. Inclement weather limited activity but safety checks were conducted on several vessels. Deficiencies in vessel safety equipment were addressed.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office in serving a warrant on an individual who had allegedly destroyed property belonging to the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

CO Ethan Mapes was dispatched to a trespassing complaint involving the possible brandishing of a firearm. CO Mapes arrived on scene and was able to determine that there were no trespassers on the property. There was a large pile of garbage located in

the yard with bear sign all around. The elderly couple had confused the bears for trespassers.

CO Jeremy Sergey, Deputy Vinny Studer, Deputy Even Bergstrom and Trooper Eric Farnsworth responded to multiple calls from individuals on shore regarding a sailing vessel taking on water north of Kleinke Park on Lake Michigan. The COs conducted a shoreline search and were able to locate the vessel. After contacting the captain of the vessel, it was determined that the vessel was not in distress and the captain just had minor difficulty hoisting his main sail in moderate winds.

COs Jeremy Sergey, Jeff Dell, Shannon Kritz and Deputy Brian Helfert conducted a marine patrol in the Menominee area on Lake Michigan during Operation Dry Water. Several vessels were contacted, and all boaters were found to be following alcohol standards while boating. The officers issued warnings for operating personal watercraft under the age of 14 and educated boaters on the importance of contrasting colors for state numbering.

CO Jeremy Sergey completed a wildlife rehabilitation facilities inspection in Menominee County for deer, mammals and non-migratory birds.

CO Shannon Kritz was on patrol in Iron County when she encountered two subjects fishing. She made contact and asked for fishing licenses from both individuals. The male subject then offered CO Kritz his fishing license from Illinois. CO Kritz told the subject that an Illinois license does not count in Michigan and that a Michigan fishing license only costs \$10 per day. The subject then told her he wished he had known that before she contacted him. Enforcement action was taken on both subjects for fishing without a license.

CO Shannon Kritz received a complaint about a small bear that was shot and left on a berm down a private drive in Dickinson County. CO Kritz patrolled to the suspect residence and observed a small, decayed bear laying on a berm by a house. CO Kritz contacted the homeowner who told her the bear was shot last year by a coworker and was given to him because he wanted to tan the hide. His freezer stopped working two weeks prior, so the subject put the bear hide and head on the berm so that ants could eat it and he could keep the skull. CO Kritz verified that the bear had a seal on it and confirmed with the hunter that the subject was in legal possession of the bear parts.

CO Brian Bacon assisted MSP troopers from the Iron Mountain Post with a motorcycle deer accident. The operator was wearing a crash helmet and protective gear. After striking the deer, the motorcycle hit a mailbox, went airborne and came to rest in a swampy area off the road right of way. The operator was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a group of people fishing from a bridge. One subject stated they did not have a license, and they were only helping the other people fish. Evidence

at the site proved that statement to be false. A further check of the group found an undersized bass hidden in a box. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon conducted a patrol of the Menominee River boundary waters in Dickinson County. Multiple Wisconsin anglers were educated on the requirement to carry either a paper copy or produce an electronic copy of their fishing license.

CO Cody Smith and Acting Sgt. Mark Leadman assisted Acting Sgt. Doug Hermanson in a patrol of closed trails in Houghton County. There are multiple locations throughout the snowmobile/ORV trail that were washed out due to the flash flooding in the Keweenaw Peninsula. ORV enthusiasts are advised to stay away from eroded areas and to use caution until trails are repaired.

CO Cody Smith was able to assist Michigan State Police and the Baraga County Sheriff Department on a domestic call that came across the radio. CO Smith was patrolling the Baraga plains when the call came across the radio of a caller requesting the police immediately.

CO Josh Boudreaux came upon a three-wheeled ORV operating in the city of Ishpeming without a valid ORV sticker. Upon contacting the individual, it was found that he lived nearby and was using his ORV to pick up car parts from a local shop. CO Boudreaux told the individual he would let him off with a warning if he purchased his ORV sticker within the next 48 hours. The individual agreed that this would be fair and thanked CO Boudreaux. A week later CO Boudreaux followed up with the individual and discovered he had not purchased his ORV sticker as agreed upon. A citation was issued.

CO Josh Boudreaux and Acting Sgt. Mark Leadman observed a group of ORVs illegally operating alongside US-41 and against the flow of traffic. Upon stopping the group, it was discovered that two of the ORVs did not have ORV licenses. The group was educated on the operation of ORVs along state/federal highways and issued citations for not having required Michigan ORV licenses.

CO Josh Boudreaux and Acting Sgt. Mark Leadman assisted a family with locating their lost dog in Houghton County.

CO Josh Boudreaux was contacted by Marquette County Dispatch about a creek in Marquette that had turned "fluorescent green" and had neighbors concerned. CO Boudreaux responded to the scene where Marquette County Sheriff's Department and Northern Michigan University Officers were on-scene. There was no denying the claims of the creek's color, it looked like the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day. Officers on scene drove around the area looking for the source of the contaminant while CO Boudreaux followed the creek bed on foot. Finding no obvious source and seeing the color dissipate, water samples were collected and handed off to Department of Environment Quality personnel for further testing and investigation.

COs Shannon Kritz and Jenni Hanson patrolled the Sylvania Wilderness and surrounding lakes in the Ottawa National Forest. One angler was contacted and found to be fishing without a license. A vessel safety equipment inspection revealed a failure to provide a type-4 personal floatation device (PFD.) Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jenni Hanson responded to a complaint of a road killed bear cub in Ironwood. The cub was transported to the DNR Wildlife Division office for evaluation.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County and observed a one passenger ORV with two riders on it. A stop was made, and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended operator's license and had failed to obtain an ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz was on patrol in Iron County when she observed a side-by-side operating on the highway. CO Kritz stopped the ORV and asked the operator if he knew why she pulled him over. He stated he knew he shouldn't be driving down the highway but there was a tree blocking the ORV trail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz conducted a marine patrol on the Peavy Reservoir in Iron County. CO Kritz addressed various violations including fishing without a license and failing to have PFD's in a vessel.

COs Shannon Kritz and Dave Miller patrolled Houghton County after floods caused substantial damage to residential and recreational areas. The COs assisted recovery efforts by bringing bagged lunches to volunteers provided by the Red Cross and local donations. The COs also patrolled closed ORV routes to ensure people were staying away from unsafe areas.

COs Brian Bacon and Jeffrey Dell conducted a marine safety patrol in Dickinson County. Multiple boaters were contacted. One boater was found to be operating a vessel with expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell was patrolling state land when he came across a parked truck. CO Dell located an individual in an aspen stand cutting down trees and measuring them. CO Dell contacted the man who stated he was cutting trees for his employer. He further explained they are used to make decorative items and then sold. Enforcement action was taken for cutting trees on state land without a permit.

## **DISTRICT 2**

COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch were returning home from a day patrol when a BOL "Be on the Lookout" came over the radio of a possible drunk driver. The location given over the radio by dispatch was very near the two COs. They quickly located the suspected vehicle and began following it. The vehicle was failing to stay within his lane of travel and was crossing over both the white and yellow lines. A traffic stop was made, and a short interview was done. Field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test (PBT)

were given to determine whether the driver was operating under the influence. It was determined that he was not, the driver was issued a citation for distracted driving.

CO Bobby Watson assisted in traffic control and enforcement during the annual Tahquamenon 50k marathon race near Tahquamenon Falls. Most of the racers completed the race without any major issues and all traffic cooperated with the racers. While returning home from the race, CO Watson was able to assist CO Justin Vinson on a structure fire in the village of Newberry. CO Vinson was first to arrive on scene. The COs assisted the local fire department in crowd control and blocked traffic to allow the fire department to extinguish the flames.

COs Rob Freeborn and Mark Zitnik conducted several charter boat inspections on a local fishing charter in Shelter Bay.

Cpl. Mike Hammill and CO Mark Zitnik patrolled Munising Bay on a busy Saturday checking commercial fishing boats and local anglers.

COs Colton Gelinis and Mark Zitnik patrolled a local trout stream in northern Luce County. The COs were getting reports of several trout anglers catching over limits of brook trout.

Area 1 COs and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull patrolled the Au Train River on the busy holiday weekend addressing marine, alcohol, and litter violations. In all the boaters were happy to see the CO presence and enjoyed the warm day.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Garden Township. He encountered an individual driving an ORV down a roadway without a helmet. The operator also did not have a valid registration. A traffic stop on the ORV was made as it pulled into a local gas station. The operator was cited for not wearing a helmet and opted to go into the station and purchase an ORV registration in lieu of a ticket.

COs Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch were on patrol in Wells Township. The COs observed an individual fishing off a dock and two other individuals sitting on a picnic table. When the individual fishing on the dock saw officers, she threw her fishing pole into the water. The individual then swam to shore towards the COs. CO Butzin contacted another subject and found him to be in possession of marijuana. Further investigation found that all three individuals admitted to fishing without licenses and two of the individuals admitted to having used marijuana prior to the COs arrival. The subject on the dock was issued a citation for fishing without a license and another subject was issued a citation for the marijuana.

CO Stephen Butzin was on patrol in Escanaba when he contacted an individual fishing off a dock. Further investigation found that the nonresident subject did not have a valid fishing license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Stephen Butzin, while on patrol in Gladstone, observed an ORV leaving a gas station with an expired registration and riding double. CO Butzin followed the ORV as it traveled quickly down several county roads. A traffic stop was conducted, and the operators were found to be two children ages 14 and 15. Contact with the parents was made and CO Butzin explained the violations – operate unsupervised, illegal operation, expired registration, no ORV safety class, and riding double. A citation was issued to the parent for allowing a juvenile to operate an ORV while unsupervised.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Cornell Township when he contacted an individual fishing who was using live bait on an artificial lure only section of the Escanaba River. A citation was issued for using non-artificial lures when prohibited.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Wells Township when made a traffic stop on a truck. The passenger in the cab provided false identification to CO Butzin but was it was soon discovered that he had an outstanding felony warrant for a sex offender registry violation and the individual was arrested for the outstanding warrant.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Garden Township when he responded to a personal injury car crash. CO Butzin was first on scene and observed that the subject sustained several lacerations, was bleeding from the ears, and complaining of severe pain in his back and leg. CO Butzin provided medical attention to the subject until medical first responders were able to arrive.

CO Michael Evink worked a marine patrol on Indian Lake. His first contact ended up being an older group whose boat would not start. CO Evink towed the group to shore and assisted with the docking of their vessel.

CO Colton Gelinis was on patrol in Luce County when he received a call about a large brush fire. No burn permits were being issued that day in Luce County, due to extreme fire danger. CO Gelinis contacted the owner of the property who was unaware of the burn ban. While on scene CO Gelinis noticed burn marks in the grass, it was determined that the fire had already escaped once, and the owner put it out. CO Gelinis issued a citation for burning without a permit.

COs Justin Vinson and Colton Gelinis were on patrol in Mackinac County when they observed an ORV operating without a registration. The COs contacted the operator of the ORV, who happened to have a suspended driver's license. Law enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Tom Oberg noticed a vehicle behind him approach very quickly and pass. CO Oberg confirmed the vehicle was travelling well above the posted speed limit. CO Oberg conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle for the violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg used his patrol boat to patrol around Drummond Island on a busy day. Most of the individuals contacted were within compliance and were happy to see CO Oberg in the area.

