



# **ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH & GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

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**ANNUAL AGENCY REPORTS 2019**

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH & GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Environment and Climate Change Canada – Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED)**

Submitted by: **K. Buerfeind**

Date: **April 25, 2019**

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

In fiscal year 2018/19, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) across Canada hired a number of new officer to augment ranks. This has created a challenge for WED in that existing officers are required to assist in instruction at basic training, which results in reduced field presence and enforcement work as officers are reassigned. WED attempts to mitigate this by doing remote e-learning for a portion of the study period for more generalized information about our program, which allows for new officer to study at a semi-guided pace with limited tutelage, as opposed to having distinct trainers.

WED is also piloting a “training officer” program over the next year, in which only certain officers are currently assigned full time to the national training branch. The intent is to alleviate officer instructors from moving in and out of their enforcement duties as training is required, and to develop consistency in instruction within the Directorate.

In 2018/19 WED converted from the Smith and Wesson 5946 to the Glock 17 pistol (including a rail mounted light system). WED is the first federal department in Canada to adopt the Glock. Initial reports are very positive regarding the change. Conversion training is currently underway. A nationally consistent firearms requalification/conversion program has been implemented which promotes professionalism and moderates liability.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

No significant change in funding pressures, however with the slight growth in the organization and no change in budgets, it is anticipated that there will be ongoing restrictions to travel and available operations money.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (QUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

The Migratory Bird Convention Act Regulations are scheduled for amendment in 2020. Sweeping changes are being suggestion to this historic piece of legislation. Changes to the transport, storage and possession provisions of the Regulations are subject to change how the regulations are enforced. Although the amendments are still in the proposal stage, WED is reviewing what impact there will be to enforcement.

Social media continues to further influence resource law enforcement. Commercialization and use of related Apps and tools are changing the way law enforcement identifies and investigates violations.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Com-pacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

In response to cross border enforcement issues, ECCC and eleven other Canadian and US jurisdictions have entered into what is known as the Twelve Party Agreement. Encompassing portions of central and Eastern Canada and the US, this agreement brings together a number of law enforcement agencies around the Great Lakes involved in wildlife enforcement and acts as a framework to facilitate joint forces operations. It allows for the efficient and expeditious approval of enforcement methodologies and operational plans, which target specific individuals or entities and their activities relating to inter-regional or international wildlife crime, in-

cluding but not limited to surveillance, undercover operations and search warrants.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

Most regions of WED nationally have now finally achieved a fully staffed Intelligence program. The model adopted by WED for regional intelligence services utilizes a manager position to direct and liaise with other parts of the program, an intelligence officer position which is a fully designated officer with duties related to integrating intelligence and enforcement operations, and a dedicated intelligence analyst whose role is to analyze information from the field, partners and stakeholders to establish trends and identify potential avenues for violations. This new model and recent efforts have shown an increase in detection of commodities, activities and targets that WED was not formerly aware of, and will help to focus efforts on worst offenders. However, increased identification of new issues through intelligence services will require enhanced field operations to respond to these issues, which must factor in budgetary changes and reallocation of funds.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

Federal Wildlife legislation has now included a new tool called Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs). The intent of AMPs is to divert certain offenders away from the court system and allow them to accept responsibility for actions through the payment of an administrative penalty. This penalty is then diverted into a Federal program called the Environmental Damages Fund, which allows community groups and stakeholders to access available money to engage in positive conservation initiatives in the community. However, the AMPs process does have a review mechanism, and many alleged offenders who are receiving AMPs are requesting a review by a review officer, which is a quasi-judicial process. This results in the requirement for legal representation for the Department, which comes at a significant cost. The department is currently evaluating options that reduces the legal costs associated to AMP review, but has not instituted any measure yet.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

Enforcement Branch is moving towards a priority based enforcement system in which risk analysis will be completed in order to funnel money into priority enforcement. To accomplish this the Enforcement Branch (which comprises both Wildlife Enforcement and Environmental Enforcement) has put a new Directorate in place called the Risk Assessment Directorate. The focus of this Directorate will be to use an assessment guide (to be developed) to determine through a series of consultations and engagements as to what is the highest risk to compliance and conservation, and how we can focus our budgets on those higher risks to achieve the greatest conservation effect. The collateral effect will have a positive effect on directing officer work towards problem issues, but there may be a negative impact on responding to new priorities and reacting to emerging issues. Recognizing this, there is incentive to ensure that there is available funding to continue reactive law enforcement, but not to the extent that it becomes unfocused. This effort will be initiated this fiscal year, and it will be evaluated for its effectiveness during and after implementation.

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Colorado**

Submitted by: **Bob Thompson, Lead Investigator**

Date: **4/22/2019**

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

In the 2019 POST Academy there are currently ten wildlife officer and twelve park ranger recruits attending the POST academy through the middle of May. The ten wildlife officer trainees will spend the remainder of the calendar year in specialized training to become wildlife officers. The thirteen park officer recruits (one is already POST certified) 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

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

2019 is bringing change as Colorado has a new Governor, a new Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources and will have a new CPW Director sometime in late May or early June.

CPW is an important and valuable agency to all Coloradans 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 CPW does 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. 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.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

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.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

Colorado works cooperatively with many state agencies, federal agencies and other law enforcement/judicial entities.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

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.

There currently is a bill working its way through legislature concerning fines assessed for violations of laws administered by the division of parks and wildlife. This is address and increase several of the fines so that there is a deterrent. For, example a nonresident fishing license is more than the fine for fishing without a license.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

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

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

### TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

None



# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS 2019

## Agency Report

State/Province: **Illinois**

Submitted by: **Rafael Gutierrez**

Date: **May 1, 2019**

### TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

#### New Hires:

Since the budget was approved for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and again for 2019, we were given the approval to start testing and hire two classes of 20 new Conservation Police Officer (CPO) Trainees. The written testing began in January 2018 for the first class of 20. In March, we completed the POWER Test and Swim Test in two locations, suburban Chicago and Springfield, to increase the turnout and availability for applicants. Interviews were conducted in April with roughly 50 applicants moving on to the psychological examination and background investigations. After background investigations were completed, there were 20 positions offered to the top-ranking applicants. In September, 20 applicants started orientation week and prepared to enter the Basic Law Enforcement Academy at the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center (MCLETC) in Decatur. We had one trainee that decided not to continue with the program before entering MCLETC, so another applicant was put into the class. One trainee failed to pass to the POWER Test in the academy, and another trainee failed the firearms portion of the training. Eighteen trainees moved forward. Because we had approval for a second class of 20 trainees for FY19, the testing process began in July. Central Management Services (CMS) tested a pilot program which allowed the Department to offer the written exam for all of July and August. When the testing closed, there were approximately 200 applicants who were invited to the POWER Test which was again held in the two locations to increase opportunities. The POWER Test and Swim Test was held in September for the second class of 20 trainees. Interviews were conducted in October, and approximately 45 applicants proceeded to the psychological exam and background investigation. Twenty applicants were offered positions as trainees. Four applicants were prior law enforcement officers that were eligible for us to fast-track into the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Academy with the 18 that had completed the MCLETC training in the fall.



#### In-service Training:

A statewide in-service training was held at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel for the field officers. Lifeguard Systems provided Aquatic Death Investigations training for the field officers and a few police officers from outside agencies. The course was very well received and provided a great deal of beneficial material for our officers involved with boat accident investigations, rescue and retrieval efforts in water incidents, and investi-

gations into missing persons. The officers also received training from a Decatur Police Detective on completing and submitting for search warrants. Officers also received CPR and first aid training. Legal updates and other investigative tools were covered by Department staff.

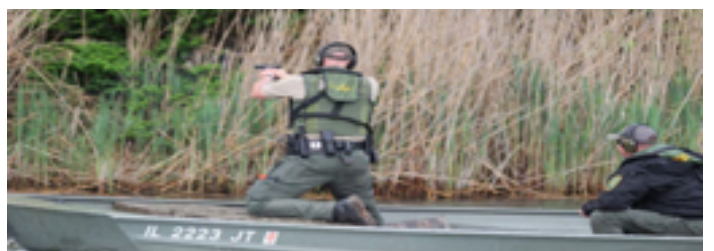


The field supervisors were provided with an in-service at Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in East Peoria. During the supervisor in-service, a representative from the U.S. Coast Guard gave a presentation on interoperability and joint operations. A representative from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) gave a presentation on jurisdiction and authority of Deputy USFWS Game Wardens. Tactical treatment and first aid training was provided by CPO Joe Kaufman. Radio and WatchGuard video camera training was provided by Lieutenant Danner and Captain Mayes. Training on legal updates, discipline issues, and training issues was provided by Department staff.

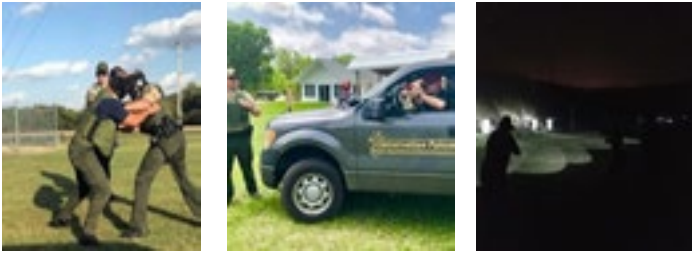
#### Officer Safety Training:

##### Firearms:

The Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) training section again secured training from an outside source to bring in new techniques for firearms confrontations that could be encountered in the field. This training was provided to the OLE firearms instructors for skill development and program building ideas. The three-day training included live fire training from within a vehicle, firing from a moving watercraft, confronting subjects from seated positions within a vehicle, and many other useful techniques. The OLE instructors were very impressed with the training, and they will incorporate the techniques into the Department's program.



The defensive tactics (DT) 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. Command staff was given a chance to participate in a night shoot while utilizing weapon mounted lights. The implementation of weapon dedicated lights was approved for the upcoming year.



The firearms staff provided the firearms qualification shoot for the OLE retired officers, and 76 retired officers throughout the state were certified. This is five more than the OLE has currently working the field.

#### **Defensive Tactics:**

The OLE training section continues the training of DT while researching new and improved training methods. The DT program is implemented quarterly on a region or district level which allows more flexibility for the scheduling of officer training. The OLE has continued with the ground fighting techniques to improve officer safety due to increased statistics nationwide on altercations with law enforcement officers that ended on the ground. To expand on that area of training, four instructors were sent to the Gracie Survival Tactics instructor course. The OLE continues to expand its 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 timelier and more efficient submittal of division paperwork which has been greatly beneficial. To comply with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board requirements, the OLE has continued to utilize the CourtSmart monthly briefings on legal issues. By utilizing this on-line program, we have reduced the need of sending officers to classes to meet the requirements; and they can complete the training as free time allows. The training section also continued utilizing the on-line learning network through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. This allows officers to take specific training to cover mandates.

#### **Outreach Training Programs:**

The OLE training section participated in career fairs, and presentations to recruit qualified potential applicants for future classes were given. The continuing decline of headcount due to retirements has increased the need to be more proactive in recruiting. When the opportunities to hire come about, the career fairs offer multiple outlets from which to reach potential candidates.

To expand the range of outside training opportunities for the OLE's officers, the training section established an agreement to become members of all the Mobile Training Units (MTUs) throughout the state. By becoming members of the MTUs

throughout the state, the officers have increased opportunities to obtain mandated training, as well as participating in elective training much closer to home. This reduces travel costs and registration costs. By utilizing the MTUs, the OLE can stay in compliance with state mandated training while allowing flexibility of scheduling and more opportunities for the officers statewide.

The OLE training section continued the internship program to promote a more professional learning experience. College students who wish to pursue a career in law enforcement/natural resources can apply for an internship of up to 12 weeks. During the internship, they ride with a 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 may 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 OLE.



### Outreach Training Programs:

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. A mini-academy for Forest Preserve District of Cook County Police and Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Police was held in May. OLE officers provided training to 22 forest preserve officers on wildlife code enforcement, boat code enforcement, fish code enforcement, trapping enforcement, and snowmobile and ATV enforcement. The training ended with an exam and practical scenarios to test what they had learned. Additional conservation law instruction was provided at the MTUs around the state, as well as question and answer sessions at several local agencies to provide them with better knowledge of conservation law and how to contact their local CPO.

The training section again worked with the Illinois Trappers Association to provide a trapper course and hands-on training for furbearer trapping. Approximately 20 CPOs attended the four-day training that was held at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and 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

*identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

At the beginning of calendar year 2008, the OLE had 156 sworn personnel on its roster. As of December 31, 2018, there were 99 officers in the OLE's ranks, a loss of more than 36% in sworn personnel headcount over a ten-year period. Please note, these figures relate only to sworn law enforcement personnel in 2008 as compared to 2018. They do not include the 18 CPO trainees who are currently in training, or the additional class of 20 trainees scheduled to be hired in January 2019. To include trainees in one year and not the other would skew the numbers and provide an inaccurate comparison. If attrition is low over the next few years and all trainees complete their training and are promoted to CPOs, these headcount numbers will improve.

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. Planning for future attrition, as well as backfilling current vacancies, continues to be of the utmost importance. The OLE has a CPO trainee class of 18 currently in the basic police academy. They are scheduled to begin the Conservation Police Academy in January 2019. Another class of 20 trainees is scheduled to begin the basic police academy in February 2019. Pending appropriations and approval, the OLE intends to hire at least one more class of 20 CPO trainees in FY 2020 (the hiring process will begin in July 2019). This hiring is necessary to ensure effective law enforcement coverage and emergency response.

Because calendar year 2018 includes the last half of FY 2018 and the first half of FY 2019, this report will touch on the budgets of both fiscal years. The FY 2018 budget reflected a decrease of \$1.2 million from FY 2017 appropriations. While the majority (almost \$1 million) of this decrease was in the personal services and related benefits lines, there was no impact on OLE operations due to a continued loss of headcount from retirements which resulted in a corresponding decrease in personal services needs. There were minimal decreases in the other operating lines as well which did not pose any major negative consequences that could not be overcome regarding the operations of the OLE.

