



2018 Bulletin

Law Enforcement Section

ALABAMA

Michael Weathers, Chief

AGENCY OVERVIEW

2018 marks the 111th anniversary of our agency. The enactment of the statute that created the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources occurred in February of 1907.

The Law Enforcement Section completed a research project this year that sought to identify all Conservation Enforcement Officers who had lost their lives in the line of duty since 1907. By the end of this project 12 officers had been identified. A memorial wall to those fallen officers was dedicated in February by the Governor of Alabama, Kay Ivey at the headquarters building in Montgomery. Representatives from all families were present for the ceremony and the gratitude toward the agency was overwhelming.

TRAINING

Approximately 35% of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Enforcement staff has less than 5 years of experience. The training and retention of so many new officers continually proves to be a challenging task.

A 40 hour Basic Patrol Boat Operator Course was held for 24 new employees. The course was designed to build an officer's skill and confidence in basic patrol boat operations, while reducing the risk of liability due to unnecessary accidents and potential injuries.

Officers received up to date training on dealing with complaints involving wildlife in captivity and their disposition. In addition, officers were given information regarding the licensed game breeder database and the disease traceability that it will provide.

Investigations into social media related complaints are an almost daily occurrence. Officers received training related to obtaining search warrants for electronic devices and the preservation of social media evidence. Officers also received training in cultural sensitivity and bias management.

FUNDING AND STAFFING

2018 marks the first year in a decade that our agency has achieved full budgeted staffing. The seven remaining positions statewide were filled in August bringing the total full time enforcement officer number to 132.

Funding in Alabama as in many states continues a slow decline with the unchanged trend in decreasing license sales. The Law Enforcement Section recently conducted a "free range

day” at many of our state owned firing ranges. The ranges were opened for free public use and firearms instruction was provided by officers of this section. The event was a great success and the hope is that though fewer people hunt and fish every year, the number of firearms owners continues a decade long increase. Anyone purchasing a state management area license or hunting license may utilize any of Alabama’s DCNR owned shooting ranges for a year.

The previous legislative session saw the introduction of a bill that would have legalized the baiting of feral swine and deer. Similar bills have been introduced over the last two decades and have all failed. For the first time this bill came within one vote of passing and contained verbiage creating a “ baiting license” with funds generated by the sale of this new license going directly to the Law Enforcement Section. It is anticipated that a similar bill will be introduced during the next legislative session.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

The Law Enforcement Section provided approximately 20 training sessions to Search and Rescue squads across the state during 2018. This program was initiated to teach “man tracking” skills that all Conservation Enforcement Officers learn early in their careers and continue to hone daily to rescue squads that are tasked with locating lost children, the elderly and those suffering from Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. The program is another way of showing Conservation Enforcement Officers in a positive light to groups of people who may not typically have any interaction with us. Response from those receiving the training has been incredibly positive and requests from rescue squads desiring the training has been massive.

We continue to move all paperwork over to an entirely digital/online format. We began two years ago by posting all policy manuals and Field Training Program documents to the same system that officers use for their daily reports. We have continued with the addition of our license manual and game breeder database. At this point 90% of the paperwork that a field officer completes annually can be completed online.

Conflicts between organized hunting clubs utilizing deer dogs and adjoining landowners/clubs continue to rise. The main complaint continues to be dog deer hunters who habitually fail to keep their dogs off of property that they have no right to encroach on. The permit system that began in the 1980’s in this state continues to be a very effective tool. The area generating the highest volume of complaints continues to be National Forest properties. With no other avenue for assistance, landowners approached the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board this year and were successful in having two large blocks of the National Forest closed to dog deer hunting by state regulation. It is anticipated that others will follow.

STATE ISSUES/LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

As with many states Chronic Wasting Disease and the preventative measures controlling its spread continue to be a major concern in Alabama. This year the regulation banning the importation of certain deer parts from states known to have CWD was expanded to all states. This has caused a great deal of hardship for those deer processors located along state boundary lines who often receive a majority of their deer from neighboring states. We have been successful in explaining the need for the regulation in most cases. Several larger processors have set up “deboning facilities” just over the state line. We continue to receive calls from the public who are not in favor of the regulation, education on the danger that CWD poses to our state has calmed most on this issue.

Resistance to further regulation of the commercial deer breeder industry in Alabama continues to be severe. Our online deer breeder database went live this year and has worked without a flaw; however the largest association representing the deer breeder industry continues to fight against the requirement to advise DCNR of the birth of fawns in a timely manner.

ARKANSAS

Greg Rae, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

As reported last year we have had some more movement in administrative positions this past year. Since the last bulletin, Pat Fitts was promoted from Assistant Deputy Director to the Director of the agency. With this promotion this marks the fourth Director in a row to come from the Enforcement Division. I believe this is a testament to the type of leaders we develop within our ranks. We have also added some new faces to our ranks. In July we graduated the cadet class of E-1-18. 15 new Wildlife Officers graduated the 16 week academy and were sent out across the state to begin their careers in wildlife law enforcement. Once they arrive in their districts they will begin another 8 weeks of training in the FTO program. We are in the process of preparing for the next class and that process is scheduled to begin August 1st.

TRAINING

A very high emphasis continues to be placed on training for all Arkansas Wildlife Officers. In addition to the specialized training we offer to officers and supervisors Arkansas was proud to host the IHEA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy this year. This specialized class gave 40 participants the most up to date investigative techniques to assist them in hunting

incident investigations. Because we hosted the academy we were allowed up to ten spots. We filled all ten and we now have specialized investigators spread across the state with the skills to professionally investigate these incidents. Arkansas will also be hosting this again March 4th through the 8th of 2019.

Arkansas hosted the SEAFWA Investigative and Intelligence conference. This was spearheaded by our Special Operations Lieutenant Brian Aston. This three day summit covered topics such and wildlife forensics, covert surveillance equipment and commercial exploitation of wildlife just to name a few.

Arkansas has one participant in the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Leadership Academy. Captain Nate Hellums will complete the academy in September. Captain Hellums is a second generation Game Warden and supervises seven counties located in Southwestern Arkansas. We truly believe in NACLEC and will continue to support and participate in this very worthwhile academy.

Captain Bill Ruby, who supervises 6 counties in Northwest Arkansas, has been selected to attend the FBI National Academy in January of 2019. Captain Ruby will be the second Arkansas Wildlife Officer ever to attend this academy.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission continues to maintain specialized teams to assist Wildlife Officers in the performance of their duties. The teams also provide a unique beneficial service to other law enforcement agencies and the citizens of the State of Arkansas. These teams are also made available to assist other states. This past year our Disaster Response Team was dispatched to Texas and Florida to assist with relief efforts after devastating hurricanes impacted the two states.

Our Special Investigations Unit activity has really picked up this year. They have worked or assisted with cases that originated in Arkansas as well as other states. This year they have assisted Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Alaska, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. They have also assisted the United States Forest Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. In all they worked on 272 cases that generated \$137,709 in fines. They are doing excellent work.

The AGFC Dive Team currently consists of 7 members from across the state. They responded to 24 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 48 different agencies this year and all were for evidence recovery or drowning recovery. All divers must be Master Diver Certified through PAD prior to making dives on the team. Each diver then completes the Underwater Criminal Investigators Course (UCI). This has been very beneficial across the state 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. This past year they were called upon for 25 Public Events. I had the privilege of attending National Police Week activities in Washington DC this year. Every year we send 4 Honor Guard members to assist with Police Week activities. I want to brag for a moment on our agency. The AGFC Honor Guard is the only Honor Guard from the State of Arkansas that sends a delegation to DC to participate in these activities. This is something I am very proud of and something the agency as a whole should take pride in. While we are discussing Police Week I would like to take a moment to recognize two of our officers. Sergeant Frankie Tucker (retired) and Corporal Joe Williams. Each of these officers rode in the Police Unity Tour. This bicycle tour started in Portsmouth Virginia and concluded at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C., a distance of over 280 miles. This was Corporal Williams' 3rd year to ride in the tour and Sergeant Tucker's 2nd. They each rode for an officer, from Arkansas, that died in the line of duty. It was a sobering moment to watch the riders enter the memorial at the conclusion of their ride. Sergeant Tucker and Corporal Williams are the only two Law Enforcement Officers from Arkansas to participate in the ride and that makes me very proud. On one other note we are in the process of upgrading our Honor Guard to include bag pipes and drums.

The AGFC K-9 program has grown from 6 handlers with dogs to 9 located across the state. This program is not only used frequently by Wildlife Officers in course of their duties, they also meet a very important educational function for the agency. They are often requested by other law enforcement agencies to assist with the location of lost citizens or recovery of evidence. This year the team had 147 uses. The team accounted for 158 officer violator contacts that netted \$192,285 in fines and assisted 40 different agencies around the state.

Arkansas has been going through the process of updating some of our weapons platforms we issue to Officers. We just completed the upgrade of our shotguns from the Remington 870 police magnum to the Remington 870 marine magnum. This shotgun is plated and more corrosion resistant and it come equipped with rifle sights for better accuracy. We

have added Glock 43 9mm's to each officers inventory. These were purchased as back up guns and guns that can be easily carried in an off duty capacity. We strongly encourage officers to be armed when off duty and the 9 mm provides them with a comfortable covert way to carry.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

We are still fighting the same battles as last year when it comes to staffing. It seems like we are in a constant state of hiring and are struggling to find qualified candidates. Less than 30 days after graduating a class we are advertising for the next one. We have been taking advantage of an internship program to assist us in recruiting those we feel would make good officers. The program is for current college students who show an interest in law enforcement. Interested students apply and go through an interview. 6 interns are selected and given paid summer employment. They work alongside the officers and get a real working knowledge of what the profession is all about. We have had good luck with hiring interns as full time officers once they have completed the program and become eligible. Funding is no better. It was reported we are down 4% in license sales this year which is the trend across the country. Director Fitts has tasked each division to trim where they can.

The agency has enacted the "Hunt Natural" program in an effort to recruit, retain or reactivate hunters. The program consists of a coordinating mentor in each of the 75 counties in the state. The mentors will set up mentored hunts in their areas in efforts to introduce children and adults to different types hunting in efforts to get them engaged. These coordinators are not agency employees. They can be landowners, school teachers, law enforcement officers anyone who loves hunting and the outdoors. Our agency will provide the coordinators with the resources to make these hunts a success.

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.

Arkansas hosted the SEAFWA Law Enforcement Chiefs Spring Meeting at Gaston's White River Resort in Northwest Arkansas. I believe these spring chiefs meetings are the best, most productive meeting I attend all year. There is plenty of work being conducted in a relaxed setting. We were happy to host 25 Chiefs or Assistant Chiefs from all over the Southeast. This one was also bittersweet as this was USFWS ASAC Darwin Huggins last chiefs meeting to attend before retiring.

Arkansas is also working with our Texas counterparts on two presentations to be given at this year's SEAFWA conference in Mobile, Alabama. One is dealing with UAS (Drones) and their applicability in Wildlife Law Enforcement and one is dealing with Recruitment, Diversity and Intern Programs.

We are attending conferences across the country to insure we are up to date on the latest in Wildlife Trends and enforcement methods and tactics, attending AFWA, SEAFWA, NASBLA and the Intel Summit's as well as being active members of the Mississippi Flyway Council.

FLORIDA

Curtis Brown, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement's 853 sworn personnel 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 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. Cooperative agreements with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cross-deputize FWC officers to enforce federal marine fisheries and wildlife laws, thus 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; environmental crimes/protection; dignitary protection; mutual aid requests; and domestic security initiatives.

TRAINING

FWC Training Center



The FWC Advanced and In-service Training Section completed multiple advanced and in-service trainings to increase officer safety while on patrol. Regional training lieutenants attended advanced pistol and rifle training and gained valuable knowledge and tactics that were used to revamp biannual firearms, non-lethal weapons and scenario-based training curricula. Division

recruiters continued to employ significant changes to recruiting tactics and increase the division's diversity. Recruiters attended a diversity and leadership conference to network and learn best practices. The Advanced and In-service Section continues to preserve institutional knowledge and mentor officers through the Advanced Conservation Academy (ACA). The ACA involves selected officers traveling to each region within Florida for a week to train with subject matter experts and participate in targeted enforcement details. The FWC Advanced and In-service Training Section also conducted and supervised Officer Specialist testing and curriculum development for nine essential topics related to FWC's Workforce Development Program. The FWC Law Enforcement Academy staff trained 101 recruits in three separate academies over the past year. Each academy training includes basic recruit training, certifying recruits as sworn law enforcement officers in Florida, and an eight-week FWC-specific training session focusing on the unique aspects of conservation law enforcement. Additionally, law enforcement recruits complete extensive hours of functional fitness based physical training. This prepares them not only for the physical demands of recruit training, but promotes a "Fit for Duty, Fit for Life," mindset. The FWC



Training Academy continually adapts training to better protect the natural resources and people of Florida.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Boating and Waterways

The Boating and Waterways Section consists of three operational units: Boating Safety, Boat Access, and Waterway Management.

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

The BSU participated in the Florida State Fair, the Miami Boat Show, the Outdoor Expo Boat Show, the Florida Sportsman Outdoor and Boat Show, the International Boating & Water Safety Summit, as well as the International Convention of Allied Sport Fishing Trades. In addition, the BSU coordinated National Safe Boating Week press conferences across the state. Collectively, these events allowed FWC to reach millions of boaters with vital safety messaging.

The FWC's annual Operation Dry Water efforts in 2018 were a tremendous success. Statewide, FWC officers made 54 BUI cases, removing dangerous operators from the water, and logged 7,534 boating safety hours.

The BSU was directly involved in training new and current officers through boating accident investigation and reporting courses. The unit also conducted training for FWC and local partner officers on personal watercraft and livery enforcement around the state. More than 48,000 boating safety identification cards were issued to individuals and over 200,000 temporary certificate exams were sent to program vendors during 2017.



The Boat Access Unit (BAU) coordinates and administers Florida's Boat Access Program, which maintains 248 boat ramps statewide. The unit created the Florida Public Boat Ramp Finder, which is available to the public to improve their awareness of nearby boat ramps. The BAU coordinates and administers the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) and Florida's Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP). The FBIP provides grants to local governments for building facilities for boat access. Last year, 10 projects totaling \$1,507,856 were awarded through FBIP. The BIGP funds are used for projects with public and private entities for the construction of facilities for transient (15-day stay or less) vessels 26' or longer.



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 the 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. Most recently, Hurricane Irma directly hit Florida affecting 10 counties, resulting in \$129,447 in damages to 52 state-maintained waterway markers, while also

damaging numerous locally maintained waterway markers. The resulting assessment and repair of affected markers challenged the unit's response plan and required extensive coordination with state and local government entities.



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. Last year, the WMU implemented a \$1,488,550 Derelict Vessel Removal Grant program offered to all 67 Florida Counties. Due to Hurricane Irma, \$1,000,000 was diverted to a statewide Hurricane Irma displaced vessel emergency response program. This left \$488,550 for the regular Derelict Vessel Program removal efforts which are currently underway. This program currently has 10 contracts for the removal of 26 vessels from public waters, at a cost of \$288,052. As we are currently in the third round of applications for derelict vessel removal grants with a total of \$200,498 remaining in the DV budget for 2017/2018, it is possible that even more vessels will be removed under this remaining budget. It is expected the 2018/2019 removal budget will have a higher demand and many more derelict vessels will be removed. Currently \$1,000,000 has been allocated for 2018/2019. 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, therefore stimulating removal activity throughout the state.

In response to Hurricane Irma, the FWC partnered with the US Coast Guard, EPA, state, county and municipal partners for a collaborative storm related derelict vessel response. In total, 2,680 vessels were assessed, 948 vessels were removed from state waters by US Coast Guard contractors and processed and disposed of or returned to owners by the FWC. The total estimated cost of \$51,000,000 was spent on this operation, of which the FWC paid \$12,750,000. The FWC managed more than 20 sites to transition these vessels from the water to land, transfer to storage or awaiting owners to recover or process for ultimate

disposal. The FWC will spend an additional \$3,000,000 with the assistance of a NOAA Federal grant, to remove 225 more vessels from Hurricane Irma that did not meet the US Coast Guard's ESF-10 removal protocols. During this process, the vessels will be removed and disposed of in authorized disposal facilities throughout the state.



CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Offshore Patrol

The Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) fleet of fourteen specialized boats is 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 at Marco Island.

Heavy 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 fishing vessels as well as recreational vessels. Missions also include providing a reliable operations platform for FWC's expanding dive team program. Many of the OPV vessels provide the space, range and stability for dive related search, recovery and training missions 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. Division of Law Enforcement and FWRI teams have successfully retrieved and redeployed the twenty-six data collecting devices that spend approximately a year on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico. OPV along with the assistance of FWC dive teams have also aided with retrieving lost research gear. Through this continued collaboration, both groups gain a better understanding of each's knowledge and long-term conservation objectives.

Through the 2017-18 JEA, OPV teams have completed over 2,700 hours of dedicated Federal offshore patrol. These efforts have resulted in over 470 Federal fisheries violations being documented and provided to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.

STATEWIDE INVESTIGATIONS/INTELLIGENCE

This section works to uncover criminal conspiracies, identify investigative actions and criminal networks, prepare reports and other intelligence products 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 and 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 Class 1 Operations which focus on large scale resource violators who illegally commercialize Florida's natural resources for personal financial gain and those habitual wildlife offenders that have not been brought to justice via more overt means.

