

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT *October 2015*



Northern Enforcement District

In October **Lt. McDonald** prepared for a federal hearing on the unlawful take of Coho salmon in a Scott River tributary. The fish kill occurred in 2011, when an agricultural water diverter dewatered a Coho stream, killing numerous Coho below the diversion. The diverter was told twice the previous summer that the diversion was likely to kill fish if he didn't change his diversion practices. When the Coho were killed, he was in violation of his 1600 agreement and FGC 5901. The case was investigated with Fisheries and Habitat Conservation staff, and NOAA, and was referred to NOAA for prosecution. After years of legal wrangling, the attorneys were unable to reach a settlement and the case was scheduled for a hearing in November. Before the hearing, the defendant decided to pay the \$8000 fine and work on obtaining an Incidental Take Permit. This case was watched by other diverters in the watershed, and hopefully the disposition will lead to increased protection of Coho salmon.



In October the 2120 squad ran two deer decoys operations. During a daytime operation, Lt. McDonald watched as a Dodge pickup passed the decoy and stopped. It was followed closely by a Toyota 4-Runner, which stopped within 10 yards of the decoy. The passengers of the Dodge got out and pointed the decoy out to the driver of the Toyota, saying, "Did you see that buck?" The driver of the 4-Runner replied, "No, where? Do you want it?" "It is right there, shoot it," said the driver of the Dodge. The driver of the 4-Runner then grabbed his rifle, but it wouldn't fire. Lt. McDonald heard him yell to his wife, who was in the passenger seat, "My gun's broke, give me yours," which she did. The driver then shot the decoy, figured it out, and began to leave the scene when he was contacted by the chase vehicles. They discovered his loaded rifle, the "broken" one, pointed toward the rear of the truck, where his children were seated. When Warden Beck unloaded the "broken" rifle and demonstrated that it was still capable of firing, the suspects' wife turned white as a ghost. The two decoy operations netted four shooters total, including one who shot at night, in a closed zone, with the wrong zone tag, and was prohibited from possessing firearms.

Warden Laugesen continued investigations into a hunt club operating a large scale baiting for deer. Enough evidence was gathered to serve a night service search warrant on the club's main house and surrounding 30k acre property. Laugesen and **Warden Burger** discovered 10 other undocumented bait sites in addition to the original 14 bait sites, stands and trail cameras found previously. Any doubt to membership knowledge of the bait was washed out as 275 pounds of packaged bait lay ten feet from the main hunt campfire ring. A professionally published hunt club year book for years 2013 and 2014 were found. Inside the year



books were pictures taken straight from trail cameras set next to the bait piles, tree stands and hunting blinds set up around the property. Many pictures depicted trophy deer, bear, mountain lions and other animals consuming the bait. Other chapters within the year book showed trophy class deer harvested by club members.



Laugesen also performed a buy-bust of fresh trophy mounts being sold for profit by a convicted poacher. The buy included a 400 class bull elk, deer, bear, pronghorn and waterfowl mounts. The trophy mount salesman told Laugesen "Well, what do you think about a package deal. Say \$3,000?" Laugesen responded, "Well, what about for FREE?"

Wardens Buckler, Castillo, and Lt. Kroll dealt with a deer mauling of a human case. The day prior to the mauling incident, the large buck deer locked antlers while fighting with a smaller buck, killing the smaller buck. A DFW biologist responded, and was able to successfully tranquilize and remove the antlers from the large buck deer. The next day, the buck armed with 4" stumps of what was remaining of its antlers, attacked a woman as she did chores around her home in Janesville. The buck rammed the woman multiple times as she fell to the ground, causing lacerations to the area near the back of her thighs. Officers responded, but the deer had left the scene and could not be located. It was determined that the deer would be euthanized if located, but it appeared to have left the area and has not been seen by local residents since.



Warden Kraft planned numerous decoy operations in Placer and Sierra counties for the D3-5 and X7A seasons. The day before X zone opener, **Wardens Kraft, N. Buckler, Bolla, Patrick, Ulrich and Pinnow** ran a deer decoy in X7A. After about an hour a subject shot the decoy from the vehicle. Pinnow and Ulrich made the stop and discovered that the subject had a D3-5 tag. The shooter was cited for take of deer out of season, wrong tag, shooting from the vehicle, and loaded long gun in a vehicle. The driver was cited for allowing the shooting from a vehicle.

On the opening day of X zone, **Wardens Kraft, Bolla and Patrick** ran a bear decoy on the X7B – X7A boundary. The operation was slow but a subject approached just before dark. The subject did not see the decoy but did spot a very small (but barely legal) buck crossing the road in front of him. The officers watched in awe as the subject shot from the vehicle and killed the buck right in front of them. Upon contact it was discovered that the subject had two juveniles with him and was trying to tag the buck with his son's special junior tag. The father did not have a tag for the area.

