

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Report  
1/14/2018 – 1/27/2018**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen worked a night patrol on Lake Gogebic. After contacting one group of ice fishermen, it was determined one of the anglers was using four lines. The fisherman responded he took a chance and was not expecting to see a CO out on the ice in the early morning hours. Law enforcement action was taken

While on patrol on Lake Gogebic, CO Brian Lasanen discovered three tip-ups that were unattended in front of a residence. CO Lasanen observed the tip-ups for about 20 minutes and then went over and set off the flags to see if that would bring anyone over to them. A short time later, an ORV approached with two passengers. As it got close to his location, CO Lasanen overheard one of them state, "Look, tip-ups and no one is around. Let's take them." As they headed towards the tip-ups, they noticed CO Lasanen sitting on his snowmobile. The ORV made a quick 180 and started to head in the other direction. CO Lasanen conducted a stop and discovered the following violations: no seat belts, open intoxicants, operating with more passengers than what the machine was designed for and no ORV license. CO Lasanen completed his business, went back to the tip-ups and attempted to contact the owner. When unable to locate anyone, he pulled the tip-ups and left a property seizure note on the camp door. Later in the evening CO Lasanen returned to the camp and made contact. The fisherman stated he had forgotten about the tip-ups and went to bed. Law enforcement action was taken for fishing with unattended lines.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to a complaint involving an individual who allegedly shot at his neighbor's dog then pointed the gun at the dogs' owner. CO Mapes assisted the Michigan State Police, Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office, and the US Forest Service to apprehend the suspect. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. The suspect was found to be a felon in possession of a handgun and ammunition; additional charges are pending with the persecutor's office.

CO Ethen Mapes, David Miller, Sgt. Grant Emery, Forest Service Officer Josh Lopac, and Porcupine Mountain's Wilderness State Park Ranger Emily Pleiness conducted a joint agency patrol targeting snowmobile activity and excessive noise in the Bergland area near Lake Gogebic. Nearly 150 snowmobilers were contacted with laws enforcement action taken for: exceeding noise emission levels, no snowmobile trail permits, operating an unregistered snowmobile and careless operation of a snowmobile.

Sgt. Emery, CO David Miller and CO Ethen Mapes were wrapping things up at the end of a group patrol when a snowmobile was spotted about 300 yards from the state access on Lake Gogebic engulfed in flames. Sgt. Emery ran back to his patrol truck to access a fire extinguisher for CO Mapes. COs Miller and Mapes were able to quickly extinguish the fire and save the snowmobile.

CO Ethen Mapes taught a two-day ORV Safety class in Ewen. Sixteen 7<sup>th</sup> grade students earned their ORV safety certificates.

CO Brian Lasanen assisted the Keweenaw County Sheriff's Office with teaching a snowmobile safety class. Thirty students attended the class, and all earned their snowmobile safety certificates.

CO Brian Lasanen was working a snowmobile trail crossing in Trout Creek when two snowmobiles blew through the intersection and failed to stop at the road crossing. CO Lasanen was able to catch up to the snowmobilers at the next intersection and perform a stop. The riders advised they did not see the stop sign. While talking to the snowmobilers, CO Lasanen noticed neither sled displayed a registration. They advised CO Lasanen that they were from out of state and were told by other people from their state all they needed to operate their snowmobiles in Michigan was the Michigan trail permit. Law enforcement action was taken for the careless operation of a snowmobile and both were educated on the snowmobile registration requirement to operate in Michigan.

CO Jared Ferguson was called by a concerned citizen about an eagle that appeared to be injured in Dickinson County. CO Ferguson located the eagle but was unable to get close enough to safely secure the eagle. After three tries to catch the eagle, the eagle flew away out of sight.

CO Jared Ferguson served an arrest warrant a subject who was interviewed in December regarding the illegal killing of two immature bald eagles in Dickinson County.

CO Brian Bacon and PCO Beuthin served an arrest warrant on a subject in Iron County in relation to an investigation regarding the illegal killing of a wolf in November.

CO Brian Bacon and PCO Beuthin arrested and lodged a subject in Dickinson County for possession of marijuana. While conducting a license check of an ice fisherman, the officers observed a marijuana pipe in the ice shack. Further contact with the subject produced a baggie containing marijuana from the subject's pocket.

CO Shannon Kritz and PCO Jessica Curtis were on fisheries patrol when they came across a set of tip-ups that were left unattended. PCO Curtis and CO Kritz waited a half hour before the subjects returned to their tip-ups. During that time three flags went up. PCO Curtis and CO Kritz contacted the subjects who admitted to taking a break at the bar and leaving their tip-ups unattended since they were not catching any fish. One subject was also found to be fishing with two too many lines. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz and Sgt. Marc Pomroy assisted Mississippi State University biologists in recovering a wolf collar that had dropped signal. The wolf involved was part of a ten-year predator/prey study that will determine the influence that predators have with the deer population in the Western U.P. The officers and biologist hiked two

miles into the woods to recover the wolf collar. Officers were able to determine that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the deactivation of the collar. The collar released on schedule and the biologist was able to gather information about the wolf's territory.

CO Shannon Kritz and PCO Jessica Curtis were on patrol when they contacted a group of fishermen on a remote lake in Iron County. When the fishermen were asked for their fishing licenses, all but one individual were able to produce one. When asked why he didn't have a fishing license, he said he forgot to buy one. The subject was then asked how many tip-ups he had out besides the jig line he had inside the fishing tent. He had three tip-ups out which totaled to four lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson assisted Wildlife Division and Biologists from Mississippi State University with a deer trapping and tagging project in the Western UP.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint at a local gas station regarding a dog chasing deer in northern Dickinson County. The complainant showed CO Ferguson a picture of the animal from his cell phone. CO Ferguson advised the complainant that the animal was a wild coyote and not a domestic dog.

Sgt. Ryan Aho and COs Mark Leadman, Brett DeLonge, Jeremey Sergey, Jeffrey Dell and PCO Jessica Curtis conducted a group snowmobile sound meter patrol near Little Lake in Marquette County. During the patrol the officers conducted several snowmobile checks and took enforcement on violations that included exceeding the legal sound decibels and registration violations.

Sgt. Ryan Aho and CO Brett DeLonge conducted a snowmobile patrol at a trail crossing near Marquette. The officers had a high volume of activity and checked several snowmobiles. During the patrol, the officers identified and took enforcement action on several violations including multiple sound violations, registration violations, and snowmobile trail permit violations. Also during the patrol the officers were thanked by residents for conducting a patrol in the residential area they resided in.

CO Jeffrey Dell was observing ice fishermen when he noticed two individuals smoking in a suspicious manner. When questioned if they had any marijuana on them, both men stated they did not nor had they smoked any. CO Dell explained that he had observed them smoking marijuana. The men changed their story but stated they had no more marijuana. When asked where their pipe was they stated it was thrown down a fishing hole. After a short interview the pipe and marijuana were recovered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and PCO Jessica Curtis were working a snowmobile trail crossing in Chocolay Township. PCO Curtis observed a snowmobile with an expired trail permit from three years ago. When stopped, it was discovered the snowmobile registration had also expired three years earlier. The operator said he did not register the

snowmobile because he owns four of them and it's too much work to keep them registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and PCO Jessica Curtis were on snowmobile patrol and stopped by Lake Arfelin in northern Marquette County to check on the fishing activity. As CO Leadman and PCO Curtis started out on the lake, they encountered deep slush and snow conditions. A single fisherman could be spotted on the far side of the lake. Contact with the fisherman was made and he stated he did not think he had a fishing license for this year. He stated his father had caught a nice 25-inch trout and was back at the cabin. Contact was made and a short conversation revealed the two had caught a total of six trout, five of which were well under the 15-inch size limit. Both subjects were found to have valid fishing licenses after checking the Retail Sales System, but the five under sized trout were seized and a ticket was issued for that violation.

CO Brett DeLonge was assisting with a group snowmobile sound decibel patrol when he observed two snowmobiles stop at an intersection and turn around when they noticed the group of officers. CO DeLonge used his patrol snowmobile and was able to catch up to the pair and affect a stop many miles down the trail. One snowmobile had no violations and the second snowmobile had several violations including improper display of snow permit, improper display of registration decals, no valid registration, no paper registration copy, and fail to transfer snowmobile title. Both operators explained that they were lost and didn't even see the COs near the intersection. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brett DeLonge and Mark Leadman were conducting an ice fishing patrol on their snowmobiles on a lake in Marquette County when they observed several tip-ups in front of a residence. The officers located nine tip-ups with no one around that were frozen into the ice holes and one flag was sprung. The officers also noticed an unregistered snowmobile on the ice near the tip-ups with several old tracks from the snowmobile circling the lake and several frozen pike on a stringer with one sub-legal sized fish. The officers set off the remaining flags and waited. Ultimately the officers began collecting the tip-ups, at which time a couple of fishermen showed up. After a short interview, enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines, taking an over limit of pike, possessing a sub-legal sized pike, unregistered snowmobile, and fishing without a license.

CO Jeremy Sergey and PCO Adam Beuthin were checking ice fishermen in Marquette County. Several of the fishermen had to walk back to their cabins to get their fishing licenses. Once they returned, they all produced their fishing licenses except one individual. The individual produced his driver's license only, and stated he did not have a fishing license. CO Sergey asked the individual why he walked all the way to his cabin when asked to get a fishing license instead of being up front about not having a fishing license. The individual stated that when he was asked to go get his license, he thought it meant to go get his driver's license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Jeffrey Dell responded to a possible wood cutting complaint on state land. CO Dell investigated the scene and was able to locate a suspect. The suspect explained that he was using the state land as a depot as he moved logs from private property to a saw mill. CO Dell explained the violation of storing property on state land.

