

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
10/3/11 – 10/16/11**

DISTRICT 1

CO Ryan Aho was off duty and in his personal vehicle when he witnessed a subject in a car drive head-on into a bridge overpass abutment. When he arrived a few seconds later, the female driver had fled the scene on foot. Officer Aho followed the woman and directed responding police to her location.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a fire that occurred in western Marquette County that started from a campfire that was left unattended. When the two subjects returned to their camping site, they found that all of their camping gear and clothing had been burned up. Additionally, the fire passed underneath their vehicles but luckily the vehicles didn't catch on fire. A ticket was issued for allowing a fire to escape.

CO Marvin Gerlach contacted two subjects riding double on an unregistered ORV. They weren't wearing helmets, were transporting an uncased bow, and one of them didn't have a hunting license in possession. When CO Gerlach checked for prior violations on this subject, he discovered that the subject had eight prior game violations since 1990. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dennis Gast and Doug Hermanson worked late shooters at the Arnheim Waterfowl area. Three subjects were caught shooting one-half hour after the close of waterfowl season. One tribal hunter was turned over to tribal officers; the other two were ticketed in state court.

CO Doug Hermanson wrote a ticket to a hunter who threw his gun and a dead grouse in the ditch when approached. He didn't have a small game license and was not wearing hunter orange.

CO Brian Bacon contacted an ORV operator who was not wearing a helmet. The subject was a nonresident who was also carrying a concealed pistol without a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon located a subject hunting from an illegal blind on state land. The subject was also hunting over a large bait pile and admitted to driving to his hunting location on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon deployed the grouse decoy in Dickinson County to target road hunting activity. It did not take long for a subject to be contacted with a loaded shotgun sticking out the window of the truck, in an attempt to shoot the decoy. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Wicklund and Brian Bacon worked Iron County grouse hunters by deploying the grouse decoy at several different locations. With local grouse tournaments bringing many hunters out, violations increased with over a dozen violations encountered during the day. Violations included no hunter orange, no hunting license, uncased guns, no helmets on ORVs, and operating ORVs in closed areas.

COs Jason Wicklund and Brian Bacon stopped at a local camp to check for baiting compliance. For the past six years, the camp has been in violation of the state's baiting laws. Once again the COs observed violations and ticketed the camp members for establishing baits before October 1st and overlimits of bait. The camp members were asked why they continue to bait when they know the COs would check. They said they hoped the Officers would have forgotten and taken a year off.

DISTRICT 2

CO Reid Roeske received a report of a dead deer found near a roadway in a residential area. The caller said the deer appeared to have been shot. When CO Roeske arrived, the city road workers had already removed the deer. The complainant showed where the deer had been and by back tracking the blood trail, CO Roeske was able to locate where the deer had been shot. At that location, a light in a tree and a bait pile was also found. From that location, CO Roeske saw a portable blind in the back yard of another residence. After a short discussion with the resident at that location, a confession was obtained for shooting after dark while using the light. The subject's crossbow was seized and condemnation will be sought.

Area COs conducted a group patrol on the Manistique River to address snagging complaints. Numerous contacts were made with violators, resulting in nine arrests, seizure of fishing gear and several warnings. Over 180 pounds of salmon were seized. Restitution for the fish is being requested.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon was checking an area near an abandoned railroad grade. After parking on the grade, CO Fitzgibbon hiked the area for over three hours. When he returned to his vehicle and started driving, he met a vehicle that had to have driven by his parked patrol truck. The driver had two loaded, uncased guns in the vehicle and his driving privileges were suspended. When asked why the guns were loaded after he had driven past the parked patrol truck, the driver said "I knew you had me". With that, CO Fitzgibbon seized the guns and issued a ticket for the uncased/loaded guns in a motor vehicle.

CO Reid Roeske ticketed a subject for taking a deer that didn't meet the Upper Peninsula antler restriction. After the subject shot the deer and dragged it near the roadway, he hiked back into the woods to find his buddy who had a non-restricted kill tag. While looking for his buddy, he became lost. CO Roeske made his initial contact with the subject when searchers wondered what to do with the deer.

Well after dark one night, CO John Wenzel found a parked vehicle. He waited just down the road until the hunter came out and approached the vehicle without the aid of a light. CO Wenzel contacted him and found he was bow hunting without a license. The reason he didn't come out earlier was that he saw CO Wenzel driving toward his vehicle and thought he could wait him out. A ticket was issued.

