

**DNR Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
5/6/2018 – 5/19/2018**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officers (COs) Zachary Painter and Ethen Mapes patrolled Lake Gogebic for the walleye opener. Many anglers were found targeting walleye prior to the season and one angler was fishing with more than three lines. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes worked a designated marine patrol on Lake Gogebic. The COs checked many boats that were out for the first time this year. The officers conducted safety inspections and measured fish. Every boat had caught at least one fish.

CO Ethen Mapes taught at a basic marine school for the probationary conservation officers (PCOs) at Camp Grayling. The PCOs were taught boat handling, trailer backing and patrol tactics.

CO Jenni Hanson and Sgt. Grant Emery conducted a marine patrol of the Cisco Chain of Lakes in Gogebic County. A few violations were addressed such as registration decals not on vessels and fishing without license in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jenni Hanson received a complaint of a possibly injured or sick bear in Watersmeet Township. The bear was missing a patch of fur on its hind leg but was not injured or sick. The curious yearling had climbed onto the complainant's deck and inside the fenced yard to eat from the bird feeder.

CO Jenni Hanson was on patrol in Wakefield Township when she observed a side by side operating without a valid ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Zach Painter and Sgt. Grant Emery were on patrol in Gogebic County and checked an angler fishing from shore on Sunday Lake. The angler rode an ORV to the lake and did not have an ORV sticker or a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Grant Emery witnessed a bicycle crash on M-28 over the weekend. Two bicyclists' tires became entangled causing one of them to lose control and crash on the highway. Sgt. Emery offered first aid to the injured cyclist. The injured subject refused first aid, sustaining bumps, bruises, road rash and a cracked helmet. Both cyclists were thankful for Sgt. Emery's assistance and a ride back to their starting point.

CO Doug Hermanson taught hunter safety at the Hancock Middle school prior to the students upcoming field day at Camp Nesbit.

CO Hermanson checked an angler at Pike Bay on Portage Lake who was in possession of a walleye and a smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken for possessing bass during the closed season.

COs Jeremy Sergey, Jeffrey Dell, Shannon Kritz, Jared Ferguson, Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy teamed up with bordering Wisconsin wardens for the annual Brule River Float. High school students from Crystal Falls and Florence participate in a yearly kayak float along the Brule River separating Wisconsin and Michigan. Fifty people participated in the event.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Jeff Dell responded to an individual burning rubbish in Menominee County during a day in which no burn permits were being issued. The fire was extinguished, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz patrolled Iron County lakes the evening before the walleye opener. While patrolling, CO Kritz observed a set line at the end of a dock. CO Kritz pulled the line in and found a large shiner minnow on a hook. Contact was made with the suspect at the residence. After a short interview, it was determined he was getting an early start on the walleye opener. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz was conducting boat checks of anglers when she contacted two subjects in possession of walleye. CO Kritz measured the walleyes they had in possession and found one to be under the 15" size limit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Shannon Kritz, Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon attended the Michigan's Upper Peninsula 2018 Peace Officers Memorial Service in Iron County. The COs participated in the motorcade procession which included more than 60 patrol vehicles from the U.P. and surrounding areas. There was also a ceremony held honoring fallen officers and their families.

COs Shannon Kritz and Brian Bacon attended the Dickinson County Hunter Safety Workshop. The COs met with hunter safety instructors from around the area.

CO Shannon Kritz was patrolling a local trout stream when she observed two anglers fishing. While one angler was getting his fishing license out, CO Kritz detected the smell of marijuana. CO Kritz questioned the angler about it and he admitted to taking two hits of a marijuana pipe even though he knew he was not supposed to smoke it in public areas. The angler possessed a medical marijuana card and a discussion was held on the restrictions required of the card holder.

CO Jeffrey Dell was patrolling the Menominee River when he observed two men fishing. When CO Dell contacted the anglers, only one was able to produce a license. The other asked if he wouldn't get a ticket if he produced a license at court. CO Dell asked if he had bought a license already. The man assured the CO that he had. CO Dell ran his name through the system just the same. Before his purchase history could come back

via radio, the man stated, "Honestly, I didn't buy a license." CO Dell stated he knew, and the radio confirmed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell was patrolling an area where overnight camping is prohibited when he observed a parked vehicle. CO Dell approached the vehicle and observed a male subject asleep with a hash pipe and a half-full liquor bottle within the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed two more hash pipes, marijuana and an additional open liquor bottle. The subject, who admitted to driving to the area at 4:00 a.m., also had a suspended operator's license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon patrolled local lakes for the annual walleye opener. The COs found high activity and a good catch rate. One individual boat was checked and found to be in possession of an undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon were patrolling the backwaters of a local reservoir when they found a boat tucked in a cove with two individuals. Upon contact, the COs found neither individuals had life jackets. The individuals were a long distance from the boat landing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson was working a local lake for marine safety when he observed an individual casting from shore. CO Jared Ferguson maneuvered over to the individual and contacted him. CO Ferguson quickly determined the subject did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon received several complaints regarding ORVs operating upon a state roadway. While traveling to the Law Enforcement Memorial Services the COs contacted an individual operating on state highway M-69. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge conducted a patrol on the Dead River Basin in Marquette County during the Upper Peninsula walleye opener. CO DeLonge contacted several anglers while conducting license checks and marine safety inspections. Fishing was slow; however, the checks were all positive and CO DeLonge was thanked several times for patrolling the body of water.

CO Brett DeLonge responded to a traffic crash on US-41 in western Marquette County and assisted MSP with the incident. Both parties were not injured but one driver was found to have a revoked operators' license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Josh Boudreaux responded to a complaint of subjects burning debris from a torn down trailer house in the Gwinn area. The COs observed two adult subjects monitoring the fire as they pulled into the complaint site. The two adult subjects stated they were just trying to clean up the mess left behind after demolishing the old trailer before they could pull a new trailer onto the site. The county was in a

“Very High” fire danger and burn permits were not being issued. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Josh Boudreaux were checking fishermen on Deer Lake on the walleye opener. COs Leadman and Boudreaux observed three subjects fishing in a small boat not far from the boat access site. The fishermen were checked when they returned to the boat launch. Two of the fishermen presented current fishing licenses and the third said he was not fishing but just along for the ride. After being shown the pair of binoculars in the COs hands and informed that he had been observed fishing for some time, he reluctantly changed his story and said he had been fishing. Both of his fishing partners had already stated that he had been fishing also. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Boudreaux and Mark Leadman checked numerous anglers on the Pesheekee River on the walleye opener. A group of three fishermen returned to their truck carrying a bag with a walleye inside. PCO Boudreaux asked the fishermen how long the walleye was. One subject stated he thought it was 15 inches. When asked if they had a tape measure and measured the fish he said, “No, it looked like it was legal”. CO Boudreaux measured the walleye and found it to be only 14 inches long. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman checked a group of anglers fishing on Deer Lake in Ishpeming before the walleye opener. One subject stated he was fishing for bass and showed several pictures of bass he had caught at the lake. Another subject had put his fishing pole down and was now uninterested in fishing. Upon questioning, the subject stated he wasn’t really a fisherman and hadn’t purchased his fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dave Miller and Brian Lasanen worked smelt fishermen at various rivers in Baraga County. COs Miller and Lasanen watched fishermen most of the night and the run was slow. The smelt finally started to run at about 2:30 A.M. and the rivers were black with smelt. The COs watched as three generations of one family couldn’t help themselves and were filling up their buckets and going back to get more buckets and coolers from their vehicles. The group was well over their limit of two gallons each. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Miller watched one fisherman fill a five-gallon bucket to the top with smelt. The individual returned to his truck where he dumped the smelt into a cooler in the bed of his pickup truck. The subject then returned to the river where he filled the bucket with smelt a second time. CO Miller made contact and questioned the fisherman about his first bucket of smelt. The fisherman tried to explain that his cousin had filled the cooler with smelt until CO Miller explained that he had been watching him the entire time. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik was on patrol checking for steelhead fishermen in the local rivers. CO Zitnik was approaching a closed section of the Rock River when he noticed two anglers fishing in that section of stream. Upon contact, the one angler cut his line and then stated he did not know you couldn't fish there. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Evink and Mark Zitnik were working throughout the night checking anglers dipping for smelt. While approaching a creek, the COs noticed three individuals hide. Two laid in the creek and the third crawled in the culvert. Upon contact, the COs noticed they were hiding because they were trying to spear on a designated trout stream. One subject had a warrant out of Indiana and the second had two warrants out of Antrim County and Otsego County. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch were dispatched to a wildfire that had started when a landowner was burning a Christmas tree during a restricted burn time. The fire escaped the landowner and the fire department was called out to control the fire. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Evink and Commercial Fish Specialist Cpl. Mike Hammill conducted a joint patrol on the opening day of walleye season in the UP. The officers experienced a high level of compliance and some good fishing reports. The exception to the rule was the 25-year old who said his mom forgot to get his license for him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Evink was patrolling Big Bay de Noc. He asked the first boat he checked if they caught anything. They said they caught a few bass. After checking licenses and marine safety gear. CO Evink asked if they had any fish in the cooler. They said yes, three bass. CO Evink informed the fishermen that bass season didn't open until the Saturday before Memorial Day. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Evink and Stephen Butzin assisted Boy Scout Troop 408. The COs spent some time talking about what conservation officers do and the current hunting and fishing regulations.

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson checked trout anglers on a gear restricted river after receiving multiple complaints of anglers using non-artificial bait. A check of one angler turned out that he was in possession of non-artificial bait. A citation was issued for the violation.

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson checked a bass fisherman at an access site. The COs asked to see the anglers license and it was discovered the angler never purchased one. The angler was issued a citation.