Sgt. Ryan Aho and COs Brian Bacon, Jeffrey Dell, Jared Ferguson, Shannon Kritz, Jeremy Sergey and PCO Adam Beuthin conducted a joint snowmobile patrol targeting loud snowmobiles. Multiple violations were addressed including, unregistered snowmobiles, snowmobiles exceeding noise emission levels, and snowmobiles without registration or trail stickers displayed. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ryan Aho and COs Mark Leadman, Brett DeLonge and PCO Adam Beuthin conducted a joint snowmobile patrol targeting loud snowmobiles. Multiple violations were addressed including snowmobiles exceeding noise emission levels, and snowmobiles without registration or trail stickers displayed. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik and Sheriff Deputy Sam Grahovac were on snowmobile patrol on a busy Friday. Over a hundred snowmobiles were contacted within a few short hours. Several warnings were given and six citations were issued for careless operation, no trail permit, and unregistered snowmobiles.

CO Mark Zitnik was checking ice fishermen on Munising Bay when he checked one fisherman with what he claimed to be a 15-inch splake. After measuring the fish, it was clear it was not even close to the 15-inch minimum size limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Evink worked with a U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officer on a busy snowmobile intersection in Alger County. The officers checked close to 300 sleds on a busy holiday weekend. Citations were issued for no trail permit and expired registration. Warnings were issued for additional violations.

COs Michael Evink, Christopher Lynch and U.S. Forest Service Officer David Tembreull conducted a snowmobile patrol of Munising and trails south of town. The officers checked close to 250 sleds during their Friday evening patrol. Warnings were given for a number of violations and tickets were issued for trail permit issues, expired and unregistered machines and careless operation.

COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch were contacting a group of fishermen near the end of their Little Bay de Noc patrol when two snowmobiles went riding by at a high rate of speed. The officers were able to observe that one of the riders was lacking the required helmet. Upon making contact, the two COs observed that both sleds lacked the proper required trail permit, and neither had proper registration. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson conducted four patrols on Little Bay de Noc over the past two weekends. In all, several hundred contacts were made, a total of 20 citations issued, and over 75 verbal warnings given. Violations addressed were fishing without a license, possessing undersized walleye and northern pike, unattended lines, fish over three lines, possess mutilated fish, unregistered snowmobiles, fail to license ORV, no name/address on tip-ups or shanties, possession of marijuana, and use of marijuana.

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson conducted a snowmobile patrol and contacted several hundred snowmobiles. Four citations and over 30 verbal warnings were given. Violations addressed were failure to obtain a trail permit, failure to display trail permit, unregistered snowmobile, failure to exhibit registration, failure to present registration certificate, and careless operation.

While working the night before an annual fishing derby on Indian Lake, CO Robert Freeborn encountered several set lines in or near unoccupied shacks. The lines were documented so the fisherman could be contacted the next morning. CO Freeborn continued patrolling the rest of the lake and encountered several fishermen camping out to save their fishing spot. During one of the contacts, the officer located a fisherman that had one too many lines out. The fisherman was issued a citation for the violation. While CO Freeborn was nearing the end of his lake patrol, he noticed head lights of a truck heading towards the location of one of the shacks with set lines. CO Freeborn made contact with the fisherman as they pulled up to one of the suspected shacks. The fisherman stated that they had only been gone for 10-15 minutes. CO Freeborn advised that he had documented the lines nearly two hours ago. The fisherman stated that maybe they were gone longer than 15 minutes. The fishermen were Sault Tribal members and were advised that the incident would be forwarded on to the tribal police.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink along with Sgt. Money and Officer Hunklee from Sault Tribe patrolled Indian Lake during the annual fishing derby. The officers encountered hundreds of fishermen enjoying the balmy January day eager to catch a fish worthy of the several money prizes. While checking a large group of fishermen, CO Freeborn recognized a fisherman that he thought had a felony warrant. While checking his fishing license and ID, a check with dispatch confirmed CO Freeborn's suspicions. A valid felony warrant existed and the subject was placed under arrest. The suspect was then transported to the nearest launch site where a Michigan State Police car transported the suspect to the local jail. The officers continued checking fishermen until they reached a shack that had a set line from the previous night. CO Freeborn made contact with the subject who at first denied having a line in the water and stated that he slept in his shack all night. When CO Freeborn showed him the pictures as well as the hook and minnow that was used, the suspect became fairly irate and changed his story and admitted that he did leave a line in the water and left for several hours before returning late that night. A citation was issued to the fisherman for unattended line.

CO Tom Oberg pulled into an access site on Raber Bay after dark and noticed a car parked. CO Oberg observed flashlights in the distance and noticed two individuals

walking back from an ice shanty. CO Oberg made contact and checked licenses and cleared the area shortly after. Slightly suspicious from the contact, CO Oberg went back to the location approximately five minutes later and walked out to the ice shanty where he located two tip-ups that were set and unattended. CO Oberg patrolled up the road and was able to intercept the suspect vehicle. A citation was issued for the unattended fishing lines.

COs Tom Oberg and Brett Gustafson worked snowmobile trails on a busy weekend near the Paradise area. With several fatal accidents already this season just in the Upper Peninsula, the COs focused on corners and stop signs to make sure everyone was operating in a safe manner. Several citations were issued for violations including careless operation and expired registrations.

While on patrol, CO Tom Oberg noticed a vehicle that slid off the road and was stuck in the ditch. CO Oberg made contact with the individual to make sure he was ok. Luckily, because of the snow, no injuries occurred. The driver of the vehicle stated he felt sleepy and must have dozed off, resulting in veering off the road. CO Oberg and an officer from the Sault Ste. Marie Police Department directed traffic while a local tow company worked on removing the vehicle.

COs Colton Gelinis and Calvin Smith checked fishermen on both Big and South Manistique lakes. Several warnings were given for minor violations and enforcement action was taken for fishing with more than three lines and for operating unregistered snowmobiles.

CO Calvin Smith was nearing the end of his patrol when he was contacted by central dispatch of an elderly woman needing assistance. CO Smith responded to the residence to find the lady's dog had attempted to escape the kennel and had become trapped under the fence. CO Smith was able to free the dog from the ice and snow and returned it to a very appreciative owner.

CO Colton Gelinis and Calvin Smith patrolled Northern Luce County by snowmobile. Several snowmobilers were contacted throughout the day. The COs issued several warnings for minor violations and issued six citations for careless operation of a snowmobile and snowmobile registration violations.

COs Mark Zitnik, Colton Gelinis, and Calvin Smith were on snowmobile patrol when they were notified of a snowmobile accident. Once on scene, the COs provided first aid to the victim who had minor injuries. The operator of the snowmobile had failed to negotiate a corner and struck a tree and was ejected from the impact.

CO Calvin Smith was on routine snowmobile patrol when he observed a snowmobile that was not displaying a registration decal. A stop was made and when CO Smith informed the operator of the violation, the snowmobiler stated they must have blown off. The story quickly unraveled when CO Smith ran the snowmobile VIN, not only was the

registration expired since 2007 the operator had also failed to transfer the ownership with the Secretary of State. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma and PCO Josh Boudreaux responded to a fatal snowmobile accident south of Paradise in Chippewa County. The rider was unable to negotiate a curve in the trail and struck a tree. Whitefish Twp. EMS, Whitefish Twp. Fire, and Chippewa County Sherriff's Office assisted on scene.

CO Kevin Postma and PCO Josh Boudreaux contacted an individual while patrolling Munuscong Bay during the Hard Water Classic Fishing Tournament. As the COs pulled up on snowmobiles, an individual exited his shanty to retrieve a tape measure from his truck so he could measure his freshly caught fish. A strong odor of marijuana could be smelled and eventually found hidden in the ice shanty. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Andrea Albert and PCO Stephen Butzin were on Lake St. Clair in Antrim County when they encountered a subject jigging with two fishing poles and had a tip-up out. When asked for a fishing license the subject stated, "You got me", as he had not purchased a fishing license in seven years. A ticket was issued for the violation.

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint early in the morning of a group of anglers who had left their fishing lines and tip-ups out overnight on Bass Lake in Antrim County. CO Albert contacted them at their residence. Two subjects admitted to leaving their lines out overnight. Tickets were issued for the violation.

Shortly after clearing a previous complaint of fishing lines left out overnight, CO Andrea Albert and PCO Stephen Butzin received another complaint that four tip-ups had been left out overnight on Intermediate Lake. CO Albert and PCO Butzin responded to the complaint area and after a lengthy walk across the ice, they observed a subject riding a snowmobile with no helmet and pulling lines. The subject then drove off. Two lines were left out and were iced over from being left out overnight. PCO Butzin flipped up the flag on one of the tip-ups and then waited to see if an angler would attend to his line. The subject never came out to check the line. CO Albert and PCO Butzin tracked the snowmobile back to the subject's residence. Two subjects admitted to leaving lines out all weekend and overnight. Tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Albert and PCO Butzin received a complaint of recreational trespass in progress. The complainants had observed the subject trespassing. CO Albert and PCO Butzin arrived at the scene they noticed a second subject parked near the road. When the driver was asked about dropping someone off in the woods, she denied dropping anyone off. She then admitted her husband was just walking down the road, but was not in the woods. CO Albert asked for the cell phone number of the person in the woods. CO Albert called the trespasser and asked him to return to their location, which he did. The complainants were able to identify the subject as the one who was trespassing on the property. Enforcement action was taken.



CO Nathan Sink was on patrol when he took a call through central dispatch of an abandoned snowmobile. CO Sink was able to locate the snowmobile deep in the woods. CO Sink ran the snowmobile vehicle identification number (VIN) through central dispatch. The snowmobile came back stolen out of Antrim County. CO Sink recovered the stolen snowmobile and turned it over to the Antrim County Sheriff Office.

CO Kyle Cherry and CO Nathan Sink were on patrol in Cheboygan County when they conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. After speaking with the occupants of the vehicle, the officers discovered a significant amount of alcohol in the back seat. Both occupants were under the age of 21. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Cherry conducted an interview with a hunter in Otsego County in reference to a case from the 2017 deer season. After speaking with the hunter, CO Cherry's suspicions were confirmed that the hunter took a deer during archery season and did not tag the deer. The hunter stated he didn't want to waste a tag on such a small buck. Enforcement action was taken and property was seized.