CO John Wenzel observed a vehicle driving on a state forest road. The vehicle was driving slowly, braking numerous times as it approached open areas in the woods. Upon contact, the driver said he had just been bird hunting. CO Wenzel found he had an uncased gun on his seat along with shot shells close at hand, had no hunter orange with him and had no license. Tickets were issued and the gun was seized. CO Wenzel then drove about a quarter mile further down the road and contacted the first subject's father, who was hunting without any hunter orange. Another ticket was issued, along with a short discussion of proper teaching moments available to the father.

COs Mike Hammill and Derek Miller observed two subjects operating ORVs without helmets at a high rate of speed. One subject was a young juvenile, and upon contact it was learned that the other subject was the juvenile's dad. The father thought that he wasn't doing anything wrong and was upset with getting a ticket.

CO Kellie Nightlinger was on routine patrol and checked a parcel of private property with a history of trespassers. The CO located a group of rabbit hunters who had walked right by "No Trespassing" signs and crossed over a closed gate. Tickets were issued for recreational trespass.

CO Kyle Publiski responded to an overbaiting complaint. Upon contact the subject assured the CO that they would never overbait and explained that he knew the restrictions of two gallons. The CO and the subject went to visit the bait sights. Each baited area was in excess of 50 - 70 sugar beets. The subject claimed that he thought he could fit all 50 beets into two gallon jugs. He then tried to explain that maybe it was three or four gallons. Further investigation revealed that each bait site was 20 gallons or more and a ticket was issued for overbaiting.

DISTRICT 3

COs Steve Speigl, Andrea Albert, Andrea Erratt and Sgt. Mike Borkovich were called in to assist in locating a family group lost in Antrim County that included two 2 year olds. The COs used new handheld GPS units to track the lost hikers to their exact location by monitoring a signal from their cell phones. They were located deep within a swampy area after 10:00 p.m.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a snagging complaint at 3:00 a.m. that was turned in to the Report-All-Poaching (RAP) hotline and arrested an individual snagging salmon behind the Elk Rapids Power Dam.

Sgt. Mike Borkovich also issued salmon snagging tickets at the Elk Rapids Power Dam and arrested three people for fishing violations, as well as two others on outstanding warrants for assault, fail to appear in court, and violation of the controlled substance act. Both subjects also had issues for operating on suspended licenses. One of the subjects threw down his fishing pole and attempted to flee on foot before he realized that the CO was running less than 20 feet behind him.

CO Eric Bottorff worked a recreational trespass complaint on a coastal stream, and found a subject attempting to take salmon with a gaff hook. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Feagan observed three subjects fishing in a closed area and snagging. Three tickets were issued, and one subject was arrested and lodged on an outstanding warrant.

CO Mike Feagan watched a subject snag a fish and then sell it to another man on the river. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Sklba responded to a RAP complaint and observed three non-residents who were snagging. Three tickets were issued; one was for 2nd offense snagging.

CO John Sklba worked a complaint that began with deer carcasses dumped off a road. CO Sklba found a trail camera overlooking the carcasses (for predators). He found photographs of the subjects on the camera and made contact. None of the three deer had been tagged, they were illegally taken over bait, and there were ORV violations. Enforcement action was taken.

COs John Sklba and Bill Webster conducted an ORV patrol in a state land area that has been torn up by four-wheelers and dirt bikes. Two juveniles were stopped operating in a closed area, without helmets and without adult supervision. The youngsters were escorted home and the parents ticketed for the lack of supervision.

CO Mark DePew contacted a hunter in the woods and while talking about past success admitted to shooting a four point and then a seven point buck with his bow in the 2010 hunting season. The only problem is that he had only bought one archery license last year. Upon being presented with the information he admitted to using his girlfriend's tag on the seven point. The deer was seized from a local taxidermist and charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Mark DePew saw a truck parked near an intersection partially blocking one of the lanes of traffic. When CO DePew contacted the driver he was told he had a CCW and his pistol was on his hip. The CO also observed a half empty bottle of whiskey and a second pistol in the cab of the truck. A check of the pistols revealed one of them was unregistered and it was seized. The driver is being charged with possession of an unregistered pistol and possession of open intoxicants.

CO Mark DePew stopped a truck occupied by two subjects who admitted that they had just finished hunting. Inside the vehicle CO DePew observed open intoxicants and an uncased bow. The driver also had a suspended driver's license and the passenger did not have a hunting license; they were ticketed for their violations.

COs Bill Webster and John Sklba were patrolling an area closed to ORV operation when they contacted a 15 year old driving a four wheeler. The youth had taken his brother's ORV without permission. The COs followed the youth back to his residence and noted he had trespassed to get to the state land. When his father was contacted he was ticketed for allowing his son to operate unsupervised.