The OLE's only significant issue in FY 2018 occurred with our telecommunications line. This line was held flat from fiscal year 2017 appropriation levels which impacted 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 OLE contracts with the Illinois State Police for dispatching services. This service typically costs approximately \$350,000 annually. The OLE was unable to pay for this service in FY 2017 without transferring surplus funds from other operating lines into the telecommunications lines. Because FY 2018 was held to the same level as FY 2017, we again were unable to fully fund the dispatching invoice from original telecommunications appropriations. This time, however, the OLE did not have enough surplus funding in its other operating lines to make up the shortfall. The Office of Fiscal Management had to step in and find the additional funding for the dispatching invoice.

The appropriation for FY 2019 was significantly more than that of FY 2018 in the amount of almost \$1.5 million (an increase of more than 6.5% from FY 2018 appropriations). This is compared to a reduction of 5% in funds from FY 2017 to FY 2018. For FY 2019, the increase was spread over almost all appropriations lines, including personal services. These increases were used to support a CPO trainee class of 18 hired in September 2018 and will also be used in support of another class of 20 trainees scheduled to be hired in January 2019. The telecommunications lines were also increased for FY 2019. Although the Illinois State Police dispatching fees will not be paid until calendar year 2019, the OLE should have no issues being able to fully fund the costs without having to rely on another division for assistance or transferring funds from other operating lines.

The OLE's Operations Assistance Fund continues to provide a source of funding for "big ticket" purchases that are normally not obtainable with equipment line appropriations. Regardless of the actual balance in this account, the OLE 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 the last half of FY 2018 (January – June 2018), the OLE procured four airboats, 20 laptop computers, 40 portable radios, 40 mobile radios and three patrol boats at a total cost of \$1.1 million. For the first half of FY 2019 (July – December 2018), spending was minimal and limited to small purchases only. However, steps were taken in this time period that should allow for the purchasing of additional portable and mobile radios and a large patrol boat for use on Lake Michigan if the procurement process can be completed in time to allow the OLE to take possession of and pay for these items before the end of the FY 2019 lapse period in August 2019. The value of just these two purchases alone approaches \$1 million.

## Equipment Report

### Squads:

OLE's current fleet consists of 163 patrol trucks and SUVs (12 of which are F250s and one F350) and seven plain (covert) vehicles for a fleet total of 170. There are 31 vehicles over 150,000 miles and an additional 25 vehicles with between 125,000 and 150,000 miles. However, we have 42 2018 F-150 SuperCrew cab trucks, with an additional 35 arriving in late April or May 2019.

OLE currently leases its vehicles from CMS. In turn, CMS purchases replacement vehicles when current vehicles have reached the end of their useful life which is eight model years old or 150,000 miles according to the program's guidelines. In 2018, we were able to purchase 35 2018 Ford F150 SuperCrew cab trucks.

The OLE's goal will continue to be replacing a minimum of 25 vehicles per year.



### Radios:

In 2018, the OLE purchased an additional 40 mobile radios and 40 portable radios for a total of 120 Motorola sets. The OLE plans to purchase 40 mobile radios and 40 portable radios in 2019, which will allow all staff to be converted to the new radios.

### Computers:

Forty Panasonic CF54 laptop computers were purchased in FY 2018. This purchase allowed replacement of the remaining Getac S400 and the last HP Elite Folio laptop. The current replacement rotation schedule for most laptops, which are all semi-rugged CF53 and CF54 models, is every five years. The fully rugged CF31 laptops are scheduled for replacement every six years. Ideally, the replacement schedule would be every three years for the semi-rugged units and every five years for the fully rugged units.

### Boats:

OLE currently has 25 patrol boats in use, and three of them are set up as sonar boats. Three patrol boats and four airboats were purchased in 2018. The OLE plans to purchase one additional patrol boat in FY 2019.

### ATVs/UTVs:

OLE has 40 ATVs/UTVs in its fleet. Of these, 22 are ten years old or older and need to be replaced.

### Snowmobiles:

Three snowmobiles were purchased in 2018, bringing the statewide total to 32. Three more snowmobiles are planned for purchase in 2019.

## Recreational Boat Enforcement Report

Water-based outdoor activities are among the most popular recreation activities in Illinois. Abundant water resources across the state offer a wide variety of recreation options from high speed motorboating to lazy lounging at the beach. The lakes and rivers of Illinois provide ample opportunities for water-based recreation. Lake Michigan, the Mississippi, the Illinois, and many other river regions provide many miles of shoreline for water-based participants and are also popular areas for water recreation.

The need to educate the public on the life-saving benefits of wearing life

jackets remains a high priority and is supported by accident data. Like seat belts in motor vehicles, life jackets save lives.

An increase in law enforcement presence, a multi-pronged, highly visible public education effort, maintaining partnerships with local patrols, and communications aimed at specific user groups continue to be essential factors in keeping boating safe in Illinois.

CPOs have the responsibility to investigate reportable boating accidents. A "reportable" boat accident is any accident (regardless of the number of boats involved) that results in loss of life, injuries that require medical treatment beyond first aid, boat or property damage of \$2,000 or more, or complete loss of a boat.

Illinois law requires every boat operator involved in a reportable boat accident to report the accident without delay to law enforcement officials. Reports of accidents resulting in personal injury, where a person sustains an injury requiring medical attention beyond first aid, must be filed with the Department on a Department accident report form within five days. Accidents that result in loss of life shall be reported to the Department on a Department form within 48 hours. The Illinois

Boating Accident Report form is available on the IDNR's webpage.

The Department is required by state and federal law to gather boat accident reports and convey the information to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) by entering the accident information onto the USCG's Boating Accident Report Database (BARD).

Information gathered during accident investigations, including the causes and contributing factors of accidents, is used by the IDNR and the USCG to determine trends, preventive action, enforcement measures, and public outreach.

A screenshot of the Illinois Boating Accident Report form. The form is titled "Illinois Boating Accident Report" and includes a header with the IDNR logo and "Page 1 of 7". It features a section for "Accident Information" with fields for "Date of Accident", "Time of Accident", "Location", "County", "Boat Type", "Boat Name", "Boat Number", "Boat Length", "Boat Width", "Boat Height", "Boat Weight", "Boat Value", "Boat Age", "Boat Condition", "Boat Status", "Boat Registration", "Boat Insurance", "Boat Manufacturer", "Boat Model", "Boat Year", "Boat Color", "Boat Material", "Boat Engine", "Boat Horsepower", "Boat Fuel", "Boat Fuel Type", "Boat Fuel Capacity", "Boat Fuel Consumption", "Boat Fuel Efficiency", "Boat Fuel Economy", "Boat Fuel Mileage", "Boat Fuel Cost", "Boat Fuel Savings", "Boat Fuel Emissions", "Boat Fuel Regulations", "Boat Fuel Standards", "Boat Fuel Compliance", "Boat Fuel Certification", "Boat Fuel Approval", "Boat Fuel Permit", "Boat Fuel License", "Boat Fuel Certificate", "Boat Fuel License Plate", "Boat Fuel License Number", "Boat Fuel License Expiration", "Boat Fuel License Renewal", "Boat Fuel License Transfer", "Boat Fuel License Replacement", "Boat Fuel License Suspension", "Boat Fuel License Revocation", "Boat Fuel License Reinstatement", "Boat Fuel License Appeal", "Boat Fuel License Hearing", "Boat Fuel License Decision", "Boat Fuel License Appeal Decision", "Boat Fuel License Hearing Decision", "Boat Fuel License Appeal Hearing Decision", "Boat Fuel License Hearing Appeal Decision", "Boat Fuel License Appeal Hearing Appeal Decision", "Boat Fuel License Hearing Appeal Hearing Decision", "Boat Fuel License Appeal Hearing Appeal Hearing Decision".



## 2018 Accident Summary

As of December 31, 2018, there were 245,621 registered vessels in Illinois that display the State vessel registration number, a 1.2% decrease under 2017.

Illinois reports 81 boating accidents resulting in 30 persons injured and 17 fatalities for the federal fiscal year of 2018.

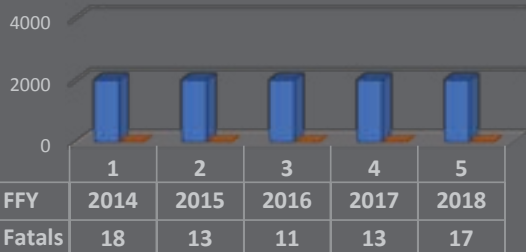
### Boat Accident 5 Year Summary



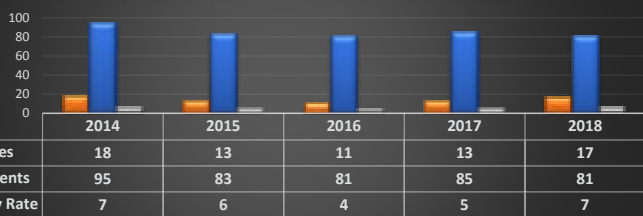
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
#Accidents	95	83	81	85	81
#Injuries	58	49	34	47	30
#Fatalities	18	13	11	13	17

The fatality rate for FFY 2018 was six deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. The five- year average is 6 fatalities per 100,000 recreational vessels. The data below includes all vessels registered, including non-motorized. The fatality rate for motorized vessels was 4.8 deaths per 100,000 registered motorized vessels.

### 5 YEAR FATALITY SUMMARY

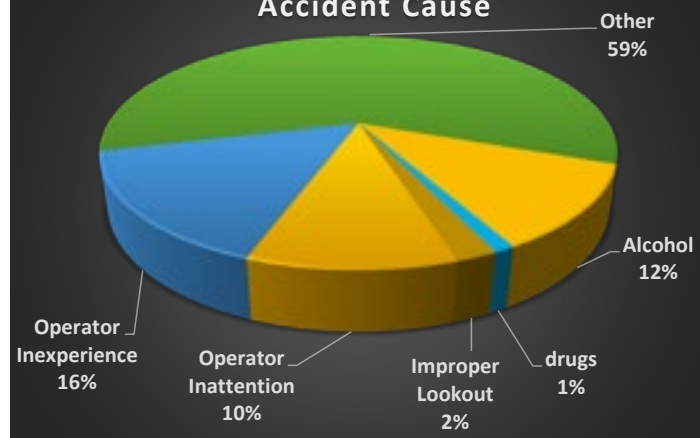


### Accidents Per 100,000 Registered Boats



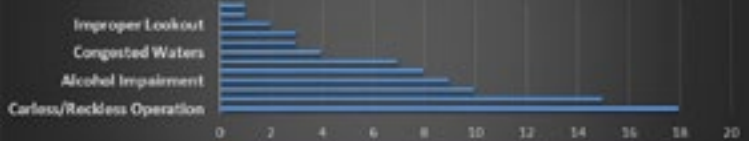
Alcohol and drug impairment accounted for 13% of the reportable boat accidents during FFY 2018. The number one contributing factor in boat accidents was careless and reckless operation followed by operator inexperience.

### Accident Cause



Factors that contribute to a boating accident are captured by both the operator and officer. As shown below, the top five factors are: Careless/Reckless Operation, Operator Inexperience, Operator Inattention, Alcohol Use, and Excessive Speed.

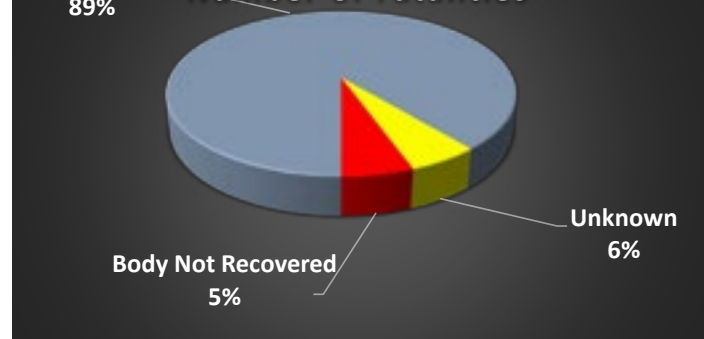
### Contributing Causes

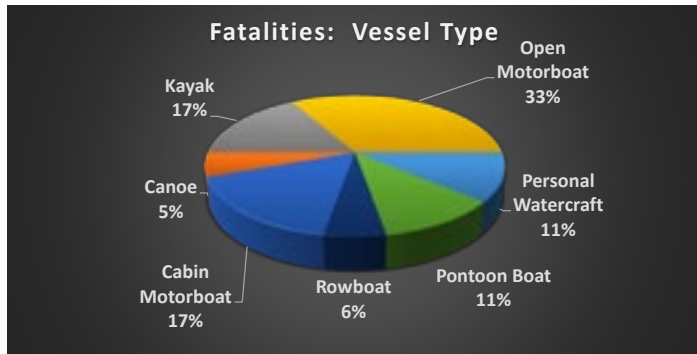
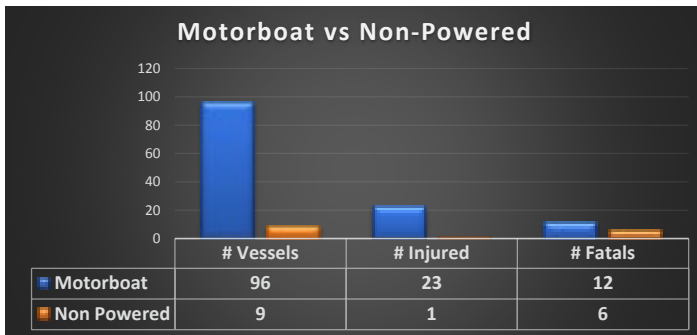


Drowning was determined to be the primary cause of death in 89% of the fatalities.

2018 boating accidents involved 81 vessels; 91% motorized and 9% non-motorized. Where damage estimates were reported, boat and property damage totaled \$1,126,113.00, a 15.7% decrease from previous reporting period. As paddle sports become more popular, we are seeing an increase of accidents involving, canoes, kayaks, and other non-powered vessels. Non-powered vessels only accounted for 7% of all vessel accidents but accounted for 28% of the fatal accidents in FFY 2018.