CO Tim Rosochacki contacted two fishermen on Mullet Lake who were in the presence of eleven tip-ups. Upon contacting the individuals, both stated that they only had three lines out but that another angler, who was fishing with them, had ran to the gas station about an hour prior and left five lines out. It was explained that each angler must be able to actively tend their allotted three lines and that "babysitting" another's lines is not permitted. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Tim Rosochacki and Eric Bottorff received a complaint of fishing lines being left unattended on Burt Lake, upon locating the lines, no anglers were located in the vicinity. COs Rosochacki and Bottorff monitored the location from a distance until the anglers returned; they had gone ashore to have lunch at a local restaurant and left their equipment on the ice. In addition to leaving their lines unattended, the anglers also had more than the legal number of lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki contacted numerous anglers on Black Lake, one individual was fishing without a license. It was the subject's first-time fishing this year and with only a couple months left, he decided to take his chances of not being checked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster was driving on M-32 in Alpena County on very icy road conditions when he was passed by a vehicle at a high rate of speed. CO Webster initiated a traffic stop. When CO Webster asked the operator how fast he was going the driver replied, "only 80" and then explained further that he was late for a college class. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster assisted the Alpena County Sheriff Office and Michigan State Police with traffic control at the scene of a fatal car accident on M-32 in Alpena County. Road condition were very poor due to rain and snow mix.

COs Paul Fox and Adam Leclerc investigated several farms in Presque Isle and Alpena County, who were using expired disease management deer permits. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Rebecca Hubers and PCO Nick Ingersoll assisted Manistee County Sheriff's Department with a 911 call of a suspected overdose. The COs were the first law enforcement to arrive and assisted EMS. The patient refused medical treatment, was arrested for outstanding warrants and transported by the Manistee County Sheriff's Department.

CO Rebecca Hubers and PCO Nick Ingersoll attended the Wexford Outdoor show. This year the DNR was celebrating their 100-year anniversary since elk in Michigan had been reintroduced.

CO Justin Vanderlinde and PCO Nick Ingersoll patrolled Green Lake. Once they arrived, they noticed two anglers walking off the ice. The COs contacted the anglers, and after further questioning, found an undersized lake trout. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rebecca Hubers and PCO Nick Ingersoll patrolled Green Lake. While checking one of the ice shanties on the lake they identified the odor of marijuana coming from inside the shanty. After the COs questioned the individuals in the shanty about the marijuana, they confessed to smoking prior to their arrival. The COs seized the remaining marijuana and took enforcement action.

CO Rebecca Hubers and PCO Nick Ingersoll were patrolling Green Lake when they observed a suspicious vehicle parked in Green Lake Township Park. The COs approached the vehicle and asked if everything was okay. The driver stated that things were not going well because he had an open container of alcohol in the cup holder. The driver was questioned further and found to not have his driver's license in his possession and he was also a minor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney received a tip from the Report All Poaching hotline about a subject who was observed dragging a deer into his pole barn. CO Kinney conducted an investigation by interviewing a male at this residence. While he denied shooting a deer, his wife admitted to shooting a three point buck from the back porch. This deer was then tagged by her husband using her private land antlerless tag. The deer was found to be taken illegally in violation of the antler point restriction (APR). The deer was seized, several other violations were investigated and a warrant was sought and issued through the Grand Traverse County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Rich Stowe assisted Forest Resource Division in having a subject remove two tree stands from an active timber cut. The stands were properly marked and within the legal time frame for being in the woods. The cooperation of the owner was appreciated.

CO Justin Vanderlinde spoke with a local Brownie Troop regarding ice safety and first aid. The conversation was interactive and well received. The highlight of the conversation occurred while talking about treating a bleeding wound with direct pressure and elevation. When CO Vanderlinde asked why it was a good idea to elevate the wound, one girl responded, "So we don't get our uniform dirty.....what else?"

PCO Charlie Jones and CO Sam Koscinski were checking anglers on Manistee and Portage Lakes. The officers issued citations for fishing without licenses and located an undersize pike being concealed under bags on the snowmobile.

CO Sam Koscinski and PCO Charlie Jones received a Report All Poaching complaint of snowmobiles operating carelessly and against the flow of traffic. The COs responded to the complaint location and within a short period of time observed two subjects operating their snowmobiles at a high rate of speed on the wrong side of the road. PCO Jones educated the subjects on the many violations at hand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze followed up on a license violation that CO Troy Vangelderren and PCO Micah Hintze located during a taxidermy inspection. CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze interviewed a subject who loaned her deer combo tags to her father. The subject stated she gave her deer tags to her father who shot a deer and used one of her tags. After getting a statement from the daughter, CO Publiski and PCO Hintze returned to the taxidermist and seized a 10-point buck with the daughter's tag on it. CO Publiski and PCO Hintze then drove to the father's house to interview him. At the father's house, the COs seized two other sets of antlers, making it a total of three bucks the father shot during the 2017 deer season. As the COs were leaving the father's house, the father made a statement about blaming the DNR for him taking an over-limit of deer. CO Publiski couldn't make a correlation between him taking an over-limit and the DNR making him do it, but did explain the importance of not taking more than one's limit and owning up to one's mistakes. The subject was charged with taking an over-limit of antlered deer.

After checking for ice fishermen on a Mason County lake, CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze were leaving the lake when CO Publiski noticed a deer lying on the ground behind a pickup truck backed up to a garage door. Pulling into the driveway, CO Publiski and PCO Hintze also noticed a deer rib cage in the bed of the truck. PCO Hintze went to the house and made contact with the owner of the truck who stated he had shot both deer during the firearm deer season and had them in the back of his truck since late November and was just now processing them. CO Publiski asked the subject if he had deer tags for the two deer, the subject stated he did, and handed CO Publiski an antlerless tag that was not validated and a base license from his wallet. CO Publiski explained that the base license wasn't a deer tag and the antlerless deer tag he had handed CO Publiski was someone else's deer license. After a license check and a phone call to the owner of the antlerless deer tag, it was determined that the subject had shot a large 8-point and two antlerless during the firearm deer season. The subject used his license to tag the 8-point and borrowed antlerless deer tags from his buddy to tag the antlerless deer he had shot. To compound the tag borrowing, the antlerless tags

that the subject's buddy had given him to tag the two deer, were actually borrowed from the buddy's wife. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Oceana County, CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze noticed a truck traveling in the center of the roadway with an obstructed plate. PCO Hintze activated the emergency lights and stopped the truck. The operator of the truck was suspended, had no insurance on the vehicle and improper plates. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze were on Pentwater Lake checking ice fishermen when approaching a fishing shanty the COs detected the strong odor of marijuana. The COs made contact with the occupant who produced a valid fishing and driver's license. When asked where the marijuana was, the individual was hesitant to answer, however did become cooperative and produce a plastic bag containing marijuana and rolling papers. The evidence was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While checking for fisherman along the Pere Marquette River, CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze observed a drift boat approaching the launch. PCO Hintze met with the boaters and checked for fishing licenses, which they were able to produce; however the boaters were unable to produce any type of life jacket. One boater admittedly knew he had forgotten them, but continued to launch the boat and drift the river anyway. PCO Hintze explained the importance of PFDs with the high water and freezing temperatures. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a pair of small lakes in Oceana County, CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze observed two individuals ice fishing. Using the wood line as cover and binoculars, PCO Hintze was able to get close enough and count six tip-ups in the immediate area. In addition to the tip-ups, the fishermen were also using jigging rods while watching the tip-ups. When the COs approached from cover, the fishermen reeled up the jig lines and put their poles down. When asked, both fishermen admitted to using the poles next to them, making them in violation of fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling Lake Mitchell in Wexford County when he observed seven tip-ups with lines in the water and no one around. Twenty minutes after a flag was tripped an ORV approached with the operator not wearing a helmet. The operator advised he thought it was ok to check his tip-ups every 30 minutes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking ice fishermen on Lake Cadillac and Mitchell in Wexford County. During his patrols he cited anglers for fishing without licenses and fishing with too many lines.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, while on patrol on Lake Mitchell in Wexford County, observed a subject operating on a snowmobile at a high rate of speed with no helmet. CO

Killingbeck made contact with the operator and discovered that the snowmobile did not have a valid trail permit and had been expired since 2016. The next day CO Killingbeck was on the ice again and observed another snowmobile in the same area operating with no trail permit. CO Killingbeck made contact with the operator who said, "Not you again." CO Killingbeck realized it was the same subject from above operating a different snowmobile. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he did not expect to see CO Killingbeck on the lake again and was just trying to have fun. Enforcement action was taken each day.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, while on patrol, heard a rollover accident with unknown injuries being dispatched out. CO Killingbeck was the closest unit to the accident and responded. CO Killingbeck arrived on scene to find the driver uninjured, but intoxicated. CO Killingbeck did sobrieties with the driver and found him to be more than twice the legal limit. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he had been fishing all day and must have drank more than he thought. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail for operating while intoxicated.

CO Brian Brosky was following up on post deer season processing records when he noticed a discrepancy in one of the forms. CO Brosky proceeded to a residence in Mason County to interview a husband and wife about the possible misuse of deer licenses. Feeling the husband may have tagged out on October 1<sup>st</sup>, he had his wife purchase an additional deer license. While CO Brosky posed this theory, the wife denied this is what happened. Eventually the husband nodded in agreement and admitted to taking a second doe without a license. CO Brosky seized meat from the illegally taken animal and took enforcement action for a deer taken without a license.

CO Brian Brosky was checking ice fishermen on Pentwater Lake in Oceana County when he contacted two anglers illegally using and in possession of marijuana. The contraband was seized and enforcement actions taken. A short time later, CO Kyle Publiski advised CO Brosky that he and PCO Mikah Hintze also ran into a different group of individuals who were also smoking marijuana upon their first contact on the ice on Pentwater Lake. The subjects were cited for possessing marijuana and are awaiting their court appearance.

While patrolling Lake Cadillac for ice fishermen, PCO James Garrett and CO Steve Converse came across a father and son pair fishing out of a portable shanty. Upon contact, the son was unable to produce a fishing license. PCO Garrett made conversation with the son and learned that the son had shot a doe during the early archery season. A license check came back showing that he had a fishing license, but no record of the son having purchased a deer tag for the 2017 season. Further investigation showed that the father had loaned his tag to the son after the son had shot the doe. The couple were followed back to the residence where written confessions were obtained and the meat from the deer was seized. Enforcement action was taken.