CO Tom Oberg completed multiple charter boat inspections for local charter operators throughout the area. CO Oberg checked each vessel and made sure all the required safety equipment was on board and that the vessel was able to operate in a safe manner before approving it for charter operations.

CO Tom Oberg and Cpl. Kevin Postma responded with multiple agencies to a call of a possible plane crash in the water near Drummond Island. After going out to the location on boat, it was determined that a plane was in the area but did not crash.

CO Justin Vinson received a complaint of an individual altering the banks of a stream. Upon further examination, it was determined that the suspect was dredging and widening the stream that is part of the Tahquamenon watershed. After interviewing the suspect CO Vinson received a full confession. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Vinson and Colton Gelinias assisted Straits Area State Park for the annual car show in Saint Ignace. Overall campers enjoyed the show and their stay at the campground. While checking the Carp River the two officers observed a group of fishermen. A routine license check was which revealed that one subject did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint of a subject burning tires. At the subject's residence, CO Albert observed a pile of household garbage, furniture, and plastics in a large pile burning on the ground. The homeowner advised he was trying to dispose of the trash by burning it. A ticket was issued for the illegal open burning of solid waste and the Mancelona Fire Department extinguished the toxic smelling fire.

A pedestrian who was walking in Elk Rapids with his wife and small child frantically waved down CO Andrea Albert. He appeared shaken up and reported that a bird had just attacked him on his head while he was walking. He pointed out the bird that was sitting in a tree watching closely. CO Albert identified the culprit as a red winged black bird and advised it was protecting its nesting area. After a brief conversation about the event, the subject calmed down and found the bird's behavior somewhat amusing.

COs Adam LeClerc and Duane Budreau conducted fishing checks on the lake. One boat was observed with multiple passengers fishing on the boat. When contacted, a passenger stated that they were not fishing but only practicing. Through a brief interview with the subject it was determined that they did not purchase a fishing license this year. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Adam LeClerc and Duane Budreau contacted a fishing boat on Walloon Lake with three anglers in it. Upon approach, the angler in the bow stated that he did not purchase a fishing license for the year. Upon further examination, it was determined that the boat did not have a type IV throwable PFD on board. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Duane Budreau and Adam LeClerc contacted a boat with three of the four occupants fishing. The two male subjects provided fishing licenses upon request; however, the female fishing off the bow chose to ignore the request to provide a license. She put down her fishing pole and sat down. When asked again if she had a license, one of the male subjects stated that she wasn't really fishing. CO Budreau asked if she was pretending. She ended up not having a license and became somewhat emotional when enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki was patrolling for ORV activity on the state trails in Cheboygan County when he encountered two adults and two children on an ATV not designed for carrying passengers. In addition to the excess passengers, the ORV's registration was also expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki was patrolling a busy sandbar at the mouth of the Cheboygan River at Burt Lake when he observed a PWC operating at greater than slow no wake speed within 100 feet of several anchored vessels. A stop was conducted, and the operator stated that he was in a hurry to get home. The importance of safe operation was impressed upon the operator. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nathan Sink attended the Big-Ticket Festival in Gaylord and gave a presentation to kids explaining what a CO does on a day to day basis. Over 200 kids were in attendance.

COs Nate Sink, Tim Rosochacki, Eric Bottorff, Matt Theunick, and the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department marine patrol worked a designated marine patrol on the sandbar at Burt Lake Maple Bay. The COs and the deputies contacted individuals on the sandbar and patrolled the waterways with an emphasis on boaters operating while intoxicated. Several minor issues were discovered and handled; however, the COs are happy to report the event was uneventful.

CO William Webster was patrolling northern Montmorency County for ORVs when he came across a very fresh set of ORV tracks going through a closed trail. CO Webster followed the tracks for several miles. CO Webster located the ORV at a closed hill climb area. CO Webster stopped the operator and advised him he had been following his tracks for some time and that he was operating in a closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster worked trout streams in northern Montmorency County and contacted numerous anglers and educated them on the New Zealand Mud Snail. Only two fish were checked between 12 anglers.

CO William Webster was working the Long Lakes Lights festival in Alpena County. There were over 400 boats on the water and multiple contacts were made with one ticket getting issued for not enough PFDs on board.

CO Paul Fox received a complaint about a dead opossum in a live trap near a residence in Presque Isle County. Contact was made with the property owner who advised he set the live trap then left the area for a couple weeks. CO Fox explained the trap check requirement. In addition, the subject did not possess a base license and the trap did not have an ID tag attached. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was on marine patrol on Lake Nettie in Presque Isle County. Contact was made with several boaters and anglers. Violations ranging from fishing without licenses, high speed boating, and no PFDs were addressed. Both warnings and tickets were issued.

CO Paul Fox investigated a complaint about a subject running hounds during the closed training season in Presque Isle County. Contact was made, and a follow-up investigation ensued. The subject was issued a ticket for allowing dogs to run during the closed season.

CO Paul Fox responded to a fire complaint in Presque Isle County. Some campers left their campsite and fire unattended. The campfire caught the area grass on fire and the fire spread which burned a couple acres. DNR fire crews responded to the fire which was contained and suppressed. Contact was made, and a ticket was issued for the burning violation.

COs Paul Fox and Bill Webster were patrolling Long Lake for their fireworks over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Numerous contacts were made and while most boaters were in compliance, warnings and tickets were given for violations including no observer, no navigation lights, and insufficient number of PFDs.

COs Paul Fox and Bill Webster were assisting Presque Isle County marine patrol with a capsized and sunken vessel on Long Lake. A subject in an air boat capsized his vessel which eventually sunk. Several people were thrown from the vessel and gas and oil spilled into the lake. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Sidney Collins assisted the Montmorency County Deputies in serving several arrest warrants in Lewiston.

CO Sidney Collins assisted a stranded motorist north of Clear Lake in Montmorency County who was unable to get cell reception. It was a 96-degree day and they had a 2-year-old in a car seat. CO Collins was able to get a tow service headed their way and stay with the subjects due to the temperature and location of the vehicle.

CO Sidney Collins responded to several feeding complaints in Montmorency County. Each landowner was made aware of the laws pertaining to feeding in DMU 487. The bait was removed from the areas and enforcement action was taken.

CO Sidney Collins and Sgt. Mike Mshar were on patrol in Montmorency County when they came across several homeless campers on state land. The campers did not have any camp cards and were heavily intoxicated. At one of the camping sites, a subject had several items that did not belong to them which were subsequently confiscated. At another site, campers left behind trash. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Sidney Collins assisted park rangers at Clear Lake State Park. They evicted several campers who could not keep their noise level down were disorderly and were possibly involved in an assault.

CO Jon Sklba observed a subject in a side by side ORV traveling down the roadway in Presque Isle County. CO Sklba was able to pull the ORV over and explain the rules for ORVs operating along county roads. The subject was also speeding, and not wearing his seatbelt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba was able to contact a couple of trout fishermen in Presque Isle County and advise them on the importance of decontaminating their equipment in between fishing trips.

CO Jon Sklba encountered two subjects holding shotguns while standing along a creek with a beaver dam in Presque Isle County. The pair was contacted, and CO Sklba inquired if they had a permit to shoot nuisance beaver. The pair admitted they did not. CO Sklba educated the pair on the rules and how to obtain the proper trapping permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sklba took some time during a slower week prior to the holiday season to explore some new area. The patrol proved beneficial as traps were located, and evidence of illegal ORV crossing on a creek were observed. CO Sklba will attempt to contact the likely subjects.

CO Jon Sklba contacted a subject out fishing on Grand Lake. After chatting with the subject, it was discovered his boat had an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO William Haskin was on ORV patrol at a busy intersection. A group of ORVs came through and one of the ORVs completely neglected to stop while crossing the county road. A traffic stop was made, and enforcement action was taken.

COs William Haskin and Will Kinney worked the Manistee River in Wexford County checking boaters, anglers and kayakers. The COs located a couple of people fishing

and when asked to provide fishing licenses, one of the individuals admitted that he didn't buy one. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin witnessed an individual driving carelessly at Baxter Bridge boat launch, tearing up the grass and gravel. A stop was made, and enforcement action was taken.

COs Rebecca Hubers and Justin Vanderlinde participated in a group "saturation patrol" along the Platte River in Benzie County. The focus was on enforcement of marine safety and general health and public safety to help keep the heavily used river family friendly, safe and enjoyable. The patrol included multiple officers from MSP, National Park Service and the Benzie County Sheriff's Office. Several hundred contacts were made with a small number of citations issued. Officers have noted an increase in compliance and behavior along the river recently.

CO Rebecca Hubers, with assistance from a Benzie County deputy, assisted a citizen who had hit a metal object in the roadway causing wheel and undercarriage damage. There were no local repair shops open. CO Hubers and the deputy assisted the citizen with changing his damaged tire and removing his damaged skid-plate, so he could continue his return travel to Ohio.

Leelanau County hosted a free kid's fishing event at Veronica Valley Park. Thousands of bluegills were stocked across two ponds, and the DNR Fisheries Division had prepared rods and reels for all participants. In addition to fishing, the event held a fish tank, amphibian table, arts and crafts as well as a barbeque. COs Justin Vanderlinde and Amanda McCurdy represented Law Division and spent the afternoon mingling with the public and assisting the children fish. The event allowed the COs to meet the community and increase awareness about DNR fishing regulations.

The U.S. Coast Guard held an "Open Ramp" on the tarmac in Traverse City where numerous military, law enforcement and private citizens had aircraft and other equipment on display. COs Will Kinney, Patrick McManus and Amanda McCurdy displayed their patrol trucks, a vessel, ORV and snowmobile for the community. They also set up a booth with various furs, fish and prizes for the children. The event hosted other agencies such as Michigan State Police, as well as the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. All agencies allowed an up-close and personal look at their equipment, as well as the opportunity to meet law enforcement and military personnel.

Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Amanda McCurdy conducted a marine patrol during the National Cherry Festival Air Show. The COs were responsible for securing a portion of the safety zone underneath the air show and preventing unauthorized entry into this area. The COs deterred numerous attempts to enter the zone and issued warnings for multiple marine violations they encountered during patrol.

While on a group patrol with Acting Sgt. Brad Dohm from District 3, Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Amanda McCurdy observed an individual operating a PWC who appeared to be

under the legal age of 14. They conducted a stop of the PWC and determined the operator was 13 years old. A citation was issued to the child's father for allowing his son to operate under the legal age.

While on marine patrol on Grand Traverse Bay, Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Amanda McCurdy observed an individual fishing from an 18' vessel. They conducted a fishing and marine check and determined that there were not any wearable PFDs for the three individuals on board. The operator also failed to have his driver's license or fishing license in his possession, nor did he have paper registration for the vessel on board. A citation was issued for the PFD violation and verbal warnings were issued for the other violations.

CO Richard Stowe addressed a couple of camping complaints on state land. An explanation of camping rules and length of stay were explained to the subjects, as well as camp cards provided for their use.