The Investigations/Intelligence Section provides six unique services statewide:

- Resource Investigations Unit
- Digital Forensics and Electronic Surveillance Support
- Internet Crimes Unit Coordinator
- Fish and Wildlife Forensics
- Intelligence Support
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Support

Statewide Resource Investigations

A long-term investigation was closed in early 2018 which stemmed from a complaint received of two individuals illegally harvesting and selling wildlife in central Florida. This multi-year investigation, Operation "Northbound," revealed a loosely connected black market network involving the illegal harvest, purchase and sale of multiple species such as alligator, deer, sandhill crane, eel, porcupine and red snapper for commercial and recreational use. During the operation, 25 different species were requested, sold, harvested or purchased. This two-year investigation resulted in more than 600 documented misdemeanors and 35 felony counts involving over 24 suspects in 5 counties. This was a great example of teamwork throughout the state, within the agency, as well as with local and federal law enforcement partners.



Internet Crime Unit

FWC's Internet Crime Unit (ICU) is staffed by twelve regional investigators and coordinated by one statewide resource investigations lieutenant. For the regional investigators, ICU is a collateral responsibility conducted in addition to their normal investigative duties.

Investigators are trained to leverage intelligence generated from internet-based social media and advertising sites such as Facebook, Craigslist and eBay. Over the past year, ICU investigators received 176 tips generated from online activity. Of the 176 tips generated, 40 investigations were initiated. Some notable cases for the year involved the illegal sale of blue crabs, snook and freshwater game fish; the unlawful harvest and possession of alligators and the unlawful possession and attempted sale of captive wildlife. One internet related case involved a video posted on a social media site of a shark dragged behind a vessel at a high rate of speed by several subjects who were ultimately charged with aggravated animal cruelty and other charges.

Digital Forensics/Electronic Surveillance Unit



FWC's Digital Forensics and Technical Surveillance Unit is staffed with two statewide investigators and one lieutenant. The unit's responsibility is to support law enforcement investigations and uniform patrol with forensic evidence recovery, forensic and data analysis and technical investigative assistance. The unit supports operations in technical surveillance equipment deployment and evidence captures utilizing specialized equipment including GPS tracking technology and covert camera deployments. One member has obtained certifications in computer forensic analysis and forensic cellphone extractions. Members are now pursuing certification in the National Technical Investigators Association's Certified Technical Investigator program.

Case Spotlight: Digital Forensics



Investigator Todd Hoyle from the NC Region received information from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks concerning Florida suspects traveling to multiple states falsifying license applications and illegally harvesting large numbers of trophy animals. The suspects frequently used social media to communicate and share evidence of illegal kills. Investigator Hoyle began serving search warrants on social media sites to obtain enough probable cause to secure additional search warrants on the local residences. Cell phones and other digital devices were seized and forensically analyzed. The accumulation and analyses of all evidence showed dates and locations of illegal kills, unlawful methods, participating suspects and falsified hunting license applications over multiple years. All the

trophies were killed at night or with rifles during archery seasons. Criminal charges were filed in both Kansas and Florida. Additionally, a black-market operation involving the sale of deer in the North Florida area was also uncovered. The suspects were charged with those crimes as well.

Sent 2016-01-10 21:13:18 UTC
Deleted false
Body Hams 15\$ shoulders 10\$

Twelve illegal trophy deer mounts were seized and removed from the suspects.



In January of 2018, the Digital Forensics Unit received a FedEx package containing two items for analysis. The package contained two SD card storage devices recovered from two wildlife trail cameras stolen from private property. While conducting analysis of the evidence it quickly became clear that there were many deleted files on the SD card.

The screenshot shows a file explorer window titled 'Evidence Items'. The tree view displays the following structure:

- Partition 1
 - NONAME [FAT32]
 - [root]
 - DCIM
 - 100MEDIA
 - WGI_0001.JPG
 - 101_FLEX
 - MISC
 - System Volume Information
 - [unallocated space] ← Deleted Files
 - 000666
 - Carved [10911744].jpeg
 - Carved [11862016].jpeg
 - Carved [12779520].jpeg
 - Carved [13729792].jpeg
 - Carved [14680064].jpeg
 - Carved [15695872].jpeg
 - Carved [16384000].jpeg
 - Carved [17072128].jpeg
 - Carved [17563648].jpeg
 - Carved [1802240].jpeg
 - Carved [18481152].jpeg← One undeleted photograph

After further review, thousands of deleted images were recovered from both SD cards ranging from 2014 to late 2017. There were also many new photographs that were not deleted from the cards. Investigators determined that the images taken the day the camera was stolen from the victim's property showed a suspect with a firearm and a second photograph showing the camera being moved. Evidence indicated these photographs were then deleted.



The images that were not deleted were those of people in a driveway starting in late 2017.



The undeleted photographs were identified as the suspect's driveway. The successful recovery of deleted evidence in this case by FWC's digital forensics unit is only one of many examples of how forensics capabilities are growing in demand with today's use of technology in the outdoors.

Fish and Wildlife Forensics

This section houses a forensic laboratory with capabilities that include species identification, identification of animal remains, cause-of-death determinations, marine forensics, and other conventional forensic capabilities. The laboratory uses taxonomical and morphological analysis, biochemical systematics and forensic DNA techniques to make identifications from whole animals to sources of DNA such as blood and other body fluids. The laboratory maintains evidence management procedures as per agency accreditation standards. It uses the division's unique capabilities to further the agency's mission and assists with coordination of mutual-aid efforts with local, state and federal partners.

Case Spotlight: Wildlife Forensics



Investigators Cris Douglas and Richard Doricchi from South Region A requested forensic support for an investigation involving the illegal trespass shooting of a deer in St. Lucie County. Investigators recovered trace and biological evidence from the crime scene the night of the kill. A month later, a suspect was developed. Service of a search warrant produced trace and biological evidence from the suspect's vehicle and soil samples from shoes and tools inside the truck. DNA analysis conclusively confirmed the evidence recovered from the suspect matched the deer evidence at the scene. Soil

samples obtained from the scene were also consistent with the soil samples recovered from the suspect's shoes and tools.



Port Investigations

FWC has developed a dedicated Port Investigations Unit comprised of one statewide coordinator, six full time investigators and five full time K-9 officers. Their mission is to detect the unlawful commercial trade and trafficking of fish and wildlife species. This unit was developed to enhance the FWC's capabilities and effectiveness for preventing the illegal importation, exportation and potential release of invasive species within the State of Florida.

The FWC port investigators, K-9 officers and their K-9s are on the front lines of enforcement of these laws. The Port Investigations Unit's primary responsibilities include monitoring and interrupting the illegal import and export of invasive species, marine life, illegal saltwater products and the illegal commercialization of Florida's native fish and wildlife. The unit conducts inspections of imports, exports and domestic shipping at U.S. international airports, seaports, as well as international and domestic mail facilities. The Port Investigations Unit also monitors the pet trade for legal, ethical and health standards associated with the shipment of live animals. The unit assists the US Fish and Wildlife Service with inspecting packages for federal Lacey Act compliance, CITES and Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations. Other federal partners include US Customs and Border Patrol, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and United States Postal Inspectors.

Case Spotlight: Port Investigations

Sharing of information within the division as well as with USFWS resulted in the seizure of a shipment of hundreds of illegally imported/possessed exotics species. The shipment included 400 Nile monitors, 150 centipedes and other frogs, geckos, and snakes. The suspect did not have valid licenses or permits to import wildlife into Florida and was charged with more than 550 counts of unlawful importation/possession of wildlife.



Intelligence

Intelligence Section analysts are 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.

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.

During fiscal year 2017-2018, FWC analysts responded to 1,559 requests for information to include work-ups on individuals and companies; completed more than 200 work-up requests on one case alone out of the Miami office; completed over 45 photo lineups for our agency and the DEA; prepared and disseminated 97 FWC bulletins; forwarded more than 50 officer safety bulletins from other agencies to our Regional Intelligence Officers (RIO) for dissemination; and assisted with 703 tips received via social media and the tip line. During this fiscal year in Florida, 1,625 vessels and motors were reported as stolen. The Intelligence Section prepared quarterly reports that were disseminated to law enforcement agencies around the state to facilitate awareness of these thefts and assist in recovery. Additionally, they conducted 223 background investigations for FWC employment (sworn and non-sworn).

This section has access to vast amounts of information through multiple databases and the Florida Fusion Center. Some of the services the unit provides include:

- Suspicious activity reporting
- Suspect information
- Disseminating officer safety information
- Disseminating information related to illegal activity
- Tracking vessel theft trends
- GIS mapping capabilities
- Publishing projects that assist with enforcement (specific to a season, species or activity)
- Maintain databases for officer use in investigations

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. This means any person whose license privileges or rights are suspended in a Compact state may also be suspended in all other Compact states if the conviction is a basis for suspension in that state.

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 our wildlife resources.

If a person plans to hunt, fish or trap in another state, and has a license suspension in Florida, it is their responsibility to contact the other state to verify they can legally hunt, fish or trap there.

Wildlife Alert

The Investigations Section also coordinates the Wildlife Alert Program. In 2017, the program received 2,338 wildlife alert submissions statewide. A total of 64 rewards requests were distributed. Total reward distribution of \$16,700 in Wildlife Alert funds were sent out for the calendar year of 2017. The Wildlife Alert board of directors approved a fundraising event to be held at the OK Corral Gun Club in Okeechobee in October 5, 2019 in South Central Florida.

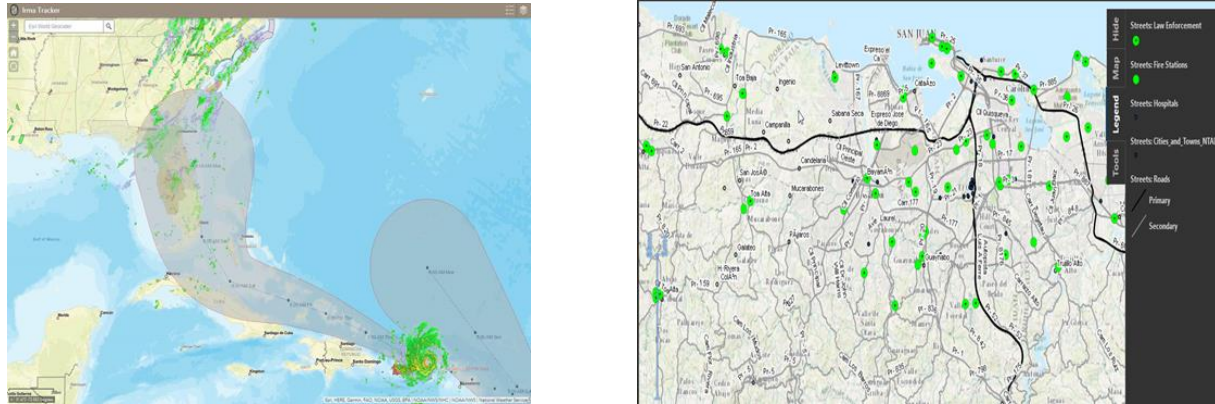


GIS Team

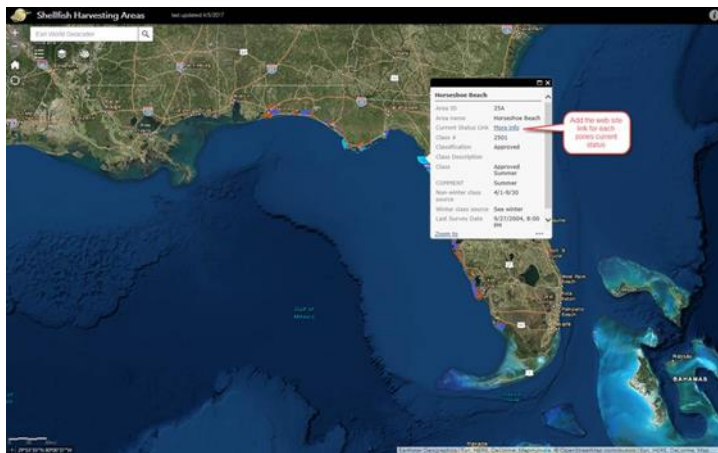
GIS software is designed to capture, manage, analyze and display all forms of geographically referenced information. 95% of all DLE data can be presented in GIS. This tool provides users with the technology to reference complex spatial data to understand and find solutions for a variety of questions or problems.

Major projects the GIS Team has worked on include: DLE 5-year Statistical Reports, Boating and Waterways, DLE region's growing trends for CAD Calls (general and managed areas), citations, boating accidents, population change, sworn officers, freshwater and hunting licenses and registered vessels.

The team also developed a mapping application for the Hurricane Irma event (real time hurricane tracking, radar, weather watches, river gauge information, evacuation zones and routes). When Florida has a hurricane make landfall, the site will show all EOC data streams (county status, road closures, etc.) as well as a map of Puerto Rico integrated with our Smart Cop system in preparation for potential deployment.



More than 35 maps were requested including critical wildlife areas, region report for alligator and bear incidents, aviation assets, hunting case investigation, field services - marine and electronic staff locations, Sanibel boating accident, Weeki Wachee CAD activity, citations and warnings, evidence facilities, county circuit courts, multiple regional and operational maps, and residency maps.



The GIS team worked with DACS (Division of Aquaculture and Consumer Services) to develop real-time status of shellfish harvesting area application available for law enforcement use as well as the public on computer and smartphone. The GIS team also provided mapping applications for boating and waterways, port inspections, Southwest Region asset

management, landowner contact web mapping service for Southwest Region, operations for Hurricane Irma, and captive wildlife facilities.

Captive Wildlife Update



The FWC promotes responsible ownership of captive wildlife and it is the goal of the FWC to develop the best regulations possible that 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. Individuals who possess wildlife in Florida must be licensed and meet all safe housing

and humane treatment standards. FWC investigators routinely conduct inspections of captive wildlife facilities to ensure humane treatment and sanitary conditions are in place for the animals. FWC investigators also inspect to ensure that cage and security requirements are followed to ensure public safety. Florida Statutes and our captive wildlife regulations provide the tools our investigators need to address issues when violations occur. During Fiscal Year 2016-17, FWC's Captive Wildlife Program conducted 6,187 captive wildlife inspections, responded to 995 complaints, seized 175 animals and issued 839 citations/warnings. There were 6,500 captive wildlife applications possessed during 2017.

Case Spotlight: Captive Wildlife Law Enforcement

A captive wildlife investigator received a call that two chimpanzees had escaped from a wildlife facility. Upon arrival, the investigator coordinated a multi-agency response to the situation, including setting up a perimeter of the area. After several attempts, he was able to successfully use his chemical immobilization equipment to return the two chimpanzees to their enclosure.

The subsequent investigation of the escapes revealed that a care taker accidentally left the gates to the enclosure open. He then released the chimpanzees from their night house into the unsecured enclosure, leading to the escapes. Two misdemeanor citations were issued for failure to prevent the escape. Both chimpanzees made full recoveries after being returned to their enclosures.



After the first dart hit the male chimp, he used a steel storm shutter as a shield to avoid getting darted a second time.

In August of 2017, a search warrant was executed on an alligator farm that was suspected of illegal activity. The search warrant required the drawdown of the farmer's ponds so that all alligators could be DNA tested. During the two-day draw down, large pumps were used to drain all the ponds on the property. Approximately 150 alligators were captured, secured and brought to agency biologists who took DNA samples and then released them back into the ponds. The DNA samples were then sent to the University of Florida for testing. Testing continues, but so far, at least seven hatchlings have been found not to have come from any captive alligator on the farm. Based on this information, an arrest warrant was signed in May of 2018 and it included:

- 7 felony counts of illegal possession of alligators
- 1 felony count of grand theft
- 1 felony count of cheating
- 1 felony count of uttering a forged instrument
- 2 misdemeanor counts of inaccurate records pertaining to alligator farms

A captive wildlife investigator inspected a bird breeder and charged the owner with 36 counts of animal neglect and unsanitary conditions. The floor in the aviary had fecal waste that was 3 feet deep on the entire floor. One cage had roaches in it along with a dead bird. Multiple carcasses were found in the cages and on the floor and the live birds were in poor condition.



Roaches in nest box of a cage on south side of aviary. The cage also had a dead bird in it. Bottom of the cage is buried in waste and two carcasses are visible, one in cage and out outside of cage.



Bird cages in unsanitary conditions. Macaw in too small of cage (Cage 1/Row 4), partially buried in waste, with too low of perch and no water.

A captive wildlife investigator received a complaint about a licensed alligator farmer who killed a large wild alligator. Through interviews and pictures online, the investigator determined which processor the alligator was taken to and seized it. He also determined that the alligator farmer had taken several other alligators from the wild and put them into his farming inventory. The alligators held under the alligator farming license were also determined to be on exhibit which was a violation due to the alligator farmer not having a license to exhibit. Subsequently, multiple felony charges of illegal take of an alligator were filed as well as misdemeanor charges for various alligator farming rule violations and exhibiting without the proper license.



Environmental Law Enforcement

Environmental Investigations includes educating the public and enforcing state and federal environmental laws; protecting and preserving cultural and natural resources; protecting state lands and water quality; investigating environmental crimes; and participation in education and outreach programs about environmental protection and enjoying state resources.

Case Spotlight: Environmental Investigations

- 58 felony counts relating to commercial dumping, criminal mischief more than \$1000, tampering with evidence and theft
- 25 misdemeanor counts related to the burning of prohibited materials, damages to the wildlife management area, and violation of Florida Department of Environmental Protection rules.



Environmental investigator works with patrol officers on a roof shingle dumping case in a wildlife management area.