On a late night traffic stop during firearm deer season, Michigan State Police Trooper Schantz discovered an untagged deer in the bed of a subject's truck. Trooper Schantz

took photos of the deer and passed the information on to CO Steve Converse. Follow-up by CO Converse showed that the driver did indeed transport an untagged deer that had been shot by his brother who had not purchased a license for the year. CO Converse was able to confirm the story with the brother. While serving a warrant on the driver of the vehicle a couple of weeks later, CO Converse and PCO James Garrett discovered that the brother was also at the residence sleeping. CO Converse had a warrant for him as well, plus he had arrest warrants out of Benzie County. The driver of the vehicle woke the brother up and both were transported to the Wexford County Jail.

CO Scott MacNeill was just leaving Manistee Lake after checking ice fishermen when he responded to a 911 call indicating an individual was found unconscious hanging from a tree approximately 100 yards behind a residence. CO MacNeill met with a local trooper at the residence and began rendering first aid after finding no pulse or breathing. After approximately ten minutes of CPR, the individual began showing signs of life. Once paramedics were on scene, CO MacNeill was able to utilize the bed of his patrol vehicle to extract the individual from the woods and to the ambulance.

CO Scott MacNeill, CO Steve Converse, and PCO James Garrett took advantage of the warm weather to patrol the Manistee River for January steelhead fishermen. COs made contact with several guided and private fishing vessels and found most to be in compliance with marine and fishing regulations. The COs found some of the vessels to be without Type IV throwable floatation devices. COs took the opportunity to educate those individuals about the necessity of a throwable floatation device given the cold temperature of the fast moving water.

CO Ryan Andrews was patrolling area lakes for ice anglers and snowmobiler activity in Lake County. CO Andrews observed two men actively fishing and passing a small smoking pipe back and forth several times. Upon contacting the pair, they admitted to smoking marijuana and turned the pipe and marijuana over to CO Andrews. One of the men had not purchased a license in several years. CO Andrews then checked the background of both men through the LEIN and discovered the two men had warrants; however, only one was within the pickup area. Enforcement action was taken with both men and one was taken into custody and transported to the Lake County Jail.

CO Scott MacNeill and CO Ryan Andrews patrolled a lake for ice anglers and snowmobile activity on a busy Saturday afternoon. Throughout the day, the two COs contacted hundreds of people and most were legally fishing and enjoying the great weather. During the patrol, the COs witnessed numerous violations. These violations included such things as ORV operators without helmets, more passengers on ORVs than the machines were designed for, careless operation of ORVs, fishing too many lines, fishing without a license, possession and use of marijuana.

CO Troy Van Gelderen received a tip of a subject that had shot a 9-point buck during firearm deer season without a deer license. CO Van Gelderen went to the suspect's residence to interview the suspect. The suspect admitted to shooting the deer and then running to the store to get his license. The suspect said that he had not bought a license

before he went hunting because he was only seeing small bucks around his property and he was surprised when the large 9-point showed up. The antlers were seized and charges are being sought through the Oceana County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Troy Van Gelderen was checking a lake after dark and watched two fishermen walking off. The CO checked their buckets of panfish, and noticed a largemouth bass in one of the subject's bucket. The fisherman said that he thought bass season was open year round. A file check of the suspect revealed that he had two warrants out for his arrest out of Muskegon County. One of the warrants was for a deer hunting case that CO Chris Simpson had previously written a ticket to the suspect, which was never taken care of. The suspect was arrested and lodged at the Oceana County Jail. A ticket was issued for the largemouth bass, and the bass was confiscated.

PCO Jennifer Hanson and CO Jeff Ginn attempted to stop a vehicle for a motor vehicle code violation, only to have the occupants quickly pull into and go in a nearby store. After contact was made with the occupants in the store, PCO Hanson noted the smell of marijuana coming from the subjects. In the end, a large quantity of marijuana was located in the vehicle and the driver was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs.

CO Jeff Ginn and PCO Jennifer Hanson assisted on a call involving a suicidal subject who was at large in a wooded area on foot. The COs noted tracks in the snow from the roadway that showed the subject was avoiding law enforcement officers on the road. CO Ginn and PCO Hanson were able to determine a direction of travel of the subject on foot, which ultimately led a Michigan State Police canine officer to take the subject into protective custody without incident.

PCO Jennifer Hanson noted a possible deer tagging violation while speaking with a subject about his deer hunting season in Newaygo County. A follow-up interview revealed that the subject had shot a buck during firearm season and had failed to tag it. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO Jennifer Hanson and CO Jeff Ginn located several untagged traps in Newaygo County. Further checking revealed a single trap that was tagged; however, follow-up investigation showed that the trap belonged to somebody else and was borrowed. The trapper was eventually located and enforcement action was taken.

PCO Jennifer Hanson and CO Jeff Ginn were first on scene of an injury accident where a subject became incoherent and crashed his vehicle. Upon arrival, the subject went into a seizure and the COs provided first aid until EMS arrived.

## **DISTRICT 5**

COs Mike Hearn, John Huspen and PCO John Kamps received a complaint from a confidential informant regarding a group of anglers catching an over limit of trout on Bear Lake in Kalkaska County. While conducting surveillance, the anglers were

observed carrying trout and hiding them in the outhouse near the parking area. The individuals were contacted and interviewed. They were in possession of three trout over the limit. Citations were issued for the violations.

CO Mike Hearn and PCO John Kamps were patrolling during Tip-up-Town on Houghton Lake when they stopped a vehicle and then smelled a strong odor of marijuana. The individual admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle and it was also determined that he was driving on a suspended license. During a search of the suspect, the COs also located syringes, meth, and prescription drugs. The individual was arrested and transported to the Roscommon County Jail.

COs Matt Liestenfeltz and Craig Neal gave a presentation to the Missaukee County Township Association with 50 people in attendance. The COs' agenda included topics such as the number of 2017 complaints for Missaukee County, public contacts with the COs, Chronic Wasting Disease, Antler Point Restrictions and ORV issues. The COs took several questions from the audience and were very well received.

COs Ben McAteer and Matt Zultak conducted a night patrol on Houghton Lake in Roscommon County. During the patrol, the COs located an empty ice shanty with two set fishing lines. As they gathered information off the ice shanty, a vehicle was observed driving from shore to their location. CO McAteer made contact with the driver and was able to smell the odor of intoxicants coming from inside the vehicle. The driver stated that he had just finished having dinner with friends and planned to sleep in his shanty so he wouldn't get in trouble for drinking and driving on the roadway. After conducting field sobriety tests, the COs located an open beer in the man's truck. Enforcement action was taken for the multiple violations observed.

COs Craig Neal and Josh Wright were patrolling Houghton Lake when they noticed a shanty with multiple tip-ups around it but no anglers present. They observed that one of the tip-up flags was already up and decided to sit and watch for the angler responsible. After 15 minutes, the COs decided to go check the tip-up knowing that the responsible angler would probably come running. Then a man came running out of a cabin on the lakeshore hollering profanities. When the COs got the man to calm down, they asked if he was aware one of the flags for his tip-ups had been set off for quite some time. The angler admitted that he hadn't seen it and apologized for yelling profanities at them. The man was issued a citation for fishing with unattended lines.

While patrolling Houghton Lake for the annual Tip-Up-Town festival, COs Matt Liestenfeltz, Ben McAteer, Brad Bellville, and Matt Zultak conducted a traffic stop on the ice for careless operation of a motor vehicle. The driver was found to be operating under the influence of alcohol, was in possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia, and had his young kids in the vehicle. Denton Township Police Department and the Department of Health and Human Services assisted the COs with watching the kids until their mother could get to the scene. The suspect was arrested and lodged in the Roscommon County Jail for the violations.



COs John Huspen, Ben McAteer, and Matt Zultak observed a northern pike lying on the ice of Houghton Lake and made contact with an angler. When asked how the fishing was going, the angler replied he had caught a rock bass and two pike. Upon further investigation the COs located a stringer. When asked what was on the stringer, the angler advised that it contained four pike. When the COs pulled up the stringer, they located five pike. The angler was found to be in possession of six pike total, which is one over the legal limit on Houghton Lake. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a complaint from Ogemaw County Central Dispatch of a deer caught in a fence along I-75. CO Bader located the deer that was caught by nothing more than one wire around its hoof. The deer was freed from the fence without incident.

CO Kyle Bader finalized a two-count misdemeanor warrant in Iosco County for a subject that shot a deer with a centerfire rifle during muzzle loader deer season. The man was also hunting over an excessive bait pile.

CO Kyle Bader checked a group of anglers on a small lake in Ogemaw County. During the contact, CO Bader located a bag of marijuana and a pipe concealed under the anglers' ice shanty. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Pullum received a complaint from an angler that a resident on Crooked Lake in Alcona County came out with a three-wheeler at dark and started drilling holes. The complainant also indicated the resident was setting tip-ups on all parts of the lake up to 200 yards from shore. CO Pullum responded well after dark and located the tip-ups with the resident's name on them. One of the flags from a tip-up was already tripped. CO Pullum located the ORV tracks and followed them back to shore where the ORV matching the description in the complaint and a snowmobile were parked on the lake in front of the residence. CO Pullum waited almost 30 minutes to see if the angler would check the tip-ups. CO Pullum finally made contact with the resident at his home where he admitted ownership of the tip-ups. The angler followed CO Pullum back out on the ice to check the tip-up that had a flag tripped and pulled in a 25" walleye. The fish had swallowed the hook too far to be able to release it alive. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Hubbard Lake in Alcona County, CO Casey Pullum contacted two anglers tending six tip-ups. They both provided fishing licenses. CO Pullum asked if they had any other fishing lines in the ice shanty and they both replied "Uh, no." They informed CO Pullum they did have one walleye and pointed approximately 30 yards to an ORV parked near their ice shanty. CO Pullum approached the fish and noticed a spool of line that was clamped to the side of the ORV and a line down a hole. Then on the other side of the ORV were two more holes with a fishing line and rod in each, all of which were baited. CO Pullum turned around and one of the anglers said "Yeah" and began nodding his head. CO Pullum said, "Yeah, what?" The anglers replied, "Yeah, we're over our limit of lines." It was determined they had nine total lines. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Hubbard Lake in Alcona County, CO Casey Pullum approached an ice shanty with two tip-ups set outside the shanty. CO Pullum announced his arrival and didn't hear any response from inside the shanty. He looked through the windows and noticed another tip-up set inside the shanty and a reeled-up fishing pole with a hook and minnow. No one was inside or anywhere around the shanty. CO Pullum drove approximately 150 yards to the next ice shanty thinking the angler was visiting the next closest group. The anglers denied owning the equipment. They said they saw a guy on an ORV go over to "that group" and pointed to a large gathering of anglers approximately a half mile away. CO Pullum went back to the vacant shanty and tripped the flags and waited just over 15 minutes before the angler returned. The angler stated "Well, I didn't really know the rules on that." He stated he was gone for approximately 20-30 minutes. Enforcement action was taken for unattended lines.