### Number of Fatalities



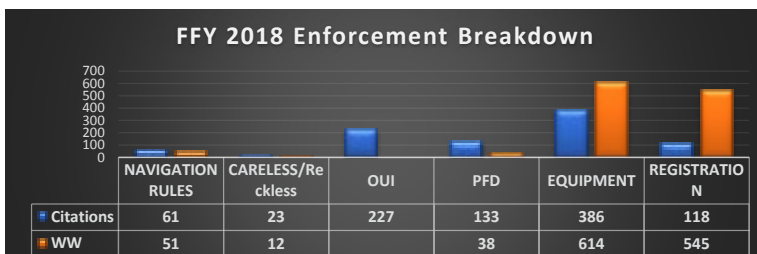


### Enforcement

CPOs provide on-the-water enforcement of boating laws. Emphasis has been placed on enforcement of safety violations, which includes boating while intoxicated, navigation rules, and life jackets. Headcount for the OLE in FFY 2018 totaled 103 officers, an approximate (-9.6%) drop from the previous reporting period. The officer reduction reflects in the enforcement results.

The IDNR OLE recorded 33,844 service hours worked on recreational boating safety activities which include law enforcement, education and outreach, accident investigation, training, and program administration. These service hours accounted for 15% of total annual work hours. This was a (-26 %) decrease from the total hours worked on the program in FFY 2017. The OLE's estimated on the water hours of 18,405 showed a (-19 %) decrease in hours worked on the water over the preceding period.

Boating enforcement activity by the Illinois Conservation Police saw a decrease in the total number of citations and written warnings issued in FFY 2018 from the previous year. Citations decreased from 1,355 to 1,045 (-23%), and written warnings decreased from 4,886 to 3,753 (-23%). Operating under the influence arrest decreased from 148 to 124 (-23%). Personal flotation device, equipment violations, and operating under the influence remained the top boating violations cited by officers.



### Operation Dry Water

With boating under the influence continuing to be a major factor in accidents and deaths on our nation's waterways, officers with local, state and federal agencies again teamed up for Operation Dry Water, a national Boating Under the Influence (BUI) enforcement and awareness campaign. Significantly more law enforcement agencies are participating in Operation Dry Water, the nation's BUI awareness and enforcement campaign.

Illinois officers were on the water providing heightened enforcement and awareness about the dangers of drinking while boating. Operation Dry Water 2018 was June 30-July 2, 2018, just before the Fourth of July – a holiday known for heavy boating traffic. Annually, the IDNR, local law enforcement patrols, and the USCG joined together in an intensified effort to detect intoxicated boaters and enforce operating under the influence (OUI) laws in Illinois.

The increase in law enforcement participation led to a positive increase in recreational boater outreach as well. The goal of Operation Dry Water and those who participate is not only to remove impaired boaters from the water. Equally important is the goal of raising awareness throughout the year among recreational boaters about the dangers that come with the decision to operate a vessel while under the influence. During this year's heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, Illinois law enforcement officers contacted 1,917 boaters as part of their education and awareness efforts.

Illinois Operation Dry Water Summary Report	2018
# of Officers	63
# of Vessels Contacted	813
# of Boaters Contacted	1,917
# of Boating Citations	115
# of OUI Arrests	18
# of OUI Drug Arrests	1
Highest BAC	0.208
# of Boat Safety Warnings	324
# of Non-Boating Violations	51

### Homeland Security



### State/Federal Interoperability:

The 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 USCG Area Maritime Security Committees (AMSCs) 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:

In accordance with the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program, the airboat operator's training provided a course of instruction for our CPOs. Proficient boating skills were developed to operate airboats in the maritime environment. A key element of this course was the preparation of participants to become qualified in the tasks necessary for response to maritime safety and security operations, and Coast Guard/FEMA recognition in the national qualification database maintained by and through NASBLA.

- OLE purchased 4 Air Ranger airboats to replace the aging fleet maintained by the IDNR.
- OLE also provided Airboat Operations training through NASBLA to 12 CPOs.



### Grants:

N/A

### Outlook:

Homeland Security dollars continue to decrease as a result 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



### Trends in Illinois Department of Natural Resources Enforcement

Throughout most of 2018, there were many things affecting law enforcement. The following are examples of trends which were either easily seen or were "creeping" into the peripherals of the Illinois Conservation Police.

Law Enforcement reform laws and legislation issues have been on the rise in the last few years. Due to high profile cases around the country, as well as in Illinois, reform legislation has forced all law enforcement agencies to take on additional training with no increase in their operation budget. The additional training, such as meeting standards for law updates, civil rights, constitutional and proper use of authority, use of force, and cultural competency, are vast and very time consuming for police departments. Tracking every area that must be audited for training for an individual police officer has become a timely and burdensome task. The topics and reforms are important; however, trends show communication with law enforcement agencies has dwindled and has become a "get it done" denominator.

Changes in the Illinois Conservation Police retirement and pension system has been a concern. The issues with the State of Illinois budget deficits and state employees' pensions have been widely talked about topics. One of the changes to the

Illinois Conservation Police was moving new hires into a Tier II system, which made an officer's retirement age go to 67. This has ultimately hurt hiring efforts for younger generation police officers, as most do not want to work until the age of 67 to reach full retirement status. For example, if an individual wanted this job title and was hired on at age 24, they would have to work 43 years as a sworn law enforcement officer before they could reach full benefits for retirement.

Use of audio and video recording devices in law enforcement has been an issue. There was a big push three years ago to have every law enforcement agency outfitted with body worn cameras; however, the overall cost was never fully researched. Body worn cameras are relatively manageable to purchase for most medium sized departments; but the ability to store all the videos and data onto a server is expensive, even for bigger sized departments. Technology has come a long way, but the cost on law enforcement agencies seems to have taken a back seat.

The move toward legalizing cannabis in the State of Illinois has brought certain challenges to the law enforcement community. It appears the writing is on the wall that cannabis will be legalized very soon in Illinois; however, the areas of concern to law enforcement are expansive. A major concern is having validated and standardized tests for cannabis users and driving under the influence. There is a myriad of tests available but determining what test the State of Illinois will recognize and what can be used in a court of law is still to be determined. Some police agencies seem to know, while others are still asking the same questions. Another concern is how will legalizing cannabis affect K-9s currently out in the field and what law changes will be implemented with cannabis. A determination will need to be made on how much is legal to possess and how much is too much. If a K-9 alerts on a vehicle, is the detection enough to search the vehicle? If laws are changed, will police agencies have to retire their drug detecting K-9s?

### UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Comacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

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.

- The ISU completed multiple background investigations and worked with law enforcement officers from Indiana. A search warrant was written and executed for a deer investigation. The deer was seized, along with a cell phone. The cell phone was forensically searched.
- The ISU conducted a background investigation for Colorado on a suspected violator. They determined the subject was an Illinois resident. The ISU interviewed the suspect who was part of an Illinois hunting group that had their own social media channel. It was determined that the subject used an expired Military ID to get a resident Colorado elk tag. The elk was seized (Sampson bull), and the subject was fined over \$13,000.
- A background investigation was completed on a Utah subject believed to have falsified residency.
- The ISU assisted multiple USFWS agents throughout the country with backgrounds investigations and/or intelligence gathering. The ISU initiated four federal cases that included covert buys and federal search warrants: caviar; black carp; tilapia; and zebra plecos. Assistance was also given with trying to locate stolen receivers for biologists on the Illinois River. The ISU composed bulletins, contacted multiple local police departments, sheriff departments, public works, etc.
- A background investigation was completed on an Idaho subject believed to have falsified residency.





# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

Conservation Officers Service, **Manitoba Sustainable Development**

Jack Harrigan, Chief Conservation Officer

March 27, 2019

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Department accepts recruits trained in varied outside agencies and academies. Last year two (2) new recruits were trained through the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) in Hinton Alberta. In August, they returned to Manitoba for on the job training followed by two more months at WCLEA before graduation at the end of October. In November 2018, they began their careers in Manitoba as full time Conservation Officers.

Defensive tactics / officer safety training was held this January to March 2019 during our annual centralized training for Department COs. Standard qualifications were conducted by in-house officer instructors. New this year a Sig Sauer armorer course was held in February to either re-certify or newly train 6 Basic Firearm Instructors who will in turn be able to service sidearms for the rest of the CO Service throughout the province.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

Recruitment and Retention of full time CO's is a challenge with vacancies due to resignations, retirement, and decreasing applicant numbers. In the last year, 5 full time Conservation Officers have resigned to take positions in other jurisdictions and 9 have retired. Currently, of the 100 Conservation Officer field positions, 12 are vacant, 15 officers are eligible for immediate retirement, and 19 more will be eligible to retire within the next 5 years.

The Conservation Officers Service operating budget has remained the same.

Night patrol efforts remained a priority including night flights, in order to address increasing incidents of illegal night lighting.

Expenditure management and a hiring freeze that were instituted two years ago remain in effect.

Recognizing that recruitment and retention of Conservation Officers is an on-going concern the department is committed to resolving this issue with a working group to examine opportunities to enhance recruitment and retention.

The department also re-organized this January 2019 from 5 regions to 2 regions and established a badge to badge structure through to the Chief instead of Regional Directors. When the transition is complete, Conservation Officers will no longer perform duties associated with wildfire suppression and will be dedicated to enforcement and public safety as their priority. This prioritization of CO duties and responsibilities is intended to create a more efficient and effective service.

In January 2019 the department held Conservation Officer competition in which 18 candidates interviewed, and from these many of the CO vacancies will be filled.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (QUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

Postings of illegal and legal wildlife and fishery harvesting on department and officer association social media sites, 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. New legislation was introduced to restrict night hunting in agro Manitoba to enhance public safety. The Department is in an on-going process with Indigenous communities and other interested parties to develop regulations and a permitting system.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

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

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

TraCS program software development is now in the testing stage with implantation planned for late fall. This software will replace our antiquated DOS based programs for enforcement and occurrence data management.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

The Fisheries and Wildlife Amendment Act (2016) 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 with monies collected deposited into the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund. To date the new program has raised approximately \$118,000.

The Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation is no longer the only marketing opportunity for Manitoba's commercial fishers and The Fisheries Act (Manitoba) was amended from a single desk buyer to a multi marketing option. This has enabled fishers to sell to whomever they wish once they have obtained a special license to do so. Currently there are 84 licensed fish dealers in the Province.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

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 buy Turn in Poachers (TIP) highway signs and 40 cellular enabled trail cameras, which will enable better coverage and assist in investigations.

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

A proposed Provincial call centre and new radio system for Officer safety concerns, including working alone, are moving forward and it is anticipated will be in place within two years.

- A background investigation was completed on a Michigan subject believed to falsify residency.
- The ISU worked with Wisconsin law enforcement to completed multiple background investigations on targets for caviar and wholesalers.
- The ISU assisted Missouri law enforcement in supplying roe reports and other information about commercial fishermen.
- The ISU worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete a background investigation on a target suspected of selling Asian carp without a license and importing the fish without them being eviscerated.
- A background investigation was completed on a Pennsylvania subject suspected of residency fraud.
- Background investigations were completed on Tennessee targets suspected of selling caviar and hauling fish.

The ISU also assisted multiple Illinois CPOs with target backgrounds, identifications, social media, legal questions, etc. This assistance process allowed the field CPOs to aid multiple other state investigations and other licensing inquiries.

The ISU assisted the IDNR Fisheries Division with reviewing permits, inspections, responding to legal questions, multiple phone conferences about black carp, meetings, ISU updates, etc. These events allowed the IDNR as whole to share pertinent information with other state's natural resource protection efforts.

The two officers assigned to the ISU attended meetings for the Great Lakes Fisheries Law Enforcement Committee, Environmental Crimes Task Force, Aquatic Resources Task Force, and Commercial Fishing Intelligence which allowed them to share valuable information with other Great Lakes stakeholders from other states and provinces of Canada.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

Illinois legislation in 2018 saw several changes in resource law. Highlighting these laws were substantial changes to the fair market value or replacement cost of various species, simplification of the youth license, the addition of blaze pink to the blaze orange laws, an Ivory Ban Act, and the addition of the Historic Preservation Agency to the IDNR.

Two new laws will greatly impact law enforcement this year. One is a new forfeiture law placing more steps in the seizure/forfeiture process. The second is the new Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act, which provides a minimum fine is

\$25, one schedule of assessments in the case instead of on a county by county basis, the ability for a defendant to petition the court for full or partial waiver of court assessments, and an increase in all citations.

Public Act 100-0647 creates a new scratch off lottery ticket for Police Memorials. Moneys are to be used, subject to appropriation, to fund grants for building and maintaining memorials and parks; holding annual memorial commemorations; giving scholarships to children of officers killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty, or those interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement; providing financial assistance to police officers and their families when a police officer is killed or injured in the line of duty; and providing financial assistance to officers for the purchase or replacement of bullet proof vests to be used in the line of duty.

Public Act 100-0703 allows the IDNR to change the limit on otters through the Administrative Rule process. Public Act 100-0703 defines fishing license and combination license as electronic or physical.

Public Act 100-0735 defines unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft system. Limits home rule power in relation to UAVs/Drones. Notwithstanding federal regulations, the Division of Aeronautics of the Department of Transportation shall adopt any rules to address the safe and legal operation of unmanned aircraft systems.

Public Act 100-0960 amends the Wildlife Code. Raises the fair market value or replacement cost of various species protected by the Act. Provides that a person who possesses white-tailed, antlered deer, in whole or in part, captured or killed in violation of the Act, shall pay restitution to the IDNR in the amount of \$1,000 per white-tailed, antlered deer and an additional \$500 per antler point, for each white-tailed antlered deer with at least 8, but not more than 10 antler points. Provides that for white-tailed, antlered deer with 11 or more antler points, restitution of \$1,000 shall be paid to the Department per white-tailed, antlered deer plus \$750 per antler point. Defines "point." (1) eagle: \$1,000; (2) white-tailed deer: \$1,000; (3) wild turkey: \$500; (4) furbearing mammals: \$50; (5) game birds (except the wild turkey) and migratory game birds (except trumpeter swans): \$50; (6) owls, hawks, falcons, kites, harriers, ospreys, and other birds of prey: \$250;

(7) game mammals (except white-tailed deer): \$50; (8) other mammals: \$100; (9) resident and migratory nongame birds (except birds of prey): \$100; and (10) trumpeter swans: \$1,000.

