



2020 Bulletin

Law Enforcement Section

ALABAMA

Michael M. Weathers, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Law Enforcement Section of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division provides assistance in the protection and management of Alabama's wildlife resources and the safety of the public through a fair and balanced enforcement program.

TRAINING

COVID-19 has impacted all aspects of the Law Enforcement Section and training is no exception. With the inability to gather, even in small groups, a new approach to training and meetings had to be explored. Several virtual applications were evaluated, to include the ZOOM app and Microsoft Teams. None seemed to have the capability of effectively training several officers at once. Technical difficulties due to screen size, which was not conducive to instructors being able to clearly recognize problems or issues, wireless reception and application effectiveness caused the abandonment of this method of training in groups.

Reduced restrictions on video training allowed by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed the Section to utilize secure YouTube videos. Officers were required to sign-in to the channel and affirm, by email, that they had viewed and participated in the training. With the email affirmation held as a sign-in document, all requirements were met for the training to be counted as continuing educational units for law enforcement.

The federal mandate requiring documentation in the Federal National Incident-Based Reporting System resulted in a training session related to the online entry of important information into the national database. The system tracks details of specific violent and similar crimes. During the month of July, members of the Law Enforcement staff, with assistance from the statewide information and investigative branch of the state's Bureau of Investigation, used an open-air venue to instruct officers in the correct methods of data entry so that the Section would be in compliance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation mandate.

With Colt, Inc. restricting their sales to military contract only, the Law Enforcement Section had to seek out alternatives to their lightweight carbines, which had been purchased as a replacement for the government owned 1033 program rifles. The Springfield Armory Saint series of rifles was chosen, and the rifles are being distributed to the field officers. This rifle design has many attributes that enable their reliability and the Section foresees many years of use from them without issue. Each officer receiving a new rifle continues to attend an 8-hour training course which involves operation, qualification and maintenance. The order of Springfield rifles completes the 1033 replacement and the Section is proud to be self-reliant as related to firearms.

Two Honda ATVs and 5 suppressed Ruger rifles were acquired with funds assessed as part of a penalty from a guilty plea issued by a Game Breeder that was arrested for importation of live Cervidae in 2017. The ATVs and rifles will be utilized by Law Enforcement staff in the event our state has a confirmed CWD test, to survey properties and to sample deer populations in affected areas of the state.

FUNDING AND STAFFING

Limited access to records due to COVID-19 closures of court houses and other public offices hindered background investigations of potential employees. However, the Law Enforcement Section was able to hire 10 new employees in the past year. Among them is the first female from a minority group and the first Hispanic male in the Division's 113-year history. Advancements and COVID-19 social distancing adjustments to the Field Training Officer program allowed it to continue and be successful, regardless of the circumstances.



The extended State Personnel office closures also limited promotional opportunities within the Law Enforcement section during the year. Many supervisors took on extra tasks to fulfill duties that had been covered by those that retired. The Section moved forward with many promotions once State Personnel was able to supply required documents needed to properly fill the voids left by retirements.

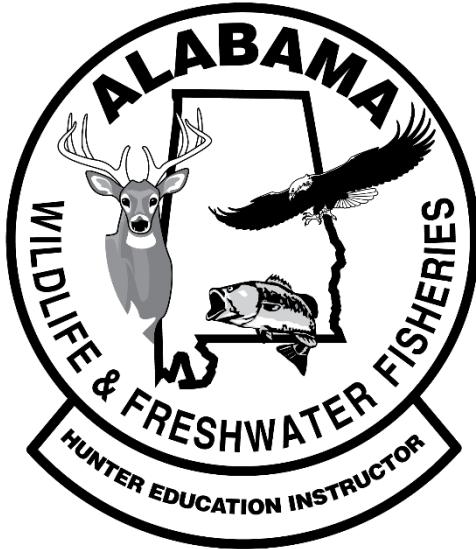
With governmental stay at home orders in place, the public decided to stay outside and enjoy the state's natural resources. The resulting record increase in sales of hunting and fishing licenses during the 2020 spring months will increase funding for future budgets. This will aid in the recovery of the downward trend of funding from license sales that Game and Fish agencies have experienced nationwide in recent years. Hopefully, those first-time license buyers and those that had not purchased a license in many years will continue to take advantage of the resources and contribute to conservation by purchasing a license in the future.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Communications through the new Dispatch Center, created from a partnership with the Alabama Forestry Commission, continues to operate well. This is a vast improvement over past communications systems and provides officers with reliable, round the clock contact with the dispatch center for all necessary assistance without issues related to reception.

Meetings regarding the transition of the Division's Hunter Education unit to the Law Enforcement Section have come to an end and that transition will take effect on October 1, 2020. Division Administration believes that the future success of both Section and Unit rely on the move and all involved look forward to the challenges ahead. The manpower available within the Law Enforcement Section will enable the success of public range

operations and outreach, resulting in increased licensed sales and operation fees for the sustainment of future budgets.



Game Breeder licenses in Alabama are based upon animal inventory numbers determined by spring farm inspections as set out in statute. Out of caution for COVID-19 exposure, enforcement staff avoided on site farm visits in the spring of 2020. However, utilizing the online Game Breeder database, a real-time inventory count was established on a predetermined date for all breeders in the state. This accurate number, not an estimation, determined license fees for the following year and follow up site visits were made in the fall during the license renewal process.

The Baiting Privilege License set forth by the legislature and utilized for the hunting of white-tailed

deer and feral swine took effect last season. With some funds from the sale of the licenses being eligible for federal match, the resulting sale of the licenses was interesting, to say the least. In fact, because there are no exemptions for landowners or age groups, more Baiting Privilege licenses were sold than were hunting licenses. Residents pay \$15.00 for the license and nonresidents pay \$51.00 for the privilege. The matching funds will also aid greatly in the aforementioned recovery from downward license sale trends.

ARKANSAS

Greg Rae, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Since our last report we have had some changes in our administrative staff at Headquarters. Major Jason Parker, who was over or training, radio room and shop retired after many years of service. Jacob Dunn, who was most recent a Captain supervising district C4 in southeast Arkansas, was promoted to Major. Major Dunn is a welcome addition to our staff. With this promotion we reorganized duties for the administrative staff. Major Dunn took over the responsibilities of supervising the 6 districts that make up the east region of Arkansas and Major Young took over the responsibilities of supervising our Special Operations group, training center, radio room and radio shop.

TRAINING

We are nearing the end of the E-1-20 academy and will be graduating 12 new Wildlife Officers on July 31st. To say the least this has been a challenging time in regard to training. Three weeks into the training COVID 19 impacted the country and the state of Arkansas. We had to adjust our training and took the cadets away from our training facility and put them in the field with experienced officers. We are now ready to graduate these men and women and send them to their duty assignments across the state. Once they arrive in their districts, they will begin an 8-week field training program.

This year we had Lieutenant Tracey Blake slated to attend the FBI National Academy and Sergeant Joe Williams slated to attend the NACLEC Leadership Academy. As all of you know both were cancelled due to COVID

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

There is little doubt we are in stressful and challenging times in law enforcement. In Arkansas we have been engaged in actions I never thought would occur. We have patrolled the streets of our capitol city trying to curb the violence during recent protests. We have joined forces with other law enforcement agencies across the state to assist in protecting their communities. We have addressed and encouraged citizens to adhere to mandates by our government as they relate to social distancing and our most recent mandate which is a mandatory mask order. The one thing I have observed through all of this is that Game

Wardens adapt and rise to the challenge no matter what situations they find themselves in. "Game Wardens are at their best when situations are at their worst".

The division's special operations teams continue to perform at a high level. These teams include dive team, K9 units, Honor Guard, UAS (drone) program and special investigations. All of these teams are very well respected around the state. They are each called upon, on a regular basis, to assist other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies with various tasks.

The AGFC Dive Team has responded to numerous activations this past year. The dive team not only works on conservation law enforcement issues; it is also available for call outs from other law enforcement agencies. The dive team assisted with evidence and drowning recovery. Dive Team members have been invaluable in locating and recovering critical evidence for law enforcement agencies, resulting in the arrest and conviction of suspects and all other valuable training the team deems necessary.

The AGFC Honor Guard consists of 24 members statewide with duties that are twofold. One being, they always look professional and make the Enforcement Division extremely proud but in almost all cases they are not called into action until something dire has happened. With the passing of retired officers and the deaths of other agency personnel unfortunately their services have been used on multiple occasions this past year. For several years now Arkansas has sent a group of Honor Guard members to assist in activities of police week in Washington DC. This has always been a reward for the hard work the members put forth through the year. With the cancelation of police week activities no one was sent. We hope to resume this practice in May of 2021.

The AGFC K9 units are an amazing group of officers. The dedication they show to their duties and community is amazing. They are call upon daily to respond to requests to find missing persons, evidence, track fugitives and numerous public relation programs. They consistently preform at a high level and are usually the first called by law enforcement agencies if K9 services are required.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

Funding continues to be an issue. As it is with many other states' revenue continues to play a major role in attaining our mission. With the outbreak of COVID and the closing or cancellation of many activities this past spring Arkansas experienced a rise in fishing license sales and a sharp decline in the agencies operating budget because of a remote work

policy. Our Conservation sales tax revenues continue to remain steady and or PR money has increased. We are cautiously optimistic about our financial situation however; we remain fiscally conservative until we get a clearer picture of the future. We are currently only replacing essential personnel. I last reported we were exploring ways to reduce the cost of training so we can continue to remain as close to full staff as possible. We experimented with trying to hire a class of cadets that are certified officers coming into school. This will allow us to cut the training time more than half. The class will only be 8 weeks long instead of the 18 weeks that it is currently. This will drastically decrease the cost of training. After the initial interviews it was clear that we would not get enough applicants that would meet our standards, so we elected to have a traditional class.

We are still fully involved with our intern program. These college students apply for a summer intern position and it gives us a chance to evaluate them to see if they would be a good fit for our profession. This program has proved successful for us in the past. We completed the interview process and then COVID hit and our Directorate elected suspend this program for the summer.

We continue to pursue new and innovative ways to protect our wildlife, fish and natural resources. Networking and information sharing are great avenues to pursue these objectives.

FLORIDA

Curtis Brown, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement's consists of 848 sworn personnel who operate in six regions throughout the state. FWC officers are responsible for uniformed patrol and investigative law enforcement services on more than 8,400 miles of coastline, 13,200 square miles of offshore waters, and over 34 million acres of land encompassing a variety of habitats including wildlife management areas, state parks and state forests. FWC officers stand as sentinels for the protection of Florida's precious resources and the public who utilize these resources. FWC officers are highly trained, versatile law enforcement officers with full police powers and statewide jurisdiction. Additionally, FWC's cooperative agreements with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cross-deputize our officers allowing them to enforce federal marine fisheries and wildlife laws, ensuring state and federal consistency in resource protection. FWC officers are an effective model of modern law enforcement multi-tasking – providing law enforcement services for: the protection and enforcement of laws relating to all wild animal and aquatic resources; public safety in Florida's state parks; boating safety enforcement; the protection of the public in rural, semi-wilderness, wilderness and offshore areas where no other law enforcement agencies routinely patrol; regulating commercial wildlife activities and inspecting personal and commercial native/exotic wildlife facilities; natural disaster and civil disturbance response; search and rescue missions; the prevention of illegal shipping of protected and regulated wildlife into Florida's ports; dignitary protection; mutual aid requests; and domestic security initiatives.

TRAINING

FWC Training Center

The FWC Law Enforcement Academy graduated 33 new officers on August 16, 2019 and began training 37 new officer recruits on October 16, 2019 which were scheduled to graduate in 2020. The training of back-to-back academies and sometimes with a several month overlap, is an extremely demanding pace for training staff, but has helped maintain a solid workforce in the state with minimal vacancies.

During the eight-month academies, recruits were trained and certified in both traditional and conservation law enforcement. Some of the key areas the recruits trained in were, basic law enforcement arrests, law and patrols, vessel operations, species identification, marine fisheries enforcement (state and federal), emergency response, captive wildlife, state parks enforcement and patrols, land tracking and navigation, first aid, boating under the influence, defensive tactics and de-escalation methods, firearms and active shooter.



FWC Training Section In-Service and Recruiting

In-service training in 2019 included a transition to a new firearm (Glock 17 9mm), holster and weapon mounted light. Regional trainers trained all sworn personnel on the new duty equipment and had the daunting task of collecting and documenting the old gear for trade-in all within a 4-month timeframe. Additional in-service training highlighted the appropriate use of non-lethal weapons and use of force scenarios including opportunities for de-escalation.

Division recruiters continued their diversity recruiting mission by attending job fairs, spontaneous recruiting and assisting new applicants with the hiring process.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Boating and Waterways

The Boating Safety Unit (BSU) coordinates and administers Florida's Recreational Boating Safety Grant. The BSU also manages Florida's boating accident report process which includes reviewing and approving all reportable boating accident reports before they are submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard. These reports are compiled annually to create Florida's Boating Accident Statistical Report. The BSU uses this statistical data to create radio, television and print media outreach promoting boating safety and education. This data is also used to improve boating safety related educational materials purchased each year. The BSU reviews and approves boating safety education courses, issues Boating Safety Education ID cards to students who have passed the approved courses and manages Florida's boater safety education temporary certificate program allowing boaters to more quickly comply with Florida's boater education requirement.

In 2019, the BSU participated in the Florida State Fair, the Miami International Boat Show, the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, the Life Jacket Association Conference, the International Convention of Allied Sports Trades (ICAST), the International Boatbuilders Exhibition (IBEX), and the Parasail Operators Symposium. BSU staff also helped coordinate National Safe Boating Activities, including press conferences and boating safety demonstrations, in each of the FWC regions around the state. Collectively, these events allowed FWC to reach millions of boaters with vital safety messaging.



Multiple Law Enforcement Agencies represented in Miami in support of National Safe Boating Week 2019



FWC Division of Law Enforcement educational booth at the Florida State Fair.

The FWC's Boating Under the Influence (BUI) enforcement efforts in 2019 were a tremendous success. Statewide, FWC officers made 617 BUI cases, removing impaired operators from the waters of the state. The BSU was directly involved in training new and current officers through boating accident investigation and reporting courses. More than 54,000 boating safety identification cards were issued to individuals.

The Boating Access Unit (BAU) is responsible for the coordination and administration of Florida's Boat Access Program. The State Game Trust Fund, the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and the Federal Grants Trust Fund support the BAU's strategy to identify, develop, maintain and expand boating access sites in coordination with local governments and stakeholders.

The BAU coordinates and administers two grant programs: the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) and Florida's Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP).

The FBIP is a state financial assistance program that provides funding through competitive grants for boating access projects and boating-related activities on coastal and inland waters within the state. Eligible program participants include county governments, municipalities, and other governmental entities of the State of Florida. In 2019-20, eighteen (18) applications were awarded totaling \$3,501,911 in grant dollars; comprised of \$2,502,646 in State Trust Funds and \$999,265 in Federal Sportfish Restoration funds.

The BIGP is administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and FWC is the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for the BIGP in Florida. The BIGP provides funding for the construction, renovation, or maintenance of boating infrastructure for transient (those staying at a facility for 15 days or less) recreational vessels at least 26 feet long that are used primarily for pleasure. In 2019-20, three applications were awarded totaling \$1,321,971.76 in grant dollars.

Since the mid-1950s, the Commission has built boat ramps in the state that are available to the boating public free of charge. Most sites are open 24 hours a day. Due to the public need for access, FWC staffs a full-time crew to handle construction and repair. The Boat Access Field Unit inspects and maintains all 244 ramps owned and operated by FWC or maintained by FWC with cooperator agreements. Additionally, the BAU aids with waterway marker inventory which includes inventories and assessments, installations, inspections of contractor installations, and flipping waterway marker signs during manatee seasons.

The BAU created the Florida Public Boat Ramp Finder, which provides descriptive information, maps, and photographs for over 1,900 public and commercially maintained boat ramps throughout Florida.



FWC's Boat Access Field Unit working on boat ramps

The Waterway Management Unit (WMU) oversees and coordinates statewide regulatory waterway markers to ensure compliance with the uniform marker system and to improve compliance of state boating and resource protection zones. The unit also manages the promulgation of "Boating Safety Restricted Areas" on the waters of the state for any purpose deemed necessary to ensure the safety of the public. The WMU is responsible for properly marking boating restricted areas and manatee protection zones implemented under its authority. Statewide, the WMU is responsible for more than 10,000 regulatory markers and buoys. This can be a challenging task - especially in the aftermath of natural disasters, such as hurricanes. The WMU maintains an On-Call Response Program system for identifying and correcting discrepant waterway markers throughout Florida that may pose a threat to public safety. During 2019, the WMU responded to a total of 183 incidents; an increase of 55 percent when compared to historical averages.



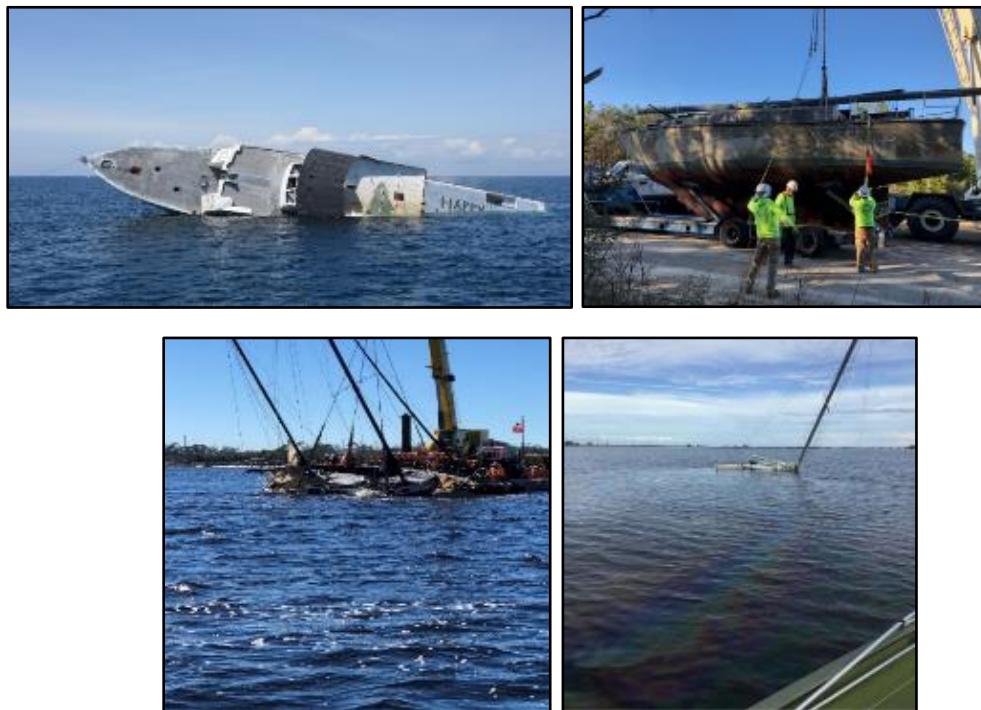
The Derelict Vessel Removal Program is also managed by the WMU. Derelict and abandoned vessels littering the state pose an environmental hazard, as well as a hazard to navigation. These vessels cause the destruction of valuable seagrass resources and the marine life which exist within that habitat. Derelict vessels also threaten human life, safety and property as they drift beneath the surface of the water or block navigable waterways, posing a navigation hazard to the boating public. Currently \$1,000,000 has been allocated

for the Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program for 2019-2020. To date, 14 contracts representing 60 vessels in the amount of \$586,826.24 have been obligated for removal funding assistance to cities and counties throughout Florida. A total of \$413,173.76 remains for additional assistance through January 31, 2021. Thanks to the Florida Legislature, this continuing program has been able to help state, county and local governments with the costs related to the removal of derelict vessels, stimulating removal activity throughout the state.

As a result of multiple large-scale hurricanes making landfall in Florida over the past several years, FWC has received federal funds to address marine debris removal and hot spot mapping. Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys on September 10, 2017 as a Category 4 storm with winds of 130 mph and a storm surge over five feet. The storm then churned up Florida's Gulf coast. Damage estimates from this hurricane range from \$58 to \$83 billion. Materials from infrastructure, vessels and fishing gear littered Florida's coastal waters. FWC received a grant (\$4.5 million) from the NOAA-Marine Debris Program as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to lead (FWC-Principal Investigator (PI)) and coordinate debris removal and mapping statewide. This grant runs from October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2022 and includes four projects: 1 - Derelict Vessel Database Upgrade and Removal and Disposal of Derelict Vessels; 2 - Buoyed Derelict Fishing Gear Removal and Underwater debris, including fishing gear in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS); 3 - Identification and removal of derelict fishing gear and other non-vessel marine debris elsewhere in the State of Florida; and 4 - Assess the prevalence of marine debris in and around Aquaculture Use Zones in Florida through routine annual surveys and post-severe storm event surveys.

- Project 1 - Derelict Vessel Database Upgrade and Removal and Disposal of Derelict Vessels, will provide needed updates to the existing DV database. FWC Division of Law Enforcement has developed and maintains a statewide derelict vessel database used to track derelict vessels within the state. This database is utilized by both FWC law enforcement officers and 59 other county and municipal law enforcement agencies within the state. During hurricanes Matthew and Irma, there was a need for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and others to view those vessels that were caused by the hurricanes separately from those vessels occurring prior to or after the storms. The existing database does not have this layering functionality. The database project's purpose is to make a stable platform that contains both the existing database format with an additional layer dedicated to hurricane input. In addition to database upgrades, this project also targets the removal of hurricane DVs (292 initial projections, 52 remaining) that were found not to meet the requirements for removal under Emergency Support Function-10 guidelines.

FWC possesses the expertise to identify, evaluate, and execute marine debris removal projects as well as manage impacts to fish and wildlife resources and sensitive coastal and marine habitats. Beyond hurricane response and removal, addressing marine debris issues aligns with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) mission, "To manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people." FWC has constitutional authority to regulate and manage over 100 listed species, many of which are impacted by marine debris. Over the past decade, the agency has become increasingly involved in marine debris research, removal, and prevention efforts throughout the state and Gulf Region and is often looked to by stakeholders as resource impact subject matter experts. In addition to hurricane marine debris response and removal, FWC is involved in numerous inter-agency collaborations and stakeholder partnerships to reduce marine debris and its impacts. Marine debris is a complex, ubiquitous, and growing global threat and we are working to increase intra-agency coordination of FWC marine debris efforts, furthering FWC's capacity to lead, serve as a resource, and partner in statewide and regional marine debris management.



CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Offshore Patrol

The Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) fleet consists of fifteen specialized boats strategically dispersed across Florida's extensive coastline. Of the agency's two heavy endurance vessels, the Gulf Sentry operates out of St. Petersburg while the CT Randall is docked at Marco Island. Heavy endurance & endurance vessels conduct one to four-day patrols offshore in the Gulf of Mexico covering hundreds of miles. The crews perform resource and boating safety inspections on commercial and recreational fishing vessels. Missions also include providing a reliable operations platform for FWC's dive team program. Many of the OPV vessels provide the space, range and stability for dive related training missions, such as search and rescues, that occur in open waters. The OPV crews' primary enforcement efforts consist of Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) patrols of Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters and safely conducting commercial shrimp boat inspections to ensure compliance with Turtle Excluder Device (TED) regulations.



FWC's law enforcement offshore platforms serve multiple functions for the State of Florida. OPV members have utilized interdisciplinary collaborative communication between law enforcement and research personnel of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). Joint missions have been made to the Madison-Swanson Marine Reserve and other locations within the Gulf of Mexico. During these missions, marine biologists from FWRI have been onboard to conduct Acoustic Telemetry research within the Madison-Swanson boundaries. Through this joint mission, both groups gain a better understanding of each's knowledge and long-term conservation objectives.

OPV crews have also collectively built upon the agency's relationship with the NOAA Office



of Law Enforcement (OLE) through working joint enforcement efforts during the year. The two agencies have teamed up to work details and patrols to address TED regulations, reef fisheries enforcement and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries enforcement within the Tortugas Ecological Reserves.

Through the 2019-20 JEA year, OPV teams completed over 3,300 hours of

dedicated federal JEA offshore patrol. These efforts have resulted in over 200 federal fisheries violations being documented and referred to NOAA OLE. An additional 370 marine fisheries violations have been documented through state citations and warnings.

STATEWIDE INVESTIGATIONS / INTELLIGENCE

Statewide Investigations

This section works to uncover criminal conspiracies and criminal networks. Reports are prepared along with other intelligence information in support of FWC staff, law enforcement partners, and stakeholders. This information is used for crime prevention and decision-making purposes while also protecting stakeholders and legal businesses from unfair competition by unlicensed, illegal entities.

The primary role of the Investigations Section is to conduct, coordinate and support investigative operations statewide. The section provides specialized training, administrative, and technical support for regional investigations as well as uniform patrol in each of the six regions around the state. The section works closely with other local, state and federal partners as well as stakeholders, with a primary focus on the illegal commercialization of Florida's natural and historical resources. The Investigations Section also supervises long-term covert operations which focus on large scale resource violators who illegally commercialize natural resources over multiple jurisdictions for personal financial gain and those habitual wildlife offenders that have not been brought to justice via more overt means.

The Investigations Section provides five unique services statewide.

- Covert Resource Investigations
- Digital Forensics, Electronic Surveillance and Hi-Tech Investigative Support
- Internet Crimes Unit Coordinator
- Intelligence Unit
- Fish and Wildlife Forensics

Case Spotlight: Hi-Tech Investigations Support

Northeast regional law enforcement officers apprehended two individuals poaching flying squirrels in Central Florida. Flying squirrels are frequently sold in

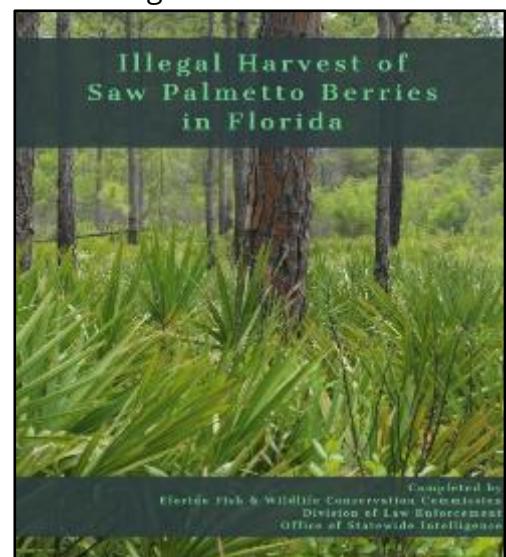


the international pet trade but are prohibited to take from the wild. The apprehended individuals were employees of Knox Farms. Knox Farms is a licensed alligator farm, turtle aquaculture facility and dealer in captive bred wildlife. The farm was suspected of laundering wild caught animals through the business licenses. Court orders were obtained to install mobile tracking devices on suspect vehicles and cellphone tracking of suspects. The tracking located approximately 3,000 squirrel traps in Central Florida with ongoing poaching of flying squirrels, freshwater turtles, alligators and other species of wildlife. Financial analysis, data tracking and surreptitious export inspections pieced together an elaborate international wildlife trafficking ring exporting poached wildlife to South Korea, California, Illinois and many other states. In three years, Knox farms sold approximately 3,600 flying squirrels generating gross sales of \$213,800 to the farm. The value of the poached squirrels exceeded \$900,000 in retail sales. The wildlife trafficking ring was arrested on charges of Racketeering, Money Laundering, Scheme to Defraud and additional white-collar crime charges through the Statewide Prosecutor's Office.