While checking lakes in Ogemaw County, CO Brad Bellville observed a snowmobile and ORV racing up and down the ice and doing doughnuts. The operators for both machines were also not wearing helmets. Contact was made enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich and PCO Keven Luther patrolled the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Tip-Up-Town festival in Roscommon County on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. CO Panich and PCO Luther worked with a small group of COs on Higgins Lake north of the main event. The small group worked from the south shore of Higgins Lake to the north shore. The group of COs contacted over 200 ice anglers. The contacts ranged from answering questions by the public to minor enforcement actions. The group issued 30 citations and over 75 verbal warnings over the two-day weekend. The citations issued were mainly safety-related involving ORVs and snowmobiles. Very few ice fishing violations were observed.

CO Jeff Panich and PCO Keven Luther patrolled Hubbard Lake in Alcona County during an annual ice fishing tournament. The tournament had over 300 participants. Although the fishing was slow, the COs still contacted over 150 anglers. There were 13 citations and a dozen verbal warnings issued during the patrol. Most violations were for safety-related issues.

CO Joshua Wright made contact with two anglers fishing on a local lake in Clare County. The anglers were both jigging with fishing rods and there were also four tip-ups set out on the ice. Problems became apparent when one of the anglers informed CO Wright that he did not buy a fishing license. He also stated that all of the tip-ups belonged to the other angler. The second angler confirmed that he was fishing with five lines. He additionally stated that he knew it was a bad idea from the start. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson was checking anglers on Saginaw Bay recently when he contacted an angler that started out yelling at him for "making noise and scaring the fish." After the angler was finished venting, CO Hudson asked him for his fishing license. The angler stated he did not have it with him but that he did have one at home. CO Hudson asked the angler for identification. The angler stated that he indeed had a driver's license with him. CO Hudson informed the angler that he needed the driver's license to check for a

fishing license. Again, showing signs of agitation, the angler spouted, "Now you think I am a fugitive from justice." After a quick check of records, it was determined that the angler had not purchased a fishing license in the last 10 years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin patrolled for fishing activity on Saginaw Bay recently. During his patrol, he encountered anglers with undersized walleye, over limits of perch and unregistered ORVs. Enforcement action was taken for the numerous violations.

While on patrol on Saginaw Bay, CO Steve Lockwood and PCO Amanda McCurdy contacted a lone angler in an ice shanty. The angler reported having caught his limit of perch and produced a bucket with numerous fish in it. PCO McCurdy counted the fish and noted that the angler was already two fish over the limit of 25 perch. PCO McCurdy then asked to look inside the ice shanty and the angler granted permission, and three additional perch were located hidden in a hole in the ice. A citation was issued for the over limit and the fish were seized.

While on patrol near Saginaw Bay, CO Steve Lockwood and PCO Amanda McCurdy contacted two anglers who were coming off the ice on snowmobiles. CO Steve Lockwood inquired about their fish and the two anglers provided inconsistent answers which led the COs back to the subject's cabin. After questioning, the two anglers admitted to catching walleye earlier that morning, causing them to be six walleye over the limit for the day. The extra fish were seized and citations were issued to both subjects.

While patrolling on Higgins Lake, Sgt. Jon Wood made contact with an angler who was observed fishing with too many lines. CO Steve Lockwood and PCO Amanda McCurdy assisted with the contact and discovered that the angler also had an over limit of northern pike. The extra pike was seized and a citation was issued for the over limit of fish. The subject received a warning for fishing with too many lines.

While patrolling on Higgins Lake, Sgt. Jon Wood, CO Steve Lockwood and PCO Amanda McCurdy observed numerous tip-ups that appeared to be left unattended. After watching the tip-ups for several minutes, the COs observed two anglers on an ORV approach the tip-ups and begin tending them. The COs approached the subjects and were able to confirm that the anglers were fishing with too many lines. They informed the subjects that tip-ups must be under the immediate control of the anglers at all times. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars was checking ice fishermen on Crystal Lake in Montcalm County when he noticed an ORV without an ORV License. The CO also noticed several tip-ups on the ice, one with no name. The CO discussed the violations and issued a ticket for the ORV violation and issued a warning for the unlabeled tip-up.

While on patrol, CO John Byars noticed an ORV (side by side) operating on the roadway. As the CO got closer, he noticed litter flying off the ORV, it was not licensed, and the operator was not wearing his seatbelt. After stopping the ORV, the CO determined the operator was under 16 and had no ORV safety certificate. The CO contacted his parents to discuss the importance of ORV safety and allowing a child under 16 to operate unsupervised and without taking the ORV safety education class. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO John Byars noticed a vehicle traveling the wrong way on a county road. The CO also noticed that the vehicle had no license plate. The CO turned around to make a traffic stop. The driver then got out and walked around the vehicle as if something was wrong. After contact was made, it was determined that the driver was operating with a suspended driver's license. A citation was issued for driving while license suspended and the vehicle was impounded.

CO Ken Lowell and PCO Zach Painter were checking ice fishermen on Loon Lake in Montcalm County and observed one subject fishing on the lake. The COs could see two tip-ups and one jig rod that the individual was using. The subject then went into his shanty with his jigging pole. When the COs made contact, they found that the angler was again using his jigging rod, but had an additional line in the water. A citation was issued for fishing with too many lines.

CO Ken Lowell and PCO Zach Painter were checking ice fishermen on Horton Lake in Montcalm County. They checked three individuals that were together but only two of them were fishing. The anglers were father and son. One subject was fishing without a license and the other subject was fishing with four lines. A warning was given for fishing with too many lines. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Ken Lowell and PCO Zach Painter were checking ice fishermen on Crystal Lake in Montcalm County and contacted two anglers. Both COs smelled the odor of marijuana and one subject admitted to being in possession of marijuana. The marijuana was seized, and a warrant request has been submitted.

CO Josh Russell attended a hunter safety class that was being held at the Sheridan Community Center. Pheasants Forever put the class on and there were approximately 30 students in attendance.

COs Will Brickel and Quincy Gowenlock were on a snowmobile patrol on the Saginaw River when they came across a snowmobile that was not running and unoccupied. After a few minutes, the operator appeared and got back on the snowmobile. The COs then asked the operator where his trail permit was. The operator did not have one and told the COs that he had been riding for a few days without a trail permit and had no problems. A ticket was issued.

While on patrol, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed two snowmobile operators operating on the Saginaw Bay ice without helmets. Upon contact, CO Bucholtz also noted both snowmobiles were unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to a fisherman who had gone through the Saginaw Bay ice on his four-wheeler. The fisherman advised dispatch he was okay and was going to walk to shore as his four-wheeler was still in the water. CO Bucholtz met the subject on the ice and assisted him back to shore where he was seen by a local ambulance service. The four-wheeler was removed the next day. The subject described the weak ice to be found on the south side of Sand Point in Huron County.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint of hunters attempting to get a coyote out of a culvert after it had taken refuge there to escape pursuing hounds. CO Hobkirk drove to the location of the complaint and observed four hunters in a field near two vehicles. Two of the hunters appeared to be pulling on a rope, which was later found to be a metal tile snake with barbed wire attached to one end. As CO Hobkirk watched, the hunters pulled a coyote out of the culvert and another hunter shot the animal as it emerged. CO Hobkirk contacted the hunters, took photographs, and collected evidence. A report will be submitted to the local prosecutor for the taking of a coyote by illegal method.

While patrolling in Tuscola County, CO Seth Rhodea stopped to check several hunters that were hunting coyote. One of the hunters was found to have an uncased firearm in his front seat and he was cited for the violation.

COs Kyle Bucholtz, Robert Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea worked a patrol on Saginaw Bay contacting anglers along the southern end of the bay. Compliance was high with most anglers but there were numerous citations issued for ORV and snowmobile violations.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint about coyote hunters hunting within the safety zone of a residence. The vehicle was located by CO Siemen and stopped. Contact was made with the driver, and he was advised of the complaint and information received. He stated he did shoot multiple times at a coyote, but did not think he was by a house. The hunter accompanied the CO back to the area and CO Siemen located the spent cartridges from the subject's firearm. CO Siemen used a range finder and determined the distance from the house to the location the subject had shot was only 53 yards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a subject who was responding to the Cass City Field Office to have a bear registered/sealed. The subject advised he shot the bear on September 29, 2017 and forgot to get it registered. CO Siemen responded to the field office and spoke with the subject and explained the time limit for having a black bear registered. The subject stated he was aware, and knew he was going to be in trouble for not getting it registered/sealed within 72 hours. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Siemen and Jason Smith conducted a snowmobile patrol on the Saginaw Bay. Multiple snowmobiles, ORVs and fishermen were checked by the officers. Multiple warnings were given for several different violations and a citation was issued to a fisherman for fishing with too many lines.

COs Jason A. Smith and Mark Siemen doubled up and worked the Saginaw Bay to check on fishing regulation compliance. Checking one group of anglers, a strong odor of marijuana was detected. When contacting the anglers, it was also determined that they were fishing with too many lines and unlabeled tip-ups around their shanty. Enforcement action was taken.