Public Act 100-0964 allows for trappers to have either their name and address, or their IDNR customer identification number on the tags of their traps.

Public Act 100-0638 (1) Amends the Wildlife Code. Defines "youth" as under 18; (2) Combines the Youth Hunting License and the Youth Trapping License to create a Youth Hunting and Trapping License; (3) This is the only license a youth will be able to buy; (3) A Youth Hunting and Trapping License shall entitle the licensee to hunt while supervised by an adult who is 21 years of age or older (instead of a parent, grandparent, or guardian) and who has a valid Illinois hunting license; and

(4) If a youth has a valid certificate of competency for hunting or trapping from a hunter safety course or a trapper safety course approved by the IDNR, he or she is exempt from the supervision requirements for youth hunters or youth trappers under the provision.

Public Act 100-0691 (1) Provides the fees for a youth resident and non-resident archery deer permit shall be the same. Provides that a resident or nonresident youth under age 18 (rather than only resident youth) may apply to the IDNR for a Youth Hunting License and Youth Trapping License; and (2) Since there is no archery permit exclusive to resident youths, the price for a nonresident youth archery permit shall be the same as the resident archery permits.

Public Act 100-0857 (1) Creates the Ivory Ban Act. Provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to import, sell, offer for sale, purchase, barter, or possess with intent to sell, any ivory, ivory product, rhinoceros horn, or rhinoceros horn product. Provides that these provisions do not apply to specified antique weapons or musical instruments. Establishes penalties for violation of the Act. Provides that the IDNR may permit, under terms and conditions as the Department may adopt by rule, the import, sale, offer for sale, purchase, barter, or possession with intent to sell, of any ivory, ivory product, rhinoceros horn, or rhinoceros horn product for bona fide educational or scientific purposes, unless this activity is prohibited by federal law. Provides that the Department may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation of the Act; and (2) It will take several months for the Department to establish any administrative rules that would change any current laws regarding the purchase/possession of ivory.

Public Act 100-0949 allows blaze pink to be worn in place of blaze orange where mandated.

#### **COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES**

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

None

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS 2019 AGENCY REPORT

Michigan

Submitted by Chief Gary Hagler May 1, 2019

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Recruit School 9: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Law Enforcement Division (LED) ran its 5th conservation officer (CO) recruit school in as many years. Twenty-four graduated in December of 2018 after successfully completing the 23-week academy the school was comprised of 6 women and 18 men. The probationary conservation officers (PCO's) will be in their home counties mid-May 2019 once they have completed their 18-week field training. All are doing well in field training. Plans are being made for another recruit school in July of 2020. The LED has also received a Bronze Level Certification from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for hiring a significant number of military veterans during the last 5 academies.



FEMA LASER Training: During the spring of 2018, all commissioned conservation officers attended the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response (LASER) training and were certified by FEMA. This two-day, 16-hour course is scenario/reality-based training using simulated weapons and was held at a training shoot-house at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center located in Grayling, MI using live actors. Officers responded to multiple scenarios in teams of two to quickly end an active shooter threat. This essential training was implemented by the LED prior to legislation mandating all Michigan law enforcement officers be trained in 2020 in active aggressor response under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Act.

Online Training: In a partnership with Michigan State University (MSU) through its Desire-to-Learn (D2L) online training system, all LED officers were trained in Footwear and Tire Tracks Evidence training. The D2L system is a self-paced online training system that affords the agency the ability to track those who are required to complete a course and also includes testing modules.

Training on Poverty and Behavior: District 5 is in a rural area of the state. The district had a speaker attend a district meeting on the topic of poverty.

The session illustrated the values of different economical levels within society. It covered the research behind the differing behaviors and attitudes of individuals based on the economic environment they grew up in (i.e., generational poverty, situational poverty, middle class, etc.). This training will be beneficial when interacting with citizens and interviewing suspects during law enforcement situations.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

ORV Funds: With the passing of PA 288, which opened more than 6,000 additional miles of state forest roads for ORV use, increased funding for overtime patrols and equipment would benefit the protection of sensitive environmental areas in the recently opened areas. Officers still must monitor other area disciplines while trying to adjust to the increase in ORV misuse complaints and violations which causes conflict in efforts or areas to focus attention. Additional ORV equipment purchases may be possible with these funds.

Staffing: Our agency has been fortunate to have the support of the Department's Administration, State Legislature and Governor's Office over the last several years. In 2018, we were budgeted for the highest number of conservation officers in the history of the department (252). We currently have about 10 vacancies and expect a few more retirements as the year progresses. Our funding for 2018-2019 has been maintained.

Our Great Lakes Enforcement Unit (GLEU) and Special Investigations Unit (SIU) saw significant increases in staffing in 2018 and we were able to maintain the staffing levels into 2019. Additionally, we intend to expand the GLEU with three new specialists.

The division has also been able to fill vacant supervisor and civilian staff positions throughout 2018 and 2019.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

Social Media: Social media continues to pose new challenges and benefits.





Anglers especially have been using social media to announce the arrival of fish runs ahead of our discovery. Social media also affords certain investigatory benefits where our officers have made game and fish cases, antiquities theft cases, and occasionally lead to further general criminal violations being discovered.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in reimbursement to the state for illegally taken game and fish has been received through these social media cases. In an antiquities case (shown in the photo above), a GLEU officer received a complaint of subjects stealing artifacts from the shipwreck "Metropolis" located in East Grand Traverse Bay. The complainant photographed the vessel, suspects and artifacts in the suspect's boat and followed suspects to port and photographed the vehicle and license plate. Three suspects were identified and interviewed. Social media revealed the suspects had taken photos and made comments about their "find." During their interviews, they admitted to stealing the artifacts from the shipwreck. Initially they indicated they had only taken one piece and directed the officer to its location where it was recovered. Upon reviewing the photographs and the recovered evidence, officers determined it was not the same artifact that was visible in the boat from one of the photographs. Follow-up contact was made, and the suspects turned over the remaining three pieces of ribbing taken from the wreck.

Deer Management and Disease: The need to provide enforcement and prosecution alternatives for Antler Point Restrictions (APR) associated with Deer Management Units (DMU) violations is needed. We have seen an increasing trend of hunters shooting without verifying the APR and then self-reporting their violation. This violation currently would need to be a charge that requires a reimbursement of \$2000 minimum. An alternate charge specific to this violation would allow for better and more equitable enforcement. As reported in 2017, increased violations continued in 2018 as well.

DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Permits) - District 4 is home to the largest number of properties under the DMAP program in the state. These permits have been offered through the Wildlife Division at a reduced rate and offer additional liberal regulations to target agricultural damage on private lands. While the program has been in place several years, violations of program rules and record reporting compliance seems to be declining.

Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions continue to work together to monitor, inspect, and insure compliance.

Officers continue to work in our Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zones, the Core CWD area and bordering counties. This was an extremely demanding season for officers to stay current on the rules and regulations. Deer license use varied on the type of animal that could be legally harvested throughout the different areas and zones, with specific concerns on possession and transportation of carcasses outside of the Core CWD Area. Allowing regular firearms to be used during the muzzle loader season in the CWD management zones was also very confusing to the public. Head submissions of legally harvested deer caused difficulties with hunters to submit the heads within the required time frame. Officers responded to the major regulation changes with a positive attitude providing the public with the most current information and educating the public on the intent of the rule changes. COs routinely made themselves available at DNR Wildlife Division head submission locations, deer processors and constituent groups to provide information and answer questions regarding CWD.

The baiting ban in the Core CWD area created an increase in illegal baiting complaints. Attempting to locate hunters using bait is a very time-consuming process. Officers responded and used both education and enforcement to resolve complaints. Several targeted bait flights/group patrols were completed in the fall of 2018.

In addition to CWD, Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb) is being monitored in north eastern counties. Officers continued to combat the disease issues associated with TB and the emergence CWD in northern Michigan. Their enforcement efforts to curb illegal baiting deer in the three county area will hopefully aid in lowering the prevalence of Tb in this region. Enforcement and hunter acceptance are a constant battle. Education of the hunting community, court personnel, and residents are key avenues to gain support on preventing the spread of disease.

Meat processors were inspected on a regular basis across the districts in efforts to determine the locations deer had been harvested and then transported. It was difficult for officers inspecting validated kill tags to determine where the animal was harvested, with the same tag being valid for different sex and antler point variations across the state. Officers understood the challenges with the regulation changes and continue to provide the public information on the head submission requirements for testing of deer and deer carcass transportation requirements both in and outside the CWD areas.

PFAS (Pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) - In October of 2018, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a "Do Not Eat" advisory for deer harvested within a 5-mile radius of Clark's Marsh, near the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base. The advisory was due to high levels of Pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detected in one whitetail deer that was part of a test sampling. Although this has not impacted law enforcement activities in the area, it has increased fear around that local area in relation to hunting.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): LED, and specifically the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit (GLEU), has been working in coordination with other DNR divisions (AIS core team and the boating workgroup), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to address AIS. They have provided guidance to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance on the new amendments that will regulate the boating industry for the prevention and spread of AIS. GLEU and the AIS core team have been developing a training plan for courts and prosecutors statewide to educate them on the economical and biological impacts caused by AIS.

Roscommon Youth Police Academy -In the past 2-3 years, LED has been assisting other law enforcement agencies in Roscommon County (mainly MSP, Roscommon County Sheriff Department, and Gerrish Township Police) with a summer youth academy for kids. This exposes local kids (ages 10-16 years old) to different agencies of law enforcement for potential career options later in life. One full day is given to local conservation officers to teach these young recruits about our specialized law enforcement using presentations, scenarios, and other engagement methods.

DNR Youth Conservation Academy: The Michigan DNR continued its Youth Conservation Academy on Belle Isle in Detroit, Michigan. This is a six-week learning experience, meeting every Tuesday, for Detroit area youth ages 16-19. Each division of the department participates in the training and LED is the coordinating division for the academy. During the academy, students were certified in hunter education, received a Michigan fishing license, fishing pole, landing net and tackle box full of gear, which will allow them to enjoy Michigan fishing and hunting.

Speed Measurement Enforcement: The LED re-instituted efforts to train officers in speed measurement (RADAR and LIDAR) in 2018. Two conservation officers were certified to become speed measurement instructors. In turn, they conducted training sessions to certify thirty-two officers across the state in basic speed measurement. LED purchased several new speed measurement units and refurbished several others. This has improved the division's capability to utilize speed measurement tools to enforce safety concerns related to ORV, snowmobile, and watercraft operation. The use of speed measurement devices has assisted officers in investigations during seasons with high-volume game transportation. Several secondary charges have been brought against those who have been stopped for speeding, including drug charges, weapons violations and warrant arrests.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

**Red Swamp Crawfish:** Officers often work with Canadian officials and this relationship resulted in a case where conservation officers in St. Clair county were notified on Friday, July 13 by the Canadian Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when a commercial hauler transporting red swamp crayfish, an invasive species, was denied entry into Canada and would be returning to Michigan. The commercial hauler was stopped by Canadian officials at the Sarnia, Canada border crossing to leave the United States.



Assisted by customs officials, conservation officers stopped the truck and obtained 55 bags of live, illegal crayfish (approx. 1000 lbs.). After interviewing the driver, conservation officers learned the truck originated from Canada and made stops in Maryland and Arkansas to pick up cargo prior to attempting its return to Canada. The driver did not have appropriate records, other than a few purchase receipts. GLEU is conducting further investigation. It is currently unknown if any stops or sales were made in Michigan.

**Commercial Fishing Case:** GLEU has assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with the execution of search warrants and investigations into State Commercial Fish Wholesale businesses targeting the trafficking of illegal Great Lakes fish resources. Several plead guilty to felony and misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act.

### Wildlife and Disease Control at Michigan's Border:

In order to detect and address the unlawful importation of deer into Michigan, officers working in southern Michigan border (Ohio, Indiana) and northern counties (Canada, Wisconsin) have increased enforcement and surveillance efforts. As part of this, officers conducted increased surveillance and inspection of deer processing and taxidermy facilities in and around border areas; increased patrols on secondary roads that cross state lines; conducted specific surveillance patrols during peak times (opening dates, weekends, midday, evenings, etc.) along primary Interstate highways entering Michigan; and gave priority response to any received complaints regarding the illegal importation of deer.

**Operation DeBuck** is another cooperative venture in northern Michigan where LED coordinates and plans a joint patrol to combat the importation of deer entering Michigan from Ontario, Canada and western states. This patrol involves conservation officers and the Michigan State Police. Officers flood the I-75 corridor south of the Mackinaw bridge in order to target vehicles transporting deer to check "state of origin /kill." This enforcement patrol ensures compliance of hunters in conforming with importation regulations, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) permit regulations and federal Lacey Act requirements when transporting deer from other states and countries.

**Special Events:** We still assist with multi-agency law enforcement events such as Torch Fest (4th of July) on



Torch Lake); Menominee Waterfront Festival (Menominee River and Lake Michigan); Bud Bash (Houghton Lake); Tip-Up-Town (Houghton Lake); Gambler 500, Sault Ste. Marie; Higgins Lake 4th of July; Mud Jam (Iosco County); Belle Isle Grand Prix, Detroit; numerous ORV weekends across the state; Labor Day Mackinac

Bridge Walk; and very large crowds in Michigan parks during the holidays.