CO Bill Webster contacted three duck hunters on the Devils River and found one of the hunters did not have any type of hunting license. The hunter stated he knew he was in the wrong but figured he was not going to get checked so he did not buy a license.

CO Bill Webster contacted a hunter driving around on state land who complained of having a very slow deer season and that he'd only seen a couple of deer. CO Webster discovered the subject had not purchased a hunting license and his driver's license was suspended. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Rich Stowe responded to a complaint of a subject attempting to register a black bear taken during the closed season. The investigation revealed that the subject had shot the bear with a rifle during the archery only season. It was also determined that the subject shot the bear in the wrong bear management unit. The black bear was seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Rich Stowe followed up on a complaint in a State Forest Campground (SFC) where subjects failed to pay for their stay, cut live trees to burn and left the site littered. The subjects were located and tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Rebecca Hopkins observed a young subject snagging salmon at Homestead Dam on the Betsie River. When contacted the subject handed the CO a fishing license with a date of birth that would indicate he was twice the age the subject appeared. Further investigation revealed that the subject failed to purchase a license and had taken his father's without permission. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse watched an individual foul hook and place several salmon on a stringer. As CO Converse approached the subject to question him about his activities, the angler untied the stringer of fish and threw them into the river. Unfortunately for the subject, CO Converse was downstream and the fish floated to the Officer, who was able to recover one of the fish. The subject was ticketed for retaining foul hooked fish and for fishing without a license.

CO Steve Converse watched two separate groups, each with six subjects fishing with two in-line treble hooks with two lead lures tied on below the in-line treble hooks. After watching the subjects for some time, it was determined that every person was snagging fish and fishing with illegal gear. CO Converse eventually made contact with the subjects and ticketed all 12 subjects for snagging fish.

After receiving complaints of fishing on closed portions of Pine Creek, CO Carla Soper set up surveillance on a group of subjects who were snagging and netting salmon. CO Soper contacted CO Steve Converse to assist as the group had split up, some still snagging while others had taken fish up to a camp to be processed. Both COs were able to apprehend the violators and over 220 pounds of illegally taken salmon was seized. Four subjects were ticketed for snagging, one of which was a second offense, and two of the subjects were ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint of illegal fishing activity at Tippy Dam which resulted in the arrest of five subjects for attempted snagging, retaining foul hooked fish and use of illegal fishing equipment.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint of snagging at Tippy Dam and watched two subjects fishing, one of whom retained a foul hooked salmon. When contacted, only one of them could produce a fishing license. The unlicensed subject stated that his fishing privileges had been revoked and that he only had until January 2012 before the revocation expired. When asked why he was fishing he replied that he just couldn't wait. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Bomay was patrolling in Mecosta County after receiving information of a pickup truck whose occupants were shooting deer from the vehicle. Sgt. Bomay was able to conduct a stop on a vehicle in the area that matched the description of the subject. Upon contact with the driver, Sgt. Bomay observed an uncased bow with a single arrow and broadhead in the vehicle. The case to the bow was in the pickup bed with the remainder of the arrows. Also located in the vehicle was a .17 caliber rifle. Sgt. Bomay also seized a significant amount of marijuana and paraphernalia. The marijuana had a medical marijuana label on the bag but the subject was not a medical marijuana patient. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel received a RAP complaint of a buck head with no tag attached. Upon contact with the hunter it was determined that the deer had already been processed. When CO Lebel inquired as to the whereabouts of the license used for taking the deer, the subject provided an unvalidated tag from his wallet. CO Lebel inquired why the subject did not validate his tag and attach it to the deer. The subject responded, "I never tag my deer". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel checked a husband and wife exiting the woods with a six point buck tagged with a restricted combination license attached and validated except for the antler section of the tag. Upon interviewing the two hunters, it was determined that the male had also shot a six point earlier in the season and used his restricted tag as well.

CO Lebel followed the couple back to their residence and located another buck tagged improperly. CO Lebel seized the six point buck, issued a ticket and provided verbal warnings on improperly tagging game to both subjects.

CO Troy VanGelderren was patrolling the White River on foot when he located a subject from Indiana who was snagging salmon with an illegal weighted snag hook. The subject was upset when he received a ticket and stated that the sporting goods store he purchased the device from should not be allowed to sell them. CO VanGelderren agreed and asked where the subject purchased such a device. The subject stated in Indiana close to the Michigan border.