While responding to a report of a fire from their local dispatch, CO Josh Wright and PCO Cody Smith checked Sunset Marina in Tuscola County spotting an abandoned snowmobile about a mile out. A volunteer firefighter informed them that the owner had left the area, possibly to gather gear to tow the remnants in. While on scene they had two anglers come off the ice on an ORV and snowmobile without helmets. While questioning them it was noticed their machines were also lacking proper registration. Enforcement actions were taken.

Following up the next day to make sure the burnt snowmobile was removed from the ice, CO Josh Wright and PCO Cody Smith launched from Hidden Harbor on snowmobiles. When they got on the ice, black smoke was noticed a couple miles from shore. They quickly got to the location of the smoke to see a snowmobile smoldering. The occupant was alright, and no injuries occurred. When the sled finished burning the owner had it removed from the ice.

While patrolling anglers on Saginaw Bay, CO Josh Wright and PCO Cody Smith checked multiple anglers operating machines while their licenses were suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

While riding out towards the plug on Saginaw Bay, CO Josh Wright and PCO Cody Smith noticed an odd colored headlight approaching. Once closer it was noticed one of the occupants did not have a helmet on and a stop was made. The odd colored light was from a lens cover on the headlight of the snowmobile. The operator who was borrowing the sled from a friend was informed that it is illegal to have headlight covers on a snowmobile. Being that they were easily removable a warning was given, and the helmet issue was addressed.

COs Chad Foerster, Nick Atkin and Josh Wright (Clare County) conducted a group patrol on the Saginaw Bay in Northern Bay County & Southern Arenac County. Most followed the laws, but several citations were issued for various ORV and Fishing violations.

COs Chad Foerster, Josh Wright, Sgt. Scott Brown, and PCO Cody Smith set-up and attended "Coffee Talk" at the Turkey Roost (a "Get-to-Know your local CO" event). The COs sat down and had coffee with approximately 22 outdoor men & women to openly

discuss laws and expectations from both sides. This was an open forum discussion which went very well and lasted approximately 2.5 hours. Talk has already begun to have a follow-up "Coffee Talk" before the spring fishing season begins. This event was backed and advertised on Facebook from the Saginaw Bay Fishing Michigan group which got the word out.

While on a group patrol on the Saginaw Bay, Saginaw River, and Kawkawlin River, CO Jill Miller was checking an angler in a shanty and noticed the ORV he had was not licensed. The subject stated it was his dad's ORV and he didn't even look to see if it had a license. Education and enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were able to close a case involving a subject who took an antlered deer in 2015 without a tag. While interviewing the subject, CO Haas noticed a deer hanging in the back yard, partially used, without a tag. After further questioning, the subject admitted that he shot the antlerless deer during the regular firearm season with a rifle and did not have an antlerless tag. The subject also confessed to killing the large 8-point buck back in 2015 without a license. Evidence was collected at the scene, including the shoulder mounted deer and reports were submitted to the prosecutor's office for review, charges are pending.

While on snowmobile patrol in Isabella County, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas witnessed a snowmobile go across one of the local lakes. The rider was not wearing a helmet. The COs contacted the subject on the other side of the lake where a large group of people had been gathered on the ice. The COs checked the machines on the ice and found that two of the sleds were not registered. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas attended the Safari Club International, Central Michigan Chapter "Big Buck Night". The COs did a short presentation on CWD and answered a wide range of questions. There were over 180 in attendance and many of the attendees had great questions for the COs.

COs and PCOs in District 6 set up a group patrol on the Saginaw Bay and River, utilizing help from District 5 COs and PCOs. COs patrolled the bay and river on sleds and neighborhoods around the bay in marked patrol trucks. The COs issued a variety of citations, with emphasis on walleye enforcement. Several over limits of walleye were made, as well as short walleye. The COs also issued a variety of citations and warnings for helmet violations and snowmobile registration violations.

CO Jay Person is investigating a complaint from a HAP property owner regarding dead rabbits dumped in a ditch. The property owner called to report the last group that signed in to hunt the property dumped 11 rabbits and one squirrel in the ditch along his property. The names of the group were given to CO Person and he is in the process of interviewing the suspects in the case. The case remains open pending further investigation.

CO Jay Person was contacted by Midland County 911 regarding a call they received from a female in the south part of the county. The caller reported witnessing an eagle pick up a rabbit from a field and fly off. The eagle then hit a powerline and both the bird and rabbit were electrocuted. She advised the eagle and the rabbit were laying in a road intersection on the Midland, Saginaw County line. CO Person went to retrieve the bird, but upon arrival only found the rabbit in the roadway. CO Person asked Midland 911 to contact Saginaw County to see if they took the same report. Upon contact, it was discovered Richland Twp. Police Department in Saginaw County responded and secured the eagle. It will be turned over to U.S. Fish and Wildlife for disposal.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Matt Page was contacted by a deputy about a suspect in an ongoing multiple deer poaching case. The deputy reported that the subject was being arrested on non-related outstanding warrants. Based off of this information, CO Page was able to verify that the suspect was in possession of his cell phone at the time of his arrest. CO Page secured a search warrant for the cell phone and was assisted by CO Tyler Cole in conducting an in-custody interview with the suspect. The following day CO Page applied for a search warrant for the suspect's residence. CO Page was assisted in serving the warrant by Sgt. Zach Doss, COs Tyler Cole, Zach Bauer and Travis Dragomer. The search revealed several deer parts, antlers, hides, a crossbow, and a firearm that were all seized from the suspect's residence. This investigation is still ongoing.

COs Zach Bauer and Matt Page were on patrol when they received a complaint of a subject who shot a turkey. The complainant stated he saw a man run across the road with a turkey in his backpack. The COs responded to the call and located the subject cleaning the turkey behind a house. The hunter stated that he saw the turkeys and he could not resist. The turkey and bow he used were seized and the subject was cited for taking a wild turkey during the closed season.

CO Richard Cardenas reports the final disposition of a case where an Allegan County man was convicted of illegally killing several deer. The man will pay \$30,250 in reimbursement, spend 60 days in jail, and lose his hunting privileges for seven years.

While checking ice fishermen, CO James Zellinger contacted a father fishing with his two daughters. One of the daughters had turned 17 a couple weeks prior and had not yet purchased a fishing license. The father explained he attempted to purchase a fishing license for her, but the bait shop they stopped by was having computer malfunctions. After being informed you can purchase licenses online, the father purchased his daughter a license on his phone. No enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas received a complaint from Barry Central that a green truck was missing in the Barry State Game Area. The complainant advised CO Cardenas that she allowed a family member to borrow the truck and he got stuck in the State Game Area. CO Cardenas patrolled the State Game Area and located the truck stuck behind a barricade and signs in an area closed to motor vehicle traffic. CO Cardenas made



contact with the driver and scheduled a time to meet to have the truck removed from the closed area in the game area. In order to get the truck removed by a tow truck, the DNR Wildlife Division had to bring a tractor out to remove the barricade to allow the tow truck access. The truck was ultimately removed and the driver of the truck was cited for multiple violations for operating a motor vehicle where prohibited.

CO BJ Goulette and PCO Katie Stawara responded to a complaint at Hemlock Crossing regarding a subject illegally trapping in the state park. While on foot patrol, they found evidence of an illegal trap within the park as well as several illegal traps along the adjacent railroad property. The COs contacted the subject who was found trying to remove the traps during their patrol. After lying to the COs about being on park property, the subject admitted to ownership of the traps and cutting the lead line on the one in the park. The subject knew the traps were not tagged properly and was informed they were an entanglement hazard due to improper set up. Enforcement action was taken.

CO BJ Goulette and PCO Katie Stawara received a complaint about a subject in possession of Sika deer. The COs contacted the owner of the hobby farm and found the subject to be in violation of state operating regulations. Unaware of the requirements, the owner said they would take the necessary steps to become certified. CO Goulette passed the subject's information along to the Coordinator for Michigan's Privately Owned Cervidae Program. With their assistance, the COs aim to help aid the farm in becoming compliant with state regulations.

CO BJ Goulette and PCO Katie Stawara investigated a possible illegal deer case based on a complaint and Facebook picture. The COs conducted an interview with the suspect which led to a confession of shooting an antlered whitetail deer in violation of the county's antler point restrictions. The subject said the deer was in front of them long enough to identify what it was, but they failed to verify if brow tines were present. Instead, they just assumed they were. The subject knew the deer was illegal and thought about notifying the DNR but chose not to. Enforcement action was taken.

CO BJ Goulette and PCO Katie Stawara responded to a complaint about a group of small game hunters walking along privately-owned railroad tracks. Upon their approach to the group, one hunter was seen attempting to hide a gun in the weeds. When asked where the gun was, the hunter admitted to ditching it because they didn't have a license and knew they needed one. Contact with the rest of the subjects resulted in other members of the party not having licenses. The COs used the opportunity to educate the youth in the party on hunter safety and enforcement action was taken for those individuals without licenses.

CO Justin Ulberg investigated a complaint of an illegally killed deer in Kent County. The complainant advised that while returning home in the early morning hours on New Year's Day, he observed two subjects pulling a sled. The complainant contacted the individuals and discovered a dead deer in the sled. CO Ulberg was able to contact the suspected poacher and after a lengthy interview obtained a confession. The subject admitted to shooting the deer behind his residence well after legal hunting hours had

ended. The subject also shot the deer in a highly residential area in the city limits of Kentwood where hunting is not allowed. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice anglers on an inland lake in Kent County on an evening patrol, CO Justin Ulberg located a subject fishing without a license. While speaking with the subject, CO Ulberg noted the smell of marijuana coming from the ice shanty. When questioned about the marijuana, the subject produced a glass pipe with marijuana. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Justin Ulberg followed up on a complaint where a subject had shot a deer without a license. A picture was located on social media of the subject posing with a deer. A record check showed that the subject had not purchased his license until after legal shooting hours on the day the deer was harvested. CO Ulberg interviewed the subject and obtained a confession. CO Ulberg also discovered that the subject was still in possession of his deer license and never tagged the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg received a complaint of deer carcasses being left in the back of a subject's truck. According to the complainant, he let a friend borrow his truck for several months beginning in September. Per the complainant, the friend recently returned the truck and after a mid-winter warm up and the snow melting, the complainant noticed several deer carcasses in the bed of the truck. There was a dispute between the truck owner and the subject who left the carcasses on who should be responsible for taking care of the carcasses. Further investigation by CO Ulberg revealed that the subject who had borrowed the truck had not purchased any 2017 deer licenses. CO Ulberg interviewed the subject, who admitted to shooting three deer during the firearm deer season and confessed he did not have any deer licenses. While issuing the subject a citation, CO Ulberg discovered that the subject also had an outstanding warrant. Enforcement action was taken for the wildlife violation and the subject was lodged at the county jail for the warrant.