Intelligence

Intelligence analysts provide multiple services to officers and investigators in the field, as well as to other state and federal agencies. Analysts also serve as interagency Fusion Liaisons within the Florida Fusion Center located at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Working directly with the Fusion Center provides the Intelligence Unit the ability to receive classified and unclassified information from federal partners and disseminate threat information from other state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector entities.

Regional Intelligence Liaison Officers around the state coordinate with municipal, state and federal law enforcement agencies regarding law enforcement intelligence and domestic security. The officers work jointly with federal partners such as the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, United States Coast Guard (USCG) Intelligence, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. FWC analysts responded to 1,735 requests for information to include workups on individuals and companies. They also processed 372 Field Intelligence Reports submitted by officers in the regions. FWC analysts completed over 68 photo lineups for our agency, as well as other agencies and completed 24 photo/video enhancements. They prepared and disseminated 109 FWC bulletins. They



assisted with 579 tips received from the public through social media and the tip line and conducted 187 background investigations for FWC employment (sworn, non-sworn). During this fiscal year, Florida had 1,249 vessels and motors reported as stolen. The Intel Team also completed an in-depth research paper on the Illegal Harvest of Saw Palmetto Berries in Florida that was distributed to FWC, as well as other state and federal partners.

This unit has access to vast amounts of information through multiple databases and the Florida Fusion Center.

Some of the services the unit provides include:

- Work Ups
- Penlink (Analysis of search warrant/subpoena data)
- Photo Lineups
- Facial Recognition
- Link Charts
- Research Projects
- Pull Statistical Data and provide analysis
- Cell Phone Data Analysis
- Financial Analysis
- Trip Tickets/FWC History
- Wage Information
- Associates, LKA's, phone numbers
- Audio/Video/Photo Enhancement
- Charts/Graphs for Court
- Assist with Derelict Vessel Investigations
- Out of State Information
- GIS/Mapping
- Collaborate with other analysts for additional information

Digital Forensics, Electronic Surveillance and Hi-Tech Investigative Support

FWC's investigative support team is staffed with two statewide investigators and one lieutenant. The unit's responsibility is to support law enforcement operations with forensic evidence recovery, data analysis, electronic surveillance assistance, hi-tech investigative tactics and financial crime analysis. The unit specializes in IP and covert camera deployments, mobile device tracking and cellphone tracking technology. The two investigators are certified by the National Technical Investigator's Association (NATIA) as Certified Technical Investigators. The lieutenant conducts the digital forensics component of the unit's field support and is certified by the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS) and the National White-Collar Crime Center (NW3C) as a Certified Cyber Crime Examiner. The team provides financial analysis support and the lieutenant is also certified by the NW3C as a Certified Economic Crime Forensic Examiner.



Case Spotlight: Digital Forensics

Officers from the Northeast Region viewed an internet forum posting of a trophy whitetail deer they suspected was unlawfully taken and by armed trespass. The officers articulated probable cause to obtain search warrants at the suspect's residence for digital cameras and cell phones used for internet postings. The officers seized 13 camera SD cards and two iPhones. The forensic analysis confirmed the deer was taken unlawfully and by armed trespass. Additionally, six new counts of armed trespass were documented and three surprising cases of shooting protected birds of prey. The two suspects were arrested on 24 felony and three misdemeanor charges.

I shoved the dead hawk under marks old trailer wagon 😊

Read: 8/14/2019 12:41:29 PM(UTC-4)

If ya shoot anything don't mention it on Facebook till we get your license. We can call and do it over the phone if u get 1

Delivered: 9/18/2019 6:50:59 PM(UTC-4)

Wally's Post ...

Congratulations to my bride [REDACTED] for joustin a good'n this eve. Her 4th with a bow, but she's only been bow hunting or any kind of hunting for that matter. She's a recovering bunny hugger!! Bless her heart. The ol Rage Hypodermic did its job.. deer was hard quartered away at 18 yards and she put it just in front of the last rib and he went 50 yards and piled up. She's been grinnin like a possum ever since. Good job babe!



Put the gun away and don't answer the door. Lol

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Case spotlight: Electronic Surveillance

FWC investigators installed cameras on a freshwater turtle trafficking ring operating from a residence in South Florida. The resulting investigation led to multiple state and federal charges for the international trafficking of Florida's freshwater turtles; 612 wild caught freshwater turtles were seized at the residence with a retail value of \$200,000.00. Additionally, a half- pound of marijuana, 27 vials of THC oil and 11 packets of THC wax were also seized.



Internet Crime Unit

FWC's Internet Crimes Unit (ICU) is staffed by 24 regional investigators and coordinated by one Statewide Investigations Lieutenant. Investigators are trained to collect evidence generated from internet-based social media and advertising sites such as Facebook, Craigslist, Instagram, and eBay. Investigators document criminal evidence and conduct undercover operations of illegal wildlife sales over the internet. Additionally, FWC coordinates the Wildlife Cybercrimes Enforcement Group (WCEG), a national collaboration of wildlife conservation internet crime investigators.

Case Spotlight



The North Central Region received a tip of several individuals illegally bear hunting in Florida and posting some of the incriminating pictures on social media. Officer Bret Gill and Investigator Todd Hoyle served multiple search warrants on Snap Chat, Instagram, Facebook, Verizon, Apple, and seized eleven cell phones for forensic examination. The investigation resulted in nine suspects from Florida, Georgia, and Virginia being charged with Conspiracy to Commit Racketeering, Animal Cruelty, Felony Littering, and Illegal Use of a Two-Way Communication Device.

Fish and Wildlife Forensics

FWC's fish and wildlife forensics program has entered into a formalized collaborative partnership with the University of Florida. FWC's forensics laboratory has relocated to the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville, Florida. This collaboration will allow for the expansion of services offered and now includes, DNA and molecular biology, expertise in entomology, botany, pathology, osteology, and toxicology. The current capabilities of the FWC forensic laboratory includes species identification of most encountered terrestrial species and many marine species, sex identification, and DNA fingerprinting for a variety of species such as white tail deer, black bears, turkeys, canids, and felids.



Marine Law Administrator

The Marine Law Administrator (MLA) serves as the Division liaison for all fishery related issues assisting statewide LE operations on conveying consistent FWC philosophy and enforcement practices. The MLA coordinates with the Division of Marine Fisheries and Freshwater Fisheries on all stakeholder issues including rule development and guidelines. This liaison position serves as a conduit with the other divisions to facilitate open communication and messaging of law enforcement roles, priorities, limitations, and expectations. The MLA reviews applications for special activity licenses and permits being considered by the Divisions of Marine and Freshwater Fisheries and provides law enforcement consultation. This position also works with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with regards to shellfish patrol policy documents and shellfish patrol concerns.

The MLA also serves as the agency representative for law enforcement issues related to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Law Enforcement Committee, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Law Enforcement Advisory Panel and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Law Enforcement Technical Committee. Additionally, this position serves as the agency representative for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference and federal fisheries issues. As a member of these organizations, there is opportunity to sit on various advisory and technical groups, as well as act as chair or co-chair as experience dictates.

Wildlife Law Administrator

The Wildlife Law Administrator (WLA) serves as the DLE liaison to FWC's Division of Hunting and Game Management and Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. The WLA provides input during rule making and revision processes. This law enforcement input helps ensure that rules and regulations are consistent and enforceable. This liaison position between divisions serves as an internal bridge across disciplines to facilitate open communication and understanding of roles, priorities, limitations, and expectations. This interaction assists with managing the expectations of those partners with regards to LE capabilities and historic enforcement philosophy on certain rules and statutes. It also allows the Division the opportunity to create a clear message standardizing operation through consistent enforcement practices as well as establishing priority focused patrols. This position supervises one lieutenant who serves as an intel liaison with USCG, one lieutenant working with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task force, and a two-person DLE GIS mapping team. The WLA provides statewide coordination of the Wildlife Alert, Wildlife Violator Compact, Port Investigations, and DLE GIS programs.

Wildlife Alert

The Investigations Section coordinates the Wildlife Alert Reward Association Program. During the fiscal year, the program received 349 calls, 1,939 email or web tips and 1,518 texts totaling 3,825 tips statewide. Rewards totaling \$20,400 were dispersed to concerned citizens that provided information leading to an arrest. Donations/fines totaling \$83,121 were received by the Association for the year. The Wildlife Alert program purchased and outfitted a mobile trailer as an outreach tool. This trailer is now available for use by FWC personnel around the state to increase awareness of the Wildlife Alert program and encourage the public to partner in resource conservation by providing confidential information.



Wildlife Violator Compact

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (Compact) is an agreement that recognizes suspension of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses in all Compact member states. Currently 48 of the 50 states have enacted legislation that makes them a part of the Compact.



Any person whose license privileges or rights are suspended in a Compact member state may also be suspended in all other Compact states. The Compact prevents poachers who are under revocation in one state, from hunting, fishing, or trapping in other states. This cooperative interstate effort enhances the FWC's ability to protect and manage Florida's wildlife resources.

Port Investigations Unit

Florida's ports are the front lines of an ongoing war between law enforcement and those who unlawfully import or export illegal fish and wildlife. The illegal importation and exportation of wildlife through Florida's ports is a significant and growing issue. The FWC has expanded the Port Investigations Canine (K-9) Unit to support its existing Division of Law Enforcement Port Investigators to enhance the agency's capabilities to detect and stop illegal shipments. The K-9 unit consists of five dogs and their law enforcement handlers. These teams are geographically dispersed across the state, located near the ports of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville providing consistent inspections and enforcement at Florida's major ports. Their mission is to detect the unlawful commercial trade and trafficking of fish, wildlife, and related contraband.

DLE GIS Team

Geographic Information System (GIS) software is designed to capture, manage, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information – of which 95% of all DLE data can be presented. GIS is a tool that provides users with the technology to reference complex spatial data to help understand and find solutions for a variety of questions or problems.

Recent mapping related projects include a vessel asset location tracking system, as well as an intelligence mapping tool used by officers to more efficiently enforce resource violations during peak seasons. By overlaying data including prior violations, biological records, and real time intelligence including feeder, tree stand, and property boundaries, officers can work smarter to be in the right place at the right time to encounter violations. GIS staff also deploys as part of the displaced vessel recovery mission following hurricanes, utilizing

mapping technology to accurately represent the size and scope of the problem and mission. Additionally, the Captive Wildlife Permits locations mapper is a resource used by personnel when responding to natural disasters.

Captive Wildlife



The FWC promotes responsible ownership of captive wildlife and it is our goal to develop the best regulations possible to provide for public safety, animal welfare, and the legitimate use of wildlife for educational, exhibition, or personal purposes. Florida's captive wildlife regulations are among the most stringent in the nation. The FWC Captive Wildlife Section works to ensure that all individuals who possess wildlife (any non-domesticated species) in Florida are properly licensed and meet all safe housing and humane treatment standards. FWC investigators routinely conduct inspections of captive wildlife facilities, with the strictest category of regulated wildlife (Class I) typically inspected on a bi-annual basis. Investigators perform inspections to ensure humane treatment and sanitary conditions are in place for the animals; verify compliance with caging and security requirements to maintain public safety; and to confirm proper records of sale and licensure are maintained. Investigators also conduct overt and covert investigations into the illicit trade in captive wildlife. A combination of Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, and captive wildlife regulations are used to address issues when violations occur.

The Captive Wildlife Section consists of 21 investigators, 6 lieutenants, 3 captains, 1 major and 8 administrative staff. During the 2019-20 fiscal year, FWC's Captive Wildlife Section conducted 4,254 inspections of facilities possessing wildlife. These inspections generated 592 citations and warnings. Additionally, inspectors responded to 677 wildlife alert complaints, 59 escaped exotic wildlife complaints and seized 221 specimens of wildlife. In the 19-20 fiscal year, there were 5,300 active captive wildlife licenses, most of which must be renewed annually. Currently the Captive Wildlife Section is working towards automation of the licensing system which will allow online purchase and processing of licenses, greater reporting capabilities for both the licensees and the agency, and increased ease of communication between the agency and licensees.



Examples of Class I captive wildlife

Captive Wildlife Training

Captive Wildlife Investigators receive both formal and informal training in the handling and care of wildlife, chemical immobilization, animal identification, internet crimes and more. The Captive Wildlife Section hosts annual training to ensure statewide consistency, awareness of current trends, discuss industry updates and conduct hands on training. The section works with the captive wildlife industry to develop best management practices and techniques for handling and capturing wildlife. Stakeholders and industry experts are often included in this annual meeting to offer training on different topics or provide a location for hands on training.



February 21, 2020

Chemical Immobilization

Captive Wildlife, along with other divisions within FWC, have developed inhouse chemical immobilization training that all investigators must attend. Investigators are licensed by both the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to carry the necessary narcotics and equipment to execute chemical immobilization captures. In FY 19/20 captive wildlife investigators immobilized 16 animals.

Northeast Region

An FWC Northeast Region patrol officer discovered a Facebook post made on a reptile group where a subject indicated that he was in possession of venomous reptiles. The patrol officer provided this information to FWC Investigator Damon Saunders, who knew that the subject was not licensed for venomous reptiles. Based on the pictures and comments in the social media posts, Investigator Saunders developed probable cause for a search warrant of the subject's residence. FWC law enforcement members of Captive Wildlife Section and the Northeast Region executed the search warrant and discovered three eastern diamondback rattlesnakes and a coral snake. The original suspect and his roommate were both charged with possession of venomous reptiles without a license and several related charges.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Aviation

Aviation plays a vital role in the agency's efforts to enforce conservation and boating laws. It is also a unique tool that is essential for the protection of endangered and threatened species, environmental resources and safeguarding the public. The Aviation Unit is instrumental in many of the approximately 1,000 rescues the FWC Division of Law Enforcement performs each year. Aviation Unit personnel participated in several multi-agency training initiatives which included training for air and ground crews for aerial cannabis detection with the Florida Domestic Marijuana Eradication Program. Pilots also provided aviation boating safety support for holiday boating weekend activities and specialized events such as spiny lobster mini season.

FWC Aviation assisted multiple partners during the COVID-19 response by patrolling over water and reporting violations of vessels anchored together, trespass into closed beach areas and careless operations of vessels.



Oleta River State Park Aerial View

Aviation unit personnel participated in a JEA shrimp trawl enforcement detail with OPV vessels and crew members. Aviation personnel also located vessels engaged in fishing for resource inspections, which resulted in multiple federal violations and state misdemeanors.

While supporting the OPV Trident on a Tortugas Ecological Reserve patrol, FWC Aviation observed a commercial fishing vessel on plane near the North Ecological Reserve. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the vessel was not transmitting its position via VMS and the last transmission

was in December 2015. A federal case packet was submitted to

NOAA for enforcement action.

FWC Aviation supported efforts in preventing the illegal harvesting of saw palmetto berries in Okaloosa, Walton and Bay counties by using the FLIR system and sending officers on the ground to locations where the illegal action was taking place. During response by ground units, one individual had recently been reported missing out of Calhoun

County. Forty-seven 200-pound bags of palmetto berries were seized during this operation.



FWC Aviation working with FWC OPV Trident team resulting in a VMS violation

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

K-9



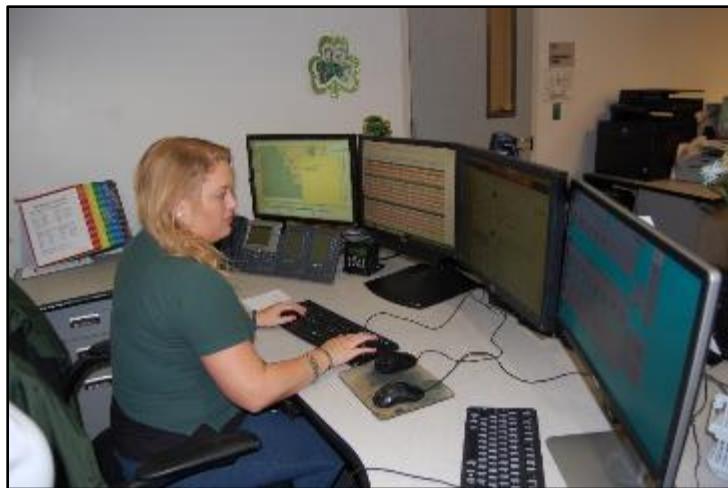
The FWC K-9 program currently has 16 K-9 teams statewide. Eleven traditional teams provide services such as search and rescue, fugitive apprehension, evidence recovery and illegal fish and wildlife detection. Five teams are part of the Port Investigations section and provide services enforcing import/export laws pertaining to exotic and protected species. The FWC K-9 program has its own in-house K-9 training section which

provides initial K-9 acquisition, handler/K-9 placement, and training. Initial training for the traditional teams consists of a 400-hour K-9 academy instructed by the FWC K-9 training officers. The Port Investigations teams receive specific detection training at the USDA Detector Dog Training Facility in Newnan, Georgia. All teams are members of the United States Police Canine Association and are certified in the disciplines for which they are trained. The dedicated members of the FWC K-9 program make up the country's largest K-9 organization committed to natural resource conservation law enforcement.

Fleet and Technical Services

Regional Communication Center Consolidation

The Division currently operates six Regional Communication Centers (RCC's) statewide (Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando, Lake Worth, Miami and Tampa). Each RCC is supervised by the region they support. Current staffing consists of seven duty officer supervisors, 66 duty officers and nine OPS call takers. To address staff shortages, increase succession and the ability for members to advance themselves within the section and create efficiencies through a single chain of command, the division is adjusting resources by consolidating the six RCC's into three strategically placed supercenters. These centers will be in Lake Worth, Sanford, and Tallahassee. The responsibility of RCC oversight will be the responsibility of a new State-Wide Communications and Technical Services Section. The section will be established by moving the Fleet sub-unit into the Operational Support Section. The change will establish a unified chain of command, more efficient utilization of RCC resources, and reduce overtime and workload while concurrently increasing training & leadership opportunities and providing consistent 24/7 regional coverage.



OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Officer of the Year: Asa "Bo" Dias, Northeast Region



Officer Specialist Asa "Bo" Dias is a native of Marion County and was sworn as an FWC officer after graduating from Academy Class 17 where he earned the Roy Burnsed Memorial Award as the top recruit displaying the highest potential to excel. Throughout his career, Dias earned the lifesaving award as well as recognition as the regional officer of the year, part of an FWC team of year, along with multiple community accolades. He closed several cases in 2019 including apprehending an individual targeting fox squirrels and arresting an individual in possession of methamphetamine who was also operating a stolen ATV without a license. Dias is involved in his community as an Ocala Youth Camp Counselor, a Fishing Derby Mentor, participates in the Halpata youth hunts, and is part of "Operation Outdoor Freedom" for wounded veterans. He organized or participated in eight Targeted Enforcement Activities. He proudly takes on his roles as a Field Training Officer, Airboat Operations Instructor and Man-Tracking Instructor. As an RPS officer, he is routinely relied upon by FWC investigators to provide expertise when conducting covert investigations and is also Breath Test Operator and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement certified. Dias enjoys spending time with his wife, Nicole, and four-yea-old son Ryker.

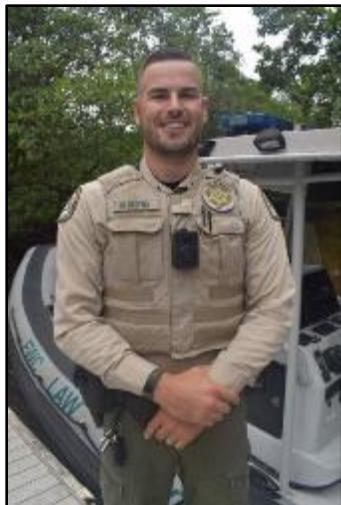
Investigator of the Year: Greg Louque, Northwest Region

Investigator II Greg Louque is assigned to the Northwest Region Investigations Team. He was born into a military family in Germany but grew up in Taylor County. After earning a degree in criminology, he was accepted into Academy Class 5. He has served in multiple areas around the state and since 2017 has been part of the team as a Resource Investigator 2. During 2019 he went undercover on multiple occasions, including Operation Fish Scales and Operation Oyster Catcher, which led to multiple felony charges and nearly 150 misdemeanors. He was involved in TEA Duck Pond where he assisted uniform patrol with the insertion and extraction of officers prior to daylight hours to detect trespassing and the illegal taking of ducks. With his knowledge and expertise, Investigator Louque teaches at the FWC Covert Academy. He uses his passion for collecting artifacts to assist the Bureau of Archaeological Research with training



FWC officers and investigators throughout the state, while his expertise in woodsmanship is useful in teaching FWC recruits the basics of man tracking. Investigator Louque and his wife Kelly live in Tallahassee along with their daughter, Aubrey. His other favorite off-duty activities are hunting, fishing, and scuba diving.

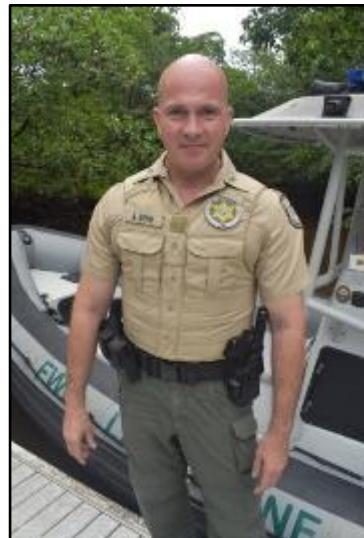
Boating Officer of the Year: Miguel Despian, South Region Bravo



Officer Miguel Despian is a Miami native who attended Florida International University to study Criminal Justice and in 2014 was hired by FWC. He spent his first two years in Naples and in 2016 transferred back to Miami Dade County. Throughout 2019, he was involved in numerous vessel stops, some uncovering illegal activity such as possession of queen conch, queen conch shells, spiny lobsters and illegal possession of reef fish, among other violations that included stolen personal watercraft. Despian is a senior Field Training Officer and holds certifications for BTO, ARIDE, DUI, and Speed Measurement. Officer Despian made 15 BUI arrests last year and assisted in many more. He truly demonstrates a passion for boating safety enforcement, and it shows with his consistent and varied patrol efforts. He has created several other details focusing on BUI, boating safety and manatee zone enforcement and encourages the participation of federal and local law enforcement partners. Despian has organized or participated in six major operations and volunteers for every BUI detail. He and his wife Ari recently celebrated their first wedding anniversary.

Reserve Officer of the Year: Alexander Dinu, South Region Bravo

Reserve Officer Alexander Dinu was born in Bucharest, Romania and immigrated with his parents to the United States when he was 8 years old. He has lived in South Florida for nearly 30 years and attended the University of Miami before earning an MBA degree from Florida International University in 2003. After working with the Miami Dade School Police Department for six years, he joined FWC in 2009, but a back injury in 2012 led him to service as a Reserve Officer. In 2019, Dinu worked with Investigator Rene Taboas on more than 35 migratory bird cases, cited 51 defendants with 180 charges, and over 200 migratory birds involving 11 species were released as a result. Dinu has also worked with Investigator Taboas to



conduct agency training courses to expand other officers and investigators abilities to target migratory bird violations. He plays a crucial role in the region and fills shifts as needed when called upon, especially on the weekends. Dinu has worked closely with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to investigate and charge MBTA cases on a federal level. He conducted more than a dozen school presentations and has lectured around the state on migratory bird enforcement. Dinu is involved with charity events such as Special Olympics and the American Heart Association.

Team of the Year: South Region Alpha BUI Task Force (Lt. Nathan Brock, Inv. Kyle Patterson, Inv. Rebecca Teems, Inv. Brian Coffin, Inv. Mike Carroll, Ofc. Jon Arnold, Ofc. Lonnie Brevik, Ofc. Melissa Miano, Ofc. Heather Grant, Ofc. James Brodbeck, Ofc. Trevor Hausler, Ofc. Benjamin Norbrothen, Ofc. Evan Fuller, Ofc. Elisha Cernuto)

The SRA BUI Taskforce is comprised of a 14-member team led by Lt. Nathan Brock. This team possesses a broad range of skills and experience among law enforcement professionals of varying ranks. The task force covers seven counties within the region but will respond beyond the regional boundaries to assist where needed. The SRA BUI Team is called upon all year to set up strategic points of operation during large boating events to be alert to impaired operators and respond appropriately. They are often exposed to treacherous and dangerous conditions. During 2019, the team responded to 98 BUIs and 27 DUIs, issued 605 Uniform Boating Citations, 408 FWC citations and 2,100 warnings. All members of this team have had various levels of BUI training and radar certifications and have various certifications and certificates in BUI / DUI. During times of high-volume recreational activity, seasons or events, the BUI team will be put on a standby mode and gear will be staged throughout the region to expedite a response if requested.

Duty Officer of the Year: Jessica Garman, Southwest Region



Duty Officer Jessica Garman was born and raised in Spring Hill, Florida. As a former Weeki Wachee mermaid, she loves the water and became SCUBA certified at age 11. She accepted a position as a call taker before being promoted to FWC Duty Officer in 2016. Garman's customer service skills undoubtedly exceed agency expectations, and she strives to use positive reinforcement to motivate favorable outcomes. She is also well-known for her encouraging and friendly demeanor towards co-workers, both senior and junior to her position. Whether handling an active shooter-related call or question from the public, she demonstrates accuracy, thoroughness and professionalism. This year, Garman took 5,006 telephone calls while maintaining an answering rate at 91%. This is an average of approximately 417 calls per month. She became passionate about training new employees and made it her

mission in 2019 to provide refresher training in active shooter situations. Outside of work, Garman is a proud member of A.P.A.C.K., American People Against Cop Killers, an organization that raises funds for families of fallen officers and offers scholarships to assist law enforcement candidates.

