



2018

Annual Agency Reports

Second Revision - 2018-05-22

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2018 Annual Agency Reports

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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Alberta
Submitted by: Miles Grove, Superintendent, Operations Section
Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch
Date: May 8, 2018

Training

The Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch (branch) is currently hosting the 13th delivery of the four-month Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA). There are 38 recruits attending this delivery, 8 of whom are from Alberta. These recruits, upon graduation, will be deployed to districts across Alberta. WCLEA is a joint training academy with participants from Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon. In total, 271 recruits from across Western Canada have graduated from WCLEA to date.

Officers attended the yearly re-certifications in firearms and defensive tactics.

Funding and Staffing Issues

The branch is one of several branches assigned to the Public Security Division of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. The branch maintains a presence across the entire province with 138 (143 FTEs) sworn members, 26 administrative support staff and infrastructure situated in 53 districts (plus headquarters in Edmonton). The branch mandate includes conservation law enforcement (including public lands enforcement), protection of life and property from wildlife and public education and outreach.

Retirements

A significant number of officers retired over the past ten years and the branch has been trying to actively recruit to fill vacant positions. The branch has recruited 82 officers since WCLEA started in 2007. Of the 138 sworn members in the branch, 38 per cent of the fish and wildlife officers in Alberta have less than eight years of service.

Administrative support issues

When the branch was moved to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in the fall of 2011, more than half of its administrative positions were held back in the former department. The branch is still relying on other government staff in shared locations to deliver frontline counter service. The branch received and recruited to four regional administrator positions in 2014 which has filled a large regional administrative gap. A Branch Budget Administrator position was created and recruited to in 2015 in headquarters, which coordinates the branch budget.

The branch is currently deploying remaining district administrative staff in “hub” locations to ensure that a quality service is being provided to the officers. All licensing duties are the responsibility of Alberta Environment and Parks.

Problem wildlife program delivery

The branch has a mandate for protection of life and property and is responsible to respond to and control human wildlife conflicts that involve public safety or property damage. The branch provides scenario based human attack training for Predator Response Team Leaders (PRTL) and candidates.

Budget

The branch budget was restored in 2017/18 by over one million dollars to approximately \$22M.. In 2017 the branch was able to recruit to all officer vacancies. In 2018, it is anticipated that the branch will have to manage a small deficit for supplies and services.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

Special Investigations Section – Major Investigations and Intelligence Unit (MIIU)

The Special Investigations Section is the designated liaison for the sharing of intelligence and the facilitation of wildlife and fisheries investigations that transcend provincial or international boundaries. To accomplish this function, the Major Investigations and Intelligence Unit (MIIU) has established formal information sharing agreements with over 30 state and federal resource law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and regularly participates in cooperative enforcement efforts with resource agencies in all provinces and territories in Canada. These interprovincial and international investigations present very unique challenges for evidence collection, the ability to compel individuals to respond to charges (accused and witnesses), and the coordination and presentation of evidence within court systems in multiple jurisdictions. Successful investigation and prosecution of investigations of this type often requires the formal invocation of procedures that are defined within Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties that exist between Canada and many other countries.

Invasive Species Surveillance

The branch is supporting Environment and Parks (EP) in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species into Alberta. It has provided significant input into amending Fisheries (Alberta) Act to inspect various conveyances to stop the spread of aquatic evasive species. The act has been amended to include additional requirements for evasive species that officers can enforce such as boat drain plugs, failing to report, etc.

Public Lands Law Enforcement

The branch includes public lands law enforcement, primarily for recreational users to its conservation law enforcement mandate at the direction of the Government of Alberta. Officers respond to and investigate priority offences under the *Public Lands Act* and related regulations. The use of the branch's complaint line – Report A Poacher is utilized as the mechanism for the public to report public lands offences that are serious in nature (bed and shore damage, habitat damage, closed area contraventions, etc.)

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

Smart phone tracking application

Fish and wildlife officers in Alberta are monitored 24/7 by the Provincial Radio Control Centre (PRCC). Working with an Alberta-based company, the PRCC developed a smartphone application that allows officers to sign on and off duty with the centre. The application can run on any Blackberry, iPhone or Android platform. The application allows an officer to set an off duty time, provides for regular check-in at 100 minute intervals (or sooner) and allows the officer to easily notify PRCC that they are conducting a compliance check. All communication between the officer and the centre is conducted electronically using the smartphone data plan. Every time an officer sends a status update (by pressing an on-screen button) or moves more than 250 metres, the officer's GPS location is sent to PRCC and is displayed on their computer screen. On-screen buttons allow an officer to notify of an emergency or send a request for assistance. If an officer does not check in on time, a radio/telephone call is made to the officer by the PRCC to check their status. When an officer is outside cellular coverage, safety communication is supplemented by a satellite-based device (spot unit or sat phone).

Mobile office

The branch currently issues a ruggedized laptop/tablet to each officer. The tablets are docked in each patrol unit and provide access to all databases and applications while in the field. In addition to the laptop computer, each patrol unit is outfitted with an incident capture system (Watchguard 4E). Patrol units are equipped with a silent partner partition to secure one prisoner behind the front passenger seat and the officer's kit and gear behind the driver's seat. A rifle and shotgun are both racked between the front seats next to the partition. Standard patrol units are a Chevrolet 2500 HD crew cab 4x4 and a Ford F-150 super crew 4x4 SSV (for less rugged districts).

Computer-aided dispatch and records management system

The branch has recently completed a business case to adopt a software package that will provide computer aided dispatch and a new records management system. The system is currently owned by the department and is in use by other divisions. It is intended to achieve efficiencies in data collection, enhance collaboration with other enforcement branches and improve officer safety. Currently, the branch is still waiting to implement a new RMS/CAD type of system.

A new radio system

The Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch utilizes the government wide radio system. The Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System provides radio communication and interoperability between all first responders province-wide.

Digital Forensic Analysis

The branch has Digital Forensics Analysis capability. Our Computer Forensics Analyst is a Sergeant/Investigator in the MIU. FWEB has the ability to deliver digital forensics analysis of computers, cell phones, SD cards (like the ones found in trail cameras set over illegal hunting sites), GPS devices and other electronic data storage. Digital devices can be examined in house to take full advantage of the ever increasing use of technology and its ability to provide significant evidence in our investigations.

Technological data evidence

Two officers in the branch's Special Investigations and Forensics Section have extensive training, one as a Forensic Video Technician enabling photo comparison and video analysis, and another is certified in Computer Forensics and cell phone data retrieval. This training has allowed for superior in house evidence gathering, greatly improving the cost effectiveness and timeliness of investigations.

Cost Savings Initiatives

Staffing/Infrastructure Strategy

The branch completed a district work load analysis based on metrics that were pulled from the records management system. Units of work were calculated by district based on five and 15 year trends. That information forms the basis on staff deployment priorities throughout the province. It also identifies the need to keep districts open. Last year a decision was made based on the analysis to close two districts and split the work between adjacent ones.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues

Power DMS

The branch has migrated to Power DMS. Power DMS (Document Management Software) was created to manage the publishing and maintenance of policies, directives and other documents and thereby greatly reduce the cost of man hours and the frustration of tracking the distribution of information to employees. It is also used to deliver the Field Training Officer Program and to track training.

Provincial surveillance team

The branch maintains a provincial surveillance team to effectively and discreetly monitor suspected illegal activity and, utilizing mobile, static and technical surveillance techniques, obtain intelligence and/or evidence in a timely, legal, and professional manner.

The branch has made a concerted effort to modernize and enhance the technical capabilities of the surveillance team by using remote camera systems and other specialized equipment to assist in gathering evidence and increase the effectiveness of team deployments. This capacity has helped secure important evidence in several high profile poaching investigations, leading to numerous convictions resulting in heavy fines, orders for restitution, equipment/vehicle forfeitures, licence suspensions and jail sentences. The surveillance team has been called into service by police agencies to aid in their investigations into organized crime activities and has made significant contributions to the successful outcome to those investigations.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Colorado
Submitted by: Bob Thompson, Lead Investigator
Date: 4/30/2018

Training Issues - In the 2018 POST Academy there are currently seven wildlife officer and fourteen park ranger recruits attending the POST academy through the middle of May. The seven wildlife officer trainees will spend the remainder of the calendar year in specialized training to become wildlife officers. The fourteen park officer recruits will spend the next six months in specialized training to become parks officers.

Colorado faces the same issue of finding qualified recruits that most other natural resource agencies face. Colorado has high training standards and do not intend to diminish those to pick up more applicants.

Funding and Staffing Issues - CPW is an important and valuable agency to all Coloradoans and visitors. CPW provides services that affect everyone that lives in or comes to Colorado. This includes 41 state parks and more than 300 wildlife areas covering approximately 900,000 acres, big-game management, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education. CPW's conservation efforts strive to balance outdoor recreation with wildlife and natural resource management and stewardship.

The economic return on investment of activities supported by Colorado Parks and Wildlife is massive. The agency's annual budget is about \$190 million, which supports activities that result in over \$6 billion in total economic effects (including state park visitation, hunting, fishing and wildlife watching), spread throughout Colorado, from metro areas to rural communities.

CPW receives no general fund or citizen's tax dollars to support wildlife management, state parks or outdoor recreation programs. As an 'enterprise' agency mandated in statute, CPW relies primarily on license sales, state parks fees or registration fees to support programs. CPW funding streams are required by law to be separate and we do not inter-mingle wildlife and parks funding. Wildlife funding is spent on wildlife programs and activities. State Park funding is spent on state parks operations and programs.

In summary CPW's current funding model makes us reliant on user fees to support our programs. Our agency is streamlined and committed to providing the public with a high level of service, but this continues to be a challenge with current and increasing funding gaps. Financial sustainability for CPW is a key for maintaining our wildlife and outdoor heritage. CPW is currently in the process of implementing our strategic plan and exploring all options to achieve the goal of financial sustainability into the future (see legislation section below).

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends – Colorado is a destination state for the hunting of mule deer and elk. Colorado has some of the largest populations and largest antlered of these two species in the nation. Unfortunately, wildlife are often taken illegally and transported across state lines to the state where these subjects that poach reside. Colorado currently works closely with the USFWS and other states where poached Colorado wildlife are taken in a cooperative law enforcement effort to bring these poachers to justice. Colorado also relies heavily on the Interstate Wildlife Violator compact, especially the failure to comply with the provisions of a citation, to assist in these law enforcement efforts.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts - Colorado works cooperatively with many state agencies, federal agencies and other law enforcement/judicial entities. A great example is culmination of a case where one man from Colorado and two men from Indiana have been convicted of illegal hunting activities.

On September 14, 2016, CPW Glenwood Springs Customer Service Representative Karla Ferguson checked in a giant black bear taken by Dan Roe of Indiana. His son Alex Roe, also of Indiana, was a taxidermist, who skinned the hide and dumped the fat in the nearby dumpster. During the inspection, Ferguson heard all about the Roes' interest in taxidermy and their desire to get the giant bruin back to Indiana for mounting, but noticed all the meat was missing and believed the Roes' story about the hunt didn't sound quite right.

The Roes provided Ferguson with a detailed story of hunting. This included details on specific Forest Service roads; killing the bear; the long and heavy pack out of the 400-pound animal; and, how they gave the meat to neighboring hunting camps. Ferguson recognized the Roes from when they came in a couple days prior to purchase their bear license. Ferguson took a DNA sample from the discarded fat and contacted local Aspen Wildlife Officer Kurtis Tesch to share her concerns.

Officer Tesch and other CPW Wildlife Officers started a lengthy investigation, where they learned the Roes lied on the mandatory check form about where they shot the bear and continually lied to Wildlife Officers about the details of the hunt. After questioning, the Roes left Colorado and headed back to Indiana. Through the cooperation with Indiana Conservation Officers, search warrants were served on homes, cell phones, and persons. Officers were able to obtain further evidence showing what actually occurred.

Wildlife Officers learned on the evening of September 13, 2016, Pablo Gutierrez, 54, of Aspen, Colorado, dropped the Roes off at Aspen Village where they snuck onto Pitkin County Landfill property to commit the poaching. Both the Roes shot at the bear, and under the concealment of darkness, met Gutierrez at the landfill gate where they had packed out only the hide and head of the bear, leaving the rest to rot.

Wildlife Officer Tesch was able to match a picture of the bear with an area he recognized to be on the Pitkin County landfill where hunting is prohibited. This area was over ten miles from where the Roes claimed to have killed the bear. Wildlife Officer Tesch located the entire intact bear carcass with only the hide and head removed, covered in trash for concealment.

Through a cooperative effort with the 9th Judicial District Attorney's Office, the Roes plead guilty to a two year deferred judgment sentence of willful destruction of wildlife, a class 5 felony, and three unclassified misdemeanors: Illegal possession of wildlife, hunting on private property without permission and waste of edible wildlife. The fines were suspended and a donation amount of \$2,500 per person will be given to Colorado's Operation Game Thief.

Gutierrez was convicted of hunting on private property without permission and warned for illegal possession of wildlife. Gutierrez had his hunting and fishing privileges suspended for one year.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement – Colorado continues to update and enhance the electronic forensics capabilities as “internet wildlife” crimes with all the social media outlets are ever increasing. The Law Enforcement Investigation Unit conducts all cell phone and computer forensics for parks and wildlife officers. There is a trend of doing more-and-more forensics analysis on smart phones and less-and-less on computers. Colorado contracts with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for wildlife/DNA forensics.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement – Colorado's wildlife and outdoor spaces are among our most valuable and valued resources. They enhance our quality of life, bring us prosperity and represent our western heritage. Coloradans depend on CPW to deliver on its mission and ensure future generations have access to the quality hunting, fishing and parks recreational opportunities available today. CPW can do even more for Colorado when Coloradans invest in us.

The legislature has approved two key Acts in order to sustain Colorado state parks and wildlife opportunities. The first Act is the Hunting, Fishing and Parks Future Generations Act and the second is the Mussel Free Colorado Act.

The Hunting, Fishing and Parks Future Generations Act is on the Governor's desk for signature. This act raises the amount of residential and nonresidential license fees, stamp fees, and surcharges for hunting and fishing activities. It authorizes the Parks and Wildlife Commission to apply a consumer price index adjustment to hunting and fishing fees.

The act removes the restriction on the Parks and Wildlife Commission's ability to raise or lower park fees and changes only if the Commission reasonably anticipates that the annual revenues from the fees and charges will not increase by more than 20% above the annual amount earned from fees and charges as they existed on July 1, 2011. The act also establishes a maximum fee increase that the commission may impose by rule for park passes in any one year as a one-dollar increase for a daily park pass and a \$10 increase for an annual park pass.

The Governor has signed the Mussel Free Colorado Act into law. This crucial Act will help provide a stable funding source for our Aquatic Nuisance Species Program (ANS) that helps protect Colorado waters from invasive species. This act created an aquatic nuisance species stamp for the operation of motorboats and sailboats in waters of the state, increased penalties related to the introduction of aquatic nuisance species into the waters of the state, and combined two separate funds related to the aquatic nuisance species program into one fund.

Cost Savings Initiatives - Since 2009, CPW has cut or defunded 50 positions and reduced \$40 million from its annual wildlife budget.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues – None

**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Illinois
Submitted by: Rafael Gutierrez
Date: May 1, 2018**

Training Issues

New Hires:

Since the budget was approved for Fiscal year 2018, we were given the approval to complete the field training of the remaining Conservation Police Officer Trainees originally hired in 2015. This was the first time the Agency utilized the new FTO program and process since switching to the San Jose Model for field training. The new computer based field reporting program from Agency 360 proved to be a very useful, accurate and efficient way to document the field training process and was very well received by the Trainees and Field Training Officers alike. After completing the field training program, we certified 7 Trainees to Conservation Police Officers and they assumed their roles within District 4 Cook County and District 2 Lake County.



In-service Training: A statewide in-service training was held at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel for the field officers. St. John's Hospital in Springfield along with other trauma surgeons and field medics provided training on Traumatic injuries and gunshot wound packing and field treatment. The officers received training on Cultural Competency, legal updates and other investigative tools by Department staff. The Office of Mines and Minerals staff provided training and gave a certification test for our field officers to obtain an explosives license to assist in regulations of explosives within the State. The Department was also able to have Jack Enter come to the in-service for a presentation on leadership which was very well received.



The field supervisors were also provided with an in-service at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel. During the Supervisor's in-service, they obtained training from Michael Coker on How To Deal With The Toxic Employee and Risk Management by Gordon Graham. Both blocks of training were praised by the supervisors and command staff.