PCO Justin Vinson and CO David Rodgers interviewed a subject who may have shot a deer after hours but there was no evidence to support it. Continuing to talk with the suspect, he told the COs about the success he had during deer season, taking two bucks and a doe and giving them approximate dates he shot the deer and even showing them one rack. A license check revealed the subject had purchased replacement licenses well after he admitted to shooting his last deer. After a lengthy conversation the subject finally admitted that he had repurchased his license to loan to a cousin visiting from out of state. He stated the cousin shot two deer with his licenses. PCO Vinson and CO Rodgers visited the processor/taxidermist he used and gathered records, antlers, and additional evidence. Later the suspect called the CO's cell phone and admitted he had shot the extra deer and did not loan his licenses. Enforcement action for the illegal deer was taken.

PCO Justin Vinson and CO David Rodgers stopped a jeep on a county roadway after it was observed operating in a closed area along the Rogue River State Game Area.

During the traffic stop, paperwork for the vehicle was obtained from the driver of the vehicle. The driver stated to PCO Vinson that something was wrong with the registration because it stated it was a two door and this was a four door. PCO Vinson checked the VIN and noticed that was also different than the paper registration. Running information from station 20 it was determined that the driver owned two jeeps a year apart and was using the plate to operate both vehicles. The driver stated he must have just messed up and put the wrong plate on the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken for the operation on state land.

A snow squall came through the area causing whiteout conditions. There were multiple accidents on US-31 including a sheriff's patrol car that was struck. PCO Katie Stawara and CO Greg Patten responded and assisted with traffic until the freeway was clear.

While on patrol CO Greg Patten spotted a large smoke cloud that he could see from two miles away. CO Patten went to the area to investigate. A volunteer firefighter that lives nearby was at the scene. The firefighter said that a subject was burning a vehicle and tires and fled the area when he arrived. The local fire department arrived to extinguish the blaze. Further investigation after the property owner showed up revealed that an unknown individual cut the front end off a junk vehicle on the property. The suspect involved in the larceny of car parts and fire is still outstanding.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler had just pulled into the boat launch at Four Mile Lake to check the fishing activity when two subjects came off the ice on ORVs at a high rate of speed. CO Drexler immediately noticed neither subject was wearing a helmet and upon further investigation learned that both ORVs were unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben and CO Mike Drexler responded to an in-progress complaint of excessively loud dirt bikes operating on the frozen waters of Wild Goose Lake. CO Hartleben could hear the bikes operating from well over a mile away as he approached the location. COs Hartleben and Drexler observed three riders operating on a series of plowed tracks on the lake when they arrived. COs Hartleben and Drexler then made contact with the main group of subjects on the west side of the lake. A check of all the operators and off-road vehicles revealed an expired registration, an improperly displayed registration, a failure to display registration, and a failure to transfer title. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brandon Hartleben and Mike Drexler had just cleared the ice on Joslin Lake when Washtenaw County Metro Dispatch put out a shots fired complaint along Bush Road in the Waterloo State Recreation Area. COs Hartleben and Drexler responded to the area and made contact with the caller who advised that the shooting was coming from McClure Road. The COs continued checking the area and located a vehicle along McClure Road. As the COs stopped to try and make contact, they were met with a large burst of gunfire a short distance into the woods. The COs entered the woods and made

contact with a group of three subjects that were target shooting in a non-designated area with semi-automatic rifles, a shotgun, and a handgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben took a break from his background investigation to check out Whitmore Lake during the annual ice fishing tournament. Within a minute of stepping out on the ice CO Hartleben observed an ORV with an expired registration and another ORV not displaying a registration being driven by an operator without a safety helmet. Other violations encountered included riding double on a single ORV, no fishing license on person, no name/address on tip-ups, additional ORV helmet violations, and another ORV not displaying a registration. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither were checking ice fishermen on a Lenawee County lake when they contacted an angler who was appreciative of the DNR, stating it was good to see license dollars getting used. CO Monnich asked the angler for his license which the angler stated he left in the truck, but stated he "Buys them year-in and year-out." A quick check of the individual's retail sales history through DNR dispatch showed the individual had not purchased a fishing license the last three years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy and PCO Nick Wellman responded to a complaint of anglers trespassing to access Ore Lake. The trespassers were gone upon arrival; however, the COs decided to check the anglers on the frozen lake. Violations encountered were fishing without license, failure to exhibit fishing license, no name or address on tip-up, operating an ORV without helmet, and unlicensed ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy and PCO Nick Wellman were in Howell when they observed a vehicle matching the description of a "be on the lookout" (BOL) driving towards them. Upon further observation, the driver of the vehicle was slumped over the steering wheel and rolling backwards into traffic. They conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and assisted Howell Police Department with interviewing and field sobriety testing. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs.

CO Pete Purdy and PCO Nick Wellman investigated a complaint of a permanent ice shanty that had started to fall through the ice on Rush Lake due to the poor ice conditions. Upon contact, the owner admitted he had been sick and unable to retrieve the shanty before the ice conditions deteriorated. Upon further questioning regarding his hunting season and retail sales history it was found that the subject had killed more deer than he purchased licenses for. A full confession was obtained that his wife had bought an extra license for him and he used the tag for his fifth deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lenawee County, CO Eric Smither responded to assist deputies on a rollover crash. CO Smither assisted by directing traffic and getting medical on the way to assess the driver for injuries. The driver had minor injuries and there were no other vehicles involved.

CO Troy Ludwig contacted an angler fishing on Ackley Lake. When asked for her fishing license, the angler held up her hands and shrugged. The angler admitted to not having a license and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds while patrolling Hillsdale County for ice fishing activity observed a group of anglers on a small cove. When contact was made with the group one of the anglers gave the officer his base license. The CO explained to the angler that a fishing license was needed. The angler stated he was confused on the fishing regulations. A license check was done and it was found that the individual had not purchased fishing licenses for several years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds conducted an interview on a subject in Hillsdale County who had a suspicious license from the 2017 deer season. When the CO started the interview the individual started talking about a deer that was taken in the firearm season. The CO listened to the story then asked the hunter about the deer that was taken in archery season. The hunter was reluctant to talk about the deer. The CO explained that he knew when the deer was taken into a local processor, but wanted to know when the deer was shot. The hunter hesitantly started to tell the story but could not remember when the deer was shot. The hunter ultimately looked up a picture showing the date and time the deer was taken, which was a day before the hunter's license was purchased. The hunter confessed to hunting and taking the deer without a license. A report will be submitted and charges sought for hunting and taking an antlered deer without a license.

CO Sam Schluckbier conducted an interview/investigation on an unlicensed, out-of-state guide who resides in Michigan. The suspect admitted to advertising and receiving payment for whitetail deer hunts in the state of Illinois. CO Schluckbier is working with an Illinois CO and charges are being sought in Illinois.

CO Sam Schluckbier conducted a traffic stop on an ORV operating illegally on an Eaton County highway. The operator denied knowing the law and stated he hasn't been "bothered" for over twelve years by law enforcement. In addition, the driver failed to license his ORV and was operating without a valid driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier located a suspicious set of deer antlers while conducting a taxidermy inspection in Eaton County. Upon further investigation it was found that the owner of the deer harvested the 10-point buck during archery season, but failed to tag it. CO Schluckbier interviewed two subjects and while doing so, one of them forget when the deer was harvested, and gave a contradicting story. The hunter had his step brother go to the store and purchase a deer kill tag instead of using the one he had in his pocket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier assisted CO Matt Neterer and CO Todd Thorn on a taxidermy inspection in Ingham County. During the inspection three illegal ducks were located in one of the freezers. The investigation is ongoing.

While patrolling Hillsdale County, CO Carter Woodwyk checked a small, lightly fished lake for anglers. The CO observed two subjects on the opposite side of the lake tip-up fishing. The CO decided to walk straight across the lake to check these anglers. When the CO was close enough for the anglers to distinguish that he was in fact a CO, one of the anglers said to the other, "I told you it was the DNR." The CO asked to see the angler's fishing licenses. One angler stated it was a private lake and they do not need them. The CO pointed out that their lake association has signs stating that anglers must possess a DNR fishing license to fish the lake. The CO also explained that anglers still need fishing licenses on privately accessed lakes. In addition, one angler did not have his name or address on his tip-ups. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk spoke with many young anglers partaking in the Jonesville Community School Outdoor Adventures activities. The activity for the week was ice fishing, a sport that many of the youth had never taken part in. The CO conversed with many students and answered questions ranging from who the CO is and what he does, to questions about fish and game laws and recreational safety related topics. There were approximately 40 people present.

CO Carter Woodwyk observed two anglers fishing a lake in Hillsdale County and decided to make contact with them. Upon contact, the CO asked to see their fishing licenses, and the CO observed a large amount of pan fish in two five gallon buckets. The CO asked the anglers how many fish they had caught. The anglers stated they were unsure. After counting each fish, the CO discovered the anglers were significantly over their limit of 25. Additionally, one of the anglers was cited for this same offense a few years back. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols attended a meeting of the East Olive QDMA Co-op. There were about 60 people in attendance. CWD remains the popular talking point.

CO Todd Thorn checked two men ice fishing on Lake Lansing. One of the two men stated that they hadn't caught anything. CO Thorn looked in the fisherman's sled and found a pike and two panfish. The pike was undersized. Enforcement action was taken and the fish was seized.