On the second day of X zone, **Wardens Kraft, Bolla, Patrick, Kavanagh, Dilts, Huntsman, and Lt. Ikemoto** ran a deer decoy in X7A before legal shoot hours. Approximately 30 minutes before shoot time – two vehicles approached the decoys. The first vehicle stopped and two subjects emerged with rifles. They instructed the second vehicle to illuminate the bucks with

their headlights. The driver turned the vehicle sideways and illuminated the hillside. One of the two subjects with a rifle was a juvenile and was being directed by his father on which deer to shoot. The father was using a flashlight and placed a loaded rifle on the top of his jeep to take aim at the uphill deer. The son shot and grazed one of the decoys. Upon contact, it was discovered that none of the subjects had X zone tags. The juvenile was warned and the adults were cited.

The next weekend, **Wardens Kraft, Pera, Kavanagh, Dilts, and J. Smith** ran a deer decoy on the game refuge. There were no shooters but Kraft did observe two vehicles that appeared to be road hunting through the refuge. Both vehicles were stopped and four citations were issued for loaded and operable firearms in the refuge.

The Sunday after X zone closed (seven days closed) **Wardens Kraft, E. Manes, Ulrich, Kemp and Pinnow** ran a deer decoy in X7A. After a couple of hours, a truck approached the decoys and stopped. The subject realized what was going on and immediately started driving again. His son in the second vehicle did not figure things out as quickly. He stopped his vehicle and exited with a rifle. The father had driven forward approximately 100 yards and stopped. The father began honking his horn and started yelling "don't do it, it's a decoy." Unfortunately for his son, the wind was blowing 50 miles per hour and he could not hear his father. The son shot the decoy and then quickly realized what was going on. Upon contact, it was discovered the subject had a D3-5 tag.

Southern Enforcement District

After two demurs and motions to suppress evidence, the San Diego City Attorney's Office, Environmental Crimes Unit, was able to obtain a guilty plea for a CPFV operator importing an overlimit of Yellowfin Tuna from Mexico. **Warden Rojas** made the case while working a **PB Thresher** detail, last year. The operator also plead guilty to possession of tuna and yellowtail fillets without any skin patches for identification, and for failing to declare yellowtail on his importation declaration/ logbook. The operator was assessed \$500 dollars in fines and penalties.

Warden Molsberry wrapped up an investigation into a woman that was found hoarding tortoises, including many undocumented desert tortoises. Many dead tortoises were removed from the residence and new homes were found for the remaining animals. The investigation into the source of the tortoises continues.



While on boat patrol of Marina Del Rey Harbor with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, **Warden Budish** saw a small skiff with dim lights. As the vessel neared, Budish recognized the skipper and noticed that the skiff had one illegal trap on board. The subject stated he never dropped the trap in the water, however the trap was wet to the touch, had fresh bait inside, and there was an undersized lobster inside the trap. As the subject continued to deny using the trap, several undersized lobsters began to crawl out onto his deck from underneath his legs and seat. The subject was found with and cited for possession of an overlimit of lobsters (10 total), illegal possession of 8 undersized lobsters, an incomplete report card, and an illegal trap.



Warden Vuich caught a subject in possession of four Green abalone, with the assistance of **Wardens McCain and Rasse**. It is suspected the abalone were taken with a flat head screwdriver and hidden at a local residence's side yard. The suspected screw driver was located and sent to the Department's Wildlife Forensics Lab. The lab was able to identify Green abalone DNA on the screwdriver, solidifying the case.





Warden McCain was involved in an on-going investigation of theft and vandalism to Wildlife Service's pig traps and trail cameras. Over the course of six months, 15 trail cameras had been stolen or destroyed. With the help of **Lt. Ference** and **Warden Vuich**, McCain located the main suspect and set up a meeting. During the interview, the subject was presented with solid evidence and excellent questing from Warden Vuich,



which resulted in a full confession and return of stolen property. McCain will be filing formal charges with the D.A. for theft and vandalism.

The **SED Natural Resource Volunteer Program (NRVP)** put in over 1,398 hours in October, handled 135 wildlife calls and 910 public contacts. They represented the Department in numerous outreach events from cleaning up rivers to "Trout in the Classroom". NRV's worked closely with wildlife officers in the Portola Springs and Irvine Ranch areas to spread the "Keep me Wild" message, and then began training to help implement the Wildlife Watch program due to the coyote issues increasing statewide. NRV's continued their amazing assistance to the Department with deer and bear validations, proctoring falconry and trapping exams, monitoring internet classifieds for illegal animal sales, collecting data for the biologists, just to name a few.