Officer Safety Training: The OLE training section secured training from an outside source to bring in new techniques for firearms confrontations we could encounter in the field. This training was provided to our Firearms Instructors for skill development and program building ideas. The three day training included live fire training from within a vehicle, firing through windows of vehicles, confronting subjects from seated positions within a vehicle and many other useful techniques. The instructors were very impressed with the instruction given and the amount of knowledge they could take back and implement into our own program.



The Firearms instructors were also provided a two day training from AimPoint on the use of the new sights we purchased and installed on the rifles for the officers. This training provided tactical techniques to the instructors as well as installation, care and maintenance for the new sights.

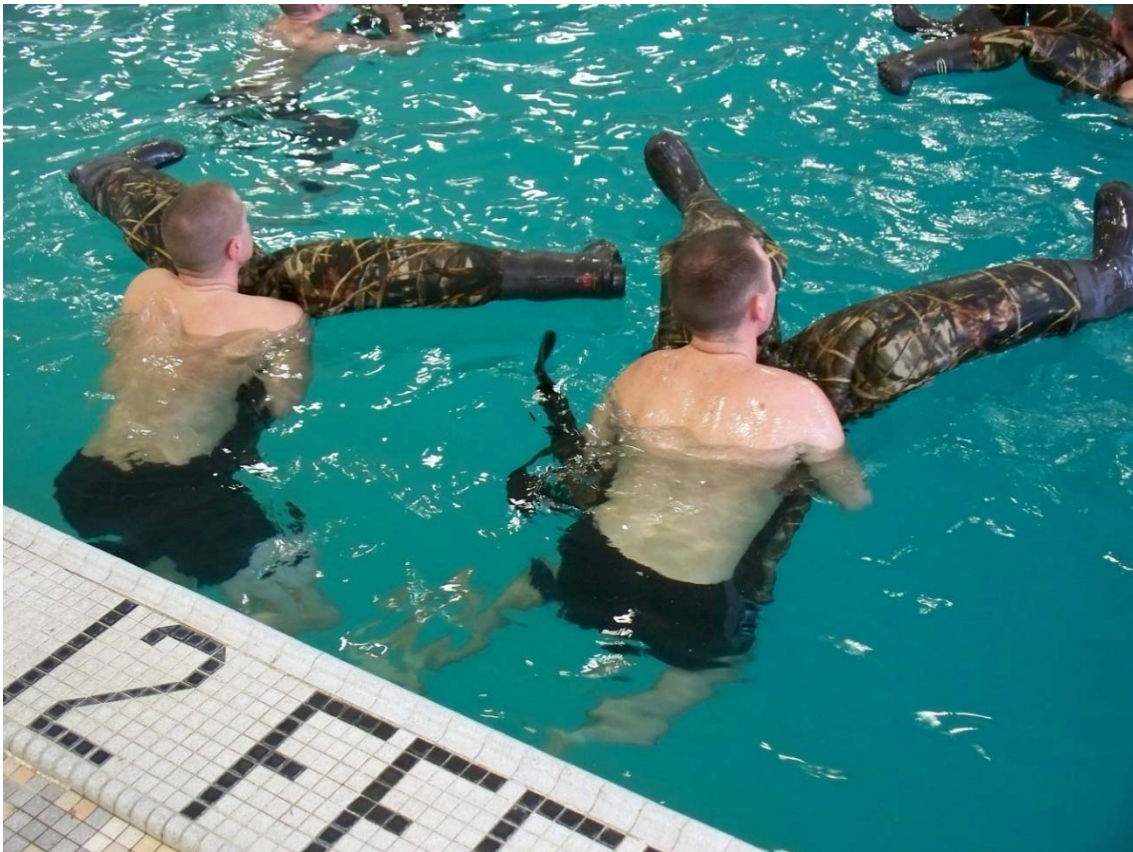


The defensive tactics and firearms staff again merged to provide scenario based training for all OLE officers and supervisors. The cross training was well received by all who participated as it provided officers a more realistic training scenario to enhance their skills.

The firearms staff again provided the firearms qualification shoot for the OLE retired officers this year. This year we certified 81 retired officers throughout the State, only 5 fewer than we have currently working the field.

The OLE training section continues the training of defense tactics (DT) while researching new and improved training methods. The DT program is implemented quarterly on a region or district level allowing more flexibility for scheduling of officers training. We have added more instructors to fill positions vacated by promotion or retirements. We continued with the ground fighting techniques to improve officer safety due to increased statistics nationwide on altercations with Law Enforcement that ended on the ground. We continue looking to expand our DT program to include water based tactics that will assist if an officer ends up in the water with a subject.

Physical Fitness and Water Survival Program: The training section is continuing to develop a program to implement a physical fitness program for all sworn officers to encourage each to participate in a fitness program and complete a wellness test each year. With the fitness program, water survival training is proposed to be implemented on a yearly basis as well.



Computer Training: The OLE training section continues to seek out computer training courses for officers to build skills in the always growing digital environment which continues to result in numerous wildlife cases being detected and solved. Also, there has been a more timely and efficient submittal of division paperwork which has been greatly beneficial. We implemented the new electronic Field Training Program which allowed us to complete all necessary field training documentation digitally and submit it real time. This allowed for more accurate reporting and quicker resolution to problems that may arise with a trainee. To comply with State Training Board standards, we have purchased a subscription to an online training called CourtSmart. CourtSmart provides monthly briefings on legal issues and requires each officer to complete a quiz on the information provided. By utilizing this online program we have reduced the hassle of sending officers to classes to meet the requirements and they can complete the training as free time allows. The training section also registered all the officers with an on-line learning network through the Training and Standards Board that will allow officers to take specific training to cover mandates while working into their slower enforcement times.

Outreach Training Programs: The OLE training section participated in a few career fairs, and presentations to recruit qualified potential applicants for future classes. The continuing decline of headcount due to retirements has increased the need to be more proactive in recruiting so when the opportunities to hire come about, there are multiple outlets to pull potential candidates from.

The OLE training section continues the internship program to promote a more professional learning experience. College students who wish to pursue a career in Law Enforcement/Natural Resources apply for an internship of up to 12 weeks during which they ride with a Conservation Police Officer (CPO), watch, listen, ask questions, and participate in many of the duties of a CPO. These internships provide a wonderful learning experience to students who the IDNR OLE hope become future applicants.

The training section also works with many high school students who are trying to determine a career path. Upon request, high school students from around the state are scheduled to meet with a CPO or supervisor and are given an overview of the duties of a CPO as well as the mission of the IDNR and the Office of Law Enforcement.

The OLE training section offers training to outside agencies to assist in Conservation related enforcement techniques and methods of patrol as well as operational training for specialized equipment such as snowmobiles. Conservation Law instruction was provided at Mobile Training Units around the State as well as question and answer sessions at several local agencies providing them with better knowledge of Conservation Law and how to contact their local CPO.

The Training Section also worked with the Illinois Trappers Association to provide a trapper's course and hands on training for furbearer trapping. Nearly 30 CPOs attended the four day training that was held at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Wildlife Area. During the course, instructors from the Illinois Trappers Association and Conservation Police demonstrated techniques and allowed the officers to learn the practices by setting and running traps themselves.

The class was a great success with several of the officers stating they were now comfortable knowing what to look for and how to enforce regulations on trappers.



Funding and Staffing Issues

The Illinois Conservation Police have gone from having 156 CPOs in calendar year 2008 to 109 CPOs as of December 2017, (30% reduction). A two-year budget impasse as well as attrition has had a devastating effect on an already short-staffed police force. It currently takes 1.5 years to hire and train a CPO. So, planning for future attrition as well as backfilling current vacancies is of utmost importance. We must hire 3-4 consecutive classes of 15-20 officers in the next 4 years to ensure effective law enforcement coverage and emergency response. Historically, the Illinois Conservation have never had a CPO assigned to every county in the State but statewide coverage was not an issue because CPOs could easily respond to calls for service in vacant counties. With today's current staffing, we now have multiple counties without CPOs and in many cases hours away from calls for service. Response times to emergencies have increased significantly. In recent cases, CPOs have not been able to respond to emergencies such as personal injury accidents due to no CPO being on duty or response times of 2-3 hours or more. With response times such as these, it places into question the overall effectiveness of a police force that is mandated to provide emergency services.

Because calendar year 2017 includes the last half of fiscal year 2016 and the first half of fiscal year 2017, this report shall touch on the budgets of both fiscal years. The fiscal year 2016 budget reflected only a modest decrease of \$766,000 from fiscal year 2015 appropriations. While approximately one-half of the decreased funds were in the personal services and related benefits lines, there was no impact on Law Enforcement operations due to a continued loss of headcount from retirements which resulted in a corresponding decrease in personal services needs. There were

minimal increases and decreases in the other operating lines as well which did not pose any negative consequences for the Office of Law Enforcement as spending was kept to critical needs necessary to maintain operations. Little, if any, discretionary spending was approved due to an ongoing budget impasse.

The Office of Law Enforcement's only significant issue in FY16 occurred with the reduction in our telecommunications line. This line experienced a decrease of more than \$200,000 which severely affected our ability to pay dispatching fees. Rather than incur the expense of hiring our own personnel and maintaining our own communications equipment and infrastructure, the Office of Law Enforcement contracts with the Illinois State Police for dispatching services. This service typically costs approximately \$350,000 annually. With the decrease in the telecommunications appropriation, the OLE was unable to pay for the dispatching services from the telecommunications line, as it normally would. Rather, we had to use Operations Assistance Fund money to pay for this expense, thereby using funds that should have been kept for the purchase of large dollar equipment items.

Fiscal year 2017's appropriation was significantly less than that of fiscal year 2016 in the amount of \$2.3 million (a decrease of almost 9% from fiscal year 2016 appropriations). This is compared to only a 3% reduction in funds from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016. Again, however, the fiscal year 2017 decrease was primarily in the personal services and related lines. With continued losses in sworn personnel headcount and no new recruit class in fiscal year 2017, the decrease in funds had little appreciable impact on OLE operations. The operating lines experienced minimal increases and decreases. The telecommunications lines remained flat from fiscal year 2016; so again, the Office of Law Enforcement found itself in a position of not being able to pay the annual dispatching invoice with the funding levels as originally appropriated. However, this time, the use of the Operations Assistance Fund was not a possibility as the OLE used that fund for its intended purpose and purchased items such as large patrol boats, boat trailers, outboard motors and laptop computers. After the purchase of this much needed equipment, there simply was not enough funding left in the Operations Assistance Fund to cover the \$350,000 dispatching invoice. The Office of Law Enforcement had to transfer small quantities of surplus funds from other operating lines into the telecommunications line plus receive additional funding from the agency to be able to pay the fiscal year 2017 dispatching invoice.

The OLE's Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund continues to provide a source of funding for "big ticket" purchases that are normally not obtainable with equipment line appropriations. With spending from this fund limited to only paying the Illinois State Police dispatching invoice in fiscal year 2016, the balance continued to grow to allow for some larger purchases in FY17. However, despite the actual balance in this account, the Office of Law Enforcement is limited to a spending authority limit of \$1.25 million that can be spent from this fund on an annual basis (or the balance that is in the fund if the balance is less than \$1.25 million). This account, funded primarily through fines, donations and watercraft registrations, was established primarily to allow the Department to address its aging fleet of work boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, laptop computers and for the procurement of other items necessary for an officer to perform his duties. In FY 16, spending was very limited in this fund due to the ongoing budget impasse and the directive to keep expenditures to an absolute minimum. However, the OLE did resume its program of replacing aging equipment in FY17 as mentioned above.

Equipment issues

Since its creation in FY13 the Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund (CPOAF) has had \$5.3 million deposited into it with \$3.1 million expended. With FY18 pending purchases, the total expenditures from this fund will be \$4.3 million. In FY18 the Illinois Office of the Comptroller swept \$952,800 from this fund to use elsewhere within state government. Despite this sweep the fund continues to be used to replace our aging fleet of equipment such as work boats, patrol boats, outboard motors, ATVs, laptops and other necessary equipment for CPOs to perform their job duties. Since its inception we have purchased 26 aluminum Jon boats, 17 new ATVs, 17 new Intoximeter RBT-IV portable breath testing machines, 96 sets of body armor, 150 rifle mounts for patrol vehicles, rifle and pistol ammunition, 150 first aid trauma kits, 13 patrol boats, 80 new mobile radios & 40 new portable radios. No new equipment was purchased in FY16 due to the lack of a budget which allowed the fund to grow since we were not able to spend \$1.25 million. We average spending \$860,000 per Fiscal Year since inception but for FY17 & FY18 combined we averaged spending \$1.16 million per FY.

All officers are issued laptop computers and would not be able to perform their daily duties without this critical piece of equipment. With the advanced age of the computers and the improvements in technology, the department has been on track with a 3-year replacement rotation. In FY17 we purchased 41 laptops and vehicle docking stations with more purchased in FY18.

In FY18 we purchased or plan to purchase the below equipment with CPOAF funds:

3 Patrol boats - \$356,714

20 laptops \$57,320 (possibly an additional 20)

20 laptop docking stations \$27,020 (possibly an additional 20)

40 Motorola APX mobile & 40 APX portable radios \$380,764

New phone/network system for the OLE Service Center \$40,801

4 Airboats \$315,000

19 Desktop computers \$11,855

Total Purchases for FY18 - \$1.16 million

Projected FY19 Equipment Purchases:

Lake Michigan Patrol Boat

Radios

Aluminum boats with mud motors

New lean-to at the Pawnee Service Center

TRUCKS

Our current fleet consists of 127 patrol trucks/SUVs (12 of which are F250s and one F350) and 13 plain (covert) vehicles for a fleet total of 140. The highest mileage vehicle currently in use today is 153,248 compared to last year's highest mileage of 170,175. This decrease is a result of 15 new vehicles being issued to officers. The fleet's current mileage average is 88,560 compared to previous year's averages of 90,134 - 79,956 - 88,747 and 75,102.

The Conservation Police currently lease their vehicles from Central Management Services (CMS). In turn CMS purchases replacement vehicles when current vehicles have reached the end of their useful life which is 8 model years old or 150,000 miles according to the program's guidelines. Since FY14 CMS has purchased 60 replacement vehicles or 42% of our fleet. It is our goal to replace a minimum of 25 vehicles per year.

We currently have twenty 2018 Ford F150 Crew cab trucks on order along with a possible additional order of twenty-two more. I expect to take delivery of the twenty vehicles at the end of May.

In FY18 we decided to change the design of the decals we apply to our vehicles. Below are pictures of a 2017 Ford F150 Crew Cab truck with the new decals.



BOATS

We currently have 25 patrol boats in use with 3 of them set up as sonar boats. In FY18 we purchased three patrol boats at a cost of \$356,714. In FY17 we purchased five new patrol boats at a cost of \$610,373 and in FY15 we purchased 5 patrol boats for \$617,195. We will purchase one additional patrol boat in FY19 for use on Lake Michigan in the Chicago area.



ATVs/UTVs

We have 47 ATVs/UTVs in our fleet. Twenty of these are 10 years old or older and need to be replaced.

RADIOS

In FY17 we received a FIRSTNET grant of \$376,437 to purchase 40 vehicle repeaters and 40 portable radios due to the FIRSTNET project taking over the frequencies the repeaters operate on. Also in FY17 we purchased 40 mobile radios at a cost of \$208,676. As of March 2018 all old repeaters installed in vehicles have been replaced with the new repeaters along with having new mobile radios installed and portable radios issued to the officer. All 2017 and newer vehicles will also have the new radios installed in them. In FY18 we purchased an additional 40 mobile radios and 40 portable radios at a cost of \$380,764. This will allow us to continue to install new radios in new vehicles and retro fit our 2014 model year trucks with the new radios. The current quantity of old radios we have on hand is 175 so with 80 radios replaced we would need to purchase an additional 95 sets of radios at a cost of \$904,315.