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson worked the walleye opener check several successful anglers. Overall compliance was high with enforcement action being taken for the following violations: fishing without a license, possessing undersize walleye, and having no type four PFDs on board when required.

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson were on patrol when a call came out of a victim unconscious and not breathing. The COs responded to the scene to assist EMS in CPR and aid to the victim. The victim was transported to the local hospital to be turned over to hospital personnel.

CO Chris Lynch responded to four calls of escaped fires within a two-week period. All were subjects burning on days that were not permitted and didn't take precautions in preventing their fires from escaping. Some also were burning prohibited materials and using an improper burn barrel. In all five citations were issued for various violations along with numerous warnings being issued.

COs Calvin Smith, Thomas Oberg and Colton Gelinias held a hunter safety course at Detour High School. A good number of students attended the course and earned their hunter safety certificate.

CO Colton Gelinias responded to a fire in Mackinac County that was caused by the suspect burning garbage in a non-approved container. Both a local fire department and DNR fire officers responded to the scene and put out the flames. In total approximately one acre of land was burned. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinias responded to a fire in Luce County during an extreme fire danger day. The suspect was burning building material during a burn ban. Law enforcement action was taken

CO Colton Gelinias was patrolling state land in Mackinac County when he observed flagging in the woods. CO Gelinias followed the flagging for nearly a mile, where he found debris from an airplane crash. After further investigation, it was discovered that the airplane had crashed in 1989 and was not discovered until 2002.

CO Tom Oberg was on patrol at Dunbar Park to check fishing activity in the area. CO Oberg contacted a group that was fishing and found that one individual had never purchased a fishing license for 2018, and another member was in possession of a northern pike during the closed season. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg received information from DNR Fire Supervisor Rob Shields of a fire near Sault Ste. Marie that escaped and ended up burning over 40 acres of land. CO Oberg responded and contacted the suspect who admitted to starting a small patch of grass on fire near his driveway and left before making sure it was completely out. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg was on patrol when he responded to a missing 17-year old girl in Whitefish Township along the shore of Lake Superior. CO Oberg assisted the Michigan State Police, Chippewa County Sheriff's Department, Whitefish Township Fire, and other volunteers in the search. CO Oberg utilized his side-by-side to go along the beach where he found fresh shoe prints, after the terrain became impassable for the ORV CO Oberg continued to follow them on foot for nearly a mile. CO Oberg checked

an area just off the beach where he came across a tent with the missing girl in it. She was transported back to her family in good health.

COs Calvin Smith and Justin Vinson patrolled the Tahquamenon River during the opening day of walleye season. The COs came across a group of anglers who were displaying an expired boat registration. The owner of the boat stated he had received a citation for the same thing over three years ago almost in the same location on the river. Law enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Duane Budreau responded to a burning complaint in Pellston. A furniture company was burning sawdust in an incinerator without a screen. The sparks from the incinerator started a fire that required DNR Fire Officer Nate Stearns to respond. The owner of the company was written a citation for failing to prevent the spread of a forest fire.

CO Chad Baldwin participated in a vehicle career day event at East Jordan Elementary School where students were able to view different vehicles from multiple careers. The students listened to a job description of what a CO does and were able to check out all of the gear and equipment that COs are issued and use to perform essential job functions.

CO Chad Baldwin conducted a presentation at St. Mary's Catholic School in Charlevoix. CO Baldwin spoke with the junior high students about summer safety and gave them tips about how to stay safe while participating in outdoor activities. CO Baldwin also spoke with the elementary students and had several displays on hand. Students were able to view CO Baldwin's educational fur kit which enabled them to get a better understanding of some of the local wildlife.

CO Andrea Erratt assisted with a search for a missing Boyne City woman. The Boyne City woman was found safe after being missing for over two days.

CO Andrea Erratt saw an ORV parked by a trout stream and observed a man standing in the creek with a small net and two kids. The man did not have a fishing license and CO Erratt explained it was illegal to net fish in a trout stream. The ORV had a 2012 ORV license and the owner did not have a helmet. CO Erratt issued the ORV operator a ticket for operating an unlicensed ORV, and warned him for not wearing a helmet, riding triple with his young kids, and for the fishing violations.

CO Andrea Erratt received a littering complaint from East Jordan Police Department. A concerned neighbor had located trash dumped on private property. CO Erratt dug through several bags locating syringes and medical marijuana oils for vaporizers along with a person's business address. CO Erratt located the business owner in Petoskey who said he hired a guy through a Facebook ad and paid him \$50 to dispose of 11 bags of trash in January. He gave CO Erratt the man's name and said he would be going immediately to clean up the trash. CO Erratt, with the help of a Boyne City police

officer, located the dumper who said he had taken it to his step-brother's house to burn. CO Erratt explained that both burning trash and taking money for the disposal of garbage without taking it to a licensed landfill was illegal. The man agreed to take responsibility for dumping the trash and he was issued a ticket for littering and warned for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Andrea Erratt talked to high school students during the Boyne City Veteran's Appreciation Day held at the American Legion. She displayed her fur kit which includes pelts from a bobcat, coyote, beaver, muskrat, mink, bear, and other game animals. CO Erratt explained DNR laws and how to become a conservation officer to interested students.

CO Andrea Erratt made a presentation to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Mackinaw City who were camping at Wilderness State Park about DNR laws and how conservation officers catch poachers and protect our natural resources. CO Erratt displayed deer antlers and pelts from past cases explaining why she has them and not the illegal hunters. One boy was especially fascinated with her patrol truck and helped CO Erratt turn on her emergency lights and siren.

CO Andrea Erratt received a RAP complaint about campers on state land leaving their bags of trash on the side of the road, which they had been doing for years. CO Erratt checked four campsites nearby and ticketed two campers for failing to post a camp card permit. One woman who had been camping there over a week without a camp card was warned for having expired plates on her trailer and motor vehicle. CO Erratt was unable to locate the trash dumper, so she picked up the bag and dug through diapers and other stinky trash locating a Walmart receipt from Springfield, Ohio.

While working with Acting Sgt. Brad Dohm, CO Andrea Erratt explained the ongoing trash dumping problem on state land and that she wanted to check some campers from Ohio who set up on Howard Road. As they approached the camp, the COs observed a man riding an ORV doing laps around the campsite with a four-year-old boy sitting in front of him. Neither were wearing helmets and the man gunned his engine doing a wheelie, nearly tipping over. CO Erratt issued him a ticket for operating an ORV without a helmet and warned him for riding double and carelessly with a four-year-old. CO Erratt asked him what they did with their trash and he explained that they put it on the road by the campground for trash pickup. CO Erratt explained that the property was state land, not a campground, and that trash companies don't pick up trash on the side of the road unless you pay for it. He said they have been doing that for years and that his brother had taken the trash down there earlier in the week. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. Brad Dohm and CO Andrea Erratt patrolled a snowmobile trail on state land that was posted closed to ORVs. They stopped an ORV operator who said he had seen the NO ORV sign and knew trails were open unless posted closed, but he thought the sign would look different. They stopped ORV operator who said he did not see the NO

ORVs sign, but his passengers admitted they had seen it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was patrolling Black Lake in Presque Isle County for fishing activity. Upon checking several boats, various violations were discovered including no fishing license in possession, no navigation lights after dark, insufficient number of PFDs, and expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. Brad Dohm and COs Paul Fox and Chad Baldwin assisted DNR Fisheries biologists and MSU research team in capturing sturgeon in the Black River in Cheboygan County. Critical data was collected, and the fish were tagged and released. CO Paul Fox is working with DNR Wildlife Division regarding numerous deer that have been found dead on a piece of private property in Presque Isle County. Samples from the animals have been collected and sent to the disease lab for testing.

Sgt. Mike Mshar and PCO Sidney Collins responded to a RAP complaint in Cheboygan County about a bear that was currently destroying a bird feeder off the front porch of a residence. The COs arrived and found the bear feeding at the bird feeder. After some hazing, the bear reluctantly walked off into the brush. The COs assisted the homeowners in removing what was left of the feeders and educated them on bears and their habits in the spring.

CO William Webster and PCO Charles Jones were patrolling an area of Devil's River in Alpena County where the access is posted against trespassing. The COs located a vehicle parked inside the posted area and walked the river bank in attempt to locate the subjects. The COs noticed two men near a train bridge. One of the men was spray painting graffiti on the concrete wall and the other man was supervising. Contact was made, and the COs took enforcement action for trespassing.

CO William Webster responded to a brush pile fire in Alpena County that had escaped the control of the property owner. When CO Webster arrived on scene, the local fire department was able to contain the fire before it got to any of the outbuildings or dwellings. There was a no burn ban for Alpena County and the law was explained to the subject along with a ticket being issued for allowing a fire to escape.

CO Jon Sklba received a complaint in Presque Isle County of an intoxicated subject shooting at wildlife. No subject information was obtained, only that a red pickup was involved. The area was checked with no contacts made.

CO Jon Sklba received a complaint of people possibly snagging fish in a small stream in Alpena County. The complainant did not see anyone snagging or attempting to snag fish but saw a vehicle by a creek and assumed that people were snagging fish. The subjects were fishing for suckers with no violations present.

CO Jon Sklba received a complaint of a large quantity of fish carcasses dumped on private property in Alpena County. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Jon Sklba assisted a mail truck that had a flat tire. The driver was unable to remove the tire and spare from the vehicle. CO Sklba and another subject were able to get the spare tire down and the tire changed.