Central Enforcement District

While out working the X9-C deer opener with **Warden Smittle**, **Warden Dishion** received a phone call from a hunter hunting bull elk in the Bishop area. The hunter told Dishion that he had shot at a bull elk a short time earlier and after following the elk for about a mile, they noticed a cow elk with a collar had a wounded leg. The elk hunter told Dishion he had shot at the bull elk while it was in a herd of about 10 elk from about two hundred yards away and never walked out to see if they had even wounded an elk. They tracked the blood trail for a short distance and then lost the trail. Warden Estrada used radio tracking equipment to locate the collared cow elk which was found dead. A bull elk, which the hunter believed to be the one he shot at earlier, was found by two hikers a couple days later. Warden Dishion has written a report on the illegal take of a cow elk and will be filing with the DA next week.

Later in the week, **Warden Dishion** received a call from a Bishop PD officer who believed he had witnessed a 30 year old male take a deer without a deer tag in the X9-A deer zone. The PD officer explained that he had contacted this person he personally knew, out in the field, after he had shot a deer. Warden Dishion looked the subject up on the ALDS system and verified, the 30 year old male did not have an X9-A tag. Dishion knew the suspect and had contacted him while he was out hunting with his father, who did have an X9-A tag. Dishion interviewed the suspect and his father and they both insisted the father was there and shot the deer. They further stated the father immediately left to go on a trip, leaving the son to take care of the deer. After putting evidence together with maps, photos and statements from earlier interviews, Warden Dishion, with the assistance of Warden Doerring, interviewed the suspect again. After several minutes, and almost giving up, the subject finally admitted to shooting the deer without his father being present.

Warden Smittle was completing some admin work at the Bishop Office when a hunter stopped by to have a deer countersigned, and to report some unlawful hunting activity. The hunter reported another party had shot a spike a couple hours earlier, and left the scene, leaving the dead spike in the field. The reporting party did an excellent job of recording an exact description of the suspects. However, it came to light the license plate he recorded came back to a Mercedes sedan, while the suspects were driving a pickup truck. Smittle went to the scene, and recovered the spike buck. He checked local hotels and campgrounds in the Mammoth Lakes area, searching for the suspect vehicle. It was at Smittle's last stop he discovered a vehicle matching the description, as well as the three suspects the reporting party described. After a seemingly routine check, Warden Smittle asked the party if they knew why he was there. A full confession of their wrong doing followed soon thereafter. Smittle filed formal charges on the hunter, for waste of game and failing to tag the spike deer. When the suspect was asked why his license plate had been removed from the front of the truck, he related he discovered he had put the wrong plate on (suspicious right?) and had thrown the plate away.

Warden Willis contacted a husband / wife hunting team as they were attempting to get back down the mountain and back into town quickly. After making the initial contact, Willis observed a large set of antlers peeking over the truck's bed sidewalls. Of course Willis had to ask "did you get anything?" The husband didn't say much and the wife stated sadly "I killed a deer." Willis was a bit confused at the lack of excitement he was seeing from the couple.

Warden Willis took another peak at the antlers, yep, 6 x 4 and the couple looked like the rest of the skunked hunters Willis had contacted for the majority of the season. The lack of excitement raised Willis' suspicion.

Willis told the couple "wow that is the nicest buck I've ever seen from this area." The husband said in a slow quiet voice "yeah it's pretty good" and then added he needed to get going before the meat spoiled. Willis hadn't even had time to validate the tag and the husband wanted to leave. The husband's level of comfort seemed to be decreasing quickly the more questions Willis asked. The wife (possible shooter) had little information to add to the story and when asked specific questions she looked to her husband for the answers. After a few minutes of trying to figure out the successful hunter's lack of enthusiasm, Willis finally unraveled the tag. Willis started reviewing the harvest report portion:

Did you hunt deer Yes

Were you successful Yes

Date of harvest 10/ /2015 OOPS!

Willis then looked at the tag portion: **Absolutely blank.....**

Willis now understood the lack of enthusiasm of the successful poachers. Willis seized the deer and tag and issued a citation for failure to fill out deer tag. The wife (possible shooter) didn't seem too disappointed when Willis removed the deer from their truck and loaded it into his. The only question was: "what's the fine for this?" When told up to \$1000 dollars and/or one year in jail, the look she gave her husband was something only seen in a horror movie. That didn't stop the husband from posting a trophy shot on Facebook, who shot the deer again? Oh your wife, that's right you had no part in it, she must just be the better photographer.....:

Officers in the **4210** squad conducted a spike deer decoy operation in the Sierra National Forest off of Mammoth Pool Rd, just above the town of North Fork. Trainees Lenz and Clark were able to participate in the detail. The operation yielded three violators, with one subject having no deer tag and using a 22 to shoot at the decoy. The other two violators were charged with loaded gun in a vehicle and spot lighting.