CO Richard Stowe met with officials from a Grand Traverse County Township to assist with obtaining a buoy permit, as well as start the process of attempting to obtain a local hunting control.

CO Justin Vanderlinde is investigating two related ORV trespass complaints where the suspects trespassed on private property and damaged several food plots.

CO Scott MacNeill assisted the Manistee Sheriff's Office with a possible suicidal subject off the Maple Street Bridge in Manistee County. After receiving the call of the individual threatening to hang himself off the bridge, CO MacNeill utilized his patrol boat to monitor the situation from the waterway near the bridge. After approximately an hour, Manistee's local law enforcement officers were able to talk the individual off the edge and to safety.

CO Scott MacNeill received a call of a large black bear charging homeowners at a rural area in Manistee County late in the evening. The homeowners stated they had been chased back into their house and the bear treed itself approximately 20 yards from their house. After arriving on scene, CO MacNeill was able to verify that the bear had two young cubs with her and was most likely attempting to protect her young when she showed aggression towards the homeowners. CO MacNeill informed the complainants to remain inside their house until morning to allow the mother and her cubs to leave on their own. Both mother bear and her cubs had left the area by the next morning when CO MacNeill checked the area.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews and Sgt. Grant Emery responded to a drowning victim along the Baldwin River. In an effort with the Lake County Sheriff Department, the man was located and pulled from the water in a remote wooded area. The individual was awake and breathing, hypothermic and intoxicated. It took a combined effort of officers and other first responders to transport the hypothermic individual up the steep river bank to an ambulance to be transported to the hospital for treatment.

CO Ryan Andrews and Sgt. Grant Emery responded to domestic disturbance along with several Lake County Sheriff deputies. The COs arrived on scene to find approximately 15 to 20 individuals yelling and arguing. Numerous individuals reported assaults and several statements were taken. The statements are being reviewed by the Lake County prosecutor for possible charges.

While patrolling lakes in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews responded to reports of a personal watercraft (PWC) harassing several loons, including a very young one. After examining pictures and interviewing witnesses, the PWC was located sitting on a lift on the opposite end of the large lake. The owner was contacted and the operator, a teenager, was identified by the pictures. The operator was interviewed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking local lakes in the Baldwin County late one evening when he pulled into North Lake access site and observed an ORV that was half sitting in the water. CO Killingbeck observed the entire ORV was wet and standing water was noted on the floor boards. CO Killingbeck contacted several subjects swimming nearby and one subject admitted that the ORV was his. The subject said that he needed to take the ORV in for front end work the next morning, so he was driving it in the lake to wash the mud off. Education was provided to the subject regarding ORV operation and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, while on marine patrol late one evening, observed a boat that was operating without navigation lights being displayed. CO Killingbeck stopped the boat and discovered that there were fourteen people on board and only eight life jackets. Education was provided on why PFDs are needed for each person and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was invited to be part of the Irons Flea Roast Parade. CO Killingbeck reported that the parade provided positive public relations with the public pertaining to what Michigan COs do and what distinguishes COs from a general law enforcement job.

CO Brian Brosky was working Mason County at a location where ORVs are continually trespassing on private property and on a utility right-of-way. While parked near the location, CO Brosky watched three ORVs pass by his location and one of the ORVs proceeded to trespass on the property and up a hill with environmental and erosive damage caused by ORV operation. CO Brosky stopped the ORV and the driver immediately questioned if he was in trouble for going up the hill saying he just could not pass it up. The operator was cited for ORV trespass and the operator said that he would be more respectful where he would operate his ORV in the future.

CO Brian Brosky was checking two subjects cutting wood on USFS land when two ORVs arrived at his location. CO Brosky stopped the ORVs and advised them that they were operating in a closed area. After talking with the two operators, both of whom were

operating single place ORVs with passengers, CO Brosky told the operators that they were each going to receive a citation for operating in a closed area. The subjects questioned CO Brosky and why he couldn't "just give them a break." CO Brosky advised the group that they were receiving breaks. Besides the two citations being issued, they were not being issued an additional four citations for not wearing helmets and two citations for operating an ORV with a passenger. The subjects accepted their two citations and then thanked CO Brosky for his leniency.

CO Brian Brosky was working in Lake County when he watched an ORV enter private property from closed USFS land and proceed to operate in a wetland. CO Brosky waited for the subject to return to the location that it entered at and he stopped the operator and passenger. After explaining that the areas he was operating in was closed to ORV use and private property, the operator was told that he was going to be cited for ORV trespass. The operator became belligerent and told CO Brosky that the property was not posted, and he did not see why it was "such a big deal." CO Brosky then asked the subject if it would be a big deal if persons went to the subject's home address and operated ORVs in his backyard. The operator remained mute for the remainder of the contact and he was issued a citation for the offense.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Nick Ingersoll were patrolling the Tallman Lake area of Mason County, when they observed the driver of a Polaris Ranger not wearing his seatbelt. The COs were able to catch up to the Ranger and initiated a stop. After the COs contacted the driver, they noticed that the ignition of the Polaris Ranger was punched, and the subject was using a screw driver to start the ORV. The COs determined that the Ranger was stolen out of Isabella County in 2016. The COs assisted a detective from the Isabella County Sheriff Department with interviews in Mason County the next day. The COs and detective interviewed the subject that bought the \$23,000 machine for about a 1/3 of the original price and a possible suspect was identified.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Nick Ingersoll were patrolling Ford Lake when they observed a group of anglers fishing in a row boat. As the COs watched the angler's fish, a pontoon boat pulled up beside the anglers and told them the DNR was on the lake and pointed out the COs position on the lake. The anglers immediately reeled in their lines and headed to shore. The COs contacted the group of anglers at their dock and it was determined that all the nonresident subjects failed to buy a license. Another angler was contacted on this lake who had been fishing for the past 25 years without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Nick Ingersoll contacted over two hundred people who were enjoying the hot weather over the weekend on the Pere Marquette River. Several individuals did not have a PFD on their kayaks, canoes and boats. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse and PCO Nick Ingersoll were just starting their shift at Tippy Dam State Park, when they observed two individuals who were taking a break from fishing.

After talking with the two anglers, the COs noticed that they were in possession of live rusty crayfish. The COs asked the two individuals what they were using the crayfish for, and they advised that they were using them for bait. The COs advised the anglers that they were not able to use live rusty crayfish as bait, and that they should not be keeping them in their truck bed in a bottle. The COs educated the anglers on the importance of not transporting and using the invasive species as bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse and PCO Nick Ingersoll were patrolling the Big Manistee River, when they contacted a group of kayakers. After the COs contacted the group of kayakers, it was determined that they all were missing their PFDs. Enforcement action was taken, and the COs stressed the importance of having life jackets to the group.

CO Steve Converse and PCO Nick Ingersoll received a call of two individuals who had tipped their kayaks in the Big Manistee River, and could not get to shore. The COs were able to locate the two individuals. One of the two individuals had made it back to shore safely and the other was stuck on the opposite side of the river on a tree. The COs were able to transport the individual stuck on the opposite side of the river to the boat launch safely. She advised the COs that her kayak was still floating down the river and she was not able to retrieve it when she fell in. After a short trip down river, the kayak was located and returned to the boat launch. The two individuals were a little shaken up, but happy that they made it back to the boat launch safely.

CO Mike Wells was on marine patrol when he observed a pontoon boat displaying an expired registration. CO Wells contacted the owner of the vessel who was extremely honest. The owner immediately admitted he knew the contact was for the expired registration. However, he also explained he failed to transfer the registration when he purchased the watercraft a year ago. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on foot patrol along the Muskegon River when he observed a subject in waders in the middle of the river fishing. CO Wells observed a stringer tied to the subject's waist. CO Wells made use of binoculars and it appeared three fish were on the stringer including one walleye. A short time later the subject came to the bank. Prior to leaving the water, the subject tied the stringer to a log in waist deep water. CO Wells made contact and asked the subject how many fish he had. The subject responded that he had two trout. When CO Wells requested the subject to retrieve the stringer, he changed his story stating he also had a walleye. He admitted he did not have a tape measure and he was unsure if the walleye was legal size. CO Wells examined the fish, both trout were of legal size, but the walleye was just under 14 inches. CO Wells issued the subject a citation for the undersized walleye and provided him with a small tape measure to assure this error would not occur again.

COs Casey Varriale, Mike Bomay, and Troy Mueller were on patrol on the Hersey Creek where they encountered an angler targeting brown trout on the Hersey Creek in Osceola County. Contact was made with the angler, and he was educated about the New Zealand Mud Snail. District officers are continuing to contact stream anglers to

raise awareness of how this invasive species can be spread from waders, trailers and boats to new waterways.

COs Mike Bomay, Troy VanGeldereren and Casey Varriale conducted a group patrol on Lake Michigan targeting anglers trolling with too many lines and lake trout harvest. Enforcement action was taken on a vessel with two anglers trolling with nine lines. The legal limit of lines is three per licensed angler.

CO Mike Bomay noticed a smaller vessel with five occupants fishing. Upon contacting the anglers and determining the owner of the vessel, it was discovered there was not a sufficient number of PFDs aboard the vessel for the number of occupants. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Bomay and Troy Mueller responded to an area of Consumers Power property where ORV trespass and reckless operation complaints had been received. Contact was made with two vehicles trespassing. While issuing citations, a Consumers Power property manager arrived on scene and thanked the COs for taking the time to patrol the area.

COs Mike Bomay and Troy Mueller were on a marine patrol when they stopped a vessel with four adults and six children. Upon conducting a marine safety inspection, one of the occupants advised the COs how they have already been checked by the Sheriff's Department and received a sticker indicating an inspection. While checking the number of personal flotation devices, it was determined the vessel did not have the sufficient number of PFDs aboard for the number of occupants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Van Gelderen was patrolling an Oceana County lake checking anglers and enforcing marine safety laws. While CO Van Gelderen was checking a boat, he noticed two subjects bass fishing on a boat. When the bass fishermen realized the CO was nearby, they quickly motored to a nearby dock and head on foot toward a house. It was discovered their boat did not have PFDs onboard, and that neither subject had their fishing licenses with them. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

While working the Au Sable River in Crawford County, CO John Huspen contacted numerous river boats during the Hex hatch. Multiple violations were observed, including, fishing without a license, no PFDs, unregistered motor boats and no navigation lights. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben McAteer and Chuck McPherson conducted a marine patrol on Shupac Lake during Operation Dry Water. Operation Dry Water is a multi-state enforcement effort to promote safe boating practices with a strong focus on boaters operating under the influence of alcohol. During the patrol, a vessel was observed operating with a large group that appeared to be over the vessel's capacity. Upon contacting the boat, COs determined that the operator had exceeded the capacity and did not have enough PFDs on board. Furthermore, an infant was observed in a "pack-n-play" in the center of the

boat not wearing a PFD as required by law. The safety issues were addressed with the operator and enforcement action was taken.

COs Chuck McPherson, John Huspen, Matt Zultak, Ben McAteer, Charlie Jones, Craig Neal, Sgt. Brian Olsen, Lt. Brandon Kieft and Law Secretary Carrie DeVault participated with the Roscommon County Youth Academy. Fourteen cadets ranging in age from eight to fourteen years of age were versed on fish and game, ORV, and marine regulations. Cadets also participated in scenarios involving ORV, trapping, fishing and marine violations. The program has been a huge success with the young cadets.