Employee of the Year: Elizabeth Cobb, Southwest Region

Duty Officer Supervisor Elizabeth Cobb is a native of Pasco County, where she still lives today. She began her career in communications with the Florida Highway Patrol in 2002. After rising to supervisor, she joined FWC as a DOS in 2015. She holds an associate degree and is slated to earn her BA in Public Safety Administration later this year. On the job, Cobb is sought out for her guidance, leadership and advice and is a resource not only for field staff, but command staff as well. She manages a staff of 14 FTEs and two OPS that operates 24/7 and absorbs calls from two other regions from midnight to 6:00 a.m. Cobb recently traveled to the south regions to assist her newly promoted peers by providing oversight, guidance, and training as the regional communication centers' consolidation moved forward. Cobb recognized a deficiency in the training of new DOS' and started a project that would essentially create and write the entire training curriculum for new supervisors. Duty Officer Supervisor Cobb is a certified APCO Communications Training Officer Instructor and has certified several DO's as CTO's this year. She likes to spend time with her husband, Andy, a law enforcement lieutenant with the Department of Agriculture, and their two daughters.



Prosecutor of the Year: Kelly McKnight and Paul Dontenville, Tallahassee



Kelly McKnight and Paul Dontenville are Special Counsels with the Office of Statewide Prosecution in the Office of the Attorney General and provide vital case preparation, guidance and prosecution for the most complex organized crime cases of fish and wildlife violations in the State of Florida. They have been involved in two separate Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) prosecutions, including Operation Alligator Thief, the first RICO prosecution ever completed in FWC history. This case involved 47 felony violations, over 10,000 illegally harvested alligators worth more than \$600,000, and saw FWC reimbursed for all



funds lost through the scheme. Another case, Operation Bayed Solid, involved black bear violations that resulted in 13 arrests on 92 charges after 42 search warrants, subpoenas and court orders. Their prosecutorial leadership, integrity, tenacity, professional dedication, and passion for the support of FWC's core mission was spread over multiple 15-hour days and defines their character as prosecutors. These cases are now serving as a statewide example for prosecuting similar wildlife cases in other local jurisdictions. Special Counsels McKnight and Dontenville have opened a new chapter in wildlife law enforcement.

Biologist of the Year: Angeline Scotten, Southwest Region



Angeline is a native Floridian who grew up in Jupiter, Florida. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife and fisheries science from the University of Tennessee in 2009 with a concentration in wildlife management and a minor in forestry. She received her certification as an Associate Wildlife Biologist through the Wildlife Society in January 2014. Angeline is a Senior Wildlife Assistance Biologist with the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation's Wildlife Impact Management

Section based in Lakeland, Florida. She joined FWC as a Wildlife Assistance Biologist for the Southwest Region in September 2012 before promoting into her current position in December 2014. FWC officers appreciate how she always answers her phone when they call for guidance and assistance, including after hours. She has extensive experience with the rules and regulations of conflict wildlife, especially in the area of coyote management. Local governments have benefitted from her wisdom as well. Angeline organized, conducted or participated in thirty-three outreach and education events. She is described as one who "embraces crossing division lines" and her expertise is "essential in helping DLE handle wildlife conflict calls."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Award: Investigator Justin Pifer, Officer Specialist Britton Corbin, and Officer Specialist Dan Hahr



Northwest Region Investigator Justin Pifer, Officer Specialist Britton Corbin and Officer Specialist Dan Hahr were all recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for their number of Boating Under the Influence arrests.

Officer Specialist Britton Corbin was also selected as the MADD officer of the year for his 17 Boating Under the Influence (BUI) arrests.

The FWC Division of Law Enforcement prides itself on professionalism in all aspects. It is an accredited law enforcement agency, achieving its initial accreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) in 2009 and awarded reaccreditation in 2018. The next accreditation assessment will be in December of 2020.

Florida encompasses an incredible variety of habitats and is unique in the variety and productivity of its natural resources, hence FWC officers have a unique mission. Specially trained and equipped, FWC officers provide complete service response and protection services to the resources and public anywhere in Florida.



The three vital words of our motto guide everything we do:

PATROL, PROTECT, PRESERVE

GEORGIA

Thomas Barnard, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division, currently has 200 POST-certified Game Wardens with statewide authority and full arrest powers and 28 non-sworn staff members. The primary duties of these Game Wardens are enforcement of all laws and regulations pertaining to hunting, fishing, commercial fishing, environmental violations, and recreational boating, as well as to provide public safety on all our DNR-controlled properties.

The Law Enforcement Division operates with a straight-line chain of command. It consists of the Colonel, Lt. Colonel, two Majors, eight Captains (6 Region Supervisors, 1 Training Director, 1 Pilot), seven Lieutenants (database management, special permits/captive wildlife and wild animals, boating law administrator and administrative support, professional standards, investigations, 2 pilots), and 181 field Game Wardens (Sergeants, Corporals, Game Wardens First Class, and Game Wardens).

TRAINING

Game Warden Academy



The 34th Game Warden Academy began on Sunday, January 5th at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. Ten cadets from across the state began training. One cadet voluntarily withdrew after week one, but the nine-remaining continued on and

successfully completed Firearms, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Tactical ATV, Georgia and Federal Law, Criminal Procedure and a variety of other Basic Law Enforcement Training courses before the COVID-19 pandemic hit Georgia.

As the state began to battle the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March, P.O.S.T. suspended all Basic Law Enforcement Training programs throughout the state. Our academy suspended operations on March 16th and the cadets of the 34th Game Warden Academy were sent to their respective Regions to begin a modified field training program and to assist with DNR's statewide response to COVID-19. Cadets assisted the Georgia Emergency Management

Agency (GEMA) with the logistical support and helped ship and deliver PPE and other vital supplies throughout the state.

Academy training operations resumed on Sunday, May 3rd and the cadets went back to work on completing the remaining 13 weeks of scheduled training. Cadets trained for twenty (20) straight days without a day off in order to limit their exposure to outside personnel and to help make up for lost training time. New protocols for social distancing and other COVID-19 safety precautions for academy training were put in place to ensure the safety of our cadets and instructors. The cadets completed the academy and graduated on July 24th. The Basic Game Warden Academy consists of 23 weeks (935 hours) of classroom and performance-based training.

K-9 Academy

In addition to the Basic Game Warden Academy, the Division also conducted a K-9 Academy which trained 3 new Game Warden K-9's. The K-9's replaced three dogs that recently retired after 10 years of service. Two German Shepherds and a Belgian Malinois were trained by the Division Kennel Master as well as one new K-9 handler. Two of the dogs went to existing members of the K-9 unit. The dogs and their handlers attended twelve consecutive weeks (480 hours) of training at various locations throughout the state. The dogs and their handlers were certified in Man-tracking, Apprehension, Article Recovery and Wildlife Detection and are currently working in the field.

In-Service Training

This year's in-service training schedule was dominated by the challenges posed by COVID-19. However, we have been able to complete annual firearm's re-qualifications, Use of Deadly Force and De-escalation Training, X2 Taser re-certification training and our annual Standardized Field Sobriety and BUI Refresher training. Game Warden's also completed the mandated Governor's Initiative Community Oriented Policing training online this quarter. This year's training consisted of the "Start the Conversation" suicide awareness and prevention training and the "Building Positive Community Relations" training. The division will be completing our annual fall firearm's in-service in October as well as CPR/First Aid recertification.

DIVISION'S CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Investigative Unit

The Investigative Unit (IU) is comprised of two full-time investigators, one detached investigator and one Intelligence Analyst. The IU is responsible for undercover investigations, administration of the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT), the Marine Theft Unit (MTU) as well as investigation assistance to the Special Permit Unit (SPU). The primary function of the Investigative Unit is to provide field Game Wardens with investigative support. The Investigative Unit is able to fulfill this mission with the support of 13 Game Wardens that perform a collateral duty called "Regional Investigator". Regional Investigators assist the IU with overt and covert investigations. The IU also serves the field as a central point of contact for information sharing on a statewide level. In 2018, the Investigative Unit significantly expanded its support capabilities with the addition of an Intelligence Analyst - gaining access to multiple intelligence databases and through extensive use of new technologies such as ZetX. This past year, 2 investigators completed the ZetX 40 Hour Advanced Cellular Investigations Training. This technology is requested and used daily not only by Georgia Game Wardens but also by state prosecutors, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and countless police and sheriff's departments. Through this assistance, the Investigative Unit and the Department has strengthened working relationships with other law enforcement agencies throughout the state - benefiting Georgia law enforcement and more importantly, the citizens we serve.

Undercover Investigations

The Investigative Unit is responsible for undercover investigations which are used when traditional enforcement methods would be problematic or unsuccessful. The Regional Investigators are full-time Game Wardens who have received training in undercover operations and equipment and are used throughout the state as needed.

Last year, the Investigative Unit conducted and managed 544 investigations and calls for assistance from the field and from other agencies (both in and out-of-state). These investigations were comprised of intelligence gathering, buy/bust and both short and long-term investigations. The focus of many of these investigations included the sale or possession of wildlife and wild animals. These violations are difficult to address without the aid of undercover officers.

Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT)

Georgia has 16 CIRT investigators assigned throughout the state. CIRT investigates fatality and serious injury boating, hunting and state park incidents. Each investigator receives specialized training on investigating and presenting these cases. Last year, CIRT was activated to investigate 7 boating incidents. These incidents resulted in 5 fatalities. Additionally, CIRT was activated to investigate 3 hunting incidents. These incidents resulted in 2 fatalities.

Marine Theft Unit (MTU)

The primary function of the MTU is to assist law enforcement officers in the field. The MTU conducts computer database and offline searches, hidden hull identification number location assistance and assists with locating and recovering stolen vessels. The MTU also serves as the point of contact for customers as well as court systems related to the abandoned vessel process. Last year, the MTU received 97 abandoned vessel/stolen boat requests from the public and field. MTU also fielded numerous phone calls related to the abandoned vessel process. This past year, the MTU was inundated with reports of stolen vessels. The unit has worked and accomplished in recovering 7 of these stolen vessels.

Aviation

The LED Aviation Support Unit supports all DNR Divisions and other state agencies utilizing three Bell 407 helicopters and a fixed wing Quest Kodiak 100 airplane.

The Aviation Unit flew 821 hours in support of the Division's Game Wardens as they conducted their core mission of protecting the states waterways and woodland areas. This consisted of flying support throughout the hunting season from early fall through early spring. Game Wardens were flown on county surveys looking for baited food plots, duck ponds and illegal shrimping along the Georgia coast. Flight support was also provided for Operation Dry Water, night deer poaching/spotlighting patrols, and searches for missing person and drowning victims across the state.

The Wildlife Resource Division (WRD) was provided aviation support during surveys of Bald Eagles, Kestrel, Sandhill Cranes, and waterfowl. Lt Jaye Bridwell flew these same flights along the Georgia coast in addition to surveys for sea turtles, dolphins, and the tagging of manatee. In addition to the WRD surveys, the Aviation Unit flew multiple missions assisting Game Management Section with prescribed burns on the State WMA's during the late winter months of January through March 2020.

Additionally, the Aviation Unit was actively involved with the Law Enforcement Division's response to COVID-19. The unit was tasked with multiple, high priority Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security (GEMA) flight requests to transport Personal Protective Equipment, ventilators and life-saving medications to multiple medical centers and hospitals across the State. Also, the Aviation Unit conducted multiple weekend patrol flights during April and May, assisting the Game Warden's enforcement of Governor Brian



Kemp's Executive Order on social distancing on State Parks, beaches, and large bodies of water.

The TASE 500 camera system equipped Kodiak Quest fixed-wing aircraft, with trained camera operators has greatly enhanced the Aviation Unit's capability to support Game Wardens in conducting their primary mission of protecting the states waterways and woodland areas. The Aviation Unit also assisted other State and Federal law enforcement agencies utilizing the Kodiak fixed-wing airplane, most notably the US Department of Agriculture's Operation Sunrise, a four-month investigation into illegal cockfighting in SE Georgia.

The Aviation Unit was very fortunate taking delivery of a new 2019 Bell 407GX in December 2019 and trading our two older used aircraft for a used 2012 Bell 407GX. This all Bell 407GX helicopter fleet will increase our flight operation capabilities and increase safety while decreasing training and maintenance costs for the Division.

Special Permits

The Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division Special Permits Unit is responsible for permitting captive wildlife and wild animals in addition to some specialty-take permits such as Scientific Collection Permits. The Unit also coordinates inspections on all permitted wild animal facilities throughout the state. This past year, the Special Permits unit issued over 2,200 permits, collecting approximately \$70,000 in generated fees.

UNIQUE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Ranger Hotline

The Ranger Hotline program, which provides a way for citizens to report anonymously potentially illegal wildlife and other conservation law violations, continues to be successful. If the information leads to an arrest, the tipster receives a cash reward funded by the Georgia Natural Resource Foundation, whose mission is to protect wildlife by increasing public support for wildlife law enforcement. Last year, 298 tips were received for various violations.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Protests/Riots

As the fiscal year began to wrap up in June, Game Wardens from across the state were deployed to help preserve life and property as protests turned into riots related to the officer-involved shootings of George Floyd in Minnesota and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta. In total, there were 384 field deployments that logged more than 4,800 man-hours. The Game Warden



duties included preserving life and property, assisting local and other state agencies, protecting the rights of citizens for peaceful assembly, preventing protesters from gaining access and closing or interfering with critical infrastructure, and providing security at several state-owned properties and private retail businesses.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought on more challenges as Governor Brian Kemp called Game Wardens and other state law enforcement officers to support efforts to fight the virus. They continued to patrol Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, Public Fishing Areas, and beaches to encourage compliance with the Governor's Executive Order for social distancing and also provided high-visibility presence at DNR facilities, properties and on state waterways. By the end of the fiscal year, the officers had worked over 19,170 hours while conducting 5,495 targeted patrols in the monitoring and enforcing of COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders and directives. They reported 1,039 violations - 1,038 verbal warnings and one reckless conduct charge. Additionally, they were a key link in the logistics chain by delivering PPE, testing kits, and medical supplies and equipment to various facilities across the state.

JEA PATROLS

The Joint Agreement #18 between Georgia DNR and NOAA office of Law Enforcement called for GADNR enforcement personnel to provide a total of 1,748 hours of marine law enforcement or related work under the agreement. Georgia has five Execution Priorities. Execution Priority 1 was the Endangered Species Act. There were 435-man hours and 155 hours of at-sea vessel patrol hours dedicated to this priority. These patrols were checking shrimp trawlers for TED and net compliance. Execution Priority 2 was dedicated to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. There were 405-man hours and 145 hours of at-sea vessel patrols dedicated to priority 2. These patrols were to check Red Snapper compliance and any other violation dealing with Snapper/Grouper and HMS species. Execution Priority 3 was the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. There were 255-man hours and 85 hours of at-sea vessel patrols dedicated to Priority 3. Execution Priority 4 was the Marine Mammal Right Whale. There were 132-man hours and 44 hour of at-sea vessel patrols. These patrols were from November through March and were specifically targeting Right Whale enforcement. Execution Priority 5 was the Lacey Act/International (IUU). There were 92 personnel hours dedicated to IUU enforcement. These patrols were assisting NOAA Enforcement Officers with inspection of containers at the Georgia Ports. Vessel patrol hours targeted the following areas: 1) shrimp trawlers checking for TED compliance, 2) intercepts of recreational and commercial fishing vessels returning to Georgia seaports from fishing trips in federal waters, 3) offshore patrols to Special Management Zones and Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, 4) concentrations of fishing vessels wherever they occur in the Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to the State of Georgia, 5) intercepts of recreational fishing vessels for Red Snapper compliance, and 6) inspection of shipping container at the Georgia Ports.

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

Throughout the year, the Law Enforcement Division acquired some new vehicles and equipment, utilizing funding from various sources. Forty-eight new 4x4 patrol vehicles were purchased for field personnel. New equipment included the Visual Labs body-worn camera system with cloud-based storage for all video, audio, and photos, and supplemental rifle-rated body armor for all sworn personnel.

KENTUCKY

Eric Gibson, Colonel

PERSONNEL

During the past year, 12 new hires have completed the basic law enforcement academy and all agency required training to become Conservation Officers. There are still currently 13 recruits attending the basic law enforcement academy. These officers will have an additional 6 weeks of training with our law enforcement academy before starting their FTO program. Covid-19 restrictions have significantly impacted the training timeline for getting these officers fully trained and into the field.

EQUIPMENT

Recent equipment purchases include two 27' Pioneer patrol boats for use on the Ohio River in the Port of Cincinnati. These boats were purchased via a Port Security Grant Program award. Our division also received the same grant award for the Port of Louisville. These two boats will be ordered during the next fiscal year. One additional 27' Pioneer patrol boat will be purchased with agency funds for Lake Cumberland.

Fifteen Dodge 1500 Ram trucks have been equipped with emergency equipment and will be issued to field officers for general patrol vehicles.

3 additional side by sides have been purchased and equipped for patrol purposes.

All officers were recently issued a Glock 43 pistol for back-up and off duty use.

MOU recently signed between FBI and KDFWR to construct a multi-million-dollar law enforcement shooting range/training center in central Kentucky for use by the agencies.

LEGISLATION

The number of boating accident fatalities and open water drownings have increased significantly during this past year. This increase has garnered the attention of both the KDFWR Commission and state legislators and sparked action to help decrease these numbers. The agency has produced and disseminated numerous PSAs focused on the importance of PFD wear, alcohol on the water and open water drowning safety.

In addition to the PSAs, the KDFWR Commission tasked Conservation Officers with placing a higher emphasis on the current regulation that requires PFDs to be of the appropriate size and readily accessible. Officers have always stressed the importance of appropriately sized but have not always emphasized the importance of the PFDs being readily accessible.

One other initiative to help reduce boating accidents is a legislative action to require completion of a NASBLA approved boating education class before operation if born after a certain date. Currently, education is only required for those ages 12-17 operating a motorboat over 10hp.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Between the dates of March 1, 2020 to May 15, 2020, KY Conservation Officers were routinely called upon to perform tasks that fell outside their normal job duties in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Being fully sworn police officers enabled them to assist with public safety concerns throughout the pandemic response. Conservation Officers were called upon to:

- Assist the Kentucky State Police by providing a law enforcement presence at many hospitals across the state. Officers were required to report to the hospital in uniform and a marked vehicle and remain on scene for the duration of the shift.
- Encourage social distancing at public areas while on patrol. Officers seen a significant increase in the utilization of these public areas and spent considerable time interacting with citizens stressing the importance of social distancing while enjoying the outdoors.
- Assist Kentucky State Park Rangers with park surveillance to promote social distancing and ensure closed areas were not being accessed by the public.
- Enforce executive orders implemented by Governor Beshear in regard to fishing tournaments and other organized events on public lands and waterways.
- Kentucky Department of Parks was tasked to house and provide meals to persons who had been exposed to or had tested positive for Covid-19 for a minimum of 14 days. Conservation Officers were called upon to assist with providing a safe and secure environment for these purposes at both Lake Cumberland State Resort Park and Lake Barkley State Resort Park. Multiple 24 hours shifts were staffed by Conservation Officers during this time.
- Command staff members of the Law Enforcement Division reported to the State Emergency Operations Center each day as part of ESF-9 and attended daily SITREP meetings to provide updates, offer assistance when requested and to serve as the liaison between the Tourism, Arts and Heritage cabinet and the Emergency Operation Center.

LOUISIANA

Chad Herbert, Colonel

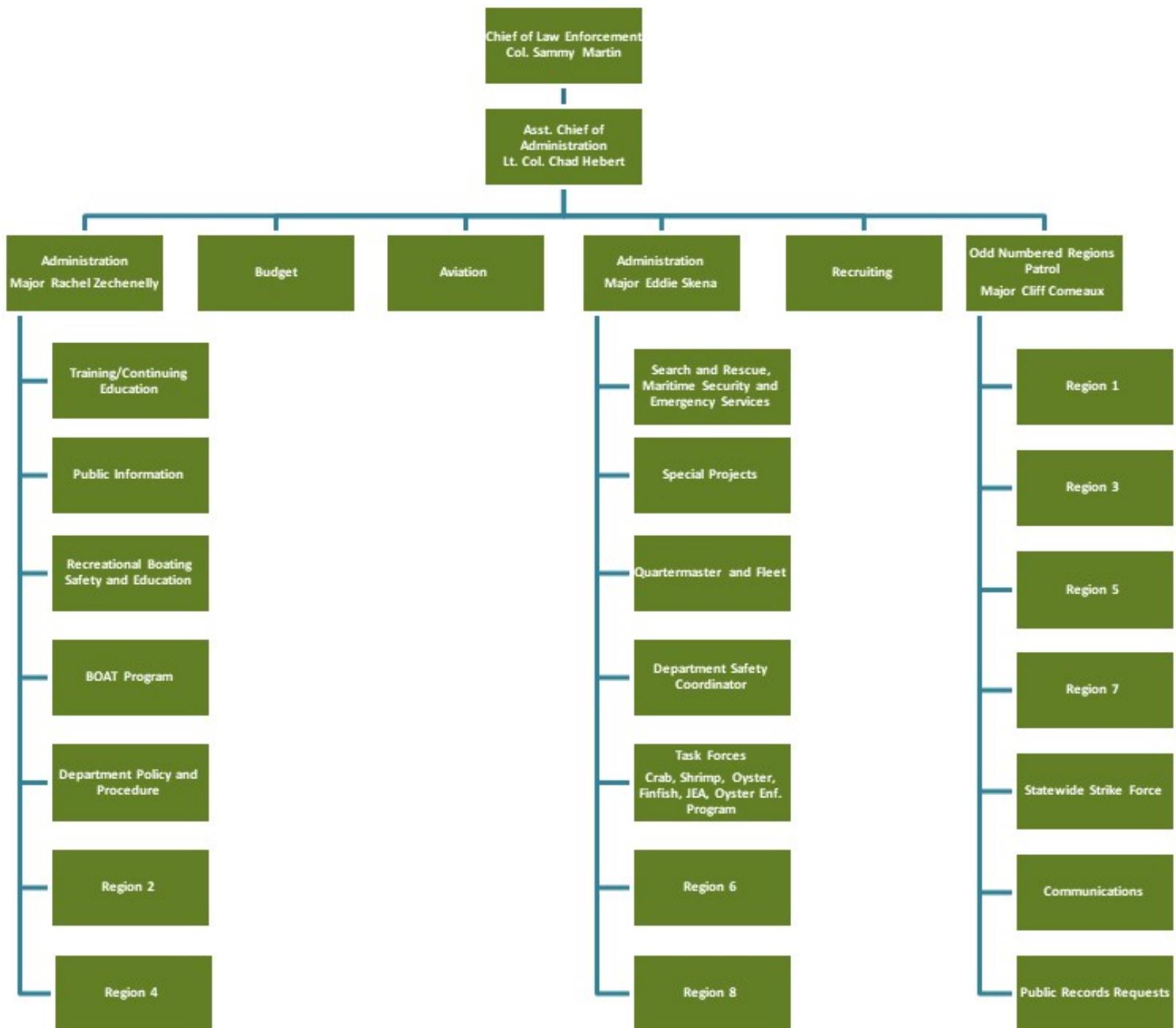


The LDWF Law Enforcement Division's (LDWF-LED) operating budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 was approximately \$39 million. Enforcement Division funding is derived from the Conservation Fund (LDWF self-generated revenue), Federal Boating Safety Funds, United States Coast Guard Grant funding, Homeland Security Grant funding, and the LDWF Enforcement Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with NOAA for Federal Fisheries and various local grants.

LDWF-LED conducted 333,043 patrol hours in FY 2019-2020: 280,028 on land and 53,015 on water. Agents made 612,655 contacts with the public, the majority of whom were in compliance with state and federal wildlife and fisheries regulations. LDWF-LED agents issued 11,615 criminal citations and 3,801 warnings during this period.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & PERSONNEL



LDWF-LED is organized in a paramilitary structure to assure the efficient use of resources, consistent statewide enforcement policy, and an effective, coordinated response to urgent needs. LDWF-LED is commanded by one colonel, the Chief of Enforcement, who reports directly to LDWF's Secretary and oversees administration of the division. Reporting to the colonel is a Lieutenant Colonel. The Lieutenant Colonel serves as assistant chief of administration and patrol. The administration side includes recreational boating safety and education, emergency services, training, support, public information and budget. The patrol side includes all state regional field operations, statewide communications, aviation and recruiting.

The LDWF Enforcement Division is currently headed by Col. Chad Hebert, a 27-year veteran at LDWF. Hebert was promoted to the rank of Colonel in July of 2020 (after the 19-20 fiscal year ended) and replaces Col. Sammy Martin, who announced his retirement in June of 2020 after 38 years.

Hebert, from Schriever, has earned numerous awards during his LDWF career. He has twice been honored with the LDWF Meritorious Service Award (2006, 2017), named Statewide LDWF Agent of the Year (2001), Region 9 Agent of the Year (2001) and Outstanding Officer (2001). Named Lt. Colonel in 2018, Hebert helped direct statewide operations and patrols as well as the administrative functions of the Enforcement Division. He also worked with other federal and state enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Drug Enforcement Agency, Homeland Security, the Louisiana State Police and state attorney generals and judges.

Col. Hebert served as major from February of 2017 until his promotion and represented the LDWF Enforcement Division on the Crab Task Force, Oyster Task Force, Shrimp Task Force and Finfish Task force. He also served as an enforcement captain from 2013-2017, an enforcement lieutenant from 2009-2013, an enforcement sergeant from 2005-2009 and an enforcement senior agent from 1994-2005. As a senior agent, in addition to his other honors, he received the Certificate of Valor from the North American Wildlife Officer's Association in 2002. He completed the LDWF Cadet Academy in 1993, earning the high overall achievement award, the high marksmanship award and physical fitness award during the training academy.