CO Jon Sklba contacted a family in Alpena County out enjoying nature on a nice weekend day. While speaking with the family, a chainsaw was heard nearby. CO Sklba asked the family if they knew who was cutting wood nearby, and the family advised they did not know the subject. CO Sklba went to locate the subject cutting after talking with the family that was just out for a walk. The subject cutting wood was located and he advised that his family was in the area walking, while he was cutting wood. CO Sklba advised the subject that the only other people out were a family that denied knowing him. It was discovered that the family who denied knowing who was cutting the firewood was in fact the subject's family. Per the subject cutting the wood, his father even suggested what trees to cut. The subject advised that he did not have a permit to cut wood and did not know if he could cut where and what he was cutting. The rules were explained and enforcement action taken.

CO Jon Sklba was able to wrap up a litter case in Presque Isle County with the assistance of CO Adam Leclerc. The litter consisted of two jet skis that were dumped and burned on state land. The responsible party admitted to dumping and burning the jet skis to get rid of them. Enforcement action was taken, and the owner returned to clean up the mess left.

CO Jon Sklba contacted a turkey hunter in a vehicle near the Onaway area in Presque Isle County. While talking with the hunter, an uncased shotgun was observed in the back of his pickup truck. The firearm ended up being loaded and uncased. The subject stated that he was just in a hurry and must have forgot to unload the firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc responded to an emergency call from a family of lost hikers in Alpena County near the Rockport Recreation Area. The harsh winter and local wildlife had destroyed most of the trail markers and signs along the trails, leaving the hikers wandering in circles. With limited cell phone reception, they were able to call Alpena Central Dispatch. Dispatch was able to get a GPS location off the cell phone. CO LeClerc responded on his ATV, and after a short hike, was able to find the lost family. The family made it easy because they stayed in the same location and did not move until help arrived. The family was about a mile and a half away from the parking lot when recovered. CO LeClerc was able to lead them back to the parking area. No medical assistance was requested, and the family was happy to be out of the woods.

CO Adam LeClerc responded to a pallet fire in Alpena Township during a time when no burn permits were being issued. The responsible party was located and was unaware of the procedure for obtaining and checking for burn permits. Enforcement action was taken.

While on ORV patrol, CO Adam LeClerc came across an ATV being operated at a high rate of speed and being ridden by two individuals. CO LeClerc attempted to catch up to the ATV but could not make up ground. CO LeClerc waited for the ATV to come back out of the state land to the main road. The ATV came back down the road after about ten minutes. When the driver saw the patrol truck, he abruptly stopped and turned around to flee from the CO. CO LeClerc was able to catch up to and stop the ATV to find out it was being ridden by two 15-year-old juveniles. After being advised of their violations, no registration, no trail sticker, riding double, speeding on a county road, and careless driving; a guardian was called to pick them up from the scene. The ATV was impounded and notification to their mother was made. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

COs Richard Stowe, Justin Vanderlinde, Patrick McManus, Rebecca Hubers and Lt. John Jurcich attended and provided security at an NRC meeting and a CWD public meeting in Traverse City.

CO Rebecca Hubers attended a Betsie Valley Trail meeting, introducing herself and explaining enforcement efforts along the trail to new board members and newly assigned PRD trail staff.

CO Rebecca Hubers assisted Benzie County Sheriff's deputies with a traffic stop resulting in one warrant arrest, illegal possession of marijuana, and driving under the influence of marijuana with children as passengers.

CO Rebecca Hubers responded to an undetermined wildfire along state land in East Bay Township, Grand Traverse County. CO Hubers conducted an origin investigation while at the scene.

COs Rebecca Hubers, Justin Vanderlinde, Will Kinney, Pat McManus and Amanda McCurdy conducted charter boat inspections at the Frankfort Marina in Benzie County. Numerous vessels were inspected to ensure they functioned properly and had the necessary safety equipment on board. Permits were issued to those captains who met the legal requirements.

COs Will Kinney, Josiah Killingbeck and Ryan Andrews assisted the Michigan State Police with a fleeing felon in Wexford County. The suspect had run from a state trooper during a traffic stop. The COs assisted with the foot pursuit of the suspect alongside MSP. After a lengthy chase, the suspect was surrounded and apprehended and is facing multiple charges in addition to two current felony warrants.

COs Rich Stowe, Jennifer Hanson, Sgt. Dan Bigger and Corporal Sean Kehoe worked perch fishermen in Leelanau County. One subject was found to be fishing without a license and an over-limit of perch was also located in the same vessel. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski were checking a lake in Mason County when they noticed a subject fishing from a kayak. As they approached, they noted that the subject proceeded to retrieve a wrapped cigar, remove the wrapper, then throw it into the lake. The COs made contact with the subject as he returned to the access site on the opposite side of the lake. When questioned about the litter, the subject at first denied throwing anything into the lake. Once CO Brosky described the wrapper that the subject had littered, the subject then stated that if he did litter, he wouldn't have done it intentionally. CO Brosky disagreed with the subject's defense and cited him for littering.

CO Kyle Publiski was stopped at a residence in Mason County where he noticed materials being burned in violation of state law. While at the residence talking to the homeowner, CO Publiski noticed a water trough that contained four steelhead with spear marks in them. CO Publiski questioned the homeowner about the fish and he told the officer they were given to him by another person. The homeowner gave CO Publiski a description of the suspect, the vehicle he was driving, and the location of where the suspect worked. CO Brosky was able to locate the suspect's vehicle and the suspect at his workplace. CO Brosky interviewed the suspect who ultimately admitted to spearing the fish after work and giving the fish away to the subject. The suspect was cited for taking fish without a valid license and taking steelhead with an illegal device. A 10-foot long spear was also seized.

CO Ryan Andrews was patrolling Lake County when a side-by-side ORV came around the corner on the closed trail. After stopping the ORV, eleven more ORVs arrived. CO Brian Brosky arrived and assisted. While there, CO Brosky noted an ORV turning on to a closed road from an area of federal land that is also closed to ORV operation. After stopping the ORV, it was determined that the female operator was a minor, operating without her parent's supervision, and with a passenger on a non-approved ORV. CO Brosky contacted her father, who admitted that he knew the minor was out riding somewhere. The parent was cited for allowing a minor to operate the ORV unsupervised and several other warnings were issued for the other violations encountered.

CO Ryan Andrews was checking fishing locations along the rivers looking for a car that was linked to a group of men who had been spearing steelhead. CO Andrews came upon a car that had been run off the road and hit a tree. The driver stated that the other vehicle had fled the scene just seconds before the officer's arrival, and the description matched the vehicle the CO Andrews was looking for. Shortly thereafter, the suspect vehicle again returned. CO Josiah Killingbeck and the Lake County Sheriff's Department arrived to assist in stopping the car with three occupants and there were three spears in plain view. COs Andrews and Killingbeck searched the car and found .22 caliber rifle shells and a spot light, along with three steelhead with spear marks just behind the head. Enforcement action was taken and charges have been requested with the Lake County Prosecutor's Office on numerous traffic, fish and wildlife charges.

While patrolling in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews checked a group of anglers fishing in a gear restricted area of the Pere Marquette River. The men had a brown trout in their

possession and were fishing with illegal gear. Further investigation revealed a pistol behind the driver's seat in the vehicle and the driver was prohibited from possessing a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky received a complaint that two anglers fishing on a lake in Oceana County were possibly keeping undersized fish. CO Brosky responded to the location and was able to contact the anglers. The anglers did not have any undersized fish, but did in fact have a vessel that was not registered. The operator of the vessel was cited for the marine violation and he then stated that "the people who called needed to mind their own business." CO Brosky informed the subject that the reporting party was doing exactly what they should have done. The reporting party said that they were unable to launch their vessel on the water today as it was not registered and figured that others shouldn't be on the lake without registration as well.

CO Brian Brosky was working in Lake County checking ORV activity when he noticed the tracks of an ORV that had done doughnuts at an intersection and then turned onto a closed trail. CO Brosky stopped the ORV and questioned the operator about his operation and noticed the passenger had open intoxicants in the ORV. The operator stated that the ORV's battery was losing charge and said if it stalled, they would not be able to start it again. The driver said he had no option other than to do circles at intersections to make sure it was clear before proceeding through the intersection. The operator and passenger were not able to explain the open intoxicants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck noticed Lake County roads being damaged severely by ORVs doing donuts at intersections and decided to sit in the area. CO Killingbeck soon observed an ORV with an adult and young juvenile ride up to the intersection with no helmets on. The driver then began doing donuts in the intersection causing severe ruts and damage. CO Killingbeck made contact to the driver and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Steve Converse assisted with Tight Lines for Troops in Manistee County on Lake Michigan. The COs reported nearly 200 veterans participated in the event with local charter captains donating their boats and time. Numerous king salmon were caught, many weighing 20 pounds or more.

CO Steve Converse presented at a hunter education class in Manistee County where 37 children were in attendance.