CO Craig Neal assisted Missaukee County Sheriff Deputies in locating a suspect involved in a domestic altercation. CO Neal was in the area and quickly responded, locating the suspect walking down the road. CO Neal identified and detained the man until deputies arrived on scene.

CO Craig Neal responded to a complaint of two anglers trespassing on a roadway to gain access to the Clam River in Missaukee County. CO Neal talked to the complainant who stated that he was unsure what direction the anglers went in the stream. CO Neal was able to track and locate them upstream. He spoke with them about how they gained access to the river. CO Neal explained that it is not a public access and they needed to get landowner permission. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Craig Neal and Ethan Gainforth were driving along the Muskegon River in Missaukee County when CO Neal noticed something down in the river that looked strange. The COs turned around to get a better look. They located two inner tubes in the river without any occupants. The COs could hear some screaming coming from upriver. They walked the bank upriver and located a tuber without a tube. The female stated that her tube had popped, and she got left behind by her sister and friend. The two COs were able to get the stranded tuber back to the rest of her party.

CO Craig Neal received a complaint of two people lost in southwest Roscommon County. He was approximately 30 minutes away, so he contacted COs Joshua Wright and Ethan Gainforth for assistance. COs Wright and Gainforth were able to locate the individuals. Their vehicle had gotten stuck and they didn't have cell service, so the couple started walking and got turned around on the trails. CO Neal transported them back to their vehicle and made sure they were able to get the vehicle out before leaving the scene.

On the way home from a meeting, COs Kyle Bader and Brad Bellville stopped a vehicle for erratic driving on I-75. The operator was found to be in possession of marijuana and other items that led the COs to believe he was manufacturing and delivering drugs. Warrants are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

While patrolling south on M-33 in Oscoda County, CO Brad Bellville observed an ORV traveling north on the side of the road at an extreme high rate of speed. CO Bellville was eventually able to safely turn around and follow the ORV. When the operator of the

ORV turned off onto a dirt road, CO Bellville activated his emergency lights and siren. In the two miles it took the ORV to come to a stop, CO Bellville observed the ORV traveling over 50 mph and operating on both sides of the road. The operator turned out to be only 15 years old. A citation was issued to the father of the juvenile back at their campsite for allowing a rider under sixteen years of age to operate unsupervised.

During a marine patrol in Iosco County, CO Tyler Sabuda contacted a couple of anglers fishing from a boat. CO Sabuda went through a normal fish and marine check but noticed one of the subjects thinking harder than normal to remember their birthday. After more questioning, the subject admitted to a different birthday and a bench warrant was discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jon Warner, Tyler Sabuda, Kyle Bader, Brad Bellville, Casey Pullum, James Garrett and Sgt. Bobbi Lively, along with United States Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Mike Phillips taught a hunter safety class in Oscoda County. Twenty students attended the one-day home study course taught by area law enforcement.

CO Ethan Gainforth was checking vessels on Houghton Lake when he began approaching a subject fishing from a boat. Before getting to the boat, the angler yelled, "You shouldn't be here!" When CO Gainforth asked why he should not be there, the angler told him that he might as well right him a ticket right now because he did not have a fishing license. The man's vessel registration had also expired back in 2011. When asked why he did not have his proper licenses, the angler responded that he felt he was being charged too much for the various licenses and figured he would just go without them. He further stated that he knew eventually that his antics might catch up with him and he would have to pay the piper. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to angry complaints of several deer being shot in rural Gladwin County. CO Lockwood arrived in the area and contacted a farmer who had shot several deer under a nuisance damage permit. Even though the farmer had been issued ten crop damage permits, he decided he was not going to tag any of the five deer that he had killed that evening. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Lockwood and Josh Wright worked a late night marine OWI patrol in Gladwin County. CO Lockwood spotted a large pontoon boat operating while in violation of the navigational light requirement. Upon contact, CO Lockwood detected slurred speech and a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the operator of the pontoon boat. After sobriety evaluations, CO Lockwood arrested the operator for operating his vessel under the influence of alcohol. The pontoon boat was turned over to sober passengers and the operator was lodged in the Gladwin County Jail.

COs Phil Hudson and Steve Lockwood checked a small lake in rural Clare County for fishing activity. Upon arriving, the COs located an angler fishing from shore. A check revealed the man to be in possession of an undersized largemouth bass. Apparently,

the angler decided he was going to take a chance on whether he would run into the "game warden." A citation was issued for the illegal possession of the undersized bass.

CO Mark Papineau was recently dispatched to an ORV personal injury accident along the state trails in Gladwin County. Upon arrival, CO Papineau, along with the Secord Township Fire Chief, responded nearly a mile into the woods along the trail. The victim was suffering from multiple leg fractures due to losing control and striking a tree outside of the trail. CO Papineau and the fire chief were able to stabilize the victim's leg in a splint and extricate him to awaiting EMS staff. Luckily, the victim suffered no life-threatening injuries.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Josh Wright, Kyle Bucholtz and John Byars conducted a marine patrol during Operation Dry Water on Saginaw Bay when they noticed a woman hanging off the stern of a vessel that was underway. As the COs got closer, they observed the woman vomiting and the vessel was stopped for safety concern. It was determined that she was under the influence of alcohol and that all others onboard were also intoxicated. CO Byars conducted standardized field sobriety tests on the driver and determined him to be under the influence of alcohol. CO Byars placed the driver of the boat under arrest. The CO also issued a citation for failure to provide a personal floatation device. The driver was lodged in the Bay County Jail and the vessel was impounded.

CO Joe Myers was patrolling in Midland County when we noticed a side-by-side ORV traveling without lights after dark. Upon stopping the ORV, it was discovered that the ORV did not have any of the required safety equipment. A citation was issued for the multiple safety equipment violations.

CO Ken Lowell checked an angler who was targeting bass on Little Whitefish Lake in Montcalm County. When CO Lowell asked to inspect the marine equipment for the boat, the angler was unable to produce any personal flotation devices. The angler admitted that he has two boats and that all the life jackets were on the other boat. A ticket was issued for failing to provide a life jacket.

CO Ken Lowell conducted a marine patrol on Cowden Lake in Montcalm County. Marine activity was slow but fishing activity was high. CO Lowell encountered multiple anglers fishing without a license and one angler had two warrants for his arrest. Tickets were issued for fishing without a license and the angler with warrants was advised of them and released per the court.

COs Josh Russell and Dan Robinson conducted a marine patrol on the Six Lakes Chain in Montcalm county. The COs contacted many people who were enjoying the weather. Several citations were issued for no personal flotation device and fishing without a license. Several warnings were given for operation and equipment issues.

While on patrol in Montcalm County, CO Josh Russell observed an ORV turn in front of him and the operator did not have a helmet on. CO Russell performed a traffic stop on the ORV and discovered the ORV did not have an ORV license. As CO Russell approached the ORV he noticed there was a small child on the front of the machine. A ticket was issued for no helmets and for riding double.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling Crystal Lake in Montcalm County when he noticed a vessel with an expired registration. The operator advised that he just bought the boat but had no paper work. However, a check of the vessel revealed it had not been registered since 1999. A ticket was issued for expired registration.

CO Josh Russell patrolled the Flat River State Game Area for ORV activity due to the increase in illegal activity in the area. CO Russell made contact with several ORVs in the area and issued citations for operating on the roadway and failing to register their ORV.

CO Josh Russell assisted Carson City Police Department on a warrant pick up. The subject was a known runner and had several felony warrants. The officers arrived on scene and immediately heard someone run from the back of the house. The CO located the subject and ordered him to the ground where he was arrested without incident.

While on patrol in Saginaw County, CO Will Brickel heard Saginaw Central put out a call of breaking and entering suspects running from police. CO Brickel helped hold the perimeter while a Michigan State Police K9 unit pushed the suspects out. All four suspects were located and arrested.

CO Quincy Gowenlock spoke at a local community center to approximately 50 at risk youths for Project Outreach. The presentation went well with the clear majority of kids actively engaging in conversation about employment with the department.

In Saginaw County, COs Jason King and Jill Miller responded to a complaint of a subject with a captive opossum. The COs made contact with the suspect and located the baby opossum. A citation was issued for possessing wildlife without a permit.

COs Josh Russell and Mike Haas were conducting a late night marine patrol on an Isabella County lake when they observed a pontoon boat operating across the water with no navigation lights on. While approaching the boat the COs realized the pontoon boat was also towing two individuals on inner-tubes. The COs pulled up to the pontoon boat and notified the operator of the safety violations. While speaking with the operator, the COs noted numerous signs suggesting that he may be under the influence of alcohol. After conducting field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test, the COs determined that the man was over the legal blood alcohol limit. The COs arrested and lodged the gentleman for operating a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

While patrolling through central Isabella County, CO Mike Haas contacted an ORV operator that was operating down the middle of a roadway. The gentleman was not wearing a helmet and was traveling at a high rate of speed with a young child sitting between him and his handlebars. A citation was issued to address the safety violations.

CO Mike Haas was checking anglers on a remote lake in western Isabella County when he encountered a group of anglers fishing together from two boats. One boat displayed expired registration and the other boat did not have any registration displayed. Both boat owners received citations for failing to register their watercraft.

While checking fishing activity along the Chippewa River, CO Mike Haas located a truck parked on the side of the road near an area that was posted with "no trespassing" signs. CO Haas followed footprints from the truck and eventually caught up to two gentlemen fishing along the river and standing next to more posted signs. CO Haas contacted the men and asked to see their fishing licenses. One man was happy to inform the CO that he made sure to purchase his license this year since he had received a citation the previous year for fishing without a license. CO Haas told the man it was good he had his fishing license, but both men were trespassing through numerous posted properties. Both men received citations for recreational trespassing. CO Haas arrested one of the men for an active warrant out of Clare County.

CO Mike Haas was checking anglers shore fishing from a small inland lake in Isabella County, when he encountered two men who failed to purchase their fishing licenses. Both men stated they were planning to throw any fish they caught back into the water, so they believed they didn't need to buy a fishing license. While speaking with the men it was discovered that neither of the anglers had a valid driver's license and one of the men admitted to driving to the lake with a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken to address the violations.

CO Jill Miller and Mike Haas were conducting a marine patrol on Coldwater Lake when they witnessed a personal watercraft operating carelessly on the lake. The operator of the PWC was traveling too closely behind a boat and jumping the boat's wake. The COs stopped the man on the jet-ski and informed him of the safety violations. The man stated he thought the safety violations didn't apply to him since it was his friends that were on the boat he was following. The COs explained an injury or accident could occur whether the man knew the victims or not. A citation was issued to address the safety violation.

CO Mike Haas stopped an ORV operating near M-20 in Isabella County to address numerous safety violations. The ORV was operating down the middle of a roadway, over 25 MPH, without a helmet and without an ORV license. It was also discovered that the man's driving privileges had been denied and revoked which meant that he was ineligible from operating any motor vehicles. Citations were issued to address the numerous violations.