The 4220 squad was busy with depredation/nuisance wildlife calls in October. Almost all of the calls were for bears breaking into houses, causing property damage, or being sighted well outside of normal bear habitat. **The 4220 squad handled approximately 19 bear calls in Tulare County**, which doesn't account for additional calls that were handled by Wildlife Management.

Warden McNulty investigated a hunter fatality of a 16 year old that was shot by another member of his hunting party.

Warden Densford was called out on the night of the 30th at about 2100 hrs. by the Angels Camp Police Department who contacted a WMA in a turnout on Highway 49. The subject was in possession of a dead male deer that succumbed to a vehicle collision. The man's vehicle had been seen in the area for approximately 20 minutes prior to making contact. As the Angels Camp P.D. officers arrived at the turnout, they witnessed the WMA at the back of his Ford Ranger with the tailgate down and with his shirt open and his hands near his crotch. The WMA appeared startled and immediately threw the deer over a barbed wire fence

were it rested about ten feet below. The officers interviewed the subject and felt there were some suspicious circumstances involved and found the subject was in possession of transgender apparel, exterior female breast implants, condoms and a bottle of Progesta-care body cream for women. The officers advised Warden Densford they suspected that the subject may have or was intending to sodomize the dead deer. During Warden Densford's interview of the man, he learned that he did indeed remove the animal from the highway and transported it approximately a half a mile to the turn out where he stayed for approximately twenty minutes with the deer in the bed of his pick-up until officers made contact. The subject admitted that he had plans on bleeding out the deer and taking it as consumable meat. The subject also stated that he didn't have a knife to process the animal which was also confirmed by the PD Officers. The subject was issued a citation for unlawful possession of a deer.

North Coast Enforcement District

Warden Rose learned that an isolated parcel of land in his district appeared to be having some major dirt work done – work that could be seen by the naked eye from miles away. Rose investigated and found a vineyard company in the process of creating a new vineyard, by clearing and scraping approximately 16 acres of land that contained several un-named tributaries that have supported some of Mendocino County's major salmon and steelhead habitats. Warden Rose learned that not only was the current work being done without Department notification, but the same company had a formal complaint filed against them for the same type of violations (on a different property) in 2010. The 2010 case was dismissed. Rose organized a site inspection with representatives from four different agencies providing their expertise. A NOV was issued, and once all reports from assisting agencies are compiled and received, another formal complaint will be filed.



Warden Chase finished Warden Alfaro's first FTO cycle with offshore skiff patrols and harbor patrols of Crescent City and Eureka. Warden Chase assisted Lt. Ikemoto with providing MPA training to allied agencies in Humboldt County and Del Norte County. Ikemoto and Chase came across two subjects who were angling, and after an inspection the officers found the subjects to have an over limit of rock crab and possession of Dungeness crab out of season. Warden Chase made frequent patrols of North Coast Rivers due to low flow closures and the presence of salmon.

Warden Cisneros started his second FTO cycle with **Warden Rob Mengel** in Eureka. Cisneros and Mengel checked deer hunters in the Six Rivers National Forest. While on deer patrol, Cisneros issued citations to two deer hunters for possessing a loaded firearm while in a vehicle. The officers also worked the waterfowl opener at the Eel River Wildlife Area in Humboldt County. While checking some hunter's duck decoys, Warden Cisneros found four pintail ducks hidden at the bottom of the decoy bin. Cisneros issued the three hunters a citation for an over limit of pintail. The officers patrolled Humboldt Bay in the patrol boat Lingcod, checking for marine fishing violations. They received a call from Warden Steve Ulrich about a chronic wasting deer case in Eureka. Cisneros and Mengel interviewed the suspect and seized the deer from the local taxidermist. The investigation is ongoing. The officers continue to monitor the area for waterfowl and salmon poaching activities.