LDWF Enforcement Division Col. Chad Hebert



The Enforcement Division is divided into eight enforcement regions and the statewide strike force. Each numbered enforcement region is composed of two or three multi-parish districts. Each region is managed by a captain who supervises two or three district supervisors of the lieutenant rank. Regions have between 16-

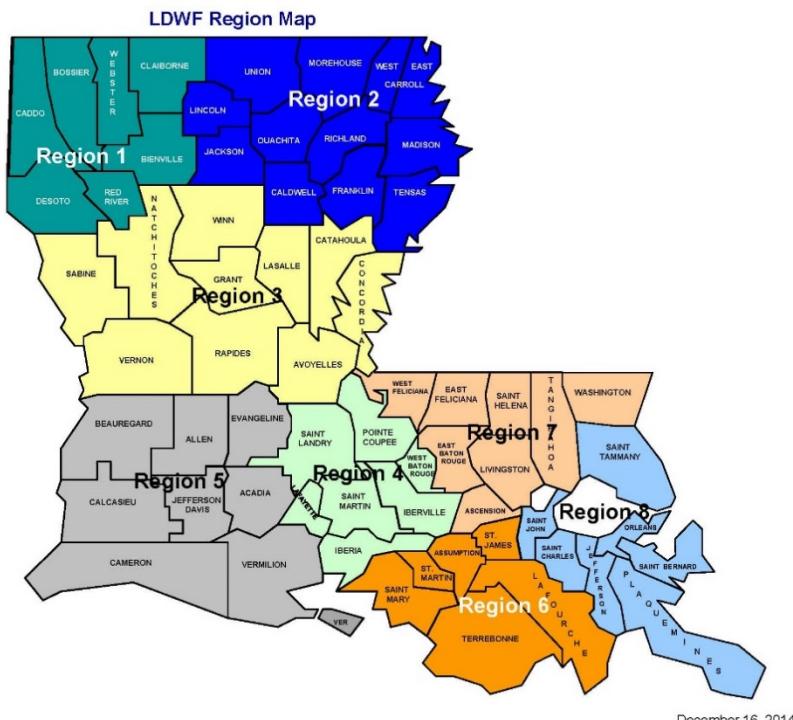
25 agents, depending on regional size, resident population and participant population. Current funding provides a field enforcement staff of two to four agents per parish, according to the nature of wildlife-based activities in the area, the number of people participating, the frequency of their participation and other factors.

Total division head count is 257 positions including 234 enforcement agents, 15 administrative staff, six communications officers and two pilots. The actual number of filled positions (as of July of 2020) is 237.

REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

Most of the law enforcement activity performed by LDWF-LED is conducted by regional agents. Regional agents work a schedule assigned by their supervisors to address seasonal needs, reported violations, weather conditions and predominant activities. Agents are on-call 24 hours per day and must be willing to change their work hours and locations as circumstances require. Schedules are often changed due to weather and reported violations, and agents are often called out to respond to violations in progress, boating and hunting accidents, and calls for search and rescue.

Agents use a variety of vehicles during land patrols, primarily four-wheel drive trucks and all-terrain vehicles. The primary patrol vessels used during water patrols are outboard bay boats and 19-to-40-foot marine patrol vessels. LDWF-LED also deploys go-devils, airboats, surface drive, mud boats, bass boats and flatboats.



SPECIALIZED UNITS

LDWF-LED contains three specialized units with selected missions or purposes: The Statewide Strike Force; the Maritime Special Response Team; and the Aviation Section. Agents in specialized units have developed specific skills, expertise and knowledge appropriate for their particular operational fields. Agents in specialized units operate in relatively broad geographic areas and may work alongside regional enforcement agents when appropriate.

Statewide Strike Force

The Statewide Strike Force is assigned to work problem areas statewide. They devote attention to commercial fisheries operations, license fraud and white collar crimes. Violations include smuggling, interstate commerce violations and false reporting, and under-reporting of commercial fish harvests. These agents provide regional patrol with additional manpower on wildlife management area (WMAs) and places of high seasonal utilization, such as Grand Isle and other locations throughout the state. Strike Force agents also assist regional agents with oyster harvest enforcement, which primarily addresses harvesting oysters in closed waters, stealing from oyster leases and state grounds, and oyster size regulations.

Maritime Special Response Team

The Maritime Special Response Team cooperative endeavor by LDWF-LED and the Louisiana State Police SWAT team addresses maritime security threats within the state of Louisiana. The team provides a maritime tactical response capability at the state level in order to effectively provide public safety, officer safety, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-yield Explosives (CBRNE) prevention, and response and tactical support for LDWF's federal, state and local partners.



Aviation Section

The Aviation Section contains two pilots and four total planes which include one Kodiak, one Cessna 210, and two Cessna 206 amphibians. The Aviation Section's aircraft provide a valuable platform for detecting illegal hunting and fishing activities and frequently play a vital life-saving role in search and rescue operations. The Aviation Section also contributes its services to other divisions for biological missions, such as waterfowl counts and the monitoring of commercial fisheries.



Oyster / Seafood / Strike Force (OSSF)

OSSF is assigned to work problem areas on the coast. They devote attention to commercial fisheries with a focus mainly on oysters, license fraud and white-collar crimes. Violations include smuggling, interstate commerce violations and false reporting, and under-reporting of commercial fish harvests. Violations pertaining to oysters include harvesting polluted oysters, theft of oysters, illegal tagging, oyster size regulations, and sanitary code violations. The agents are licensed FAA Drone pilots. The unit has three drones assigned, which are capable of night or day surveillance. OSSF agents also work with regional agents on coastal patrols.

LDWF ENFORCEMENT NEWS

LDWF Agents and Catahoula Parish Deputies Successfully Locate Missing Hikers

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office (CPSO) deputies successfully completed a search and rescue mission of two lost hikers in Catahoula Parish on Aug. 18.

LDWF agents and CPSO deputies were notified in the evening about two lost brothers from Baton Rouge who were hiking on the J.C. Sonny Gilbert Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Agents were able to talk to the older 20-year-old brother and found out that him and his 11-year-old brother didn't have any food or water and had been lost for three hours. CPSO deputies and LDWF agents immediately responded to the scene and located their vehicle. The deputies and agents were able to use the sirens on their vehicles, which the lost subjects were able to hear in the distance.

Due to the lost subjects being fatigued and unable to walk towards the sirens CPSO deputies and an LDWF agent entered the woods on foot. Shortly afterwards, they located the lost subjects and assisted them out of the woods to an awaiting ambulance for treatment before being released.

LDWF Agent Receives Award for Migratory Gamebirds Enforcement



Sgt. Ferrington (Left) receiving his award from Lt. Kincaid (Right)

A Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agent was honored by the Mississippi Flyway Council at the Sept. 5 Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting in Baton Rouge.

Sgt. Charlie Ferrington, of Aimwell, received the Louisiana Waterfowl Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the Mississippi Flyway Council. The Mississippi Flyway Council recognizes law enforcement officers from each state who make outstanding contributions to the protection of waterfowl.

Sgt. Ferrington mainly patrols LaSalle Parish and has been an agent since 2005.

Sgt. Ferrington was honored for his participation in numerous illegal waterfowl hunting investigations. His cases have involved hunting migratory game birds over a baited area, using toxic shot to take waterfowl, using a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells and hunting without licenses.

LDWF Agents Rescue Two Overdue Boaters in Avoyelles Parish

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents completed a successful search and rescue mission on Nov. 11 in Avoyelles Parish.

Agents were notified around 10 p.m. on Nov. 11 about two overdue boaters on the Red River. Agents immediately responded to the scene to conduct search and rescue operations.

After repeated attempts to contact the overdue boaters by cell phone failed, agents were able to find their location by having LDWF dispatch ping the cell phones.

Agents launched vessels and headed to the location of the cell phones and were able to locate the missing boaters standing on a rock jetty around midnight. Agents loaded the missing boaters into their vessel and brought them back to the landing where family members were waiting.

The missing boaters said their 14-foot aluminum vessel started taking on water and sunk. They were able to swim to the rock jetty to get out of the water.

"This successful search and rescue operation show the importance of filing a float plan with your loved ones before getting in a vessel," said Major Rachel Zechenelly, the state's boating law administrator. "This could have been a far worse outcome with those missing boaters being stranded overnight in the cold. Thankfully their family notified authorities once they were overdue and our agents were able to find them before hypothermia set in."

LDWF Agents Utilize Drone to Catch Illegal Oyster Harvester

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents cited an oyster fisherman for alleged oyster violations on Dec. 20 in Calcasieu Parish.

Agents cited Alexander Antonio Amaya-Zelaya, 37, from Terrytown, for taking oysters from a polluted area, violating the sanitary code and failing to display proper numbers on the vessel.

Agents responded to complaints of illegal oyster harvests in lower Calcasieu Parish. Using aerial surveillance from a drone, agents observed and recorded Alexander illegally harvesting oysters in polluted waters. The vessel also did not display the required numbers visible by air and did not have a human waste receptacle.

Agents seized 10 sacks of oysters and returned them to the water. The vessel was seized on a department seizure order.

LDWF agents began utilizing drones for aerial surveillance on oyster patrols in March of 2018.

Taking oysters from an unapproved polluted area brings a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. The men could also face having their oyster harvester licenses revoked by LDWF for up to one year. The violators could also be sentenced to perform 40 hours of community service and only be allowed to harvest oysters from a vessel that is equipped with a vessel monitoring device for up to one year.

Failing to display proper numbers on the vessel brings a \$50 fine and up to 15 days in jail. Violate the sanitary code brings up to a \$25 fine and 15 days in jail.

LDWF Agent Receives National Boating Safety Award at Commission Meeting



Sgt. Darby (middle) receiving his boating award

A Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agent was awarded the Louisiana's National Association of State Boating Law Administrator's (NASBLA) "Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for Louisiana.

Sgt. Mitch Darby, of St. Martinville, received the NASBLA award at the monthly Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting on Jan. 9 in Baton Rouge.

Sgt. Darby has been an LDWF agent for 20 years and he mainly patrols the waterways in southern Louisiana including Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette and St. Landry parishes.

"When it comes to boating safety enforcement, education, boating incident investigations, and boating safety outreach, Sgt. Darby stands alone in his assigned region," said Major Rachel Zechenelly, the states boating law administrator. "He has always represented the

department well throughout his career with pride and has constantly exhibited a hard work ethic."

Sgt. Darby has distinguished himself by becoming an advanced accident reconstruction agent for his region after attending the level two of the National Boating Accident Investigation Course. He has conducted numerous fatal boating incident investigations and he is sought out by his peers for his knowledge when complex incidents investigations are conducted.

Sgt. Darby is also certified to operate the side scan sonar that assists with search and rescue missions. He is also a NASBLA Boating Program Instructor and a Louisiana Boating Education Course Instructor for the department. Since 2013, he has trained enforcement cadet classes in the NASBLA Boat Crew Member Course (BCM) and the Boat Operations/Search and Rescue Course (BOSAR).

LDWF Agents Arrest Homer Man for Killing a Bald Eagle

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents arrested a Homer man for allegedly killing a bald eagle and other wildlife crimes in Claiborne Parish. Agents also arrested two other men and cited a juvenile for alleged hunting violations.

Agents arrested Daniel Smith, 18, for violating the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act, illegally taking a Hawk, taking deer during a closed season, hunting from a moving vehicle, taking deer during illegal hours, discharging a firearm from a public road, intentional concealment of wildlife, hunting turkeys during a closed season, criminal mischief and hunting from a public road.

Agents also arrested Jacob E. Lee, 19, of Bernice, Jared I. Lee, 19, of Bernice, and cited a juvenile from Homer, for hunting from a public road, hunting from a moving vehicle, taking deer during illegal hours and discharging a firearm from a public road. Jacob Lee and Jared Lee were also cited for taking deer during a closed season. The juvenile was also cited for intentional concealment of wildlife.

Agents received anonymous tips from two different sources in October and November of 2019 that Smith had shot and killed a bald eagle in Claiborne Parish. Agents contacted Smith and he denied the accusation.

Through the course of the investigation agents were able to secure a search warrant for Smith's truck and phone. Agents found a bald eagle feather in Smith's truck on Dec. 13. On Dec. 14, Smith admitted to agents that he shot and killed the bald eagle in February of 2017 off of Colquitt Rd. with a .223 rifle.

Agents also found photos and videos of Smith participating in several illegal activities including some with Jacob Lee, Jared Lee and the juvenile. Agents found evidence that

Smith killed a turkey in July of 2019, killed a Hawk in November of 2018, shot out streetlights in July of 2019 and harvested three deer at night and dumped them over a bridge in November of 2019. Most of these infractions occurred from his vehicle and on public roads.

Smith, Jacob Lee and Jared Lee were arrested and booked into the Claiborne Parish Jail. The juvenile was released back to his parents.

Violating the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act brings up to a \$100,000 fine and up to one year in a federal jail.

Taking deer during a closed season, intentional concealment of wildlife, hunting turkeys during a closed season and hunting deer during illegal hours brings a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail for each offense. Taking a Hawk carries a \$400 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Criminal mischief carries up to a \$500 fine and six months in jail. Hunting from a moving vehicle carries a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Hunting from a public road brings a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail. Discharging a firearm from a public road carries up to a \$50 fine and 30 days in jail.

Smith may also face civil restitution totaling up to \$9,225 for the replacement value of the illegally taken bald eagle and three deer. Smith, Jacob Lee and Jared Lee also may face civil restitution totaling \$1,624 for the replacement value of an illegally taken deer.

Three People Convicted in 2013 Fatal Boating Incident in Plaquemines Parish

Three people were convicted on Jan. 27 in 25th Judicial District Court of Plaquemines Parish for their roles in a fatal boating incident that occurred in 2013.

Judge Kevin Connor sentenced Larissa Demoll, 51, of Boothville, for obstruction of justice, filing false public records, negligent homicide and hit and run driving and ordered her to serve three separate two-year jail terms and three separate three-year jail terms with all of them running concurrently.

Judge Connor also sentenced Arthur Giles, 62, of Belle Chasse, for conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice and ordered him to serve two years in jail suspended, two years of active supervised probation and to pay a \$500 fine plus court cost. Judge Connor also sentenced Tyler Scott, 27, of Belle Chasse, for criminal mischief and ordered him to serve six months in jail suspended, six months of active probation and to pay a \$250 fine plus court costs.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) agents began investigating the case on June 10, 2013 when two vessels collided in Flat Boat Pass near Venice. Agents were initially told by Demoll, Giles and Scott that a 28-foot vessel being operated by Scott collided with a 24-foot bay boat being operated by Steven "Brad" Malcolm, 33, of

Madisonville, resulting in the death of Malcolm. Two other passengers on the bay boat sustained injuries.

After further investigation, agents determined that Demoll was the operator of the 28-foot vessel that belonged to a company owned by Giles. Demoll also left the scene of the incident.

Office of Attorney General Brooke Harris and Matthew Derbes prosecuted the case for the state.

Boating Safety Program



With 15,000 miles of tidal coastline, 5,000 miles of navigable waterways, three of the busiest ports in the country, a thriving shipping industry, a large commercial fishing fleet, and over 317,000 registered boats, Louisiana contains many geographic, demographic and economic features that pose special challenges for boating safety enforcement.

LDWF-LED agents made 144,175 public contacts during the course of 33,192 patrol hours dedicated to boating enforcement, education and accident investigation in FY 2019-2020. Of those hours, 23,149 patrol hours were performed in vessels on the water.

The adoption of "Rules of the Road" regulations for boaters has enhanced the enforcement of boating safety regulations and boating under the influence laws. These regulations provide the boating public with clear rules for the manner in which boats are

operated and are an important tool in determining fault in boating accidents. The "Rules of the Road" also enhance the ability of agents to address reckless and careless operation of motorboats. In FY 2019-2020, LDWF-LED agents issued 67 citations for careless and reckless operation of a vessel and 126 citations for operating a vessel while intoxicated.

The statewide LDWF-LED boater education course teaches safe, legal and responsible boat operation and is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. This program provides a vital outreach to the community and has greatly improved the awareness of and compliance with boating safety practices and regulations in Louisiana.



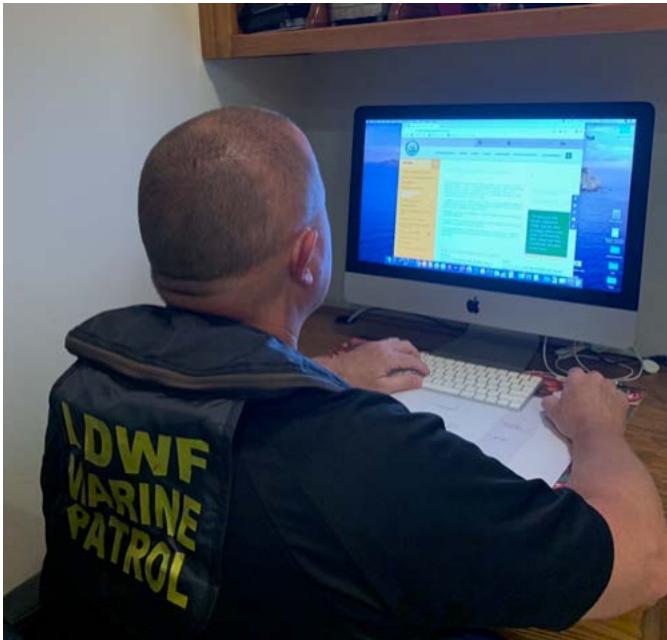
Agents hold monthly classes in each region for anyone who wishes or is required by Louisiana law to take them. In FY 2019-2020, 9,462 citizens were certified in classroom and online classes. LDWF-LED continues to recruit and train additional volunteer instructors to complement and enhance the efforts of its own agents. Since the inception of the boating safety education course in 2003, LDWF has certified 130,514 students.

LDWF-LED remained committed in marketing and promotion of boating education courses by creating special events and activities for students attending courses.

LDWF participated in the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Operation Dry Water Weekend from July 5-7 in 2019. During the Operation Dry Water weekend, LDWF agents were out in force patrolling state waterways for impaired boat operators. During the weekend, LDWF agents cited nine people for DUI while operating a vessel.

LDWF participated in several national campaigns including "Wear your PFD to workday" on May 15 and the "Safe Boating Week" in Louisiana from May 16-22. LDWF Enforcement Division agents were out in full force as always during the safe boating week to perform boating safety checks and driving or operating a vessel while intoxicated (DWI) patrols.

The LDWF Enforcement Division had to cancel their annual "Boating Education Lagniappe Day" due to Covid-19 concerns. LDWF has held Lagniappe Day for the past nine years and it consisted of offering a free boating safety class in eight different locations across the state and providing food and drinks, giveaways and door prizes.



Media interviews, news release articles, public relation events and social media comments occurred throughout the state during all listed campaigns.

Search & Rescue Operations

LDWF-LED is responsible for providing and coordinating search and rescue response and maritime security activities for the state. This activity supports the state's goal of hurricane recovery and emergency preparedness by planning, training and coordinating local, state and federal response for search and rescue associated with natural or manmade disasters. Preparedness and efficient execution of search and rescue response events is essential to saving lives and swift recovery efforts. Providing maritime security on our state's waterways is essential to protection of critical infrastructure located in maritime environments throughout Louisiana.

LDWF TRAINING Academy

The LDWF Enforcement Division conducted the hiring process to fill 24 enforcement agent positions in the winter of 2019 and spring of 2020. The LDWF Training Academy Class 33 began their six months of training on March 9, 2020. LDWF had to suspend the academy due to Covid-19 concerns at the end of March. Training resumed on June 1, 2020.

Recruiting

LDWF created a recruiter position within the enforcement division. The recruiter position focuses on reaching more qualified candidates who have the motivation and interest in becoming an LDWF agent while also diversifying the workforce.

In-Service

At the end of 2019, agents completed their annual and fall/spring firearms in-service training requirements, which consisted of the following:

Spring/Fall: In-Service

-Firearms

Annual: In-Service

- First Aid/Blood Borne Pathogens/CPR for the Professional Rescuer
- Defensive Tactics/DT Scenarios
- MEB (Monadnock Expandable Baton) Retrainer
- Officer Survival w/simunitions/Use of Force with scenarios
- HIATT Tactical Handcuffing
- Firearms (Combat Rifle & Combat Pistol)
- DWI Intox. 9000, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Wet Lab, Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Seated Test Battery, ARIDE Retrainer (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement)
- Legal Review

Firearms

LDWF/LED added one agent to its cadre of firearms instructors. This agent completed the selection, qualification and training process to become a certified LDWF and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) firearms instructor. He will be able to provide the other instructors with assistance in providing the required firearms training to all agents and cadets throughout the enforcement division.

DWI

Two agents were certified as Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), bringing the LDWF-LED total to 23 DREs.

Marine Law Enforcement Training Program

At the end of 2019, all agents had completed their annual recertification as Boat Operators for Search and Rescue (BOSAR) in the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), Boat Operations and Training Program (BOAT). Additionally, we certified 7 agents in the NASBLA TOC (Tactical Operators Course), 7 agents in the NASBLA Boating Accident Investigation (BAI) Course and 5 agents in the NASBLA Pursuit and Stop Course.



Crisis Intervention or Critical Incident Training

LDWF has four agents trained in Crisis Intervention and Critical Incident as part of the Agents Crisis Team (ACT). The ACT team consists of agents who are specially trained as skilled listeners. The objective of ACT is to provide support for law enforcement personnel, and their immediate family, who have experienced a critical incident or traumatic event. A Critical Incident is defined as any incident, action, or event, which has the potential for producing significant emotional trauma that may adversely affect the psychological well-being of law enforcement personnel.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Maritime Special Response Team:

The LDWF/LED Maritime Special Response Team (MSRT) partners with the Louisiana State Police (LSP) SWAT team to address maritime security threats within the state of Louisiana. The team provides a maritime tactical response capability at the state level in order to effectively provide public safety, officer safety, and tactical support for LDWF/LEDs federal, state and local partners.

During this period the LDWF/LED MSRT team completed their annual training which consisted of:

- Close Quarter Battle Techniques (CQB)
- Firearms Training
- Security Zone Enforcement Procedures
- Underway Training
- Hostage scenarios
- Large Vessel Training
- Rural Operations and Tactical Tracking
- Water Survival

At the end of 2019, MSRT members had completed their annual recertification as Tactical Operators Course (TOC) in the NASBLA BOAT Program.

Preventative Radiological and Nuclear Detection (PRND):

LDWF continues to work with key local, state and federal partners to implement a PRND program in the state of Louisiana. Through our partnership with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), the state has developed a statewide concept of operations plan (CONOPS), as well as standard operating procedures (SOPs) for individual agency partners. LDWF and PRND partners successfully completed a three-day training exercise as well as a full-scale exercise.

ACQUISITIONS FOR 2019-2020

Equipment:

- 51 replacement Concealed Bullet Proof Vests
- 18 replacement Maritime Special Response Team Tactical Entry Vests
- 5 Gatortail Boat/Motor/Trailer packages
- 6 replacement outboard motors
- 5 surveillance cameras
- 2 Night Track Pro cameras

- 13 replacement computers
- 1 replacement boat trailer
- 39 (4x4) patrol trucks
- 2 Administration SUV's
- 1 custom robotic deer decoy
- 2 Drones

OPERATION GAME THIEF



Louisiana Operation Game Thief (OGT), Inc. is a program which provides cash rewards to those providing information leading to the apprehension of wildlife violators. Violations can be reported anonymously by calling a 24-hour toll-free telephone number (1-800-442-2511) or by using LDWF's tip411 program. To use the tip411 program, citizens can text LADWF and their tip to 847411 or download the "LADWF Tips" iPhone or Android apps from the Apple App Store and Google Play free of charge. The hotline and the tip411 program are monitored 24 hours a day by the LDWF Communications Center. Reports are immediately referred to agents for action.

During the 2019 year, OGT paid out \$14,550 in rewards. In 2019 the LOGT board reviewed 38 cases that led to 78 subjects getting cited or arrested and a total of 707 citations issued. From 1984 till the end of 2019 the LOGT board has paid out a total of \$432,750 in reward money to informants.

JOINT ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT

LDWF-LED again entered into a Joint Enforcement Agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Enforcement. LDWF-LED received approximately \$820,626 in FY 2019-2020 to patrol for compliance with federal commercial and recreational fisheries regulations, primarily in the Gulf of Mexico.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The LDWF-LED Public Information section does various media and public information related tasks. The public information section handles public emails, Facebook questions, media requests including setting up interviews, and gathering enforcement related information. The public information section also provides footage and photos to media outlets both in-state and nationally.

LDWF-LED issued 108 enforcement related press releases during FY 2019-2020. These press releases were issued to a media contact list via email both state and nationwide. They were also posted on the LDWF website. The press releases ranged from rewards for information on current cases, conviction results, announcements of event and upcoming cadet academies, highlighting important and unusual cases, enforcement division and agent achievements and awards won, and boating safety information.

LDWF-LED public information also produces videos for both external and internal use. The videos range from public service announcements, cadet recruitment, hunting and boating safety and cadet training.



MISSISSIPPI

Steve Adcock, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Are officers 100% Wildlife Law Enforcement or Mixed?

- Officers are mixed between (2) Wildlife, (4) Fisheries & (163) Law Enforcement Bureau

Straight Line Reporting Structure: Yes

- Number of Officers: 169. Officers are full time Law Enforcement

TRAINING

FY 2019 In Service training focused on CEW certification, ambush situations, briefing our officers on trends that have developed within the past year, and utilized high stress situational firearms instruction. We feel it necessary to adapt and evolve our training to meet the everchanging world in which we live and work.

FY 20 Inservice training was different because of the COVID 19 pandemic and online virtual training classes were utilized for career ladder and continuing education.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

The total appropriated budget for the Law Enforcement Bureau is \$15,500,000.00; this includes federal funds and salary dollars. Maintaining adequate numbers in the workforce continues to be a challenge due to retirements. However, continued funding from HB 1151 allows MDWFP to hire and retain more Conservation Officers. MDWFP is on schedule to have a Fall of 2020 Cadet class with 15 cadets.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

For now, Covid-19 has changed the way we work. Today officers are social distancing, masked up and practicing all kinds of safety guidelines to protect themselves and others. Virtual classes and zoom meetings are increasing along with this pandemic. Hunter Education is now provided online to youth 12 and older. On a positive note, officers are seeing more people take part in outdoor recreational opportunities due to Covid-19. Fishing license sales have increased and expect hunting license sales to follow suit as people seem to find the outdoors as a way to escape Covid-19. Boat, UTV and ATV sales continue to increase along with Recreational shooting. All that being said, officers can expect a lot more encounters with the general public and safety will be of the upmost importance for our officers.

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

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has adopted a number of regulatory changes over the past year.

- SB2722 Chronic Wasting Disease; require testing of white-tailed deer harvested
In enclosures, and designated Class I and II violations.
- HB1577 Hunter safety course; authorize school districts to offer as part of their curriculum.

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

The opening of McIvor Shooting Facility was the culmination of more than two years of dedicated work to bring a state-of-the-art, 300-acre shooting facility to the hills and grassland area near Sardis. Located on Charles Ray Nix WMA, McIvor is Mississippi's third public-shooting range owned and operated by Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP).