We work very closely in northern Michigan (District 4 and 5) with our US Forest Service (USFS) Law Enforcement Officers. Our missions are closely related, and they are often our nearest backup when we are in the large national forests of northern Michigan. They have similar specialized equipment (i.e. side-by-sides, snowmobiles, off-road patrol trucks) and the outdoor knowledge to be a vital partner in the cooperative effort to protect the state and national forest lands.

**Joint Training and Security Exercises:** LED provided support to 185 security missions statewide. These missions included cooperative activities amongst local, state, federal and tribal entities to support protection of critical infrastructure and key resources, and citizens and visitors of the state. These activities develop and strengthen positive relationships with the citizens, local municipalities, various response disciplines and other law enforcement agencies. LED participated in joint training exercises with the US Coast Guard

(USCG) regarding Homeland Security preparedness. In northern lower Michigan, officers and GLEU participated in "Operation Northern Strike" which is a joint training exercise between USCG, Air National Guard, Michigan State Police, and several sheriff's departments. This training consists of exercises on or over Lake Huron utilizing Great Lake's vessels and air support by the Air National Guard to prepare for waterborne disasters and to simulate attacks on the US.

**Emergency Management:** LED Emergency Management staff worked collaboratively with department personnel to support the response and recovery efforts to flooding and landslides due to torrential rains on June 16th, 2018 affecting the Western Upper Peninsula, most specifically Houghton County. This disaster claimed the life of one boy and received both a State and Presidential Declaration resulting in numerous US Department of Homeland Security, FEMA grants to support response projects. These projects will continue for several years.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

**MiConnect Outdoors Development** – The Department has been working with Sovereign Sportsman Solutions (S3) to develop a new outdoor licensing system in Michigan. Part of this contract includes the development of a mobile application that conservation officers can use on their smartphones when afield. This new app will allow quick reference to the licensee's personal information, active and past licenses, special permits, and many other helpful tools. It is still in the development phase, but we are excited about the potential it will have to put data at the conservation

officer's fingertips when away from his or her patrol truck.

OnX Maps, a mobile application, has been provided to all officers as a smart phone and desk top application. Conservation officers can now get a quick look at property lines and ownership with the use of their smart phones in the field as well as use the tool to create trails and mark icons for reference and printable maps. The division is working closely with the department's Resource Assessment Section to develop GIS tools that will support a myriad of officer duties and activities in the field.

Electronic Reporting System: GLEU has led the transition of the State licensed Commercial Wholesale businesses from paper reporting to electronic reporting through the developed Fishing Activity & Catch Tracking System, (FACTS). GLEU developed on-line training videos as well as hosted three in-person training sessions throughout the state to assist the industry in the transition. They have worked with the software company Electric Edge in developing the reporting program.

Technology to Enhance Investigative Techniques: SIU has purchased and uses Cellbrite cellphone forensic investigative software which has developed additional evidence for several cases.

LED is working with the department's GIS section in leveraging GIS and ESRI tools for identifying and plotting data points on maps to record fishing nets in the Great Lakes, re-occurring illegal baiting areas, property lines, crime analysis data and many other functions. One of the tools is a cellphone application called "Collector" which can mark data points as the officer marks them.

Axon Digital Evidence Trial Period: LED partnered with Axon to try a free one-year subscription to the Evidence.com system so we could organize our digital evidence (photos, videos and audio) in one Cloud setting that conforms to the State's records retention schedule and provides an audit trail. We are also negotiating with Axon for a limited number of Body-worn Cameras connected to an in-car camera system for our Belle Isle State Park detail.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

Side by Side ORVs – Public Act 680 of 2018 (effective March 28th, 2019) allows side by side ORVs to obtain license plates through the Michigan Secretary of State if they meet certain requirements for lights, mirrors, braking, etc. This change will allow increased access for these ORVs, which have exponentially increased in popularity in recent years. Combined with Public Act 288 of 2016, which opened access to hundreds of miles of state forest roads, this change may require increased patrols in sensitive areas to address environment degradation.

Court Confusion: Saginaw river and Saginaw Bay are world-class walleye and perch fisheries in Michigan. Recent walleye regulations on the Saginaw River make it difficult for local courts to interpret and authorize charges. On the Saginaw River, there are two separate size limits and possession limits. The new regulations cause frustration for anglers, enforcement officers, and the criminal justice system. The Fisheries Division has been notified of the situation.

Similarly, we are finding that urban prosecutors are reluctant to move cases forward regarding AIS because of workload, lack of knowledge, and other motivations. GLEU and SIU will coordinate significant cases through the Michigan Attorney General's (AG) Office to ensure vigorous prosecution.

Commercial Fishing Regulations: Our 100-year-old commercial fishing regulations are being revamped. Currently an individual fisherman caught with a short walleye pays more in fines and costs than a commercial fisherman reporting 55,000 lbs. of excess whitefish. The statute updates are being proposed this year.

Beginning in 2018 and continuing through 2020, LED will be heavily involved in negotiation with other state agencies, the Federal government and five sovereign Michigan tribes regarding the 1836 Treaty of Washington and a 2000 US District Court consent decree which is set to expire in August 2020. The treaty sets rights and parameters for tribal hunting, fishing and gathering including the great lakes commercial allocation of fish.

#### **COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES**

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

Student Labor: LED has started using part time student-assistant positions available to any college student interested in a career in natural resources. These positions are located in Lansing, at the Division headquarters and relieve the burden of work placed on the Division Staff. These students oftentimes are eventually hired for various fulltime jobs within the department with the knowledge and contacts they have made during their assignment.

#### **OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES**

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Benefits of Specialized Equipment and Training: Extremely heavy snow-fall and frigid temperatures across the Upper Peninsula (UP) this past winter resulted in officers responding to many life-threatening situations and fatal snowmobile accidents. Other law enforcement agencies were unable to respond to the high numbers of complaints and often lacked the proper equipment to do so. Major highways and secondary roads were impassable and closed for several days. Many people became stranded when they were caught in rapidly moving blizzard conditions. Officers frequently responded on snowmobiles; preventing potential catastrophe for many individuals. The division's off-trail sleds proved invaluable when attempting to traverse several feet of fresh fallen snow to reach stranded people and crash scenes.

In another instance, off-trails sleds made a life and death difference for a 5yr old child who was abducted, and the kidnappers set out across the frozen surface of Lake Superior heading to Canada on foot with the child in tow. A thaw had occurred during this time creating over two feet of slush on top of the ice. The off-trail sleds were able to stay on top the slush as they trailed the suspects. Additionally, the officers used night-vision goggles to find the group in the dark and help conceal their location upon approach. Adding to the danger of this situation, an ice breaker had recently gone through the area. The kidnappers and child were heading for open water in the middle of the night. Fortunately, officers were able to catch up to the group before tragedy occurred. The suspects were taken into custody and the child was reunited with his mother.



# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Minnesota**

Submitted by: Col. Rodmen Smith

Date: April 30, 2019

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

The Division of Enforcement's watercraft training program now is NASB-LA certified, which positions the Division to provide accredited watercraft training to all state conservation officers and, in the future, to other state law enforcement agencies. We also continue to train new PEER counselors, and the program has increased from 10 to 17 trained counselors. Our efforts to bolster the program further are ongoing.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

We continue working to hire a workforce that reflects the diverse people it serves, through both our traditional and CO Prep hiring pathways. (For CO Prep, we require at least a two-year degree in any discipline.) The state Legislature has been supportive of the effort by allocating funds to hire new officers. During the past three years, we have hired a total of 46 officers to take part in the CO Academy. Nineteen of the officers, including four members of minority groups, four recently-separated veterans and seven females, came through the CO PREP program.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

Working to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species continues to be a focus of our officers. In addition, following an incident last year in which an 8-year-old was killed by a drunken snowmobile rider who had multiple previous DWI convictions, state DWI laws have been tightened and loopholes regarding recreational vehicles closed.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

We continue to cooperate with state and federal partners on cases that cross state or international boundaries, including one that's been resolved regarding illegal movement of Blanding's turtles that included the Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Given the state's abundance of border waters, our officers commonly work with enforcement personnel from other states and provinces.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

We continue working to utilize technology to make our officers' jobs easier. Last year, they all were issued smartphones. Now, all officers can access PowerDMS from their smartphones.

## STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RE- SOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding property seizure doesn't appear to have much of an effect on the Division of Enforcement, given the majority of our completed forfeitures include equipment such as rods and reels and firearms seized as a result of fish and game violations.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

We've moved toward heavy-duty half-ton trucks that use gasoline, as opposed to three-quarter-ton diesel trucks.

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Chronic wasting disease has been found in additional deer and in new areas of Minnesota. We continue to enforce Minnesota's import and export laws and conduct commercial inspections as we work to limit the spread of the disease. Additionally, the Minnesota DNR has entered into a cooperative agreement with the state Board of Animal Health to increase the sharing of information related to captive cervid farms.

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Missouri**

Submitted by: **Randy Doman**

Date: **May 1, 2019**

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

For the first time in five years, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) did not conduct an Agent Training Academy in 2018. Although, the nine-month hiring process did begin for the 2019 Agent Training Academy which is currently in session. The Academy is Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified, and consists of constitutional law, conservation law, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, boating operations, waterfowl school, firearms training, land management practices, trapping, hunting incident investigations, fish kills, etc.

Protection Division graduated one district supervisor from the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Leadership Academy (NACLEC) in September. One additional supervisor is currently attending the 2019 NACLEC Leadership Academy.

Protection Division also graduated four female agents from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Women's Leadership Institute (WLI).

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

The Department has implemented a priority-based budgeting program specifically tied to the Department's Strategic Plan: *Design for the Future*. This plan identifies three goals to direct the development of specific FY20 Department priorities, and Protection Division is essential to the implementation of this plan:

- *MDC Takes Care of Nature (two related outcomes & six strategies)*
- *MDC Connects People with Nature (two related outcomes & seven strategies)*
- *MDC Maintains Public Trust (two related outcomes & four strategies)*

**PROTECTION DIVISION IS WELL REPRESENTED IN ALL THREE GOALS, WITH THE PRIMARY FOCUS BEING IN GOAL #1** – MDC Takes Care of Nature, Outcome #2 – Missouri has sustainable fish and wildlife, Strategy #6 – Increase voluntary compliance with the *Wildlife Code* of Missouri through a community policing approach to resource law enforcement.

Additional priorities include; Chronic Wasting Disease management, feral hog elimination, Asset Management Inventory, and Priority Geography Management.

The Conservation Commission also approved a market-based salary adjustment, as recommended by a prior Department-wide job study, at their May 2018 Commission meeting. The approved salary adjustments included increasing some positions to market-based salary grade minimums and implementing compression fixes. To help finance these important salary adjustments, individual division budgets were reduced by 10% from the previous year's approved budget allocation.

Protection Division currently has approximately 200 Full-time employees which has remained constant for several years. To provide superior customer service while addressing emerging priorities such as disease management and wildlife trafficking, we occasionally reclassify existing positions to better accomplish our mission. Currently, we are in the process of reclassifying our five-person Confined Wildlife Team from a temporary (leadership development) status to a permanent status. The strength of this Team has been maintaining fair, firm, and consistent enforcement of confined wildlife and commercial permit regulations across the state. In addition, this Team played a vital role in the Department's favorable Missouri Supreme Court ruling in a lawsuit filed by the captive cervid industry. The Court ruled in the Department's favor by clarifying that all cervids, regardless of which side of a fence they're on, are considered wildlife and not livestock. This landmark ruling reaffirmed the Commission's authority to regulate not only the captive cervid industry, but all native wildlife held in confinement.

With the retirement of Protection Division Chief Larry Yamnitz in May 2018, after almost 38 years of faithful service, Protection Division Field Chief Randy Doman was promoted to fill that role in December 2018. With this new appointment, Chief Doman has made it a priority to focus on improving organizational health, implementing *Design for the Future*, improving communication, and providing better equipment and training for all division staff.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

In 2018, Missouri's Operation Game Thief (OGT) program received 528 violation reports which resulted in 297 convictions and \$7,000 in rewards paid. Our OGT trailer was not used in 2018 as it was down for redesign and fabrication of new exhibits. Protection Division actively promotes the OGT program through a variety of media outlets, including our Department's social media pages. These efforts resulted in several great cases as noted below:

Based on information reported through OGT, several conservation agents and a wildlife biologist initiated an investigation within the Peck Ranch Conservation Area Refuge (where Missouri's reintroduced elk herd resides). The reporting party indicated a certain suspect had been targeting Peck Ranch late at night and killing large deer. This information was validated on November 14, 2018 at 11:55 p.m. as the vehicle below was captured on a Spartan trail camera entering the Peck Ranch Refuge through the east gate road. At 1:14 a.m., the vehicle was again captured on camera leaving the refuge. The pictures were taken with two of Protection's Spartan trail cameras which send photos directly to agents' iPhones. Consequently, agents were promptly able to contact the driver and his two occupants, just after the last picture was taken. Upon contact with these individuals, the agents discovered numerous firearms (one containing an illegal homemade suppressor), military thermal imaging units (later determined to be stolen from the Missouri Army National Guard), night vision equipment, spotlights, and other hunting equipment. Agents interviewed all three subjects, and the fruits of their investigation resulted in retrieving four large sets of antlers illegally taken. In addition to the numerous wildlife violations uncovered, this case is being jointly investigated by the FBI, ATF, and Missouri Army National Guard with charges pending.