An environmental investigator received a request from a local sheriff's office to assist with a search warrant being served on a property for drug related charges. It was believed there were numerous environmental violations occurring as well. After the SWAT team had cleared the property and secured more than 30 people, the investigators began searching the property for environmental violations. Numerous violations were observed including commercial dumping of tree debris, open burning of tree debris, dumping household garbage and maintaining a nuisance injurious to health due to sewage being dumped onto the ground. Five individuals were charged for environmental violations including four with felony commercial dumping and one for the nuisance injurious to health.



A patrol officer located a large dump site in the Ocala National Forest and notified an environmental investigator who responded. They located several receipts in the pile, one of which included a name. Also in the pile were receipts from various pharmacies for Sudafed and other items used to make methamphetamine as well as a large number of hypodermic needles and plastic bottles consistent with methamphetamine cooking operations. The investigators were able to get surveillance photos and video of the suspect who they confirmed was the suspect named on the receipt. They also obtained video of the suspect's truck. A short time later, they saw the suspect driving the truck. They knew he had a suspended driver's license and conducted a stop for the violation. During the stop they determined that he cleaned out foreclosed houses, which was consistent with the trash dumped. He eventually admitted to the dumping. He was arrested on the suspended license charge and also found to be in possession of heroin and drug paraphernalia. Charges for felony commercial littering, felony dumping of hazardous waste and nuisance injurious to health were later filed. The site was cleaned up during a national forest cleanup event and the total garbage weighed over 5,000 pounds.



UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Aviation

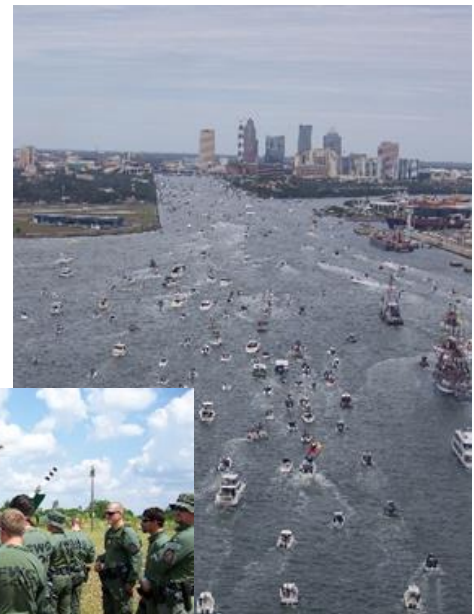
Aviation plays a vital role in the agency's efforts to enforce conservation and boating laws. It is also a unique tool that is essential for the protection of endangered and threatened species, environmental resources and safeguarding the public. The aviation section is instrumental in many of the approximately 1,000 rescues the FWC Division of Law Enforcement performs each year.



FWC Aviation Unit personnel participated in a multi-agency Change of Command ceremony at United States Coast Guard, Air Station Miami at Opa Locka Airport.

Aviation Unit personnel participated in several multi-agency training initiatives which included: the Airborne Law Enforcement Association, national aviation safety training conference in Reno, Nevada, along with other airborne law enforcement partners from around the world. This training provides opportunities to learn about the latest in technology and aviation safety; training for law enforcement patrols; training for air and ground crews for aerial cannabis detection with Florida Domestic Marijuana Eradication Program; and Air Deployable Search and Rescue (ADSAR) teams attached to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams. Pilots were involved in providing aviation boating safety support for holiday boating weekend activities and specialized events such as Billy Bowlegs in Ft. Walton, spiny lobster mini-season, and the Gasparilla event in Tampa.

Aviation unit personnel worked with the FWC Special Operation Group (SOG) to provide classroom and aircraft familiarization training for new team members and to exercise team movement during a statewide SOG training in Immokalee.





Aviation unit personnel and assets provided support for the State of Florida, Emergency Operation Center response to Hurricane Irma. This included air coordination as Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD) working with other federal, state, county and local partners; aviation support to provide geo-tagged photographs for emergency response to areas affected by Hurricane Irma; and

aviation support for Unified Command in Miami by providing geo-tagged photographs for emergency response for vessels displaced by the hurricane.

In preparation for the upcoming 2018 hurricane season, aviation unit personnel participated in planning meetings with the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) and the State of Florida Emergency Operation Center (SEOC). They also provided aviation support for development of a statewide search and rescue plan with Emergency Support Function (ESF) partners.



INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

K-9



The FWC K-9 program has 18 teams statewide and provides services such as search and rescue, fugitive apprehension, evidence recovery, illegal fish and wildlife detection and enforcement of import/export laws pertaining to exotic and protected species. The four newest teams to the FWC K-9 program are pictured here during the 12-week K-9 training academy hosted and instructed by FWC K-9 Training Officers. Each team received training in K-9 obedience, man tracking, area search, article search and wildlife detection. Pictured from left to right are Officer Jason Hutchinson / K-9 Zara, Officer Brandon Hadwin, Officer Anthony Delatorre and Officer Peter Gaudion / K-9 Rita. Upon graduation, these K-9 teams joined the largest K-9 program in the country dedicated to conservation law enforcement.

Fleet and Technical Services

FWC's Fleet and Technical Services Section is comprised the Fleet Services Unit and Technical Services Unit. Section personnel consist of skilled sworn and civilian members that consistently solve some of our unique conservation law enforcement equipment issues. The section's primary responsibility is to support and provide division members with the best available equipment, technology and data-related services that keep our members safely focused on mission responsibilities. Section staff serve as a force multiplier that keeps the division of law enforcement mission ready. One great example of their ability to innovate is the development of a long gun anti-theft mechanism that has prevented thefts of long guns from patrol vehicles. The box is placed with the opening closest to the vehicle door. The box's end door design allows the vehicle's door to act as a complete lockout of the box and maximizes rear compartment storage. The vehicle door lock and lock motor is completely isolated from the factory manual and electronic controls, which eliminates some of the risk of tampering and operator error that would involve existing factory controls. The door lock switch is discretely placed, somewhere easily accessible. The control system for the door lock is a simple automotive relay.

The complete electrical system consists of the switch, the relay, the timer and the factory door lock motor. The system powers from the +12v distribution for the rest of the police equipment. On FWC vehicles, this circuit is protected by a main circuit breaker and an 8-hour timer. After 8 hours or when the breaker is tripped, the door will not open at all. This leaves an automatic level of security for off-duty storage. With +12v applied to one side of the installed door lock switch, contact is momentarily made. This simultaneously operates the unlock function through the automotive relay and begins the delay timer. After the delay expires (variable delay from 100 ms-1,000 minutes - FWC vehicles use a delay close to 15 seconds) it inverts the +12v pulse and locks the door.



OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Officer of the Year: Michael Bibeau, Southwest Region

Officer Michael Bibeau graduated from FWC Academy Class 14 in 2010 and began his service in Collier County. He now serves in Pinellas, where he transferred in 2013. A graduate of the University of South Florida with a criminal justice degree, Bibeau enjoys the outdoors and loves to golf, fish and spend time at the beach with his wife Kara. He was recently selected to be a member of the inaugural Advanced Conservation Academy (ACA) where he traveled and trained in every region of the state. This past year, Officer Bibeau rescued four occupants of an overturned jet-ski who had fallen off and were being swept out to sea by strong currents, conducted 27 search and rescue hours, made two BUIs,

more than 75 resource misdemeanors, three major resource violations and issued 254 warnings. He conducted more than 1,300 water patrol hours, more than 133 shellfish patrol days and maintains a strong working relationship with other local agencies. He was also awarded the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) 2017 Lifesaving Award for receiving FWC's Lifesaving Award in which he saved the life of a drowning man who jumped off the Tierra Verde Bridge. Officer Bibeau works extremely hard, day-in and day-out, serving the Pinellas County community and surrounding areas he cares so much about.



Investigator of the Year: Jarrod Molnar, Northwest Region



Investigator Jarrod Molnar is an Investigator 1 assigned to the Northwest Region Investigations Team and currently resides in Navarre with his wife Marisela. Molnar is assigned to Santa Rosa County, but his investigations have ranged from Escambia County to Walton County and even into Alabama. He fully embraces the

teamwork mentality and regularly assists other investigators and officers with their caseload. He initiated the now formalized NW Region Investigator Mentor Program and is currently serving as a formal mentor to further the advancement of future investigators. His work involving serious boating accidents has been exemplary. The knowledge he has gained regarding GPS data evidence retrieval and reconstruction during boating accident investigations has helped to elevate the boating accident investigative work being done region-wide. His resource cases have also been noteworthy – one of which resulted in charges for a habitual turkey poacher that had previously avoided apprehension. Molnar has handled two high-profile bear conflict incidents with professionalism and has coordinated with FWC biologists to make sure that the appropriate animals involved in the

incidents were identified. He continues to serve as an intoxilyzer inspector for the Norwest Region and has conducted intoxilyzer training at multiple captains' area meetings. Molnar has also recently become a vessel theft instructor and has taught classes around the state for indicators of stolen vessels.

Boating Officer of the Year: Juan Blanco, South Region Bravo



Officer Juan Blanco was born in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico and his love for nature and the outdoors started at a very young age from listening to his father's stories. He has been married to his wife Evelyn Blanco for 9 years. Blanco began doing volunteer work for FWC in 2010 and he received a career diploma in 2011 for wildlife and forestry conservation. In 2015, Blanco completed FWC Academy Class 28, and returned to Miami-Dade as an officer.

He has taken a leadership role in BUI enforcement within his assigned patrol area, is a Breath Test Operator, finished Standardized Field Sobriety Task Proficiency training and completed Seated Battery Proficiency training. He participated in all the BUI saturation details in Miami-Dade County this year and he has personally made more than 25 arrests for BUI. He also issued 124 UBCs and numerous resource and boating safety citations and warnings. He is a highly self-motivated officer who embraces any chance he gets to teach others something new and his exemplary social skills have not only been demonstrated to his fellow officers but also in his daily dealings with the public.

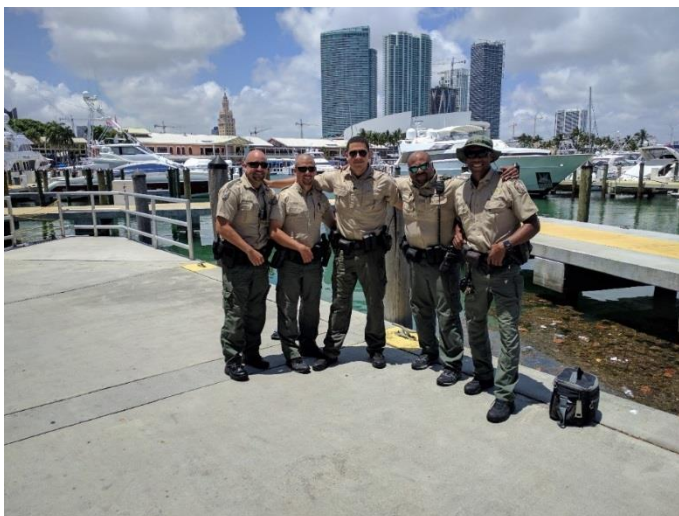
Reserve Officer of the Year: Mike Fischer, Northeast Region

Reserve Captain Mike Fischer was born in Wisconsin but moved to Florida in 1968. His career began with GFC in 1981 and culminated with his retirement from the FWC in 2016. Mike is married to his wife Kim, and they have two sons; Jacob and Dillan. While reservists are required to work a minimum of 96 hours each year, he has logged more than 500. Captain Fischer is well respected throughout the region, maintaining a positive reputation for his level of dedication and knowledge of the job. For many years as an investigator, Fischer's vast experience allowed him to provide the expert support needed on some of the

most important incidents and investigations. This has not changed in his role as the Northeast Region Reserve Captain. He consistently works with supervisors, identifying gaps in service where the reserve program can help. He attends all Northeast Region command staff meetings and can often be found working at the regional office. He is a valuable member of the NE Region training team and regularly assists training staff in delivering quality in-service training to both full time and reserve members. Fischer worked closely with Reserve Officer David Stermen over the past two years on a project where they gathered surplus uniforms to send to our conservation law enforcement partners in Africa. It is due in no small part to Reserve Captain Mike Fischer's work that the relevance of the FWC reserve program has greatly increased.

Team of the Year: Reynaud Patrol Squad, South Region Bravo (Lt. George Reynaud, Officers Adrian Perez, Gabriel Fernandez, Ronald Washington, and Juan Blanco)

The Miami Dade Patrol Squad consists of Lt. George Reynaud, Officers Gabriel Fernandez, Adrian Perez, Ronald Washington and Juan Blanco. Each of the members of this squad are exceptional and together they form a team that is worthy of recognition. This team has made 49 BUI arrests, issued 487 UBCs, 93 misdemeanor resource citations, conducted 20 boating accident investigations, issued 40 UTCs and made several felony



arrests over the past year. All the team members are Breath Test Operators and experienced in advanced field sobriety training. Four of the team members are Field Training Officers, two are Critical Incident Stress Management team members, one is a Drug Recognition Expert, and four have attended Waterborne Response team training. This year they have had great success working collaboratively with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on migratory bird cases and have recorded more than a dozen misdemeanor citations related to the illegal capture of migratory birds. They have made an outstanding effort in resource protection, boating safety, BUI enforcement, livery inspections, and even Homeland Security. This squad has also participated in several career days at local public and private schools, educating youth of all ages on the importance of conservation and boating safety. They participated at the Christopher Columbus Anglers Club 1st Annual Bass Fishing Tournament, assisted in a python handling and hunting event for Senator

Book and are involved in local mentoring organizations for inner-city youth. They have pioneered a new partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and have inspired a total of sixteen of our sworn personnel to participate and commit to one-on-one mentorship with these local youths. This team exemplifies servant leadership. They demonstrate a consistent willingness to value the mission and recognize the big picture.

Duty Officer of the Year: Michael McDaniel, Northeast Region

Duty Officer Mike McDaniel grew up in Central Florida and completed the Hunter Safety Education Course at the age of 13, which started his passion for the outdoors. He was a camp counselor at the Ocala Youth Camp and became an FWC Hunter Safety Instructor and Range Safety Officer at 18. In February 2015, he began his career with FWC as a Duty Officer in the Orlando Regional Communication Center (ORCC). McDaniel is a true team player and selflessly volunteered to work multiple shifts while the ORCC was critically understaffed. He worked alongside FWC and U.S. Forestry Officers promoting hunting and sportsmanship during the Wounded Warriors Outreach and Operation Outdoor Freedom and furthered his FWC and Northeast Regional knowledge by completing multiple ride-alongs with FWC and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) officers. He took the initiative to upgrade the old FWC ORCC manual flip chart by creating a new digital flip chart, which contains critical contact information and resources, not only for Northeast, but for North Central and Northwest Regions as well. In addition to all his contributions within the Northeast Region, Mike received a commendation from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for devising a method of monitoring out of state USFWS officers while they operated a weeks-long fire detail in the Northeast Region. Duty Officer McDaniel is committed to the mission of the FWC, evidenced by his dedication to improving processes, volunteer efforts to better his team and his participation in outreach events.

Employee of the Year: Peter Begin, Northeast Region

Peter Begin is a Call Center Specialist in the Northeast Regional Office Service Center. He



started with the FWC in 2013. Originally from Vermont, he relocated to Florida many years ago to be with his wife, Stefanie. Peter and Stefanie have two sons, Sam and Gus. He is an avid outdoorsman and shares this passion with his entire family. Peter always maintains a professional attitude when handling all customers, whether they are on the phone or in person. He is very knowledgeable about a myriad

of subjects and is eager to share his knowledge with customers and coworkers. His kind and educational approach to his work promotes the agency's mission by providing a positive environment for citizens and employees to learn. In his work, Peter does everything he can to gain as much information as possible so he doesn't have to transfer callers. Not only does this help other employees, it provides exceptional customer service. He is eager to learn about all aspects of the FWC, and by doing this he promotes teamwork among divisions, while also portraying a consistent FWC message. Peter was an instrumental asset during the Northeast Region DLE inventory, the recent office expansion at his location and process improvement. His reliability and positive attitude make him an asset to the FWC family. He continues to provide excellent support to Northeast Region Division of Law Enforcement members, as well as other divisions, and our customers.

Prosecutor of the Year: Ryan Butler, South Region Alpha

Ryan Butler is an Assistant State Attorney for the 19th Judicial Circuit covering Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River Counties. He is also a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, which enables him to prosecute at a federal level. ASA Butler has a long history of working FWC high-profile cases involving boating homicides and the illegal commercialization of Florida's natural resources. He works with FWC officers from start to finish and is always available to them, regardless of what time they call him. He involves himself in many of the cases by going on patrol with officers and recognizes the importance of observing crime scenes. His reputation in the law enforcement community is outstanding and his dedication to working collaboratively with law enforcement is evident by his commitment to always being available to serve. In May 2017, after a report of possible turtle egg poaching, a known violator who lives in Palm Beach County (in the 15th Judicial Circuit) was identified as actively poaching marine turtle eggs on St Lucie County beaches (in the 19th Judicial Circuit). Throughout the case, ASA Butler provided invaluable assistance, guidance and advice. He arranged to prosecute the case in federal court and secured two guilty pleas in federal court for two felony violations of the Lacey Act. Because of his knowledge of state and federal resource laws, ASA Butler could recognize the importance of prosecuting this case federally. He continues to serve the people of Florida in a commendable way, just as he has done as a prosecutor for the past two decades.