In Isabella County, COs Dan Robinson and Joe Myers were working Lake Isabella on a marine patrol. During one check, the COs observed a pontoon boat with three people fishing. Upon checking the vessel for marine safety equipment, the vessel was found to have numerous violations. Then during a check for licenses, it was found that one of the women fishing did not have her fishing license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license and warnings were given to the boat owner.

While working the Operation Dry Water boating under the influence initiative, COs Dan Robinson, Jill Miller and Will Brickel worked several inland lakes in Isabella County. The COs contacted several boats and issued warnings for some minor equipment violations and issued a few tickets related to expired registrations and missing personal floatation devices. The COs were happy to see that many of the boats had designated drivers for getting them home from the gathering locations. One boat had a subject who was in possession of marijuana contrary to the medical marijuana rules. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the Operation Dry Water initiative, COs Dan Robinson, Will Brickel and Jason King worked various inland lakes in Midland County. While working after dark the COs contacted a boat that was operating without the proper navigation lights. Shortly after stopping the vessel the COs could see that the operator was under the influence of alcohol. The subject performed the field sobrieties and submitted to a preliminary breath test indicating that she was operating over the legal limit. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Midland County Jail.

CO Jay Person responded to a complaint of a subject beating a snapping turtle to death. CO Person spoke with the complainant on the phone where she described what she had witnessed. She advised the turtle was on its back in the middle of the road when she arrived. A nearby resident was pulling out of his driveway and came to assist her. Together they removed the turtle from the roadway, but as she pulled away she could see the man in her review mirror hitting the turtle with a garden tool. CO Person was able to find the turtle and inspect it for injuries. However, no marks were found that would indicate it had been struck by a garden tool; it appeared to have injuries consistent with being hit by a vehicle. CO Person interviewed the subject and was advised that the turtle had been hit by a truck and he had used a garden tool to push the injured turtle further into the ditch. There appeared to be no violation committed and the case was closed.

## **DISTRICT 7**

During an Operation Dry Water patrol on Gun Lake, CO James Zellinger stopped a vessel displaying an expired registration decal. The operator could not produce a paper registration or provide any other form of ownership records. Further investigation revealed the operator had purchased the vessel in 2017 and had failed to transfer the registration. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling inland lakes in Cass county, CO Micah Hintze contacted two fishermen while approaching the boat launch late at night. When asked, the fishermen explained they had "caught a few" that evening. CO Hintze checked valid fishing licenses and when searching the boat's live well, observed a large amount of panfish. After counting all the fish, it was determined the fishermen were well over their legal daily limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a local access site in Cass county, CO Micah Hintze spoke with a group of men just coming off the water from an evening of fishing. One man explained he had caught a limit of bass, which were in the live well. Upon measuring the fish, CO Hintze found the fisherman to be in possession of an undersized largemouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Micah Hintze, Kyle McQueer, and Jeremy Cantrell conducted joint patrols over the pre-fourth of July weekend focusing on marine safety and enforcement in Cass and St. Joseph counties. Numerous warnings were given for minor equipment violations. Along with multiple citations issued for no personal floatation devices, operating unregistered vessels, and careless operation of watercraft to name a few. Overall safety compliance was observed throughout the weekend.

CO Kyle McQueer was patrolling St. Joseph County when he received a complaint from Station 20 regarding a camper that has been on state land in the Gourdneck State Game Area in Kalamazoo County. Upon arrival, CO McQueer noticed a truck with a camper and a tent parked in a parking lot. After making contact with the female, she stated she was there because she had nowhere else to go and had only been there for approximately twelve days. She did not have a camp registration permit. Enforcement action was taken. Later that week, COs McQueer and Chris Holmes went back to check on the camper to see if it was still there. The camper was gone upon arrival.

COs Zach Bauer and Tyler Cole contacted a suspect from a previous trespass complaint earlier this year. The suspect had multiple warrants for his arrest and was lodged in the Berrien County Jail.

COs Matt Page and Tyler Cole were first on scene to a personal injury accident involving a motorist who crashed on a moped directly in front of the officers. After making a turn, the operator hit her face on the concrete and suffered a deep laceration to the face. The COs were able to render first aid and help control the bleeding until paramedics arrived on scene. The operator was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

While on marine Patrol, CO Tyler Cole checked 3 Mile Lake access site, in Van Buren County. Numerous subjects were fishing from shore, along with many people attempting to launch/recover their boats. After a check of fisherman and vessels coming and going, citations were issued for fishing without licenses and vessels being operated without proper flotation devices.

CO Travis Dragomer observed two PWCs operating above slow no wake speed upon the St. Joseph River near the Benton Harbor Boat Launch in Berrien County. CO Dragomer contacted the individuals and advised them of the slow no wake regulations. Enforcement action was taken. One of the individuals had an outstanding warrant out of Cass County. CO Dragomer transported the individual to Cass County where he was lodged on a warrant.

CO Justin Ulberg investigated a complaint of a subject who was observed dumping something in a farmer's field. Further investigation revealed three undersized largemouth bass on a stringer. As the subject left the area the complainant was able to obtain a license plate. CO Ulberg was able to contact the suspect who first claimed to be a tribal member. However, the subject was a tribal member from Canada. The subject then claimed that his grandson caught the fish, who was a member of a Michigan tribe. During the investigation it was determined that the fish were caught in a lake outside the treaty area and where Michigan fishing regulations needed to be followed. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Lowell State Game Area in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg observed some fresh ORV tracks going into the parking areas and doing "donuts." CO Ulberg parked his patrol truck in a secluded location and after a few minutes the ORV came back through the area. CO Ulberg stopped the ORV and discovered the subject was not wearing a helmet, did not have an ORV permit, and was operating on a county roadway not open to ORVs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten responded to a safety zone complaint through the Report All Poaching hotline. A caller reported that a subject shot a ground squirrel with a firearm within 450 feet of his residence violating the safety zone law. The suspect admitted to shooting the ground squirrel from his back porch which was about 65 feet from the neighbor's house. A report was sent to the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office for enforcement action.

CO Greg Patten responded to a report of a bear tearing up beehives. The caller reported that he was checking his hives and came upon the bear resting nearby. The bear ran in one direction and the caller ran in another. CO Patten spotted the bear later running from the area. DNR Wildlife Division was notified.

CO Greg Patten was driving on US-31 when another vehicle came up from behind at a high rate of speed. The vehicle slowed when it approached CO Patten's patrol truck. After a short distance the vehicle suddenly accelerated and passed CO Patten's patrol truck. CO Patten paced the vehicle at 85 MPH in a 70 MPH zone. CO Patten attempted to stop the vehicle using his vehicle emergency lights. The vehicle did not immediately stop. After CO Patten activated his siren the vehicle did come to a stop. The driver and passengers of the speeding vehicle were heading to the Rothbury Festival. A Michigan State Police Trooper responded to assist CO Patten. Officers could smell an odor of marijuana in the vehicle. When questioned the vehicle driver admitted to transporting marijuana in his trunk. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten received a complaint from Muskegon County Probation. The Probation Officers reported that a subject on probation was on a field trip to a horse stable. There were killdeer nesting in the area. The persons on the field trip were told about how killdeer try to keep predators from their ground nests by acting like they are injured. The participants were told to just leave the bird nest alone. One of the juvenile probationers later went to the nest and deliberately stomped on the eggs. The juvenile then laughed about what he just did. A report was taken and sent to the Muskegon County Prosecutor for enforcement action.

While on marine patrol on Muskegon Lake, CO Greg Patten and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers came across a PWC with an expired registration decal. A check showed that the PWC was re-registered, but no paperwork was on board as required. Checking further, the officers found that the 20-year-old PWC operator had not taken a boating safety class and did not have a boating safety certificate on her person. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on Muskegon Lake, CO Greg Patten and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers responded to a radio call of a vessel in distress. A 36ft. cabin cruiser with six persons on board was taking on water. CO Patten and Sgt. Rabbers were first on the scene, they rendered aid until a coast guard boat showed up with a dewatering pump. CO Patten and Sgt. Rabbers took the sinking boat in tow while the coast guard was pumping water out of its bilge. CO Patten and Sgt. Rabbers safely towed the sinking boat to a marina to be hoisted out of the water. No one on the sinking boat was injured.

CO Greg Patten and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers were on marine patrol on Mona Lake in Muskegon County. CO Patten and Sgt. Rabbers observed a boat towing an inflatable raft with three juvenile girls in tow. There was an operator in the boat but no observer. When the officers stopped the boat, the operator said that he was from Indiana. Sgt. Rabbers asked the operator if one needed an observer to tow people behind a boat in Indiana. The boat operator said that he didn't know. CO Patten looked up the Indiana boating laws and found that one does need an observer when towing persons behind a boat in Indiana. When the officers told the operator that they looked up the Indiana boating laws he then said that he remembered that it is a law in Indiana. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Daniel Prince attended a pre-trial hearing at the 53rd District Court in Howell for a subject that poached a wild turkey with a high powered rifle in March before the spring turkey seasons started. The man pled guilty to the crime and was ordered to pay over \$1,700 dollars. This included the \$1,000 dollar reimbursement for the turkey. The subject also lost his hunting privileges for the rest of this calendar year and 3 additional years, and the firearm used in the crime was forfeited.

While patrolling southern Lenawee County for ORV activity CO Eric Smither observed an ORV coming toward him on the road. CO Smither stopped the ORV and made

contact with the driver. Upon making contact CO Smither noticed that there was an uncased firearm next to the driver. Upon further investigation it was found that the firearm was loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jason Smith heard a call from central dispatch indicating that there had been a rollover accident and the passengers were fleeing the scene. Sgt. Smith responded and located one of the passengers running down the road covered in blood. Sgt. Smith detained the individual and had him checked out by medical personnel. Sgt. Smith learned that the alleged driver had fled through the woods in an unknown direction. Sgt. Smith transported the person back to the scene of the accident where the Michigan State Police continued the crash investigation. The occupant was adamant that he didn't know who the driver was but luckily the officers located the alleged driver's wallet inside the vehicle with his identification. The investigation continues.

CO Nick Wellman was patrolling Branch County when a vehicle with no headlights travelled past him at a high rate of speed. CO Wellman conducted a traffic stop and learned the driver was also operating on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Wellman received a call from Branch County Central Dispatch of a homeowner who had a raccoon in his front yard that appeared sick. The homeowner didn't want the raccoon to get to his dog while he was at work, so he caught the raccoon and tied it to a tree. When CO Wellman arrived, it was clear the raccoon had been injured and couldn't use its back legs. The raccoon was euthanized and the homeowner was briefed on the danger of catching a live raccoon.