CO Todd Thorn conducted a fur buyer inspection near Eaton Rapids. A records search revealed some instances of persons taking/selling furs without licenses. Investigations are on-going.

While investigating an illegal deer case, CO Matthew Neterer received several tips about an unlicensed taxidermist operating in the Lansing area. CO Neterer and CO Todd Thorn visited the alleged taxidermist to conduct an inspection and discovered that the taxidermist was in fact operating without a license. While continuing their investigation they discovered other violations such as an untagged deer and incomplete records. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick checked Moon Lake for ice anglers. As CO Slick approached the first group, one individual immediately stated, "I'm not going to lie, I don't have a license and my rod is over there." Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed two individuals towing a shanty behind a snowmobile. One rider was an adult and the other rider was a child. CO Deppen noticed that neither were wearing helmets. The anglers rode the snowmobile into a local community along the water and CO Deppen drove around and found the location where they came ashore. As CO Deppen drove down the road, the pair of anglers had already gotten off the snowmobile and were now in a truck pulling out of a driveway. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver stepped out of the vehicle. CO Deppen immediately smelled marijuana and also noticed two helmets in the bed of the pickup truck. CO Deppen asked why neither person was wearing them while they were riding the snowmobile. The angler could not give a reason why. Further investigation revealed the angler had a suspended license, unregistered snowmobile, no fishing license and was in possession of marijuana. The minor was picked up by another parental guardian and enforcement action was taken.

While on wildlife patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen received a complaint about possible illegal cable restraints on two adjoining properties, but was unable to respond immediately. CO David Schaumburger was contacted and was the first CO on scene. CO Schaumburger discovered a dead coyote in a cable restraint. Further investigation led to the owner of the cable restraint and multiple violations. The violations included untagged cable restraints, no double swivels, no deer stop, and the cable restraint was attached to a fence. The owner was contacted, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner received a Text-to-Report All Poaching complaint about a Tiger Muskellunge being speared on Lake St. Clair. The complaint also had a picture of the suspect holding the Tiger Muskellunge still on the spear. CO Gardner made contact with the angler and conducted an interview. During the interview, the angler confessed to having speared the Tiger Muskellunge and then throwing it back into the water. A warrant will be sought for the violation.

CO Raymond Gardner responded to a dumping complaint on private property in Lapeer County. In the freezer chest that was dumped, there were some walleye and packaged deer meat from a processor with a suspect name on the packaging. Using RSS (Retail Sales Services) CO Gardner was able to locate the subject and make contact. The subject admitted to the deer meat being his but denied dumping or owning the freezer. CO Gardner asked him if he gave deer meat to any of his friends and the subject said that he did. He then told CO Gardner that none of the people he gave deer meat to owned a chest freezer. Due to the subject's name being on the contents inside the freezer chest, CO Gardner told him he needed to go back to the property and clean up the items dumped.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Danielle Zubek observed an ORV coming into an access site after dark with two passengers, both not wearing helmets. Upon contact, it was found that the owner of the machine also had failed to license the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Danielle Zubek were checking Wetzel Recreation Area for small game hunters when they heard an ORV being operated in the recreation area. The COs patrolled the area for the ORV. The ORV finally appeared on a nearby roadway. The COs attempted to get close to the ORV, but the ORV re-entered the recreation area. The COs attempted to back track and follow the ORV tracks back to a house. While doing so, the COs spotted the ORV heading down the roadway into town. The COs followed the ORV into town where once again the COs lost sight of the ORV. PCO Zubek was able to locate a fresh set of tracks running through a backyard and was able to track them all the way through town into the garage of the suspect. Contact was made with the 18 year old male subject and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel, Brad Silorey, Ben Lasher and PCO Danielle Zubek worked a group patrol in St. John's Marsh targeting illegal snowmobile and ORV operation then Lake St. Clair for fish, snowmobile, and ORV violations. Over 100 contacts were made and violations included: unregistered snowmobiles, no trail permits, no helmets, unlicensed ORVs, riding with more passengers than allowed, fishing without a license, and operating in a game area refuge. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher participated in a group patrol on Lake St Clair in the Fair Haven area. Numerous tickets were issued for ORV, snowmobile and fishing violations. Two different subjects claimed to have purchased fishing licenses but neither showed to have any 2017 purchases. Enforcement action was taken.

During a group patrol at Fair Haven with COs Kris Kiel, Ben Lasher, Brad Silorey and PCO Danielle Zubek, CO Lasher stopped a subject on a snowmobile that had driven by him and numerous other people standing on the ice. The driver turned out to be a juvenile and CO Lasher followed him back to where his father was at the truck and trailer. The snowmobile did not display any registration or trail permit and upon further investigation the title was never transferred by the father. The father turned out to be one of the same subjects CO Lasher contacted the weekend prior and warned about having registrations for their machines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey and Sgt. Todd Szyska patrolled Lake St. Clair checking anglers near the Selfridge Access Site and Cotton Road. Even with the foggy conditions present, many anglers were spread out trying their luck on the yellow perch schools. COs noted and stopped several ORV operators in violation of riding more than the machine is designed for and operating without helmets. In one particular case COs observed an older angler wearing a stainless steel cooking pot on his head as he drove by on his ORV. Enforcement action was taken.



CO David Schaumburger located an angler in a private marina who was trespassing. While approaching the ice shanty, the CO smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. The CO asked the angler to turn over any marijuana on him and he produced two small baggies worth of marijuana. The angler had a medical marijuana card, but it does not permit him to smoke it in public. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger located a snowmobiler who just came back to the launch. The CO could not see any registration for the sled nor a snowmobile trail permit. When the CO questioned the operator, he said that he did not want to pay the \$90 registration and the salesperson at the store told him he could use an ORV registration instead. Enforcement action was taken.

COs David Schaumburger and Dan Walzak, while checking for ice angler activity, located an ice fishing shanty along the Huron River. When the COs made contact with the subjects and asked for fishing licenses, one of the anglers stated he did not have his on him, and the other stated he did not purchase one yet. While CO Walzak was verifying their licenses, CO Schaumburger caught a whiff of marijuana coming from the anglers. The CO located approximately five grams of marijuana on one of the subjects. Enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license, possession of marijuana, and the 22 bluegills that were caught by the pair were seized. Reimbursement on the fish in the amount of \$220 will be sought.

CO David Schaumburger received a complaint of a subject baiting during the extended urban deer hunt. The subject who was supposedly baiting had received citations from the CO in the past for trespassing, hunting after hours, exceeding two gallons of bait, and not placing bait directly on the ground. When COs Schaumburger and Walzak made contact with him, the COs located corn and apples scattered on the ground. Enforcement action was taken for baiting during the closed season.

While checking anglers on a local lake in Oakland County, CO Jason Becker observed a snowmobile cut across a yard to access the lake and operate at a high rate of speed across the lake without a helmet. CO Becker stopped the snowmobile and observed the snowmobile was without a trail permit. The subject stated that his other snowmobiles had trail permits, but he just used this one to ride across the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was checking anglers on a local lake and observed a subject operating an ORV without a helmet on the ice. CO Becker contacted the subject who also did not have an ORV sticker on his machine. While speaking with the operator, another subject pulled up on his ORV without a helmet. The second subject stated that he was just checking his tip ups around the point on the south end of the lake. CO Becker advised the second subject that he needed to wear a helmet and have an ORV sticker on his machine. CO Becker also advised the subject that his tip ups need to be within sight, and not around the corner. Enforcement action was taken. While exiting the lake, CO Becker observed a third subject operating an ORV without a helmet come

to the boat launch. The third subject also was operating a machine without an ORV sticker. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker received a Report All Poaching complaint of ORVs in a local gravel pit. CO Becker responded and located several subjects fishing on the lake inside the gravel pit. While CO Becker was checking licenses, he asked how the subjects accessed the lake. They stated they parked at a nearby construction company and entered at the locked gate. CO Becker pointed out that there are “no trespassing” signs attached to the gate where they entered. CO Becker advised the subjects that the subjects were trespassing by crossing posted private property to access the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 21**

Detective Pennoni reports that Great Lakes Water Quality Laboratory, Inc. (GLWQL) and owner/certified water operator entered a no contest plea in the 85th District Court for violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). In December 2015, Detective Pennoni began an investigation based on complaints of GLWQL not reporting positive total coliform bacteriological analyses results from public water supplies to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). A review of GLWQL records from June 2015-December 2015 indicated 63 documented violations of the SDWA. GLWQL records indicated that water samples were collected at customer’s public water supplies and tested for total coliform at GLWQL. If a sample came back positive for total coliform, the lab did not generate a lab report indicating the positive result. The site would be resampled until a negative sample was achieved and only the negative sample was reported to the DEQ. Repeat sampling was not done within 24 hours and the appropriate number of repeat samples weren’t taken. In some instances, multiple positive total coliform results were received at a public water supply requiring emergency notification with failure to do so.

The Benzie County Prosecutor’s Office authorized a total of 11 misdemeanor charges including failing to notify the DEQ of test results indicating positive total coliform at a public water supply, exceeding the maximum level of contaminants of positive total coliform at a public water supply, and failing to collect repeat samples, and one felony charge for tampering with evidence. A total of eight charges were authorized for violations of the SDWA, including failure to generate lab reports.

In December 2017, a no contest plea was entered for exceeding the maximum contaminant level for total coliform bacteria at Duvernay Park Apartments and Juniper Hills Condominium Association. The subject was placed on 18 months’ probation, including terminating any activities involved with administrative duties/compliance under the SDWA as it relates to public water supplies, \$2,000.00 in restitution and \$4325.00 in fines and costs. GLWQL entered a no contest plea of two misdemeanor SDWA violations for failing to notify the DEQ of the total coliform analysis indicating positive total coliform at Idlewild Garden Housing and for invalidating a positive total coliform

sample collected and analyzed by GLWQL for routine monitoring at Houghton Lake Timber Apartments. GLWQL was ordered to pay a total of \$6175.00 in fines and costs.

## **BELLE ISLE**

While on Belle Isle patrol, CO Greg Patten located two subjects in the old zoo trespassing. The subjects were taking photographs. Enforcement action was taken.