CO Troy VanGelderren was checking waterfowl hunters and came across two subjects operating a boat with expired registration and no personal flotation devices (PFDs). One of the subjects was also using an unplugged shotgun. The operator of the vessel stated that his grandmother just scolded him for not having any lifejackets in the boat. Tickets were issued to address the marine safety violations.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol when he observed five subjects looking down at something behind a vehicle. Upon contact with the group CO Wells located eight salmon on the ground behind the vehicle. Through interviews, the CO determined that the subjects were taking salmon with their hands and feet in Ruby Creek. None of the individuals possessed a valid fishing license or fishing poles. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn was called to a complaint of burning debris during a time of high fire danger. There were no burn permits being issued when the subject burned his trash. The fire escaped his control and burned the adjacent forest lands. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn was finally able to contact a hunter who had over a dozen hunting stands on public land. There were illegal roads made to various stands and numerous shooting lanes cut at each location. Without a name and address on the stands, CO Hearn was forced to contact the subject at one stand while the subject was hunting. The subject had also failed to purchase a hunting license.

CO Jon Warner quickly responded to a complaint of snagging on the Au Sable River in a remote area. CO Warner was able to observe the subject before the angler's spouse could alert him that a CO may be in the area. The subject promptly ended his angling and headed out but was contacted by CO Warner. The subject was ticketed and the illegal snag hook seized.

CO Chris Bowen was called to assist local police during a search warrant on a residence. The subject not only had chickens running loose in the house, but a wild turkey had been given free reign of the basement. When asked about the turkey, the

homeowner stated it came from state land, but decided to recant the story when told it was illegal to possess.

CO John Huspen located a hunting stand with too much bait, no name and address on the stand, and a food plot had been created around the blind on state land. CO Huspen later contacted a youth hunter at the stand. The youth did not have adult supervision while hunting, he was also on his third year of hunting with an apprentice license and had failed to take a hunter safety course and purchase a regular hunting license. The young hunter's parents were contacted and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jean Davis contacted two ORV operators riding on public land who had just come from state land closed to ORV operation. The subjects, who were not wearing helmets or eye protection, had open intoxicants that they had been consuming, and were in the process of taking wood from state land without a permit.

CO Jon Warner contacted an ORV operator riding on a closed area of public land in Oscoda County. When asked where he was coming from, the operator indicated he was just out riding. CO Warner was able to backtrack the ORV to a hunting blind with fresh bait. There was no name or address on the blind. The subject admitted the blind and bait were his.

While patrolling the back roads of Gladwin County, CO Mark Papineau observed a vehicle in the distance that was stopping repeatedly and backing up in the middle of the roadway. As CO Papineau approached, it became evident that the subjects were unlawfully shining for deer in a nearby field after 11:00 p.m. CO Papineau stopped the subjects who advised they were hunting on nearby property and wanted to see what deer were in the area.

CO Mark Papineau followed up on a tip from CO Steve Lockwood regarding a subject who had put out an excessive amount of bait prior to the archery deer opener. The subject also used screw-in step devices on public land and failed to identify his tree stand with his name and address. After several attempts, CO Papineau made contact with the hunter who immediately advised that he never thought he would be checked.

COs Steve Lockwood and Mark Papineau received a complaint from the Beaverton City Police of a dead fawn lying on the shoulder of the road within the City limits. When they arrived on scene, the COs determined it had been killed with a bow and arrow and they were able to track the blood trail to a residence across the street. The blood trail ended over a backyard bait pile that was illuminated by a conveniently placed spotlight. Contact was made with the homeowner who confessed to shooting the deer from his barn at 11:30 p.m. with his crossbow and the aid of the spotlight. He also confessed to illegally shooting another deer earlier in the week.

While working a shining enforcement flight, CO Brian Olsen was directed by the airplane to a vehicle whose occupants were shining. Officer Olsen stopped the vehicle

and found three subjects dressed in camouflage clothing in possession of an uncased, loaded .22 rifle.

CO Brian Olsen passed a golf cart being operated on a county roadway and observed they were carrying a rifle. Officer Olsen stopped the subject and found a loaded, uncased .30-.30 rifle. The subject had no hunting license and was not wearing hunter orange. When asked why he had the rifle, he stated he was hunting wild pigs.

DISTRICT 6

COs Seth Rhodea and Josh Wright teamed up and checked duck hunters on opening weekend. After watching a group of hunters for awhile, the COs watched one of the hunters shoot his limit of geese and then try to shoot additional geese unsuccessfully. Upon contact with the hunter, it was discovered that he had a total of five mallards in his possession, with four of those being hens, as well as having an unplugged gun. Another member of the hunting party also had two extra hen mallards. Tickets were issued for taking overlimits of hen mallards and attempting to take an overlimit of geese.