CO Sam Schluckbier and CO Troy Ludwig were patrolling the Grand River when they encountered individuals fishing from shore. Once contacted the fishermen stated they had a fishing license but were struggling to locate it in the tackle box. After pulling out several expired licenses, the two subjects admitted to not buying a valid 2018 fishing license. The fishermen claimed that they were only trying for a short period of time and it was their first trip this year. Further discussion revealed those claims to be untrue. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk received a complaint of a large amount of trash dumped in the Lost Nations State Game Area parking lot in Hillsdale County. The CO responded to the area and was able to locate vehicle information in the pile of litter. The CO conducted multiple interviews with subjects associated with the vehicle and was able to get a suspect's name. An interview with the suspect is pending.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling a lake in Hillsdale County during Operation Dry Water when he observed a subject wake surfing without wearing a personal flotation device (PFD). A stop was conducted and the CO discovered three of the four subjects were minors in possession of alcohol (MIP). The fourth subject, and driver of the vessel, was tested for being under the influence of alcohol while operating the vessel. It was

determined the driver was indeed intoxicated. The driver was arrested and lodged for boating under the influence.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol in Hillsdale County with CO Andy Monnich, heard a call from central dispatch regarding a four-car accident. The COs responded to the location and assisted helping assess the injured people and leading EMS to the people in need. The COs also assisted with shutting down the highway while the cars and debris were cleaned up.

CO Jeff Goss and Acting Sgt. Mike Drexler were on marine patrol when they observed two subjects fishing. Upon making contact CO Goss asked if they had any luck. The one man said they had caught some bass and bluegills. When they showed the COs their fish, it was obvious the three bass in the basket were not of legal size. The anglers admitted they had never measured the fish and they didn't know what the legal size was. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol, COs Nick Wellman and Kyle McQueer observed a subject fishing from shore. When the COs contacted the angler, he was unable to produce his fishing license or identification. The COs conducted a computer check through LEIN and discovered the subject was wanted on six misdemeanor warrants. The subject was arrested and lodged at the Branch County Jail.

CO Chris Reynolds, while patrolling Hillsdale County for ORV activity with Acting Sgt. Mike Drexler, observed an ORV with the operator not wearing a helmet. When the officers got closer to the ORV it was found that there were two occupants on the ORV, neither of which were wearing a helmet. A stop was conducted with other violations observed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds, while patrolling Hillsdale County, was passed by a vehicle at a high rate of speed. The officer utilized his radar and it was determined the vehicle was travelling consistently at speeds over 80 MPH in a 55 MPH zone. A traffic stop was conducted with the driver admitting he was speeding. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig was patrolling the Grand River when he contacted two anglers shore fishing. A check of the angler's catch revealed two undersize bass. The angler who had caught the bass stated he did not realize the fish were bass, but thought they were panfish. A check of the angler's previous DNR violations revealed he had been cited previously for possessing undersize bass. The angler was given a lesson in species identification and enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig was patrolling Lake Ovid when he observed a male and female angler fishing from a dock with their children. The CO contacted the anglers who informed him they did not have fishing licenses but were just taking their kids fishing and thought they didn't need a license. The CO informed the anglers he had been watching them for some time and had not seen their children touch the fishing rod. A check of the angler's

previous license purchases showed they had both bought licenses in previous years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was on marine patrol when he observed two men in a boat fishing. Upon contacting the two men, one had a license and the other claimed his was in the car. Upon running the subject, it was discovered that he did have a 2018 fishing license. Unfortunately for him, he also had a warrant for his arrest out of Kalamazoo County from 2012. When asked what the warrant was for, CO Goss discovered that the man had been caught fishing without a license and failed to take care of the ticket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was on marine patrol when he observed a man fishing on the dock at a DNR public boat launch. Upon checking the man, he told CO Goss that he had just purchased a license and that he had forgotten it at home. He also mentioned that he about swallowed his chewing tobacco when the clerk told him that the license was \$26. CO Goss ran the subject only to discover that he never purchased a license. When confronted with the news, the man claimed that he gave the money to his grandfather to purchase the license and that he may have forgotten to do it because he's old. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was on marine patrol on Goguac Lake when he observed a jet ski operating the wrong way around the lake, nearly causing an accident. Upon stopping the vessel CO Goss discovered that the operator was only thirteen years old and had never taken boater safety. CO Goss accompanied the teen back to a house where the owner of the vessel was contacted. The owner admitted that they were not aware of the laws regarding personal watercraft. CO Goss explained that in addition to being too young to operate a PWC, the child was unsupervised, not boater safety certified and operating the wrong direction around the lake nearly causing a crash. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss responded to a complaint of a subject holding a fawn in captivity inside of a fence. Upon arrival CO Goss learned that the deer was now in the house and the subject had been feeding it for more than a week. The subject mentioned that she had raised a deer once before, so people just bring them to her now. CO Goss asked her why she didn't just tell them to put the fawn back where they found it. She told CO Goss that she knows most fawns are not abandoned and that their mothers just leave them alone to keep them safe. She also claimed that she was trying to get a permit for the deer to make it legal, but also admitted she never contacted the DNR. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was checking anglers on Lobdell Lake when he contacted two adults and two children fishing in a boat. When asked if they had any fish, one of the adults pointed to a minnow bucket. CO Nickols checked the bucket and found that it contained four largemouth bass, the longest of which was 12.5 inches. The owner of the boat admitted to catching the bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was assisting a disabled vessel on Lobdell Lake when a PWC came between the vessel and shore at a high rate of speed. The PWC was within about 30 feet of the disabled vessel and shore. CO Nickols made a stop of the PWC for the violation and found it was being operated by a 16-year-old. He did have a boater safety certificate but was given a refresher on some of the PWC laws.

CO Todd Thorn was patrolling along the Grand River in Lansing early Sunday morning and found a group fishing from shore. CO Thorn noticed empty beer cans and cigarette packages in the river and matched the batch numbers with beer cans and cigarette packages possessed by them. The men stated that they weren't aware that they weren't allowed to throw things in the river in America and that they do that in their home country of Burma. The men initially denied littering until they realized that CO Thorn could match the batch numbers of the products. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a complaint involving persons keeping baby red squirrels that they had recently found. CO Thorn located the squirrels when he visited the residence. The residents were aware that they weren't supposed to possess the wildlife but didn't want them to die and didn't know what to do with them. CO Thorn told them about wildlife rehabilitators in the area and took the red squirrels to one nearby.

CO Larn Strawn gave a public presentation to a DeWitt Community Education Class. The class was called Animals in Action. CO Strawn presented information about conservation officer duties as well as information on hunting and fishing regulations.

CO Larn Strawn responded to a RAP complaint of a sick or injured deer. CO Strawn contacted and interviewed the complainant and quickly located the deer. The deer was bedded down near a pond. While observing the deer, CO Strawn noted the deer appeared healthy and well. After several moments the deer saw CO Strawn and fled the area. CO Strawn notified the complainant that the deer ran away and seemed to be healthy enough and there was no need for it to be dispatched at this time.

CO Chris Maher received a RAP complaint of a suspect who had wildlife in captivity without having the proper permit. CO Maher went to the suspect's residence where he witnessed the wildlife in captivity, however, the suspect was not home. COs Maher and Chris Reynolds returned the next day to talk with the suspect. The suspect was very uncooperative and stated she let the animal go and had witnesses to prove it. Enforcement action was taken for holding wildlife in captivity without a permit.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County when he was passed by an ORV. CO Slick turned around and initiated a stop. Once the ORV stopped, CO Slick noticed multiple violations. The ORV operator did not have a helmet on, the ORV wasn't registered and was traveling at a high rate of speed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Katie Stawara observed three anglers actively fishing at Shiatown Dam in Shiawassee County. When they noticed the CO truck pull up, they stowed their gear in the bushes and tried to walk past the officer without contact. When asked why, the three

anglers reluctantly admitted to not having fishing licenses and knowing they needed one. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither were working a late-night patrol on Devils Lake when they observed a vessel being operated in a careless manner. Before a stop was made the vessel and occupants drove by the officer's stationary vessel and yelled profanities. The COs were able to eventually make contact with the vessel and discovered, through sobriety testing, that the operator's blood alcohol level was almost 3 times the legal limit of .08. The operator was placed under arrest and lodged in the Lenawee County Jail for boating under the influence.

CO Brandon Hartleben worked an Operation Dry Water patrol on Whitmore Lake in conjunction with the lake's annual fireworks event. Numerous vessels were contacted throughout the evening to address issues of towing without an observer, failing to provide PFDs, no navigation lights after sunset, towing within 100ft. of an anchored vessel, operating a PWC after sunset, improper PFD for a child, missing vessel registration numbers & letters, and inoperable anchor lights. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jason Smith and CO Pete Purdy were first on scene for a personal watercraft accident resulting in a compound fractured leg. The officers conducted basic first aid, crowd control and traffic control until EMS arrived on scene

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither were flagged down at the Devils Lake public boat launch by an individual who had just been assaulted and had her purse and phone taken before the guy fled the scene on foot. CO Monnich drove around the small city and eventually made contact with the suspect who then fled on foot. CO Monnich pursued the individual on foot and a few blocks later he was taken into custody by CO Smither and a citizen. The suspect was placed under arrest for domestic violence and resisting a peace officer and lodged in the Lenawee County jail.

CO Brandon Hartleben conducted a late afternoon/evening Operation Dry Water patrol on the Portage Lake Chain. CO Hartleben and a Washtenaw County Marine Deputy made contact with a pair of jet skis on Big Portage Lake after observing them operating too closely to an anchored vessel and violating a no wake zone. The operators had owned the jet skis for several years but had never transferred the title on one and never re-titled/registered the other one after salvaging the vessel. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on Lake Ovid, CO Rich Nickols observed three subjects in a canoe paddle to a secluded area on the lake near the shore. CO Nickols continued to watch as one subject began smoking marijuana from a pipe and pass it to the other two subjects in the canoe. CO Nickols contacted the subjects and recovered additional marijuana from two of the subjects. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer was patrolling Lake Lansing when he observed a vessel towing two male juveniles on a tube that were not wearing PFDs. The two juveniles were thrown from the tube and appeared to be struggling to swim back to the tube as it was being blown away from them in 25mph winds. CO Neterer stopped the vessel and informed the operator of the violation. While checking the required safety equipment on board the vessel CO Neterer discovered that there were only two PFDs for the six occupants of the vessel, and the operator also could not produce a paper registration or a Type IV throwable. The operator accused CO Neterer of profiling and stated that she has been boating for over 15 years and has never been stopped before. When the woman received her citation, she felt it was necessary to inform CO Neterer that she knows the judges at the Ingham County Court. CO Neterer provided a Michigan boating law and responsibility guide and several warnings along with the citation.

COs Chris Maher and Katie Stawara were working marine patrol in their patrol boat while Sgt Troy Bahlau was spotting from shore at Clark Lake during Operation Dry Water. Late on Saturday night COs Maher and Stawara stopped a boat for traveling around the lake without the proper navigation lights, this also turned out to be the same vessel reported earlier from Sgt Bahlau for bow riding. Immediately upon contact, CO Maher noticed an open alcoholic beverage and several other unopened alcoholic drinks on board. After conducting a marine safety inspection, the COs felt the operator was intoxicated. CO Maher asked the subject to preform sobriety tests. With the help of CO Stawara and Sgt Bahlau the officers got the subject and his vessel safely to shore. After the investigation the COs determined the subject was well over the legal limit to safely operate a marine vessel. The subject was arrested and lodged at the Jackson County Jail.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Jessie Curtis was on foot patrol checking anglers at the Holloway Reservoir near Stanley road and found 3 subjects sitting in the woods, near the water. When CO Curtis walked up to the group she noticed they all had cans of beer. As soon as the subjects saw CO Curtis they put the beer cans down and set them as far as they could away from themselves. CO Curtis asked the group if they were of legal age to be consuming alcohol. They admitted that they were not of age. The oldest subject was 20, the other 2 subjects were 18. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jessie Curtis was patrolling on the Holloway Reservoir checking boaters. While out on the lake CO Curtis noticed a boat with an expired registration. A citation was given for the expired boat registration.