Biologist of the Year: Jason Waller, Northeast Region

Jason Waller has been with the agency for 15 years. He began his career on Lake Okeechobee working on lake restoration projects and for the past 10 years, he has been part of the alligator management program. He is currently the lead for alligator egg and

hatchling collection for alligator farms, private and public waters, and is the alligator bite coordinator. Jason has demonstrated exceptional teamwork by crossing division lines to assist law enforcement with numerous alligator incidents and investigations. During alligator/human conflict incidents, Jason always ensures that law enforcement officers have assistance from the



Alligator Management Program and often offers proactive guidance to officers and investigators. During two commercial alligator farm investigations, Jason provided assistance and resources to gather invaluable information and evidence during the investigations. He kept his team focused and helped overcome obstacles during long hours of monotonous, yet dangerous work. Several cases would not have been successful without Jason's vast knowledge and innovative ideas. He has become a critical part of the Northeast Region's law enforcement operation's and effectiveness. We are extremely fortunate to have such a great working relationship with Jason and look forward to more creative and collaborative work in the future.

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 (the division's third) in 2017.

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

Eddie Henderson, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division, currently has 213 POST-certified Game Wardens with statewide authority and full arrest powers and 30 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, three Majors (field operations, special operations and aviation), seven Region Supervisors (Captains), a “specialty” Captain (investigations), two pilot Captains, four Lieutenants (database management, training, special permits/captive wildlife and wild animals, and administrative support), and 185 field Game Wardens (Sergeants, Corporals, Game Wardens First Class, and Game Wardens).

TRAINING

In early 2018, the Division hired 32 new Game Warden cadets and one Game Warden pilot. Revenue generated as a result of the passing of HB 208 in 2017, which increased hunting, fishing, and recreational license fees, provided salary and benefit funding, as well as a full complement of equipment for 17 of the new hires. This funding will also provide money for additional personnel, equipment and operational costs in the future.

All 32 of the cadets are scheduled to graduate on October 19, 2018 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center from the 32nd Game Warden Academy. During the 25-week academy, cadets become P.O.S.T. certified and receive a wide variety of Conservation Law Enforcement specific training. They will then complete six months of field training in their assigned counties throughout the state. The Academy includes 80 hours of NASBLA BOAT course training for BCM (Boat Crew Member) and BOSAR (Boat Operator Search and Rescue). The Division’s in-house NASBLA certified instructors will deliver these comprehensive courses at Lake Walter F. George. Water survival training will also be taught during the 32nd Academy. Cadets will swim approximately three miles during the training, and through most of the swimming exercises, they will wear clothes, gun belt, shoes, and a ballistic vest to provide the most realistic situations possible.

During the year, in-service training for all Game Wardens statewide included NASBLA Seated Battery Standardized Field Sobriety refresher, Alzheimer's Response, De-escalation, Use-of-Force, Firearms, Dynamics of Citizen/Police Encounters, Domestic Violence Awareness, and Cultural Awareness Training.

All Game Wardens statewide and front line responders from other Georgia DNR Divisions completed a 3-day, 24-hour Critical Incident Management class. The class, coordinated by the Law Enforcement Division with instruction delivered by instructors from each division, encouraged teamwork and interdivisional collaboration. The class used curriculum developed by the IACP and incorporated tabletop exercises with scenarios that are typical for a Natural Resource Agency response.

Executive Training for Law Enforcement

GILEE

Captain Mike England participated in the 25th Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program to Israel. This two-week training session, coordinated through Georgia State University, focuses on sharing homeland security techniques as well as the benefits and limitations of a national police system. During the program, 19 Law Enforcement Executives from Georgia, one from Alabama, and one from Tennessee were briefed at multiple venues in the state of Israel.

Division's Conservation Law Enforcement Activity

Investigative Unit

The Investigative Unit (IU) is comprised of two full-time investigators. The IU is responsible for undercover investigations, Special Permit Unit (SPU) inspections and violations, the administration of the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT) and the Marine Theft Unit (MTU). The IU depends heavily on assistance from uniformed Game Wardens. Statewide, 13 Game Wardens perform a collateral duty called "Regional Investigator". Regional Investigators assist the IU with various duties.

Undercover Investigations

The Region Investigators are full-time Game Wardens who have received training in undercover operations and equipment. They perform this collateral duty in addition to their everyday Game Warden duties. The primary function of the Investigative Unit is to provide uniform Game Wardens with investigative support. The Investigative Unit is responsible for plain-clothes and long-term investigations.

Last year, the Investigative Unit conducted and managed over 281 investigations and calls for assistance from the field. 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 all fatality and serious injury boating and hunting incidents. Each investigator receives specialized training on investigating and presenting these cases. Last year, CIRT investigated 10 boating, six hunting, and two State Park incidents. These incidents resulted in 12 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, locates hidden hull identification numbers, 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 81 abandoned vessel/stolen boat requests from the public and fielded numerous phone calls related to the abandoned vessel process.

Aviation

The LED Aviation Support Unit supports all state agencies and all DNR Divisions, utilizing two Bell 407 helicopters, one Bell L4 and a fixed wing Quest Kodiak 100 aircraft.

The year started out with a busy July. The first support was for Operation Dry Water over the July 4th weekend, conducting aerial patrols over Lakes Allatoona and Lanier.

The Aviation Unit flew 278 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. Support was provided for Hurricane Irma and numerous tornado damaged areas across the state. The Wildlife Resource Division (WRD) was provided aviation support during surveys of Bald Eagles, Kestrel, Sandhill

Cranes and waterfowl. Captain Ed Watkins 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 46 hours during prescribed burns on the State WMA's during the late winter months of January through March 2018.

The Aerial Observer program has proven to be very successful. The additional trained aerial crewmembers in northern Georgia have expedited the response time for search and rescue (SAR) requests in some cases. This success has advanced the scheduled training of four additional aerial observers in central Georgia. The Aviation Unit conducted six long line rescues and flew 97 hours for search and rescue (SAR), drownings and missing person missions with aerial observers.

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. This capability was evident in the increased apprehension of illegal night poachers throughout the state this past year.

The Unit was very fortunate at years' end receiving funding for a new Bell 407. This 407 will replace the 23-year-old Bell L-4; increasing our capabilities while decreasing training and maintenance costs for the Division, while increasing safety.

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 2,087 permits.

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, 25 tips were received by email for various violations.

LED License Plate

During the year, the Division reached the required 1,000 presales of the GA DNR Law Enforcement license plate that was designed by one of the Game Wardens in the Coastal Region. The license plate is sold to citizens for an additional fee and part of the revenue generated from the sale of the plates will go to DNR Law Enforcement for operational costs.

SPLASH

The Division continued moving forward with the multi-agency water safety initiative, SPLASH. Along with Georgia's First Lady Sandra Deal and a number of federal, state, and private partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Georgia Department of Public Health and Georgia Power, the aggressive anti-drowning campaign encourages citizens to follow these tips when enjoying beaches, pools, lakes, rivers and other bodies of water. The partners meet every 4-6 weeks to share promotional ideas and discuss implementation. Ten meetings have been held so far. SPLASH is an acronym used to encourage safety around the water.

- **Supervision** – Designate an adult to watch children at all times. Do not assume someone else is watching.
- **Prevention** – Wear personal flotation devices (PFD or life jacket), install fencing around pools, and use drain covers in hot tubs and pools.
- **Life Jackets/Look before you leap**– Always wear a life jacket and never jump into water without knowing how deep it is and what is below the surface.
- **Arm's Length** – Adults should be arm's length to children in water, and life jackets and throwable flotation devices should be nearby at all times.
- **Swim Lessons** – Knowing how to swim greatly reduces the chance of drowning.
- **Have a Water Safety Plan** – Know what to do during an emergency.

During the year, the campaign distributed nearly 20,000 bilingual brochures, provided public service announcements to local radio stations, increased social media messaging, and stenciled painted safety messages on boat ramps. Currently, the Department is in the process of adding 250 life jacket loaner boards at public boat ramps and state parks statewide, with these locations now included on the Georgia Outdoors app.

Guy Bradley Award

In March of 2018, at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) presented Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Colonel Eddie Henderson with the prestigious Guy Bradley Award for his lifetime contributions to wildlife law enforcement. The award is only presented to one state and one federal recipient each year.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Hurricane Irma

In September of 2017, Game Wardens responded to Hurricane Irma on the Georgia Coast and provided first responder operations, debris clearing with chain saws, damage assessment, search and rescue and security roles. Due to the path of the storm, Game Wardens in all areas of the state were called into action and the Division logged 10,188 man hours during the week-long event.

JEA Patrols

The 16th Joint Enforcement Agreement between Georgia DNR and the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement called for GA DNR Game Wardens to provide a total of 2,309 hours of marine law enforcement or related work during the year. There were 985 at-sea personnel hours and 405 vessel hours, 173 man hours for dockside inspections, 41 aircraft hours and 41 aircraft personnel hours. Additionally, Georgia had three Execution Priorities. Execution Priority 1 was Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Enforcement. There were 192 man hours and 64 at-sea offshore large vessel patrol hours dedicated to this priority. Execution Priority 2 was dedicated to Red Snapper Patrols. There were 168 man hours and 56 at-sea large vessel patrols dedicated to Priority 2. Priority 3 was IUU enforcement in which 64 man hours were dedicated. These patrols consisted of assisting NOAA Enforcement Officers with inspection of containers at the Georgia Ports. Throughout the year, Game Wardens detected a number of Federal Fisheries violations including over the limit of fish, possession of illegal species, illegal nets, and Turtle Excluder Device (TED) violations. These documented violations were turned over to NOAA for prosecution or handled in the local courts.

TASER

The Division received approval to move forward with a pilot project to deploy TASERs to 40 officers statewide. A policy has been developed and instructors are being identified to roll this program out. One Game Warden per work section at the rank of Field Sergeant or

below, and some instructors will be issued a TASER once the equipment is secured and training is completed.

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

Throughout the year, the Law Enforcement Division acquired some new vehicles and equipment, utilizing funding from various sources. Vehicles obtained included a new Bell 407 GX helicopter, a 38-foot coastal patrol boat, a mobile command vehicle, 20 4x4 patrol vehicles, 19 patrol boats, 22 kayaks, 27 ATVs, three swift water rescue boats with motors and trailers and a new enclosed trailer for statewide disaster response. New equipment included 74 sets of night vision goggles and smart phones for all field personnel. The smart phones have already proved to be a valuable asset for Game Wardens in the field, allowing increased communication with customers and partners as well as the ability to check license status of hunters and anglers while away from the patrol vehicle.

KENTUCKY

Eric Gibson, Colonel

PERSONNEL

The Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division has recently undergone numerous changes focused on recruitment and retention. A recent increase in boat registration and resident hunting/fishing license fees provided a budget increase sufficient to support a 5% pay increase for all current officers within the law enforcement division. A newly established career ladder structure will also compliment the pay increase. This structure will provide two career path options, one for those wishing to be in a supervisory role and one for those that do not. The classifications of Master Conservation Officer I (MCO1), MCO2 and MCO3 will be established with certain criteria that must be met before an officer is eligible to be reclassified into one of these positions. Each position will include an increase in salary.

In an effort to increase low personnel numbers through active recruitment efforts, the starting salary of a Conservation Officer Recruit increased from \$29,100 to \$35,080. Upon completion of one year of probation and obtaining Peace Officer Professional Standards certification, officers will receive an annual \$4,000 training stipend and a 10% increase in salary. Second year Conservation Officers will be paid \$42,675.

The increase in starting salary will be competitive with other law enforcement agencies and will help tremendously with recruiting efforts. Because of this, plans are to hire up to 25 currently certified police officers from other agencies, resulting in decreased training time and places officers in the field much quicker.

Other personnel related changes taking place include the implementation of random drug screening for all Conservation Officers, physical fitness standards and a complete revision of the current policy manual.

EQUIPMENT

Recent equipment purchases include four Viking side-by-side ATVs officers will utilize for patrol in the coal regions of east Kentucky. These ATVs provide officers with the ability to patrol remote areas of the rugged terrain during deer, elk and bear seasons.

Dell Latitude 12 Ruggedized mobile data terminals along with new Axon Body 2 cameras were recently issued to all officers. These two pieces of equipment will greatly increase the efficiency of administrative tasks for the officers. The Axon cameras will upload video footage to a cloud based system which allows for reliable preservation of footage, definitive retention schedules and a documented chain of custody audit trail.

Duty pistol transition concluded in July. Officers are now issued Glock 17 Gen 5 pistols equipped with a Surefire weapon mounted light.

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

LEGISLATION

A thorough review of two chapters within the Kentucky Revised Statutes which are the primary focus of our enforcement efforts has been conducted. There were multiple issues identified regarding conflicting or outdated laws on the books. The revised edition will be presented to the state legislature in January for approval. The single most significant change would be the section granting Kentucky Conservation Officers their authority. Currently, statute only grants authority to enforce Chapter 150 (Hunting/Fishing) and Chapter 235 (Boating) laws. An MOU from the Kentucky State Police grants authority for Conservation Officers to enforce all other laws of the Commonwealth. This change in statute would codify the full authority of Kentucky Conservation Officers.

LOUISIANA

Sammy Martin, Colonel

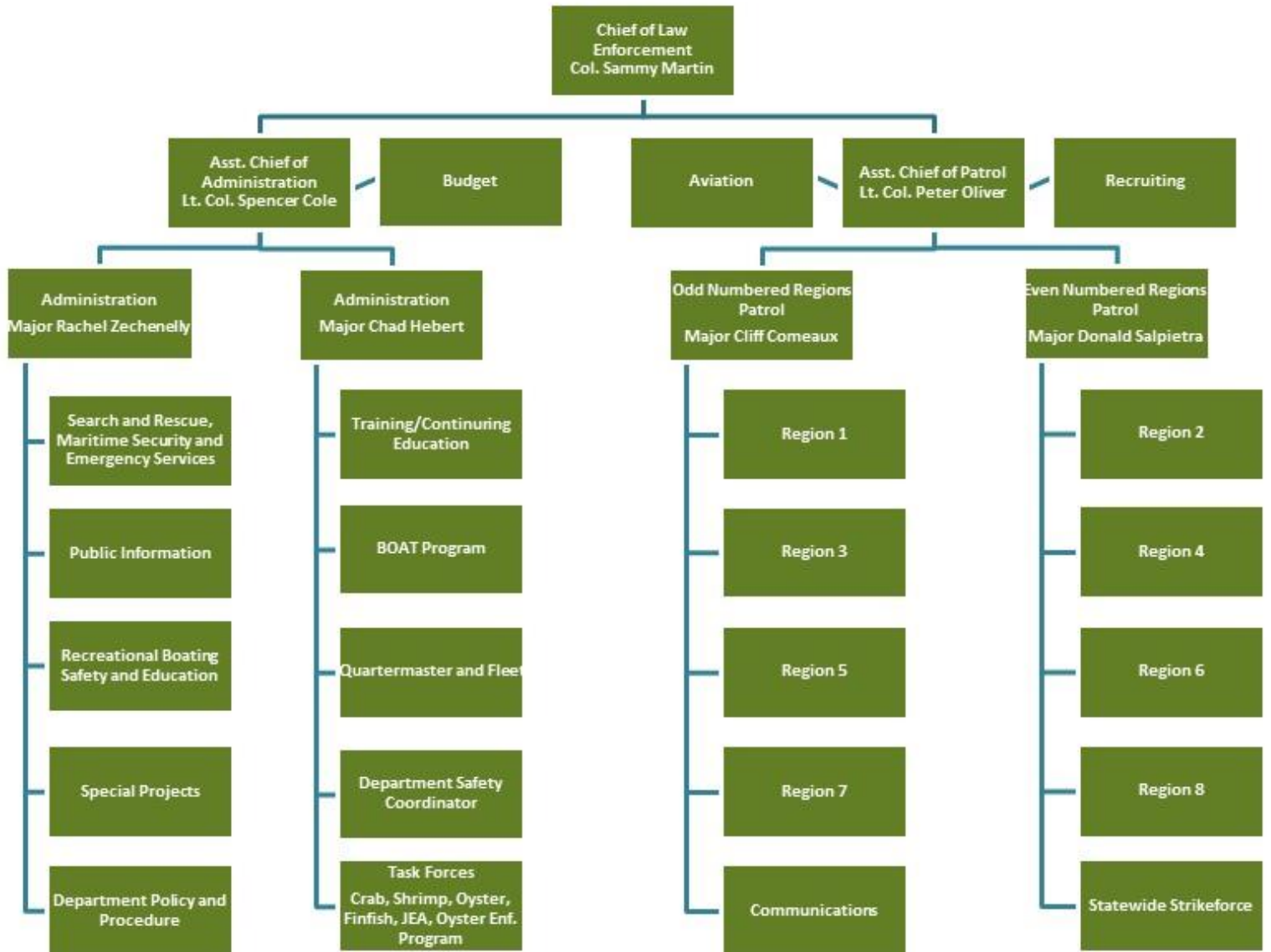


The LDWF Law Enforcement Division's (LDWF-LED) operating budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 was approximately \$36.8 million. Enforcement Division funding is derived from the Conservation Fund (LDWF self-generated revenue), Federal Boating Safety Funds, United States Coast Guard Grant funding, Homeland Security Grant funding, and the LDWF Enforcement Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with NOAA for Federal Fisheries and various local grants.