Lt. Specialist Boccaleoni investigated three Tule elk bulls that appeared to have been shot near a vacant piece of land in Covelo. Two 6x6 bulls and one 5x5 bull all appeared to have been shot and left to rot since no meat was taken. Two of the three elk appeared to have been dead for more than a month prior to being reported to DFW. The three dead bulls were found in the same general area of each other. When originally discovered, two of the bulls were missing their heads, but one elk head has since been recovered. Lt. Boccaleoni sent out a media release asking for information from the public regarding the death of the three elk. Almost

immediately, Lt. Boccaleoni received several anonymous tips. Lt. Boccaleoni and Warden D. White continue to work on the case and have several additional interviews pending. Additional leads need to be investigated and exhausted before a primary suspect is identified. Lt. Boccaleoni is optimistic that the responsible party will be found and determined. Lt. Boccaleoni would like to thank all of those who have assisted and continued to support him and Warden White in the investigation.

Warden M. White assisted Lt. Jones and Warden Morton on a boat patrol of the Napa River, issuing several citations for fishing violations, including several undersized striped bass. White patrolled the Napa/Sonoma marsh for the waterfowl opener with Wardens Esquivel and Morton. White issued a citation to a hunter for the take of a Pied-billed Grebe. Warden White finished out the month assisting U.S. Fish and Wildlife with a search warrant of a jewelry store in Calistoga. This was one of many search warrants throughout the U.S. that was conducted pertaining to a group of individuals selling counterfeit Native American jewelry made in the Philippines.

Warden Mike Harris worked with Warden Dericco for the first half of the month finishing her first cycle of the FTO Program. They patrolled the San Francisco Bay shore in San Mateo County and issued citations for sturgeon report card violations, too many poles in the bay, taking Dungeness crab out of season, and possession of under-sized Dungeness crab. Warden Dericco issued a citation to a commercial fisherman for failure to allow salmon to be sampled by a Department employee. Warden Harris assisted the P/V Steelhead and filed (5) commercial crab trap cases and an unlawful fishing in the Año Nuevo MPA case. Approximately 30 derelict Dungeness crab traps were recovered from the ocean.

Warden Glau visited a local ranch where he confirmed a mountain lion had killed 11 goats and attacked a horse. Glau issued a depredation permit and the ranchers were unable to locate the mountain lion before their permit expired.

Warden Wait issued a citation to a recreational fisherman for taking an over limit of crab. The fisherman had 189 crab, the smallest being a centimeter and the largest being under four inches.

Warden Garrett received a photo of three subjects dragging a doe from a property owned by an NGO. Officers Garrett and McCoy worked the case over several days and ascertained who the subjects were, with one of them confessing to killing the doe. Blood samples from the subject's truck bed were taken to the Wildlife Investigations Lab. Warden Garrett spent 35 hours working on wildlife conflict issues this month. Garrett worked with State Parks on a case where a young man claimed to have been stalked by mountain lions

for a day or two while in the park. The youth was lost and hospitalized; media interviewed him at the hospital. The youth did not cooperate with State Parks or show up to be interviewed. The "lion incident" could not be confirmed.

Warden Rogers and K9 Falko inspected a sixty foot houseboat that had been quarantined from another state in Stockton California. K9 Falko found and alerted on Quagga mussels in the keel area of the large boat. The team also responded to a call for service from a homicide in Marin County. The team searched a wooded area looking for the associated firearm.

The crew of the **MARLIN** worked offshore pulling derelict/abandoned Dungeness crab traps that were still in the water months after the season closed. The crew came across a line of buoys/pots all with the same type of markings and color. The buoys had so much sea life on them that the tags were unreadable. The crew pulled 20 abandoned pots, all of which belonged to one commercial Dungeness crab vessel. Charges are being filed against the owner of the vessel for abandoning traps after the season closed. The Crew worked a security detail with USCG for the SF Fleet Week Blue Angels Air Show providing on water assets with the PV MARLIN and the DFW OSPREY.



Warden Jones responded to a request from Warden Schad to assist in the investigation of the deliberate washing of 250 gallons of industrial ink into a storm drain, which resulted in pollution to Coyote Creek. He also received a decision from the Monterey County District Attorney's Office regarding a request for review of a hunter casualty case from September 12th in Los Padres National Forest. The case involved a victim who lost an eye after being shot by another hunter. The D.A. declined to file a complaint against the shooter and Jones notified the victim of the D.A.'s decision.

Warden Schad investigated a major spill of ink into Coyote Creek by a major interstate freight company, and identified several acts of negligence by employees in their lack of response to the spill. He is working closely with the City of San Jose, the Santa Clara District Attorney, and CDFW Fisheries Biologists. A criminal case will be filed with the District Attorney's Office. Cleanup costs were estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Warden D. Walker assisted the San Benito County Sheriff's office and DOJ with the service of a search warrant that stemmed from a Cal-TIP report involving hunter trespassing and a prohibited person in possession of firearms. Officers Walker and Henderson responded to a Cal-TIP report in the Lovers Point SMR. The officers located two subjects angling in a small vessel in the middle of the MPA. During the inspection of the vessel the officers located 15 rockfish in an ice chest on the deck, and another 17 rockfish hidden in the cabin of the vessel. The subjects were cited for the over limit and MPA violations.