CO Ben Shively was first on the scene of a crash of a reckless driver in Oceana County. CO Shively contacted the driver, who in very slurred speech, stated a deer had run out in front of him and he went into the ditch and side-swiped a power pole. A vehicle had been following the suspect's vehicle and advised that there was no deer and he had been all over the roadway for miles. As CO Shively was checking the driver for injuries, an Oceana County deputy arrived and they removed the subject from the vehicle and administered sobriety tests. The deputy arrested the subject for O.W.I. CO

Shively stayed on scene with the wrecker and power company until the vehicle was removed from the ditch. As CO Shively was about to clear the scene, a four-wheeler went past his patrol truck with an older male driving and a three-year old child sitting behind him, both without a helmet. CO Shively conducted a traffic stop on the ORV and pointed out to the operator that he was missing helmets, no ORV sticker, and double riding. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol in an area commonly called "The Prairie" when he observed three ORVs operating on a county roadway. This section of dirt roadway is open for ORV operation under the county ordinance. After a few minutes, CO Wells observed all three machines proceed to spin donuts on the roadway and create more damage to the road surface which has already been significantly damaged due to this type of activity. CO Wells made contact and subjects were issued tickets for the operating of an ORV in an erosive manner.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Mike Hearn interviewed two turkey hunters in Kalkaska County. The two hunters were under investigation for hunting on private property. They had driven into a subdivision and parked in a gravel driveway of one of the undeveloped parcels. They were attempting to harvest turkeys that were routinely going to feeders behind the nearby homes. The hunters offered no excuse for the blatant disregard for private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen and PCO Stephen Butzin talked with approximately 100 4th grade students at Crawford Au Sable Elementary School. The COs explained what it takes to become a conservation officer as well as some of the laws that they cover. The kids enjoyed getting to ask the COs questions about their job experiences. This marked the 17th year that a conservation officer has talked with all the 4th grade students in Grayling as part of the Junior Deputy Program.

CO John Huspen was patrolling near Jones Lake in Crawford County when he observed two subjects kayaking. CO Huspen used his kayak to paddle out and check the individuals. While approaching the kayakers, CO Huspen observed one of them fishing. Jones Lake is closed to fishing until June 1 because it is a "Quality Fishing Lake." It is also designated as a catch-and-release lake where anglers can only use artificial lures. The individual who was fishing was using live bait and neither kayak had a personal floatation device (PFD) onboard. CO Huspen followed the kayakers safely back to shore and enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz was on patrol in Missaukee County when he observed a two-car property damage accident (PDA). While gathering vehicle information, CO Liestenfeltz was advised of an incident at a campsite the night before. The family was camping in the area when another family member became highly intoxicated and started threatening family members while tearing the campsite apart. The family was scared to return to the area. CO Liestenfeltz went to the campsite and located the subject who

was causing all the problems. Further investigation determined the man had an outstanding warrant from Wexford County. He was placed under arrest and lodged in the Wexford County Jail.

Sgt. Brian Olsen was on patrol in Roscommon County when he observed a side-by-side ORV traveling toward him on the roadway at the posted 55 mph speed limit. Sgt. Olsen turned around and conducted a traffic stop for multiple equipment violations. He also noticed the machine had a valid out of state license plate. The driver could not produce a valid insurance card, and when questioned about it, asked why he needed insurance on his ORV anyway. Sgt. Olsen advised the driver since he had gone to all the trouble of getting his machine registered for operation on the roadway, all the same rules now applied to him. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Craig Neal and Chuck McPherson patrolled canals on Houghton Lake looking for pan fish anglers. The two COs contacted an angler who advised them he may have more than a limit of crappies. Further investigation proved that the angler had eight crappies over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson was patrolling state land when he observed a vehicle pull out of a two track with the back of the pickup full of trees. CO McPherson conducted a traffic stop and upon further investigation found the subject had cut down numerous live balsam fir trees on state land. The man stated that his relative's property did not have good habitat for rabbits and he was planning on building brush piles to hold rabbits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak conducted an ORV patrol in St. Helen. CO Zultak encountered multiple violations including careless operation, operate on the roadway, no helmet, riding with more passengers than designed, operating in a closed area, failing to license ORV, and driving with license suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak responded to a 7-acre fire in Crawford County. Upon arrival on scene, CO Zultak could see where the fire had left a burn barrel and traveled away from it. The individual admitted to burning in a burn barrel and leaving it unattended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO James Garrett was on routine patrol in Oscoda County when he observed a dirt bike pass him on a county road without ORV licenses. CO Garrett turned around, caught up to the bike, and continued to observe the operator as he continued down the right side of the roadway. The individual was operating well in excess of the 20mph speed limit allowed by county ordinance. The operator suddenly crossed from the extreme right side of the road to the left side of the road and made a left-hand turn. While making the turn, the operator of the bike drove onto a person's yard nearly crashing and then continued down the road. CO Garrett conducted a traffic stop on the dirt bike and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader contacted a golf cart operator inside a state campground in Ogemaw County. The driver was operating an unlicensed ORV, driving on a suspended license, and was in possession of open intoxicants. The driver was also out on conditional bond for a felony OWI charge. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau completed an investigation regarding a suspect who had shot an over-limit of antlered deer during the 2017 season. CO Papineau was tipped off to the suspect during an investigation of an unrelated crime. According to the tip, CO Papineau learned that the suspect had shot three bucks throughout the season and borrowed tags from friends. CO Papineau executed several search warrants and was able to obtain evidence. The suspect ultimately confessed to shooting a four-point, an eight-point, and a six-point white-tailed deer. He also confessed to making another subject tag one of the bucks for him. Warrants are being sought for numerous tagging violations and the over limit of bucks.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a lost person report in a remote area of the Gladwin Field Trial Area of Northern Gladwin County. Due to the remote location, calls for help were bouncing between 911 call centers in two different counties and pinging a location was not possible. Upon arrival at the scene, CO Lockwood quickly located part of the lost group. CO Lockwood gathered more information and advised the first subjects to stay at their location to await additional response. CO Lockwood continued his search and was able to locate the vehicle of the missing elderly man. After a tactical search, CO Lockwood was able to locate the missing man in quick order. A happy ending for all involved as the missing man was reunited with his family.

CO Mark Papineau investigated reports of a wildland fire that had nearly burned down several houses in a Gladwin County neighborhood. According to witnesses, the suspects had been burning brush several days prior and failed to fully extinguish the fire. The investigation revealed that the fire had likely been smoldering for a couple of days. The dry conditions and a change in the wind direction re-ignited the fire and it quickly burned out of control. The investigation has been turned over to the Gladwin County Prosecutor's Office for review.

CO Mark Papineau completed an investigation regarding a subject who had reportedly shot two bucks without licenses. CO Papineau was tipped off to the subject during an unrelated investigation. According to the tip, an Arenac County resident had shot two 8-point bucks and never bought tags for either of them. CO Papineau executed several search warrants and obtained a substantial amount of evidence. The suspect is also currently on probation for unrelated firearms and hunting violations. An interview of the suspect was conducted and a confession was obtained for the poaching of two bucks without licenses. Warrants are being sought for the violations.

CO Ethan Gainforth was out turkey hunting on his day off when he heard a couple shots ring out very close to his location. A short time later, two camouflaged hunters walked into a clearing and spotted the off-duty CO. The hunters approached CO Gainforth and began talking about turkey hunting. Not knowing the "hunter" was an off-duty

conservation officer, the men explained that they were headed to try their luck at a second location. At that point, CO Gainforth asked if they were the ones that had been shooting earlier. One of the hunters bragged that he had shot and killed a nice tom turkey. CO Gainforth took notice that he was not carrying the turkey with him. The successful hunter informed the CO that he 'tucked' the turkey underneath a brush pile so that he could continue to help his friend. CO Gainforth then identified himself as a conservation officer and showed both hunters his badge. CO Gainforth followed the subjects back to their original hunting location and found an untagged tom turkey hidden under a brush pile. CO Gainforth also discovered the successful hunter's firearm was still loaded while he was "helping" his friend to continue to hunt. CO Gainforth gathered information and proceeded to his residence where he changed into his uniform and returned to the suspect's camp. A citation was issued for failing to immediately tag his turkey.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars checked anglers at the Pine River boat launch and noticed two men pack up and leave in a hurry once they spotted him. CO Byars caught up to the men and determined that one of the anglers did not have a fishing license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

COs Joe Myers and Troy Ludwig conducted a joint patrol in the Maple River State Game Area. While they were patrolling they stopped an unlicensed ORV. Upon stopping the ORV, it was discovered that the driver had an uncased and loaded rifle between him and the passenger. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell located four dead fox kits near their den on private land in Montcalm County. The kits had wounds that were consistent with an animal biting and crushing them. CO Lowell placed a trail camera facing the den and was able to capture pictures of three dogs digging out the den on multiple days. CO Lowell made contact with a nearby neighbor and found the dogs belonged to him. A warrant request will be sought through the prosecutor's office.

COs Josh Russell and Michael Haas were checking anglers at Sanford Dam when CO Russell approached a pair of anglers to check their licenses and fishing success. One angler handed CO Russell a base license with a turkey license and stated that's all he had. When the CO told him that he didn't hand him a fishing license, the subject stated, "I told the guy at Walmart I wanted everything". Later in the conversation the subject admitted to knowing he didn't have a fishing license and decided to risk fishing without one. A ticket was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Josh Russell was enjoying his day off when he noticed a subject chasing a fawn in his front yard. CO Russell turned his vehicle around and made contact with the individual who stated he found the fawn the day before. He advised they found the fawn while mushroom hunting and they were going to call the next day to have someone come get it. CO Russell asked why they hadn't called the DNR yet and the subjects did

not have an answer. The CO took the fawn and issued a ticket for illegally possessing the fawn.

COs Josh Russell and Joseph Myers conducted an ORV patrol in Montcalm County. Several tickets were issued for fishing without a license, operate in a prohibited area, careless operation of motor vehicle and disorderly conduct.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling the Vestaburg State Game Area when he noticed an ORV operating on the road without a helmet or an ORV license. The CO performed a traffic stop and the subject immediately stated he was on his way to buy his ORV license. When asked why he didn't have a helmet, he stated it was at his dad's where he was headed to. A ticket was issued for no helmet.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling Gratiot County when he noticed a plume of dark smoke. The CO followed the smoke to a fire that had tires around it. No tires were currently in the fire, but other household trash and hoses were. CO Russell located the individual that was in charge of the fire and he stated he called and got a burn permit. CO Russell informed the individual that while he may have gotten a burn permit, there are items that are not allowed to be burned and must be disposed of properly. A ticket was issued for the illegal burn.