CO Chad Foerster was working the "Hot Ponds" on the Saginaw Bay when he came into contact with two anglers fishing near the gates, the boundary for boats and anglers to legally fish. The anglers were in possession of 90 channel catfish, 70 over the legal limit of 10 per angler. Enforcement action was taken and the catfish were seized.

CO Chad Foerster was working the Saginaw Bay during the opener of the waterfowl season. CO Foerster observed a tender boat under power with a loaded firearm and then watched the hunter shoot and kill wounded ducks from the boat while still moving forward. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was checking a group of anglers when he found a subject in possession of a short pike. The subject was issued a ticket and sent on his way. When CO Wright continued to check the rest of the anglers in the area, one of them told the CO that he told the first angler that the fish was too short and that he should have thrown it back.

CO Jason A. Smith was checking waterfowl hunters around the Fish Point Area when he encountered a 10 year old hunting waterfowl without a plug in his gun. Officer Smith informed the youth of the violation and gave him and his father a verbal warning.

CO Holly Pennoni responded to a complaint of someone who was in possession of a coyote in a dog kennel. The coyote had been removed from the wild in the spring when it was just pup. The person who removed the coyote from the wild raised it without having a permit to rehabilitate wildlife. The coyote was removed and taken to a licensed rehabilitator. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni responded to the report of a capsized vessel where five waterfowl hunters were hunting a few miles offshore on Saginaw Bay when waves started going

over the bow and filling their vessel with water. The bilge pump could not keep up with the amount of water, nor could the occupants, as they tried to bail water with a bucket. The vessel capsized and all five hunters were clinging to the vessel without any lifejackets. Good Samaritans from Linwood Beach Marina and local fire department personnel immediately responded to the scene, risking their own safety. They were able to pull all five victims from the water and return to shore safely where medical personnel were standing by to treat them for severe hypothermia.

CO Dan Lee was checking duck hunters during the south zone opener. Compliance was good but within 15 minutes the CO contacted two separate parties where a hunter was using an unplugged gun. One was loaded with four and both could hold five shells. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling after dark in the Au Sable State Forest CO Larn R. Strawn located a vehicle shining for game. Upon intercepting the vehicle and contacting the driver, the CO observed the driver acting suspicious and keeping his left hand low below the side window and out of sight. The CO asked the driver to see his hands. Reluctantly the driver raised up a freshly opened beer. The teenage passenger was also harboring a fresh beer between his feet. This was the driver's second offense for the same violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg was patrolling state land and encountered a parked vehicle that had blood on it. The CO returned to the vehicle's location at dark and contacted the hunters as they returned to the vehicle. A quick check of their licenses revealed that both hunters still had their licenses. After a lengthy interview, one of the subjects admitted to shooting a five point and not tagging it because he wanted to shoot another deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg received a call at home requesting his assistance with a patrol boat for a suicidal subject on a local lake. The CO responded to the lake and located the subject's boat with the assistance of local deputies. The boat was beached on state land, and the officers advised dispatch they believed the subject was heading toward a county road approximately one-half mile away. A deputy called out on the radio that he located the subject at the given location. The deputy requested backup as he was being assaulted, and the officers responded on foot, and located the deputy and the subject. The subject was subdued and arrested for felony assault on a police officer.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Chad Foerster were on patrol when they received a call of suicidal juvenile holding a knife to someone's throat. Upon arrival at the scene the COs and a deputy entered the residence and assisted the subject's mother with de-escalating the situation. The officers stood by until medical personnel arrived and the juvenile was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

CO Quincy Gowenlock and a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper searched for a duck hunter who was trespassing on private property. The officers found the subject's truck which contained ducks in the bed. Approximately 20 minutes later the officers observed

a subject walking through the woods. Upon contact he advised he had permission to hunt from the landowner. This was confirmed to not be the case. Shortly thereafter, another trespassing hunter came off the property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person, working a tip from a local deputy, contacted a subject who was in possession of a four point buck which was not tagged. After a short interview, the individual confessed to shooting the buck in the city limits and failed to tag it as he was saving his tag for the rest of the season. A warning was issued for hunting within the city and a ticket was issued for failing to tag the deer.

CO Jeremy Payne investigated a photo and article in the Saginaw Valley Shopper where a youth had taken two bucks during the youth deer season. Through the investigation with the youth and his parents it was confirmed that the youth did shoot two bucks during this one buck only season. The youth and parents were educated on the laws and rules of the youth deer season.