Timber theft was also on the rise in 2018 across the state with numerous investigations resulting in successful prosecution such as the one described below:

#### **St. Roberts Man Sentenced for Stealing Timber from the Mark Twain National Park**

*St. Louis – Richard McKinnon, 38, of St. Roberts, Missouri, was sentenced to 18 months in prison on Thursday for theft of Government property. He appeared in federal court before U.S. District Judge Stephen Limbaugh.*

*According to court documents, between September of 2016 and December of 2016, McKinnon and his co-defendants, Dale Connour and Delmar Connour felled walnut trees located on federal land, from the Mark Twain National Forest in Laclede County and Pulaski County. They removed at least 39 trees without authorization from the Mark Twain National Forest and then sold the stolen timber at a walnut sawmill located in Texas County, Missouri. McKinnon and the Connours damaged at least 21 trees as a result of driving prohibited vehicles onto restricted areas of the Forest in order to cut down and remove the walnut trees. The total estimated value of the National Forest timber and the cost of rehabilitation to Nation Forest land was \$35,862.50.*

*The case was investigated by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gwen Carroll is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.*



During the 2018 deer season, 5,257 hunters donated 278,155 pounds of venison to Missouri's Share the Harvest program. 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**

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

Operation Game Thief (OGT), a hotline sponsored by MDC and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), led to the arrest and conviction of a Greene County man in one of the state's largest ever poaching investigations, which involved approximately 100 state, federal, and Canadian wildlife officers. The convicted, along with two of his family members, are linked to the illegal killing of furbearers, fish, small game, and hundreds of deer over a three-year period. Lawrence County Prosecuting Attorney Don Trotter remarked, "The deer were trophy bucks taken illegally, mostly at night, for their heads, leaving the bodies of the deer to waste". More than 300 charges have been filed on the group in state, federal and international jurisdictions. To date, this group of poachers have paid over \$51,000 in fines and court costs with the most egregious violators receiving lifetime revocations from the Conservation Commission. The primary suspect was sentenced to 120 days in the Department of Corrections and one year in the Lawrence County jail where he was also ordered by the court to watch the movie Bambi once a month during his year-long incarceration. This story went viral, with over 1,700 media outlets running the story resulting in an audience reach of over 1.2 billion people across the globe.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement – Protection Division continues to embrace technology to better protect Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources. In 2018, after much work with our Information Technology (IT) staff and an outside program developer, Protection launched an electronic incident reporting system which is fully integrated with our existing Agent Mobile and Agent Online programs.



The Agent Incident Reporting System provides significant improvements to our previous incident reporting efforts. Missouri statutes require law enforcement agencies to document reported or discovered crimes by completing incident reports, arrest reports and/or investigative reports. Prior to the creation of this system, Protection Division utilized a fragmented system for collecting information and completing these reports. The previous system proved to be inefficient for sharing information, answering Sunshine Law requests, and resulted in many wildlife crimes going undocumented. The new Incident Reporting system has unified reporting procedures to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, reduced administrative burdens, and improved information sharing throughout the Department. In addition, this new system interacts with the current Agent Online program, Agent Mobile application, Permits system, Telecheck system, Arrest database and Warning database. This allows for a very efficient user experience by eliminating duplicative entry of information that has already been collected in other databases (e.g.; identifying information of suspects, victims, witnesses, or charges pursued). It also allows us to identify locations with higher public service demands, and enable us to allocate resources more effectively. These efficiency and process improvement procedures save staff time and improve both the internal and external customer experience.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

July 3, 2018, the Missouri Supreme Court issued its decision in the **Hill v. Missouri Department of Conservation** case, overturning a lower court ruling by upholding the Commission's authority to regulate captive elk and deer. The lawsuit was originally filed by members of the captive cervid industry over the authority to regulate confined cervids. The Court ruled that captive deer are wildlife "resources of the state" and their activities are not farming or ranching under the *Right to Farm* amendment. This landmark decision is critically important to the health of Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife resources beyond just captive cervids.

In 2018, prior to the aforementioned Missouri Supreme Court decision, the Missouri Legislature passed Senate Bill 627 which amended certain Missouri Department of Agriculture definitions in the "Meat Inspection" statutes to include "captive cervids" alongside livestock and poultry. This Senate Bill ultimately opened the door for the legal sale of venison (i.e., whitetail and mule deer) in Missouri. The Department filed a preliminary injunction and declared the Missouri Revised Statutes contained in Senate Bill 627 were contrary to the constitution and the Conservation Commission's authority. The Circuit Court of Cole County later ruled, in the form of a final injunction, that the Legislature cannot enact laws that usurp constitutional authority and cannot trump the Constitution which expressly forbids laws inconsistent with the Conservation Commission's authority.

### **COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES**

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

Protection Division continues to utilize a very active and successful Protection Volunteer Program consisting of approximately 120 volunteers spread across the state. These volunteers assist conservation agents and other Department staff with projects including: enforcement patrols, outreach and education programs, training scenarios and wildlife surveys. This volunteer program has also proven to be a valuable recruitment tool.

### **OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES**

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Protection Division continues to work diligently with other divisions and local, state, and federal partners to eliminate feral hogs from the landscape in Missouri. Corral trapping and aerial gunning continues to be our most effective control measures. The Department is diligently working with nu-

merous partners on this issue including; Missouri Department of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Missouri Farm Bureau, United States Army (Fort Leonard Wood), Missouri Corn Growers Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Missouri Agribusiness Association, and countless others. Conservation agents remain actively involved in the trapping efforts and continue to enforce the state statutes prohibiting the transportation and release of feral hogs.

The restoration of elk in Missouri is supported and appreciated by many people and organizations, and elk tourism has proven to be a benefit to local communities. The elk herd continues to grow and plans for a limited hunting season may soon be forthcoming in the next year or two.

Unfortunately, on the evening of Friday, February 8, 2019, two elk were illegally shot and killed near Log Yard in Shannon County. One elk was a 10-year-old bull brought to Missouri from Kentucky in 2011, and the other was a mature cow born in Missouri. These elk appear to have been killed for nothing other than "thrill", as no parts of either animal were removed by those responsible for their deaths.

This is the fifth known elk poaching incident in the area, with the others involving a mature bull in December of 2015, and a two-month-old calf in August of 2018, and investigations are ongoing. Our partners at the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) have raised \$8,500 as a reward for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the poacher(s).



Another significant law enforcement issue in Missouri is the ongoing abuse of our landowner/lessee permitting system. A statewide review in 2018 by conservation agents found over 30 percent misuse of no-cost landowner permit privileges (i.e., landowner fraud). A common violation was the misuse of lessee privileges. For those who lease property, they must lease and live on at least five continuous acres, owned by others, or be an immediate household member age six years or older of someone who does. Participation in a hunting or farming lease alone does not qualify an individual for landowner permits.

Some common violations encountered by agents were people using landowner permits on land they do not own, or lease and live on; fraudulently obtaining no-cost landowner permits by claiming ownership of more than five acres, or fraudulently obtaining landowner permits for properties they no longer live on.

Based on this information, the Conservation Commission removed lessee permit privileges from the Wildlife Code, and are in the process of instituting a landowner registry system to ensure no-cost permits are only being issued to qualifying landowners. The Commission is also considering an increase of the qualifying land acreage from five to 20 acres.

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **North Dakota**

Submitted by: Chief Game Warden Robert Timian

Date: April 18, 2019

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Our department continues to look for affordable training for our in-service week. In February 2019 we co-hosted training that dealt with the use of body cameras and dealing with the public in their recording of officers. While our department currently does not use body cameras, we do have in-car and on boat cameras. It brought an awareness of how we need to train our officers in dealing with the public when they video us and what we should and should not be doing.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

Currently we are awaiting our next biennium budget as our legislature closes out their 2019 session. While currently no new FTE's are in the budget, there is potential for two additional staff to the department for ANS.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

Operation Dry Water was a success once again in 2018. Approximately 1100 vessels were contacted, 81 citations were written, and several potential BUI violations were tested for with only one BUI drug arrest made. The highest BAC was 0.104. 2018 saw a reduction in number of boats contacted and the number of individuals tested. There were, however, many public comments that they knew about the weekend and thanked our officers for being out.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.).*

Over two hundred DNA samples were collected from both whitetail and mule deer and sent to the wildlife forensics lab in Laramie, WY for the establishment of a DNA database for ND. Current Joint Powers Agreements continue to allow us to work closely with neighboring states concerning several large commercial investigations.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

While this is not only new to the boating world it is also new to Law Enforcement use in North Dakota. In 2019 we will be implementing the use of wireless kill switches on the majority if not all our enforcement boats. This allows the officer the ability to move away from the console should he/she need to, without killing the motor.

We are currently working with the state's ITD department on the development of a new incident report and management system. It is anticipated that this system will be functional by July 1 and we should have our data converted to the new system by the end of the year. This should also reduce some of the costs of our maintenance on the program with an easier time to adjust modules when needed.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

There were several bills introduced in the 2019 Legislative session that would have significantly changed our enforcement division. A bill was introduced to change the asset forfeiture laws and as part of that our Report All Poachers program would have been severely affected. We were able to get the bill amended early in the process to remove the RAP program from the bill. Another bill was introduced that would have restricted law enforcement from entering private land without landowner permission, a search warrant, or probable cause. After being amended the bill was defeated. A bill that would make all land posted to hunting and change the criminal trespass laws is still current after numerous committee meetings and amendments.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

We continue to aggressively review applications for gratis big game licenses for false information. New screening reports have been developed using new technology which have decreased the amount of time it takes to review the applications. We are also researching ways to decrease the amount spent on vehicle changeouts.

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

### TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Ohio**

Submitted by: **Ken Fitz, Executive Administrator of Law Enforcement**

Date: **4/26/2019**

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Ohio has seen the benefits of conducting trainings for other law enforcement agencies, the public, conservation groups, and our own officers concerning ginseng. The training covers identification, life history, management, regulations, and enforcement techniques. The most beneficial tool we have available to use to apprehend violators is our "ginseng digger database".

We recently obtained a MILO range simulator. This advanced training system is filled with hundreds of scenarios for officer training. Within each scenario there are "branching options" that the operator can select, based on the officer's actions or type of training, such as intermediate weapon or deadly force. All the officer's shots are tracked, and can be reviewed to see where shots hit, and which one was the "neutralizing" shot. Additionally, a camera records the officer as they run through the scenario that can be reviewed. This helps critique actions and address any areas for improvement. The whole training system is portable and can be set up almost anywhere indoors.

Additionally, MILO recognized they are low on DNR type scenarios. Last October they joined some of our trainers and filmed DNR specific scenarios (that we wrote) for free. They also have plans to film more scenarios with us this summer.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently combined training efforts between the Division of Wildlife and the Division of Parks and Watercraft. While these sister divisions within the larger department have separate but similar missions, there are some training requirements that cross division borders. Each division will still maintain their own integrity for specialized training that fits their unique roles in natural resources law enforcement, however.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

A Sportsmen's Package allowing for multi-year and lifetime licenses was introduced. Multi-year licenses are discounted approximately 5%. Historically, fishing licenses expired on a set calendar date. Fishing licenses now expire one year from date of purchase. It is not yet clear the impact these changes will have on long-term funding. Initially, we expect to see a small bump in revenue. Over time, however, we may have less licenses sold due to the lifetime licenses. This is also expected to change our budgeting slightly. Traditionally, the division had spikes in revenue in the spring (fishing) and the early fall (hunting). The spring spike will likely even out across the spring and early summer with fishing license purchases more evenly distributed.

2019 is the first year that a nonresident Lake Erie sport fishing district permit is required. The permit cost is \$11.00 and is required for nonresidents fishing in the Lake Erie sport fishing district from January through April. The money from the permit is earmarked for protection, propagation, preservation and stocking of fish, as well as access and other management work.

Investigators won an arbitration dispute and earned a pay upgrade to the next higher pay range. We currently have several empty investigator positions which may be difficult for the agency to fill at this higher pay rate.

Due to our concern with the downward trend in revenue, we have reduced staffing through attrition. With that being said, we had eleven cadets begin training for officer positions, ten completed the training in early 2019. Additional training academies will be run as the budget allows. We have not had a fee increase on any resident licenses for approximately 15 years.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

The Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Certification was achieved. The Ohio Collaborative is working to improve community-police relations and find solutions to the tensions and concerns between community members and the law enforcement officers that serve them. In order to obtain certification, law enforcement agencies must adhere to certain standards. These standards are meant to provide accountability and instill a greater confidence with the public.

To aid the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, several of our investigators were trained as wildland fire wardens. These officers assist with fire investigations on private property and handle fire investigations on Ohio Division of Wildlife lands.

A canine program was started, with one dog assigned to an officer in each of our five districts. These canines are trained for article searches as well as tracking. Three of the five are trained protection dogs. None are trained for drug enforcement or as cadaver dogs. Purchase of the dogs and equipment along with food and veterinary care was paid for mostly through donation, however associated training and manpower costs are absorbed by the Division. Several good cases have been made with the use of the canines, and they are a very popular guest at events promoting our agency and our mission.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

Ohio joined the recently-formed Aquatic Resources Task Force which focuses on protection of the Ohio River ecosystem and its commercially-targeted species. The cooperative agreement involves conservation officers from Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Wisconsin and the USFWS to ultimately share intelligence information and partner together in working cases across state lines to maximize effective protection of targeted resources.



## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

Web-based camera systems have been utilized significantly more for surveillance this past year than in previous years. Better affordability, battery life, signal capabilities and ease of installation in the field have aided our officers and investigators in making many significant cases regarding state property protection for shooting ranges, prosecution/deterrence for acts of vandalism, litter dumps and deviant behavior as well as illegal drug activity and greatly aiding in multiple vehicle break-ins being solved and prosecuted.

The Ohio Wildlife Licensing System (OWLS) is utilized to record all transactions with our customers, including harvest reporting. Auto-generated error codes have helped alert officers to several violations which resulted in arrests or education, as appropriate.

We combined our specialty permits (nuisance trapping, propagation, etc.) with our electronic license system. Now all licenses are issued through the same system. This makes cross checking easier for enforcement and, more importantly, makes the permit application process easier for our customers. This change allows for on-line applications and payments.

We trained an officer in each district and purchased ZetX suite for mapping cellular phone location information. That, combined with Camtasia, allows mapping to be integrated with exhibits for case presentation.



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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

Recent court rulings have impacted our ability to collect restitution through civil action, although court-ordered restitution has not been an issue. Concern over due-process requires us to notify a defendant that if they are found guilty, they may be sued civilly for the restitution value of any illegally taken or possessed wild animals if the restitution is not imposed as part of the criminal sentence.