CO Will Brickel received a call from CO Quincy Gowenlock of an injured hawk that a citizen had taken home. CO Brickel made contact with a local wildlife rehabilitator to set up a place to take the injured bird, and then made contact with the civilian in possession of the hawk. CO Brickel informed the citizen that he should not have taken the hawk home as they are illegal to possess; however, CO Brickel thanked the citizen for reporting the bird and for keeping it safe. The hawk was then transported to the local rehabber.

CO Kyle Bucholtz was on patrol in Huron County when two ORVs were observed operating carelessly. CO Bucholtz made contact with the driver and occupant of one of the ORVs. Both individuals were young teens who were operating unsupervised on the roadway. CO Bucholtz made contact with the driver's parent. Enforcement action was taken for failing to supervise a minor on an ORV.

While on patrol in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed an ORV operating on a state highway. CO Bucholtz made contact with the operator who stated he knew he was not supposed to operate on the "M" road. CO Bucholtz also noted the ORV was without a registration. Enforcement action was taken.

In Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to a vessel in distress call. On scene, CO Bucholtz observed a sinking vessel with one subject standing on top. CO Bucholtz relayed the information to responding agencies as a charter boat, which was already on scene when CO Bucholtz arrived, pulled the subject from the sinking vessel. CO Bucholtz, along with the Port Austin Police Department and the US Coast Guard, ensured the victims safely returned to the harbor where the subjects were assessed by

medical personnel and released. The boat was removed from Lake Huron a short time later and the investigation is ongoing.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling late at night when he contacted an angler fishing from shore on Lake Huron. When the CO asked the angler how fishing was the angler replied that he caught two fish. Upon checking the fish, an out of season smallmouth bass was located in addition to the two fish the angler mentioned. A citation was issued for taking bass out of season.

COs Seth Rhodea and Mark Siemen patrolled on Saginaw Bay during the Great Lakes Bow Fishing Championship contacting anglers participating in the tournament. High compliance was found with most anglers with only a few warnings being given for marine safety violations and one citation issued for an unregistered boat.

CO Seth Rhodea responded to a call of a snowy owl that had been sitting in the same spot for several days. Upon locating the owl, the CO was able to catch it and contact a wildlife rehabilitator to take care of the owl which appeared to be suffering from malnourishment.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted the operator of an ORV that was operating on a county road without an ORV license on his machine as well as not wearing a seatbelt and allowing three small children to ride in the back of the ORV without any safety gear. Citations were issued to address the violations.

CO Mark Siemen received information that a subject in Sanilac County had purchased a spring turkey tag while his hunting rights were revoked from prior hunting violations. With this information CO Siemen contacted the subject at his residence. During questioning, the suspect stated he shot a turkey during the April hunt on property owned by his family. CO Siemen then advised the suspect that his hunting rights had been revoked and he was not allowed to purchase a license to hunt. During the investigation the turkey was located at the residence. All evidence was photographed and collected. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a sick deer in the city of Sandusky. CO Siemen responded and located the deer that had been dispatched by a deputy. The deer was collected and will be sent to the wildlife disease laboratory in Lansing for testing.

CO Jill Miller responded to a complaint in northern Bay County of an injured bald eagle that was in a ditch. Through detailed information provided by concerned citizens, CO Miller was able to locate and catch up to the eagle which was in poor condition. Despite the poor body condition of the eagle, CO Miller was astounded by how well the eagle tried to evade capture. A local wildlife rehabilitator was contacted, and the eagle was turned over to her.

During an ORV patrol in eastern Isabella County, COs Mike Haas and Josh Russell observed a side-by-side traveling down the roadway with no ORV license. The COs stopped the side-by-side and as they approached the ORV, they witnessed the driver fumbling with the glove box. The COs asked if there were any weapons or alcohol in the side-by-side and the driver said there was not. As the COs explained the requirements of an ORV license on public roadways, they noticed liquid dripping from the glovebox. An open beer was located in the glovebox. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Haas and Josh Russell contacted an angler fishing on the Chippewa River. While checking the young man's fishing license, the COs discovered he had already received all his 2018 hunting licenses along with his fishing license and had not been charged for any of them. The man stated, "Thanks to Uncle Sam, I receive all my licenses for free." After a brief investigation, it was discovered the man was enrolled as a cadet in a local ROTC program. License fees are waived for full-time, federal, active-duty U.S military personnel. The gentleman had been receiving numerous free fishing licenses and hunting licenses for deer, waterfowl, and small game for three years. The man was charged with using false statements to obtain hunting and fishing licenses and was warned for the previous year's animal harvests while using illegal licenses.

CO Mike Haas responded to a forest fire in northern Isabella County. A family had been burning a large pile of refuse in their backyard on a dry, windy day while a burn ban was in effect. After the fire had been burning for some time, the family went back inside their home; a passerby then noticed a large amount of smoke and called 911. Local firefighters and the DNR Fire Team arrived on scene and extinguished the fire after it had burned approximately 10 acres of forest. CO Haas warned the family for burning without a burn permit, burning refuse without a proper burn barrel and cited them for failing to prevent the spread of fire.

CO Dan Robinson responded to a complaint at a Mt. Pleasant school in Isabella County. The school staff said that a duck had made a nest in their playground flower garden and staff were not sure if the duck had laid eggs or was chased off by the recess kids before it had the opportunity. CO Robinson arrived and checked the nest and found several duck eggs hidden in the nest. After consulting with wildlife biologists, it was agreed that the ducks would be better left alone until the eggs hatched. The school sectioned off the area to keep the disturbances down and chalked it up to an educational experience for the students who are anxiously waiting for the eggs to hatch.

CO Dan Robinson was on patrol in Isabella County when he spotted a cloud of black smoke. Knowing that burning was not allowed that day, CO Robinson located the source of the smoke. He found that an elderly woman was burning siding from a recent house project. She stated that the contractor told her that she could just burn it instead of getting a dumpster. CO Robinson pulled the siding from the fire that was not burned up yet and addressed the illegal burning. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson was working the east side of Isabella County when a medical call was dispatched within two minutes of his location. CO Robinson was the first responder on-scene and found a man who had fallen hard on the pavement. He had a very large "goose egg" and bleeding laceration from his head. CO Robinson waited with the subject, gathered information and watched for changes in the patient's condition while awaiting EMS arrival.

COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas attended the Isabella County Environmental Education Day. The event is an invitation for all Isabella County 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to come out and learn about different aspects of the outdoors and natural world. The COs gave the students a chance to handle different furs and talk to them about the work of conservation officers. The students also were able to spend some time in the laser-shot trailer learning basic firearm safety and handling on an interactive screen. Approximately 600 students visited the COs throughout the day.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While on boat patrol, CO Greg Patten contacted three subjects fishing on Lake Michigan. The subjects did not have any wearable or throw able personal flotation devices (PFDS) in the boat. The water temperature was below 50 degrees. The 18-year-old boat operator did not have a boater safety certificate with him nor did he have a boat registration certificate on board. Enforcement action was taken for no PFDs in the boat and the subjects were escorted to shore.

CO Richard Cardenas assisted the Barry County Sheriff's Department and Hastings Police Department in locating three subjects who were kayaking on the Thornapple River. A witness reported that the subjects fell out of their kayaks and were struggling to stay afloat. All the subjects were located and received medical attention from EMS.

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling Barry County for marine violations and located multiple subjects out on kayaks and a row boat on the Thornapple River. CO Cardenas contacted the subjects and found they had no personal floatation devices. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas was on I-75 going to Belle Isle when he observed a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed and was swerving in and out of traffic. CO Cardenas paced the vehicle doing 100mph and conducted a traffic stop. Enforcement action was taken for the offenses.

CO James Zellinger received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of a subject shooting a rabbit out of season in the subject's backyard. CO Zellinger contacted the subject who admitted to shooting the rabbit. The subject explained he couldn't stand the rabbit eating all his flowers and other plants, so he shot it. The subject told CO Zellinger he disposed of the rabbit in a nearby fence row, because he knew coyotes would get it out of there by the next day. CO Zellinger was able to locate rabbit fur at that location. CO Zellinger is seeking charges through the Allegan County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Kyle McQueer and Jeremy Cantrell patrolled St. Joseph County for the first time since graduating the academy. The two COs made introductions with the prosecutors, dispatchers, county correction officers and other court personnel as well as making several fish and game contacts.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol checking anglers when he encountered a non-resident angler with a resident fishing license. Further investigation revealed that he did not live in Michigan but owned a cottage in Michigan. A citation was issued for the violation.

CO Matt Page was briefed on a possible turkey hunting violation on state land by a local township police officer after the officer responded to a complaint. CO Page, while heading to the turkey complaint, was diverted to a rollover personal injury accident. The victims sustained minor injuries and were turned over to medics and other officers on scene. CO Page then responded to the turkey hunting complaint and made contact with a subject who was hunting in the state park when posted against hunting. Additionally, the subject was not able to provide CO Page with a valid turkey license. Upon further questioning, it was found that the subject shot a turkey earlier in the season and was using his grandfather's late season turkey license to continue hunting. The subject was issued a citation for hunting turkey without a license and given warnings for the state land violations.

While patrolling lake access sites in Cass County, CO Micah Hintze met two fishermen approaching the lake's boat ramp. When asked for fishing licenses only one man was able to provide a valid license while the other explained he was only there to row the boat. It was determined through questioning the legal fisherman that his partner was in fact fishing that day with him. When asked to display the boat's PFDs, it was determined the boat didn't have any on board. Both men were issued a citation for failure to have life jackets and a warning was given for the subject without a fishing license.