LDWF-LED conducted 333,099 patrol hours in FY 2017-2018: 258,006 on land and 76,093 on water. Agents made 826,583 contacts with the public, the majority of whom were in compliance with state and federal wildlife and fisheries regulations. LDWF-LED agents issued 12,560 criminal citations and 7,120 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 (Figure 1). 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 are two Lieutenant Colonels. One Lieutenant Colonel who serves as assistant chief of administration which includes recreational boating safety and education, emergency services, training, support, public information and budget. The other Lieutenant Colonel serves as the assistant chief of patrol and supervises all state regional field operations, statewide communications, aviation and recruiting. There are four majors: one over the even-numbered enforcement regions of the state and statewide strike force; one over the odd-numbered regions and the statewide communications sections; one over training, support (quartermaster and fleet), JEA, safety and serves as the LDWF Enforcement representative for the shrimp, oyster, crab and finfish task forces; one over the recreational boating safety and education programs, emergency services, special projects, policy and procedure, and serve as the state's boating law administrator.

The LDWF Enforcement Division headquarters staff works out of Baton Rouge headed by Col. Sammy Martin who was promoted to the head position in September of 2017. Col. Martin, a native of Terrebonne Parish, graduated from the Louisiana POST Training Academy in 1982, receiving his POST certification from Louisiana State Police, and has been an agent for over 35 years.



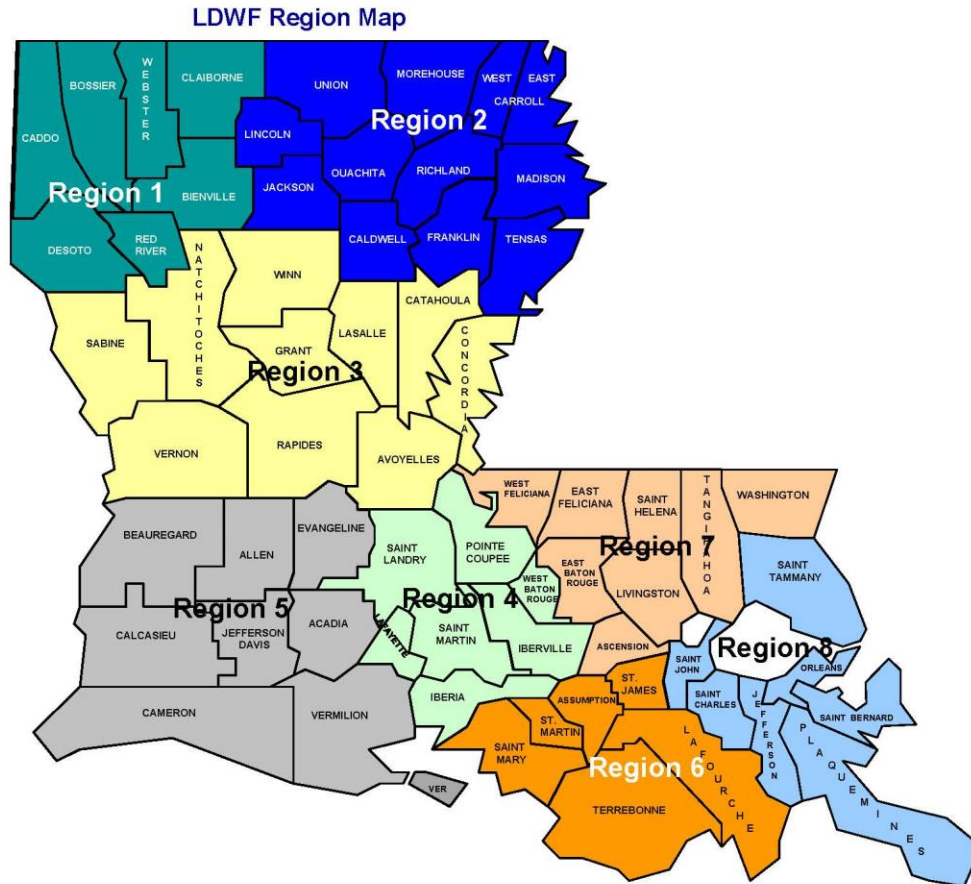
The Enforcement Division is divided into eight enforcement regions and the statewide strikeforce. Each numbered enforcement region is composed of two or three multi-parish districts. Each region is managed by a captain who supervises two or three district supervisors of the lieutenant rank. Regions have 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 2018) 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, mudboats, bass boats and flatboats.



December 16, 2014

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.

Shot Agent Returns to Duty

Senior Agent Tyler Wheeler, 25, was shot four times including once in the head and once in the back while questioning a motorist around 2 a.m. on Jan. 7 on Hwy. 165 between

Sterlington and Bastrop in Morehouse Parish. After numerous surgeries and countless hours of physical therapy, Wheeler was cleared to return to full time duty in late July.

Wheeler's first day back in uniform was Aug. 4 and he went through a week of in-service training before beginning his first week of patrol duties on Aug. 14.

Louisiana State Police Detectives arrested Amethyst Baird Rathore, 31, of Monroe on one count of attempted first-degree murder of a police officer and Jeremy Gullette, 34, of Monroe, on one count of accessory after the fact to attempted first-degree murder on Jan. 8.

Amethyst Baird Rathore, 32, of Monroe, was sentenced on March 2, 2018 by Judge Carl V. Sharp of the 4th Judicial District Court to 60 years in prison without the possibility for parole for attempted first degree murder of a police officer for shooting LDWF Senior Agent Tyler Wheeler. Rathore also received 40 years for obstruction of justice, 10 years for illegal possession of a stolen vehicle and 10 years for illegal possession of a stolen firearm all of which will run concurrently.



Shot LDWF Agent To Receive Full Retirement Benefits

Gov. John Bel Edwards signed a bill into law on May 31, 2018 in Baton Rouge that will provide full retirement benefits to former LDWF Agent Scott Bullitt who was shot in the line of duty.

House Representative Terry Brown of District 22 authored House Bill 37 that will provide full Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) benefits to hazardous duty members that are totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty by an intentional act

of violence. LDWF's own Scott Bullitt will qualify for the full LASERS retirement benefits because of this bill.

Bullitt, originally from Grant Parish, had been an agent for over five years when he was shot in the line of duty on May 21, 2015 in Ouachita Parish. Bullitt has been confined to a wheelchair since the shooting and was unable to return to regular LDWF agent duties. Bullitt's shooter, Luke Hust, was sentenced to life in prison on Jan. 27, 2016 in Ouachita Parish.



Flagpole Dedicated to Fallen Cadet

The LDWF Enforcement Division dedicated a flagpole in memoriam of a former LDWF cadet at the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Training Academy on May 30 in Baton Rouge.

The flagpole is being dedicated in memory of Byron Dore who was a part of the 23rd LDWF Academy Class when he passed away at the age of 24 in 2008. The Dore Family, the McIlhenny Company and the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association donated the money to erect the flagpole.

Dore was about halfway through his LDWF training to become an agent when he drowned in Iberia Parish on his weekend off from training.

The Byron Dore Memorial Flag Pole is planted in front of the new Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Training and Emergency Response Complex at the Waddill Outdoor Education Center off North Flannery Road in Baton Rouge.

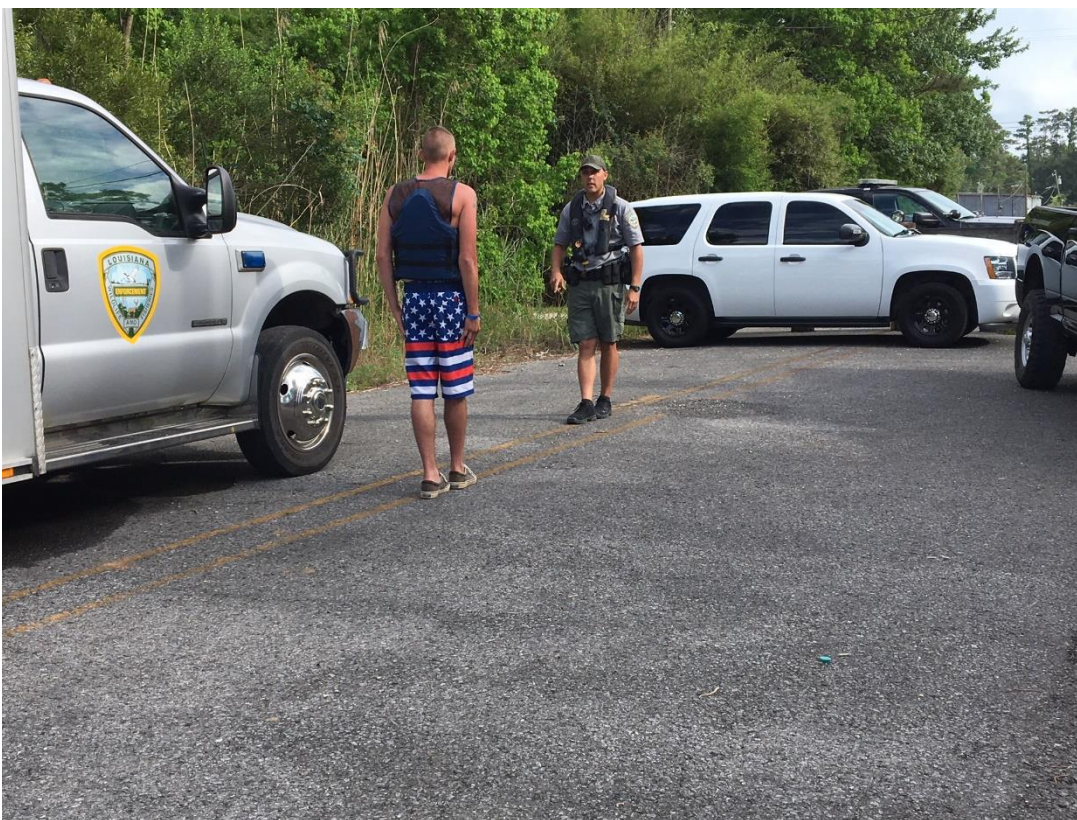


Boating Safety Program



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 327,000 registered boats, Louisiana contains many geographic, demographic and economic features that pose special challenges for boating safety enforcement. LDWF-LED agents made 236,759 public contacts during the course of 60,425 patrol hours dedicated to boating enforcement, education and accident investigation in FY 2017-2018. Of those hours, 44,912 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 2017-2018, LDWF-LED agents issued 54 citations for careless and reckless operation of a vessel and 68 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 2017-2018, 8,389 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 112,700 students.

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

LDWF certified 78 students during the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) "Spring Aboard" national marketing campaign from March 18-24 to promote opportunities for boaters to enroll in a boating education course.

LDWF also certified 150 boaters statewide after their eighth "Boating Education Lagniappe Day" on April 21. Lagniappe Day ran from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at eight locations across the state and consisted of the National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) boating education course, food and drinks, giveaways and door prizes all free of charge to the public.

LDWF participated in several national campaigns including "Wear your PFD to work Day" on May 18, "Ready Set Wear It" on May 19 and the "Safe Boating Week" in Louisiana from May 19-25. 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.



LDWF once again participated in NASBLA's Operation Dry Water from June 29 to July 1, 2018. During Operation Dry Water, agents stepped up patrols looking for operators of vessels who were impaired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. During the weekend, agents made 10 boating under the influence case and issued 103 safe boating citations with 79 safe boating warnings.

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.

The LDWF Enforcement Division rescued a total of 1,541 people and 195 pets in both Texas and Louisiana following the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The total number of people rescued included 1,513 in Texas and 28 people in Louisiana. LDWF deployed a total of 73 agents with 69 trucks and 69 vessels to the Houston, Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur, Kirbyville and Deweyville areas from Aug. 26 to Sept. 2, 2017.

LDWF sent 55 agents with 53 trucks, 50 vessels and a mobile command center to the Pensacola area in Florida from Sept. 10 to Sept. 15 following the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.



LDWF TRAINING

Academy

The LDWF Enforcement Division conducted the hiring process to fill 24 enforcement agent positions. The LDWF Training Academy Class 32 began their six months of training on July 2, 2018.

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 2017, 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/Use of Force
- Firearms
- DWI (Intox. 9000, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Seated Test Battery, LA Drive, Blood Kits and Warrants)
- Taser
- Officer Survival/Care under fire (scenario based force on force training)
- Maps and Navigation
- ARIDE Retrainer (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement)
- ATF (Illegal firearms/silencers)

Firearms

LDWF/LED added two agents to its cadre of firearms instructors. These agents completed the selection, qualification and training process to become a certified LDWF and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) firearms instructor. They 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

Four agents were certified as Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), bringing the LDWF-LED total to 17 DREs.

Marine Law Enforcement Training Program

At the end of 2017, 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).

LDWF/LED successfully completed the NASBLA BOAT Program, 3 year audit and re-accreditation.

The BOAT Program establishes a U.S. Coast Guard recognized national standard for the training, qualification, credentialing and typing of marine law enforcement and emergency first responders.

Accreditation of an agency ensures that its training curricula, policies, qualification processes and documentation for crew members, boat operators for search and rescue, and tactical operators meets the BOAT Program's National Standards, and allows an agency to train and qualify all of its officers internally, as well as its partners on the water.

In 2011, LDWF/LED became the first agency in the country to receive accreditation in the NASBLA BOAT Program.

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 2017, MSRT members had completed their annual recertification as Tactical Operators Course (TOC) in the NASBLA BOAT Program. 10 agents were recently selected to fill vacancies on the MSRT team. After an intense and thorough selection process, these agents completed the two week LSP SWAT school and are scheduled to complete the NASBLA TOC Course during the next fiscal year.



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 2017-18

Equipment:

- 13 search and rescue vessels
- 17 replacement outboard motors
- 43 (4x4) patrol trucks
- 2 administration SUVs
- 7 ATVs
- 50 replacement iPads

- 7 replacement/new personal ballistic vests
- 235 external vest carriers

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 2017 year, OGT paid out \$11,200 in rewards. In 2017 the LOGT board reviewed 28 cases that led to 63 subjects getting cited or arrested and a total of 287 citations issued. From 1984 till the end of 2017 the LOGT board has paid out a total of \$402,100 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 \$910,867 in FY 2017-2018 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 120 enforcement related press releases during FY 2017-2018. 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.



MISSOURI

Larry Yamnitz, Chief

TRAINING ISSUES

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

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

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

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

The Department will be implementing a priority-based budgeting program in FY19 which focuses efforts on activities that advance the Department's mission, vision, and draft Strategic Plan. This plan identifies four goals to direct the development of FY19 Division Focus Areas, Work Plans and Expenditure Plans:

- Sustain and Improve Fish, Forest, and Wildlife Resources
- Enhance the Relevance of Conservation
- Connect Citizens with Fish, Forest, and Wildlife Resources
- Strengthen Operational Excellence to Deliver Superior Customer Service

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

the budget cuts, Protection Division is excited about the potential salary implications for conservation agents.

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

Protection Division currently has approximately 200 FTEs and while we haven't been able to add new positions, we have reallocated existing positions to better accomplish our mission. Our Confined Wildlife Enforcement Unit is in their fourth year and has been effective in providing firm, fair, and consistent enforcement of confined wildlife and commercial permit regulations. We've also extended our Special Investigations Technical position for another year to assist Protection with technical support and on-line special investigations.

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

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

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

In 2017, Missouri's Operation Game Thief (OGT) program received 866 violation reports which resulted in 345 total convictions and \$8,600 in rewards paid. This number of convictions is the fourth highest since 2000. The OGT trailer was utilized at seven special

events throughout the state. Protection Division also promotes the OGT program through our social media outlets as with the case below:



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

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

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

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

On Friday, September 15, 2017, Missouri's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13 was activated with the announcement of the Officer Jason Stockley "Not Guilty" verdict in St. Louis. The racial tension and civil unrest that followed resulted in 60 conservation agents being mobilized to assist local law enforcement with force protection operations in the St. Louis area. Conservation agents served in a force protection role with local firefighters, paramedics, and other emergency responders over a three-day period. This was the first time the Department had been requested to serve in this capacity and, as expected, conservation agents did an outstanding job communicating with angry citizens, protecting local emergency responders, and building relationships with local law enforcement. Our focus area of "Public Safety off the Beaten Path" took a detour at the request of our Statewide Emergency Management Agency.

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

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

The Department continues to promote electronic hunting and fishing licenses, with electronic deer and turkey permits available again this year. Our MO Hunting app allows electronic invalidation (notching) of deer and turkey permits and the ability to telecheck

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

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

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

As of May 1, 2018, MDC is still waiting on a Missouri Supreme Court Decision regarding a lawsuit filed by the captive cervid industry over the authority to regulate confined cervids. The Department is patiently awaiting this landmark decision that will have implications for the health of Missouri’s fish, forest, and wildlife resources beyond just captive cervids.

COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

Protection Division continues its Protection Volunteer Program with volunteers in each region who assist conservation agents and other Department staff with projects including; enforcement patrols, outreach and education programs, training scenarios and wildlife surveys. The volunteer program is also a valuable recruitment tool.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Protection Division continues to work diligently with Wildlife Division and other partners on feral hog termination efforts in Missouri. Corral trapping and aerial gunning continues to be our most effective control measures. The Department is working with numerous partners on this issue including: Missouri Department of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Corn Growers Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Missouri Agribusiness Association, among others. Over a year ago, the Conservation Commission passed regulations prohibiting the taking of feral hogs on all lands owned, leased or managed by the Department to further reduce the incentive to transport and release feral hogs on Department areas. Conservation agents continue to

enforce this and other state statutes prohibiting the transportation and release of feral hogs.

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

MISSISSIPPI

Steve Adcock, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Are officers 100% Wildlife Law Enforcement or Mixed?