Funding for the range facility was secured through a Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration grant with a significant contribution from Winchester Ammunition.

The range is a part of MDWFP's R3 initiative: recruiting, retaining, and reactivating sportsmen into hunting and fishing activities. The program includes the department's youth-oriented hunter education program.

Officers utilize MDWFP ranges as a way to connect with the public. With ranges being associated with a WMA or within close proximity of public land, officers can essentially provide an opportunity that educates, introduces to recreational shooting, and provide opportunity to hunt, all on the same area.

Recruitment is a big part in today's conservation law enforcement. Ranges are just another tool that officers can use to recruit, retain, and reactivate the public to the outdoors.

MISSOURI

Randy Doman, Chief

TRAINING ISSUES

- The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) graduated a class of 11 Conservation Agents in October of 2019 from our Agent Training Academy (which initially started with 12 trainees). For the second time within the last five years, MDC will not be conducting an Agent Training Academy in 2020. The nine-month hiring process will soon begin (July 2020) for the 2021 Agent Training Academy. 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.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all group related spring training and qualifications (i.e., firearms, defensive tactics, CPR/First Aid, etc.), meetings, conferences, physical fitness testing, etc., have been postponed until later dates yet to be determined.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

- The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget for MDC continues to represent less than one percent of the total state government budget in Missouri. The primary sources of revenue are the one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax, at about \$121 million, and permit sales and federal reimbursements, at about \$64 million. Total receipts for FY 2019 were \$196.7 million.

In Missouri, conservation pays by enriching our economy and quality of life. In Missouri each year, more than 1 million individuals fish, 576,000 hunt, and 1.7 million view wildlife. Hunting, fishing, and wildlife recreation generate \$5.2 billion in economic impacts, and there is an additional \$10 billion in economic impacts from the forest products industry, for a total of \$15.2 billion in economic impacts. This economic activity supports 111,000 jobs. Conservation makes Missouri a great place to live, work, fish, hunt, view wildlife, and be outdoors.

In 2019, MDC welcomed three new commissioners to our four-person Conservation Commission – Barry Orscheln of Columbia, Mo.; Dr. Steven Harrison of Rolla, Mo.; and Mark McHenry of Kansas City, Mo.

The Conservation Commission approved a multi-year market-based pay plan and performance management system which uses a 'Pay for Performance' approach which is directly tied to available funding. This new system is based on three annual criteria:

- 1). Market-based salary comparisons/adjustments,
- 2). Tenure/longevity with the MDC, and
- 3). Performance pay based on set performance measures (i.e., agreed upon goals and objectives).

MDC has a priority-based budgeting program specifically tied to the Department's Strategic Plan: *Design for the Future*. This plan identifies three goals (listed below) to direct the efforts associated with specific FY20-21 Department priorities.

- *MDC Takes Care of Nature*
- *MDC Connects People with Nature*
- *MDC Maintains Public Trust*

With input from the public and conservation partners, MDC has identified six desired outcomes, 17 strategies, more than 150 specific actions, and 42 measures that will help track our progress. The Protection Branch is well represented in all three goals, as well as the current agency priorities which include: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management, Feral Hog Elimination, Asset Management Inventory, and Priority Geography Management.

The Department reorganization has switched from an initial planning phase to an implementation phase which has resulted in some extensive restructuring (e.g., divisions changing to branches; regional administrators appointed to all eight regions to place local coordination and decision-making authority at the regional level, etc.,).

The Protection Branch currently has 188 full-time employees, which is currently down 12 positions due to retirements, resignations, and terminations. In order to provide superior customer service, while addressing emerging priorities such as disease management and wildlife trafficking, the Protection Branch occasionally reclassifies existing positions to better accomplish our mission. Two examples include: returning a temporary field agent position into the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) to serve in a technical investigator (Sergeant Detective) role and reclassifying a clerical position to a supervisor (Captain) position for our Commercial Wildlife Unit.

At the present time, a little more than one quarter of commissioned law enforcement staff are eligible for retirement within the next five years. This appears to be a consistent dilemma within the entire Department as well.

Effective May 1, 2020 the Protection Branch adopted a law enforcement ranking system to emphasize a statewide chain of command, increase accountability for a statewide program, facilitate more accurate market value comparisons, increase cross-communication/parity with LE peers, enhance succession planning while developing bench strength for future leadership roles, ensure that training and leadership is everyone's responsibility, and that the best trainers are providing instruction, no matter the rank.

- Structure is made up of the following - Branch Chief > Deputy Chief(s) > Major > Captain(s) > Lieutenant(s) > Sergeant Detective(s) > Corporal(s) > Conservation Agent(s) > Agent Trainee(s).

We are still looking to also add a Sergeant level to take some of the duties off the plates of our Lieutenants.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

During the 2019 deer season, 5,700 hunters donated 282,935 pounds of venison to Missouri's Share the Harvest program. This was an increase over last year (4,956 hunters donating 259,414 pounds). Conservation staff, in addition to our program partner, the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), are continually working on raising awareness and securing funding for this extremely valuable program.

Operation Game Thief (OGT), is a hotline sponsored by the Department and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. In 2019, Missouri's OGT program received 760 violation reports (an increase over last year), which resulted in 297 convictions and \$8,800 in rewards paid to 45 callers. Our OGT exhibit trailer was used in six events for multiple programs. The Protection Branch actively promotes the OGT program through a variety of media outlets, including our Department's social media page. These efforts resulted in several great cases being made.

One such call to the OGT hotline last year led to the following noteworthy case: On 11/01/2019 Agent Eric Swainston and Lt. Mike Jones received information from two anonymous sources that Harold Piatt was in possession of two fresh questionable deer heads at his residence. Agents Tyler Brown, Swainston and Lt. Jones, with the assistance of the Miller County Sheriff's Office, conducted an interview and interrogation at the Harold Piatt residence which resulted in solving various cases in both Miller and Shannon Counties.

Piatt admitted to shooting multiple deer at night, from the roadway, and taking the antlers as trophies. In most instances, he left the meat to rot, while just enjoying the thrill of the kill. During the course of the interview, and with consent from Piatt, they looked through the photos on his cell phone. Piatt identified each photo, the deer in each photo, approximately where each deer was killed, approximately what time and date they were killed, and the manner in which they were killed. Piatt identified photos of four deer that he killed in Shannon County and three more deer that he killed in Miller County. He also received multiple drug charges in Miller County. Below is a list of the charges that were filed on Piatt along with evidence photos of illegal wildlife parts seized.

For the violations committed in Shannon County, Agent Brown filed the following charges with the prosecuting attorney:

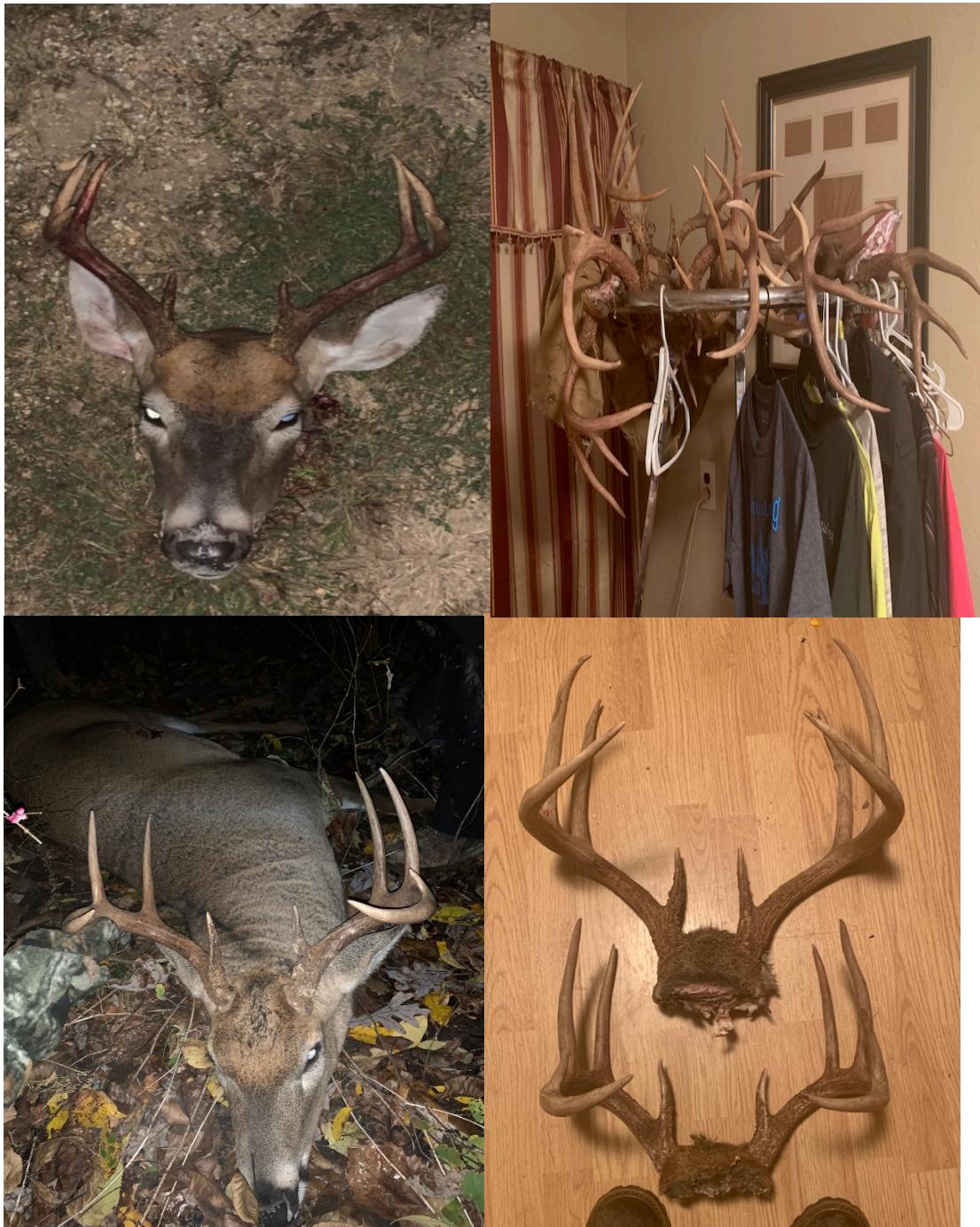
- Take Deer in Closed Season (x3)
- Take Deer with Aid of Artificial Light (x3)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance Except less than 35 Grams Marijuana
- Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia-Methamphetamine
- Possession of Less than 10 Grams Marijuana
- Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

For the violations committed in Miller County, Agent Swainston filed the following charges:

- Take Deer with the Aid of Artificial Light (x3)
- Take Deer in Closed Season (x3)
- Take Raccoon in Closed Season by Hunting Methods.
- Illegally Possess Deer or Parts Thereof (x2)

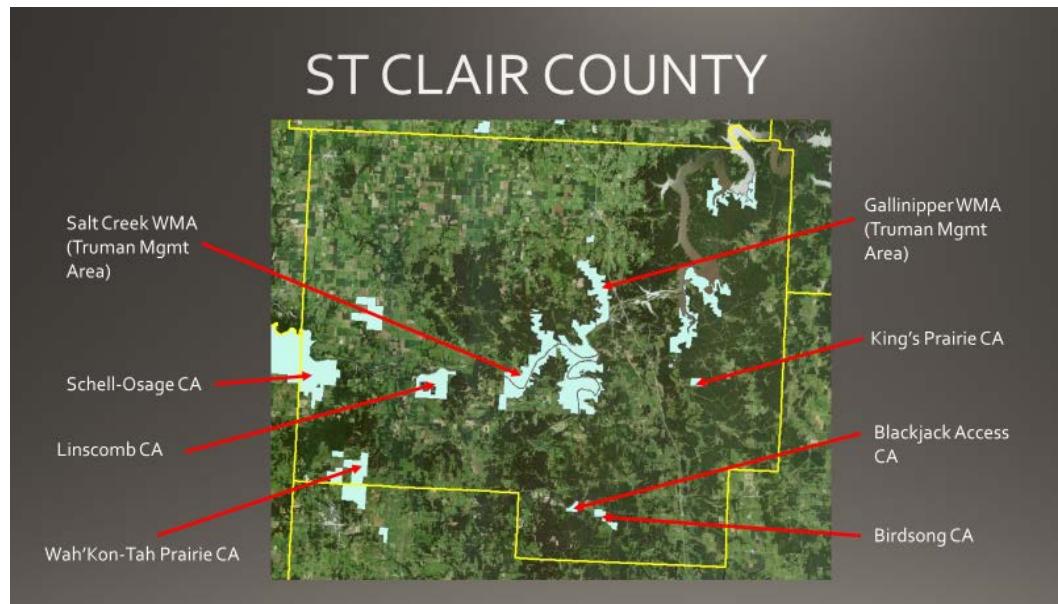


Illegal Antlers



Illegal Deer and Antlers

Timber theft also continued to be an issue in 2018-2019 across the state with numerous investigations resulting in successful prosecution (e.g., 29 felonies and 11 misdemeanors, which resulted in \$61,803.63 in fines and restitution for the Kansas City Region). Specific examples from St. Clair County are included below:



ST CLAIR COUNTY

- Pending Cases Filed by Cooperating Agencies
 - St Clair County Sheriff's Office – 1 Felony – Possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine)
 - 1 Felony – Possession of stolen property (flat bed trailer)
 - Cedar County Sheriff's Office – 1 Felony – Possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine)
 - El Dorado Spring Police Department – 1 Felony – Possession of stolen property (Dodge truck tailgate)

ST CLAIR COUNTY

Area	Volume (Doyle)	Value	Tree Count
Birdsong CA	2581	\$6,531.04	10
Blackjack Access CA	408	\$1,067.94	3
Gallinipper WMA	526	\$1,439.87	2
Salt Creek WMA	3812	\$10,443.85	28
Linscomb CA	3019	\$8,270.86	7
Kings Prairie CA	5257	\$14,208.18	17
Schell-Osage CA	1389	\$3,806.55	5
Wah Kon Tah CA	740	\$2,027.26	4
Total	17732	\$47,795.55	76

TACTICS UTILIZED BY SUSPECTS

- Battery operated chainsaws
- Both daytime and nighttime activity
- Stolen equipment (Chainsaws, trailers, winches, etc.)
- Cut trees, leave for several days to a couple of months, return to remove logs
 - Using game cameras to monitor the cut trees to see if they are discovered
 - Cell phone app (IRHiddencamera) available that will detect infrared game cameras
- Multiple locations vs. a single area
- Selling logs at multiple sawmills

COOPERATION

- Intra-Departmental
 - Cooperation with Forestry, Wildlife, and Resource Science
 - Tree / log values
 - Locate cut trees on areas managed
 - Map building
 - Provide equipment
- Inter-Agency
 - US Army Corp of Engineers
 - US Fish & Wildlife
 - County Sheriff's Offices and local Police Departments
 - In other areas of the state – US Forest Service and National Park Service



UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

See aforementioned Timber Case Information.

Missouri's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) continues to remain active as a contributing member of the multi-state Aquatic Resources Task Force comprised of their counterpart investigators from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee.

Missouri SIU staff also remain actively involved in various capacities with the Wildlife Investigators Covert Academy (WICA) training held annually across the country (Missouri hosted this training in 2019).

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Protection Branch continues to embrace technology to better protect Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources. Department Administration has tentatively approved and allocated funding to outfit Protection vehicles as mobile workstations. (i.e., laptop mounting system with separate adjustable screen and keyboard, mobile modem, printers, etc.)

The Protection Branch instituted an Incident Reporting System to comply with state crime reporting laws. This system has been designed to be fully integrated with our current Arrest Records and Warnings System, Telecheck System, Permit Sales System, and Accomplishment Reporting System (new this year as well, to track agent daily activities and accomplishments). 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.

The Protection Branch continues to make great cases utilizing game cameras and remote surveillance cameras that send photos to agent's smartphones when activity is detected. Several of our successful 2019 timber theft cases were discovered and effectively

documented using this technology, as well as detecting the presence the feral hogs in staged corral traps. Our SIU continues to successfully use Cellebrite in conducting cell phone data extraction and transfer analysis, and ZetX to map and analyze huge sets of phone record data quickly and efficiently while meeting scientific standards (TRAX mapping - tower dumps, exigent pings, etc.,).

Protection Branch also enhanced the law enforcement markings on our 2019 and newer vehicles over the past year. The increased visibility is part of a deliberate community policing strategy and an effort to maintain relevance in a changing society...



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

Legislative Session - the Department is engaging in discussions with legislators regarding budget allocations, feral hog elimination efforts, night vision and thermal imagery use for predator hunting and wildlife/feral hog damage control, the definition of 'handgun', and a Landowner Registry, etc.

In 2019, the Missouri Legislature and Governor passed a "Poaching Bill" which provided an optional restitution penalty for poaching Missouri game animals and other native wildlife species –

- Elk and Bear - \$10,000 - \$15,000
- Whitetail Buck - \$1,000 - \$5,000
- Turkey - \$500 - \$1,000
- Paddlefish - \$500 - \$1,000

In addition to the Poaching Bill, effective February 1, 2020 the state Uniform Fine Schedule Committee, in cooperation with Protection Branch, also implemented a revised conservation fine schedule. As part of our strategy to increase voluntary compliance with the *Wildlife Code* and further deter poachers, the conservation fines for more egregious, fraudulent permit, and commercial wildlife violations increased appropriately.

Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, the Missouri Legislature essentially shut down wildlife check points on public roadways (not to include MDC roads on MDC lands) by implementing restrictive language and only allocating \$1 to be spent on such road checks.

Missouri courts discovered several years ago that the previously utilized mail-in ticket Fine Collection Center (FCC) process may have been unconstitutional since prosecuting attorneys were not signing off on tickets issued by law enforcement with the option to plead guilty and pay the fine via the mail. Therefore, the state supreme court has implemented a prosecutor portal in which all tickets are sent directly to local prosecutors who then must decide if they want a personal appearance in court, or to allow for the fine to be paid through the mail. An unforeseen problem is that most of our prosecutors do not want to personally handle all of the paper tickets issued, so they are requesting an electronic filing system in which law enforcement will need to find a way to electronically file their tickets with the prosecutor. This has unfortunately led to some county prosecutors choosing not to accept and file submitted hand-written citations from our conservation agents. Consequently, MDC is currently in the process of expeditiously creating such an electronic filing system since several prosecutors across the state have refused to accept and file paper tickets.

COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

The Protection Branch continues to utilize a very active and successful Protection Volunteer Program consisting of approximately 132 volunteers spread across the state. These volunteers assist conservation agents and other MDC 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.

MDC Administration approved and appropriated \$100,000 for the Protection Branch to institute a K-9 program which will consist of four agent handler/canine teams. California Department of Fish and Wildlife states that one well trained dog can save approximately 800 personnel hours per year. Based on this information our figures show that if each of our future canines save us 800 hours of labor each year, at an annual cost of \$1,050 dollars per canine, that's \$1.31 per hour in labor, or a total savings of \$15,760 annually per dog. Total annual cost for our K-9 Program is estimated to be \$4,200 with a total labor savings gained annually of \$63,000.

In 2019, MDC launched a permit auto renewal system to allow customers to enroll eligible permits in a service that automatically renews their permits prior to the start of the next season or permit year. More than 22,000 individuals enrolled prior to the beginning of the 2021 hunting and fishing permit season. In addition, our Permits Branch has also reached out to previous permit holders, who have not purchased permits in a few years, and have been successful in encouraging them to remain active in annual hunting, fishing, and trapping seasons with additional permits being purchased.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

MDC is part of a very productive network of federal, state, and private agencies (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) called the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership. All members of the partnership are dedicated to total elimination of feral hogs from the state and have worked together to successfully remove 10,495 hogs from Missouri's landscape in 2019.

With the U.S. Forest Service's order to prohibit feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest, the Partnership implemented an aggressive Statewide Strategic Feral Hog Elimination Plan. The Partnership set up the first Incident Command Structure (ICS) in 2020 for an increased unified removal effort. As of March, this effort, combined with the continued normally scheduled feral hog removal efforts, culminated in 340 landowners assisted, 2,904 feral hogs removed, and nearly 669,000 acres scouted for signs of feral hog activity. The

Protection Branch continues to play a vital role in all aspects and scope of the Partnership's established feral hog elimination plan. Corral trapping and aerial gunning continues to be our most effective control measures at this point in time.

With the official closing of hog hunting on U.S. Forest Service land in Missouri, the Protection Branch was tasked with providing increased law enforcement patrols and maintaining a physical presence to deter potential public unrest, and to provide protection for staff on the ground conducting scouting and trapping operations. Conservation agents also remained actively involved in the trapping efforts while continuing to enforce the state statutes prohibiting the transportation and release of feral hogs, as well as enforcing regulations prohibiting feral hog hunting on MDC lands.

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 in 2020 the Department will hold its first elk hunting season using a lottery system with only five Elk Hunting Permits to be issued this year.

Unfortunately, we continue to investigate poaching activities that have resulted in the illegal killing of six elk over the last couple of years. Working with our partners at the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), Missouri's OGT program offered a \$20,000 reward in late 2019 for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for killing these Missouri elk over the past several years. However, this large reward amount has not proven to be successful in garnering the information needed to make any arrests, so our investigations continue without having received much credible information or assistance from the public.

After numerous years of documented abuse, the Department has established regulations to address a significant level of fraud with our landowner 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). Based on this information, the Conservation Commission instituted a landowner registry system to ensure no-cost permits are only being issued to qualifying landowners, and the Commission increased the qualifying land acreage from five to 20 acres.

Lastly, our conservation agents also conducted a very successful statewide covert operation involving pet stores possessing and selling illegal wildlife (e.g., focusing primarily on illegal invasive crayfish). Appropriate charges are pending and soon to be filed in the local courts

NORTH CAROLINA

Jon Evans, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) Law Enforcement Division's mission is to conserve wildlife resources; promote safe, responsible boating; and provide public safety, through proactive law enforcement and the instruction of quality education. The division consists of 220 sworn law enforcement officers. Central office staff includes the Colonel, Major of Field Operations, Administrative Major, Training Director, Telecommunications Lieutenant, Professional Standards Lieutenant, Business Operations Manager, Telecommunications Supervisor, seven telecommunicators and three administrative assistants.



New Executive Director

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission named Major Cameron "Cam" Ingram as executive director of the agency. Ingram, who has been with the Commission since 1997, previously served as the Major of Field Operations for the agency's Law Enforcement Division.

Ingram, 47, resides in Climax, N.C. with his wife, Renee, and two daughters, Brynne and Brooke. A graduate of East Carolina University, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Parks and Recreation with a concentration in Natural Resource Management. "I am thankful for the opportunity to lead the agency to which I have dedicated my entire career," said Ingram. "I look forward to leading the agency's passionate staff who exhibit their dedication through their hard work conserving North Carolina's fish and wildlife resources."

As executive director, Ingram will oversee a statewide agency of six divisions, 650 permanent employees and an annual operating budget of approximately \$89 million. Agency operations include maintaining more than 2 million acres of public lands for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation; operating six fish hatcheries for stocking public waters; maintaining eight shooting ranges; providing hundreds of free boating access areas and publicly-accessible places to fish on more than 100 different bodies of water; operating three education centers; and offering free hunter education and recreational boating safety courses.

Ingram replaces Gordon Myers, who is retiring after serving as the agency's Executive Director for nearly 12 years.

Impact of COVID-19 on Law Enforcement During pandemics, like COVID-19, law enforcement agencies are responsible for working with government and public health officials to contain spread. Given the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 through respiratory droplets, law enforcement officers are also at a heightened risk of exposure due to their close contact with members of the public.



Enforcement efforts have changed drastically due to COVID-19. Officers are not routinely conducting compliance checks and are making contact only for obvious violations. Officers are wearing masks when encountering the public and following all guidelines for disinfecting equipment that others may contact. Flights with an observer have been suspended. Protocols are being implemented to allow observers back into the aircrafts.

Our daily work routine is very different than it was pre COVID-19, but our officers are still on the frontlines in the interest of public safety and protecting the resources. Officer safety continues to be of upmost importance.





After the onset of COVID 19, District One Officers and HECS Chase Luker worked on innovative ideas for Officer's to continue outreach with both volunteers and students. Officers throughout District One crafted educational videos based out of the "Today's Hunter Safety" book to reach our constituents through a virtual platform and continue our educational efforts.

BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Fifteen Officers successfully completed Field Training in 2020 and were assigned permanent assignments.

Due to limited openings, we did not conduct a Basic Academy in 2020, but are currently in the hiring process for the 57th Basic Training Academy that will begin in late December. We had over 1,000 applications for a projected sixteen positions. Of those 1,000, about 640 were qualified by Human Resources to be considered. The initial phase of the process consisted of a modified POPAT physical fitness assessment, the Nelson-Denny reading comprehension test, and a short exit interview with a current Officer based on questions that were given to the candidates. We invited 640 to the testing in late July. Of those 640, we had a total of just over 200 show up for testing. There are about 130 that successfully completed the testing and will be asked to come to the next phase of hiring which consists of a panel interview as well as a swimming test in late August. The final phase will consist of background investigations that will begin in early September. The 57th Basic Training Academy will consist of 29 weeks of Basic and Specialized Law Enforcement Training and will conclude in July of 2021.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT



Drone Program

Four officers have completed the FAA part 107 certification and NC DOT drone certification.

Alcoa Donation

Pursuant to Terms and Conditions of the Yadkin Hydroelectric Project Relicensing Settlement Agreement, the NCWRC's Division of Law Enforcement received \$50,000 for equipment related to recreation safety and enforcement on Yadkin Project reservoirs in District 6. The money was used to purchase binoculars, a UTV and trailer, a Mavic Enterprise Law Enforcement drone, and a mud boat.



Port Security Grant

In March 2020, the NCWRC Law Enforcement Division took ownership of a 23' Silver Ship metal center console tactical patrol boat. This vessel was purchased with a grant awarded

to the agency by the Port Security Grant Program through the Department of Homeland Security.

This V hull 23' center console boat is made of heavy-duty aluminum powered by twin 200 hp Suzuki four stroke engines, holds 100 gallons of fuel, has six seated positions, and can draft in 17" of water. Some of the electronics on this boat consist of a 12" touch screen Garmin Chartplotter with 24" radar dome, a 10" Hummingbird Helix side scan sonar, a wireless Virtual Lifeline kill switch system, a FLIR M-625CS color stabilized thermal camera, and Motorola tri-band radio system. This patrol boat is equipped with gun mounts in the t-top bolster, a Raymarine CAM220 Day/Night Eyeball IP camera, a handheld FLIR Ocean Scout 240 thermal imager.