While pulling into a lake access site in Cass County, CO Micah Hintze observed two individuals fishing on the dock. When one of the men noticed the patrol truck, he immediately dropped his fishing pole and began to walk away. CO Hintze caught up to and contacted the individual and requested to see his fishing license. The man was unable to provide a fishing license or any identification. When his information was run through dispatch it showed the man to be a protected person, with an order to take the individual into protective custody immediately. CO Hintze confirmed this to be valid, detained the individual and transported him to the appropriate agency.

While pulling into a local access site shortly after dark, CO Micah Hintze observed a motor boat a short distance from the ramp revving his engine and spinning around the lake in circles without navigation lights. When the boat approached the ramp, CO Hintze contacted the individuals who had been fishing prior to nightfall. Fish and fishing licenses were legal, but when asked to display PFDs it was shown there weren't any aboard the vessel. Enforcement action was taken for no life jackets.

CO BJ Goulette and PCO Nick Ingersoll were patrolling Allegan State Game Area and came across some anglers that were doing well. PCO Ingersoll discovered an out of season (and undersized) largemouth bass and an over limit of bluegill in their cooler. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO BJ Goulette and PCO Nick Ingersoll encountered individuals who were fishing without licenses. One subject saw the officers from a distance and quickly hopped on his bicycle and tried to elude the officers through a large park. After cutting him off in a couple different directions the subject was found trying to hide behind a building and admitted that he tried to get away. Another subject was observed casting several times and when the officers approached, quickly reeled in the line and set the pole down and claimed not to be fishing but eventually admitted to fishing all day long. That subject was 33-years-old and had never purchase a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken with both subjects.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Eric Smither received a complaint about an individual who was raising raccoons in the city of Adrian. CO Smither made contact with the individual and located the raccoons. The raccoons were released back into the wild and enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Smither spoke with two natural resource classes at the Lenawee Intermediate School District Vo-Tech Center. CO Smither spoke to approximately 45 students and teachers about the job of a conservation officer and answered questions regarding hunting, fishing, and hunter safety.

CO Eric Smither was patrolling in Lenawee County when central dispatch broadcast a crash on the same road CO Smither was on. CO Smither arrived on scene and assisted medical personnel.

CO Andrew Monnich was on patrol checking fishermen when he noticed a fisherman on a dock catching fish and putting them in a cooler. CO Monnich made contact with the angler and checked the cooler which had a number of bluegills in it. CO Monnich asked to see the angler's fishing license, and the angler stated that he has never bought one because he uses a private dock and doesn't need one. The angler was educated about the rules and regulations while fishing and enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. Pete Purdy, COs Brandon Hartleben, Carter Woodwyk, and Jeff Goss participated in a security detail for Vice President Mike Pence's motorcade during the Vice President's recent visit to Michigan. The Vice President gave the commencement speech at Hillsdale College.

CO Jeff Goss was travelling on I-94 after working a Belle Isle shift when a vehicle drove past him at a high rate of speed. CO Goss paced the vehicle at more than 90 mph. Soon after that the vehicle entered a construction zone with workers present without

slowing. CO Goss conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle and the driver explained that he was in a hurry to get home from college. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Jackson was invited to Jefferson Elementary School's Adopt-A-Cop program. CO Jackson joined several other uniformed personnel to talk with the second-grade students about safety and building a relationship with law enforcement. As the final Adopt-A-Cop program of the year, "Uniforms of All Colors" joined over 200 students for a morning full of questions and answers.

COs Jason McCullough and Todd Thorn started an investigation into a subject who was sending child pornographic website addresses to the DNR Law Enforcement Dispatch Center. A search warrant was obtained through the local district court for the phone records and locations at the times the messages were sent. The phone records show the cell phone was active in southwestern Michigan. The cell phone information was turned over to the Michigan State Police for further investigation.

CO Sam Schluckbier received a RAP complaint of a dead turkey posted on social media without a kill tag. CO Schluckbier found that the hunter had not purchased a turkey license for the 2018 Spring Season. An interview with the suspect revealed that he "spot and stalked" the turkey on opening day, shot it with his compound bow, took a photograph for Facebook, then threw the turkey carcass in a nearby ditch. The incident took place on private property in Isabella County. Charges are being sought through Isabella County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Sam Schluckbier was patrolling the Grand River in Lansing when he located two individuals fishing from a railroad overpass. CO Schluckbier contacted the subjects, one who had fallen into the river moments prior. Neither subject possessed a fishing license and were trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier responded to a complaint of a captive gosling in Eaton County. It was reportedly taken from a park and being kept at a nearby residence. CO Schluckbier determined the gosling had been returned to the park on the previous day. However, one of the subjects had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for their arrest. Bond was collected from the subject and an appearance date was issued.

A RAP complaint was received indicating a local business was trapping and drowning squirrels. CO Sam Schluckbier located the traps while walking the property. The business owner admitted to setting up the traps due to the squirrels chewing through his siding. CO Schluckbier advised him of more humane methods to prevent squirrel infestations. The traps were immediately removed from the property.

CO Sam Schluckbier, along with CO Matt Neterer and Sergeant Jason Smith worked a security detail for a Pipeline Five Safety Advisory Board meeting held in Lansing. No issues or protests arose during the meeting.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling near a lake in Hillsdale County when he observed a boat moored near a park with large fishing nets on board. He contacted the occupants

who advised they were conducting a fish survey on the lake for the lake association. When the CO reviewed their permits, it was discovered that the lake being surveyed was not listed. After a phone call with a DNR fisheries biologist, it was determined the subject made a mistake on his permit application and received permits for the wrong lakes. A verbal warning was issued for violating the conditions of his permit, and the CO advised the subject to review his permits every year to make sure the information is accurate.

CO Carter Woodwyk received a complaint of approximately 50 fish carcasses dumped in a ditch in Hillsdale County. The CO contacted the complainant who advised the CO of a possible suspect that lives in the area. The CO went to the suspect's residence, which had a vessel set up for bow fishing parked in the front yard and contacted the suspect. The suspect immediately confessed to dumping the fish in this area. The suspect also stated he regularly finds a quiet dirt road to dump all his fish carcasses after a night of bow fishing. The CO made the suspect pick up the week-old fish carcasses and issued a citation for littering.

CO Carter Woodwyk observed three anglers fishing a lake in Hillsdale County. The CO checked the anglers as they were packing up their gear and noticed a largemouth bass on one of their stringers. The bass was 11" long. With the legal-size limit for largemouth bass being 14" and the bass season not being open for another week, the CO questioned the anglers' intentions. After a brief investigation, the CO determined the subjects were not avid anglers and were naïve to the Michigan fishing regulations. One angler stated he "Googled" the size limit, which stated there was no size limit for largemouth bass. When the CO checked the website on the subject's phone, the information was found to be obtained from the Florida Fish and Wildlife page. All three subjects were educated and released with warnings.

CO Nick Wellman observed a family in a boat coming off Silver Lake in southern Branch County. Upon contacting the family, CO Wellman found the vessel was not registered to the current owner, the family did not have enough life jackets for everyone on board the vessel and the operator of the vessel had two active warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols assisted the Clinton County Sheriff's Department on the report of an intoxicated subject passed out in a vehicle in the driveway of his ex-wife's residence. CO Nickols located the subject who was indeed passed out behind the wheel. After speaking with all parties involved, the subject was arrested on a violation of his parole and lodged at the Clinton County Jail.

COs Rich Nickols and Todd Thorn conducted a marine patrol on the Maple River in Clinton County. The COs focused on reports of set lines being left in the river. The COs pulled 6 active set lines and found evidence of many more that had been set. CO Nickols also issued one citation for fishing without a license.

CO Rich Nickols reports that a subject who he had arrested after a lengthy investigation involving multiple deer hunting violations pled guilty to taking deer without a license. The subject was ordered to pay \$1450 in fines and costs, \$5000 reimbursement to the State of Michigan, and lost his hunting privileges for three years.

CO Shane Webster attended the Trail Life USA Youth Outdoor Day in Jackson County and spoke about the role of conservation officers. Despite the rainy weather, approximately 50 youths were in attendance.

CO Shane Webster attended the Triangle Hunt Club QDMA meeting and spoke to the group about CWD, the DNR Law Enforcement Division, and answered various questions.

CO Todd Thorn spoke to a group of individuals at the Lansing Board of Water and Light about boating safety and general fishing and hunting regulations.

CO Matthew Neterer was first on scene of a single vehicle rollover crash in Ingham County. CO Neterer arrived to find the vehicle well off the roadway and resting on its side. The driver was able to crawl from the vehicle and CO Neterer provided first aid until medics arrived. The driver stated that he was traveling to work and must have fallen asleep. The crash was turned over to the Ingham County Sheriff's Department.

CO Matthew Neterer investigated a self-generated social media case involving the taking of bass during the closed season. The incident occurred in Ionia County, but the suspects reside in Ingham County. The suspects posted photos and videos of themselves catching, keeping and cleaning several smallmouth bass. CO Neterer was able to track the suspects down and they admitted to taking 11 bass in total. Charges for taking bass during the closed season, taking bass less than 14" and fishing without a license are being sought through the Ionia County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Chris Maher attended a youth fishing workshop at Hawk Island Park in Lansing. He spoke to over 50 youths and adults about rules and ethics while fishing. Both the children and the parents were engaged, asking questions and interacting with CO Maher.

CO Chris Maher spoke to over 80 Columbia Central students about the DNR Law Enforcement Division and the career of a conservation officer. The students were learning about invasive species and natural resources. CO Maher explained what conservation officers do and their role in protecting Michigan's natural resources.