CO Jeremy Payne stopped three ORVs driving down the middle of a county road in Mt. Pleasant. All advised they were just going right down the road to a friend's house. The CO asked where the friend's house was. The house was over five miles away. The operators also had no ORV licenses, no helmet and no eye protection. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Payne, with his patrol boat in tow, was at the access site on Coldwater Lake last week during the high winds. The CO looked out onto the lake and only saw one sailboat on the water. Just as the CO was going to leave he observed the sailboat flip over and the single occupant go into the cold water. The CO saw that the occupant did have a lifejacket on but could not right the boat and get back in. The CO launched his patrol boat and was able to pull the elderly boater into the patrol boat. The CO then made sure the boater was able to get back to his residence where he could warm up.

DISTRICT 7

CO Steve Mooney ticketed a subject who had taken a fish from a closed trout stream. Upon contact with the subject, it was discovered that the subject had been ticketed the day before by CO Mike Mshar for also fishing on a closed stream.

Sgt. Zach Doss and CO Steve Mooney teamed up to work snagging issues on the Black River system. A total of eight arrests were made for snagging and illegal gear, with 80 pounds of illegal salmon seized.

CO Andy Bauer located approximately 500 salmon holding on a spot on the St. Joseph River. CO Bauer worked the location for violations. A total of five arrests were made for snagging and other violations.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a complaint of two drunk and disorderly subjects at the Allegan Dam along the Kalamazoo River. One of the subjects was observed falling

down the steps along the dam, which resulted in lost teeth. One of the subjects was arrested on an outstanding warrant and the other was advised to leave the area. Local anglers applauded the CO's actions.

COs Chuck Towns, Mike Mshar and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers worked the waterfowl opener in the Ottawa Marsh. Arrests were made for using lead shot, unplugged guns, several marine safety violations and for the illegal taking of a protected shorebird.

While conducting surveillance along a closed trout stream CO Patrick McManus heard the unmistakable sound of fish being thrown into the bed of a truck. Contact was made with two subjects who had two salmon in the bed of their truck, as a third subject was walking up with two more. One of the subjects claimed they found the fish dead along the stream, as the CO watched the still live salmon flopping at his feet in the landing net. The subjects were ticketed for no fishing licenses and for the illegal methods of take. Over 50 pounds of fish were confiscated.

While conducting surveillance along an open trout stream CO Patrick McManus attempted to contact a subject who immediately took off running. The CO was able to catch the subject and located a second subject hiding along the stream. A very long handled net was located along with an illegally caught salmon next to the second subject.

While on patrol for waterfowl hunting activity on Thornapple Lake, CO Gary Raak observed a subject shoot a wood duck 15 minutes after legal shooting hours. While contact was made with the subject's stepson and hunting partner, he fled the scene. A records check indicated the subject was wanted for two felony warrants. The subject's firearm was confiscated at the scene of the crime. Contact was made with the subject the next day at his residence by CO Cary Foster in Ionia County and he was lodged for the warrants. The subject was ticketed for hunting after legal hours and for not having flotation devices in his boat.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers contacted a father and his stepson who were archery deer hunting in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. The father had not purchased his hunting license and had two outstanding warrants, and drove down from Grand Rapids on a suspended driver's license. The CO turned the juvenile over to his mother and the father was arrested and lodged at the Kent County Jail.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers observed two subjects waterfowl hunting a local lake in Barry County. When the subjects saw the CO coming up to the access site they began to quickly unload their firearms. Enforcement action was taken for operating a motorboat with loaded firearms, and for not having PFDs in their boat.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers and CO Patrick McManus responded to a safety zone complaint of waterfowl hunters hitting a house with shot. Too many geese and not enough licensed hunters were located. A discussion of safety issues was addressed and arrests were made with two subjects for being unlicensed and two geese were confiscated.

CO Dave Rodgers was observing three subjects on a bridge over Buck Creek in Kent County where numbers of salmon were spawning. One subject had a large treble hook tied to his line and continued to fish with the bare hook. When contacted the subject quickly admitted to attempting to snag fish and his law violations.

DISTRICT 8

COs Kyle Bader, Brad Brewer, Jeff Walker, Rich Nickols, Al Mendez, and Todd Thorn worked numerous group patrols to address the illegal snagging of salmon in the Grand River. One subject who was observed illegally snagging salmon was a repeat offender and had been caught illegally snagging the previous year. Numerous offenders have warrants for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the local game area, CO Jason J. Smith observed six subjects illegally smoking marijuana. All subjects were between 16 and 17 years of age. The parents were called and enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a trespass complaint, Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Damon Owens checked a group of hunters who had no registration or navigation lights on their watercraft. The subjects were also missing the required PFDs. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Damon Owens received a complaint that a deer was illegally killed at 2:00 a.m. with a crossbow. The COs went to the complainant's residence to obtain more information and located an untagged buck in the complainant's garage. The complainant had no explanation as to why the buck was untagged. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the local recreation area, CO Shane Webster located an abandoned vehicle with a license plate that expired in 2007. The vehicle was stolen from Livonia in 2009. CO Webster recovered the stolen vehicle and turned it over to the Livonia Police Department.