CO Jessie Curtis was leaving the Barnes Lake fireworks show around 11:30pm when she passed a female riding an ORV who was not wearing a helmet and displayed an expired ORV sticker from 1997. CO Curtis pulled the ORV over to find it was a 10-year-old female on the ORV. When CO Curtis contacted the juvenile's mom, the mother stated there was not a law that she needed to supervise her daughter while she rode the ORV, or that her daughter needed to wear a helmet, and that the ORV did in fact

have ORV stickers on it. CO Curtis informed her that in fact it was the opposite, and the 10-year-old also was out past curfew. Enforcement action was taken.

While on fisheries patrol in Macomb County, COs Brad Silorey and Joseph Deppen were conducting surveillance on a local river. The COs noticed an angler walking to his vehicle with a five-gallon bucket. CO Deppen approached the angler and while verifying his fishing license, CO Deppen noticed an extremely small channel catfish in the bucket. The angler said, "I cannot wait to put that in my pond, what is it?" CO Deppen educated the angler that it was a channel catfish and he cannot transport fish to separate bodies of water and release them. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on Lake St. Clair, COs Brad Silorey and Joseph Deppen noticed an angler fishing near a grassy island. The COs asked, how is the fishing today? The angler told the COs he had caught four walleyes. Upon inspection of the angler's cooler, seven walleyes were discovered. The angler said, "I'll just throw one back." The COs told the angler, that he was in possession of an over limit of walleye and enforcement action was taken.

While on a group marine patrol on Lake St. Clair, COs Pat Hartsig and Joseph Deppen contacted multiple boaters, kayakers, and anglers throughout the day. There were multiple violations addressed including: not enough life jackets aboard the vessels, children under six years of age not wearing a life jacket, no fire extinguisher, no fishing license, and expired registration. Each vessel was contacted, and enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol in the St. Clair River, COs Pat Hartsig and Joseph Deppen were checking an angler trolling for walleye. The angler said he had his limit, but he was still catching and releasing the walleye. CO Deppen began checking the live well and found the angler was in possession of seven walleye. The angler claimed to have miscounted, but said, "I swear I never keep more than six walleyes when I return to the boat launch." The COs explained to the angler he was in possession of seven walleyes and enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Brad Silorey conducted a traffic stop on an angler that was observed taking an over limit of walleye prior to him leaving the water by CO Dave Schaumburger. After the vessel had been stopped, it was found the angler also failed to disclose his CPL. which he had been arrested for last year by another CO. The illegal fish were seized, and enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Dave Schaumburger were patrolling near the Pine River in St. Clair County when they noticed a boat coming off the main river and park in a boat house. The COs found the location of the boat house across the river and contacted the angler while he was attempting to leave in his car. When asked how many fish he had, he replied he was over limit and was leaving quickly and left the fish in his boat because he had seen the COs following him. The fish were seized, and enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Dave Schaumburger were patrolling the St. Clair River near Algonac when they spotted a boat preparing to leave the launch in the middle of the night. The COs contacted the husband and wife team with two small children asleep on the bow of the boat on a tarp and in sleeping bags. When asked how they did, they produced an empty cooler and stated they got skunked because they were new to fishing. CO Hartsig instructed the angler to move his sleeping children and open his live well, which was underneath the children and sleeping bags. When he did CO Hartsig observed numerous walleye that filled the live well. After having them place their kids in their car seats and lecturing him on lying to police officers. The gross over limit of walleye was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol heading home at the end of his day, when he passed several anglers tucked behind a business fishing on a canal. CO Silorey turned around and checked how the anglers were doing fishing. CO Silorey pulled up and checked several anglers that were actively fishing. He also observed a person sitting in his vehicle that was not fishing but had his vehicle backed in near the other anglers. The man had his tailgate open and had a bucket in the back. CO Silorey walked over and looked in the bucket and observed a large number of sunfish. CO Silorey asked for the anglers fishing license and began to count the fish in the bucket. After counting the fish, CO Silorey walked over to the driver's side window. The angler handed CO Silorey his fishing license and asked, "how many do I got." CO Silorey then asked the angler for his driver's license and told the angler that he was over limit by 4 fish. The angler hung his head in disappointment and stated that he thought he stopped at 25. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey, Joseph Deppen, Patrick Hartsig, Ben Lasher, and Jessica Curtis participated in marine safety patrol for the annual "Jobbie Nooner" boat party at Gull Island on Lake St. Clair. The weather reduced the number of partiers this year, but the COs still stayed busy. The COs responded to multiple calls and were first on scene for many of them including: medical calls, fights, and other various calls. COs Silorey and Deppen were able to respond to several calls on the beach while patrolling on their PWCs.

While working marine patrol at Jobbie Nooner on Lake St. Clair, COs Brad Silorey and Joseph Deppen were flagged down by an individual who stated that there was a man face down passed out in the marsh. COs Silorey and Deppen quickly beached their PWCs and ran into the marsh and found the individual who was extremely intoxicated. Several other people stated that the man was trying to fight various people and then ran into the tall marsh vegetation where he was observed face down in the water. The man was escorted back to the beach where a medical patrol boat was waiting. The man was extremely uncooperative but was eventually transported back to shore.

COs Brad Silorey, Joseph Deppen, and Sgt. Todd Szyska conducted an illegal charter boat this week at a DNR boat launch in Macomb County. The COs received an

anonymous tip that the out of state subject was staying at a local hotel and was chartering during a two week stay in Michigan. The illegal charter operator came back into the launch with his clients after a day of fishing. The COs were able to interview him and his clients when they returned from their charter. Although the suspect had a Federal Coast Guard License, he has never filed to be a Michigan Charter Boat and has never been inspected in Michigan to be able to conduct charters on Michigan waters legally. Enforcement action was taken, and the subject posted a \$100 bond to assure his appearance back in Court.

COs Ray Gardner, Jesse Curtis, Keven Luther, Brad Silorey and Adam Beuthin worked Detroit River Day's in downtown Detroit. The officers were displaying some of the patrol equipment used by Michigan Conservation Officers all over the state. Answering questions the public had regarding law enforcement within the Department of Natural Resources and what a Michigan Conservation Officer does on a daily and seasonal basis. Officers also taught youth about firearm safety with the Hunter Safety laser shot trailer where people of all ages can learn how to handle a firearm while taking aim at the different simulated shooting courses.

CO Jason Becker responded to a RAP complaint of a subject possessing live raccoons. COs Becker and Jake Griffin interviewed the subject and he produced two live raccoons and stated that he applied to be a wildlife rehabilitator. CO Becker advised him on all of the regulations regarding wildlife rehabilitation and that he needed the permit before taking in any animals. During the conversation, the subject admitted to having the raccoons approximately two weeks before obtaining the rehabilitator application. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Oakland County, CO Jason Becker observed a dirt bike operating on the road. The subject looked back and saw CO Becker's patrol vehicle and sped off. CO Becker followed the subject and then attempted to make a stop. The subject attempted to turn and almost crashed. It was then that he decided to stop for CO Becker. A LEIN check revealed that the subject had two warrants, a suspended driver's license and an unregistered motorcycle. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Becker and Danielle Zubek were on patrol on Cass Lake and observed a jet ski operating within 100 feet behind a boat and then circle around and cut in front of the same boat. The COs stopped the jet ski and the boat came up to the COs advising them the subject on the jet ski was his daughter. The COs determined that the jet ski operator was seventeen years old and had not taken boater safety. All parties were advised of distance regulations and how dangerous their actions could have been. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights conducted a marine patrol on Lake Oakland. While on patrol, CO Knights saw a pontoon boat off in the distance with a woman fishing from the bow. CO Knights approached and just before getting to say a word, the women started crying. CO Knights asked for her identification, which she didn't have one on her person. CO Knights got her information verbally and ran the boat and her name

through dispatch. The woman continued to cry and stated what a bad day she was having while CO Knights gathered the information he needed. CO Knights advised the individual of the laws and stated she was fishing without a license. The woman advised CO Knights she was only catching and releasing the fish, but again CO Knights advised her of the laws. CO Knights issued the woman a citation and explained how to contact the court. Immediately after giving her the ticket, the woman stopped crying and started to use profane language towards CO Knights.

CO Christopher Knights was conducting a marine patrol on Lakeville Lake and observed a boat on the water pulling a tube with two riders. CO Knights noticed the vessel didn't have a spotter, which is required by law. CO Knights approached the vessel and activated his emergency lights on his jet ski and the vessel came to a stop. The operator immediately told CO Knights he knew what he was doing wrong. CO Knights explained that the law is for the rider's safety that he utilizes a spotter. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights conducted a marine patrol on Cass Lake. CO Knights observed multiple jet skiers coming in and out of a no wake zone and staying very close to shore and a swim area. After a few moments, one jet ski was headed in the wrong direction towards CO Knights. CO Knights activated his lights and the individual stopped. CO Knights advised the subject of the violations and the operator disagreed with CO Knights about the distance. CO Knights advised the operator to look behind him and observe water lines where his jet ski just went through. The operator acknowledged his wrong doing and CO Knights issued the operator a citation for operating within 100ft from shore and was given a warning for operating his jet ski in the wrong direction.

CO Jacob Griffin was patrolling Oakland County when he spotted two subjects fishing from a boat. As CO Griffin approached the two subjects they packed up their gear and drove off. CO Griffin launched his patrol boat and made contact with the two subjects who were still fishing. CO Griffin discovered that both subjects did not have a valid fishing license and the boat did not have a current registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on marine patrol in Oakland County when he spotted a personal watercraft (PWC) operating in a careless manner next to a designated swimming area. CO Griffin made contact with the subject to point out how close he was to the swim area. CO Griffin educated the subject on the operating distance requirements for a PWC and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on marine patrol when he spotted a personal watercraft (PWC) come extremely close to an anchored vessel where people were swimming. As CO Griffin approached the subject's vessel, he noticed something strange about the registration. CO Griffin ran the vessel's registration numbers and then the hull identification number. CO Griffin educated the subject on the operating distance requirements for a PWC. Additionally, CO Griffin pointed out to the operator that the

registration came back with no record and the vessel was never transferred to his name. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jacob Griffin, Jason Becker, and Danielle Zubek were patrolling Cass Lake in Oakland County. The COs spotted two personal watercraft (PWC) operating extremely close to an anchored vessel with swimmer's present. CO Griffin stopped one of the PWCs and discovered the operator was not wearing a proper personal flotation device required to operate a PWC. COs Becker and Zubek stopped the other operator and discovered that neither of his vessels displayed a registration and the operator did not have the required boating safety certificate to operate the PWC. The officers educated the subjects on the requirements to operate a vessel on Michigan waters, the laws specifically for PWCs, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on marine patrol in Oakland County when he spotted a personal watercraft (PWC) carelessly operating at high speeds within a "Slow-No-Wake" zone. As CO Griffin approached the subject's PWC he discovered that it did not display a registration. Additionally, CO Griffin remembered speaking with the operator one week prior for not displaying a registration. CO Griffin addressed both violations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin and CO Danielle Zubek were patrolling Oakland County when they discovered three juveniles operating mopeds on state land. As the COs addressed the issue they discovered that one subject was 13 and two were 14. Additionally, none of the juveniles were wearing helmets, one of the machines was not registered and the kids operated on a public roadway to get to the state land. The COs made contact with the parents to inform them that their kids were too young to ride alone, unlicensed, and on a public roadway. The COs also educated the parents that helmets are required for certain ages and operating the mopeds on state land is illegal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Danielle Zubek received a RAP complaint for a fawn stuck inside of a backyard fence. The caller reported that the doe was still coming back to the yard to feed the fawn and that it has not been abandoned. CO Zubek was able to locate the fawn and capture it without any injury to the deer. The fawn was released back to its mother.