- Officers are mixed between Wildlife, Fisheries & Law Enforcement Bureau's

Straight Line Reporting Structure: Yes

- Number of Officers: 192. Officers are full time Law Enforcement

TRAINING

Officers were issued Tasers and Glock 42 handguns during FY 2018 In Service training. The Glock 42 weapons will be utilized as a backup weapon. All officers also received Point Blank ballistic vests.

FY 2018 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 ever changing world in which we live and work.

Our officers once again competed in the National LawFit challenge. Due to hard work and determination, our officers were able to win the entire competition defeating the

Mississippi Highway Patrol, for the second year in a row. MDWFP officers also finished first individually in eight out of the nine events. In the past five years, Team MDWFP has placed first or second overall.

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. Funding allowed us to have one cadet class. The cadet class produced 15 Conservation Officers. The addition of the 15 Conservation Officers increased our state wide numbers to 202. 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 for a spring cadet class for FY 19.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

With the discovery of CWD in February 2018, officers focused efforts on sampling with our Wildlife Bureau. A CWD management zone was implemented in the southern portion of the Mississippi Delta where the one CWD positive deer was found. Over 1200 samples within FY 2018 still only produced the one positive. Regulations were put in place to contain deer within the CWD Management Zone. Carcass transportation is prohibited and supplemental feeding is banned in the zone. Officers will work diligently towards public compliance of these regulations to prevent CWD in other parts of MS.

Due to CWD concerns, officers will also continue investigations of High Fenced properties that may be involved in illegally transporting white-tailed deer into the state.

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.

40 MS Admin. Code Part 2, Chapter 2:

- Rule 2.7 - Prohibition on Cervid Carcass Importation to Protect Mississippi from Chronic Wasting Disease
- Rule 2.4 – Supplemental Feeding - closing supplemental feeding in the CWD Management Zone

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

During FY 2018, MDWFP utilized drones in multiple recovery efforts statewide. This technology enhances the ability to identify areas to focus search efforts and provides a real-time video feed to MDWFP's command center. The SRT team provided support to

other agencies for missing persons and provided natural disaster response including assistance to Florida during Hurricane Irma.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jon Evans, Colonel

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION 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 comprises 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.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

Equity Raises for N.C. Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers

The NCWRC completed a pay equity study in 2018 and was able to give equity raises to eligible employees throughout the agency.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy:

In 2017, the NCWRC Law Enforcement Division advertised 24 Law Enforcement positions. The 55th Basic Law Enforcement Academy began Jan. 11, 2018 and ended July 20, 2018. The 21 graduates began their six-month field training program with their Field Training Officers in July 2018 and field training will go through February 2019. The field training performance appraisal will show the trainees' skills, abilities and responsibilities in vehicle operation, vessel operation, patrol techniques (night and day), hunter and boating education programs, etc.

Due to retirements and turnover, the NCWRC is planning to hire 14 new officers for the 56th Basic Law Enforcement Academy, which begins January 2019. Approximately 550 individuals applied for these 14 "Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer" positions when they

were advertised in June 2018. The NCWRC does not plan to hire new Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers again until 2021.

Game Camera Donations

Tim Gestwicki with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, along with Robert Smith from the North Carolina chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, presented the NCWRC with a donation to purchase 40 HCO Spartan game cameras for officers to use in investigations.



NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Division once again is participating in the “Migratory Game Bird Hunting Awareness Campaign.” This campaign attempts to educate landowners, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts on migratory game bird hunting laws in North Carolina. Officers are encouraged to contact landowners and hunters personally and discuss issues surrounding hunting migratory game birds, such as baiting, lawful weapons, agricultural processes, bag limits, possession, etc. These personal encounters also give the public an opportunity to ask the officers questions. This campaign is an attempt to police at the community level and to prevent wildlife crime through education and deterrence.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Training Issues-Leadership Training

The NCWRC has implemented an agency-wide leadership program designed around the adaptive leadership principles of the Kansas Leadership Institute and instructing model of the National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI). The purpose of this 8-month program is to develop the strategies and skills necessary to adapt and lead through the complex challenges facing conservation organizations in the 21st century. The program also fosters communication and collaboration across organizational and non-traditional boundaries. Each class comprises employees from all divisions and sections throughout the agency.

The NCWRC Law Enforcement Division also sends officers to leadership training that is sponsored by the North Carolina Justice Academy. Newly promoted sergeants attend First Line Supervision and Law Enforcement Management Development Classes. In addition to these basic leadership courses, the NCWRC has seven alumni and two supervisors currently attending the Management Development Program, or “MDP.” Each year, 20 law enforcement leaders are selected from all North Carolina law enforcement agencies to attend this training. The training consists of one week per month, from January to November. The MDP experience includes an innovative curriculum, which involves comprehensive and in-depth examination of the complex issues of law enforcement management, as well as, the actual application of learned management and leadership skills.

“On the Road, On the Water, Don’t Drink and Drive Campaign”



The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and its partners have continued with the “On the Road, On the Water, Don’t Drink and Drive” campaign for 2018.

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 and 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.



Operation Dry Water 2018 – “Large Agency of the Year” Award for the Second Year in a Row

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators presented the NCWRC with the 2018 Operation Dry Water “Top Agency” Award in the category of Large Agency. This selection was based on the agency’s involvement and participation in the 2018 Operation



Dry Water heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, which took place nationwide, June 29- July 1. Based on the number of officers the agency deployed for Operation Dry Water, the NCWRC qualified in the Large Agency category (101+ officers). The winner of each agency category is determined by the number of

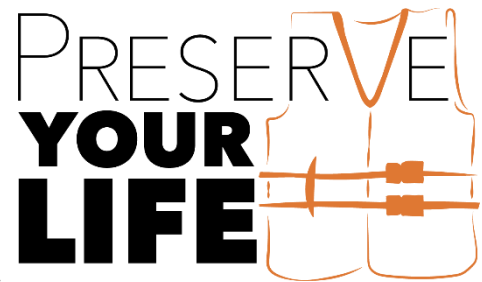
boating under the influence arrests made, divided by the number of officers who were deployed. Based on North Carolina’s official report submitted to the Operation Dry Water campaign, the agency had the highest percentage in this category.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators thanked the NCWRC for the time and effort put in by agency officers. Those efforts and dedication of the law enforcement officers and personnel involved made a positive impact on boating under the influence and resulted in a successful and commendable Operation Dry Water campaign.

A representative of the NCWRC will accept the award on the agency’s behalf at the 2018 NASBLA Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Sept. 11, 2018.

Preserve Your Life Campaign

The NCWRC introduced the “Preserve Your Life” campaign in 2017 to raise awareness and educate the public about the importance of life preservers. With an unprecedented number of boating fatalities in 2018, the Law Enforcement Division, working with the Wildlife Education Division, increased its communication and outreach about the campaign by creating five boating safety



videos that provided tips on how to stay safe while on the water. The divisions also created a “Preserve Your Life” webpage, disseminated multiple news releases to the media and e-

newsletters to approximately ~740,000 subscribers, and posted nearly 40 messages to the agency's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts about boating safety.

Master Officer Patrick L. Browne - Recipient of 2017 Governor's Awards for Excellence for Safety and Heroism



On and off duty, Patrick Browne serves and protects the state of North Carolina. As a Wildlife Law Enforcement Master Officer, Browne enforces the hunting, fishing, boating and trapping laws of

North Carolina; however, his influence expands outside of his daily duties with his heroic and selfless character. On April 16, 2017, Browne had been patrolling fishing activity along the Meherrin River in Northampton County. After completing his patrol of the area, he concluded his duties and headed home. On his way, Browne came across a two-car accident. Browne noticed that one of the vehicles had flames coming from the engine area. As the first person on the scene of the incident, Brown acted quickly, immediately calling on his radio for assistance from other wildlife officers nearby and from local first responders.

As Browne approached the vehicle, he heard a female say, "Help! I can't move!" He found the female in the driver's seat of one of the vehicles and crossed a swampy, 3-foot-deep ditch to get to the victim inside of the vehicle. His position in the ditch put him below the level of the car, but Browne still attempted to get the driver out of the wreckage. He managed to carry her away from the car and move her through the ditch, to a safe distance from the car. Browne's quick thinking and heroic efforts came none too soon. As soon as Browne removed the victim from the car, flames swirled from the engine area and fully engulfed the vehicle. Had Browne not acted quickly, the victim could have lost her life in the flames of the wreckage. It is the excellent training, experience and courageous efforts, like those made by Browne, that make the state of North Carolina proud of its employees.

North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run

The North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics unites officers from law enforcement agencies and corrections departments across the state to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics North Carolina. The Torch Run efforts to raise funds include: collecting corporate sponsorships, T-shirt and hat donations and hosting unique fundraising events such as building sprints, polar plunges and glow runs.



The NCWRC, in partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Hillsborough Police

Department, hosted a 3.5-mile run/walk for Special Olympics. The event was held on May 21, 2018 at the historic Occoneechi Speedway (first dirt NASCAR Track in the United States) and on the Eno River Walk in Hillsborough. NCWRC earned a spot on next year's Torch Run T-shirt by raising over \$6,000 and is currently ranked 28th on the Torch Run Agency Rankings with a donation of \$7,735.



Higgins and Langley Award

On July 12, 2018 N.C. Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry presented the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission with the international Higgins and Langley Award for Outstanding Achievement in Swift Water Rescue for the coordinated local, state and federal response in October 2016 to Hurricane Matthew. More than 30 teams rescued 2,336 people and brought them to safety as Matthew's floodwaters rose. The premier internationally recognized award for excellence in swift water and flood rescue was

presented to North Carolina during the annual conference of the International Association of Water Rescue Professionals in South Bend, Indiana.

“This award recognizes great work done by our local, state and federal water rescue teams, both in the water and in the air, rescuing thousands of people from Hurricane Matthew’s floodwaters,” said state Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry. “These teams train constantly, and their capability and professionalism shine through in all their responses.”



Established in 1993, the Higgins & Langley Memorial Awards honor Earl Higgins, a writer and filmmaker who lost his life in 1980 while rescuing a child who was swept down the flood-swollen Los Angeles River, and Jeffrey Langley, a Los Angeles County firefighter, paramedic and swift water rescue pioneer, who lost his life in a helicopter incident in 1993. The awards acknowledge individuals and swift water rescue teams that use specialized technical rescue to save lives, increase awareness about the need for swift water and flood rescue training, promote worldwide training standards of certification, and inspire other agencies to develop viable water rescue programs.

This marks the second time North Carolina has received the prestigious Higgins and Langley Award. The state was awarded the same honor in 2005 after swift water rescue teams saved more than 1,110 people following Tropical Storms Frances and Ivan.

North Carolina Emergency Management organizes the state’s search and rescue programs including swift water, wilderness, helicopter and mountain teams by providing oversight, training and funding. Thirty highly trained swift water rescue teams are positioned across the state, in addition to several North Carolina Helicopter and Aquatic Rescue Teams (NC HART), which combine swift water rescue technicians with helicopters for rescues by air. The swift water rescue teams comprise personnel and equipment from local public safety agencies across the state that train to meet national standards and can be deployed anywhere within North Carolina or across the country. NC HART combines aircraft and pilots from the NC State Highway Patrol or NC National Guard with many of the swift water rescue technicians to extricate people trapped in trees, rooftops or other precarious locations.

Following Hurricane Matthew, the state's rescue teams were supported by FEMA swift water rescue teams from Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and by U.S. Coast Guard resources based in North Carolina and elsewhere.

North Carolina's search and rescue capabilities were born in the wake of Hurricane Fran in 1996 when NC Emergency Management recognized the need to develop an inventory of available teams with basic rescue capabilities. The asset proved to be extremely valuable three years later during Hurricane Floyd when responders rescued hundreds of victims from flooded homes, cars, rooftops and trees. Floyd's rescue operations highlighted the need for specially trained and equipped teams that could safely rescue those trapped in floodwaters or swift water conditions. Since then, the swift water / flood rescue teams and NCHART teams have become some of the state's most activated specialized emergency response resources.

Special Operations Unit Update

During late summer 2015, the Special Operations Unit (SOU) in the division received reports involving deer hunting clubs and individuals who hunt on the R. Wayne Bailey Game Lands in Caswell County. Local area uniformed officers received multiple complaints about these hunting clubs, and a hunter's campground was located on Game Lands. Local officers worked these complaints with traditional techniques, with little deterrence. The complaints officers received included the take of antlerless deer during the closed season on game lands, failure to tag and register big game animals, exceeding the bag limit of big game, and trespassing on private property. A decision was made that the SOU would covertly insert operators into several of these hunting clubs to detect evidence of possible game law violations in and around NCWRC game lands. SOU operators were made aware of multiple game law violations during their first year of insertion, but most of the evidence obtained did not overcome Corpus Delicti. After multiple discussions, it was determined that operators of the SOU would continue their covert activity for a second year, to solidify relationships and confidence with the hunting club's members.

In the second year the undercover operators were able to detect and document many of the violations who had been described by the uniformed officers. The two-year investigation involved 28 individuals and 104 documented violations, the majority of which were documented on NCWRC game lands. After close consultation with local prosecutors, it was decided that 14 individuals would be charged with 42 charges. All charges were disposed of in the fall of 2017, resulting in convictions of all parties involved. Fines totaled \$5,920, 48 hours of community service and 48 months of unsupervised probation.

Marijuana Eradication Post Action Report

Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers from D-8 and D-9 assisted with the SBI lead, multi-agency eradication detail from July 9 thru July 13 in the far western counties of North Carolina. The N.C. State Bureau of Investigation advised NCWRC officers the Eradication detail was a tremendous success and the SBI really appreciated the assistance. The detail led to the removal of 896 plants and should produce between three to five arrests.

On July 9, NCWRC officers assisted the SBI Eradication mission in Clay, Graham, and Cherokee counties. Two marijuana sites were found in Clay County and three sites in Cherokee County, with 258 plants removed. NCWRC's primary role was to assist in the collection of plants once found, using ATVs. NCWRC officers also provided area and location information due to knowing the areas in which the sites were found.

On July 10, NCWRC officers assisted with the Eradication detail in Swain and Jackson counties. Twelve marijuana plants were found in Jackson County and immediately removed.

On July 11, NCWRC officers assisted with the Eradication detail in Haywood County using their trucks, ATVs, and by foot to lead Eradication teams to two target sights, recovering and removing 25 plants.

On July 12, NCWRC officers assisted with the Eradication detail in Haywood and Madison counties. Once again, officers led teams to target sights by trucks, ATVs, and by foot. They assisted with three sites and recovered approximately 200 plants.

On July 13, a NCWRC officer assisted with the Eradication detail to work Mitchell and Yancey counties. However, due to the foggy conditions, the pilots could not fly the area. The Eradication detail was canceled that day due to the weather.

During the week, there were more plants harvested each day by other teams that were operating in other counties. However, NCWRC officers went out with each team that responded within the counties where officers were present. Based on the success of the Eradication detail this year, the SBI would like for NCWRC officers to assist it with the 2019 Eradication detail.

OKLAHOMA

Bill Hale, Colonel

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

AGENCY OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

TRAINING ISSUES

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

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

twelve hours of supervisory training each year. New supervisors are required to attend 24 hours within one year after promotion.

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

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

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

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

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

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

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

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

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

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

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

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

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

New legislation and administrative rules:

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

COST SAVING INITIATIVES

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

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

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

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

SOUTH CAROLINA

Chisolm Frampton, Colonel

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Division acquired a \$150,000.00 mobile breath alcohol testing unit. The unit has been vinyl wrapped in support of the divisions boating safety and BUI enforcement campaign. The platform which can be set up at area landings and large marine events to support the field officers conducting high visibility boating under the influence patrols.

Over the last 2 years we have met with numerous vendors for our electronic reporting initiative. After deciding to go with an iOS based reporting and ticketing system we have narrowed down to 2 vendors that can supply the program that will best fit our needs. In the next 6 months we intend on beginning a 6 month pilot program of 25 officers using electronic reporting and e-citations around the state. With this we will also be looking at improvements such as signal boosters to improve our mobile and data service in the more rural areas.

The Division purchased an additional Didson Aegis dual frequency acoustic imaging unit with accessories. The Didson unit is state of the art technology used for the location of evidence and recovery of victims of drowning and boating related deaths. This unit required minimum training to allow operators to become efficient and effective with its use in recoveries. The unit has been used in over 55 dive operations. This equipment has been invaluable due it maximizes diver safety and minimizes the wait for families to begin the closure process in the loss of a family member.

All division smartphones were equipped with a GIS mapping application which allows officers to not only determine their exact location it shows the property lines, tax map, and ownership of surrounding properties.

All division smartphones were equipped with a departmental license portal that allows officers to run individuals in the field to determine what active licenses they have.

All division smartphones were equipped with an officer safety tracking application. It has been successfully used at major security events to ensure the location of all officers involved is known and they receive pertinent information quickly.

The Division handled 14,655 calls for service this year. SC is 7th in the country in registered vessels and field staff worked patrolling 42,321 boating hours and inspected over 75,000 boats.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For 2018 the Division increased starting salaries from \$33,600.00 to \$ 37,500.00 to aid in recruiting the best possible candidates. We were also able to increase the salaries of the 2017 class of officers to ensure parity in salaries.

2017 was the end of a 2 year legislative session in which the passage of a buck tagging requirement was monumental for SC. Historically we only had a daily limit on bucks statewide, this tagging legislation we feel will greatly benefit the whitetail herd statewide.