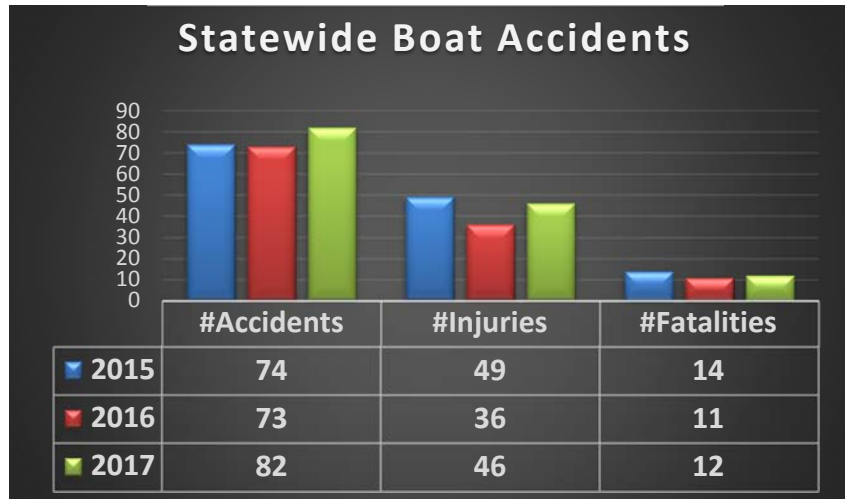
MISCELLANEOUS

In FY17 we purchased one Remote Controlled Sonar Vessel for \$8,000. This is a custom built vessel. This vessel measures approximately 34" L x 12.5" W x 11.5" H and contains a Humminbird Helix 9 side scan sonar unit. This vessel also has the ability for us to use an additional sonar unit on land to view the sonar screen while the vessel is maneuvering on the water. This type of vessel can be deployed in shallow bodies of water where a boat, equipped with sonar, cannot be used. Region 4 has this vessel and has deployed it several times. In FY18 we will be purchasing an additional 4 vessels so each Region will have one to use.

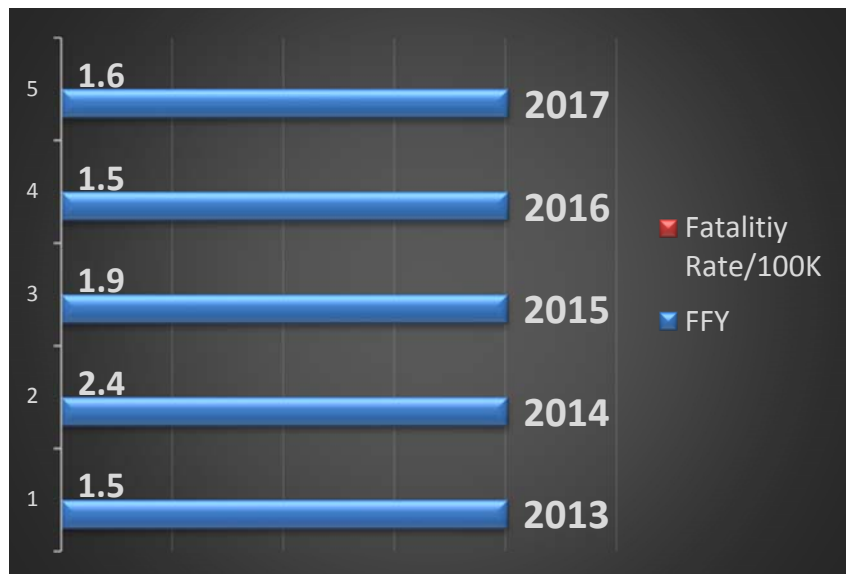


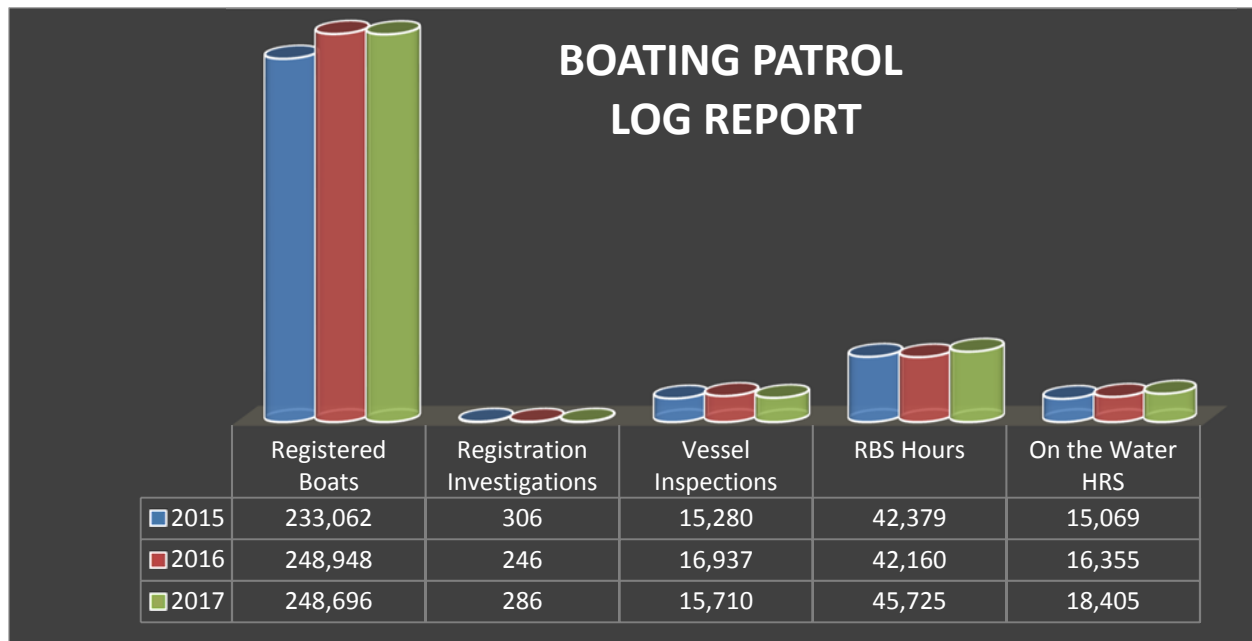
Recreational Boat Enforcement (Federal Fiscal Year 2017)

Illinois officers investigated 82 reportable boat accidents, which was an 1% increase over FFY 2016. A total of 46 injuries were reported in FFY 2017, a (42%) increase from previous year. A total of 12 fatalities were reported in FFY 2017.



The fatality rate is calculated by multiplying the number of boating fatalities by 100k. The product is then divided by the total number of registrations. The total number of registrations for this calculation was 730,706 which was derived from the last 3 years of the annual certification of registered vessels report. The chart on the right depicts that the Illinois boating fatality rate per 100K rose to 1.6 which was a slight increase over the preceding FFY.

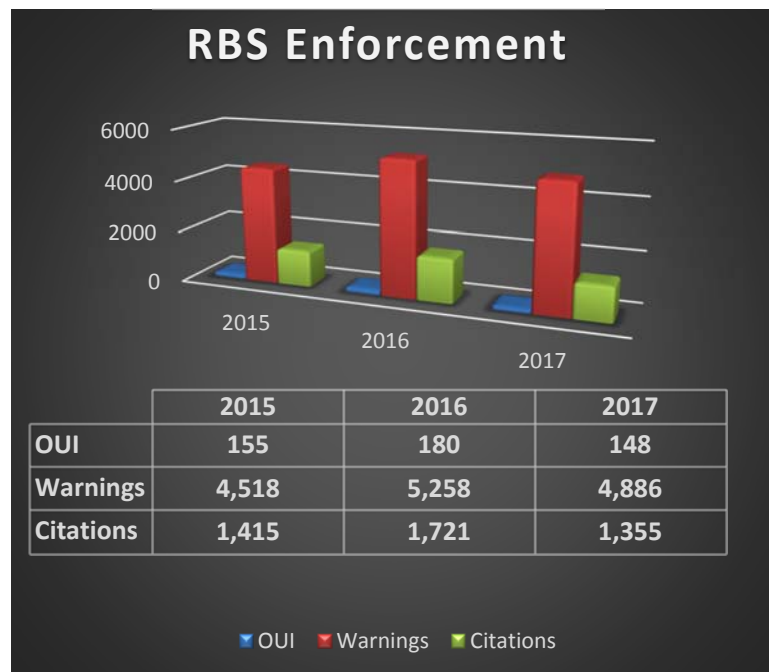




The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Law Enforcement recorded 45,725 personal service hours worked on the Recreational Boating Safety Program, which accounted for 15% of total work hours. This was an overall 8.5% increase from the total hours worked on the program in FFY 2016. The Office of law Enforcement's estimated on the water hours of 18,405 showed a 13% increase in hours worked on-the-water over the preceding period which was 16,355 hours.

Boating enforcement activity by the Illinois Conservation Police saw a decrease in the total number of citations and written warnings issued FFY 2017 from the previous Federal Fiscal Year.

Citations decreased from 1,721 to 1,355 (-21%) and written warnings decreased from 5,258 to 4,886 (-7%). Operating under the influence arrest decreased from 180 to 148 (-17%). Personal floatation device and operating under the influence remained the top boating violations cited by officers.



Summary

The OLE's primary objective is to promote recreational boating safety upon the waters of the State through education and compliance enforcement. This primary objective is challenged with the continuing decline in sworn personnel. Headcount for the OLE in FFY17 totaled 114 sworn personnel, an approximate 10% decrease from the previous reporting period.

To counter the effects of the reduction in the workforce on the RBS Program, the OLE re-emphasized its commitment to the program. The OLE recorded 45,725 personal service hours worked on the RBS Program. This was an 8.5% increase from the total hours worked on the Program in FFY 2016 with less sworn personnel.

Unfortunately, the challenging work and efforts of the diminishing sworn personnel numbers did not translate into less boating accidents, injuries or fatalities during FFY17. Reduction in the workforce due to retirements and the effect it has had on the ability to adequately patrol the waterways, remains a major concern. On a positive note, the Illinois Conservation Police received an award from the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) for its enforcement efforts during Operation Dry Water.

USCG Recreational Boat Safety Grant

In FFY 2017, the IDNR was allocated \$1,573,733. This money was used to support operations directly related to enforcement, boat access, and safety. There will be a carryover amount of \$340,898 which will be added to the FFY 2018 Grant for failure to meet the total grant match. The current USCG funding allocation for FFY 2018 is \$1,516,971 (\$1,857,869 including the carryover).

It is important to remember the RBS program determines funding using the following criteria:

- 1/3 number of registered boats compared to other states/territories
- 1/3 previous years expenditures coded towards the RBS Grant
- 1/3 equal distributions of remaining funds equally among states/territories

Homeland Security



State/Federal Interoperability:

The Office of Law Enforcement (***OLE***) continues to serve as a member agency with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (***ITTF***). In addition, the ***OLE*** continues to serve on the ***ITTF*** Transportation and Critical Infrastructure Security (formerly the Transportation Committee) and the Crisis and Prevention Committee. Serving on the committees allows the ***OLE*** to develop partnerships with other state and local law enforcement agencies to help prevent, respond to and recover from an attack on the waterways of the State.

In addition to communicating with fellow State agencies, the membership in the ***ITTF*** allows the cooperating agencies to identify special equipment and needs to mitigate gaps in emergency response and protection of critical infrastructure.

Similarly, the ***OLE*** has continued to serve on the United States Coast Guard Area Maritime Security Committees (***AMSC***) in St Louis, Chicago, Peoria and the Quad Cities. The ***AMSCs*** specifically deal with ports on waterways in which the State and Federal governments have concurrent jurisdictions. Working with the USCG also helps merge information and response assets, ultimately increasing the safety of our waterways used for commercial transportation purposes.



Training:

No training was conducted during FFY 17.

**Outlook:**

Homeland Security dollars continue to decrease because of budget restrictions at the Federal level. The ITTF has seen significant reductions in the amount of grant dollars awarded to the State. The USCG has experienced similar decreases in grant monies. The OLE will continue to seek additional funding through the ITTF as well as the USCG (Port Security) Grants in a continued attempt to enhance response and mitigate gaps in security on the State's ports and waterways.



Unique Cross Boundary Cooperative Efforts

Illinois has two officers dedicated to a task force for identifying and apprehending persons involved in the importation of invasive and disease susceptible aquatic life, primarily Asian Carp. The two-officer team is referred to as the Invasive Species Unit (ISU). Below is a synopsis of cross boundary cooperative efforts performed by the team which resulted in \$31,982 in restitution being rewarded to the Department in 2017.

- The ISU arrested the owner of a Kentucky fish farm who knowingly imported and stocked live fish into multiple ponds throughout Illinois during the past 12 years without VHS import permits or a non-resident aquatic life dealer's license. The owner pled guilty in court and paid \$5000 in restitution to the IDNR.
- The ISU investigated a complaint of two college students who unlawfully released live largemouth bass and tilapia into an Urbana park district pond during a cultural/merit release ceremony. A records search of the Asian food market that sold the fish to the students identified the Indiana fish hauler. ISU set up surveillance on the store and inspected the fish truck when it arrived to deliver more fish. The fish hauler had been delivering fish for approximately 7 months without the required restricted species transportation permit or a VHS import permit. The delivery location of the Asian market was not listed as a delivery location on previous permits, and the hauler admitted he delivered non-VHS tested largemouth bass from a university in Indiana to the store. A total of 24 illegal deliveries were documented. The owner of the company pled guilty in court and paid \$5000 in restitution to the IDNR.
- The investigation into a Missouri tilapia fish farm revealed the company illegally sold 2,650 tilapia fingerlings to customers throughout Illinois in 2016 & 2017 without applying for the required restricted species transportation permit or purchasing a non-resident aquatic life dealer's license. The fish were shipped to customers via FedEx, and some were released into open waters, including one golf course in Southern Illinois that stocked over 1000 tilapia in two separate ponds. The owner of the company was brought into compliance and appropriate enforcement action was taken.
- The ISU cited a Texas company for illegally transporting a boat lift covered in zebra mussels from Texas to Lake Shelbyville in Illinois.
- A random inspection detail of live fish markets in Chinatown found two stores that were illegally importing live American eels from New York and selling them. The eels were seized and appropriate enforcement action was taken.
- The ISU investigated a New York aquatic plant supply company that was identified as selling and shipping a live injurious plant species (*Egeria densa*) to Illinois customers. The plants

were advertised and sold over the Internet and shipped via FedEx. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation assisted with the case. The company was brought into compliance.

- The ISU is an active member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Law Enforcement Committee and attended conferences in Ypsilanti, Michigan and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The committee focuses on promoting cooperation and sharing of information and resources for facilitating cross-jurisdictional investigations to protect the resources of the Great Lakes.
- The ISU actively participates and is a committee member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's GLDIATR project which is a web monitoring system to identify AIS species for sale and their suppliers.
- The ISU assisted the Michigan DNR with interviewing a Chicago suspect involved in the illegal killing and tagging of a white-tailed deer in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The individual pled guilty in court.
- The ISU assisted the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with interviewing three Chicago residents about illegal wolf hunting activities in Canada.
- The ISU assisted Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment with interviewing three Illinois residents about illegal fox hunting activities in Canada.
- The ISU assisted Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment with interviewing two Illinois residents suspected of being outfitted and guided by an illegal waterfowl outfitter in Canada.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

Illinois legislation in 2017 saw several changes in resource law. Portions of the trapping law were amended allowing longer possession times for green hides, combining some commercial permits while eliminating others, and simplifying records requirements. For the bobcat season, although only a year old, the law was amended to allow the take of fewer bobcats and in fewer counties. On the equipment side, restrictions for crossbows were repealed, making them legal for any archery season. And finally, in keeping up with technology, the definition of a hunting license was amended to include an electronic license (many expiration dates for licenses were also changed to March 31st).

For watercraft laws, some amendments were made to keep up with Coast Guard requirements, such as requiring of registration permits being onboard and available to officers, moving registration expiration dates to September 30th, and miscellaneous PFD requirements. Other law changes included the option of titling boats under 21 ft. and the repeal of the Water Usage Stamp that was required for all non-powered watercraft.

Concerning law enforcement in general, several changes were made from forfeiture laws, to mandated training. For training, law enforcement officers must receive mental health awareness training every three years. A new law titled “Connors Law” mandates policies by agencies for dealing with subjects under 21 years of age if still under the influence of alcohol. New forfeiture law will place more steps in the seizure/forfeiture process, overseen by the Illinois State Police, in hopes of a more fair and consistent use of the forfeiture process. Law enforcement officers are now required to give specific information to persons reporting missing children. Finally, the Illinois Trust Act was enacted to govern how local police are involved with federal immigration enforcement.

License Expiration - PA 100-0256, HB 2028

Changes the expiration of certain licenses to March 31 of each year.

Trapping - PA 100-0123, HB 2685

Provides that except as provided in the Code, it is unlawful to have in his or her possession the green hides of fur bearing mammals without a valid hunting or trapping license. Creates the resident fur buyer's permit (eliminates the resident retail and wholesale fur buyer's permit). Provides for record retention.