Warden Anderson responded to a report of a sewage spill entering into the storm drains in Pismo Beach. The investigation was turned over to San Luis Obispo County environmental health since the raw sewage did not enter into the storm drains or the waters of the State. Anderson received a call from Wildlife Habitat Assistant J. Lambirth regarding a bridge being

installed across Choro Creek inside the ecological reserve. Anderson determined that PG&E had started to install the bridge while the Streambed Alteration Agreement was still incomplete. Anderson stopped all activity and PG&E continued with the 1600 process.

Lt. Tognazzini conducted a skiff patrol with Wardens Anderson and Strouss locating a number of violations during the JEA operation. Cites included multiple undersized Lingcod, Canary rockfish, license and method violations, and unlawfully fishing in the Pt. Buchon MPA. Tognazzini supervised two FTO cycles.

Warden Chance completed his FTO cycle with Warden Sommer. Sommer issued and filed 23 cases ranging from no fishing license in possession, to a felony arrest for a probation violation where the subject failed to appear on a Fish and Wildlife littering ticket. Chance helped Paso Robles Police Department with the report of a subject in possession of an opossum. Chance confirmed the report, seized the opossum and transported it to a local restricted species facility for holding. A formal complaint was filed for the illegal possession of restricted species.

Warden Hare reports that during the month of October the patrol boat Bluefin conducted a few patrols offshore with Warden Ames, Warden Hare and Engineer Mendes. The crew provided offshore security for a successful Vandenberg air force rocket launch. Warden Hare monitored recreational and commercial fishing activity in Port San Luis and Morro Bay.

Office of Spill Prevention & Response

Warden Scott Murtha worked three days on SF Bay for Fleet Week with other OSPR Officers. The detail worked out well, yet those who came out Sunday for the final day were disappointed as the fog was rolling through all afternoon.



During a week of response to the Valley Fire in Lake County Warden Murtha was tasked with identifying priority cleanup sites.



Working at the direction of Cal-Recycle and OES several outlying sites were identified for priority clean up. Commercial businesses were not covered under the emergency orders. Harbin Springs was found to have an auto repair and facilities

maintenance shop located directly on the creek. Cylinders, paints, solvents, drums of oil, and an underground oil sump were located on the property. Warden Murtha worked with EPA and DTSC to ensure cleanup of this location before the expected rainy weather.



Warden Michael Kirchner deployed as part of a special tasking to the Butte Fire DROC as an ICS Technical Specialist. He was able to completely overhaul the incident organizational structure by creating geographical divisions (which were further subdivided into task forces) and functional groups. He was also able to standardize his efforts with the Valley Fire operational organization. Additionally, Warden Kirchner brought much needed assistance to the understaffed Planning Section and ensured that a professional Incident Action Plan (IAP) was developed and approved each day for the next



operational period. He also developed critical plans such as the Communications Plan, the Traffic Plan, the Incident Command Post Moving Plan, and the Demobilization Plan.

Warden Anthony Russo acted as SOSC for the NRG Drill in Pittsburg, SOSC for the BP Inner Harbor Drill in Richmond, and SOSC for the Kinder Morgan Inland Drill in Yuba City. Russo assisted Warden Tapia with an investigation of a boat fuel leak into the delta resulting from a boat fire at the Oxbow Marina. Russo also assisted the Sacramento district officers with the Rio Vista Bass festival. Russo doubled up with Warden Kenady on a boat patrol, two citations were issued for possession of untagged sturgeon and possession of undersize black bass. While on pollution prevention patrol Russo also checked several waterfowl hunters on the opener. Compliance was high and so were the hunters' success as several limits of ducks were taken.

Warden Mitch Goode deployed to the Valley Fire incident to provide mutual aid to Cal Recycle/ CalEPA. Warden Goode assisted by conducting assessments of debris and hazmat at numerous sites that was used for planning and prioritizing cleanup efforts. He also made himself available to the public and other agencies fielding questions and providing guidance when able. In addition, **Lt. Michael Horn** was mission tasked as Tribal Liaison for four weeks to the Valley Fire incident in Lake County. He was assigned to the debris removal project where he worked with the local Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and monitoring team to ensure the protection of cultural and historic resources.