On two separate occasions, COs Jeff Walker and Todd Thorn located vehicles parked in the local game area where the occupants were in possession of illegal marijuana. The evidence was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader asked a subject who was archery hunting for his hunting license. CO Bader knew something was amiss when the subject stated he left the license in his other pants. The subject finally admitted that he was hunting without the proper license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bader responded to a complaint that a subject out hunting was trespassing. When CO Bader contacted the subject, he was dressed in full camo carrying a .22 rifle and archery equipment. Not only was the subject trespassing but he was hunting within a

safety zone with no hunting licenses. The subject was also actively cooking meth in a makeshift clandestine lab. The sheriff department drug team was called in to dismantle the hazardous meth lab. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss contacted two nonresident subjects who stated they were helping some hunters track a deer. When their story didn't add up, CO Goss investigated further and found that the nonresidents shot a button buck illegally without purchasing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn investigated a large plume of black smoke and located an illegal pile of burning debris. The subjects on scene were burning hazardous material including tires, paint cans, and plastic car parts. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn stopped an ORV operating on a roadway. The driver of the vehicle was not wearing a helmet and had his young son on a vehicle designed for only one person. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols contacted a group of three subjects who were returning to their vehicle after a day of hunting. One of the subjects had only a private antlerless tag with him even though he was hunting on public land. One of the subjects had just finished smoking a marijuana cigarette and had more marijuana in his possession. One of the subjects drove to the location on a suspended driver's license, and an uncased bow was located inside the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Todd Szyska and Sgt. Tom Wanless worked Lake St. Clair for the waterfowl opener and contacted several waterfowl hunters. One group of hunters informed the COs that they observed another group shoot at a flock of mallards and one dropped; however, the hunters never attempted to retrieve it. The COs retrieved the bird and contacted the hunting party. The group did not realize they had downed the duck. One of the hunters did not have a state waterfowl license. Enforcement was taken.

CO Todd Szyska came across a boat of bass anglers in possession of a cormorant on the bottom of the boat. The anglers stated they had picked it up from the lake. The CO explained that there was no possession/taking of non-game birds. The bird was seized and a ticket was issued.

While on waterfowl patrol, CO Todd Szyska observed a subject fishing from shore with five lines. Four of the lines were large fishing poles, while the fifth pole was made from a cattail stem. When CO Szyska contacted the subject he dropped the cattail stem pole in the water. The CO was able to retrieve the pole and issued a ticket for fishing with more than three lines.

CO Ken Kovach was asked to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with a waterfowl baiting complaint. The CO set up surveillance in the early morning hours of

the opener and watched and documented the subjects for several hours. As the subjects were loading up after the hunt, the CO contacted them. The subjects were not baiting; however, three of the subjects had overlimits of geese. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a call from a deputy requesting that CO Kovach assist him with wildlife issues he encountered on a traffic stop. The CO responded and when he arrived, the deputy showed CO Kovach a 10-point buck head in the bed of the pickup truck without a kill tag. CO Kovach interviewed the subject who admitted he had shot the deer earlier in the evening and took the carcass to his parents' barn to hang. The subject did not have a hunting license and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a littering complaint from Ortonville Recreation Area personnel where someone dumped two pick-up truck loads of household trash in the recreation area. Through his investigation, CO Kovach tracked subjects down to Pontiac and Clarkston where he got confessions from the subjects. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett completed working on a Wildlife Division complaint of a possible illegally held captive deer. The POC facility had been legal in the past, but the owner admitted that he let the paperwork lapse. A ticket was issued for operating an unregistered POC facility.

CO Mark Ennett worked for two days assisting the Ohio Division of Wildlife investigate an unlawfully killed deer as a follow up on a Facebook posting of the hunt. The hunter trespassed into a closed area and killed a 13 point buck. When the hunter reported the kill to the Ohio phone in registration system, he claimed the deer was shot several counties away. CO Ennett located the deer at a Michigan deer processor during the course of a routine inspection and reported his findings to the Ohio Officers. Three Officers from Ohio, CO Ennett, and a local deputy returned to the processor the following day and seized the deer. DNA tests will be done by Ohio, but the individual admitted his guilt during an interview.