This boat is currently stationed on the NC Coast in Morehead City. This patrol boat is used for daily patrol on the ICW in and around the State Ports in Morehead City and Wilmington while enhancing the Maritime Security Plan for the port area. As an active participant of an Area Maritime Security Committee, the Division uses this patrol boat to help with joint operations between multiple state, federal and local agencies.

Homeland Security Grant

Through partnership with NC Emergency Management Division, NCWRC was able to acquire \$100,000 in Homeland Security Grant Funding to support our Boating Law

Enforcement mission. With these funds the LE Division will purchase Mustang Float Coats, SEEK handheld thermal units, and FELL Marine Mob+ Wireless Man-Overboard Cutoff Switches for all patrol boats. This equipment will allow officers to operate in nighttime and adverse weather operations and natural disasters more safely.

NCWRC WildTip

Being relatively new, the LE Division's Turn-in-Poacher program (WildTip) continued to reward concerned citizens and sportsmen with information about resource violations that lead to the successful prosecution of poachers. During the year, \$11,200 was paid to individuals who provided these tips allowing officers to charge and bring to court those violators that may otherwise go undetected.



As a member of International Wildlife Crime stoppers, NCWRC was able to participate in the IWC sporting clay shoot hosted by SCDNR and sponsored by NWTF at the Palmetto Shooting Complex in March.

Body Worn Cameras

We are currently testing and evaluating body worn cameras from Visual Labs. We have discussions planned with AXON about their new technology and pricing. We plan to start a testing phase with AXON once we have completed the Visual Labs evaluation. There are other companies we have reached out to as well. This process is ongoing.

Handheld Radios

In 2020 we began replacing the current Motorola handheld radios with the new Motorola APX8000 handheld radios. We have already replaced radios in four Districts with plans to have the entire State replaced in 2021.

Training and Certifications

- In September of 2019, we completed our transition to 9mm GLOCK 45's. All firearms instructors completed the GLOCK Armorer's course and a three-day GLOCK Pistol Course.
- 16 Officers certified in NASBLA Level I Boat Incident Investigation at BASS Pro in Concord.
- We now have 36 officers certified in Level I and 12 officers certified in Level II Boat Incident Investigation.
- 2 Officers certified in NASBLA (BCM) Boat Crew Member

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Special Operations Unit

Since 2012 in and around the Core Sound, there have been 48 waterfowl hunters and guides charged and convicted of baiting waterfowl. These charges included the following: Guiding over bait, hunting over bait, aid and abet, over the limit, and late shooting. These violations resulted in a total of \$78,000.00 in fines over the last 8 years. There are 6 defendants that are waiting on sentencing and have already pled guilty. Once sentenced, their fines will result in an additional \$20,000.00 to the total fines and restitution. All of this has come about due to a collaborative partnership between the NCWRC and the USFWS law enforcement officers.

Driving Creek and Ramm- During a two-year investigation involving two separate hunting clubs, investigators documented 372 criminal violations and charged 41 defendants with 310 criminal violations. Investigators discovered and documented 67 whitetail deer had been unlawfully taken during the two-year investigation by the defendants charged. All defendants have pled guilty and were ordered to pay \$22,705.00 in fines, \$15,050.00 in restitution, a total of 22 years of license revocations and 84 months of active prison sentences.

OWI- The NCWRC Special Operations Unit assisted uniformed officers in the high concentration party areas on numerous lakes and waterways across the state. Investigators were able to insert themselves into these areas and relay information of impaired operators attempting to leave by operating a vessel. These details have resulted in the arrests of 51 impaired operators.



Hurricane Dorian:

On 09/06/2019 hurricane Dorian inundated parts of the Outer banks with seven feet of storm surge causing extensive damage to Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. District One Officer's assisted in the initial response to the Islands providing aid and assistance to these hard-hit communities.



Photo: Officer Pearce/ Gov. Cooper Ocracoke Island

Photo: Truck / Boat on NC 12 post storm

Aviation

The law enforcement division purchased a new aircraft on May 15th. We upgraded from a Cub Crafter two seat plane to a six seat Cessna. This is a substantial upgrade in flight distance, carrying capacity, and speed abilities. This airplane was purchased to increase aircraft operations after losing one of our planes in Hurricane Florence. Working with the NCSHP, we acquired two FLIR systems. Our plan is to install one of the units on the underbelly of our new plane to assist with search and rescue efforts and violation detection. The FLIR system is a thermal imager and daytime imager with zoom capabilities. Aircraft operations serve as a force multiplier for N.C. Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers. We currently have two aircraft. One is stationed in Eastern North Carolina and the other is stationed in western North Carolina. These planes are used for bait detection, boating law enforcement, night hunting enforcement operations, search and rescue, locating hunters, angler, and trappers in remote areas.



They are sometimes requested by local governments for assistance with fugitives, drug eradication and other local operations.



UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT

NC / SC 4th Annual Enforcement Meeting-November 10, 2019 in Lancaster, SC

Officers from North Carolina and South Carolina met to discuss enforcement issues pertaining to wildlife and boating issues in counties along the state line. During this annual meeting, each state discussed its enforcement efforts during the year, upcoming law changes, new law enforcement technology and shared enforcement ideas and strategies and planned future joint boating enforcement details on shared lakes along the state line.

"ON THE ROAD, ON THE WATER, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE CAMPAIGN"

This is the tenth year the NCWRC and its partners have committed to the "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign.

The annual multi-agency initiative works to ensure that North Carolinians can travel safely on the road and on the water during summer holidays. During the campaign, drivers and boaters can expect to encounter sobriety checkpoints and increased enforcement patrols. This campaign is coordinated by the NCWRC, State Highway Patrol and Forensic Tests for

Alcohol, and is supported by local police and sheriffs' offices, along with participating non-governmental organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Memorial Day weekend kicks off this campaign.



Photo: Campaign photo of NCWRC Officer & NCSHP officers taken at Jordan Lake

Memorial Day 2020

# of Officers	174
# of Vessels Contacted	728
# of Boaters Contacted	2459
# of Boating Citations	285
# of BUI's	27
Highest BUI	0.32
# of Boating Warnings	363
Media Contacts	30
Non-Boating Violations	275

Operation Dry Water 2020

# of Officers	165
# of Vessels Contacted	880
# of Boaters Contacted	3045
# of Boating Citations	369
# of BUI's	59
Highest BUI	0.20
# of Boating Warnings	474
Media Contacts	31
Non-Boating Violations	163



AWARDS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2020 Southern Region Educator of the Year Award Winner: Sergeant Brad Stoop

Sergeant Brad Stoop, of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), has been named the Southern Region Educator of the Year for 2020. Sgt. Brad Stoop began his career with the NCWRC Law Enforcement Division in March of 2000.

In 2006, Sgt. Stoop began teaching standardized field sobriety testing procedure with a team of outstanding instructors. Since that time, Sgt. Stoop has had the opportunity to travel to several states to attend the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Instructor Seated Battery course. He and the team of instructors were able to take this curriculum across the state of North Carolina and present it to all NCWRC officers. It has since become an integral part of the basic training program for NCWRC recruits.

Just this past year, Sgt. Stoop coordinated a Law Enforcement and First Responders boating safety class for a local fire department and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wildlife damage agents. Over the two-day period, 40 professional firefighters received classroom instruction and on-water training from area officers. The training included basic boat handling, docking, rescue operations and small boat handling. Day in and day out, Sgt. Stoop plays a role in the safety and education of the people of North Carolina, and this is something he takes great pride in. This is consistently exhibited through his efforts to educate the public about safe boating practices in and around the water.



Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: Master Officer Brandon Barbee

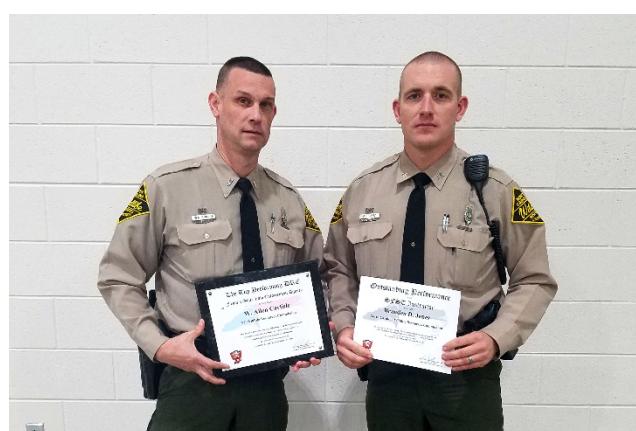
The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) announced the state winners of the Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. This award symbolizes the highest level of achievement among boating law enforcement officers throughout the United States.



Master Officer Brandon Barbee was selected as the NC boating law enforcement officer of the year. Brandon is a ten-year veteran and is currently assigned to Cabarrus County. Brandon is a Drug Recognition Expert certified by the NC Department of Health and Human Services. He is assigned to a patrol area that includes Lake Norman, Lake Wylie, and Mountain Island Lake. This area boasts the largest population in the state. These public waters also see the highest volumes of boating activity in North Carolina.

Drug Recognition Expert Awards: Sergeant Branden Jones & Lieutenant Allen Carlisle

The Wildlife Commission, in partnership with the Forensic Test for Alcohol Branch, boasts a team of Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) instructors and Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) who focus on the recognition of impaired operators. The SFST's role is to ensure a properly trained work force that can detect and apprehend impaired operators, and the DREs are extensively trained on the ability to detect impairment of alcohol and drugs. They are a major asset to the law enforcement division, working diligently to keep the citizens of North Carolina safe on both the road and the waterways.



Two officers from the Commission's law enforcement division were recently recognized for their exemplary work in this field. Sgt. Branden Jones received the Award for Outstanding Performance as an SFST instructor for his countless hours spent instructing courses to his fellow officers and recruits.

Lt. Allen Carlisle was recognized with four awards for his work as a Drug Recognition Expert after conducting the most drug evaluations of any agency within the state.



Lt. Carlisle received:

- Achievement Award for outstanding effort as a DRE in 2019
- Platinum Award for elite performance as DRE in 2019
- Top Performing DRE from a State Law Enforcement Agency – The highest number of Enforcement Drug Influence Evaluations in 2019
- 2019 North Carolina DRE Officer of the Year – The highest award for DRE in the state

PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH

NC Wildlife's Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics 2019



Agency raised over \$8,500 in support of Special Olympics North Carolina and the NCWRC State Employees Combined Campaign.

2019 Guardian of the Flame Award: Colonel Jon Evans was awarded the Guardian of the Flame Award for his efforts in starting up and organizing the NC Wildlife's LE Torch Run.



CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Plant Protection

For many decades, North Carolina Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers have been challenged with combating plant poaching on both public and privately owned lands. The Venus Flytrap is a small carnivorous plant that grows naturally along a small section of the North Carolina coastline. Venus flytraps are a unique and important part of Southeastern North Carolina's ecosystem. These plants are poached from the wild then sold as novelty items at flea markets and pet stores around the world.

Western North Carolina contains some of the highest grade and quality ginseng in the world. Ginseng brings an average of \$800.00 to \$1000.00 per dried pound. Every year, our officers receive hundreds of reports on plant poaching. In the past, our Law Enforcement Officers only had jurisdiction to enforce plant laws on public lands. However, when it came to private lands, our authority became complicated. In January of 2020, The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission



teamed up with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture by signing a MOU allowing the NCWRC to investigate and enforce state laws protecting those plants found on the plant protection list on both public and private lands.



OKLAHOMA

Nathan Erdman, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is comprised of 6 divisions which include: A Law Enforcement Division, Wildlife Division, Fisheries Division, Information and Education Division, Administration Division, and a Federal Aid Division.

The Law Enforcement Division consists of a Colonel/Chief of Enforcement, Lt. Colonel/Asst. Chief of Enforcement, Captain/Operations Manager, and a Secretary located at our headquarters in Oklahoma City. There are approximately 117 field employees which include: Game Wardens who are divided into 8 districts, with each district containing two Lieutenants and a Captain. A game wardens' primary responsibility in Oklahoma is to enforce the state's wildlife laws. However, game wardens also have the jurisdiction to enforce all other state laws when necessary. Beyond law enforcement, game wardens are responsible for conducting public outreach programs as well as assisting other divisions with research and other projects. Game wardens are often involved in assisting with spotlight counts, controlled burns, fisheries research assistance, and other Department programs and projects.

In addition, the agency has a reserve force consisting of 13 reserve officers. These reserves are agency employees assigned to various divisions whose primary duties are other than law enforcement. This program has been dwindling as employees retire and we are not actively enlisting new reserves at this time.

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

Our upper level positions have all changed hands. Promotions in the upper level include Nathan Erdman – Colonel/Chief of Enforcement, Wade Farrar – Lt. Colonel/Asst. Chief of Enforcement, and Marni Loftis Captain/Operations Manager.

TRAINING ISSUES

Previously, new Game wardens attended 4 weeks of unstructured "training" at headquarters, followed by 10 weeks with an FTO, and attendance at the state law enforcement academy, CLEET. The training at headquarters included self-guided study of Title 29 and Title 800 (Oklahoma's wildlife statutes), a couple of one day classes, ordering and issuing equipment, 4 days of firearms training, and 2 days of defensive tactics.

Captain Marni Loftis was promoted in September 2019. She completely restructured and rebuilt the new warden training program by organizing the first Oklahoma Game Warden Training Academy. Her first class consisted of 6 new game wardens (Probationary Game Wardens - "PGW's"), which were hired on February 18, 2020. These consisted of 5 males and 1 female. Before employment the 6 PGW's completed a pre-hire physical fitness test and their aptitude was recorded for future comparison. Those times etc. were then used to develop a final physical fitness test to be administered at the end of the academy. The PGW's were advised that if they did not meet the improvement requirements they would

not continue on past the academy. They were also advised that there would be a final comprehensive knowledge exam and failure of that exam would also result in termination. The Academy was 6 weeks in length which included 1 week in Oklahoma City for new hire orientation, issuing equipment, and instruction on basic Department functions. The next 5 weeks were spent at Camp Gruber (a National Guard training facility in Eastern Oklahoma). Those 5 weeks were divided into the following classes: Introduction to Title 29 and 800, Application of Title 29 and 800, Citation Writing, Computer/License System Training, Ethics, Federal Training, Waterfowl Enforcement Techniques, Introduction to Investigations (including basics on Hunter Incident Investigation, Wildlife-Human Attack Response Training, Man-tracking, Blood-tracking, and Wildlife Forensics), Trauma/First Aid, Firearms Training, Precision Driving, Defensive Tactics, Report Writing, Officer Involved Shootings, Simunitions, GPS Skills for Law Enforcement, Precision Boat Driving, Search and Seizure/Probable Cause, Writing Search Warrants, and Interview and Interrogations as well as a daily PT schedule.

Game Warden CLEET certified instructors from across the state stepped up to volunteer to teach these classes. They organized PowerPoints, scenarios, etc. Defensive Tactics instructors proposed the purchase of a new HighGear Suit and it was approved and purchased. This suit was used during Defensive Tactics and Simunitions for actual hand to hand combat as well as training on the progression of use of force with the Simunitions training. Capt. Loftis was able to get over 50 of the class hours approved for CLEET credit. Along the way, one PGW turned in their resignation. It was apparent they were not going to pass the PT test and after 3 weeks of training they decided that they had not understood what being a Game Warden entailed. So, they turned in a resignation and did not complete the last two weeks of the academy. The other 5 PGW's all passed their final PT test and the Comprehensive Knowledge Exam. Currently PGW's will continue with the previous 10-week FTO program, and PGW's who are not already CLEET certified will continue on to the 14 ½ week state CLEET Academy.

The Academy will be held once a year between February and March. Plans are already being made to extend the Academy by 2 weeks. This will allow the addition of 2 days for Officer Water Survival Training (if we can get 2-3 instructors through the NASBLA school), 1 day for Water Enforcement Techniques, 3 days for Boat Training, 2 extra days for Defensive tactics, and the expansion of the Investigation and Report Writing classes.

The Academy was a huge success thanks to the teamwork between instructors and Capt. Loftis, as well as the major role which upper administration played. New Colonel Nathan Erdman and Lt. Colonel Wade Farrar were vital in the approval and implementation of The Academy every step of the way. They not only supported the organization of the academy, but they assisted when they could. Their contribution and support, in conjunction with the overall approval by Director JD Strong, were tantamount to the success of The Academy.

Capt. Loftis now has plans to ensure all classes are CLEET accredited at future academies. She also plans to begin rebuilding and restructuring the Field Training Officer program.

Other aspects of training require that all game wardens complete twenty-five hours of certified law enforcement training with two hours of mental health training each calendar year. The Division has 57 CLEET certified instructors. These instructors wrote 25 classes

which were CLEET certified. Unfortunately, for the most part, they only had access to teach the classes they wrote. Capt. Loftis set up a google drive where all presentations and class forms can be shared. She also applied to have multiple other classes obtain CLEET certification. We know have approximately 35 CLEET accredited continuing education courses that most all of our instructors can teach. This assists with wardens not needing to rely on outside sources or agencies to complete their mandated training.

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

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

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 and one resignation from the newly instituted Game Warden Training Academy. We have had 2 sets of new game wardens hired during this period, 5 wardens on the old training system and 5 wardens on the new training system.

We were able to purchase 19 Dodge four-wheel drive extended cab pickups and 4 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 pursuing the purchase of 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. We have written policy in regard to the body cameras and are currently working our way through the state purchasing procedures.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Hunting guides are continuously increasing and with that increase, competition for clients is increasing. This, in conjunction with weather, significantly increased the number of cases being made for baiting migratory birds. Our hunting and fishing culture among constituents are changing and the use of guides is growing. Our busy way of life leaves little time to manage a plot of land for deer or scout for turkeys, etc. That in combination with fewer and fewer available leases will likely lead to a continued increase in guided hunts and new areas of illegal activity that will result from such.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

The Pensacola, FL shooter obtained his gun with a hunting license. There is a unique loophole in Florida law which considers hunting and fishing licenses as official state documents which can be used to purchase guns. Oklahoma has this same loophole, so we brought this to the attention of an FBI and OSBI joint task force on terrorism. We started working with them to look up flagged foreign nationals in our license system to determine if they had purchased hunting/fishing licenses. That work became extensive quickly with over 1000 new Saudi foreign nationals a year entering Oklahoma. So, we used our new license system to develop a report on foreign nationals who have obtained hunting/fishing licenses. This report is now being shared with the FBI/OSBI joint task force.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Several districts have purchased or are in the process of purchasing thermal imaging devices which attach to phones. We are also looking at other thermal devices for consideration.

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

New legislation and administrative rules:

- New and additional counties were opened to the harvest of bears.
- Raccoon season was extended to a year-round season.
- Record of Game is no longer required to be filled out on paper licenses due to the new license system. Sportsmen still have to field tag the animal.
- Rifle and handguns no longer have cartridge length or caliber restrictions as long as they fire at least a 55-grain bullet. Shotguns are no longer restricted to 20 gauge or larger.
- New constitutional carry rules took effect in November 2019. People can now carry loaded firearms in vehicles, including on our WMA's and PHA's, etc.
- New laws allowing the use of ATV's on county roads took effect in November 2019 as well. This has caused issues on our WMA's and PHA's.

COST SAVING INITIATIVES

Fuel costs continue to be a concern in Oklahoma. Game wardens are encouraged to use time management and to work wisely while conducting their patrols.

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

The continued rising cost of vehicles, boats and general safety equipment is a major concern with a small reduction in the number of licenses and also the decrease in the stock market. This means smaller budgets with the same amount of expenses going out. We are trying to save some money by switching to Dodge trucks, which have the same fleet warranty as Chevy does. Also, we are looking at buying fewer boats and UTVs to save other

money. Once the stock market picks back up, we should be in a better position to replace the reduced equipment purchases.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The invention of the Livescope for fishing has caused quite a stir from wardens, biologists and even sportsmen. Right now, it is a legal device. However, it is being scrutinized and analyzed do to targeted snagging of paddlefish. A new state record paddlefish was caught in May and then a new world record paddlefish was caught in June. Another new world record paddlefish was then caught in July with the aid of Livescope. Enforcement of the illegal harvest and sale of paddlefish eggs for caviar continues to be a major enforcement issue. Therefore, the targeted snagging of paddlefish could/will pose a huge issue for enforcement/conservation as females are targeted. Game wardens maintain an increased enforcement emphasis during the annual spring spawn to help curtail the illegal activities associated with the illegal caviar trade.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Chisolm Frampton, Colonel

DIVISIONAL PRIORITIES

Divisional Accomplishments

The Division partnered with the Coastal Conservation Association and funds were provided to purchase Leopold Guide Series binoculars and new fish check sticks to our coastal officers valued at over \$45,000.00

Captain DJ Riley successfully completed the FBI National Academy.

LE training is dedicated to ensuring our supervisory staff are provided the skills expected in a professional managerial environment. 18 Supervisors from 1st Sergeant to Captain completed the three levels of the FBI-LEEDA Leadership Institute to obtain their nationally recognized FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award. The Division has implemented a leadership training curriculum to ensure all supervisors obtain the best training available.

The Division now has an outreach Facebook page South Carolina Game Wardens focused on highlighting the great work of our game wardens and other conservation LE agencies.

Officer Safety

This is our first priority as our game wardens are our most important resource to protect. We were able to complete the procurement and issuance of FN Patrol Rifles for our game wardens. These rifles replaced our shotguns and original patrol rifles obtained through the 1033 program. Most of our vehicles were provided a locking under seat gun box for rifle storage as well. We are continuing with our ballistic vest replacement program annually and looking to procure the most innovative vests available to encourage daily wear by our officers.

The Divisions initiative to permanently assign game wardens to federal task forces have increased officer safety through the availability of intelligence bulletins and availability of vast resources in gathering intel to prepare for public events and further gathering of information during investigations via databases at the federal level. Partnerships like these keep SCDNR Law Enforcement at the forefront of State law enforcement.

Radio communications upgrades were completed from the standard Vhf radios to tri-band portable and mobile radios. By moving to the tri-band models we are allowed greater inter-operability with other state, local, and federal partners. The tri-band radios allow for conventional VHF, Uhf, and 800 MHz channels all contained within the same radio. We are moving to docking stations in all patrol boats to allow the use or portable radios in place of mounted radios which will in time result in savings of operational dollars due to radio service monthly fees.

Technology Advances

The Division began meeting with vendors for our electronic reporting program in early 2018. As we moved through the numerous avenues available, we determined the cost of

replacement devices would be our biggest hurdle. We are partnering with SmartCop out of Florida to advance their development of their iOS based reporting platforms from their current windows based platform. We are finalizing the contract and hope to begin with the initial deployment in November 2020. This vendor is in use by numerous conservation agencies and will hopefully allow for future data and intelligence sharing.

Recruitment and Retention

The Division hired 16 new game wardens during the calendar year.

In an effort to address the issue of salary compaction within our ranks, a plan was initiated to provide salary adjustments for all officers hired prior to 2005 providing up to a 5% salary increase in some cases.

The Division is now maintaining a "SC Game Wardens" Facebook page to highlight the work of field officers and open avenues of communication through social media.

Public Service and Outreach

The LE Division held 28 regional youth fishing rodeos with 3,400 participants.

2,882 students participated in 4 Regional Archery Tournaments across the state in an effort to allow more schools to participate in a tournament experience. The Annual State NASP/IBO 3D Tournament at the State Archery in the Schools Event with 668 students participating. Due to Covid restrictions the State Tournament was canceled.

Thanks to grants from the Hampton Wildlife Fund and other sponsors, \$41,000 in college scholarships were presented to graduating seniors from the High School Division even with the cancellation of the state tournament.

South Carolina is currently 7th in the nation in registered vessels, due to our weather boating is a year-round activity in our state from the coast to the mountains. Whether fishing, hunting, or simply for pleasure cruises most yards in this state have a boat parked in them.

The Division currently has 2 Didson dual frequency acoustic imaging units and 1 remote operated camera vessel with accessories. These units are state of the art technology used for the location of evidence and recovery of victims of drowning and boating related deaths.

Partnerships

The Division continues with our successful outreach partnerships with our virtual boating simulator, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Wendy's Burgers campaigns for boating safety.

The Division has successfully partnered with State and Federal partners in several areas. Currently there are 4 game wardens assigned to the protective detail for Governor Henry McMaster. We have 2 game wardens assigned to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force offices in Charleston and Greenville, and 1 game warden assigned to the DHS SeaHawk Port

Security Task Force in Charleston. These partnerships have brought with it a new insight into how a game warden can add to their traditional investigative roles with a different perspective as seen from an officer working in the recreational and commercial enforcement role.

The Division has joined in a multi-state southeastern cooperative group focusing on LE responses to CWD, Covert Investigations, Training, and Technology Advancements.

The Division continues to partner with other state law enforcement agencies and the SC National Guard to support SC Law Enforcement Assistance Program (SCLEAP). SCLEAP was born out of the actual needs of state police officers serving in the field as well as non-sworn administrative staff members and their families. Modeled on a concept currently used by the FBI, SCLEAP is an employee assistance program which provides services as well as maintaining a cadre of volunteer chaplains across the state. The staff and volunteers are on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, in order to better serve the needs of all South Carolina law enforcement employees. For more information about this program, visit <https://scleap.org/>

Policy Development

Currently we are reviewing all Directives, Policies, and Regulations to ensure they are current, enforceable, defensible, and relevant. Review and revision cycles are not only mandated it is an integral best practices approach for any law enforcement agency.

We are also trying to ensure that we do not lose our history as game wardens and our historical duties that are expected of us. With the revisions it is allowing us to set forth with relevant directions to our game wardens as we face the new challenges and enforcement expectations placed on us in this everchanging career in law enforcement.

LE Division Statistics – Jan 2019 – Dec 2019

The Division issued **7,774** summons and **22,078** written warnings.

The Division spent **39,796** hours on boating patrols inspecting **61,987** boats.

The Division spent **5,224** hours conducting SAR mission, **4,057** hours of Homeland Security patrols, and **14,040** hours assisting other agencies.

The Division conducted **36,044** night patrol hours, **9,995** hours on litter patrols, and conducted **3,428** public presentations.

The Division checked **48,417** hunters, **78,442** fishermen and issued **1,031** depredation permits.