Warden Santos Cabral went on four pro-active pollution patrols with the USCG, and NPS, and fellow DFW officers. The areas of coverage ranged from offshore LA/LB harbors and out to the Catalina Channel in the southern area of responsibility. In the north they patrolled the Santa Barbara Channel out to the rig line and finally out to the northern Channel Islands. While on boat patrol, Cabral physically responded to a large commercial squid vessel which grounded at the Skunk Point MPA at Santa Rosa Island. The vessel had 1,100 gallons of diesel on board. Additionally, he responded to a recreational vessel which grounded on Santa Cruz Island and another recreational fishing vessel which caught fire and sank off the island.



Warden Paul Zurawski responded to a mudded and capped 8" line that is owned by Plains All American. The line has been unused for close to 20 years and it developed a small leak which burbled up through the asphalt and onto the streets of Cypress. The line was temporarily clamped until a more permanent repair could be completed.

Warden Katherin Tran attended three drills this month. She made 12 telephonic responses and two physical responses while on call. She made a physical response to the port of Long Beach for a report of hydraulic fluid in a storm drain. A top loader was leaking hydraulic fluid at Pier G into a drain that was approximately ¼ mile away from the ocean. The leak was stopped and it was determined that the fluid was released into a cement trench drain and was contained near the point of release.



Warden Gerald Borjeson worked the lobster opener finding three subjects taking lobster within one of the many local MPA's. While making observations it appeared that two of the subjects were together, were using hoop nets (a legal method of take), and were not acting suspicious in any way. The other subject was snagging lobster, was blacked out, and his head was on a swivel looking for anyone approaching down the foot path towards his location. Fearing that the fishermen would stagger when they leave, and that he would not be able to contact all of them, Warden Borjeson requested help from Warden Rasse who was nearby. Rasse arrived just as the first two fishermen were leaving, and contacted them.

He turned the contact over to Warden Borjeson who found the two fishermen to also be in possession of one short lobster. A short time later the final fisherman began to make his way out of the area. After packing up his fishing gear (and leaving all of his trash) the subject stopped and stared up the footpath for several minutes to make sure no one was there. Approximately half way up the path he again stopped and stared towards the street for a couple minutes. Thinking he was home free he walked up the path to the street where he was contacted by the officers. The subject admitted that he thought the season was closed, but that he had taken three lobster anyway (and a large ~ 6 lb Calico bass). He was escorted to his car where no more fish were found, but a car more than a year expired was. The officers ran the subject through dispatch and found he had a felony warrant for burglary. He was booked into jail, cited for his multiple violations, and his car was impounded.

Headquarters

WATERSHED ENFORCEMENT TEAM (WET)

The Watershed Enforcement Team conducted inspections of nine parcels in October. In all 35 streambed alteration and or pollution violations were documented. Most significant were violations documented on a parcels near Douglas City (Trinity County), Bridgeville (Humboldt County) Paskenta (Tehama County).

In one of the Trinity County investigations, CDFW WET along with State Water Board (SWB) staff served an administrative warrant on a parcel adjacent to Indian Creek and



documented almost a mile of road construction, leading two terraced marijuana grows that would discharge into critical salmonid habitat. The road construction resulted in generating a significant amount of side casting, and erosion control measures to prevent potential sediment deposition were not in place. There were also two illegal class three stream crossings. In all, CDFW ES Freeny documented four FGC violations. The landowner claimed to have a less

than three acre timber conversion permit, and stated he had enlisted the services of a registered professional forester (RPF). The case is still under investigation and it is not known if a permit was issued at this time; regardless, had the WET not come upon this site, it may not have undergone any regulatory overview until project finalization by CalFire next spring. In the meantime, substantial sediment deposition into Indian Creek would have compromised this year class of salmonids.



In a Humboldt County investigation, led by Warden Lynch, WET members participated in a



search warrant with several allied agencies of two parcels located along the Van Duzen River that were reported to have numerous environmental violations associated with the cultivation of marijuana. Four illegal points of diversion were documented along with four illegal road crossings, 175

pounds of processed marijuana was seized. The grow had been raided and eradicated two weeks earlier by Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and Warden Lynch.



Nearly 10 armed suspects evaded apprehension. Due to the size of the grows and the hazard of suspects at large, Warden Lynch could not properly document the environmental damage at that time, so CDFW and SWB returned to complete the environmental assessment. Most significant was that there was evidence that suspects had returned to the site to continue processing stashed marijuana, and had again fled the area upon the investigators' arrival.

In Tehama County, Warden Crawl, assisted by Tehama County Sheriff's Office, served a search warrant on an outdoor grow near Paskenta. ES Freeny documented 15 FGC violations: three illegal diversions and five illegal crossings (8-FGC 1602 violations), each crossing had sediment issues along with sediment discharge off of the poorly graded gardens right next to stream (6-FGC 5650 violations), and one FGC 5652 violation due to garbage pushed over the edge of graded edge directly to stream. In addition, LE made two arrests for felony cultivation, eradicated nearly 100 large marijuana plants and seized about 100 pounds of processed marijuana.

In addition, Warden Lynch assisted Dr. Mourad Gabriel in coordinating a week-long reclamation effort on seven trespass marijuana grows in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, focusing on the Hayfork Creek Watershed. During the operation, over 24,000 pounds of trash were removed as well as approximately 26 miles of irrigation line. WET LE, ES Bauer and and Warden Pilot Veal assisted with the effort.



MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT TEAM

Developed by Warden Imsdahl, MET participated in an allied agency USFS DTO cultivation operation this month in the Mendocino National Forest in western Glenn County. Following a month of surveillance and case development, **Wardens Imsdahl, Boyd, K9 Phebe and Lt.**

Nores joined him in leading an apprehension mission with USFS and Glenn County Sheriff's Office. The detail resulted in the K9 apprehension of two DTO suspects with approximately 600 pounds of processed marijuana seized; along with close to 1000 budded marijuana plants being destroyed. This ongoing conspiracy case developed from this specific grow site led to the identification of several other grows and stash and distribution houses throughout the state.



Working off of a landowner tip, Wardens **Grove** and **Imbrie** conducted a scout of a suspected marijuana grow near Dunlap. During their scout mission, the team contacted two suspects when finding the active site. While both

suspects fled, one was apprehended before the team seized and removed 50 pounds of semi processed marijuana from the site.



Warden Quintal and Lt. Nores organized a reclamation operation of five DTO trespass marijuana grow sites in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties this month. With the assistance of the CDFW helicopter, and MET members **Chan, Imbrie, Imsdahl, and Preffer**, the team removed over 4,000 pounds of grow site debris from the environment. During the

operation, the team also dismantled all of the irrigation line systems, in addition to restoring all water diversions and impoundments at all five grow sites.



DELTA BAY ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

Warden Tim Bolla spent what seemed like the majority of the last few months in the airplane operating the camera assisting SOU, DBEEP, MET, and the 3210, 2330, 2320, 2310 squads in spotlighting and surveillance flights. The plane and its camera provided crucial observations in making several cases and building on and supporting existing cases. In the months of August, September, and October, the plane helped make 12 spotlighting cases with a total of 16 citations issued in Napa, Yolo, El Dorado, and Amador counties. Some of the two more recent cases were made in Yolo County. With Warden Pilot Woelfel behind the stick and Warden Bolla behind the camera, they observed a pickup slowly driving through the hills of



Capay Valley. Focusing in on the pickup, the flying duo observed two subjects sitting in the bed of the truck and the heat signature of a dead animal lying on the tailgate. The observations were relayed to Wardens Trunnell, Simmons, and Ross whom were staged nearby. The pickup drove to a nearby farm house where the subjects unloaded the dead animal and hung it to be processed. The three officers arrived to the scene and a subject was immediately seen running away from the house carrying a rifle. After jumping a fence, the subject

hid the rifle and quickly returned to where the officers had the other subjects detained. Trunnell, Simmons and Ross found an untagged pig that was admitted to being shot well after shooting hours and by a subject that did not have a hunting license. The officers were also able to retrieve the hidden 30-30 rifle that was used to kill the pig.

Later that night Woelfel and Bolla observed a UTV riding along the edge of a large almond orchard in northern Yolo County. Three subjects were in the Gator and were spotlighting the orchard and adjacent creek/riparian habitat. The observations were relayed to Wardens Manes, Shelton, and Ross. While the Officers were responding, two of the subjects exited the Gator with a rifle and chased several deer that they spotlighted in an open field. One of the subjects shot at the deer and they continued to chase them through the field. Warden

Manes was the first unit on scene and detained the driver of the Gator. Once the other two subjects noticed Manes' presence, they buried their rifle under a pile of leaves they both hid behind a large tree. Due to the remoteness and complex layout of the land/orchard, Shelton and Ross had a difficult time reaching Manes and assisting in detaining the other subjects. After hiding for twenty minutes, the two subjects in the field began their slow and determined getaway. The fleeing pair belly crawled for 75 yards until returned to foot and began a two mile run away from the scene of the crime. The plane was able to keep an eye on the pair and updated the responding ground units. The two subjects found their way to a large almond processing yard, where they entered into a trailer to hide. Shortly after entering their hidey hole, Warden Ross arrived to their location and was able to get them to exit their trailer. Ross and Shelton transported the two subjects back to Manes where interviews were conducted and citations were issued.