PUBLIC OUTREACH IMPACT

The SC Archery in Schools Program continued to see growth as well. South Carolina currently has 419 active schools that participate in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Over 50,000 students participated in the National Archery in the Schools Program. 1,811 students participated in 5 regional archery events held across the state. 1,027 finalists from the Regionals attended the three-day State Event. \$34,000 in college scholarships were given to graduating seniors at the state archery event.

SC Scholastic Clay Target Sports continued to grow in success and popularity. This program promotes all three regiments of clay target shooting: Sporting Clays, Trap, and Skeet. The Department partnered with Clemson 4H Shooting Sports to sponsor a youth skeet and trap event. 157 youth participated in this event, making it the largest youth skeet and trap competition held to date in South Carolina. The Division held the first annual Youth Sporting Clay Open with 593 youth shooters a total of \$52,000 in college scholarships were presented to graduating seniors who participated, in addition to other prizes.

The Take One Make One (TOMO) Program coordinated 50 youth hunts with 215 youth participating. The Law Enforcement and Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Divisions continued their partnership to increase youth hunting through the TOMO Program. Law Enforcement Regions across the state coordinated over 65 separate events using outreach trailers to impact over 112,000 people across the state.

The Division overall has impacted over 180,000 youth through our Hunter Education, Boater Education, Take One Make One Program, and Shooting Sports outreach initiatives. Over 3,366 public presentations were conducted by field officers in conjunction with 26

fishing rodeos which impacted over 4,000 youth and adults being introduced to the sport of fishing.

The Division instituted a PFD loaner board program at several landings. These allow boaters to borrow a PFD if needed and return it once their day on the water is complete. We are working in conjunction with local Power Squadrons to ensure these loaner boards inventory is replaced as needed.

The Division approved 509 marine events permits this past year.

COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

The Division continued cooperative efforts with the SC Department of Public Safety on BUI and DUI enforcement by continuing its campaign, the "100 Deadliest Days of Summer

The Division continues to play an important role in homeland security and emergency management by working cooperatively with State, Local, and Federal agencies on security missions, natural disaster response, port security, and patrolling sensitive sites. In support of these programs the Division continues to fund a fulltime Intelligence Analyst with Project SeaHawk Port Security Task Force. In support of the fight against terrorism we have funded 2 investigators fulltime to the South Carolina FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

- Over the last year 94 officers were deployed to assist with the Memorial Day Bike Festival in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 184 SCDNR officers participated in several events at the State House during 2017 to include: Martin Luther King Parade, Black Lives Matter rallies, Honor Rally, Solar Eclipse, and Darlington NASCAR Races.

SCDNR deployed 25 officers, 10 boats, and 2 support trailers to Newton, TX to assist Texas Game Wardens and local law enforcement in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

SCDNR deployed 207 officers and 32 Department Deputy Officers were deployed for Hurricane Irma and lane reversal operations. 173 DNR officers were deployed to search and rescue, security, river sweeps and flooding operations post storm.

The SCDNR Tips program has opened additional avenues for the public to report anonymously violations through the DNR website, DNR Facebook page, SMS texting, and through downloadable apps for smart phones on the iPhone and Android applications. Staff worked with administrators of the Pocket Ranger App to include a link from their smartphone application to the SCDNR Tips web based tip reporting through the SCDNR Website.

FUNDING AND STAFFING INITIATIVES

The Law Enforcement Division was awarded \$321,000.00 through the Department of Justice JAG Grant Program for 40 portable dual band radios and 1 year of 800 MHz service.

The Law Enforcement Division was awarded \$511,500.00 through the DHS Port Security Grant Program for the purchase of 60 dual band portable radios, 800 MHz service for 1 year, and a diver held sonar unit.

The Division completed a 1.3 million dollar upgrade to our radio room. This upgraded and expanded existing technology to include additional 800MHz channels, auto vehicle location abilities, and a new telephone IP recorder.

TRAINING

The Division provided the following advanced professional training for staff:

- 5 supervisors completed the FBI Carolina Command College;
- Captain Matt McCaskill and Lt. Michael P Thomas completed the three week NACLEC Leadership Training in Shepardstown, WV
- 2 supervisors have completed the 18 month Certified Public Managers Training conducted through the state Office of Human Resources; Currently 2 field supervisors are enrolled in this program.
- 4 supervisors have successfully completed the FBI-LEEDA Management Trilogy.
- 14 supervisors completed Mid-Level Management Training.

Training initiatives are a critical focus of the Division because we believe a well-trained force leads to increased moral, and more professionalism within the Division. These are attributes the public expects of today's law enforcement professionals. In total 141 officers attended advanced training over the last year.

K-9 UNIT

The Division launched a K-9 program with an initial 5 dog/handler teams. Upon completion of the 8 week handler training the teams were deployed throughout the state. The program has been a great success in the first 6 months of deployment the teams deployed 176 times resulting in 171 state cases, 16 federal migratory bird cases referred to USFS, and 27 cases for assisting agencies.

The program has been so successful we have since purchased another K-9 which is currently in training. We are interviewing potential handlers for the additional 2 dogs being purchased currently. Once fully deployed this will allow for 2 K-9 teams per field region.

TENNESSEE

Darren Rider, Colonel

TRAINING

Seven new officers were hired and 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 – this year's annual training included: ERASE (Exterior Response to Active Shooter Events) using airsoft weapons; defensive tactics; EVOC pickup truck operation; de-escalation techniques; and the below 100 program

Annual in-service training now consists of blended learning, officers must complete learning modules from Virtual Academy, this year's modules consisted of community policing, domestic violence, blood borne pathogens, child sex abuse, sovereign citizens and the bulletproof mind.

All commissioned officers were re-trained in Boating Under the Influence investigations which included seated battery testing and legal issues.

A National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) sponsored course for Comprehensive Boat Accident Investigations was held for forty-five students that included officers from surrounding states.

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 June 2018, TWRA partnered with state and local law enforcement agencies across the state in Operation Dry Water (ODW) from June 29 – July 1. These joint operations identified

and removed impaired operators from Tennessee waters. ODW resulted in 148 officers participating; 2,171 total officer hours; 5,863 total vessels checked; 239 citations written; 145 warnings written; 9 BUI arrests and 162 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

The Agency through a Port Security grant was able to purchase an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) this equipment will be utilized for Homeland Security functions and in addition to boating accident investigations.

A contract was secured with Smart Cop for a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Record Management System (RMS) that is scheduled to go live in October.

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

STATE ISSUES/LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

A Public Chapter was signed that authorizes the TFWC to establish rules, regulations, permits and procedures regulating all aspects of commercial operations that lease or rent non-motorized vessels for non-commercial use by the public on the waters of Tennessee.

Additionally the Public Chapter created a "Move Over" law that upon the approach of an authorized emergency vessel making use of flashing lights, the operator of every other vessel shall yield the right-of-way and shall slow to a no wake speed or immediately move over at least one hundred feet to a position of safety from the emergency vessels, clear of any other vessel, until the authorized emergency vessel has passed.

There was a new law passed that gave the Agency the ability to promulgate a rule that addresses the tracking of wounded deer the use of dogs.

SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

A rule was amended that previously restricted the transportation of cervid carcasses into Tennessee that were from CWD positive states to restricting cervid carcasses from all

states and Canadian provinces. Cervid carcasses must have: meat that has bones removed; cleaned skull plates; cleaned teeth; finished taxidermy and antler products and hides and tanned products.

An additional effort to “Keep Tennessee CWD Free” was the purchase of eight walk in freezers, one for each law enforcement district to contain carcasses from CWD positive states that were illegally transported into Tennessee.

TEXAS

Grahame Jones, Colonel

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



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

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

Game Wardens also issued more than 150 citations to 19 fish markets and restaurants in the Houston area that illegally purchased game fish from undercover officers during a recently completed sting conducted by the Special Operations unit of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Law Enforcement Division. During the two-year operation, wardens in plain clothes offered to sell more than a dozen different Texas saltwater species including spotted sea trout, red drum (redfish), red snapper, southern flounder, black drum, catfish and croaker to seafood markets and restaurants along the upper Texas coast.

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

Evidence that some businesses are willing to work outside the law to obtain product, nearly half of the 40-plus businesses approached during the operation agreed to illegally purchase game fish.

A multi-agency law enforcement surge operation led by Texas Game Wardens has made a sizable dent in illegal commercial oyster harvest and possession along the coastal bend this season, netting more than 300 criminal cases. A majority of the violations were for oystering in off-limits management areas designed to protect the resource, and for possession of undersized oysters. Operation Secure Coastal Bend consisted of two, weeklong saturation patrols conducted by Texas Game Wardens between Nov. 1, 2017 and April 9, 2018 in collaboration with officers from the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine, CBP Office of Field Operations, U.S. Coast Guard, Calhoun County Sheriff's Office and the Aransas County Sheriff's Office.

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

Law Enforcement appreciates all information we received from the public regarding wildlife crime. Tips that assist game wardens in solving wildlife crimes come in through the Operation Game Thief hotline. These types of cases exemplify the importance of citizen involvement in preventing and solving wildlife crimes.

VIRGINIA

Bryan Young, Major

STAFFING

At the close of 2107, the Law Enforcement Division had 152 Conservation Police Officers made up of 122 non-supervisory field officers, 17 Sergeants, 5 Lieutenants, 6 Captains and 2 Majors. The division was also supported by 17 full-time and 5 wage civilian positions. The Law Division completed a successful recruiting cycle in 2017/2018 for the 10th Basic and Modified Academy Class. The training and recruiting staff was joined by officers throughout the state in the effort to screen, select, and hire the applicants needed to reach our staffing goal. The exhaustive search took approximately 8 months to complete. The number of applications received for the limited number of positions increased 16% over the previous hiring cycle. A very lengthy and intense recruitment process resulted in 23 new officers joining the Conservation Police ranks.

As of May 2018 the 24/7 Communications Center has 10 full-time and 2 part-time dispatchers. In December of 2017, DGIF began a recruitment process to hire 2 additional full-time dispatchers. This was done in anticipation of DGIF assuming the dispatching responsibilities for an additional 100 State Park Rangers employed by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. This new partnership officially kicked off prior to the Memorial Day weekend of 2018.

TRAINING

In-service training for Supervisors was completed in March of 2017. Firearms training has been extended from twice a year to three times, annually broken up as follows: Spring session-day time qualifying; Summer Session-skills building; Fall Session night time qualifying. Thirteen officers successfully completed the 40 hour General Instructor Development Course that was held in October 2017. These 13 officers will complete their four hour apprenticeship during the 10th Basic Academy to become DCJS Certified General Instructors. Many of the officers will also be joining one of our cadres to assist in training the new recruits in one of those specialties as well. Defensive Tactics training, which is conducted every two years for all officers, was also held in October of 2017.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

This past year Virginia Conservation Police Officers have been involved in many outdoor events. Their outreach activities included 14 career/recruitment fairs, 4 disabled veteran hunts, 24 boater education classes, 51 hunter education classes, 27 kids fishing days, 68 special events, and 13 youth hunts. With the demands of training new recruits, field officers managed to increase their outreach efforts in 2017 in youth hunts, career fairs and hunter education. One area that showed a large reduction was boater education courses, down 49% from 2016. This decrease is likely a result of the full implementation of boater education that concluded July 1, 2016. At this time all boaters in Virginia must meet boater education requirements set by the Virginia General Assembly, regardless of age.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards (O.P.S.) was officially established on September 10, 2017 within the Law Enforcement Division of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. O.P.S. is primarily responsible for the essential functions of Recruitment, Training, and Internal Affairs. The O.P.S. mission 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. The primary purpose of the O.P.S. Advisory Council is to promote and set the example in terms of a "Professional Standards Creed". The DGIF Law

Enforcement Division has this two-part creed regarding professional standards. Virginia Conservation Police Officers and law enforcement staff in the agency are expected to perform their public service with ethical core values. Management is obligated to utilize best practices as their professional benchmark.

On February 1, 2018, the O.P.S. Advisory Council was created in order to assist in this new initiative. The primary purpose of the O.P.S. Advisory Council is to promote and set the example in terms of a "Professional Standards Creed". The DGIF Law Enforcement Division has this two-part creed regarding professional standards. Virginia Conservation Police Officers and law enforcement staff in the agency are expected to perform their public service with ethical core values. Management is obligated to utilize best practices as their professional benchmark.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS CREED

CORE VALUES = Ethical Behavior and Code of Conduct:

- I. Act with integrity
- II. Render a high standard of public service
- III. Perform in a way that promotes trust in our profession
- IV. Treat others impartially with dignity and respect
- V. Take responsibility for one's actions

PROFESSIONAL CRITERIA = Best Practices Management Model:

- I. Create a diverse and cohesive team environment to fulfill our agency mission
- II. Provide both the strategic direction and the necessary tools to be successful
- III. Follow accepted standards to measure our public service delivery system
- IV. Employ proactive and collaborative efforts to enhance effectiveness and reduce risk
- V. Communicate and implement change in a positive and constructive manner

The Office of Professional Standards (O.P.S.) with the guidance of the O.P.S. Advisory Council identified a need to market and showcase the unique differences between Conservation Police Officers (CPO) and other law enforcement officers. In addition, it became evident management would benefit, especially from constructive employee

suggestions and additional citizen feedback in order to build upon and enhance our reputation and public trust.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

In 2017 DGIF's Communications Center managed 44,063 calls for service (CFS). 4,136 of those calls originated through the Wildlife Crimeline. Twice a year the Virginia Sportsmen Reward committee reviews Crimeline reports to award callers whose information resulted in a positive impact on the final disposition of the case. Once again, Crimeline reports have continued to increase each year. Other significant increases include CPO patrols, Stolen Property Reports and Hunting-Boating-Fishing related calls. Welcomed reductions were observed in Boating and Hunting Incidents reports, as well as nuisance wildlife type calls.

In 2017 Conservation Police Officers arrested 8656 people resulting in 11,428 charges being placed which are both increases of 7% for people arrested and 5% for summonses. The arrests are still less than 2015 (-12%) persons, and (- 16%) total violations. This trend follows the logic used for official reports with the increase of training responsibilities for existing officers in the field. The number of summonses issued for hunting violations decreased from 2016 to 2017 while fishing and boating summonses increased during the same time. Looking at 2014 to 2017, the most summonses issued were related to fishing licenses each year. Offenses related to boating safety and hunting season violations were the second and third highest categories. The most noteworthy increase from 2016 to 2017 was a 108% increase in fraud which absolutely highlights the success of the new Boat Fraud and Theft Investigation initiative. Another notable increase is the drug category (not including marijuana) which is up 66% from 2016. This jump is followed by alcohol (47%) and marijuana (43%) increases.

The top ten violations resulting in a summons are, fishing without a license, § 29.1-335(FRESH), number one, and not having the appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) on a boat, Virginia Administrative Code 4VAC15-430-50, number two. The third highest violation resulting in a summons being issued was hunting over bait, Virginia statute § 29.1-521(4). The biggest mover on the ranking list was the boating safety education violation, § 29.1-735.2, jumping from number nine to the number five position. The next biggest mover was hunting without a license, § 29.1-335(HUNT), dropping from number four to number seven.

In 2017 Conservation Police Officers seized 177 weapons with the largest amount, 63, taken during the month of November which is considered peak hunting season. Also in 2017, the dispositions of 268 weapons were completed as follows: 89 were destroyed per

court order, 169 were returned to their owners after adjudication, and 10 were turned over to other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth.

K-9 PROGRAM

The primary purpose of the Canine (K-9) Program is to further the mission of the agency by providing a specifically trained scent discrimination canine team to assist law enforcement personnel in tracking violators, detecting concealed wildlife and firearms, and conducting area searches for evidence recovery. Additionally, high visibility patrols will act to deter potential violations. A secondary purpose of the K-9 Program is education and deterrence through K-9 demonstrations and presentations for schools, interested groups, and the media. By providing resource management information during K-9 demonstrations and presentations, a sense of wildlife resource stewardship is developed, and the agency has a renewed recognition for the great work it does. K-9 units will also assist other enforcement agencies by tracking, recovering evidence at crime scenes, and locating missing or lost persons when requested and when available.

In June 2017, the team suffered a setback as K9 Scout was diagnosed with cancer in her left hind leg. After numerous tests and evaluations it was determined that the best course of treatment was to remove her leg at the hip. Her surgery was completed in September and after recuperation she came back to work with CPO Howald. It was determined that they would work together thru the end of 2017 at which time she would retire. Scout's replacement, Sky, an energetic black labrador retriever, came on board in the fall and began working with Officer Howald on basic commands in preparation for her to attend Wildlife K9 Basic Training in January of 2018.

In 2017, DGIF expanded the K9 team to 5 members, adding CPO James Patrillo and K9 Bailey, a black labrador retriever. CPO Patrillo and K9 Bailey worked on disciplines over the last few months of 2017 and attended Wildlife K9 Basic Training beginning in January of 2018. A review of the K9 team was completed in 2017 and it was determined that the structure of the unit was a benefit by reporting to a single supervisor. This reorganization placed the K9 team under the command of the Special Operations Captain and has led to an increase in the requests for service from the field officers. These numbers would have been even higher if the K9 officers had not assisted with the training academy, background investigations, being Field Training Officers and searching for new canine partners.

In 2016 the K9 Program was under strain due to K9 officers being used as field officers to cover the gaps created by attrition. Now that the 9th Academy has its feet on the ground,

the K9 teams are back in action. The total number of patrols and requests jumped 67% from 2016 to 2017.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Senior Officer Greg Hall was selected for the prestigious honor of Virginia Conservation Police Officer of the Year for 2017. Officer Hall is assigned to King William County in Region I. His steadfast leadership, his dedication to conserving and protecting Virginia's wildlife resources, and his outstanding efforts in connecting the citizens of the Commonwealth to the outdoors through educational outreach made him the top candidate for this award.