The Communication Center received 22,546 calls for service in 2018. These included the following:

- Warrants Processed: 97

- Top Three Calls for Service:
- General Information – 3,023
- Injured Animal – 2,473
- Trespass to Hunt/Fish – 1,465

K-9 Unit

Our K-9 Team was recognized by the American Police Canine Association as being the first agency to be certified in Wildlife Detection.

K-9 Teams were deployed 218 times resulting in 134 DNR related cases, 82 agency assists, and 51 public presentations.

3 new K-9 Teams were added in 2019. These teams completed 320 hours of training.

Our K-9 Team suffered a tragic loss this year with K-9 Blue passing during a training exercise. Due to a retirement Blue's handler Sgt. Freddie Earhart was able to begin working with K-9 Rio.

K-9 Teams assisted other agencies in locating 2 missing persons during 2019. One was a search for a young missing female who had gone into the woods to overdose on pills, and one was an individual who was highly intoxicated on various pills, wrecked his vehicle and wandered into the woods and passed out. In both cases SCDNR K-9s were instrumental in locating the individuals possibly saving their lives.

Special Investigations Unit

SIU officers along with our Wildlife section worked many hours on revamping and rewriting new Reptile/ Herp laws that are currently under consideration in the legislature.

Successfully concluded long term investigation initiated by Region 3 officers regarding night hunting, trespassing, and taking deer illegally investigation resulting in 12 counts of night hunting and 67 additional charges. Also seized refrigerator truck, Lincoln Town Car, Ford F150, and 3 firearms with thermal optics.

Utilized ZetX cell phone mapping system to close several long-term alligator cases resulting in 2 pending federal violations and additional state charges for alligators being taken without tags and inside a federal refuge.

Continued to assist USFWS with ongoing reptile/turtle cases. Resulting in 6 subjects being charged with federal violations in South Carolina. Locating one of the nation's most wanted smugglers operating here in SC. Subject was apprehended and turned over for federal prosecution.

Successfully participated in 2 Human Trafficking operation as part of the Human Trafficking Task Force resulting in 43 individuals being charged with related violations.

Marine Theft and Fatality Investigations

Investigated 20 boating related deaths with 15 being reportable boating fatalities and 2 hunting fatalities.

Completed entry of 154 reportable boating accident reports into the USCG BARD System and reviewed 48 non-reportable boating accidents.

759 marine theft investigations were opened with 520 cases being closed recovering 11 boats, 7 motors, and 5 trailers valued at \$34,256.00.

Significant Events & Cases

Game Warden Thomas Buckhannon and Sergeant Dale Tanner while patrolling the Little River Inlet area observed a victim of a jet-ski incident floating face down in the water. The officers got the victim out of the water and while rendering aid transported the victim to a local marina where EMS was waiting. The victim was transported via life flight to a trauma center where the victim remained unconscious for 9 days. The victim was released from the hospital 14 days after the accident. Trauma Doctors and Staff credited the officers with saving the victim's life.

Hurricane Dorian – 250 SCDNR officers and 32 Department Deputy Officers were deployed for hurricane response and lane reversal operations. Investigators erected hazard signs and buoys post hurricane replacing those removed during the storm and identifying new hazards.

TENNESSEE

Darren Rider, Colonel

TRAINING

Nine new officers were hired along with five commissioned wildlife managers and they were trained in firearms, ATV operation, defensive tactics, EVOC (truck and boat operation), boating accident investigation, BUI investigations that included a wet lab, hunting accident investigation, black bear enforcement, commercial fishing enforcement, trapping enforcement, nuisance animal training, water survival, waterfowl enforcement and wildlife immobilization. In addition, these newly hired officers were certified as hunter safety instructors.

Annual in-service training was conducted for the Agency's 270 commissioned personnel – Annual in-service training now consists of blended learning, officers must complete learning modules from Virtual Academy, this year's modules consisted of: Autism Awareness; Fentanyl, Opioids and Naloxone (Narcan) Use; Indicators of Child Abuse; Officer-Involved Shooting: Mental Wellness and Liability; Emergency Vehicle Operations Course and Mental Illness in addition to defensive tactics and fire arm re-qualifications.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

Agency employees in a wildlife class position in which wildlife officers are included were given a 2.5 % pay raise, in addition if that employee was not topped out in their pay grade they were awarded an additional 4.5% for a cost of living adjustment.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

In July 2020, TWRA partnered with state and local law enforcement agencies across the state in Operation Dry Water (ODW) from July 3 – July 5. These joint operations identified and removed impaired operators from Tennessee waters. ODW resulted in 148 officers participating; 2,732 total officer hours; 3,778 total vessels checked; 141 citations written; 103 warnings written; 9 BUI arrests and 34 boaters were assisted.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Officers with TWRA's Special Investigations Unit have been working jointly with the USFWS on investigations dealing with illegal hunting, commercialization of wildlife and Lacey Act violations.

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Additional Record Management System (RMS) programs were added to the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system through a contract with Smart Cop.

Additional Panasonic "Tough Book" laptop computers were purchased for all field Lieutenants and Captains as a result from grant monies the Agency received from the Department of Justice and Homeland Security.

The Agency was able to conduct the second class of the Tennessee Wildlife Officers Training Academy. TWOTA is a twenty-week law enforcement training program for all newly hired law enforcement commissioned personnel. This newly established academy's focus will be on conservation law enforcement.

STATE ISSUES/LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

T.C.A. code 70-6-101 was amended to include not permitting the search or inspection of the interior of an automobile without a search warrant.

T.C.A. code 70-2-204 was amended to allow spouses of farmland owners the ability to hunt without a license.

T.C.A. code 70-2-104 was amended to provide a hunter or angler the ability to designate one person as their assistant and this assistant is not required to have a license as long as they are not in possession of a fishing rod or firearm.

T.C.A. code 70-2-101 was amended to allow the adjustment of the Lifetime Sportsman License fees for individuals aged 3 and under.

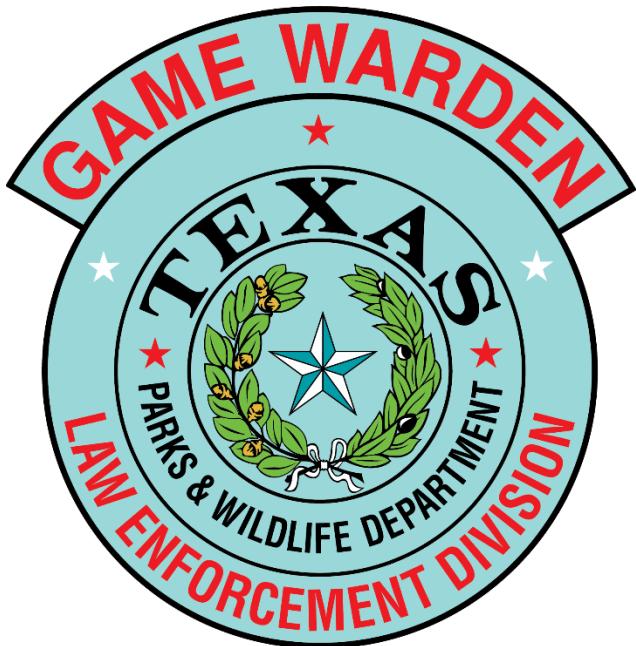
SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The TFWC has now passed a permanent rule that established a CWD Unit with specific regulations for seven CWD positive counties and four CWD high risk counties. An Earn-A-Buck program will allow the hunter to harvest one additional antlered deer in this unit if that hunter harvests two CWD Unit antlerless deer, in addition a Replacement Buck program is available for hunter's that harvest a CWD positive antlered deer in the CWD Unit.

Due to the spring and fall flooding in West Tennessee there were portions of five counties that border the Mississippi River that were closed for big game hunting for periods of time.

TEXAS

Chad Jones, Colonel



TRAINING

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 64th Game Warden Academy will begin October 1, 2020, with 40 Game Warden Cadets and 16 State Park Police Officers. The trainees will endure 32 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.
- A conservation course specifically covering the North American Conservation Model has been added to cadet training.
- The Game Warden Training Center added two recruiters to the staff.
- The Game Warden Training Center developed a work group to collaborate with the Parks Division and developed a standardized Field Training Officer Program for cadets graduating from the academy.

FUNDING AND STAFFING

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 can complete their mission.

In the 86th legislation the department was appropriated 5 million dollars to replace aging two-way radios. The newer and more advanced radio equipment, capable of interoperability across different systems and bands (i.e. trunking, VHF, UHF, 700/800 MHz) will enable communication with a centralized dispatch center, across Game Warden units, various law enforcement personnel and agencies including the Texas Department of Public Safety, local sheriff's offices, local police departments, and federal partners including the US Coast Guard and Border Patrol which is paramount to the overall safety and effectiveness of Texas Game Wardens.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

In addition to everyday duties, TPWD Law Enforcement continues to conduct enhanced enforcement efforts to address trends related to species of conservation concern.

- Cooperative efforts between TPWD and our federal partners at ports of entry along the southern border continue to uncover illegal importation and exportation of non-game and aquatic species for commercial purposes.
- Protecting the many shark species residing in and migrating through the Gulf of Mexico, as well as sharks illegally trafficked from around the world and offered for sale in Texas remain among the division's highest priorities. Texas Game Wardens continue to conduct fisheries patrols and work investigations related to illegal shark fin products and violations involving the many species of wildlife found throughout the state.



Illegal shipment of Red-eared Sliders bound for Mexico



Inspecting inbound cargo for aquatic resources

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- Texas Game Wardens have been working alongside Texas Military Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas Department of State Health Services at rural drive-thru Covid-19 testing sites by transporting tests to awaiting aircraft to be flown to the appropriate lab. Texas Game Wardens have been transporting tests by land and air.
- With a steady demand for products such as red snapper, shark fins, and other aquatic species, we continue to see the illegal fishing activities targeting US resources along the Texas/Mexico border. TPWD-LE, USCG, NOAA, CBP, USFW and the FDA continue to actively work cooperatively to address this growing trend of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUU). This is accomplished not only by detecting and interdicting illegal fishing vessels from Mexico, but identifying illegal shipments entering through our Ports of Entry. TPWD-LE along with State and Federal partners conducted multiple border operations along the Texas/Mexico border including our Ports of Entry. These operations targeting the illegal harvest, importation, and sale of aquatic products and other wildlife resources. These week-long saturation enforcement efforts extended from Brownsville to El Paso and resulted in hundreds of inspections, several State and Federal cases filed, and the seizure of illegal fishing vessels, wildlife resources, and illegal fishing devices.



- From October 2019 through April 2020 over 300 incursions by Mexican fishing vessels have been detected along the Texas/Mexico border. This includes 88 that were interdicted by the USCG and Texas Game Wardens. This already exceeds the total number of Mexican fishing vessels seized during the previous year. In addition, the USCG and Texas Games Wardens have also confiscated a high volume of illegal fishing devices such gill nets, crab traps, hoop nets, trotlines, and illegal long lines being placed in Texas public waters as well as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by Mexican fishing vessels.



NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 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.



During the 85th Texas Legislative Session the Texas Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division 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 state-of-the-art 80'x 27' aluminum catamaran vessel combines innovative design features critical to modern law enforcement on the water and includes a Willard Marine SEA FORCE 540 RHIB that can be rapidly deployed as a contact vessel. Built by All American Marine out of Bellingham Washington, Texas' new long-range vessel P/V Capt. Murchison features:

- o Twin Caterpillar C18 Engines with Hamilton Jets
- o Sleeping Quarters for 6
- o Upgraded Network Video Recorder (NVR) system with a high capacity hard drive (3TB minimum) with 6 cameras and Integrate feed from chart plotter and FLIR camera
- o FLIR System w/ Premium Multi-Sensor Maritime Thermal Night Vision M400XR with integrated video tracking
- o Nightwatch E-32 Alarm System – Text messaging of any alarms
- o Tracvision satellite TV and Iridium 9575 Extreme Satellite Phone system
- o Raymarine 6' Array and AXIOM PRO Dual Screen SYSTEM w/ Real Vision 3d transducers, eAIS-5000 class A Transceiver, and integrated DJI Mavic Pro UAV
- o 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)

STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES

- The Law Enforcement division is strategically moving toward a five-year refresh strategy for vehicles, computers and radios. Due to rapid advancements in technology and harsh working conditions of the equipment, a five-year refreshment is the best value approach to keeping Game Wardens in reliable and up to date equipment. Currently the four-wheel drive trucks have a five year or 100,000-mile power train warranty and replacing the vehicle at the five-year mark reduces maintenance and repair cost drastically and equates to a higher resale value to replenish capital funding. This strategy will create a more predictable capital budget expense and maintenance cost over time.

Currently the Law Enforcement division is exploring the best platform for an in-vehicle computer setup, which is a growing need for officer safety, situational awareness, response time, receive and distribute information in more effective and efficient matter. The Law Enforcement division has been testing different vehicle computer systems to explore platforms for the best overall usability, interfacing with current applications and performance, which resulted in a ruggedized laptop to include touch screen and lighted keyboard. To reduce cost of an extra data plan for the computer, we plan to tether the

computer to the current mobile phone hotspot, which is FirstNet capable and has unlimited data. The agency plans to install approximately 100 ruggedized laptops in the next fleet order vehicle in 2020.

VIRGINIA

Bryan Young, Major

STAFFING

At the close of 2019, the Law Enforcement Division had 157 Conservation Police Officers including 121 non-supervisory field officers, 22 Sergeants, 6 Lieutenants, 6 Captains and 2 Majors. All were fully certified officers through the Department of Criminal Justice Services, with the authority to enforce all of the laws of Virginia. As Deputy US Fish and Wildlife Special Agents, they may conduct investigations and cross state lines when violations of federal wildlife laws have been committed. The Law Enforcement Division is also supported by 17 full-time and 3 part-time civilian positions which include dispatchers, administrative assistants, asset managers, records, and IT staff. Table 1 looks at the number of full-time sworn and support staff over the past five years.

Table 1: Law Enforcement Salaried (Full-time) Staffing from 2015 to 2019

DESCRIPTION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CPO (Recruit and non-supervisory)	114	133	122	130	121
SERGEANT	24	24	17	26	22
LIEUTENANT	3	3	5	5	6
CAPTAIN	4	4	6	6	6
MAJOR/LT. COLONEL/COLONEL	1	2	2	2	2
SWORN SUBTOTAL	146	166	152	169	157
DISPATCH	8	8	8	9	9
ADMIN/OFFICE	7	8	8	7	7
IT SUPPORT	1	1	1	1	1
SUPPORT SUBTOTAL	16	17	17	17	17
TOTAL SWORN/SUPPORT (FULL-TIME)	162	183	169	186	174

TRAINING

Training is one of the most constant and consistent job responsibilities that the division performs. In 2019 the training unit provided a defensive tactics refresher training involving ASP and OC courses. The division also provided instruction on groundfighting techniques and familiarization with the new patrol rifle sling. Firearms instructors provided annual firearms qualifications, low light familiarization training, and other basic skill building exercises.

As Virginia's primary marine law enforcement agency, DGIF has an active training program to address the needs of our officers as well as those of our partner agencies. DGIF is a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Accredited agency. Through this accreditation, our credentialed instructors are able to present training



in several areas of boat operation and investigation. In June, The Port of Virginia and DGIF presented two sessions of the NASBLA Tactical Operator's Course to our partner law enforcement agencies in the Hampton Roads Area. These courses are 5 days in length and follow the Federal Exclusionary Zone Enforcement Training Curriculum. They are designed to enhance the country's port security capabilities by providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to appropriately react to threats in the maritime community. DGIF and NASBLA instructors taught law enforcement officers the same tactics, techniques and procedures that the U.S. Coast Guard uses to train its boat operators, ensuring seamless integration into security operations amongst federal, state, county, and local maritime law enforcement officers and agencies.

DGIF partnered with NASBLA to deliver the Boating Accident Investigation and Analysis Level I Comprehensive Course the week of March 11-15, 2019. DGIF and NASBLA instructors delivered this course to marine patrol officers from around Virginia and as far away as Guam. This course gives law enforcement officers the opportunity to develop and perfect their skills in order to conduct a thorough and comprehensive recreational boating accident investigation. The course is delivered in a blended format, with a 4-hour online portion required to be completed prior to the class convening date. The instructor-led classroom portion contains 36 hours of instruction covering the areas of investigation procedures, collision dynamics, and damage assessment.



OUTDOOR EVENTS

Providing education and outreach is a vital component of the mission of the Law Enforcement Division. Conservation Police Officers plan, organize, and participate in a variety of outreach programs in an effort to gain voluntary compliance with and promote public understanding and support of the Commonwealth's wildlife, fish and boat laws and regulations.

CPOs teach students the importance of firearms safety, ethical hunting, and obeying wildlife laws at hunter education classes. In boater education courses, CPOs educate the public on topics such as boating safety equipment and safe boat operation practices. Additionally, officers take part in community events throughout the

Commonwealth including sportsman shows, state and county fairs, civic group events, career fairs, recruitment events, local festivals, and fireworks displays.

CPOs also recruit new hunters, anglers, and trappers by assisting in events aimed at introducing the public to these activities. In 2019, officers joined in hosting multiple youth hunts, military veteran hunts, and disabled veteran hunts. Youth and adult fishing events were held at lakes, streams, and ponds providing participants the opportunity to learn angling skills and, in many cases, catch their first fish. At trapping workshops, CPOs taught about equipment and techniques necessary to be a successful trapper. By being active in community outreach programs, CPOs serve a major role in connecting the public to the Commonwealth's natural resources.



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Established in 2027, the mission of the Office of Professional Standards (O.P.S.) is to utilize the best law enforcement practices, combined with risk management principles, in order to provide the highest level of quality service and public trust. To assist in this endeavor, the primary purpose of the O.P.S. Advisory Council is to promote and set the example in terms of our **Professional Standards CREED** within the Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS CREED

Virginia Conservation Police (VCP) have a two-part creed regarding professional standards. Conservation Police Officers (CPO's) and law enforcement staff in our agency are expected to perform their public service with ethical core values. Furthermore, management and supervision are obligated to utilize best practices as their professional benchmark.

A centralized Citizen Feedback System and workflow went operational on May 25, 2018 in conjunction with the official launch of the Office of Professional Standards (O.P.S.) website: dgif.virginia.gov/ops. This system was established within the Law Enforcement Division to collect, track and respond to all types of citizen feedback in the interest of



quality public service. Officers and Staff were provided with both large and small informational printed cards to be given out to the public to obtain their feedback. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) were initiated for handling feedback appropriately, by various positions.

In Calendar Year 2019:

- Recorded **196** Total Citizen Feedbacks
- Maintained a **5 to 1 ratio** of Officer Commendations to Officer Complaints

Officer Commendations:

- **161** total (94 of them through the website – about 2/3)
 - **Region I - 36**
 - **Region II - 30**
 - **Region III - 36**
 - **Region IV - 36**
 - **Special Ops - 24**
 - **HQ - 1**

Officer Complaints:

- **35** total (11 of them through the website - about 1/3)
- Driving related complaints were the most common (11 total)
- **11** complaints were received after a summons was issued and 5 were for criminal investigation harassment
- Region I - **7**; Region II - **14**; Region III - **3**; Region IV - **11**; and Special Ops / HQ's - **0**

Final Dispositions:

- **21** No Further Action
- **7** Verbal Counseling
- **3** Written Counseling
- **2** Unsubstantiated
- **2** Substantiated

From inception to 12/31/2019:

- **30** Projects and work teams created, which has led to the completion of **24** projects, using group creativity and innovation to build upon those employee initiatives
- **108** LE Officers / Staff Members have participated as Team Members in this Employee Suggestion Program, with **18** of them taking on the responsibility as a Project Leader
- **Total of 8** Completed Project Titles in 2019 included: GW/CPO Retiree Appreciation Program / Newsletter; Officer-Involved Incident (OIS) Training / SOP; Boating Accident Investigation Standards / Training / SOP; Performance Evaluation Criteria (Work Plans); Professionalism Decree (Formal Recognition Award); Kill Permit / DCAP

Issuance / Reporting Standardization / SOP; Lifesaving Medals Standardized Process / Award Review Panel; and the VCP Recognition and Engagement Handbook

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Division's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team has been rebranded and rejuvenated into a comprehensive Peer Support Team. To provide for division employees' mental health wellness, the "End-Game" for the Peer Support Team is to provide a confidential support system to foster resilience by taking care of our most valuable resource, our fellow officers. The Peer Support Team encompasses a two-part approach to mental health wellness. Part one is a CISM response and part two is peer-to-peer support.

The division employees, along with their families and other associates may experience psychological discomfort and problems as a result of their involvement in major disasters, shootings, or other emergency events. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) is intended to assist employees in coping with both personal and job-related effects they have experienced. The emphasis throughout the program is to prevent, educate, recognize and release stress before it affects the health, safety, personal lives and job performance of those who perform law enforcement and other emergency services.

The peer-to-peer portion of the team is one-on-one support from trained peers for officers facing personal challenges, as well as ongoing support following critical incidents. The goal of maximizing personal, professional and family life is in the forefront of these peer contacts.

The Peer Support Team is comprised of Conservation Police Officers, Conservation Police Communication Officers and a Mental Health Clinician. The team members must complete the state approved training for Critical Incident Stress Management and a peer-to-peer module.

Officer and Law Enforcement Staff Recognition

In 2019, we took a long and hard look at employee recognition within the Law Enforcement Division and the Office of Professional Standards (O.P.S.) Advisory Council took on the project to standardize, develop and implement our awards and honors program. It began with extensive research of what other well-respected law enforcement agencies had in place and then fine-tuning those best practices for our use. The largest change was that we adopted either peer nomination and/or peer selection processes into each of our recognition efforts. In addition, we added Commendation Bars to our uniforms to identify who had received awards to include the Valor, Meritorious Service, and Lifesaving Medals, as well as having been selected as a Game Warden / CPO of the Year. After much work and feedback, we wrote a VCP Recognition and Engagement Handbook that is more than 60 pages and growing and covers each of the processes for all of our awards and honors in detail.

Starting in 2019, we now hold an Annual VCP Awards Ceremony (pictures from our inaugural event



In September of 2019, Executive Director Brown approved the hiring of an Accreditation Manager, to set up the accreditation initiative for success. Lt. Rob Ham was promoted as the Accreditation Manager. Lt. Ham's job is not just to achieve accreditation but to maintain accreditation in the future and consistently review the Division's written directives to ensure that the Division is employing the best law enforcement practices. Lt. Ham is being assisted by Senior Officer Rich Landers and Retired Captain Bobby Mawyer who both bring a wealth of knowledge and talent to the team. Bobby is a current Master Assessor for VLEPSC and is instrumental in the guidance of the process. The Accreditation Team is currently working in the self-assessment phase of the accreditation process. The Division is intending to receive VLEPSC Accreditation in the fall of 2021. The accreditation team is inspired by this quote which is also found in the VLEPSC Program Manual "Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives."— Will A. Foster
The Division and the Agency are committed to this continued pursuit of excellence through the VLEPSC accreditation process. In 2020, we will update our Law Enforcement Policies into General Orders providing clear, concise, and up-to-date written directives for division employees that will be easily accessible through online document management software.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

DGIF operates a 24 hour, 7 days a week Communications Center that provides support throughout the entire Commonwealth, not only for Conservation Police Officers and State Park Rangers, but all agency personnel as well. In 2019, the Law Division promoted two Communications Officers to Communication Supervisors. The center also employed 8 full time and 3 part time Communications Officers. The addition of these supervisor positions has allowed the Communications Manager to put more focus on directing the Communications Center toward long-term goals. One project that began to take shape in 2019 is the construction of a 150' radio monopole at DGIF Headquarters. When completed, this "microwave tower" will replace the underground lines that currently support the Communication Center's STARS radio system. Additionally, the backup antennas for the system will also be located on the monopole. Once completed, the Communications Center's radio operations should be better protected from accidental line breaks. Biannually, the Center prepares Crimeline Reports for the Virginia Sportsmen Reward Committee for their review and potential reward for callers whose information resulted in a positive impact on the final disposition of the case. Officer patrols in the Commonwealth have continued to increase each year, especially with the addition of a few call types to capture data that may have been classified differently in the past. Other significant increases include wildlife nuisance calls and DGIF service-related calls. Welcomed reductions were observed in DGIF Violation type calls, as well as waterway incident type calls. Overall, Calls for Service during 2019 were up 21%. November 2019 was a record-breaking month for the Center. First, November saw the largest number of Call for Service ever created for a single month, **6,832!** That is an increase of over 500 calls from the previous November. Additionally, the opening day of the firearms deer season also saw a record breaking 499 Calls for Service created in a single day. That averaged out to be 100 calls per dispatcher or one call made every 3 minutes. With the increase in calls in general, these numbers will undoubtedly continue to climb in 2020.

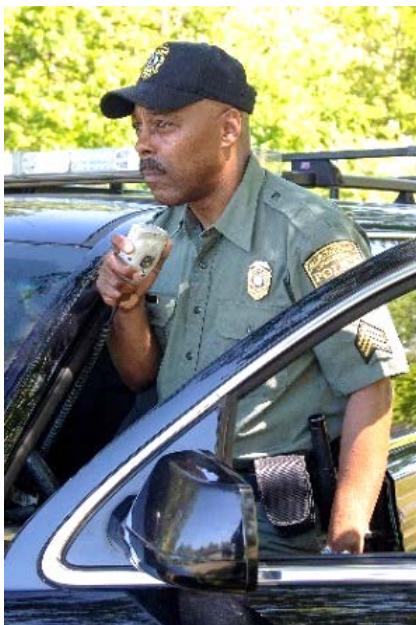


Table 2: Dispatch Summary from 2015 to 2019

DESCRIPTION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total CAD Calls for Service	37,785	37,991	44,063	48,442	58,734
Crimeline Reports	3,666	4,058	4,136	2,170	5,090
Environmental Issues/Fish Kills	41	67	69	205	206
Wildlife Nuisance/Permits/Injured related calls	5712	6,979	6,566	5,932	6,748
CPO/Ranger Patrols	18,189	17,255	20,968	21,106	25,133
Hunt/Boat/Fish/Trapping Violation Type Calls	7,440	6,883	7,084	6,414	5,226
General / Traffic Violations	759	708	916	1,594	1,828
DGIF Service-Related Type Calls	4,799	4,989	3,178	2,757	3,994
Hunt Incident Reports	21	21	17	31	34
Boat Accident/Sinking/Drowning Reports	123	135	126	100	98
Distress/Overdue Hunters, Fishermen or Boaters	79	96	98	149	223
Accidents Involving DGIF Persons/Equipment	12	11	17	22	27
Criminal Investigations/Complaints	535	577	419	620	358
Stolen Property Reports/Investigations (Boat, other, etc.)	111	119	130	101	109
Abandoned or Recovered Boats	148	151	149	220	177

RECORDS

In 2019, the Conservation Police had their first complete year utilizing Central Square Technologies' Zuercher Suite (Zuercher) records management system as its sole resource for tracking crime data. This product functions on case-centric reporting. Zuercher affords the division a sophisticated tool encompassing a vast array of functions and database groups: CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch); case management, Master Name database; and GEO validation capabilities.