Due to the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease in adjacent states wild deer herds, new rules have been implemented allowing the import into Ohio of deer that have been deboned or quartered with no spinal column attached. In addition, any skulls or skull plates must be clean of all soft tissue.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

Advances in technology have allowed us to deploy inexpensive trail cameras and cell base cameras to apprehend public land use violators. This technology saves us many manhours of surveillance and fuel costs associated with pulling memory cards from traditional trail cameras.

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

### TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*



# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State: **OKLAHOMA**

Col. Bill Hale

Prepared by: Capt. Bryan Wilkerson

Date: April 30, 2019

The following report covers the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (FY2019) 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

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

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

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

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

We currently have four warden vacancies the open positions are a result of retirements. No new game wardens were hired during this period.

We were able to purchase 21 Dodge four-wheel drive extended cab pickups and 2 crew cab pickup, all with the Dodge cargo management system. The equipment installed on this year's trucks include LED light bars, locking double gun racks, and grill guards. We purchased two eighteen foot jet boats with 110-80 horsepower motors and one sixteen foot flat bottom boat equipped with a 25 horsepower outboard jet prop motor. We purchased fifteen radios, ten digital high-band and five 800 megahertz radios to replace aging equipment. We have added a Streamlight TLR flashlight to the duty handgun and replaced all holsters to accommodate the added light.

We are currently researching body worn cameras to document contacts with the public and critical incidents. We have field tested a body worn camera system by Visual Labs which will provide download of video via a cell phone at a much lower cost than current Law Enforcement camera companies.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

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**

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

Wardens worked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the commercialization of ornate box turtles in Creek County. Two individuals were charged and paid. \$500 in court costs and \$10,000 in restitution.

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**

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

The Department took a major leap in technology by contracting with Brandt Information Services to manage license sales. All licenses sold by the agency are now acquired through Brandt including commercial licenses, on line checking of game, and special drawing hunt applications. Sportsmen can now carry proof of license on electronic devices and wardens can check licenses, license history, and harvest data via their telephones in the field.

We continue to support 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 from 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 Division 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**

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

New legislation and administrative rules:

The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission made changes to simplify rules on legal firearms for the taking of Big Game. Legislation has been proposed to allow the Commission to modify trapping rules and remove language from statute. A second case of CWD was discovered in a captive elk herd in northeast Oklahoma. We are working against proposed legislation that limits enforcement powers on private lands and relaxing rules to night taking of feral hogs.

### **COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES**

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

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.

We have discontinued the installation of CNG on vehicles due to repair and maintenance costs.

### **OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES**

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

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

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Texas**

Submitted by: Lieutenant Jason B Jones,  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,  
Law Enforcement Division

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Division (TPWD-LE) continues to develop and adopt training to ensure game wardens are prepared to meet the demands of their job.

- The 63<sup>rd</sup> Game Warden Academy will begin September 23, 2019, with 40 Game Warden Cadets and 15 Park Peace Officers. The trainees will endure 30 weeks of extensive training in state and federal law. Upon graduation the individuals will be certified Texas Peace Officers and commissioned by Texas Parks and Wildlife.
- Jujitsu is being included in the defensive tactics training curriculum for the enhancement of officer safety.
- The Game Warden Training Center has added a Lieutenant from State Park Police to assist with training.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Division maintains a force of over 550 game wardens statewide. TPWD-LE works with agency leadership, legislators, and constituents to ensure Texas Game Wardens are able to complete their mission. Texas is currently in a legislative session and we have several appropriation requests being considered.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

Significant advances have been made by TPWD-LE in response to major conservation law enforcement trends. Texas Game Wardens continue to adapt and excel.

- Commercial fisheries enforcement continues to be a high priority for resource sustainability and food safety (finfish, oysters, shrimp)



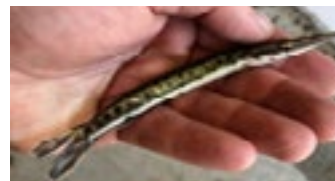
## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

- TPWD-LE continues to see increasing activity along the US/Mexico border and Gulf of Mexico with illegal fishing incursions by fishermen from Mexico. This year alone, Texas Game Wardens have confiscated 30k feet of illegal gill nets and 16 miles of illegal long lines placed in Texas waters. As international demand for products such as red snapper and shark fins increases we expect the illegal fishing pressure to parallel on Texas' fisheries. A recent week-long saturation enforcement effort from Brownsville to El Paso resulted in over 200 citations and warnings ranging from serious health violations involving illegal importation of oysters to administrative issues such as commercial license violations. TPWD-LE works closely with federal partners like NOAA, USGC, and CBP, not only in information sharing but joint patrol efforts as well.



- Game wardens have focused on Non-Game violations in and around the state's urban/metro areas in addition to their more traditional duties. They continue to develop relationships with USFW, USDA, and US Customs agents to facilitate interdiction of shipments of endangered and/or invasive species. A few of those species seized are:



Needle Fish



Freshwater Rays



Asian Swamp Eels

Game wardens worked closely with the federal agents identifying plants, animals, and merchandise that are forbidden, illegally possessed, or improperly documented. Over the course of five days, game wardens rotated working agents at various ports of entry. Northbound traffic from Mexico was inspected resulting in several seizures of protected plants and wildlife, along with incidental discoveries of non-resource related contraband. Staff met with the Mexican Consulate and Mexican Game Wardens prior to our border-wide operation to coordinate fish import inspections with our Mexican counterparts while also providing educational information to purchasers and retail fish dealers in the city of Acuña, Mexico.

#### **NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

- During the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session TPWD-LE was allocated the necessary funds to procure a new state of the art long range vessel for patrols in the Texas Gulf and along the maritime border to replace a 1980 era 65' Breaux Craft. The new 80'x 27' aluminum catamaran vessel will combine innovative design features critical to modern law enforcement on the water.
- Twin Caterpillar C18 Engines with Hamilton Jet HM521 waterjets
- Sleeps 6 (optional 7th)
- Secure transport room
- RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) fuel station
- 3 mounting posts w/ interchanging plate for M240B mounts (Security Escorts), Electric Bandit Reel (for long line), and hand crank winch system (hoist 400lb loads)
- Spectra Newport fresh water maker 350 gallons per day capacity



- For the past several years the TPWD LE Forensic Reconstruction and Mapping Team (STORM) has trained and deployed to boating accidents involving serious injury or death, hunting accidents, officer involved shootings and other critical incidents. During these trainings and deployments, the team utilizes sophisticated scanning and mapping equipment and software to re-create the event. More recently, the team acquired a cutting-edge FARO 3D laser scanner. This system enables the team to digitally capture the scene, analyze the data in 3D and deliver compelling courtroom presentations.
- The Law Enforcement Division has developed and implemented a UAS program division-wide. Currently, the program has 21 Drones and 15 FAA-licensed, TPWD trained and qualified UAS pilots. The program is constantly encountering new missions and uses, but primary mission focuses are: search and rescue, disaster assessment, crime scene investigation, tactical overwatch, accident reconstruction, fugitive apprehensions and improvements to training.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

The 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature began on January 8<sup>st</sup> and is expected to conclude its business on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Legislature has taken up several bills that would have a direct impact on TPWD operations.

- **HB 1828** creates a penalty structure corresponding to the weight of illegal products that are sold. Penalties range from a class C misdemeanor to a TPWD state jail felony.
- **SB 317** would exempt hunters of feral hogs from hunting license requirements.
- **SB 810** would amend Texas Parks and Wildlife Code statute related to the identification of captive bred deer in Texas. The discovery of CWD has increased the importance of disease monitoring and animal traceability.
- **SB 948** would amend Texas Parks and Wildlife Code by requiring in statute that all release sites for breeder deer be high fenced and that the fence be capable of retaining deer.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES**

- TPWD-LE operates a fleet of 650 four-wheel drive trucks, with a five year or 100k mile power train warranty. LE tries to replace vehicles at the 100k mile mark to reduce maintenance and repair costs. Also, the four-wheel drive trucks have a high resale value at the 100k range, which aids in replenishing capital funds to purchase new vehicles.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) have entered into a partnership to merge state-wide communications infrastructure. This will result in increased radio coverage and greater situational awareness for both agencies. This strategic partnership will create a savings to tax payers regarding labor, purchasing and contracting expenses, and equipment, maintenance, and infrastructure costs.

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Saskatchewan**

Submitted by: Glen Pranteau, Intelligence Officer

Date: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

- All Conservation Officers to be trained on the Sig Sauer MCX .556 caliber carbine by the end of the fiscal year.
- Other new training that officers are taking this year: Immediate Action Rapid Deployment (active shooter) and drug impairment training.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

- An additional \$846 thousand was added to support the ministry's conservation officer service in its role as part of the province's new Protection and Response Team.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

- Conservation officers now being part of the Provincial Protection and Response team for about a year now assist the local law enforcement on a regular basis.
- All officers will be required to complete WHMIS (OSHA) training this year.

The new electronic Versaterm Records Management System (RMS) was implemented this year. This was the first implementation of the Versaterm RMS for non-traditional police law enforcement agencies and it is multi-jurisdictional. Anticipated benefits of the multi-jurisdictional, integrated RMS will be:

- Improved officer safety due to improved information;
- Improved emergency response and agency interoperability capabilities through shared information and standardized protocols and practices;
- Higher investigation success rates due to improved access to information and quality of data. These factors allowed for proactive enforcement rather than a reactive approach;
- Dispatch operations efficiencies (reduced risk for dispatch operator error);
- Ability to electronically send and receive law enforcement data with other jurisdictions using national and international law enforcement data exchange standards;
- Improved law enforcement information security;
- Ability to meet requirements for RCMP/CPIC integration;
- Achieve regulatory compliance under FOIPP; and
- Improved oversight of law enforcement activities involving 300 officers at a Provincial level that are spread out over 400,000 square miles.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

- Conservation officers have entered an agreement with a Saskatchewan First Nation to enforce provincial wildlife and environmental laws on Tribal land.
- The Missouri man who was convicted of poaching, sentenced to one year in jail and forced to watch "Bambi" as part of his sentence was also convicted in Saskatchewan for illegally shooting a number of white-tailed deer, an antelope, a coyote and a badger.
- Another case involved a person from Quebec who was illegally outfitting in Saskatchewan. He and four other persons were convicted on numerous provincial and federal wildlife charges which resulted in over \$47,000.00 in fines, seized items forfeited and each person received 5-year hunting suspension.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

- Each officer will be issued a Sig Sauer MCX patrol rifle after required training.
- Every officer is issued a portable alcohol screening device (ASD).
- Issuance of portable Marijuana testing devices is expected within the year.
- All officers can now access the government driver data base (10-27's and 10-28's) either through smart phone or lap top.

## STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RE- SOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

- The Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear a Saskatchewan case of a Treaty Indian hunting on private land (R. v. Pieroni). This case now expands the original Supreme Court judgement, R. v. Badger, 1996, where Treaty Indians may hunt on private lands that are not in visible use.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*



# AMFGLEO/WAFWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

State Report – South Dakota

By: Andy Alban

Law Enforcement Administrator

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

This report covers the period April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019, for the State of South Dakota, Department of Game, Fish and Parks – Conservation Law Enforcement Program.

## AGENCY OVERVIEW

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

Straight Line Reporting Structure: **No** – Regional Supervisor positions are no longer required to be LE (currently two of four are LE). LE Administrator position resides within Division of Administration.

Number of Conservation Officers: **79 total officers:** 55 CO's, 12 District CO Supervisors, 4 Regional CO Supervisors, 1 Training Supervisor, 2 Regional Supervisors, 2 CO Specialists, 1 Investigations Supervisor, 1 Investigator, 1 LE Administrator.

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Civil disturbance training was provided by the South Dakota Highway Patrol to all GFP Conservation Officers and Park Rangers at spring in-service. Work is likely to begin on the Keystone XL Pipeline in 2019, and state officials are trying to learn from previous experiences in North Dakota. Protests are expected in South Dakota. The training provided our law enforcement officers with basic instruction in legal considerations, responsibilities of mobile field force teams, and crowd-control formations/methods. Our officers may be called upon to assist the Highway Patrol as a force multiplier.

### Honor Guard

In the spring of 2018, dress uniforms were distributed to our newly assembled Honor Guard Team (HGT). The first official unveiling of the HGT took place during law enforcement memorial week in Pierre. During that week, members participated in a two-day training alongside other HGTs in the state. The culmination of the week was when the officers participated in the law enforcement memorial ceremony at the state capitol with State Attorney General Marty Jackley in attendance. The HGT was also deployed twice in 2018 to render honors for fallen comrades with the Minnesota DNR.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

### 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 increase (47%) in pheasants in 2018 resulted in an increase (2,487 more or 70,843 total) in the sale of nonresident small game licenses, which correlated into a roughly \$300,000 gain in revenue. Conversely, combined (resident/nonresident) fishing license sale have shown a dramatic decrease (nearly 8,000 licenses), resulting in a revenue loss of more than \$200,000 when compared to 2017 fishing license sales.

### Hunt For Habitat Program

The highest demand licenses in South Dakota are those for bighorn sheep, mountain goat and elk. Certain deer and antelope licenses are also highly coveted. Currently, GFP collaborates with private non-profit organizations to offer an elk license raffle and a bighorn sheep license auction. The Hunt for Habitat initiative will include both an auction tag as well as raffle licenses. The raffle licenses will allow residents and nonresidents the opportunity to purchase raffle chances through the online licensing sys-

tem without restriction on the number that can be purchased. A restriction will be implemented so that no more than one set of Hunt for Habitat licenses can be issued to a nonresident in a year. Through, SB 153, the Legislature and the Governor approved to authorize the Game, Fish and Parks Commission the abilities to provide up to ten big game licenses through a raffle draw system with all proceeds going towards habitat.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

### Operation Dry Water (ODW) Efforts

The Department participated in the nationwide ODW effort on the weekend of July 5-7, 2018, with the goal of raising awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence and removing impaired operators from our nation's waterways. The weather was poor over much of the weekend. Statistics include:

- 11 operations/patrols
- 46 officers involved
- 161 vessels contacted
- 30 boating citations issued (8 of which were for boating under the influence)
- 28 warnings issued

### Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) Update

South Dakota has been a very active participant in the Compact since joining in 2004. In 2018, our state reported 479 violator names to the database. During that period, 7,616 violators were entered nationwide in the Compact. Considering those figures, South Dakota entered approximately 6% 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, 2017, through June 30, 2018, the TIPs program reported 261 investigations initiated through citizen reports, leading to 143 arrests, \$31,000 in fines and \$57,000 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 \$6,800 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.

### Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Issues

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease of cervids caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. In South Dakota, CWD was discovered in seven captive elk facilities during the winter of 1997-98 and in wild populations in 2001 when a positive white-tailed deer in Fall River County

was detected during the hunting season. Over the past two decades, samples have been submitted from hunter harvest, sick surveillance and other mortalities in an effort to monitor this disease. As a result, 13,590 white-tailed deer (125 positives) have been tested, along with 6,122 mule deer (81 positives), and 7,352 elk (194 positives) from across the state, including Wind Cave National Park and Custer State Park.

New research findings suggest a negative impact to population growth rates of deer and elk in neighboring western states. Updated prevalence rates of elk, primarily in Wind Cave National Park and Custer State Park, are concerning for the future sustainability of these local populations. Even though the Department has not intensively monitored CWD prevalence, it appears CWD is slowly spreading within the Black Hills and on the western prairie. CWD has not been confirmed outside of Custer, Fall River, Lawrence and Pennington counties, though past surveillance efforts were not designed to determine presence/absence across the state.

One of the Department's strategic plan priorities for 2019 is to enhance the Department's efforts to manage Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer and elk across the state and launch a strategic communications plan to educate and inform public about the safety, risks and any new regulations. An internal workgroup was created to lead and discuss CWD-related topics and is made up of staff from the big game program, communications, law enforcement, Custer State Park, administration as well as Commission representation. As part of the public involvement process, a stakeholder group has also been developed to provide input on the development of a draft action plan which will then be available for internal and public comment.

#### **NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

##### *Vehicle License Plates*

Department law enforcement vehicles, for years, were identified by a fleet number on the license plate. After some design work with the Department of Motor Vehicles, we began marking patrol vehicles with license plates bearing a conservation officer or park ranger badge followed by the assigned officer's call sign. It is anticipated that this will aid in the quick identification of each officer, especially upon the scene of an incident. It will also distinguish law enforcement from other Department employees.

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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

##### *Big Game License Preference Changes*

Following a presentation by Department officials this past December, the GFP Commission requested public input on a proposal to cube preference points for all 36 limited draw seasons in which preference points can be purchased and accrued. After receiving over 400 public comments, the GFP Commission approved the proposal at their January meeting. The overall purpose was to increase the drawing odds of applicants who have more years of accumulated preference points, while still allowing applicants with fewer preference points a chance to draw a limited license.

##### *Deer License Allocation Process*

The GFP Commission, after a rather controversial public comment process, passed a new deer license allocation proposal that would limit a hunter to apply for two of the six South Dakota deer seasons in the first draw. These seasons include: East River/Special Buck, West River/Special Buck, Black Hills, Muzzleloader, National Wildlife Refuge and Custer State Park. The overall goal was to provide all deer hunters an enhanced chance of getting their most preferred license, more often. It is anticipated that the changes will put 3,800 more deer hunters in the field who would have previously been sitting out as an unsuccessful applicant.

##### *2019 Legislative Session*

The 2019 Legislative Session saw a number of bills introduced that had potential effects on our agency. Notable bills that passed included one that allows individuals to use a drone to locate/spot predators and varmints, another which increases the penalty for a subsequent hunting/fishing/trapping conviction, and lastly one that authorizes the GFP Commission to provide for a special hunting license with the proceeds to be used for habitat. Bills defeated or tabled included one aimed to license outfitters/guides and another aimed at limiting the GFP Commission's ability to promulgate administrative rules.

##### *2018 Legislative Session*

*Below is a summary of applicable legislation that was enacted in 2018.*

- House Bill 1106 – An act to authorize hunting preference points to be granted to persons age ten years or older. This bill amends the minimum age when a person can apply for a preference point from twelve to ten.
- House Bill 1219 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding the use of night vision equipment in hunting. This bill amends SDCL 41-8-17 by adding a provision that allows adult landowners/occupants to issue written permission to no more than two guests who may hunt the species listed unaccompanied on that land and utilize night vision equipment and a .225 (or smaller) rifle.
- Senate Bill 137 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding the minimum hunting age. This bill amends SDCL 41-6-81 by removing the minimum age for mentored hunting.

#### **OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES**

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

##### *Department Celebrates 125 Years in Wildlife Law Enforcement*

The year 2018 marked the quasiquicentennial (125 years) of wildlife law enforcement in South Dakota. In 1893, the SD Legislature instructed each county board to appoint six fish wardens in each county. Fish wardens, later game wardens and now conservation officers, have come a long ways (sidearms, part of state constabulary, public safety retirement, etc.) since those days.

# ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

2019 Agency Report

State/Province: **Wisconsin**

Submitted by: Todd Schaller

Date: 4-10-19

## TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Wardens have increased their focus on recruiting for diversity in the workforce. We serve all the people of Wisconsin, so our team should look more like the people of our state. We are shifting our tactics to focus on whether candidates have core competencies (i.e. can they learn, can they communicate, can they lead, etc.), rather than if they have fish and game skills. These core competencies are often harder to teach than fish and game skills, so the tradeoff may be worthwhile to increase the diversity of our recruit classes. This strategy brings with it some training challenges and some strong feelings amongst current staff.

## FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

*Identify any recent developments in funding, staffing, and diversity in employment issues and describe what prompted these developments and how improvements in funding, staffing and diversity in employment were accomplished.*

Over the next 2-3 years the Bureau will likely see 1/2 of its upper level management team retire. There are another 14 Lts that will also be eligible to retire. That being the case, the Bureau hosted a succession planning event similar to a career fair for its credentialed and noncredentialed staff. Approximately 58 learners attended to find out some of the details on specific positions. Tables with coaches were set up for one on one discussions and meeting rooms were reserved for larger sessions. One of the larger sessions involved the Lt position; 43 staff had interest in this type of work.

## MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

*Identify any major cooperative, interstate, reciprocal or other cross jurisdictional law enforcement trends (e.g. including community policing, operator under the influence (OUI) initiatives, or other issues which fall outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement functions).*

In response to numerous coyote hunting contests the WI Legislature introduced Senate Bill 30 which prohibits the organization of and participation in contests for killing wild animals. "Contest" is defined as an organized or sponsored competition with the objective of taking, capturing, or killing a wild animal for entertainment or for the chance to win designated prizes. This bill appears to be written very broadly to include prohibiting the very popular "big buck" contests held throughout our state. This bill was introduced early in our legislative session so changes are likely.

WI held its first modern elk season during the fall of 2018. Based on the size of the herd and the management plan objectives 10 bull permits were authorized for harvest. Due to the Tribal Off-reservation agreement with our Chippewa Tribes they were provided 5 of the bull elk tags. During the hunt 9 elk were harvested within the season. Despite the fact the state hunters attended a mandatory education training one state hunter was cited for shooting an elk off the roadway. Civil citations, restitution and other fees cost hunter close to \$3000.00 in penalties. The elk was also confiscated. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Wardens also issued a citation to a tribal member for harvesting a bull without a permit. The bull was also seized and enforcement action taken in tribal court. In addition during the firearm deer season two elk were shot which was outside the elk permit and season structure. One individual self-reported the violation and the other is still under investigation.

## UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

*Describe any Interagency, interstate, international, state/tribal, or other cross jurisdictional enforcement efforts (e.g. major Lacey Act investigations, progress with Wildlife Violator Compacts, improvements in interagency communication (WCIS), etc.)*

Adam McGeshic was appointed the new Chief Warden of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Adam was a GLIFWC Field Warden prior to his recent appointment so the transition is occurring very smoothly. State wardens continue to work proactively with our GLIFWC LE partners with resource protection and customer service needs.

The Bad River and Red Cliff Chippewa Tribes have signed a new 10 year Lake Superior Fishing agreement with the State of WI. The agreement took about 4 years of negotiations to ensure our Tribal partners and state commercial and sport fishery can utilize the resource while improving protections to ensure a viable fishery for future years. The agreement requires all parties to regularly meet to and evaluate the agreement. If changes are necessary amendments to the agreement can be agreed upon.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Describe any innovations in equipment, enforcement techniques, forensics, etc.*

We are exploring and thoroughly researching the use of UAS (unmanned aerial systems – i.e. drones) for search and rescue, accident reconstruction and enforcement. This implementation will require approval from Department leadership (above LE), and requires careful consideration, planning, and an understanding of the vehicles.

Governor Evers designated 2019 as the Year of Clean Drinking Water and Assembly Speaker Vos established the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality. Both initiatives are intended to protect and enhance drinking water quality. Wisconsin has over 11,400 public water systems, which is more than any other state, and over two-thirds of residents receive their drinking water from ground water. Significant areas of emphasis are expected to be reducing lead & copper in public systems and nitrate, which is the most common groundwater contaminant in our state.

**Conservation Congress Voting:** The department uses an independently run citizen input process to collect feedback and recommendations about conservation issues (thus the Conservation Congress). In the past, input has been collected by in-person voting. This year the Congress opted to allow electronic (on-line) and in-person input. Results will be reported after the Congress meeting to be held April 8, 2019.

About the Conservation Congress - <https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/DelegateResources/WCCBrochure.pdf>



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

*Describe issues which impact or challenge law enforcement authority.*

**Legislative:** Legislative initiatives for conservation issues continue to trend towards de-regulation/regulation simplification—most likely because we are enjoying healthy wildlife populations with an ever sliding participation rate. Additional interest continues to be focused on increasing youth recruitment and hunter/trapper retention, and providing discounts/flexible regulations for diverse categories of veterans and disabled sportsman.

Bowfishing and hand-fishing (e.g. catfish “noodling”) continue to see increased prevalence and associated legislation, and recreational vehicle changes abound—particularly related to UTVs (e.g. Polaris RZR) and roadway usage (routes).

**Legal Issues:** Interactions between hunters/trappers and environmental protectionists/activists continues to be prevalent related to the use of hounds to assist with locating bear, bobcat, coyote, etc. These are challenging issues because they pit constitutional free speech concerns alongside state constitutional rights to hunt/fish/trap. An ongoing federal case is evaluating the constitutionality of the state’s hunter harassment law.

Warden authority under the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment remains an area of concern, particularly as related to open fields on private property, ice shacks, and tree stands. The combination of healthy fish and wildlife populations (no exigent public demand for aggressive enforcement), as well as the general erosion of privacy in light of technological advances (cell phones, social media, etc.), has increased public interest in maximizing privacy protection from government interference; this may ultimately present challenges for managing resources (held in common trust) that have previously been unseen in Wisconsin.

The proliferation of recreational vehicles, and associated accidents, continues to challenge the legal frameworks that govern their operations. In many respects, the reduced regulatory framework (as compared to generic motor vehicles) makes for prosecutorial challenges, particularly as related to –causing injury and –causing death accidents; a statutory overhaul is probably overdue for both snowmobiles and ATVs/UTVs to better reflect current culture associated with the devices and align their legal treatment with that of motor vehicles.

## COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

*Identify initiatives in any area which contributed to improvements in work effectiveness and fiscal efficiency.*

**Strategic Planning:** The BLE began strategic planning for FY 2020 and 2021. The two year plan cycle will coincide with legislative sessions into the future. A team of 20 BLE staff from all levels and disciplines began planning in late February and will conclude the process by June 30, 2019.

Our strategic plans help focus our efforts on both small adjustments and “big picture” ideas and changes, and include specific tactics to make those changes a reality. The current strategic planning process includes bureau staff from all generations, ranging from 25 years old to 45+. This diverse group of staff will provide valuable insight into current trends and upcoming

ing issues, while still valuing historical knowledge and perspectives.

## OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES TRAINING ISSUES

*Describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.*

Captive Wildlife issues continue to be very sensitive and time consuming. We have spent significant staff time and mileage working through these issues. Rehabilitator numbers have recently declined and that has magnified the problem. People are finding baby animals or injured animals more often and taking them home with good intentions of raising them or nursing them back to health so they can be released back into the wild.

We have seen increases of illegal activity on state land including smash and grab thefts and operating vehicles in unauthorized areas. Injuries have increased from cliff jumping and climbing in these state park and state natural areas over the last decade. Social Media has driven a part of this by drawing attention to these outdoor places.

Wardens in the southcentral portion of the state have been called up to respond to large scale weather events. Throughout the year wardens responded to floods, tornadic and wind events, wildland fires as well as large scale snow storms. Wardens were responsible for evacuating citizens from their houses and properties as well as automobiles during these large scale events. It has been realized that we are looked to more and more by local municipalities as experts during these events as many Deputies and Police Officers no longer share these areas of expertise. This is leading to enhancing our training and equipment for our responding staff.

Over the course of 2018 warden staff took over law enforcement responsibilities on our recreational properties in the state. This led to training events that needed to be held for warden staff as well as and law enforcement refreshers on: Domestic, MV OWI, Evictions, Disorderly conduct, and Family law and Child/Minor law. Wardens across the state focused law enforcement efforts on these properties and made numerous arrests for OWI, Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Theft, Destruction of Property, Drugs, Warrants to name a few. Wardens were also heavily involved with suicidal subjects on these properties as well as injuries and fatalities stemming from rock climbing.

**Law Enforcement Squad Marking:** To improve marketing of BLE work and relevancy we’re moving toward marked patrol vehicles (door magnets and fully marked). This step also increases the impacts of patrol presence in all areas of our work (rec vehicle, fish/game, state property). Prior to this direct BLE had no marked squads.