Throughout his career, Senior Officer Greg Hall has taken on a leadership role within his district and has proven to be the epitome of a field officer that spends countless hours patrolling the fields, forests and waterways of the Middle Peninsula looking for violations and protecting Virginia's hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and boaters. He has proven to be a highly accomplished investigator and conducted numerous complex wildlife and boating related investigations in 2017.

One particular self-initiated case that Senior Officer Hall investigated was based on an abandoned personal watercraft that led to the identification of a large ring of criminal activity that involved multiple misdemeanor and felony violations in Virginia and North Carolina. To date, multiple suspects have been charged, convicted and sentenced to jail.

"Greg is highly regarded in his assigned county of King William and the other counties within the district he works. His steadfast work ethic and amicable personality serve as an example to his fellow officers and are the basis for his reputation as an unwavering and fair conservation officer." Major Scott Naff, Virginia Conservation Police Assistant Chief of Operations.

Senior Officer Hall is a veteran officer with 20 years of dedicated service with DGIF. He serves the DGIF Law Enforcement Division as a field-training officer, a defensive tactics instructor and a background investigator. He graduated from St. Leo University of Florida

in 2000 with a Bachelors of Business Administration. In addition to his service as a conservation police officer, Senior Officer Hall spent over 30 years as a distinguished member of the U.S. Army National Guard and retired in 2012 at the rank of Major. During his impressive military career, Senior Officer Hall honorably served his Country overseas in Afghanistan and the former state of Yugoslavia.

BOATING OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Virginia Conservation Police Officer Matthew S. Sandy was selected for the prestigious honor of The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Butch Potts Memorial Award, also known as the Boating Officer of the Year for 2017.

Officer Sandy's outstanding efforts in boating safety education and boating law enforcement, as well as his dedication to training as a member of the Boating Cadre, were all an integral part of his selection. Officer Sandy is assigned to Mecklenburg County.

"Matthew engages in numerous boater education opportunities in and around Lake Gaston and Buggs Island Lake (Kerr Reservoir), where he uses his expertise to provide instruction and education to the public. His knowledge and understanding of the boating laws make him a very effective enforcement officer as well as an instructor and mentor for our new officers," said Major Scott Naff, Law Enforcement Assistant Chief of Operations for DGIF.



Officer Sandy has served the boating community in Southside Virginia since 2008. In 2017, Officer Sandy led his district in detecting and arresting boat operators who were under the influence of alcohol and participated in teaching seven boating safety courses. He works closely with the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council as well as Dominion Power on issues surrounding the lakes in his district. Sandy is a certified criminal justice instructor and serves on the agency's boating training cadre.

During 2017, Sandy directed his attention to rock collision issues that were a safety issue he recognized behind the Lake Gaston dam. Sandy contacted Dominion Power and worked with them on the issue. Dominion, in turn, will be placing Danger Buoys to properly mark

this hazardous zone to the boating public. These buoys have been approved and are awaiting placement.

NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety.

LIFE SAVING AWARD

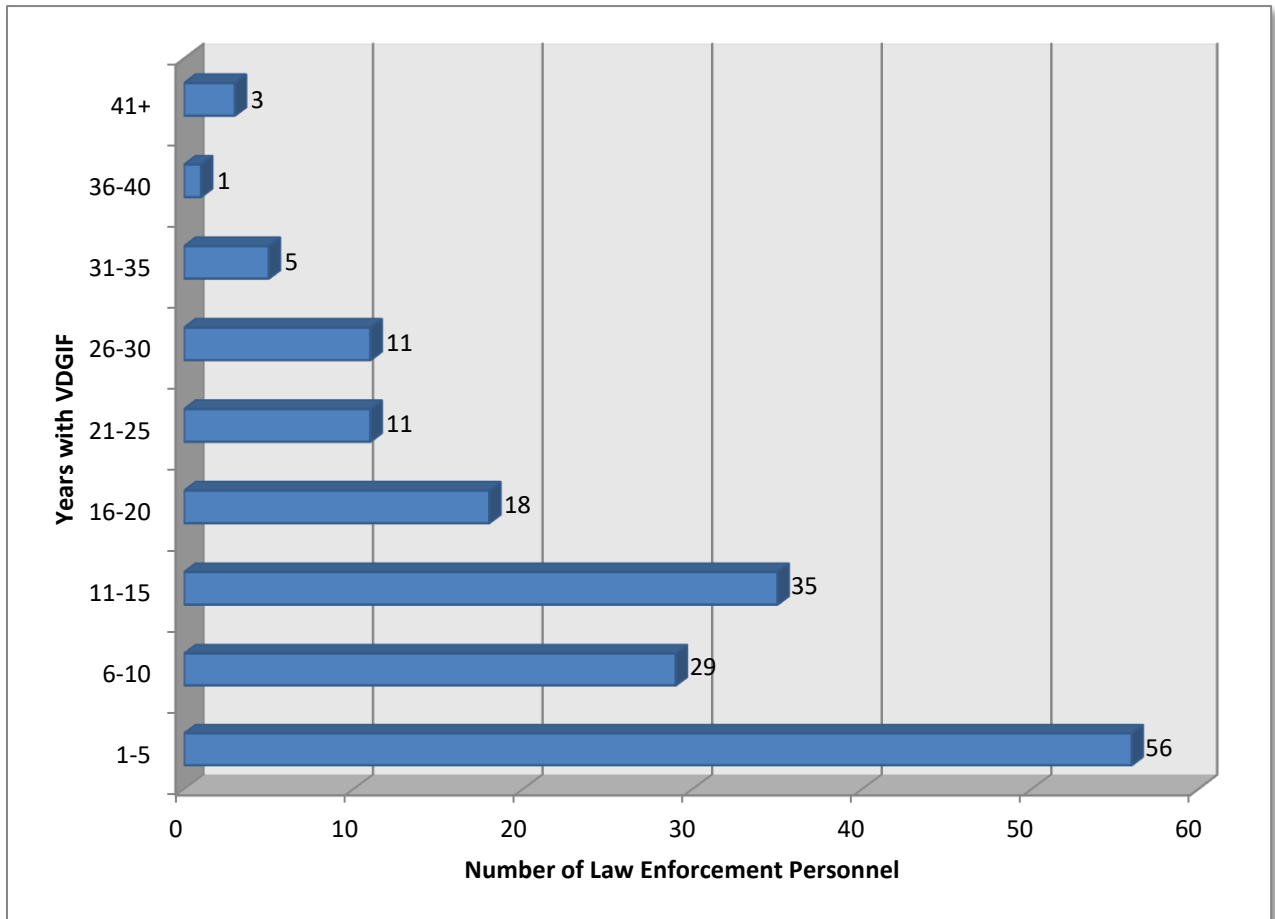
On June 30, 2017, CPO Tyler Blanks and CPO Toby Livermore were recognized by State Senator Frank Ruff and Delegate Tommy Wright for the heroic actions they displayed on April 10, 2017, when they were on patrol in Mecklenburg County and observed a man struggling in the water near Rudd's Creek boat landing on Buggs Island Lake. The victim, an 81 year old Mecklenburg County resident, had fallen into the water and was unable to free himself. The officers quickly acted and pulled the struggling man to safety. Upon pulling the fisherman from the water, the thankful man told the officers that he was totally exhausted and was about to give up his struggle when the officers arrived. Lifesaving awards were recently presented by Major Scott Naff. State Senator Frank Ruff and Delegate Tommy Wright joined in recognizing both officers for their heroic lifesaving efforts. Upon learning that Conservation Police Officers Tyler Blanks and Toby Livermore had saved the life of a drowning elderly man at Rudds Creek boat landing in Mecklenburg County, Delegate Thomas Wright and Senator Frank Ruff coordinated a meeting with these officers to formally thank them for their courageous act.



YEARS OF SERVICE

At the end of 2017, the Law Enforcement Division had 169 full-time employees. Figure 4 shows a five year incremental breakdown of how long these employees have been with VDGIF. A total of 20 officers are over 50 years old and have over 25 years of service making them eligible for full retirement at any time.

Figure 4: Years of Service as of December 31, 2017, for Law Enforcement Personnel in Five Year Increments



WEST VIRGINIA

Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel

OFFICER TRAINING

Natural Resources Police Officers received training in Human Trafficking, Reid Interview and Interrogation for Wildlife Officers, crime scene management, enhanced firearms training, secondary weapon training, and firearms armorers training. Some of the courses were instructor based and will enable us to continually update officers in the respective fields of instruction.

All post-academy Natural Resources Police Officers received training utilizing the seated-battery for BUI and DUI apprehension and ATV patrol certification training.

The Law Enforcement Section Honor Guard/Color Guard continues to attend opening ceremonies, special events and funerals. This year, the WV Natural Resources Police Officer Honor Guard was tasked with laying the wreath at the State Law Enforcement Memorial.

During FY 2018, the training staff conducted certification for new Field Training Officers (FTO). The FTO program is efficiently training post-academy Natural Resources Police Officers.

FUNDING & STAFFING

The WV DNR Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 126 Natural Resources Police Officers (NRPO) and 11 support personnel. During FY2018, two officers retired, three officers resigned, one officer was dismissed, and 11 new officers were hired. One officer was promoted to NRP Sergeant. One support personnel resigned, one transferred, and three new support personnel were hired.

The Governor granted all state employees a 5% base salary increase, effective FY 2019.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

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

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

During FY 2018, the Law Enforcement Section created a Chaplain program of six (6) uniformed officers. These chaplains will be available to other officers in times of personal need whether work related or not.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Four officers and one sergeant have been assigned to work the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority. The Authority reimburses the Section for salaries, benefits, and associated equipment expenses.

Natural Resources Police Officers participated in the nationwide program, Operation Dry Water, June 29, 2018 thru July 1, 2018, to reduce the number of alcohol-related boating incidents.

COST SAVING INITIATIVES

The Section continues to conduct a vehicle/boat accident review board semi-annually to identify incident types and causes. Backing incidents were identified as one cause that was frequently found by the review board. The last vehicles ordered have been equipped with back up cameras or sensors. It is our hope that we will see a reduction in this type of incident and will result in a reduction of our 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.

Older equipment such as radios, boats, and vehicles are being cycled out in attempts to avoid costly repair bills.

The Section is now keeping vehicles, if the vehicle is operating efficiently, 5 years or 120,000 miles to reduce vehicle expenditures. High maintenance cost vehicles are being traded in earlier to avoid excessive repairs.

The Section continues to work with federal and state agencies to procure grants to assist with equipment purchases. Grants are being utilized to replace older portable radios with

the new dual band handheld radios. The hunter education and boating grants are being monitored to maximize returns from our expenditures of time and resources.

Conference calls are being used to conduct meetings, boards, or planning sessions to cut down on in-state travel.



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Office of Law Enforcement



Luis Santiago, Special Agent in Charge

FY 2018 LEMIS Adjudication Statistics - Region 4

Criminal Fines/Penalties

Fines Imposed	Fines Suspended	Restitution	Forfeiture of Collateral	Criminal Forfeiture	Property Forfeited	Other Directed Sanctions
\$ 161,021.00	\$0.00	\$ 567,394.19	\$ 120,080.00	\$450.00	\$30.00	59,253.99

Civil Penalties

Other Negotiated Payments

Property Forfeited	Negotiated Other Payments	Negotiated Agreement	Civil Penalty Assessments	Other Negotiated Amounts
\$42,336.00	\$0.00	\$1,800,000.00	\$ 1,320,500.00	\$ 221,702.00

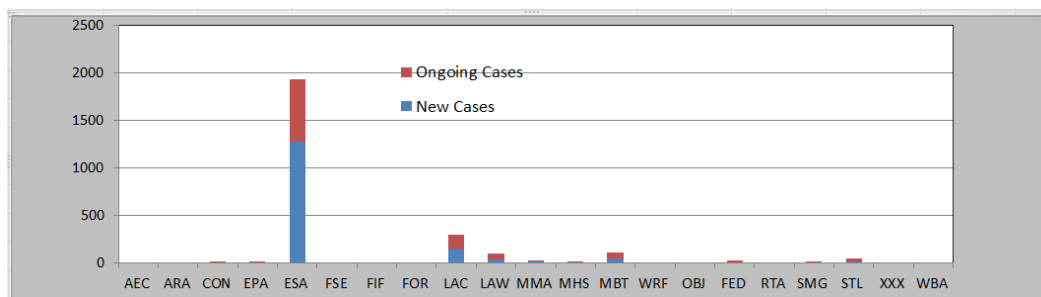
Sentencing Summary

Jail (months)	Suspended (months)	Probation (months)	Home Confinement (months)	Halfway House (months)	Community Service (hours)	Suspension/Revocation of Privileges (months)
195.9	0.0	1,149.0	28.9	0	710.0	540.0

FY 2018 LEMIS Violation by Act - Region 4

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 Act	AEC	2	3	5	Migratory Bird / Stamp Act	MHS	7	1	8
Archeological Resources	ARA		2	2	Migratory Bird Treaty Act	MBT	54	61	115
Conspiracy	CON	3	19	22	National Wildlife Refuge	WRF	1	3	4
Eagle Protection Act	EPA	8	11	19	Obstruction Of Justice	OBJ	0	5	5
Endangered Species Act	ESA	1,284	652	1,936	Other Federal Laws	FED	10	23	33
False Statements	FSE		10	10	Rhino Tiger Act	RTA	1	0	1
Federal Insecti, Fungi, Rodent Act	FIF	1	2	3	Smuggling	SMG	4	18	22
Foreign Laws	FOR	2	3	5	State Law	STL	15	33	48
Lacey Act	LAC	155	148	303	Undefined	XXX	1	3	4
Lacey Act - Wildlife	LAW	43	59	102	Wild Bird Conservation Act	WBA	3	3	6
Marine Mammal Act	MMA	14	10	24	Total All Cases		1,608	1,069	2,677

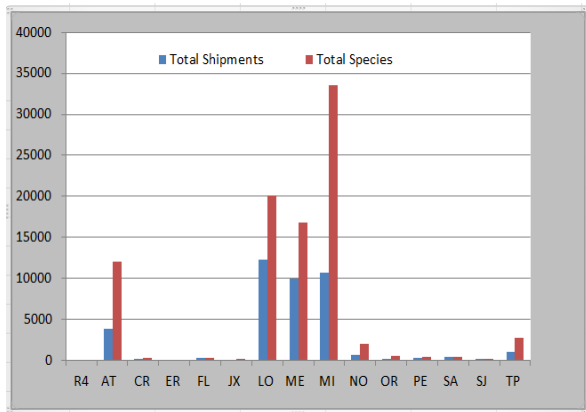


FY 2018 LEMIS Port Statistics - Region 4

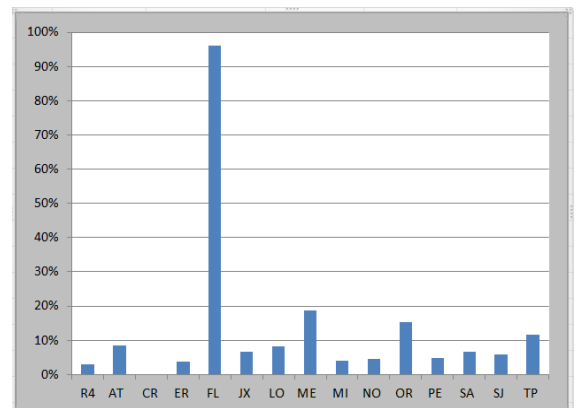
Port	Port	Total Shipments	Total Species	Avg. Number of Species per Shipment	Total Declared Value	Number of Inspections (by shipment)	Percentage of Shipments Inspected	Total Number of Seizures (by shipment *)
04-Region 4	R4	31	107	3.5	\$61,726	1	3.0%	1
AT-Atlanta	AT	3887	12054	3.1	\$54,071,614	325	8.4%	36
CR-Charleston	CR	248	276	1.1	\$6,698,646	0	0.0%	0
ER-Erlanger	ER	27	37	1.4	\$57,620	1	3.7%	0
FL-Fort Lauderdale	FL	273	314	1.2	\$267,392	262	96.0%	221
JX-Jacksonville	JX	105	245	2.3	\$3,676,041	7	6.7%	4
LO-Louisville	LO	12278	20067	1.6	\$47,075,733	1,007	8.2%	47
ME-Memphis	ME	10012	16828	1.7	\$37,300,080	1,875	18.7%	43
MI-Miami, FL	MI	10690	33503	3.1	\$259,206,703	426	4.0%	76
NO-New Orleans	NO	687	2093	3	\$119,083,096	308	4.5%	4
OR-Orlando	OR	165	612	3.7	\$410,830	25	15.2%	22
PE-Port Everglades	PE	270	504	1.9	\$6,972,531	13	4.8%	7
SA-Savannah	SA	408	483	1.2	\$8,832,831	27	6.6%	1
SJ-San Juan	SJ	160	235	1.5	\$12,766,633	95	5.9%	4
TP-Tampa	TP	1048	2770	2.6	\$22,663,909	116	11.6%	7
Total		40289	90128	2	\$579,145,385	4604	11.4%	473

*Seizure count is for all shipments which were fully or partially seized.

Shipments and Species per Port



Percent of Shipments Inspected per Port



Declared Value of Shipments per Port