CO Mark Ennett checked a pair of waterfowl hunters and found that one hunter had 12 lead shot shells. Even though CO Ennett was using the shot shell detector, the hunter argued they were steel shot shells. He went so far as to open one and physically check the shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak was on patrol when he observed a subject sprinting from a local grocery store, jump on a bicycle and quickly ride away. CO Walzak followed the subject, attempting to stop him to question him. The subject ignored all of the CO's attempts to get him to stop and led the CO into a nearby subdivision where CO Walzak finally caught up with him. When CO Walzak asked the subject why he was running, the subject refused to answer. Under his coat was a backpack worn backwards that contained numerous containers of deodorant and large boxes of Advil. As it turned out,

the subject had stolen upwards of \$100 worth of merchandise. The case was turned over to local police for investigation.

CO Lacelle Rabon was checking anglers along the Detroit River when he observed a subject start to throw something into the water. The angler had been filleting fish and was trying to get rid of the evidence as CO Rabon approached. After issuing the subject a ticket, CO Rabon located several stringers of smallmouth bass. None of the anglers who were present would admit to owning the stringers due to the many undersized fish on them.

CO Mike Drexler worked the waterfowl opener at Point Mouillee State Game Area (SGA). One subject was using lead shot with an unplugged shotgun, one subject failed to purchase a federal waterfowl stamp while using an unplugged shotgun and another individual was found hunting with an unplugged shotgun. One of the subjects also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. All three subjects received tickets and the subject was advised and released on his warrant.

CO Mike Drexler was checking anglers at the Belleville Dam when he contacted one subject with an undersized smallmouth bass. The angler stated he knew it was undersized but claimed the fish was almost dead when he snagged it so he didn't want to release it. The angler even invited the CO to look in the fish's mouth, stating that no hook marks would be found. A closer look into the anglers bucket revealed a second undersized bass. A ticket was issued for possessing two undersized smallmouth bass.

CO Mike Drexler checked two waterfowl hunters as they came off the water at Point Mouillee SGA. One of the hunters was unable to produce his hunting license or his identification. A computer check revealed that he also had not purchased his small game license. A ticket was issued for hunting waterfowl without a small game license and a warning was given for failing to produce his federal stamp and his hunting licenses.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted local deputies on a late night traffic stop involving three untagged deer in the back of a pickup truck. After looking over the deer, CO Kieft realized there were much bigger issues than just tagging violations. All three deer, two bucks and a doe, were shot in the head with a small caliber firearm. The vehicle was searched and an uncased .22 caliber rifle with a scope and two handheld spotlights were recovered. CO Kieft interviewed the occupants of the vehicle who confessed to taking deer from a motor vehicle, using artificial light to take game, taking deer with a firearm during the closed season, use of a .22 caliber firearm for deer hunting, recreational trespass, taking deer outside of legal hunting hours, and transporting untagged deer. Their equipment was seized along with the deer and warrants will be sought for the violations.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of waterfowl hunting on Pontiac Lake four days before the season was set to open. CO Kieft contacted the hunter near the access site and retrieved two mallards that had been taken. The hunter was also

without PFDs or proper registration numbers on the watercraft. The ducks were seized and enforcement action was taken and restitution will be sought.

CO Ben Shively contacted a motorcycle rider operating off road in an undeveloped subdivision that was posted private property. The subject stated he was just cutting through but he had his girl friend standing by while he was driving over all of the jumps. A ticket was issued for recreational trespass.

CO Ben Shively responded to assist MSP on a trespass complaint. After waiting at the location, he contacted a subject who was hunting while trespassing on private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively responded to a RAP complaint of a subject leaving four fishing poles unattended at a residence. CO Shively watched the poles from a neighboring park across the lake and did not observe anyone tending the poles. CO Shively contacted the homeowner who stated he had just come inside to make a sandwich. When CO Shively pointed out he had been watching the poles the subject's head went down and he stated "I know". CO Shively asked how many poles he had out and he stated only three. When CO Shively walked over to the fourth pole that was hidden, again the subject's head went down. The subject was ticketed for fishing with more than three lines and given a verbal warning on the unattended lines.

CO Ben Shively observed a subject appear out of the woods next to railroad property in Wixom wearing a brown Carhartt jacket and carrying a bow. CO Shively caught up to the subject as he was crossing the rail yard and brought him back to his patrol truck. When asked why he was in the rail yard he stated he was just hunting. When asked for his hunting license the subject stated he did not have one. The subject was ticketed for hunting deer without a license and railroad trespass.