While patrolling Cass Lake, CO Danielle Zubek and Jason Becker observed an angler fishing from a boat. The COs contacted the angler to check his fishing license. An RSS check revealed that he was fishing without a current fishing license and the boat showed an expired registration. A LEIN check showed that the subject had not attached the current registration decals. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Danielle Zubek and Jason Becker were patrolling Cass Lake when they noticed a PWC operating within 100 feet of an anchored vessel. The COs conducted a stop. While talking with the operator, the COs noticed that the PWC did not have his registration numbers or sticker attached to the vessel. The operator stated that he had the MC numbers and registration with him but didn't know he needed to place them on

the machine. The COs informed the operator that they needed to be placed on the machine. The COs determined that he was unaware for the rules and regulations and that he had not taken the boaters safety course which is required to operate a PWC. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser and John Kamps patrolled Lobdell Lake for fishing activity. The COs encountered a man fishing from a vessel anchored in a cove. The angler said that he had only caught a few small bluegill and did not have any fish on the boat. CO Kamps observed a fish basket on the back of the boat which was collapsed down. When CO Kamps looked closer, he saw fish at the bottom of the basket. The man lifted the basket and the COs observed two short bass along with several blue gill. The COs confronted the angler about his prior statement of not having any fish on the boat. The man stated that he just caught the bass and didn't have anything to measure them with. The bass measured 9" and 11.5". The man was issued a citation for possessing undersized bass.

While patrolling Lake Fenton for marine activity COs Justin Muehlhauser and John Kamps assisted a marine deputy with a vessel which had been stopped for not displaying a valid registration. The deputy advised the COs that the boat was new and valid under the temporary registration. The COs observed that the operator was unusually quiet and avoided eye contact. There were several people on the boat who appeared intoxicated. The COs approached the vessel and observed alcohol onboard. CO Kamps asked the operator if he had been drinking alcohol. It soon became apparent that the operator was also intoxicated. The operator submitted to standardized field sobriety tests. The operator was taken into custody and lodged for operating while intoxicated.

CO Justin Muehlhauser assisted Genesee County Deputies with a complaint of trouble on Lake Fenton. The caller reported a man on shore who was intoxicated and trying to fight people. When the CO arrived, the deputies had the subject in custody. Witnesses reported that the man arrived recklessly on a boat and when confronted by the other boaters he became belligerent. One victim claimed that he was struck in the head with a large PVC anchor post. Alcohol appeared to be a factor.

CO John Kamps was first on scene to a rollover accident. The individual was traveling down the freeway when his vehicle started to hydroplane due to the rain. The vehicle rolled into the ditch and landed on its side. CO Kamps ran up to the vehicle and located the driver of the vehicle trapped inside the car. CO Kamps was able to assist the driver in climbing up and out of the passenger window. CO Kamps provided care for the individual's injuries until EMS arrived on scene.

COs Keven Luther and Adam Beuthin were on marine patrol in North Maumee Bay when they observed a vessel that was not registered. While the COs were contacting the vessel a PWC was traveling at a high speed well within the 100' distance needing to be avoided by a PWC when a vessel is not underway. When CO Beuthin asked why the operator was traveling so fast and close to the vessels the response was "These are my

friends and I wanted to see what was going on.” The CO explained the violation and enforcement action was taken on both vessels.

COs Keven Luther and Adam Beuthin were on Marine Patrol on Lake Erie east of Luna Pier when CO Luther spotted a vessel traveling at a high rate of speed with passengers riding on the bow of the boat. The COs stopped the vessel, CO Luther explained the safety violation and enforcement action was taken.

COs Keven Luther and Adam Beuthin were on Marine Patrol in Brest Bay east of Sterling State Park observing boaters and PWC operators near the beach. The COs observed a PWC drive into the swim area to shore. After docking the patrol boat and contacting the operator on the beach CO Beuthin found out the PWC was unregistered. When asked why he drove through the swim area and onto the beach the operator responded, “Well I was being smart about it and I’ve seen other people do it.” The CO explained the extreme safety concern of operating in the swim area and the reasons why watercraft need to be registered. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Keven Luther and Adam Beuthin were on marine patrol in Wayne and Monroe counties over the weekend. The COs contacted many vessels and boaters recreating along the shores of Lake Erie and the Detroit River. While patrolling the River Raisin in Monroe county a vessel with a single occupant was operating with wake in a “no wake” zone. While contacting the boat CO Beuthin noticed the strong smell of intoxicants coming from the driver’s breath. When the CO asked if the driver had anything to drink today the response was “I’ve had one or two”. When the CO asked again the driver responded with “Okay I’ve had five or six”. CO Beuthin then had the driver shut off the vessel and administered an evaluation to determine if the operator was intoxicated. The driver was unsuccessful with completing the tasks the CO asked him to complete. CO Beuthin then operated the driver’s vessel back to dock and CO Luther escorted the operator in the patrol vessel. Once back to shore CO Beuthin conducted additional evaluations with the driver. After observing the individual’s performance of the evaluations and administering a PBT which showed a BAC of twice the legal limit the driver was arrested for a Boating Under the Influence.

CO Dan Walzak worked marine enforcement for the Ford fireworks detail on the Detroit River. A fair number of spectators attended the fireworks by water and the detail ran smoothly. Several boaters experienced difficulty in anchoring their vessels – largely due to not knowing water depth and not letting enough line out for the anchor to secure itself to the bottom. Officers offered quick advice which resulted in increased success.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Pat Hartsig and Nick Wellman worked a Belle Isle shift when MSP dispatch stated a male was walking towards the Macarthur Bridge with a knife. The COs were able to contact the man before he crossed onto the bridge. The subject was a minor that had escaped from a local behavioral center. The knife turned out to be a pair of scissors. The COs were able to arrange transport of the minor back to the behavioral center without incident.

CO Ben Lasher worked a busy afternoon shift on Belle Isle. He assisted MSP Troopers with traffic stops where the driver's or occupants of the vehicles had arrest warrants out for their arrest. During one assist, a Trooper had twisted his ankle while handcuffing the suspect and CO Lasher took control of the suspect and searched him before placing him in the back seat of his patrol unit and found multiple small baggies of suspected marijuana and nearly \$300.00 in counterfeit bills. The property and the suspect were turned over to MSP Troopers and lodged at the DDC on a warrant from the US Marshalls and Detroit PD.

During a Belle Isle shift, CO Ben Lasher was flagged down by beach goers who had found a 7-year-old boy who could not find his mother. The teens had walked the young boy around but did not have any luck and needed to leave. Others gave a description of the mother and after 20 minutes of walking around the beach area, the mother was found, and the boy was returned.

While working an afternoon shift on Belle Isle, Sgt. Todd Szyska and an MSP Trooper doubled up and took the side by side out to Hipster Beach and the Bath House areas. Officers encountered several subjects at Hipster Beach that had already consumed alcohol and had the containers emptied and lying around. Additionally, the Officers contacted two subjects lying in hammocks tied to trees on the east shore by the marble lighthouse. The two individuals were in possession of alcohol, cocaine, and other paraphernalia. Additionally, the officers covered the beach area and again encountered three other groups on the open beach that were illegally consuming alcohol. Enforcement action was taken

COs Daniel Prince, Josh Russell, and Joe Deppen along with Troopers from the Michigan State Police responded to a near drowning on Belle Isle near the US Coast Guard Station. CO Prince and an MSP trooper were first on scene and provided location information to EMS and fire rescue personal. The US Coast Guard, Detroit Police Department, and MSP helicopter Unit also responded. One of the victim's family members located the 17-year-old boy in approximately 10 feet of water. Detroit Fire Department personnel were able to recover the victim whowas transported by ambulance to the hospital.

While on patrol at Belle Isle, COs Dan Robinson and Sam Schluckbier were called to a variety of complaints. One involved a possible assault of a juvenile by an adult. CO Robinson was able to locate the suspect vehicle and make a traffic stop. During the interview with the subject, he admitted to disciplining his nephew. Troopers from the Michigan State Police interviewed the juvenile. The subject also had several warrants out for his arrest. In addition to the complaints, the COs patrolled an area where alcohol is common and contacted several groups in possession as it is prohibited on the island. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 21**

Detective Ken Cerny reports that on May 30, 2018 in the 4th District Court in Cassopolis Michigan, an Elkhart Indiana man plead guilty to one count of "Disturbing the Peace" and paid a fine of \$250. Original misdemeanor charges of disposing of septage waste on unpermitted land and hauling septage waste without a Michigan Septage License were dismissed as part of a plea deal.

Charges originated from a March 1, 2018 incident in Cass County where a Norway Septic Company tanker discharged 100 to 300 gallons of septage into a roadside ditch. The discharge occurred while efforts to stop a valve leak were in progress. The discharge was cleaned up within days of the incident and the company did get septage licensed in Michigan prior to appearing in court.

Detective Elton Luce reports that two contractors involved in the illegal dredging and filling of regulated wetlands were been convicted in the 91st District Court of Chippewa County. Both contractors plead guilty to one count each of Dredging/Filling a Regulated Wetland without a Permit, MCL 324.30304, under Part 303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. This case involved a large scale wetland violation that impacted approximately 18 acres of forested wetland and several streams. EIS Detective Luce was referred the case for criminal prosecution of those hired to perform the work at the site by the Water Resources Division. The landowner has been served with a civil suit through the State Attorney General's Office for restitution of the damages resulting from this illegal activity. One contractor received a \$1,625 fine and the other received a \$625 fine. No restitution was ordered by the District Court in lieu of the current civil case against the landowner.

Detective Ken Cerny reports that on May 30, 2018 in the 4th District Court in Cassopolis Michigan, Matthew Moseng of Elkhart Indiana plead guilty to one count of "Disturbing the Peace" and paid a fine of \$250. Original misdemeanor charges of disposing of septage waste on unpermitted land and hauling septage waste without a Michigan Septage License were dismissed as part of a plea deal. Charges originated from a March 1, 2018 incident in Cass County where a Norway Septic Company tanker discharged 100 to 300 gallons of septage into a roadside ditch. The discharge occurred while efforts to stop a valve leak were in progress. The discharge was cleaned up within days of the incident and the company did get septage licensed in Michigan prior to appearing in court.