COs Robert Slick and Shane Webster attended the Farm Bureau Insurance Safety Day at the Shiawassee County Fair Grounds. CO Slick and CO Webster taught the kids about ORV safety. There were approximately 500 local 5th graders in attendance.

CO Robert Slick attended the Bill Earl Youth Fishing Day at Hawk Island County Park. CO Slick spoke to the kids about ethics and regulations of fishing. CO Slick specifically

taught the kids how to correctly measure a fish to make sure it is legal to keep. There were approximately 50 kids in attendance.

CO Katie Stawara responded to a complaint of a suspect in possession of a fawn. The complainant noted that the suspect has been known to take in a variety of wildlife in the past. Upon contact, the suspect explained she found the fawn in the backyard early that morning and thought it had been abandoned. She called the local humane society and left a voicemail concerning the orphaned deer. She fed the deer goat milk and was waiting to hear back. The suspect believed CO Stawara was there to pick up the fawn to take it to the humane society. She was educated on the legalities and dangers of possessing wildlife and how one should respond to orphaned or injured wildlife. The fawn was removed from site and enforcement action taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

COs Adam Beuthin and Keven Luther were on fisheries patrol checking white bass fisherman in Wayne County at the Meyer Elias Park when they contacted two individuals. Upon checking both individuals for their limit of white bass it was found that one fisherman was five fish over and the other was four fish over the limit of white bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam Beuthin was on a white bass group patrol in Wayne County when he contacted two fishermen. After asking to check for fishing licenses and counting the fish it was found that the two were over the limit by five fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam Beuthin was at the Elizabeth Park Marina checking fishermen coming off the river. One of the boats spun around causing it to contact another boat tied off to the dock. The operator of the vessel was instructed to dock the boat and head to shore immediately after the collision. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Keven Luther started an early morning patrol at the south end of Wayne County and patrolled north to Bishop Park in Wyandotte. CO Luther made contact with approximately 50 anglers.

CO David Schaumburger approached an angler fishing from the banks of the Detroit River late one evening and asked the angler if he had any luck. The angler stated yes, he had caught some pike. When the CO opened the angler's cooler, he found three walleyes, one of which was undersize. The angler stated that he did not know there were any laws or rules for fishing, he thought all he needed was his fishing license. Enforcement action was taken for the undersize walleye.

CO David Schaumburger approached an angler fishing for walleye and witnessed seven fishing poles spread out in front of two anglers. Four of the fishing poles had a square piece of Styrofoam on the very top of the pole, three of them did not. The CO asked the first angler which fishing poles were his, and the angler pointed out the three without Styrofoam and produced a fishing license. The second angler said the four

fishing poles were his, but the fourth pole “was not really in the water for fishing.” The CO reeled up the fishing pole and found two baited hooks in the water. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with more than three lines.

CO David Schaumburger was contacted by a confidential informant who was at a park and witnessed an angler take a stringer of 12 walleye back to his vehicle and was about to drive away. CO Schaumburger stopped the vehicle and the angler stated he had 12 fish, he and his buddy were fishing, however only one person was in the vehicle. The angler stated that his buddy gave him the fish and he was taking them all home. The CO advised the angler he was not allowed to possess more than his daily possession limit unless the fish were frozen, canned, or smoked. Enforcement action was taken for possession of an over limit of walleye.

CO David Schaumburger worked the hunter safety trailer at Beaumont Hospital Family Safety Day approximately 100 contacts were made.

CO David Schaumburger received a complaint from an informant that a vessel he had been watching was making multiple trips a day out of a marina throughout the weekend and was currently out fishing and he suspected they were going to have an over limit of walleye. CO Schaumburger responded to the location with an unmarked vehicle and set up surveillance on the pair of anglers. They pulled their boat out from the launch, drove over to a different marina and picked up a few bags of walleye fillets from coolers on the dock. Just as the pair were leaving, CO Adam Beuthin arrived to stop the vehicle and check their days catch and the fillets. COs Keven Luther and Danielle Zubek also arrived and assisted CO Beuthin with counting the fillets. The COs counted 150 walleye fillets, putting the pair over their daily limit by 65 fish. The anglers stated they were fishing for four days, however, their stories did not add up and they would still have been over their possession limit. Also, in their possession were five walleye carcasses that were undersize. The walleye and carcasses were seized, and citations were issued for the over limit of walleye.

COs David Schaumburger and Kris Kiel set up surveillance on a local spot known for anglers taking bass out of season. The COs watched as an angler netted a smallmouth bass, wrapped it in a plastic grocery bag, and then set it in a trash can. The COs contacted that angler and when confronted with the situation, he vehemently denied doing so. The COs told him they were watching the whole time and even had a recording of it, but the angler would not admit to the violation. While checking the subject for warrants, it was discovered that CO Schaumburger wrote him a ticket for possessing an over limit of bass the previous year that turned into a warrant. The angler received a citation for possessing a smallmouth bass during the closed season and was taken to jail on his active warrant.

CO David Schaumburger arrived at a boat launch while a vessel was pulling in, however, when the operator saw the CO, he turned around and started to drive away. The CO shouted at the vessel operator to pull his boat back to the dock. When asked why he turned around, the operator said they thought they had an over limit of walleye,

but they were not sure. The CO checked the live well and counted 13 walleyes, putting the two anglers over their allowable limit. The vessel's owner was cited for possessing an over limit of walleye.

While checking anglers coming in off the Detroit River, CO Dan Walzak contacted two individuals who had taken their limits of white bass. When CO Walzak asked to see their fishing licenses, one of the anglers promptly displayed his 2018 license while his partner produced a 2017 license. When the second subject was told that he produced an expired license, he looked through his wallet again and stated, "I know I bought my license. I must have left it at home." Making a check through the retail sales system, CO Walzak was advised that the subject had not purchased a license for the current year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak contacted four anglers who stated that they had caught their limit of white bass on the Detroit River. One of the anglers stated that they had exactly 100 fish in the boat. Upon counting the fish, CO Walzak came up with a total of 107. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jessica Curtis was on patrol near Byers Road in Lapeer County when she found two male subjects sitting outside their stuck vehicle. The two subjects tried to drive over a berm that had been placed there to prevent driving off the road and through the woods. The subject's vehicle bottomed out on top of the berm. A tow truck was called and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jessica Curtis responded to a RAP complaint of hydroplane boats racing on Lake Nepessing in Elba Township. Upon further investigation, the event host did not have a permit for the races, or the buoys placed on the lake. CO Curtis shut the event down and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jessica Curtis was checking anglers at Zemmer Park by the Holloway Reservoir when she came across three subjects fishing. Two of the three subjects had 2018 fishing licenses, the third did not purchase a fishing license. The third subject hadn't purchased one since 2014 and enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner responded to a complaint from the RAP hotline about an individual who caught two snapping turtles. After bringing them home the subject found out that he was not legally allowed to keep them because they were out of season and then called the RAP line to find out what he should do. Upon arrival to the residence CO Gardner attempted to contact the subject but he was not home at the time. CO Gardner was able to contact the subject on the phone and found out that the two snapping turtles were put in a box under the stairwell the night before, but when the subject checked to see if they were still there in the morning they were gone. CO Gardner searched around the property and located one of the snapping turtles towards the back of the property. Using a catch pole, CO Gardner was able to secure the snapping turtle into a box for transport. While searching for the second one, the subject who caught them arrived back at the residence and then helped CO Gardner try to find the other one. CO

Gardner found the second snapping turtle in the front yard garden bed of the next-door neighbor's property. CO Gardner then used his catch pole to secure the second snapping turtle in the box as well. CO Gardner explained to the individual to make sure any game he plans to take is legal prior to getting it home next time. Once CO Gardner left the property, both snapping turtles were released back at Rowden Park in Lapeer where they were caught.

CO Raymond Gardner responded to a complaint of a possibly injured squirrel at an apartment complex in Lapeer. Upon arrival, CO Gardner found the squirrel in the parking lot of the apartment complex. After CO Gardner secured the squirrel in a 5-gallon bucket, he transported it to Jan & Matt Wildlife Rescue in Almont.

CO Raymond Gardner responded to a complaint of a Sandhill Crane that appeared to be trapped on a river bank in Lapeer, MI. Upon arrival, CO Gardner contacted the complainant who showed him where the animal was. CO Gardner noticed that the animal was a Blue Heron and it appeared to be trapped on the opposite side of the river from him. CO Gardner found a way around to where the Blue Heron was and noticed that it somehow had a turtle stuck to its leg. When CO Gardner got closer, the Blue Heron started to struggle even more to get free and did. CO Gardner then noticed that the animal was dragging its leg while trying to get away. CO Gardner was able to secure the Blue Heron and it was then transported to the Howell Nature Center for rehabilitation.

COs Pat Hartsig, Brad Silorey and Ben Lasher conducted a group patrol targeting over limit of walleye violations in St. Clair County. After a couple hours of watching, a subject was observed taking an over limit and leaving the area. COs Lasher and Hartsig stopped the subject and advised him of the violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig attended the annual membership meeting for Sturgeon for Tomorrow in Algonac. CO Pat Hartsig spoke to the group about law enforcement efforts in protecting the thriving Sturgeon fishery in the area.