The Law Records Program is responsible for the Records Management System (RMS) aspects of managing the case-based data. A fundamental focus of Law Records is to support system development and maintenance while striving to ensure data accuracy and acting as a primary source for data edits. As mandated by the state of Virginia, we submit our records containing offenses to the FBI through the Virginia State Police using a National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Based on these criminal records, the division makes continual contributions to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service's (NCIS) Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX) system.

Table 3: Records Management System (RMS) Summary from 2015-2019

RMS Summary	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
All Case Types*	10933				
Investigative Cases	8002	6228	6902	5419	8412
Arrests	9876	8058	8656	6814	6676

In 2019, Law Records developed and initiated processes within Zuercher establishing specialized case types used to support other agency divisions in their data collection and program management. Each case type has a unique case indicator, permission rights, data collection forms, and workflows customized for specified user groups.

Arrest charge breakdown by minor category 2015-2019, and the top ten violations resulting in a summons issued in 2019 are listed below. The top two violations have consistently held their rank since 2015. This year hunting over bait has moved up two levels from its 2018 ranking and a second “boating” code has been elevated to the list.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
License - Fish	3877	2892	3102	2359	1810
Safety - Boat	1867	1436	1791	1474	1619
Season - Hunt	1685	1491	1516	1397	1257
License - Hunt	1782	1402	1297	1274	983
Trespass	987	883	717	531	614
License - Boat	856	686	745	477	579
Traffic	186	252	299	391	414
Safety - Other	301	213	182	306	379
Season - Fish	293	277	362	254	288
Drugs - Marijuana	- 225	159	228	204	155
Littering	312	220	193	191	153
Firearm	426	374	364	159	142
Other	141	112	101	113	130
Alcohol - Other	- 190	99	146	106	94
Fraud	67	36	75	67	73
Drugs - Other	44	41	68	51	61
Alcohol - BUI	58	32	42	44	53
Alcohol - DUI	33	42	25	44	42
Damage	49	32	20	33	33
Elude/Impede	24	26	22	22	25
Larceny	19	26	28	14	14
Alcohol - HUI	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	12

Assault	9	2	4	2	6
Grand Total	13564	10843	11428	9517	8936
RANK	CODE DESCRIPTION		CODE	2019	
1	LICENSE: FISH W/O FRESHWATER LICENSE		29.1-335(FRESH)	1579	
2	WATERCRAFT: PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES REQUIRED		4VAC15-430-30	803	
3	TRESPASS: TRESPASS BY HUNTERS AND FISHERS		18.2-132	359	
4	TO HUNT OVER A BAITED AREA		29.1-521(4)	335	
5	LICENSE: HUNT W/O LICENSE		29.1-335(HUNT)	258	
6	LICENSE: HUNT W/O DEER/TURKEY LICENSE		29.1- 335(DEER/TURKEY)	230	
7	LICENSE: FISH W/O STOCKED TROUT LICENSE		29.1-335(TROUT)	213	
8	VESSEL SAFETY EQUIPMENT VIOLATION		29.1-735	188	
9	DEPT OWNED, CONTROLLED, MANAGED LAND VIOLATION		4VAC15-40-280	187	
10	GAME/FISH: TAKE OR ATTEMPT TO TAKE DURING CLOSED SEASON		29.1-550(i)	186	

HONOR GUARD

Since its symbolic inception in May 2018, the Conservation Police Honor Guard has been utilized more than most would ever have imagined. Over the last year the unit has represented the agency at the Virginia CPO Awards Ceremony, dedication of the Robert W. Duncan Wildlife Management Area, Police Week Memorials, and funerals of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty from the mid-Atlantic to Minnesota. They have presented flags to various families in memoriam and appreciation of their loved one's service to the Commonwealth as prior Game Wardens and/or Conservation Police Officers. Through these events, the Honor Guard, in its short existence, has become a staple of the law enforcement division and a beacon of professionalism representing the agency.

In order to ensure the unit is prepared for all assignments, they have instituted a rigorous training schedule and have taken their training very seriously. They have built solid relationships with supporters across the state, such as funeral home directors, that have given them very beneficial information, taught them common customs, and even

participated in their training. These relationships continue to pay dividends with the donation of unique equipment such as a casket and casket truck, to keep training as realistic as possible. These items are accompanied by a myriad of specialized equipment such as flags, poles, stands, uniform attire, and other miscellaneous necessary equipment that have all proven vital to maintaining a high standard of service.



K9 PROGRAM

2019 was another busy year for the DGIF K9 Unit. CPO Glenn Cramer and K9 Waylon, and CPO Mark VanDyke attended the Indiana Conservation K9 Academy from January until May. Another review of the program was done, and 4 new handlers were selected for the team. CPO Tyler Blanks and K9 Bruno, CPO Bonnie Braziel and K9 Grace, CPO Mark DiLuigi and K9 Lily, and CPO Ian Ostlund and K9 Reese will be attending our own K9 Academy beginning in February 2020. Also attending the academy will be Officer Wes Billings and his new K9 partner Molly. Officer Billings' original K9 partner Josie will be retiring in May 2020.

The following table contains summary information for the K9 unit since 2014 and includes a snapshot of what Officer Billheimer and K9 Justice, Officer Wes Billings and K9 Josie, Officer Glenn Cramer and K9 Waylon, Officer Richard Howald and K9 Sky, and Officer Jim Patrillo and K9 Bailey did during the calendar year 2019:

DESCRIPTION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TOTAL USES	154	76	127	267	286
TOTAL PATROLS	*	*	*	182	195
PUBLIC APPEARANCE	42	33	60	85	89
TRACKS	78	64	52	63	71
WILDLIFE DETECTION	29	26	21	28	18
AREA SEARCH	87	51	42	51	63
NONSPECIFIC USE	21	16	35	40	45

BOAT FRAUD AND THEFT INVESTIGATIONS

In 2017, the Law Division recognized an increasing need in the enforcement of boat fraud and theft laws. Special Agent Jim Croft, as part of the Special Operations Unit, had historically been tasked with investigating stolen boats. The cases he was becoming involved in and the information he was receiving, indicated that he was going to need assistance to be able to effectively address these issues across the state. The decision was made to assign two officers each year to work with him for a period of one year. This would not only give him needed assistance but provide a set of new skills and investigatory knowledge to the assisting officers so they could continue to identify and investigate boat fraud and theft cases in their respective areas after the completion of their assignment. Through 2019, five officers have participated, been involved in significant cases, and taken the law division's response to these types of crimes to a new level.

	2018	2019
CASES DEVELOPED	114	105
FELONY CHARGES	11	51
MISDEMEANOR CHARGES	55	24
WARNINGS	7	31
SEARCH WARRANTS	12	60
RECOVERED BOATS	11	21

RECOVERED TRAILERS	5	12
CAMPER RECOVERED	1	1
IMPACT ON LOCAL TAXATION	\$90,000	\$90,000
TOTAL VALUE OF RECOVERED PROPERTY	\$241,000	\$334,000

TRACKING TEAM

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) tracking program continues to be a popular course among local law enforcement agencies. In response to several requests, the tracking training cadre has taught over 35 different local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The tracking instructors receive excellent evaluations from the classes.

As of 2019, DGIF tracking teams utilized the skills of 32 dedicated Officers who have taken on this extra responsibility in addition to their normal duties. Of these Officers, four take on yet another responsibility as the regional team leader. Each team leader coordinates regular team training sessions and supervises regional operations as they arise. Tracking team members regularly train and work with one of nine VDGIF K9 units.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

K9 Officer Jim Patrillo has been named the 2019 Conservation Police Officer of the Year.

Each year, DGIF regions (I-IV), along with DGIF Special Operations, nominate outstanding officers who deserve extraordinary recognition and praise for their accomplishments. This year, the nominees were RI, Senior Officer Tyler Bumgarner, RII, Officer Brett Clawson, RIII, Officer Matthew Arnold, and RIV, Officer Tim Bostic.

Officer Patrillo, who works with the K9 Unit, received 13 commendations through the Office of Professional Standards. Just a few of Officer Patrillo's accomplishments are included in the list below.

- Initiated/responded to over 200 calls for service throughout the Commonwealth.
- Participated in over 70 educational and/or outreach events with K9 Bailey throughout the Commonwealth.



- A member of three instructional cadres for the DGIF Training Unit.
- Worked with varying corporations and vendors to obtain funds for the K9 program through grants, financial aid, and donations.
- Assisted numerous law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth with K9 Bailey for lost/missing persons and criminal cases.
- Provided K9 assistance to our conservation officers that helped with investigations and evidence recovery.

The time, effort, and dedication to his K9 partner, Bailey, has created a strong bond and has led to Bailey's many successes. Jim's ability to foster and build relationships, while showing his passion and enthusiasm for the job, is the reason for his many commendations. The qualities shown make him a model conservation police officer and invaluable asset to the Commonwealth.

NASBLA OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Officer Brett Clawson has received The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Butch Potts Memorial Award. This award, also known as the 2019 Boating Officer of the Year award, is presented to one Officer in the Northern, Southern, and Western US regions.

Each year, DGIF regions (I-IV), along with Senior Leadership, nominate outstanding officers who deserve extraordinary recognition and praise for their accomplishments. This year, the nominees were RI, Senior Officer Tyler Bumgarner, RIII, Officer Jason Harris, RIV, Senior Officer Beth Garrett, and Special Agent Jim Croft. We congratulate all the Officers on their nominations.

Officer Clawson works in Franklin County, VA in DGIF Region II. His outstanding nomination highlighted his many efforts and achievements. Just a few of Officer Clawson's accomplishments are included in the list below.

- Detection efforts for identifying impaired boating operators.
- Eight DUI arrests and convictions.
- A recognition by Mothers against Drunk Driving (MADD) for extraordinary efforts.
- Extensive boat patrol efforts that lead to 135 boating related arrests.
- On scene investigator for 10 boating related accidents.

Brett's accomplishments were not all enforcement related. He openly participated in and directed seven boating safety outreach events. He developed relationships with boat livery vendors to ensure boating safety messages and education were being properly delivered to their customers renting boats. DGIF congratulates Officer Clawson on this well-deserved recognition of his outstanding commitment and dedication to the citizens of the Commonwealth, the Agency and Virginia's boating public.

GUY BRADLEY AWARD 2019

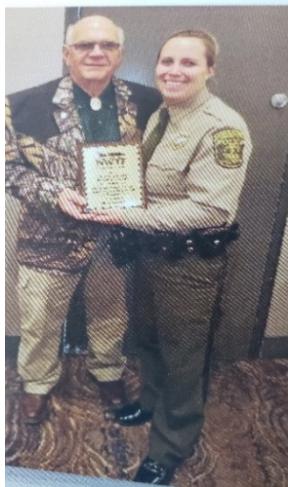


Conservation Police Officer Lt. Karl Martin was selected to receive the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) 2019 Guy Bradley Award. Karl joins Granville Ross (1988), Bruce Lemmert (2002), and John Hutchens (2013) as recipients from the Commonwealth of Virginia of this prestigious award. Receiving this award is the icing on the cake as he celebrates his retirement after 47 years (all in Franklin County, VA) of dedicated service to our natural resources, the agency, the sportsmen and sportswomen, and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Guy Bradley Award is presented annually to one state agency officer and one federal agency officer whose dedication and public service in protecting the nation's natural resources demonstrates outstanding leadership, excellence in implementation, knowledge, and actions that have advanced the cause of wildlife conservation. NFWF considers nominee's years of service, career achievements, professional contributions, impact on their community, innovation and other criteria in making their selection.

DGIF would like to say thank you to Lt. Martin for his career in law enforcement and protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth!

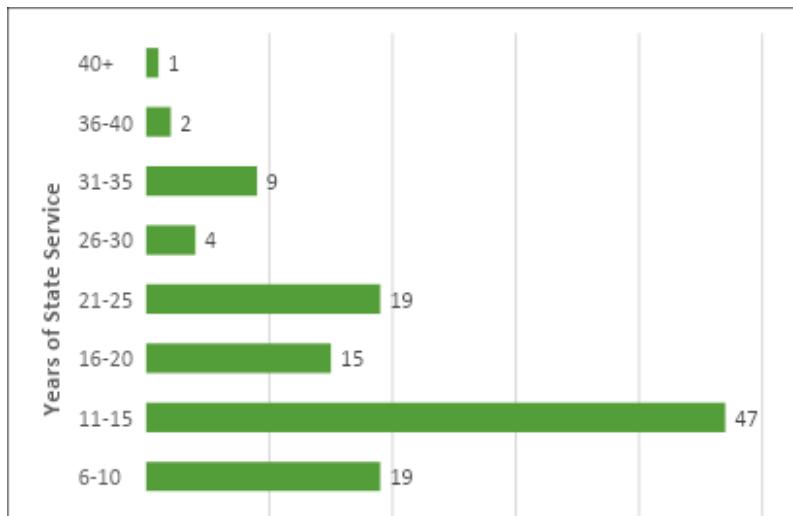
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR



The Virginia National Wild Turkey Federation State Chapter recognized Senior Officer Beth McGuire as Conservation Police Officer of the Year. She was recognized at the Virginia National Wild Turkey State Chapter's Leadership Banquet in Roanoke in January. She was then honored at the NWTF National Convention held in Nashville, TN in February 2020. Beth is well known throughout Highland County for her work with the Little Switzerland Strutters Chapter of the NWTF. She is intimately involved with the planning and coordination of JAKES events, youth and handicapped hunts, as well as recruiting and fundraising efforts.

YEARS OF SERVICE 2019

At the end of 2019, the Law Enforcement Division had 186 full-time employees. Figure 4 shows a five-year incremental breakdown of how long these employees have been with DGIF. A total of 17 officers are over 50 years old and have over 25 years of service making them eligible for full retirement at any time



WEST VIRGINIA

Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel

OFFICER TRAINING

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section certified three new Defensive Tactics Instructors and seven edged-weapon knife defense instructors. The Law Enforcement Section received training in swift water rescue, ATV rider safety, waterfowl identification/enforcement, advanced search and seizure, enhanced firearms training, duty knife defense and deployment, and secondary weapons training. A yearly Seated-Battery refresher for BUI and DUI enforcement occurs for all sworn officers, due to COVID-19 state restrictions, the Seated-Battery refresher course and all subsequent trainings were cancelled.

All post-academy Natural Resources Police Officers received training utilizing the Seated-Battery for BUI and DUI apprehension and ATV patrol certification training. Due to COVID-19 state restrictions, these trainings were cancelled.

The Law Enforcement Section Honor Guard/Color Guard continues to attend opening ceremonies, special events, and funerals. This year, the WV DNR Law Enforcement Color Guard presented the colors during a Marshall University Basketball Game.

The Law Enforcement Section's Chaplain program attended a Basic CISM/Assisting Individuals in Crisis intensive three-day training. The Law Enforcement Section's Chaplaincy program has six uniformed officers who are available to assist other officers in times of personal need whether work-related or not. Advanced crisis management training is scheduled in the future to better serve the needs of agency personnel.

FUNDING AND STAFFING

The WV DNR Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 126 Natural Resources Police Officers (NRPO) and 11 support personnel. During FY2020, one officer retired, five officers separated from service, and ten new officers were hired. Two officers were promoted to NRP Sergeant and one additional support personnel was hired.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

The Law Enforcement Section continues are focus on water safety and increased lifejacket usage by the public through the *Wear It Campaign, Operation Life Jacket, and Spring Aboard*.

The Law Enforcement Section offers in-seat Boating Safety classes in all counties in West Virginia. Students may view class information and register online at www.register-ed.com. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and The U.S. Power Squadron also teach NASBLA-approved courses. On-line Boater Education courses can be found on www.wvdnr.gov. Anyone born after December 31, 1986, is required to successfully complete a NASBLA-approved boating safety course before operating a motorboat. While using news releases and interviews

during ***Spring Aboard***, the mandatory Boater Education message reaches many new boaters.

The public and media continue to follow the work of our officers on the WV Natural Resources Police Officer Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/DNRpolice. The Facebook page continues to see increases in media contacts for additional information within the state and nationally. The reporting of wildlife violations on the DNR website, www.wvdnr.gov/lenforce/poachers.shtm or 844-I-TIP-DNR is increasingly useful.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

One Sergeant and four officers are working the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority. The Authority reimburses the Section for salaries, benefits, and associated equipment expenses. This trail system is growing, and we are working together to make sure we have coverage for the safety of the public. It is our hope that more officers will be added as the system grows

A grant from the Governor's Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention provided the Law Enforcement Section additional funding for enhanced BUI patrols on WV waters from July 1, 2019 to September 29, 2019. These patrols resulted in numerous BUI arrests, and 886 other citations/warnings

Natural Resources Police Officers participated in the nationwide program *Operation Dry Water* July 5, 2019 to July 7, 2019, to reduce alcohol-related boating incidents. This operation resulted in 237 citations/warnings.

COST SAVING INITIATIVES

The Section continues to conduct a vehicle/boat accident review board semi-annually to identify incident types and causes. Since newer vehicles have the backup cameras and sensors, we have seen a reduction in backing incidents. We are always looking for ways to reduce insurance premiums.

The Section continually utilizes technology to reduce travel costs. Cell phones, computers, radios, and the internet are used to transmit reports, complaints, and information. Conference calls are used to conduct meetings, boards, or planning sessions to cut down in-state travel.

The Section keeps vehicles, if the vehicle is operating efficiently, 5 years or 125,000 miles to reduce vehicle expenditures. We are also being limited on the number of vehicles we can purchase at one time, we currently purchase six on an order. High maintenance cost vehicles are traded earlier to avoid excessive repairs.

The Section continues to work with federal and state agencies to procure grants to assist with equipment purchases. The hunter education and boating grants are being monitored to maximize returns from expenditures of time and resources.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

1. HB4363 Establishing the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Police Retirement System. This bill increased the full disability percentage to 90 percent previously capped at 50 percent under the old system. This bill also increases retirement benefits which will hopefully help with retention and recruitment issues.
2. HB4513 Increasing replacement costs for game and protected species.
3. HB 4514 Permitting leashed dogs to track mortally wounded deer and bear.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement



During fiscal year 2020, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement Atlanta GA. SAC Office has conducted many high and medium priority investigations and inspections during this fiscal year under the leadership of Special Agent Stephen Clark and Assistant Special Agent in Charge Neil Gardner. Wildlife trafficking remains the top priority for the FWS Office of Law Enforcement. In addition, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement remains committed to fostering collaborative partnerships with state, federal and foreign counterparts.

A query of the Law Enforcement Management Information System-LEMIS reflected the following casework conducted by the OLE Atlanta, GA. SAC Office during FY 2020:

Investigations:

- New cases opened in FY 2020: 1392, increase in cases by 25% from 2019
- Total # of cases currently active: 988

Wildlife Inspections:

- Total Shipments: 36,902 increase of shipments by 21% from 2019
- Declared Value: \$525,348,143
- Total # of inspections: 2,812
- Total seizures: 376

FY 2020 LEMIS Adjudication Statistics – OLE Atlanta, GA SAC Office

Criminal Fines/Penalties

Fines Imposed	Fines Suspended	Restitution	Forfeiture of Collateral	Criminal Forfeiture	Property Forfeited	Other Directed Sanctions
\$172,372.00	\$0.00	\$18,200.00	\$85,731.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$14,054.00

Civil Fines/Penalties

Property Forfeited	Negotiated Other Payments	Negotiated Agreement	Civil Penalty Assessments	Other Negotiated Payments
\$169,134.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,349.84	\$15,250.00

Sentencing Summary

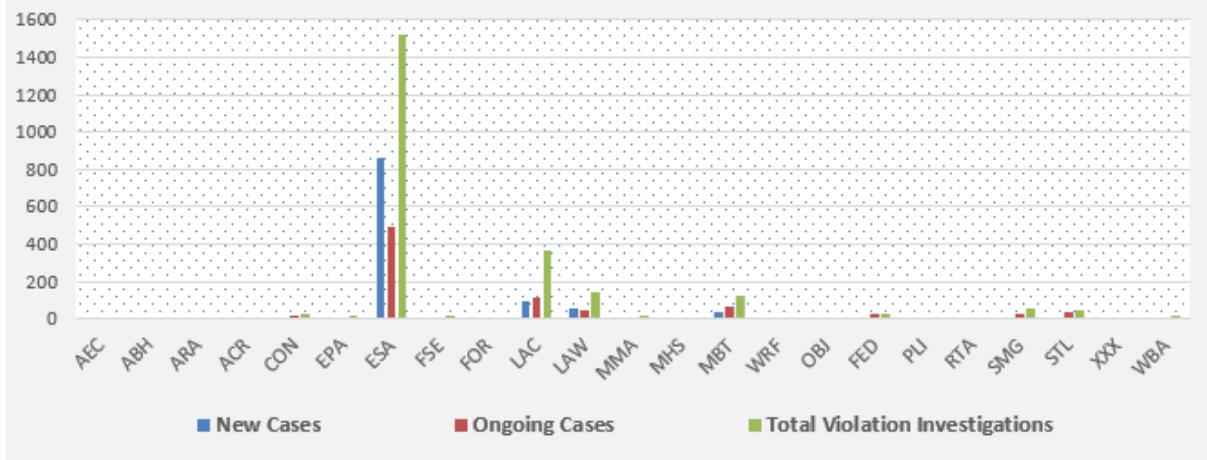
Jail (months)	Suspended (months)	Probation (months)	Home Confinement (months)	Halfway House (months)	Community Service (hours)	Suspension/Revocation of Privileges (months)
38.2	0	597	13.9	0	180	288

FY 2020 LEMIS Violation by Act – OLE Atlanta, GA SAC Office

Total Cases by Act

Act Description	Act	New Cases	Ongoing Cases	Total Violation Investigations	Act Description	Act	New Cases	Ongoing Cases	Total Violation Investigations
African Elephant Conservation Act	AEC	4	2	6	Migratory Bird / Stamp Act	MHS	2	2	4
Airborne Hunting Act	ABH		1	1	Migratory Bird Treaty Act	MBT	52	67	119
Archeological Resources	ARA	4	4	8	National Wildlife Refuge	WRF	1	1	2
Assimilated Crimes Act	ACR		1	1	Obstruction Of Justice	OBJ			6
Conspiracy	CON	1	25	26	Other Federal Laws	FED	9	20	29
Eagle Protection Act	EPA	5	8	13	Permit / License	PLI			1
Endangered Species Act	ESA	999	522	1,521	Rhino Tiger Act	RTA			1
False Statements	FSE	2	11	13	Smuggling	SMG	20	31	51
Foreign Laws	FOR	1	1	2	State Law	STL	12	32	44
Lacey Act	LAC	213	151	364	Undefined	XXX			4
Lacey Act - Wildlife	LAW	54	84	138	Wild Bird Conservation Act	WBA	7	6	13
Marine Mammal Act	MMA	6	7	13	Total Acts for All Cases			1,392	988
									2,380

LEMIS Investigations By Act

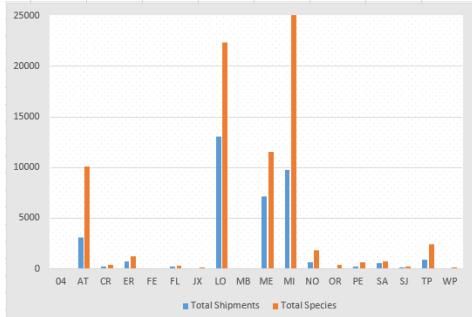


FY 2020 LEMIS Port Statistics – OLE Atlanta, GA SAC Office

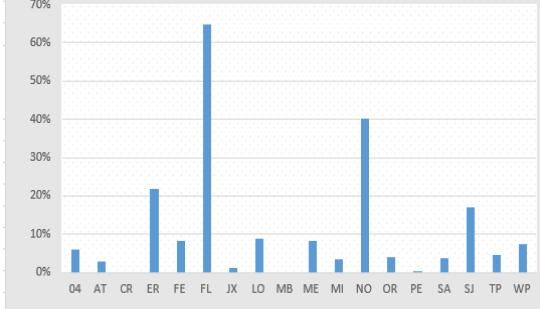
Port	Region	Total Shipments	Total Species	Avg. Number of Species per Shipment	Total Declared Value	Number of Inspections (by shipment)	Percentage of Shipments Inspected	Total Number of Seizures (by shipment *)
04-Region 4	4	17	51	3	\$32,574	1	6%	1
AT-Atlanta	4	3,092	10,089	3.3	\$48,400,834	89	3%	17
CR-Charleston	4	244	368	1.5	\$4,944,877	0	0%	0
ER-Erlanger	4	714	1,220	1.7	\$2,880,306	155	22%	23
FE-Fernandina Beach	4	12	18	1.5	\$10,538	1	8%	0
FL-Fort Lauderdale	4	248	291	1.2	\$3,344,361	161	65%	151
JX-Jacksonville	4	86	172	2	\$5,381,819	1	1%	1
LO-Louisville	4	13,052	22,330	1.7	\$38,344,638	1147	9%	45
MB-Mobile	4	16	17	1.1	\$21,014	0	0%	0
ME-Memphis	4	7,145	11,546	1.6	\$40,073,393	595	8%	10
MI-Miami. FL	4	9,756	27,354	2.8	\$223,212,491	330	3%	121
NO-New Orleans	4	599	1,841	3.1	\$125,460,703	241	40%	1
OR-Orlando	4	75	358	4.8	\$372,041	3	4%	0
PE-Port Everglades	4	249	672	2.7	\$2,602,178	1	0%	1
SA-Savannah	4	558	743	1.3	\$10,094,040	20	4%	1
SJ-San Juan	4	147	205	1.4	\$12,203,629	25	17%	1
TP-Tampa	4	851	2,424	2.8	\$7,871,802	39	5%	2
WP-West Palm Beach	4	41	98	2.4	\$96,905	3	7%	1
Total		36,902	79,797	39.9	\$525,348,143	2,812	8%	376

* Seizure/Abandonment count is for all shipments that were fully, or partially, seized/abandoned.

Shipments and Species per Port



Percent of Shipments Inspected per Port



Declared Value of Shipments per Port