Crossbow - PA 100-0489, HB 2893

Provides that any person may use a crossbow to take wildlife during the appropriate archery season.

Hunting License - PA 100-0150, HB 3093

Defines "hunting license" as an electronic or physical license authorizing the person to take a certain type of animal during a specified period of time.

Bobcat Hunting and Trapping - PA 100-0524, HB 3333

Adds to the list of restricted counties. Provides that for the season beginning in 2017, a total number of 350 bobcats may be hunted or trapped lawfully, or the conclusion of the season occurs, whichever is earlier. Provides that for the season beginning in 2018, a total number of 375 bobcats may be hunted or trapped lawfully.

Comm. Fishing Regs on Lake Michigan - PA 100-0168, HB 3272

Provides that all trout, including lake trout, salmon, and lake whitefish may not be taken by commercial fishing devices, including gill or pound nets.

Comm. Fishing License Regs. on Lake MI - PA 100-0169, HB 3273

Provides that the Department of Natural Resources may issue a maximum of 5 commercial fishing licenses for taking from the Illinois waters of Lake Michigan yellow perch, bloater chub, and other commercial fish species designated by Department rule.

DNR Volunteers Trail Program - PA 100-0180, HB 3455

Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall establish an Adopt-a-Trail program that will allow volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing trails on State owned land.

DNR Ashes in State Parks - PA 100-0097, SB 1586

Provides that "scattering area" also includes property used for outdoor recreation or natural resource conservation owned by the Department of Natural Resources and designated as a scattering area.

Boat - PA 100-0434, HB 434

Provides that no person may operate any such watercraft on such waters unless it has on board while in operation a valid certificate of number issued under the Act. Provides that new certificates of number issued will bear September 30 expiration dates in the calendar year 3 years after the issuing date. Limits the requirement for a certificate of title for watercraft required to be numbered to watercraft over 21 feet in length (rather than any watercraft). Repeals the Sections concerning water usage stamps and their required use on non-powered watercraft. Makes changes regarding the use of personal flotation devices. Makes other changes.

Law Enforcement – Immigration PA 100-0463, SB 31 Effective 8/28/17

Creates the Illinois TRUST Act. Prohibits law enforcement agencies and officials from detaining or continuing to detain an individual solely on the basis of an immigration detainer or non-judicial immigration warrant or from otherwise complying with an immigration detainer or non-judicial immigration warrant. Provides for law enforcement training on compliance with the Illinois TRUST Act. Defines terms.

Police Shooting – Drug Test - PA 100-0389, SB 58

Provides that each law enforcement agency shall adopt a written policy regarding drug and alcohol testing following an officer-involved shooting. Provides that the written policy adopted by the law enforcement agency must include the following requirements: (1) each law enforcement officer who is involved in an officer-involved shooting must submit to drug and alcohol testing; and (2) the drug and alcohol testing must be completed as soon as practicable after the officer-involved shooting but no later than the end of the involved officer's shift or tour of duty.

Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting Act - PA 100-0512, HB 303

Creates the Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting Act. Provides that various forfeiture statutes are subject to reporting by law enforcement agencies concerning the name of the law enforcement agency that seized the property, the date of the seizure, the type of property seized. Provides that the Department of State Police shall establish and maintain on its official website a public database that includes annual aggregate data for each law enforcement agency that reports seizures of property that receives distributions of forfeiture proceeds subject to reporting under the Act, or reports expenditures.

Police Training - PA 100-0247, HB 375

Provides that the curriculum for probationary officers and in-service training requirements shall include mental health awareness and response. Provides that the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board shall create an introductory course incorporating adult learning models that provides law enforcement officers with an awareness of mental health issues including a history of the mental health system, types of mental health illness including signs and symptoms of mental illness and common treatments and medications, and the potential interactions law enforcement officers may have on a regular basis with these individuals, their families, and service providers including de-escalating a potential crisis situation. Provides that this course, in addition to other traditional learning settings, may be made available in an electronic format. Makes other technical changes.

Switchblades - PA 100-0326, SB 607

Provides an exemption from the prohibition on sale, manufacture, purchase, possession, or carrying of a switchblade knife to a person who possesses a currently valid Firearm Owner's Identification Card previously issued in his or her name by the Department of State Police or to a person or an entity engaged in the business of selling or manufacturing switchblade knives.

Missing Child 24 Hour Hotline - PA 100-0438, SB 1439

Provides that at the time of first contact with an individual making a report of a missing child who is under 18 years of age, the local law enforcement agency shall provide the individual with the following: (i) the 24-hour toll-free telephone numbers for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Safeline; and (ii) a description of the services provided to families of missing children by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Safeline.

Hypodermic Syringes-Pharmacies - PA 100-0326, SB 1944

Provides that a person who is at least 18 years of age may purchase from a pharmacy and have in his or her possession up to 100 (rather than 20) hypodermic syringes or needles. Provides that a pharmacist may sell up to 100 (rather than 20) sterile hypodermic syringes or needles to a person who is at least 18 years of age. Provides that a prescriber (rather than a licensed physician) may direct a patient under his or her immediate charge to have in possession any of the hypodermic syringes and needles permitted by the Act. Defines "prescriber".

Conor's Law - PA 100-0537, SB 2185

Redefines "detoxification" as the process of allowing an individual to safely withdraw or sober from a drug or alcohol in a controlled environment, including a treatment or law enforcement facility. Provides that if an individual under the age of 21 is arrested while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the police officer on duty has a reasonable suspicion that the individual is still under the influence while at the police station, and there are signs that the individual is impaired, then the officer must make a reasonable attempt to contact a responsible adult who is willing to take custody of the intoxicated individual.

Cost Savings Initiatives

None

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**SAFETY EDUCATION**

The Safety Education Section is a public service section managed by the Office of Law Enforcement, Division of Operations. Safety Education's primary responsibility is to administer Illinois' four statutorily required Safety Education programs: hunting, boating, snowmobile, and trapping. These programs are mandated by law for certain ages prior to them participating in the chosen activity.

The Safety Education Section operates with three central office staff and three Volunteer Services Coordinators who are assigned to different geographical areas of the State. The Safety Education Section manages a statewide network of 1,180 certified volunteer instructors. In 2017, these volunteer instructors conducted 424 courses attended by 10,539 students and contributed over 8,610 hours toward the programs.

Conservation Police Officers (CPOs), when available, are charged with presenting instruction on Illinois laws and regulations at each class. In 2017, CPOs attended 61% of the classes, equaling 696.75 hours toward the education programs.

During the 2018 spring season, the Safety Education Section offered a statewide hunter safety instructor workshop with 120 instructors attending. Training was presented on Safety Education policies, law updates, Departmental updates, and new programs.

**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
Conservation Officers Service
Manitoba Sustainable Development
Jack Harrigan
Chief Conservation Officer
May 24, 2018**



• **Training Issues**

Manitoba Sustainable Development accepts recruits trained in various outside agencies and academies. This year three (3) new recruits have begun their training at the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) in Hinton Alberta. In July and August, they will return to Manitoba for on the job training followed by two more months at WCLEA before graduation at the end of October. In November, they will begin their career in Manitoba as full time Conservation Officers (CO).

Defensive tactics / officer safety training was held in January and February during our annual centralized training for Department COs. Standard qualifications were conducted by in-house officer instructors. The retention of instructors remains a challenge due to turn-over and regular duty work priorities. Although this year we were able to add one Basic Firearm Instructor trained through the Winnipeg Police Service.

Training in *The Provincial Offences Act* was conducted at centralized training for all COs.

• **Funding and Staffing Issues**

Recruitment and Retention of full time CO's is still a challenge with vacancies due to resignations, retirement, and decreasing applicant numbers. In the last year, 8 full time Conservation Officers have resigned to take positions in other jurisdictions and 6 more retired. Currently, of the 124 Conservation Officer positions, 21 are vacant, 17 officers are eligible for immediate retirement, and 41 will be eligible to retire within the next 5 years.

A recent competition to fill full time Conservation Officer positions only resulted in the hiring of 3 new qualified recruits.

Night patrol efforts were again doubled, including night flights, in order to address recently increased illegal night lighting activities.

Expenditure management and a hiring freeze that were instituted last year remain in effect.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

Postings of illegal and legal wildlife harvesting on social media, led to numerous resource enforcement actions. Night hunting by rights based harvester's remains under public scrutiny by assorted lobby groups and municipalities, some wishing to see it banned. The Department is in an on-going consultation process with indigenous communities and other interested parties to examine night lighting practices.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

No specific cross-boundary cooperative law enforcement investigations occurred this past year.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

The Department is currently in the scoping phase of an RFP with a service provider to implement an electronic hunting and fishing licence system in the Province. If/when implemented it will be a drastic improvement over the antiquated paper based licensing system that is in place now.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**

Proclaimed in 2016, *The Fisheries and Wildlife Amendment Act* (Restitution) allows restitution to be collected after a person is convicted of an offence where specified fish or wildlife is unlawfully killed. The restitution collected is over and above any court ordered fine and cannot be waived by the courts. The monies collected are deposited into the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund. To date, the new program has collected over \$80,000 in restitution with another \$160,640 being assessed but not received.

On November 20th, 2017 *The Provincial Offences Act* was proclaimed. This new act repealed *The Summary Convictions Act* and sets out new processes and procedures in respect to Provincial offences and Provincial courts.

On December 1st, 2017 *The Fisheries Amendment Act* was proclaimed which did away with the single desk marketing monopoly for commercial fish. The legislation now allows commercial fishers to sell their catch to any provincially licensed fish dealer instead of only to the federal Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

Select high visibility and peak period enforcement activities and increased teleconferencing continue in an effort to save money while still ensuring resource enforcement and public safety.

A \$57,500 grant was obtained through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund disbursement process that enabled the Department to purchase 10 robotic wildlife decoys (6 deer, 2 moose 1 elk and 1 caribou) for enforcement use around the Province.

**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Michigan
Submitted by: Chief Gary Hagler
Date: May 3, 2018**

- **Training Issues**

Recruit School 8: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Law Enforcement Division (LED) ran its 4th conservation officer (CO) recruit school in as many years. 22 men and women graduated in December after successfully completing the 23-week academy. The probationary conservation officers (PCO's) will be in their home counties mid-May 2018 once they have completed their 18-week field training.



Snowmobile Enforcement School: The 17 PCO's from Recruit School 7 attended a three-day snowmobile enforcement school during the month of January. The officers received instruction on policy, regulations, snowmobile handling, patrol techniques and maintenance. They were able to immediately apply this knowledge by participating in field exercises near the end of the 3-day school.

Automated External Defibrillators: All LED officers have been issued automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and are trained in their use. As first responders, the

addition of AEDs will afford the officers enhanced capabilities when responding to cardiac emergencies in remote areas.

Great Lakes Enforcement Unit (GLEU):

- GLEU officers instructed at a four-day Fish Identification and Enforcement Training School at Michigan State University's (MSU's) Wildlife Disease Control Lab in Lansing for Conservation Officer Recruit Academy 8. The 22 new PCOs were provided training in topics including state and tribal commercial fishing, tribal subsistence fishing, fish species identification and enforcement, bait industry enforcement, aquatic invasive species identification and enforcement, fish hauler identification and coastal zone management enforcement. The PCOs also participated in general enforcement scenarios.
- GLEU officers conducted training for COs at various district meetings on bait facility inspections, regulations, and enforcement as well as aquatic invasive species issues.
- The GLEU gave a presentation to the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society at their annual meeting held in Mackinaw City. The presentation involved law enforcement's role in collaboration with the public on fishery resource protection and how law enforcement input can be utilized in fishery management decisions.
- The Special Investigations Unit (SIU), will be hosting the Wildlife Investigators Covert Academy from May 14-21 2018, in and around Grand Rapids, MI.

Joint United States Coast Guard (USCG) Search and Rescue Training: COs participated in joint training with the USCG Station Traverse City to become familiar with the use of helicopters for search and rescue operations and use of aircraft for patrol and search operations. Station Traverse City serves as a base for USCG air operations in the Northern Great Lakes and is an excellent asset.

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) Training: COs throughout the state received training on the detection of impaired driving as it pertains to drugs, alcohol, or a combination of both. This can be beneficial training when dealing with trends of increasing illegal drug use or prescription drug abuse.

Continuing education: The Division continues to develop and utilize an online training module which requires our officers to study and learn important topics and achieve a minimum passing score on an exam. Topics covered have included time of death training, evidence collection and firearm forensics.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

Wildlife Resource Protection Section:

- In 2017 the GLEU was still operating under very limited staffing consisting of four enforcement specialists, one investigator, and one supervisor for the entire state. Funding was approved through the legislature for additional personnel and promotional interviews began in December of 2017. Since that time the GLEU has promoted one 2nd Lieutenant, two Corporal level investigators and four Corporal level enforcement specialists which will greatly enhance the unit's capabilities statewide.

- SIU has promoted one 2nd Lieutenant and seven Detectives which will provide statewide investigative coverage. These new Detectives will work in both a covert and overt capacity focusing on major poaching activity and illegal commercialization of natural resources.

New Equipment Expenditures: LED's utilization of funds has maximized the amount of new equipment that can be deployed to the field for increased enforcement efforts. New Great Lakes patrol vessels, smaller boats, ORVs, and snowmobiles have replaced aging equipment. This has cut down on costly repair bills and provided COs with new equipment for increased enforcement efficiency.



- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

Tourism has been on the rise in Michigan's Upper Peninsula due to many positive reviews in national magazines and on social media naming it as a first-rate vacation area. World class single-track mountain bike trails, hiking trails and pristine lakes and rivers for kayakers have been a huge draw. A new National Park Service report showed that there were approximately 781,000 visitors to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore near the Munising area in 2017 that resulted in an estimated \$33 million-dollar impact to the community. Thousands of kayakers, of all experience levels and types of kayaks, flock to the Pictured Rocks each summer. Due to the lack of regulation in the commercial guiding industry, there has been a significant uptick in serious search and rescue calls for kayakers.

Active Shooter Incidents: There has been a rise in active shooter incidents nationwide and Michigan is no exception. Rural policing is an important component of a CO's day to day routine. LED has taken a pro-active approach by providing active shooter

training and replacing our M1A rifles with a more versatile AR-15 platform rifle for our COs. Recently, mid-Michigan COs responded to an active shooter incident at Central Michigan University. The COs played a significant role in the manhunt by utilizing their expertise and specialized equipment to patrol the Chippewa River and surrounding wooded park areas.

Deer Management Assistance Permits (DMAP's): District 4 in the northwest lower peninsula (Cadillac) is home to the largest number of properties under the DMAP program in the state. These permits have been offered through Wildlife Division at a reduced rate and offer additional liberal regulations to target agricultural damage on private lands. Despite the program having been in place for several years, compliance seems to be declining. Wildlife Division and LED have worked more closely to conduct on-site inspections and conduct a more comprehensive review of reporting documents.

Drone Use and Hunting: Legal questions regarding drone use and land owner trespass and privacy complaints appear to be on the rise during 2017. Legality of use while hunting has been addressed with legislation, but privacy and disturbance issues continue to increase with the availability and lower cost of drones themselves. There are increased questions being raised on use of drones in state parks and on state or federal lands as related to conflicting use or disturbance type issues.

GLEU and SIU:

- GLEU officers worked eight joint cooperative Great Lakes enforcement patrols with tribal law enforcement officers from the tribes located in the 1836 Treaty area.
- GLEU and SIU have been working with the USFWS and USCG investigators on a joint initiative targeting the illegal harvesting and movement across borders of high value aquatic species.
- The GLEU conducted numerous homeland security and border patrols assisting the USCG and Border Patrol along the international border. GLEU officers also provided maritime safety and security assistance during the launching of two naval LCS class warships at the Marinette Marine shipyard located on the Michigan-Wisconsin border.
- SIU assisted the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with a two-year covert investigation into illegal guiding activity in northern Ontario. This investigation resulted in the conviction of two subjects charged with several natural resource violations resulting in penalties totaling \$16,875.00, license issuing privileges revoked and the requirement of retaking hunter safety course.
- DNR LED hosted the Mississippi Flyway Council's Law Enforcement Committee meetings in Traverse City during August 2017. Representatives from twelve of the flyway states as well as Agents from the USF&WS attended. Discussions centered on mutual waterfowl enforcement issues and training opportunities. The Mississippi Flyway Council is the only Flyway Council out of the four flyways that has a Law Enforcement Committee component.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

Operation Kill Box: Districts 3 (Gaylord) and 5 (Roscommon) COs worked in collaboration with the Air National Guard (ANG) on response to threats or conflicts that may arise from watercraft traffic on the Great Lakes. The ANG out of Alpena tested radar and other military tools to determine how vessels would be detected on Lake Huron. The DNR LED as well as the Michigan State Police assisted with their patrol boats. It was a wonderful example of federal and state agencies working together on a joint enforcement training.

Gambler 500: This event starts in the metro area of Detroit and travels as far north as Roscommon County. The premise of the event is to travel 500 miles in a vehicle that costs under \$500. These vehicles travel on the interstate, county roads, local roads, as well as state land areas. Excessive damage to state lands in 2017 has led to a bigger enforcement focus on this event. COs are partnering with US Forest Service Law Enforcement, Michigan State Police, and local police departments to address safety concerns associated with these vehicles on roadways as well as state land damage. This cooperative enforcement effort will likely lead to a safer event for future years.

Baseline Lake Sandbar Boat Party: COs, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, Livingston County Sheriff's Department and Hamburg Township Police Department conduct patrols to police the sandbar on Baseline Lake during the July 4th weekend. Approximately 1,500 people and 300 boats gather along the shoreline of the Baseline Lake. Marine safety, disorderly conduct, drug and alcohol violations, trespassing and littering are the major issues encountered.

Several COs, Michigan State Police troopers, Manistee County Sheriff deputies, USFS officers and the Mason County K-9 unit worked together to search for a fleeing felon in Manistee County. Manistee County deputies attempted to arrest a suspect on a warrant during a traffic stop. The suspect, along with his father, resisted arrest and assaulted the officers. The suspect fled into a wooded area after threatening great bodily harm to any law enforcement officer who would apprehend him. After 3.5 hours and approximately seven miles of tracking, the subject was taken into custody by a CO and a Mason County K-9 deputy. The suspect remained non-compliant and was carrying a large hunting knife. The officers led the uncooperative suspect out on foot through a flooded swamp where he was transported by ambulance and treated for hypothermia prior to being lodged.

District officers participated in joint operations on the water with the USCG throughout the summer months. The 4th of July Festival and the USCG Festival are big events in which officers have worked very closely with the USCG, several other agencies, and our Parks and Recreation Division at Grand Haven State Park. On several occasions the officers have participated in joint training operations in conjunction with the USCG, covering everything from homeland security and terrorism to search and rescue operations.

LED COs have participated in ongoing waterborne training with the Michigan State Police Emergency Services Team for several years. Last year the training included a training exercise with the FBI Hostage Rescue Team.

Operation Dry Water: LED COs participated in Operation Dry Water which is a 3-day national campaign targeting those who are boating under the influence. The intent of the program is to spread awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence.

COs from across the state work with the USCG, Michigan State Police, City of Detroit, and other Canadian agencies to provide security during the Ford Fireworks on Belle Isle. The event is held on the last Monday in June to honor both countries' independence days. The Detroit River, which is a major shipping lane, is shut down to all marine traffic.

COs from across the state work with the Michigan State Police to ensure the safety of race fans attending the Detroit Grand Prix which is held on Belle Isle State Park.

District 9 (Detroit) COs work with the USCG and Canadian officers to enforce state laws and ensure the safety of numerous international renowned events along the St. Clair River such as Jobbie Nooner, The Float Down, and The Raft Off. These events draw thousands of participants, many who operate while intoxicated or drink underage.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

Cell Phone Mapping: Cell phones have become a means of tracking today's hunters. Probable cause of a violation combined with a subpoena/search warrant can help pinpoint the location of where a subject has been or their traveling patterns. This information is invaluable when investigating trends of taking animals in closed areas, use of improper kill tags, borrowing/loaning kill tags, and the taking of animals before purchasing a license.

Social Media Search Warrants – Probable cause of a violation via social media continues to be more and more prevalent. Many COs have started to learn the best way to maximize the large amounts of data contained in social media accounts. Geo data from photos as well as retrieval of private messages has solidified numerous cases. The information obtained through these search warrants have also assisted many other agencies with solving open cases involving serious general criminal violations.

GLEU and SIU:

- The GLEU acquired a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) which has greatly enhanced the unit's capabilities to conduct investigative and enforcement efforts under the surface of the Great Lakes. The ROV eliminates the need to pull and inspect nets in most cases by allowing officers to visually inspect nets in place. This is far more efficient, safer, and productive. The ROV was also utilized to inspect shipwrecks and observing artifacts. The unit also has capability to aid with homeland security, victim search and recovery, and environmental issues.

- Funding was approved for a joint committee made up of law enforcement staff from the GLEU, Fisheries Division staff, and technology personnel to begin work on developing a new electronic reporting mechanism within the commercial, wholesale, and charter boat industries. By late 2017, the committee had been working with the software developer on the individual reporting modules for the three industries with an anticipated electronic reporting system roll out in the summer of 2018. The system will allow for more efficient and timely reporting of harvesting and sales of aquatic species within the state which will allow for better tools for management and enforcement.
- SIU has been utilizing the ZetX cell phone tower tracking service with good success. SIU has been assisting field conservation officers with the use of this enforcement tool thus enabling officers to track suspect whereabouts on a specific date and time. This evidence has been important in several wildlife poaching prosecutions.

SIU was tasked with an investigation of a Privately Owned Cervidae, (POC), facility that had two of six deer heads turned in as part of the state's CWD surveillance program come back CWD positive. When interviewed, the owner changed his version claiming the deer heads came from a local deer processor and not his facility. Detectives from SIU were able to obtain numerous DNA samples from deer remains at the processor to establish where the heads originated from.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**

GLEU and SIU:

- The GLEU was instrumental in working with Fisheries Division staff to finish a long-term project to completely re-write the state's commercial fishing regulations that date back to 1929. The statute proposal was brought forward for introduction into the legislature.
- Native American Tribes are seeking fishing rights recognized within Michigan waters of the Great Lakes outside the Federally recognized tribes and Treaties of 1836 and 1842.

Forest Road Inventory: Legislation under Public Act 288 has opened thousands of miles of state forest trails and other areas to ORV use. Although this change allows for increased opportunity for ORV riders, comments received at public meetings project an increase in user conflict with other recreational activities. These forest roads have only been open to ORV use since January 1, 2018; however, confusion on where ORVs are permitted still plague the public. Only time will tell if additional regulations will need to be passed to protect other recreational activities and the damage that might be caused by this increase of ORV use on state-owned lands.

Emerging Disease Issues: Following the discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) inside of a privately owned cervid facility in early 2017, over 30,000 free ranging deer have been tested for the disease. Approximately 60 deer, located within Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, and Montcalm Counties, have tested positive for the disease.

CWD has not been found in the Upper Peninsula; however, it has been discovered approximately 40 miles from the western Upper Peninsula border in Wisconsin. To combat the further spread of the disease, COs are utilizing a “DEER” approach i.e. Detect – conduct patrols at the borders to detect any incoming deer carcasses in violation of the importation ban, Educate – educate the public during speaking engagements and when making general contacts in the field, Enforce – take proper enforcement action when encountering violations, Respond – respond to all complaints received of suspected CWD positive deer and follow basic decontamination protocols when collecting the carcass of a suspect deer. In addition, a more focused approach to inspections of taxidermy businesses, commercial deer processors, and captive cervidae facilities has led to increased compliance through enforcement and education. LED continues to work aggressively with other DNR Divisions to prevent the spread of CWD. Enforcement and acceptance is a constant battle. Education of the hunting community, court personnel, and residents are key avenues to gain support.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

District work plans incorporate many aspects of the LED’s Strategic Work plan. Combining these two plans creates an effective road map for success. This allows the Districts to operate in an efficient and cost saving manner.

Equipment Maintenance: The Districts hold work-bees in which COs can learn from others on how to do basic maintenance on their equipment. This saves money by doing simple maintenance tasks on our own rather than taking the equipment in to a service shop.

Donations/Grants: District 3 (Gaylord) applied for a grant through the International Wildlife Crime Stoppers Association. A \$750 grant was awarded for a deer decoy purchase to combat severe road hunting/trespassing issues in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. The Charlevoix Sportsman’s Club also contributed funds to go for the purchase of a decoy. In the end, a deer decoy was purchased for \$2,300 with combined contributions from IWC, Charlevoix Sportsman’s Club, and the DNR-LED.

Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Group (NMLETG): This training consortium is centered at the Camp Grayling Military Base. Cooperation between the U.S. Military, State of Michigan, and local law enforcement has increased training opportunities through this organization. By utilizing classrooms, shooting ranges, and barrack-style housing, LED has been able to provide great training at reduced costs.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**

Belle Isle State Park: COs continue to provide enforcement on Belle Isle in partnership with the Michigan State Police. Belle Isle is the highest attended state park in Michigan with over 4.5 million visitors in 2017. Snowmobile

Sound Enforcement: Enforcing excessive snowmobile noise violations has been part of a statewide effort to create a more enjoyable experience for all trail riders, and to help ensure the state’s 6,200 miles of snowmobile trails (half of which run through

private land) remain open to snowmobilers. One notable trend is the expanding “trail can” market. Snowmobilers are purchasing aftermarket exhausts that are designed to pass the testing standard but are well over the decibel limit when operating at normal trail speeds. When encountering these situations, we have found that education can be a very effective method to gain compliance. In many cases once these snowmobilers recognize the intent of the decibel limit regulation is to reduce the loss of private lands trail easements, they will voluntarily take off the trail can and replace it with the original exhaust. They recognize that having lost 500 miles of designated snowmobile trail due to loud sleds makes them part of the problem rather than part of the solution.



Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Minnesota
Submitted by: Colonel Rodmen Smith
Date: May 15, 2018

- **Training Issues** – We've continued to work on our NASBLA accreditation and have also placed an emphasis on our officers' mental health. During the past year, we have increased the number of staff in our peer counseling program from 10 to 20.
 - **Funding and Staffing Issues** – Funding remains a challenge, with dedicated funds continuing to be tight. However, the state Legislature last year appropriated money to the Enforcement Division to help us fill vacancies. After completion of the current Academy, which includes 20 recruits, we will have 15 vacancies (not accounting for retirements). We're planning another Academy in 2019.
 - **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – Determining how best to engage with non-consumptive users, such as kayakers and mountain bikers.
 - **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** – The import/export of minnows continues to be an issue, related both to the potential for disease and aquatic invasive species transmission. We continue to put forth great effort at stopping AIS as well. Farmed cervids (deer farms) have been in the spotlight in the past year, with the state Office of the Legislative Auditor reported on the industry and its oversight this spring.
 - **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – All of our officers now have smartphones loaded with apps to assist them in the field. The smartphones allow them to take pictures and record conversations while afield. We're also exploring social media and how it opens new avenues for us to reach the public.
 - **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – We continue to receive pressure from tribal governments and others when it comes to expanding treaty rights. Some entities are still searching for a "test case" of those rights.
 - **Cost Savings Initiatives** – We've gone to a system of using electronic signatures on our expense reports, which saves time and money.
 - **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** – We have a continually emerging, high-quality fishery for lake sturgeon in many parts of the state. It remains tightly regulated but we have seen an increase in illegal pressure as a result of the desire for caviar.
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Missouri
Submitted by: Randy Doman
Date: May 1, 2018

- **Training Issues** – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) conducted a training academy in 2017. The academy is Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified and consists of conservation law, boating operations, waterfowl school, firearms training, land management practices, trapping, fish kills, defensive tactics, etc. Fourteen conservation agent trainees graduated in early October and have successfully completed their field training evaluation assignments.

In response to the Governor's Executive Order on July 18, 2017, Protection Division began training staff on the use of naloxone in cooperation with our law enforcement partners. All Protection staff now carry the opioid antagonist, Narcan, to further combat the opioid epidemic.

Protection Division also graduated two supervisors from the National Conservation Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (NCLELA) in September. Both graduates rated the program as excellent. Two additional supervisors are attending the 2018 NCLELA.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – The Department will be implementing a priority-based budgeting program in FY19 which focuses efforts on activities that advance the Department's mission, vision, and draft Strategic Plan. This plan identifies four goals to direct the development of FY19 Division Focus Areas, Work Plans and Expenditure Plans:
 - **Sustain and Improve Fish, Forest, and Wildlife Resources**
 - **Enhance the Relevance of Conservation**
 - **Connect Citizens with Fish, Forest, and Wildlife Resources**
 - **Strengthen Operational Excellence to Deliver Superior Customer Service**

The Conservation Commission will be voting on recommendations for a market-based salary adjustment as recommended by a Department-wide job study at their May 2018 Commission meeting. In preparation for this effort, staff have been instructed to reduce planned expense and equipment expenditures by 10% compared to FY18 budgets. Despite the budget cuts, Protection Division is excited about the potential salary implications for conservation agents.

The Division is also working to develop a law enforcement ranking system to provide a clear chain-of-command statewide, create additional promotional steps between the conservation agent and district supervisor positions, and better prepare agents for future leadership opportunities.

Protection Division currently has approximately 200 FTEs and while we haven't been able to add new positions, we have reallocated existing positions to better accomplish

our mission. Our Confined Wildlife Enforcement Unit is in their fourth year and has been effective in providing firm, fair, and consistent enforcement of confined wildlife and commercial permit regulations. We've also extended our Special Investigations Technical position for another year to assist Protection with technical support and on-line special investigations.

Protection Division also completed a Job Task Analysis for our conservation agent position. Data from this project was used to update our Position Description Questionnaire (PDQ) to more accurately reflect the law enforcement and public safety responsibilities of the agent position.

A final staffing issue we would be remiss to leave out is the retirement announcement of Protection Division Chief Larry Yamnitz. After almost 38 years with the Department, Larry has decided to retire. In his words, "The time has come for me to move on to the next phase of my life. I have thought about this several times over the past couple of years and feel now the time is right. Effective June 1 (2018), I will be retiring from the Department of Conservation. ...I don't plan to quit entirely. I will be working part time in the field of resource law enforcement. I plan to continue my international work in the battle against illegal global trafficking of natural resources through the International Conservation Chiefs Academy. I will be assisting leaders from the African Continent and Southeast Asia as they build transnational relationships to fight these crimes." Chief Yamnitz will be greatly missed and we wish him the best in his next calling in life.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – In 2017, Missouri's Operation Game Thief (OGT) program received 866 violation reports which resulted in 345 total convictions and \$8,600 in rewards paid. This number of convictions is the fourth highest since 2000. The OGT trailer was utilized at seven special events throughout the state. Protection Division also promotes the OGT program through our social media outlets as with the case below:



POACHERS

BUSTED: The Bollinger County Sheriff's Department notified Conservation Agent Jeff Scott of a search warrant they were serving in the early morning hours of 12/23/17. The focus of the warrant was illegal narcotics and firearms possession, but Sheriff's Department personnel were confident illegally taken wildlife would also be present -- and they were correct. Agent Scott and Bollinger County deputies seized all or part of seven separate illegal deer including the three sets of antlers shown. This joint operation resulted in four citations being issued to two individuals for related charges. One whole deer and parts of several deer seized as evidence in this case were donated to needy families in the Marble Hill area. Report poaching and other illegal wildlife-related activity to your local conservation agent, MDC office, or Operation Game Thief at 1-800-392-1111.

During the 2017 deer season, 5,752 hunters donated 289,292 pounds of venison to Missouri's Share the Harvest program. This represents an increase of over 91,000 pounds donated in 2016. Conservation staff, in addition to our program partner, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, are continually working on raising awareness and securing funding for this valuable program.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** – Historic flooding in April resulted in more than 200 water rescues on Saturday, April 29, 2017, across southwest Missouri and specifically in Newton County. Local news outlets reported State Representative Bill Reiboldt praising the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri State Highway Patrol for their courage in performing the rescues, along with local authorities, noting there were no fatalities that Saturday in Newton County. Representative Reiboldt says the rescues highlight the importance of the Conservation Department's equipment. "They (Conservation) had been out early with rescues with their people and their rescue boats," said Reiboldt. "They know what they're doing and the Missouri Highway Patrol has been there as well."

On Friday, September 15, 2017, Missouri's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13 was activated with the announcement of the Officer Jason Stockley "Not Guilty"

verdict in St. Louis. The racial tension and civil unrest that followed resulted in 60 conservation agents being mobilized to assist local law enforcement with force protection operations in the St. Louis area. Conservation agents served in a force protection role with local firefighters, paramedics, and other emergency responders over a three-day period. This was the first time the Department had been requested to serve in this capacity and, as expected, conservation agents did an outstanding job communicating with angry citizens, protecting local emergency responders, and building relationships with local law enforcement. Our focus area of “Public Safety off the Beaten Path” took a detour at the request of our Statewide Emergency Management Agency.

Two of our Defensive Tactics (DT) instructors attended a “train the trainer” Field Force Operations training class afterwards to incorporate additional training into our statewide DT program.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – Protection Division continues to embrace technology to better protect Missouri’s fish, forest and wildlife resources. The “Agent Mobile” application combines the S3 permits system, arrest record, written warning, and Telecheck databases into one format that conservation agents can access via their iPhones. Protection continues to work with our IT staff to create an electronic incident reporting system to be added to the Agent Mobile and Agent Online programs.

The Department continues to promote electronic hunting and fishing licenses, with electronic deer and turkey permits available again this year. Our MO Hunting app allows electronic invalidation (notching) of deer and turkey permits and the ability to telecheck deer and turkey directly from your mobile device. Paper permits are still available and can be printed from a home computer. The Department also implemented a “Conservation Permit Card” in 2017 which is a refillable licensing card valid for most hunting/fishing licenses with the exception of deer and turkey permits. Initial reaction from the public has been positive; however enforcement challenges exist when trying to scan QR codes from an agent’s iPhone when signal strength is weak.

Protection Division is in its second year of outfitting agents with Ford F-150 Super Crew Cab trucks. These vehicles better accommodate today’s law enforcement equipment needs including digital and analog radios, and dual long-gun mounts. We also have a more practical field uniform for every-day field wear which presents a sharp, professional image for Missouri conservation agents.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – As of May 1, 2018, MDC is still waiting on a Missouri Supreme Court Decision regarding a lawsuit filed by the captive cervid industry over the authority to regulate confined cervids. The Department is patiently awaiting this landmark decision that will have implications for the health of Missouri’s fish, forest, and wildlife resources beyond just captive cervids.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives** – Protection Division continues its Protection Volunteer Program with volunteers in each region who assist conservation agents and other Department staff with projects including; enforcement patrols, outreach and education programs, training scenarios and wildlife surveys. The volunteer program is also a valuable recruitment tool.
- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** - Protection Division continues to work diligently with Wildlife Division and other partners on feral hog termination efforts in Missouri. Corral trapping and aerial gunning continues to be our most effective control measures. The Department is working with numerous partners on this issue including: Missouri Department of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Corn Growers Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Missouri Agribusiness Association, among others. Over a year ago, the Conservation Commission passed regulations prohibiting the taking of feral hogs on all lands owned, leased or managed by the Department to further reduce the incentive to transport and release feral hogs on Department areas. Conservation agents continue to enforce this and other state statutes prohibiting the transportation and release of feral hogs.

During the opening weekend of the 2017 November firearms deer season, MDC initiated a second year of mandatory sampling for deer harvested in 25 counties throughout the CWD Management Zone. During the combined 2017-2018 sampling efforts, the Department tested 24,486 free-ranging Missouri deer for CWD and reported 33 new cases of chronic wasting disease. The first cases of CWD in Missouri were detected in 2010 and 2011 in captive deer at private big-game hunting preserves in Linn and Macon counties. A total of 11 cases were confirmed in captive deer at the facilities. The total number of Missouri free-ranging deer that have tested positive for CWD is now at 75. Protection Division continues to be very active in CWD management efforts serving as Incident Commanders, primary landowner contacts, and targeted culling/transportation team members.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Nebraska
Submitted by: Craig Stover
Date: 5/14/2018

- **Training Issues**

- Our police academy has extended their training to 16 weeks. As a result, they now sponsor only three classes annually instead of four. This change has created a backlog for all law enforcement agencies and the waiting list continues to grow.
- Our current Field Training Officer process is 14 weeks in length and we utilize a combination of the San Jose and Reno methods. We recently added a mentor component to all new hires, that seems to be working well. Formal boat and hunt incident training is now required for any newly hired personnel.
- Within the next few years, with the exception of one person, our entire cadre of supervisory staff will retire. In anticipation of this turnover, we recently developed a field training program that directly targets this group.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

- Financial support from our legislature continues to dwindle placing more of a burden on our cash funds. While our budget has remained relatively static, we were successful at adding one conservation officer position (the first addition in over twenty years).
- In an effort to better utilize available coast guard funding support, we continue to emphasize on water safety and boating. In support of this shift, four conservation officer positions are now dedicated to boating safety and education.
- Supervisory pay compression (the pay spread between contract field officers and exempt first line supervisors) continues to be an issue. An eleven percent spread between these two classes has dwindled to only four percent with minimal relief in sight despite continued efforts. This creates concern in filling future vacancies at this important level.
- A reduction in the number of districts from five to four has created large geographic areas with a ratio of roughly 1:14 (supervisor to field officer). This large span of control has made it difficult to maintain adequate supervision over field personnel. We have proposed a change in contract language that would allow us to create 'sergeant' positions. This same option was presented in previous contracts and failed so we aren't holding out hope for any success.
- There is internal 'talk' about adding one supervisory position and one investigator position in July of 2019.
- We currently only have two vacant positions (the fewest number in over 10 years) and are engaged in a hiring process to fill the last two vacancies.
- The number of potential applicants continues to decline. In the last 10 years the hiring pool has dwindled from 600 applicants down to 100 and less than half of them show up for the initial testing process. Depending upon how our current process finishes up, we may be looking at wholesale changes in how we recruit and test new applicants.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

- We continue to expand our use of alcohol related grants throughout the summer months to subsidize our fieldwork. Involvement in traditional enforcement efforts such as thefts, vandalism, assaults, etc. continues to increase. Cross-jurisdictional cases with all law enforcement agencies (traditional and fish & wildlife) remain a priority.
- Most of our long-term investigations are conducted in collaboration with another outside entity.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

- We continue to prioritize joint enforcement meetings with adjacent states and jurisdictions (4-state, tristate and tribal). Recent legislation introduced by a local sportsman's group has been passed in our legislature and recently signed by the Governor allowing Nebraska to finally become a member of the Wildlife Violator Compact.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

- The need for computer and cell phone forensics along with social media related investigations continues to increase exponentially. Our expanded use of remote video monitoring has proven to be a very effective tool in resolving issues at a reasonable cost.
- We have one certified ground pilot and continue to experiment with drones. This tool is primarily being used in a non-enforcement capacity with exception of search and rescue operations, public safety or documenting case information after the initial arrest. Cell phone tracking (Mobile Mach) is still being tested and slowly implemented. This tool has a variety of potential uses at a reasonable price of roughly \$75 a year.
- Electronic citations are being mandated beginning in January of 2020. In addition to the added expense, the difficulties and complexities of meeting this mandate in a rural environment is sizable.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**

- In addition to the recent adoption of the Wildlife Violator Compact, the legislature increased fines for several big game species (deer, antelope, and elk) and liquidated damages assessed for illegally taken wildlife dramatically increased. These actions resulted from a couple of gross overharvest cases from a couple of years ago.
- There have been no changes or recent challenges to our authority.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

- As previously mentioned, we have increased our efforts in the boating safety and education arena to better utilize grant monies. Currently we are under an in-house sequester limiting the spending of Game Cash dollars. This measure was implemented to address the dwindling balance. A recent increase in user fees should help to minimize this impact in the future and we may have the internal sequester of monies lifted later this year.
- Our current operating budget is still less than what it was thirteen years ago.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**

- Some progress has been made in expanding our long-term investigation capabilities but more work needs to be done.
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: North Dakota
Submitted by: Chief Game Warden Robert Timian
Date: May 1, 2018

- **Training Issues** – Warden in-service has historically been scheduled in February/March in North Dakota. However, in an effort to bring in and develop additional training topics, the 2018 in-service training was moved to May. The winter has been a long one this year but we hope the ice will be off the water to ensure a successful training week.

In March 2018, we went two of our wardens to the NASBLA Train the trainer course for the Seated SFST's. This training will be used also in May to train and certify all of our Enforcement staff.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – We recently went through our hiring process to fill a Full-Time temporary game warden position. This position has functioned as our training position in the past and works well to develop officers. When a full-time permanent position opens, most times, they are able to fill that position. Currently, ¼ of our officers eligible for retirement.

Currently, we are starting work on our division's budget for the 2019-2021 biennium. Once again, we are highlighting our training and staffing needs.

However we are waiting on final budget guidelines from Office of Management and Budget which could include a percentage cut for the Department both in money and personal.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – Operation Dry Water was a success once again in 2017. The weather was much more cooperative for being outdoors. Approximately 1400 vessels were contacted, 222 citations were written and several BUI arrests were made. The highest BAC was 0.234.
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** – Recently, we signed a cooperative agreement with Wyoming Game and Fish to conduct DNA testing on our behalf.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – We have purchased equipment and began training some staff for conducting social media investigations. Social media is changing on a regular basis and we are trying to catch up and utilize it to the best of our abilities.
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – ND's current governor has put a large emphasis on opioid addiction assistance within the state. All law enforcement officers are now required to carry Narcan. With Narcan having temperature restrictions, we are currently attempting to figure out the most practical way for our officers to carry it, since we work in temperature extremes, without compromising the effectiveness of the drug.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives** – Our department issues around 13,000 gratis deer licenses to landowners/lessees, which we spend a considerable amount of time reviewing for fraudulent/ineligible applicants. We have worked with IT to develop several computerized screening tools to assist us in identifying applications which are ineligible. These tools will decrease the amount of time we spend on license reviews and help us ensure that we are making as many licenses as possible available to hunters.
 - **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Ohio
Submitted by: Curtis E. Smith
Date: May 15th, 2018

- **Training Issues**
- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – Our Wildlife Division is in process of hiring eleven (11) new state wildlife officers to begin employment starting August 13, 2018.
- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** - The Ohio Division of Wildlife in conjunction with the other enforcement Divisions of the Department of Natural Resources implemented a digital law enforcement records management system (RMS) in 2017. The RMS is part of a suite solution which includes a radio communication system, Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, and mobile data terminals which were instituted several years back. The radio system which was fully updated with new hardware in 2017 is fully integrated within the statewide Multi-Agency Radio Communication System. The addition of the RMS component will allow all officers within the Department to share in a statewide digital database of activity. This will provide for improved officer safety, intelligence sharing as well as a Department wide case management component to be utilized to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire law enforcement program. A component of RMS includes a statewide fully integrated evidence management module. Property and evidence is identified and labeled, the storage location is updated, the status of the item is updated and a complete chain of custody is maintained.
- We initiated a K-9 Program with 3 dogs graduating May 15th and 2 more dogs scheduled to graduate in the Fall of 2018. The dogs are trained to detect articles, ginseng, waterfowl, fish, and deer. In addition, the dogs are certified for patrol, human tracking, and building searches. We will have one K-9 Unit in each of our five Wildlife Districts.
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**
- **Cost Savings Initiatives** - All Ohio Wildlife Officers and Investigators were issued iPhones in 2017. Classified as state issued computers, applications for the devices are managed by user groups and are installed in a uniform manner. The devices are directly linked to the state email system for a much improved communication process. Many officers have utilized the camera, voice records and GPS functions of the phones to assist in several outstanding enforcement cases. Over time, micro recorder and small digital cameras will not be replaced as a cost savings measure.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**

- The Ohio Division of Wildlife transitioned to a new platform and vendor for its customer licensing, game harvest and event management system. A component of this system compares reported game harvest of deer and wild turkey to several parameters relating to harvest and licensing regulations. Abnormalities are flagged and officers review the harvest error as a basis for beginning an investigation. Several outstanding cases have been made as a result of one flag in a reported game harvest.
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2017 Agency Report

State: OKLAHOMA

Col. Bill Hale

Prepared by: Capt. Bryan Wilkerson

Date: May 1, 2018

The following report covers the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 (FY2018) for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Law Enforcement Division.

AGENCY OVERVIEW:

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Law Enforcement Division, game warden's primary responsibility is to enforce the State's wildlife laws. Game wardens also participate and assist in all phases of the Wildlife Department's operations and programs.

The division consists of 118 employees, with a field force of 90 game wardens, 16 game warden supervisors and 8 district chiefs. Central office staff includes the chief, assistant chief, operations manager and one secretary.

In addition, the agency has a reserve force consisting of 19 reserve officers who are agency employees assigned to various divisions whose primary duties are other than law enforcement.

The division operates with a straight-line chain of command.

TRAINING ISSUES:

All new game wardens undergo a four week training and orientation at Department Headquarters in Oklahoma City. A new warden will then spend ten weeks in a Field Training and Evaluation Program with a Field Training Officer, two weeks of which the new game warden will spend working with his Lieutenant. In addition, they also attend the 580-hour Oklahoma Basic Law Enforcement Academy, all-totaling nearly 30 weeks of training prior to solo assignment. This year we have begun to certify the training of the first four weeks so the specialized elements of the law enforcement training are credited and become part of the warden's permanent training record.

All game wardens are required by state mandate to complete twenty-five hours of certified law enforcement training with two hours of mental health training each calendar year. The Division has 57 certified instructors and we have written and certified the continuing education courses so that wardens do not have to rely on outside sources or agencies to complete their mandated training. In addition, all supervisors are also required to attend twelve hours of supervisory training each year. New supervisors are required to attend 24 hours within one year after promotion.

All commissioned wardens and reserves are required to train and qualify annually with issued pistols, shotguns and carbines. In addition, game wardens and reserve officers must also attend a certified annual 8-hour defensive tactics refresher course.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES:

Funding remains basically unchanged from the previous year. We are fortunate that we are a revenue based agency and not experiencing any funding shortfalls.

Twelve new game wardens were hired during this period; the open positions are a result of retirements. We currently have no vacancies.

We were able to purchase 22 Chevrolet Silverado four-wheel drive extended cab pickups and 1 crew cab pickup and 1 Tahoe. The equipment installed on this years trucks include LED light bars, tool boxes, locking double gun racks, and grill guards. We purchased one 24 foot rigid hull inflatable boat to work rough water and three John Deer ATV's. We purchased fifteen radios, five high-band and ten 800 megahertz radios to replace aging equipment. . We added ten pair of night vision and issued each warden a Chrome-book.

We are currently researching body worn cameras to document contacts with the public and critical incidents. We are continuing to replace self-inflating PFD's with new hydrostatic inflatable models. Retiring game wardens are allowed to retain their issued sidearm upon 20 years of service we purchased ten Glock Model 22 pistols to replace those firearms.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS:

Wardens are increasingly using social media to detect wildlife violations, with the proliferation social web sites and services in combination with a younger generation of wardens; we expect this trend to continue. The cases tend to fall in to two distinct types, the first being a posting to sell wildlife or wildlife parts and the second a posting which shares an illegal activity with friends or other online contacts.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS:

The division continues to cooperate with every state in efforts to combat fraudulent license applications and interstate wildlife violations. We continue to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in enforcing the federal laws occurring in our state.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT:

We implemented a law enforcement Facebook page edited by selected game wardens. The page continues to be instrumental in developing leads in wildlife cases from the public, and serves as a method to provide feedback form the public on our law enforcement efforts. The benefit of social media is the low cost to the agency and the ability to disseminate focused information to interested constituents.

The Department continues to conduct the hunter education course on-line this has decreased the demand for traditional classroom courses taught by game wardens.

STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

New legislation and administrative rules:

The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission made changes to magazine restrictions for hunting big game in Oklahoma the new rules allow unlimited rounds in a magazine and increased the size of shot to take coyote from BB to 4 Buck. We are working against proposed legislation that limits enforcement powers on private lands and relaxing rules to night taking of feral hogs.

COST SAVING INITIATIVES:

Fuel costs continue to be a concern in Oklahoma. Game wardens are encouraged to use time management and to work wisely while conducting their patrols. Fuels saving initiatives have been implemented to help offset costs, including the installation of CNG conversions, which greatly affect our fuel bill.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES:

Enforcement of the illegal harvest and sale of paddlefish eggs for caviar continues to be a major enforcement issue. Game wardens maintain an increased enforcement emphasis during the annual spring spawn to help curtail the illegal activities associated with the illegal caviar trade.

Game wardens are involved in several Department programs that involve the recruitment and retention of anglers and hunters. The programs include an annual Wildlife Expo held each September in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and regional and annual Archery in the Schools statewide tournaments. Both programs require an enormous amount of manpower and associated costs in these popular and worthwhile projects. Other programs include the annual Wildlife Youth Camp, STEP programs and Aquatic Education. The recruitment and retention of anglers and hunters and the sale of licenses to them is vital to our agency.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Ontario
Submitted by: Andrew Chambers
Date: May 1st, 2018

- **Training Issues**

- Training provided - Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR)
- Training provided - Invasive Species Act
- Training provided - Indigenous Peoples Awareness Training
- Training provided - Respectful Workplace and Diversity Training

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

- Enforcement has French, Chinese and Aboriginal Conservation Officer positions to better reflect the diversity within our client base.
- The Branch has been continuously maintaining a field compliment level of 180 COs in the province.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

- Priority on Species at Risk, Invasive Species, including traditional Fish & Wildlife matters (hunting safety and moose)
- Continue our supporting relationship with Niagara Escarpment Commission and Petroleum Services

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

- Sitting member of Great Lakes Fisheries Commission – Law Enforcement Committee
- Nine party agreement with federal and certain US states.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

- In 2018-19, officers will transition from a Panasonic tough book to tablet. Branch enforcement vehicles will be equipped with a docking station for the tablet.
- In 2018-19, Enforcement Branch's Provincial Communication Unit will implement Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software to streamline emergency response efforts with coordinating police agencies and enhance TIPs violation reporting.
- In 2018-19, Enforcement Branch will launch ENFOR, a new information management solution that captures conservation officers' operational planning and activity reporting.

- When the appropriate sections of Bill 174 come into force in 2018-19, Enforcement Branch will equip its HVEVs with flashing blue lights.
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**
 - Ontario's Invasive Species Act came into force late in 2015 with supporting regulations coming into play in late 2016. This legislation puts controls on the importation, possession and movement of 3 species of invertebrates, 9 species of plants and 8 species of fish. Conservation Officer training in the application of this legislation is on-going.
 - A regulatory amendment under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act in 2017 now prohibits the harvest of snapping turtles, an activity that had been permitted under the authority of a sport fishing licence.
 - A recent Supreme Court of Canada decision now requires that all provincial prosecutions be completed within 18 months of charges being laid. The Ontario Enforcement Branch case management program is being used to ensure that this timeline is met.
- **Cost Savings Initiatives**
 - Salaries & benefits
 - Vehicle insurance costs
 - Private-sector prosecutions
 - Cell phone bills
 - Infrastructure costs
 - Training
 - FleetNet radio
 - Recruitment & relocation costs
 - Capital
 - Marketing & promotions
- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**

Client Centred On-line Fishing and Hunting Licence Program

- Ontario is moving towards an internet based, client driven, system for issuing recreational fish and hunting licences.
- Starting in November 2018 individuals will be able to purchase all licences on-line and print them on their home computer or save them to a mobile device and simply display the licence product to a conservation officer upon request.
- A plastic identification card, known as an Outdoors Card, will be retained from the current licencing approach and will be required to be carried.
- Big game hunting validation documents, known as "tags", will have to be printed and carried by the hunter so they can be invalidated (i.e., "notched") at the time of kill.

Restorative Justice / Alternative resolution processes.

- Ontario MNRF Enforcement Branch has started an initiative to identify strategies for improving relationships between enforcement staff and Indigenous communities (Ontario's First Nation and Métis communities). MNRF plans to improve the safety and sustainability of natural resource harvesting through improvements to internal training for enforcement staff on Indigenous relations, local outreach to Indigenous communities to improve information sharing and mutual understanding, and deferring violations of provincial natural resources law by Indigenous persons to their own community to seek a resolution.
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AMFGLEO LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
2018 PROVINCIAL REPORT – SASKATCHEWAN
Submitted By: Glen Pranteau, Intelligence Officer

Training Issues

- Saskatchewan is sending 11 recruits to the Western Canadian Law Enforcement Academy.
- As part of the Protection and Response Team (PRT) initiative, Conservation Officers are receiving additional training in: mental health issues, domestic violence, immediate action rapid deployment, perimeter training and tourniquet training.

Funding and Staffing Issues

- Due to the additional law enforcement duties (PRT), Conservation Officers received an additional 15% increase in salary on April 1, 2018.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

- In August of 2017, the Ministry of Justice announced the creation of the Protection and Response Team (PRT) to aid in the reduction of crime in rural Saskatchewan. Conservation officers were identified as members of the Protection and Response Team. Rural crime reduction strategy will:
 - Improve police response to emergency calls for services, including property crimes that are in progress;
 - Enhance uniform visibility and presence in rural Saskatchewan;
 - Increase the enforcement of drug trafficking on Saskatchewan's roadways; and
 - Enhance the safety of roads by reducing the number of serious collisions and fatalities.
- The role of conservation officers will be expanded to include offences under statutes where they would not otherwise have legislatively specified authority. Generally, conservation officers could respond, intervene and control a situation until the RCMP arrive.
- Protecting natural resources and the environment will remain as the conservation officers' primary responsibility.
- Conservation officer dispatch from 911 calls will improve immediate response to protect public safety. The officers may also respond to significant criminal code offences in progress. Conservation officers will only be dispatched when RCMP or municipal police agencies are unavailable or the conservation officer can provide the fastest first response.
- When dispatched the conservation officer's role is to intervene/control situations until the appropriate law enforcement agency of jurisdiction arrives.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

- The Investigation Unit and the Intelligence Management Unit (IMU) continue to assist with out of province and out of country requests for subject interviews, IMU database access and surveillance requests.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

- Issuance of carbines is being explored.
- Thirty-eight patrol vehicles had automated license plate readers and computers installed.
- SIU purchased an outdoor surveillance camera with license plate reading ability.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

- An application to seek leave to appeal a case regarding treaty rights and hunting on private land is being submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Cost Savings Initiatives

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues

- Investigations of illegal activity by First Nation outfitters in the western part of the province resulted in numerous convictions and fines in the tens of thousands of dollars. Work is still ongoing with First Nations to achieve a sustainable harvest quota.
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AMFGLEO/WAFWA Law Enforcement Annual Report

State Report – South Dakota

*By: Andy Alban
Law Enforcement Administrator
Division of Wildlife
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks*

This report covers the period April 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, for the State of South Dakota, Department of Game, Fish and Parks - Division of Wildlife - Law Enforcement Program.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Are officers 100% Wildlife Law Enforcement or Mixed: **Mixed**

Straight Line Reporting Structure: **No** – Line (Regional Supervisor positions are not required to be LE) and Staff (LE Program) structure

Number of Officers: **81 total officers in Wildlife Division:** 55 CO's, 12 District CO Supervisors, 4 Regional CO Supervisors, 1 Training Supervisor, 3 Regional Supervisors, 1 Regional Program Manager - Habitat, 2 CO Specialists, 2 Investigators, 1 LE Administrator.

TRAINING ISSUES

Natural Resources Law Enforcement Major – South Dakota State University

In 2005, South Dakota State University (SDSU) became the fifth institution in the nation to offer a four-year degree program to prepare students for careers as game wardens. Approximately 79 students were enrolled during the 2017-18 academic timeframe. Two students have already graduated from the program. Over 100 students are projected to be enrolled in the major by 2019.

Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC) Update

We sent our initial cadre of five EVOC instructors to Oklahoma for instruction and certification from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. An initial training session is planned for spring of 2018, primarily for newer Conservation Officers who have not had EVOC training in a pickup truck. The EVOC training at the South Dakota Law Enforcement Standards & Training Academy (POST) is completed with retired Highway Patrol cruisers.

Officers Now Carrying Narcan

As part of the state targeted response to the opioid crisis, officers received training at annual in-service training in March 2018. This included Naloxone (Narcan) training and distribution. Officers in the United States are more frequently encountering synthetic drugs such as fentanyl during searches and arrests. The Narcan will not only provide a tool for first responders in the event of an opioid overdose, but it provides an officer-safety response in the event of an accidental exposure.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

License Sales Update

Nonresident small game licenses are a major source of revenue (almost 1/3 of the operating budget) for the Wildlife Division. Sales usually fluctuate with the pheasant population index in the state. The decrease (45%) in pheasants in 2017 resulted in a decrease (14,601 fewer or 68,358 total) in the sale of nonresident small game licenses. This decrease can be attributed to the severe drought that plagued much of the state in 2017.

Conservation Officer Staffing

We experienced some turnover within our workforce of Conservation Officers over the past year. At this time of this document, 47 of 55 field positions were filled. We have four CO Trainees at various stages in the training process to fill those vacant duty stations. Our officers begin their tenure by attending the State Law Enforcement Academy, in Pierre, and there are three sessions offered each year. The Wildlife Training Officer Program (field training) is approximately 15 weeks in length. It takes roughly eight months to fully train an officer before they are placed in a solo duty station; from pre-academy to academy to post-academy to field training. The good news is that two of those vacancies are attributed to two new CO FTE's; one of which is a 70/30 wildlife/parks officer. While this is a CO position, the position is devoted to work in the state park system for approximately three months in the summer. Conversely, our Parks Division received a new Park Ranger position. This new Ranger, along with an existing Ranger, will devote approximately three months in the fall to wildlife enforcement work. These 70/30 positions are intended to break down the boundaries between divisions in the agency and allow for cross-training and better communication/training amongst all officers in the agency.

State Employee Salary Increase

After some low initial estimates, revenues (primarily from sales tax) came in higher than anticipated. As a result, state employees will receive a 1.2% salary increase on July 1, 2018. This is somewhat of a surprise, as the initial budget did not have an increase for state government employees.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

#BehindtheBadge Campaign

Department social media accounts launched a campaign, titled #BehindtheBadge, featuring our Conservation Officers and Park Rangers from across the state. This is part of a Department wide effort to enhance citizen awareness of our agency's mission, services, and programs. Each week, two to three officers were featured on Facebook and Twitter. For some, we shared a photo of them out in the field along with a few random facts about themselves and others shared a video of themselves explaining why they chose their particular career path and why they love their job. The campaign reached over 580,000 people with many posts reaching over 20,000 people alone.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Issues

The Department established a Local Boater Registry (LBR) to allow boaters using the zebra mussel containment waters of Lewis & Clark Lake, the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, and McCook Lake to more easily comply with regulations. If a boat is enrolled in the LBR and remains within the transportation zone, the boat does not need to be decontaminated every time a boater leaves the water. Rather, they may use their boat as usual within the transportation zone and if the boat is found outside the boundaries, the owner is required to show proof that it was decontaminated prior to leaving the zone.

Operation Dry Water (ODW) Efforts

The department participated in the nationwide ODW effort on the weekend of June 30-July 2, 2017, with the goal of raising awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence and removing impaired operators from our nation's waterways. Statistics include:

- 13 operations/patrols
- 58 officers involved
- 353 vessels contacted
- 31 boating citations issued (12 of which were for boating under the influence)
- 77 warnings issued

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) Update

South Dakota has been a very active participant in the Compact since joining in 2004. In 2017, our state reported 536 violator names to the database. During that period, 5,851 violators were entered nationwide in the Compact. Considering those figures, South Dakota entered approximately 9% of the Compact names.

Turn In Poachers (TIPs) Program Update

The South Dakota Turn in Poachers (TIPs) program continues to be operational and callers who have knowledge of illegal hunting and fishing activity could be eligible for rewards. The program provides an important avenue for citizens to report hunting and fishing law violations, and in the process, prevents the loss of wildlife that can result from illegal actions. In the annual reporting period from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, the TIPs program reported 364 investigations initiated through citizen reports, leading to 227 arrests, \$32,000 in fines and \$17,600 in civil penalties. Callers can remain anonymous, and are eligible for rewards in cases that lead to an arrest. Rewards may range up to \$300 for big game and start at \$100 for small game or fishing violations. Higher rewards may be offered in extreme cases. Last year, over \$7,500 in rewards were paid.

The TIPs program has been going since 1984, and in that time citizens have generated over 11,000 investigations that have led to over 4,000 arrests. Each and every call is a vital part of the work to preserve our natural resources. Individuals may call the TIPs hotline at 1.888.OVERBAG (683-7224) to report violations, or report via the TIPs website at tips.sd.gov.

Bovine Tuberculosis

In response to a March 2017 discovery of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in a northwestern South Dakota livestock herd, the Department conducted an immediate wildlife surveillance to determine if TB was present in area wildlife. Test results were negative for the 55 white-tailed deer, 56 mule deer, 42 pronghorn, 37 coyotes, and nine raccoons. The salvageable big game meat was processed and delivered to local food pantries through Feeding South Dakota.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Honor Guard

The Department is in the process of formalizing an Honor Guard Unit, consisting of eight members. Training was conducted in early-2018 with the South Dakota Army National Guard and uniforms have been ordered.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Body Camera Implementation

The Department implemented Axon Flex 2 body cameras for all officers in 2017. The ability to document encounters between the general public and Conservation Officers has proven to be beneficial. As anticipated, this documentation has resolved complaints in a more expeditious fashion; most of which were unfounded. We are also using officer camera footage for training purposes following use of force incidents or pursuits. The cameras also improve officer accountability by providing supervisors with an additional evaluation tool. Prosecutors are now relying on footage for criminal cases and the cloud storage allows us to quickly share video links electronically. However, we have experienced some prosecutors who are less tech-savvy that want footage burned to a disc.

Vehicle Markings

The Department began marking patrol vehicles in late-2017 with permanent decals. We previously utilized a magnetic agency emblem, similar in design to the agency patch. Now, we have a replica of our badge centered on the pickup doors and a smaller agency logo near the front quarter-panel. It is anticipated that this will aid in the quick identification of who is law enforcement; to both the general public and sister law enforcement agencies.

STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES, AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT

2018 Legislative Session

The 2018 Legislative Session saw a number of bills introduced that had potential effects on our agency. Notable bills that passed included river otter in the definition of “fur-bearing animal”, the repeal of the sunset clause regarding the recreational use of nonmeandered waters (see 2017 information below), the authorization to issue hunting preference points to persons 10 years of age or older, a revision to the night hunting statute, and the elimination of the minimum age for mentored hunting. Bills defeated include several related to the recreational use of nonmeandered waters.

2017 Legislative Session

Below is a summary of applicable legislation that was enacted in 2017.

- House Bill 1095 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding resident fishing possession limits. This bill amends SDCL 41-6-2 by eliminating fish limits for resident landowners on man-made water bodies in which the bed is owned in entirety by the resident landowner.
- Senate Bill 130 – An act to revise the provisions regarding the amount licensing agents may collect on the sale of certain licenses and permits for the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to designate the use of certain funds received by the department, and to establish certain reporting requirements. This bill amends SDCL 41-6-66.1 by increasing the agent's fee for many GFP licenses and earmarks certain amounts for the sportsmen's access and landowner depredation fund.
- Senate Bill 176 – An act to preserve the use of public land, to ensure free travel, to enhance emergency response, and to declare an emergency. This bill, enacted with an emergency clause, was enacted in response to the issues encountered in North Dakota during the pipeline protests.

- House Bill 1001 (Special Summer Session) – An act to provide for public recreational use of certain waters overlying public and private property and to declare an emergency. This bill was enacted to address the issue of public recreational access on waters (nonmeandered) that inundate privately owned land. In South Dakota, bodies of water are classified as either “meandered” or “nonmeandered”. Meandered waters are bodies of water that US surveyors, during the original survey of the state, estimated to be larger than 40 acres and of a permanent nature. Land within the surveyed boundary, or meander line, of these waters became state property. Nonmeandered waters were all other bodies of water that did not meet the “meandered waters” definition at the time of the original survey. Land beneath these nonmeandered waters was made available for private ownership. Since the completion of the original survey in the late-1800s, many of the boundaries of bodies of water in the state have shifted. Some lakes have grown past their original meander lines, with the new area overlaying private lands. Other non-meandered waters that were small during the time of the survey have grown to be larger than many meandered lakes. Over the years, recreationists have utilized this changed waterscape for a variety of purposes resulting in legal questions about the public’s ability to access bodies of water that have expanded to cover private lands. On March 15, 2017, the South Dakota Supreme Court issued a ruling on the issue, stating that it is the responsibility of the legislature to determine whether members of the public may enter or use non-meandered water overlying private property for recreational use, including hunting, fishing, and boating. In addition, the court ordered the Department to cease any facilitation of public access to non-meandered waters until the legislature acted on the issue. The order led the Department to close boat ramps and docks at nearly 30 lakes. In April 2017, an interim legislative study committee was convened to investigate the issue and propose a solution to comply with the court’s order. The committee met multiple times throughout the spring and summer, hearing public testimony, touring affected lands, and listening to presentations from state officials. This ultimately led to the filing of legislation in May and a bill was signed by the governor on June 12, 2017. The bill immediately reopened 27 bodies of water to the public, while also providing landowners with the ability to post and close certain areas of nonmeandered waters. The bill opened all nonmeandered waters to recreation unless marked by the owner of the property underlying the water. The allowed recreational use of an open nonmeandered body of water does not include wading, standing or operating a motor vehicle on the bed of a nonmeandered body of water without permission from the landowner. Trapping and hunting on the frozen surface above private property also requires permission from the landowner. The Legislature gave the GFP Commission the authority to hear requests to restrict recreational use on the 27 nonmeandered lakes identified in Section 8 of HB 1001.
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**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law
Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
Texas**



**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Law Enforcement Division**

Training Issues

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Law Enforcement Division (TPWD-LE) continues to encourage and promote relevant training to ensure Game Wardens are prepared to meet the demands of their job.

The 62nd Game Warden Academy is scheduled to graduate on July 30. This will place 24 new Game Wardens and 7 new Park Police Officers in the field for service. Upon graduation, the individuals will be certified Texas Peace Officers and Commissioned by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The Academy has conducted extensive ballistics testing on both the duty rifle and duty pistol. Based on testing, evaluation, and research, the department is considering a transition from .40 caliber to 9mm for a duty pistol.

We recently hosted a training for eighteen Texas Game Wardens designed to teach adaptive leadership principles with the understanding that leadership can occur at all levels, regardless of rank. We appreciate the assistance of Randy Stark and the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs.

Funding and Staffing Issues

During the 85th Legislature, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was appropriated necessary funding to procure a new long-range vessel. We are in the process of securing that vessel now. We are anticipating the vessel to be 80ft in length with catamaran style hull. It will have state rooms for seven crew members. The vessel will be used for fisheries enforcement along our gulf border to a range 200 nautical miles. The vessel will hold a 7-meter rib style patrol vessel for quick response and will aid in the apprehension of lancha style vessels that typically flee when engaged in illegal activity.



Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

Texas Game Wardens recently wrapped up a crackdown on illegal commercial fishing trade along the Texas-Mexico border in the Rio Grande Valley, citing nearly two dozen retail fish dealers for a variety of seafood industry related violations.

Operation Dragnet was a multi-agency inspection operation targeting illegal seafood trade and resulted in the issuance of 22 citations and 7 warnings ranging from no retail truck dealer's license, no finfish license, no cash sale tickets, purchasing fish from unlicensed dealer, and possessing oysters for sale or consumption without labeling. The five-day operation involved uniformed and undercover state game wardens, and federal officers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and inspectors from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Game Wardens also issued more than 150 citations to 19 fish markets and restaurants in the Houston area that illegally purchased game fish from undercover officers during a recently completed sting conducted by the Special Operations unit of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Law Enforcement Division.

During the two-year operation, wardens in plain clothes offered to sell more than a dozen different Texas saltwater species including spotted sea trout, red drum (redfish), red snapper, southern flounder, black drum, catfish and croaker to seafood markets and restaurants along the upper Texas coast.

Of concern is the heightening demand for these aquatic resources, particularly highly-regulated red snapper, which led to this enhanced law enforcement intervention. Commercial harvest of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico is strictly managed and monitored to ensure the long-term health of the fishery. Catches are tracked against an annual poundage quota limit, and red snapper sold into the market outside the legal system pose threats to the resource, as well as the commercial fishing industry that depends on it.

Evidence that some businesses are willing to work outside the law to obtain product, nearly half of the 40-plus businesses approached during the operation agreed to illegally purchase game fish. A similar undercover operation conducted by Texas game wardens between 2010-12 resulted in illegal purchases by only nine of 42 businesses targeted.

A multi-agency law enforcement surge operation led by Texas Game Wardens has made a sizable dent in illegal commercial oyster harvest and possession along the coastal bend this season, netting more than 300 criminal cases. A majority of the violations were for oystering in off-limits management areas designed to protect the resource, and for possession of undersized oysters.

Operation Secure Coastal Bend consisted of two, weeklong saturation patrols conducted by Texas Game Wardens between Nov. 1, 2017 and April 9, 2018 in collaboration with officers from the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine, CBP Office of Field Operations, U.S. Coast Guard, Calhoun County Sheriff's Office and the Aransas County Sheriff's Office.

Armed with additional laws created by the 85th Texas Legislature to help combat the harvest of undersized oysters through enhanced penalties, law enforcement officials are now able to hold all workers on oyster boats accountable for possession of undersized oysters. Previously, only the boat's captain was responsible for an illegal catch. New rules that took effect last November reduce the commercial possession limit of oysters from 40 sacks to 30 sacks per day, reduce the allowable amount of undersized oyster take from 15 percent to 5 percent and closed Saturday to the commercial harvest of oysters.

Texas Game Wardens made multiple criminal cases against individuals attempting to make online sales of various threatened and protected wildlife species, as well as state and federally regulated natural resources. Navigating through internet forums and online marketplaces where trade in both live wildlife and wildlife parts are known to occur, wardens were able to negotiate undercover transactions with willing sellers to purchase things like a taxidermied great blue heron, raptor talons, American alligator heads and live box turtles. The investigations netted numerous seizures of wildlife resources and resulted in the issuance of 18 citations and 18 warnings. Citations included charges for sale and possession of threatened and or protected species, sale of migratory duck parts, sale of American alligator parts (no retail dealer permit), commercial exotic snake permit violations, Illegal sale of game fish, no fish dealer's license, and failure to possess a non-game dealer permit.

Investigations into the illegal take of three whitetail bucks seized by Grayson County game wardens during the 2016-2017 hunting season illustrate just how far some folks are willing to go to bag a trophy deer. Grayson County in northeast Texas along the Red River is known for producing quality whitetails and is one of only a handful of counties in Texas where bow hunting is the only legal means of harvest.

The cases filed against the individuals responsible for illegally taking the three seized deer, which have a combined gross Boone & Crockett score of over 535 inches, and a combined civil restitution value of \$34,954.80, should serve as a warning to would-be criminals.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

Texas will meet in June with Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, and officials with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss trends and enforcement issues that affect each of their jurisdictions.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

After Hurricane Harvey in the fall of 2017, the LE Division obtain its first UAV or Drone. This aircraft was a DJI Inspire II which has capabilities of a 3lb payload and can reach speeds of 55 mph speed along with a high-resolution daylight camera. In the spring of 2018, we acquired a DJI Matrice 210 which furthered our capabilities with a high-resolution daytime camera paired with an infrared FLIR XT nighttime camera, 3D mapping capabilities, and a 5lb payload. Currently, the LE Division has two certified pilots and upcoming training for FAA Part 107 certification of an additional 25-30 pilots. The upcoming training will include students from the LE Division along with several other TPWD Divisions. The primary role for these aircrafts will be Search and Rescue

followed by, but not limited to, high-risk warrant service, incident response, and crime/accident scene reconstruction.

Cost Savings Initiatives

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently moved to a web and app-based fleet management system. The system will allow better consistency in reporting of all expenses and maintenance within our fleet of vehicles and vessels. It allows our Game Wardens the option of entering needed data through the use of their phone or their computer.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2018 Agency Report
State/Province: Wisconsin
Submitted by: Todd Schaller, Chief Warden
Date: 4-18-18

- **Training Issues**

Training to transition wardens into working law enforcement in Wisconsin State Parks. This training has included information on philosophy of property enforcement, drug recognition and safe handling considerations, property specific regulations, motor vehicle OWI and crash investigations. In addition, a three hour training was provided to all Wardens on Timber/Fire laws and investigation techniques. Training and learning will continue through our first full summer in this role. After the summer is complete we will identify any gaps and address them next year.

We are transitioning to a blended model of field training. The San Jose Model has been in place for 18+ years and we will be transitioning to a blended model of PTO and San Jose in 2019. Policies, forms and training are being developed and we have Sept 2018 training scheduled. This new model will be taught within WI DNR by our instructors.

We will be implementing a voluntary fitness program for all Wardens during the winter training in 2019. This program will include a test battery of 1.5 mi run, 300 meter, Illinois agility, vertical leap, bench press, sit-ups and swimming.

By the end of summer 2018, all full time officers will be equipped with a Taser.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

As the agency implemented alignment, the Bureau of Law Enforcement lost 0.5 FTE to the agency's IT program needs, but gained 1 FTE from the Bureau of Fisheries and 1 FTE from the Bureau of Wildlife Management for our use in creating an R3 Section (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation of hunters, trappers and anglers). Additionally, BLE gained 32 FTE total (implementation spread over 2 years) from the Bureau of Parks and the Division of Forestry in exchange for our Bureau providing all law enforcement services on all the recreational property owned by the agency. Several challenges are being navigated with this work effort including significant cultural and identity changes for all involved, # of staff needed to cover peak use period shifts, authorized salary expenditure, and equipment transfers.

A new compensation plan for our field LE staff (conservation wardens, investigators and recreation wardens) was recently approved. The plan sets up pay progression based on years of full time law enforcement experience, where an officer now reaches the max of the progression after 11 years. For years, our officers have struggled without any idea if or when a raise would be coming. The pay progression makes DNR LE consistent with other LE agencies and helps address a growing recruitment and retention challenge. While good for officer recruitment and retention it does create a strain on our salary line until the spending authority gets adjusted in the state budget in FY20. While this plan covers all our permanent field staff, it does not cover our supervisory or administrative wardens. More work is needed to resolve these issues.

As of July 1, 2018, BLE will have 19 vacant permanent credentialed positions, and likely will only be able to afford to fill a handful until October of 2019.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement purchased new scheduling software called-ScheduleAnywhere. The program allows hotline dispatchers, field staff and managers to view the work schedules for all staff allowing better efficiency and response to ongoing resource and customer needs. We are initially using the software to schedule staff for assignment work this summer. It appears robust and very capable of managing complex schedules, including days off, leave, staff on staff off etc.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

The BLE continues to support a statewide joint tactical team. This team is under the direction and guidance of the Wisconsin Department of Justice; however, both the WI Department of Natural Resources and the WI State Patrol augment the team with officers. The multi-agency team trains and works together on a regular basis, which greatly improves their flow and performance during real world emergency events.

The Bureau continues to explore the potential of joining federal task forces such as the Joint Terrorism Task Force. We are researching some legal authority type questions to ensure we qualify at this time.

In 2018 WI will hold their first elk hunt in northern WI. The elk herd has reached a population capable of allowing the inaugural hunt. The WI Chippewa Indian Tribes will receive 5 elk tags, one tag provided to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to be raffled off with portions of the sale going back into the Elk management program with the 4 remaining tags provided via a drawing. There is a \$10 permit fee to be eligible for the drawing of one of the elk tags.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

The Department continues to review their police radio programming by developing a radio committee to determine the frequencies need to conduct their work. This is huge undertaking when you consider the number of field staff, state/county/federal and local LE agencies. The Department is also considering the feasibility of future radio purchases with WI State Patrol.

Relevancy work - Conservation Wardens are working closely with the WI Woodland Owners Association (WOA), which is comprised of private landowners throughout WI. Wardens have attended recent district meetings of Woodland Owners to discuss this new partnership while also providing articles for their quarterly newsletter. These types of organizations have not been on our radar screen very prominently in the past. But, in order for BLE to build the relevancy that we are seeking in the new paradigm, now and long into the future, this type of effort is being tested with WOA which will be examined for further expansion in other areas involving non-traditional DNR potential partners.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

WDNR is in the final process of a policy review for drone use. We continue to learn and partner with state and local agencies as it relates to emergency response and drone requests. We are actively involved with the Wisconsin Air Coordination Group and can report that statewide requests for drone services has dramatically increased.

We don't have drone operators identified yet (however, two staff are drone pilot certified) nor have we purchased equipment, but we do expect that to happen in 2018.

The BLE recently received 6 Polaris MZRZ light utility vehicles from the LESO program (formally 10-33 Program). These are very unique emergency response vehicles that seat 4 passengers. They are in the process of mechanical evaluation and after that lights and markings are on the list. This will be a very unique and robust response capability for the BLE.

The BLE is in the process of entering into formal agreements with the Milwaukee Office of Emergency Management to fulfill the legal requirements allowing all our officers to carry Narcan. We expect full implementation of Narcan by summer of 2018.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement changed their Deputy Warden Position Description and are in the process of hiring approximately 30 part time conservation wardens. The new PD consists of law enforcement focus in our campgrounds, invasive species as well as fish and game work. The new policy also allows for work alone practices to enhance the work we need done with limited staffing. This PD change required current LTE staff to compete for the new position. While a challenge it is good "reset" of the program improving overall consistency.

WDNR recently allowed wardens to wear external load bearing vest carriers. We limited purchases to about 30 staff initially and found several training and tactical issues we needed to work through specifically with regard to ground fighting and when in the water. We developed a standard template for maintaining equipment in certain locations on the carrier and we made vest carrier suggestion for best-wearing practices for staff. We have not found that the public is concerned with the carriers and we allow black or grey as the color options. Additional staff carrier acquisitions will be allowed in FY 19 as funding becomes available.

As a result of our work that now includes patrolling recreations properties (Parks and Forests) we will be exploring other officer safety needs such as squad transport cages, belly cuff belts and other equipment as needed.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

On a sporting heritage front, we continue to see efforts to remove/simplify hunting/trapping/fishing regulations, as well as recruit youth participants. Recreational vehicle legislation continues to be prevalent, as the registration rates for ATV/UTV and boats continue to remain high. UTVs (e.g. Polaris Razr), in particular, are quickly replacing ATVs, and there is high demand for lawful road-use of this equipment.

Introduced legislation that is already signed/headed to law.

- Creation of a "mentored trapping" program that will allow youth participants to engage in the trapping sport earlier
- Removal of the minimum hunting age, as well as the prohibition on mentored hunting that only permitted possession of one weapon between the mentor and mentee.
- Removal of the "spotter" requirement for watercraft towing skiers, now allowing for EITHER a spotter or mirror

- Allowing for criminal fleeing/eluding of a law enforcement officer to include flight from unmarked police vehicles, in addition to marked police vehicles.

Introduced legislation that failed to pass included:

- A “constitutional carry” bill that would have removed CCW training requirements and removed most restrictions regarding weapon handling and transportation.
- A “wolf management” bill that would have prohibited DNR employees and law enforcement from implementing/enforcing laws related to wolf conservation and management, including prohibiting cooperation with federal entities.
- A “warden authority” bill that would have abrogated the open fields doctrine as applied to conservation law enforcement, instead creating a “reasonable suspicion” standard for entry to non-Fourth Amendment areas.
- An “airgun/airbow” bill that would have allowed the use of high-powered air weapons for pursuit of big game.

In sum, the general thematic take-aways from this session are:

1. Do the right thing in the field (remember, perception is often reality)
2. Recognize the impacts of field-level decisions on lawmaking
3. Engage in early efforts to engage the public with lawmakers regarding legislative initiatives
4. Provide thorough, objective, and evidence-based information regarding impacts of law changes when requested

• **Cost Savings Initiatives**

Fleet management – In working with our agency’s fleet management program, we changed the depreciation schedule on our warden trucks, as well as other agency vehicles, to more closely match the expected useful life of the vehicles. For our warden trucks, that meant a change from a 5 year depreciation to 7 years. Typically, BLE drives these trucks for about 7-8 years, then the majority of the trucks get reassigned to other programs such as Parks or Wildlife management. By spreading the depreciation out over 2 more years, that significantly allows our per mile fleet rate to go down. BLE has also diversified our fleet of vehicles over the last couple years to include less expensive or more fuel efficient vehicles where it makes sense (some managers driving sedans or police SUV’s). With all the cost savings combined, BLE is looking at another year of reductions to our per mile rate. At our high a few years ago, we were at \$0.58/mile. We expect to see our rate drop below \$0.50/mile as of July 1.

Sale of old duty shotguns – BLE recently made the decision to carry only duty rifles, and this allowed us to sell our old duty shotguns at auction. The proceeds from the sale of the shotguns is allowed to be used to purchase tasers which we are issuing to our staff. The sale of the shotguns and associated items (ammo, gun cases) raised nearly \$55,000 which greatly helped offset the cost of the Tasers.

Computer equipment – BLE recently switched all of our law enforcement officers out of old Panasonic CF-31 Toughbooks, and into new Panasonic CF-20 Toughbooks. This also included new officer and vehicle docks. As part of the conversion, BLE was able to turn the old CF-31’s, and all of our used office and vehicle CF-31 docks for a total of \$70,000 of credit with the vendor.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** – None to report.
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