CO Brad Silorey worked a late-night shift, at a local shore fishing hot spot in St. Clair County. While working the area CO Silorey observed one angler catch his limit of walleye in a short time frame. After the angler had his limit he continued to fish and catch more walleye. The walleye that he caught over his legal limit he would throw behind him in the grass and not touch. CO Silorey observed the subject speaking with another angler fishing next to him. After several minutes of talking, the other angler grabbed the subject's fish and put them on his own stringer. The information was given to COs Ben Lasher and Pat Hartsig who were waiting nearby. CO Silorey radioed to COs Hartsig and Lasher that the subject was leaving and gave a description of his vehicle. A traffic stop was conducted, and the subject was in possession of his limit of walleye. When questioned on the other walleye that he gave away, the subject denied to catching more than his limit. The angler who was given the fish was interviewed by COs Lasher and Hartsig and confirmed that he was given the fish by the subject. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey participated in a group patrol targeting white bass anglers who were taking more than their daily possession limit. CO Silorey was able to make multiple traffic stops that day on subjects who were over limit on white bass. One subject left the park where he was fishing with a cooler but left all his fishing equipment at the park with his friend. A traffic stop was conducted, and the angler stated that he was fishing, and he had fish in the cooler. CO Silorey asked the subject to step out of his vehicle and show him the fish that he had caught. The angler had 29 white bass in his cooler, which is four fish over the legal limit. CO Silorey also asked for the subject's driver's license and fishing license. The Ohio residence produced his ID along with a resident fishing license. The angler stated that he used another person's address in Michigan to purchase the resident fishing license. The angler fraudulently purchased a resident fishing license instead of the more expensive non-resident license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was assisted by U.S. Border Patrol with a flight looking for turkey baits. Numerous sites were found and CO Lasher walked into them to document the bait and attempt to determine if it was a turkey bait or recreational viewing violations.

CO Ben Lasher talked to the hunter safety class at Blue Water Sportsmen's Club. Twenty students and numerous parents were in attendance.

While standing in the parking lot of a popular shore fishing spot in Port Huron, CO Ben Lasher smelled marijuana. Using the wind direction, CO Lasher contacted a subject sitting in the driver's seat of a parked vehicle smoking a suspected marijuana cigarette. One other "joint" was found in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig was checking anglers on the St. Clair River in Marine City when he contacted a boat with two anglers. The group states the walleye fishing was so good that they miscounted the fish in their live well earlier and had to throw back fish. A quick count of their catch revealed they were still over their possession limit. Even after throwing fish back. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig and Brad Silorey were checking anglers in Algonac when they encountered a group of fishermen coming into the launch. When asked how they did, they said they got some nice perch and some bass. They stated they were fishing in Canadian waters but did not have any Canadian licenses. Their fish were seized, and enforcement action was taken for possessing bass during the closed season.

CO Pat Hartsig used his mud boat during the annual St. John's Marsh cleanup. CO Pat Hartsig took a volunteer on his boat and picked up bags of garbage and litter in the marsh.

COs Brad Silorey and Pat Hartsig were on patrol checking anglers at various boat ramps along the St. Clair River this week. COs Silorey and Hartsig pulled into the access site and observed several anglers docking their vessel. COs Silorey and Hartsig exited their patrol truck to contact the anglers and see if they had success in catching

anything that day. CO Silorey made contact and asked if the anglers had any luck, to which one angler stated that they had caught some perch, and after several seconds he stated that they also had caught some bass. CO Silorey asked to see both anglers' fishing licenses. After a brief check of the anglers' licenses, the anglers stated they had caught the fish (including the bass) at Walpole Island on the Canadian side. CO Silorey then requested to see the anglers' Canadian fishing licenses. The anglers stated they attempted to buy them but "the store was closed." CO Silorey and Hartsig then asked the anglers to show them their fish. The anglers had their fish in separate live wells. One angler had three smallmouth bass and multiple perch and the other angler had four smallmouth bass and multiple perch. COs Silorey and Hartsig told the anglers that since they did not have Canadian fishing licenses that they were in possession of bass out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

Although there was inclement weather from midnight into the early morning hours on Saturday, Sgt. Todd Szyska continued checking for anglers at the boat launches in St. Clair County. As thunder and lightning could be seen on the river, Sgt. Szyska located a cluster of three vessels and observed them. They continued to fish in the inclement weather and then came back into the Marysville launch. To Sgt. Szyska's surprise all anglers had their walleye limits even with the inclement weather. One of the vessels reported to Sgt. Szyska that they had caught their 2-man limit in less than 45 minutes.

CO Jacob Griffin received a tip that a large amount of bait may have been placed to lure turkeys. After arriving at the location, CO Griffin waited for the suspect to use his turkey call as a means to safely pinpoint his location. While waiting to hear the call, multiple turkeys came across the area. CO Griffin kept watch on the turkeys before he heard a gunshot and witnessed one bearded turkey get shot. CO Griffin was able to locate the hunter and three turkey decoys surrounded by a large amount of corn. CO Griffin addressed the illegal activity with the hunter who stated he knew that baiting turkey was illegal, but he baited because he doesn't have much time to hunt. CO Griffin seized the bearded turkey, the subject's firearm, trail camera, and hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights had just checked out of service when he received a call from dispatch. Someone called in a complaint and stated two individuals were out shooting at wildlife in the Bald Mountain state game area. CO Knights checked back into service and headed that way. CO Knights arrived and located their vehicle. CO Knights heard multiple gun shots in the distance, just inside the corn fields. CO Knights made his way across the fields and continued to hear multiple shots and talking in the distance. CO Knights got around 100 yards from the individuals but still couldn't see anyone. After a few more shots, CO Knights had to take cover due to shots being fired in his direction. After a few minutes two men walked out of the woods into the corn fields. CO Knights ran towards the men announcing who he was and had the men drop their firearms. CO Knights made contact with the men and realized there was a large language barrier. CO Knights advised the men of the laws and stated they were in violation. CO Knights issued citations to each individual. CO Knights still wasn't comfortable with the language barrier, so he contacted an interpreter. Even though

both men received tickets, they understood what needed to be done and thanked CO Knights for the extra help.

A tip came into the RAP line where the caller believed someone attempted to poach a turkey on a church's property in Burton. He described a truck pull into the parking lot, heard two shots and watched as a young man ran back to the truck carrying a shotgun. The truck then drove away. The caller followed the vehicle to a nearby residence. The caller advised that he also contacted the Burton Police who were on scene. CO Justin Muehlhauser followed up on the complaint. Burton Police advised that they encountered two males in their late teens in the woods on the church property. After some brief questioning one of the men admitted to shooting at a turkey. He advised that he shot twice but missed. They were attempting to locate the bird in the woods when the Police arrived. The CO investigated the scene but did not discover any evidence that a turkey had been shot. The CO then interviewed the suspects. The shooter explained that they were returning home from work when they drove past the field. They noticed a large Tom toward the back of the property. He told the driver to stop. The suspect then ran out to the field with a 10 gauge and took two shots at the bird. He said that he missed with both shots. The young man then provided an expired turkey license. He said that he didn't know it was expired. The young man said that he just got excited, he has never had an opportunity to shoot a big Tom like that. The opportunity presented itself and he took a chance. Unfortunately for him, he was caught. The CO explained the violations which included taking/attempt a turkey without a license, hunting within a safety zone, and recreational trespass. Charges are being sought through the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Jason Becker and Jacob Griffin were patrolling the Holly Recreation Area on ATVs. The COs observed a dirt bike operating on the road in their direction. The subject pulled up to CO Becker and commented that he liked the dirt bike CO Becker was riding because the subject had the same one. CO Becker noticed that the subject did not have a license plate on his machine and asked if it was registered. The subject dropped his head and stated that it was not registered. CO Becker asked why the subject came up to the two officers in full uniform to comment on their machines knowing that his machine was not legal to be operated on the road. The subject stated that he was not thinking when he rode up to the officers. A LEIN check revealed that the subject's driving status was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was patrolling Oakland County when he spotted a subject fishing from shore near a state boat access site. As CO Griffin approached the subject to conduct a fishing check, the subject began packing up his gear. CO Griffin asked the subject to produce his fishing license, but the subject was not sure if he had purchased one. Upon checking the subject's name, CO Griffin discovered the subject had six arrest warrants. CO Griffin took the subject into custody, turned the subject over to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, and enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license.

CO Jacob Griffin was on marine patrol in Oakland County when he spotted one subject operating a personal watercraft (PWC) appearing to have mechanical issues. As CO Griffin approached the subject, he noticed the operator of the PWC was very young. CO Griffin discovered the operator was 13 years old. CO Griffin followed the subject back to his home to speak with the subject's guardian. CO Griffin educated the family on the laws pertaining to PWCs including the age restrictions for operating a PWC and enforcement action was taken.

CO Danielle Zubek received a call from Station 20 about two ducklings that were saved from traffic on highway 696 and 75 interchange. CO Zubek was able to make contact with the caller and pick up the ducklings. CO Zubek was able to contact the Howell Nature Center for further care.

CO Johnathon Kamps contacted an individual fishing along the Flint River. Further investigation determined the individual was fishing without a license and had a felony warrant out for his arrest. CO Kamps took the individual into custody and enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Richard Cardenas stopped a Polaris Slingshot after he paced the vehicle doing 60mph. Belle Isle's speed limit is 25mph. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle doing 45mph. CO Cardenas found the driver did not possess a driver's license on his/her person and had warrants for his/her arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer observed an individual fishing the Detroit River from the south fishing pier on Belle Isle. CO Dragomer conducted a fish license check on the angler and it was determined that he did not have a current fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds while working a Belle Isle first shift observed a vehicle run a stop sign. The officer made a traffic stop and found that the individual had several traffic warrants in the area. Bond money was collected and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on Belle Isle, CO Joseph Deppen received a complaint of people speeding down Central Avenue. CO Deppen monitored the location and stopped multiple vehicles traveling between 61mph and 77mph in a 25mph zone. Each vehicle was contacted and notified about the posted speed limit of 25mph. In addition to their speed, marijuana was found and persons in the vehicles had warrants for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken.