

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT *December 2015*



Central Enforcement District

On 12/6/2015 at approximately 1900 hours **Warden Cahill** observed a lifted white four door Chevrolet truck with furniture in the bed driving erratically on Modesto streets. The driver of the truck made illegal turns causing several pedestrians in the crosswalk at the intersection to jump out of the way to avoid being struck. Cahill immediately turned on the code three lights on his patrol vehicle and attempted to stop the truck. The driver of the truck sped away at 75 miles per hour. Warden Cahill lost visual on the truck and discontinued the pursuit. A short time later, he located the truck parked in a nearby market. The Stanislaus Sheriff's Department was requested to assist. After a search of the area failed to turn up the driver of the truck, the units parked a short distance away waited.

A short time later, the truck started to move, so Cahill and deputies conducted a vehicle stop on the driver of the truck. The driver pulled the truck back into the parking lot of the Sumary Market and stopped. The driver was given orders to get out of the vehicle with his hands up. Multiple orders were given to the driver to show his hands in both English and Spanish. At no point did the driver follow any of the commands, so the Stanislaus deputies fired multiple bean bags rounds into the driver's side and passenger's side windows in order to gain a visual on the driver. The driver still did not comply with any of their orders.

Finally, the Sheriff's Department gave multiple warnings that the canine would be released if he did not show his hands. The driver did not comply so the canine from the Stanislaus Sheriff's Department was deployed to apprehend the driver. Cahill observed the driver attempt to fight the canine inside the cab of the white Chevrolet truck before he was pulled out of the vehicle and taken into custody. The driver who was the sole occupant had a strong odor of alcohol on him. The man was charged with felony evading, vehicle code driving violations, driving on a suspended license, interfering and obstructing a peace officer in the performance of his duties, and DUI.

Warden Moss was patrolling Moccasin Creek for anglers in the closed area, when he noticed a burned out vehicle on a dead end road in a ditch. Thinking the vehicle may be stolen, Moss went down to investigate and retrieve a VIN or plate number. The vehicle held a surprise in the driver's seat, the burnt skeletal remains of a person. Moss contacted the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office and secured the scene pending their arrival.

While enroute to conduct a night patrol of the deer winter range, **Warden Moss** was flagged down by a tourist that found some property along the road side. The tourist had found a backpack that contained some personal items and a handgun. The handgun was an airsoft, but did appear real. The items were handed over to Tuolumne County S.O. and Moss continued on to the deer winter range for a night patrol. After completing the night patrol and enroute home at 3am, Moss overheard a call on the radio from Tuolumne County S.O. It was a burglary in progress call nearby. The reporting party was observing the burglary of the closed mini mart via security cameras and reported the suspect to still be inside. Moss arrived on scene with Tuolumne County S.O. and discovered the suspect had left the building. The rest of the story played out like a world's dumbest criminal T.V. show. While two officers reviewed the surveillance footage, Moss and another officer followed a nice trail of Swisher Sweet Cigars and Grizzly Chewing tobacco cans that had been taken from the store.

The trail extended around the corner and right to the front door of a residence. Once the tape was reviewed, a knock and talk was in order. Answering the door was the suspect, who had stood in front of the camera for a positive ID and still wearing the same clothes as in the video. The suspect, bright eyed and fully awake, claimed to have just woken up. While being questioned, he said he lost his glasses and was having a hard time seeing. The glasses he described were found in a paper bag that had been left at the scene of the crime. He was very thankful when one of the officers gave him his glasses back that had been missing for some time. Now wearing his glasses, it was pointed out to him that the four pack of Swisher Sweet cigars and one can of Grizzly Chewing tobacco near him was identical to what had just been taken from the mini mart. His next statement was, "I didn't throw that rock through the window and take those." The rock had not been mentioned to him yet! He was then given a ride to the County Jail.

Warden Golden responded to a shots fired call he overheard Kings County SO responding to near the Tachi Palce Casino on the Indian Reservation. Golden observed a car on an adjacent street driving in his direction at a high rate of speed. The car made a turn in front of Golden and stopped next to two security officers standing next to their security vehicle. Golden pulled in behind the vehicle and approached the vehicles passenger side. The two security officers advised Golden the driver (only occupant) had a gun. Golden ordered the subject to keep his hands up at gunpoint. The subject kept cussing and yelling at Golden saying he did not have a firearm. Golden kept ordering the subject to keep his hands up. While the subject was moving, Golden observed a handgun in the subject's waist area. Golden again ordered for him to keep his hands up or he would shoot him. At one point, the suspect lowered his hand and placed it on his knee. Golden had the security officers get assistance from SO while he kept the subject at gunpoint. As Golden was waiting for SO, bystanders were recording the whole incident at 0345 hours in the morning. Kings County SO arrived a couple minutes later to assist Golden with taking the subject into custody. The firearm the subject had was stolen from a burglary out of Visalia. Inside the vehicle was body armor, ammunition and alcohol. The subject was charged with four different felonies by Kings County SO.

Warden McNulty and Warden Alisio doubled up for an afternoon of Fish Business Inspections in Visalia and found good compliance. The two also made an arrest at Bravo Lake while attempting to catch people using nets to take large quantities of carp in the shallow waters. A male subject immediately started to run and the two officers caught up with the man after a short foot pursuit. Upon detaining the man, he admitted he had several outstanding warrants. The subject was booked on four warrants totaling \$195,000 bail.

Warden Alisio and Warden McNulty had an interesting month. Alisio and McNulty responded to the Success Wildlife Area for a tip of over limits of pheasants being taken. McNulty stopped a



vehicle leaving the wildlife area, and cited a subject for possessing an over limit of pheasant. Alisio also stopped a vehicle leaving the area, and upon first contact the individual apologized to Alisio and offered him \$100 dollars. During a search of the vehicle, Alisio located nine pheasants. A citation was issued for the over limit and additional charges will be sought for the bribery.





On December 12, **Lt. Dailey, Warden Dishion, Warden Estrada, Warden Elliott and Warden Smittle** all participated in the 4th annual "Shop With A Cop" program for Inyo and Mono Counties. This event is coordinated by Bishop PD Jessica Scida and Mono County Sheriff Deputy David Scobie. Many law enforcement agencies throughout Inyo and Mono counties participate in the event. Our officers accompanied five children. A total of fifty underprivileged children nominated by the community and the schools got to spend the day with a Law Enforcement Officer. The Department of Fish and Wildlife employees donated \$450 to sponsor two children this year. A surplus in donations to other agencies allowed the entire 4240 squad to participate in this great event.



Northern Enforcement District

During the month **Warden Wells** worked waterfowl hunters around Humboldt County. While on patrol near the town of Ferndale he noticed a grind of Aleutian geese, and decided to sit and watch, waiting to see what would happen. Warden Wells did not have to wait long for some action, and he observed two subjects arrive and began shooting. After the dust settled Warden Wells discovered two subjects in possession of an over limit of Aleutian geese and licensing violations as well. Warden Wells confiscated the over limit seen in photo.



Warden Mengel worked waterfowl around the Humboldt Bay and Eel River areas. He worked with environmental staff on a 1600 complaint, assisted wildlife employees with conflict calls and worked a theft complaint with the Humboldt Sheriff's Office. He also assisted the Health Department in monitoring compliance with a shellfish harvesting closure in Humboldt Bay.



Warden Carlson coordinated with Tehama County Department of Environmental Health regarding a long time dump site in Tehama County. The collaboration resulted in Union Pacific Railroad agreeing to secure the access and clean up the 50+ acre site.



Warden McVay spent the first half of December with **Trainee Clark**. Clark issued 17 citations during this 3rd cycle of FTO, including two cites for the illegal take of three Tundra Swans. Later, Warden McVay cited one individual in a closed zone who had harvested an excellent waterfowl trifecta of a snow goose, a wood duck, and an American coot.

Warden Gomes teamed up with **Warden Pirtle** to catch subjects shooting limits of ducks in the morning and then returning to shoot again in the evening. Warden Gomes tracked down the morning limits at a local picking and processing plant then contacted the subjects exiting the field after hunting in the evening. Four more were in the subjects' possession. All four subjects were cited accordingly. The club owner was cited in the past for baiting dove on the same property.

Warden Brennan executed a search warrant with assistance from **Wardens Hernandez, Holley, Olsen, and Lt.'s Blake, and Kroll**. The suspects had shot and killed a spike and a doe deer in Plumas County, while only in possession of one G1 late season C4 tag. The suspects are well known to the officers, and one was cited by the 2220 squad for spotlighting a deer decoy prior to the D3 opener this year. Once the suspects discovered that neither of the deer killed were legal forked horn bucks, they fled the scene, leaving the carcasses in the field to waste. A witness to the act notified officers. The search warrant yielded the suspects

rifle, and with assistance from the DOJ firearms lab, ballistic evidence collected from the scene positively matched the rifle.

Lt. Kroll received a call from a Sierra Valley rancher regarding the killing of a large bull elk. Kroll coordinated with **Warden Kavanagh**, who became the case agent. The lone bull elk in Sierra Valley is a somewhat famous fixture and an extremely popular attraction for many in the area. The bull also had been darted and outfitted with a GPS collar by DFW biologist Weist, who monitored its movements throughout the year. The ranch-hand had perceived the bull to be a danger to his cattle and fences and attempted to "haze" it out of the field with a 12 gauge shotgun loaded with magnum geese loads and 00 buckshot. The elk succumbed to its injuries a short time later. Kavanagh cited the suspect into Sierra County for the violations.



Warden Kraft and Warden Lenz planned a multi officer detail at the Spenceville Wildlife Area Public Range. As part of the detail, **Wardens Lenz, Kraft, Kemp, E. Manes** and seven **Natural Resource Volunteers** met at the range the day before the detail to clean the range. The volunteers worked extremely hard and once again showed how important and effective they are for our Department and the Law Enforcement Division. During the detail, Lenz, Kemp, Kraft and the Manes were undercover at the range all day. The officers made observations on the subjects using the range. Lenz and Kemp spent a lot of time crammed in the back of the UC truck using the radio to relay the information to the uniformed officers hidden down the road. **Wardens Beary, Bolla, Diehl and Trunnell** made the vehicle stops and cited the subjects. Twenty five citations were issued for shooting illegal targets, possession of explosives, possession of narcotics, and litter on the wildlife area. On clean-up day Kraft and Lenz contacted a pair of suspicious subjects on the Wildlife Area. The subjects had a large amount and array of controlled substances. Lenz found 1/4 ounce of methamphetamine, over three ounces of marijuana, over one ounce of hash, honey oil, mushrooms, meth pipes, needles and more. The controlled substances were seized and the subjects were cited and released.



Lt. LaFave worked with **Wardens Weingarten, Moskat, Elliott** and **Miller** along the American River near Nimbus. Snaggers were plentiful and numerous citations were written. Lt. LaFave issued three citations for snagging, keeping snagged fish, and a no fishing license. Lt. LaFave also handled several nuisance bear complaints and assisted EDSO and Warden Stevenson with a 740 pound bear that was wreaking havoc in a South Lake Tahoe neighborhood. The bear had broken into numerous homes and severed a gas line requiring evacuations. The aggressive bear charged deputies and was dispatched.

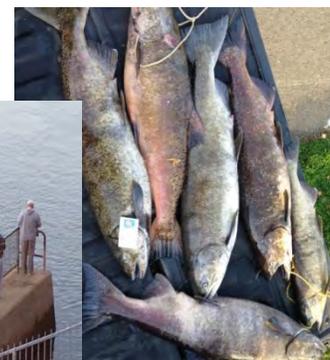
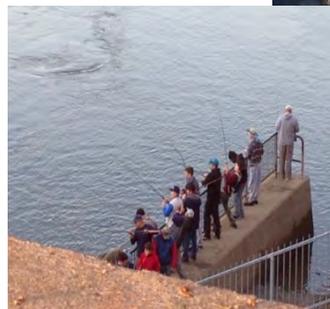


Lt. LaFave, Captain Wurster and **Wardens Elliott** and **Stevenson** attended the annual Law Enforcement Big Brother-Big Sister Christmas Shopping Spree in El Dorado Hills. Officers are paired

with underprivileged children from El Dorado County who each were given \$200.00 donated to the event to spend at Target. The kids loved the CDFW K9s and the Black Boat, which was on static display.

Nine 2300 officers worked salmon snaggers along the American River. They issued 66 salmon related citations for over 100 violations. Violations included over limits of salmon, unlawful take of salmon solely for eggs, waste of fish, retain snagged salmon and illegal gear. Seventy eight salmon were seized.

Rancho Cordova and Redding **NR Volunteers** donated 1,562 hours to LED, OCEO, WLM, HabCon and Admin.



Headquarters

MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT TEAM

Throughout December, MET operators conducted training, scout, reclamation, and eradication and outreach missions in Shasta, Santa Cruz, Nevada, San Diego, Stanislaus and



Monterey counties. On the outreach front, the MET participated in two marijuana cultivation legislation panel presentations hosted by the California Growers Association in Santa Cruz and Nevada counties. MET was very well received by the 750 attendees at both events after highlighting the extensive environmental destruction and public safety threats occurring all over California on outdoor trespass grow sites.

MET operators located and scouted a large marijuana grow complex

in Stanislaus County that contained hundreds of pounds of trash including several empty bottles of Furdan. The marijuana grow site, located on the anadromous San Joaquin River, contained several thousand holes where marijuana plants were grown. The site was completely harvested and MET will be working the case in the



upcoming marijuana grow season. The team also scouted a marijuana grow on the San Joaquin River where they found 1530 freshly planted marijuana plants. This is the first time the MET have seen marijuana growing in an outdoor site in mid-December and the plants were healthy and showed no sign of frost damage.

MET operators also scouted and located several large harvested DTO grow sites in San Diego County. Several water diversions, banned grow poisons, and large amounts of grow site trash and waste were located in these sites. Reclamation was started, and some sites stabilized for arrest and eradication missions this next season.



The MET K9 handler team received information that a suspect was attempting to purchase bear gall bladders in the Shasta County area. After reaching out to local patrol officers for assistance, a solid felony case of sale of bear parts and cash seizure was made by the end of the day.

DELTA BAY ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

DBEEP and SOU finished Warden Marrone's commercialization case dubbed "Operation Boulder Glen". DBEEP served two search warrants and arrest warrants of two suspects. The two suspects were placed under arrest for the illegal sale of striped bass, salmon, and sturgeon. This is the suspect's second time being arrested for the same violations. Search warrants and arrests were done the first time in 2006. One vehicle and two vessels were seized during the operation along with overwhelming evidence of illegal commercial activity.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT

Case Agent Warden Mike Cormier went to court earlier in the month in Placerville on behalf of Operation Night Owl III. Defendant Lee plead guilty to felony possession of a firearm (had numerous priors and probation terms) and was sentenced per PC 29800 (A)(1). He is serving three years four months in State prison.

North Coast Enforcement District

Warden Harris worked with the San Mateo DA's office on a commercial waste of fish case where the defendants agreed to a \$30,000 fine and a stipulated judgement to not waste fish in the future.

Warden Glau & Lieutenant Ober came across a rollover DUI accident where the driver fled the scene. They interviewed witnesses and turned the investigation over to the CHP.

Warden Garrett responded to a report of salmon trapped in the Marsh Creek fish ladder. Due to the drought the ladder had trapped the fish instead of providing a passage. Warden Garrett rescued and relocated the fish with guidance from the region fisheries staff.

Warden Rehse and **Warden Rogers** responded to a call of a coyote in the upstairs of a house that was under construction in Dublin. They were able to tranquilize the coyote and remove it safely from the house. It was euthanized for injuries including a broken leg.

Warden T. Little filed a couple of poached buck deer cases with the District Attorney's office. Warden Little also cited three subjects each with more than double the daily bag limit of bluegill/crappie. Warden Little and Warden Stephenson continue to work long hours undercover doing surveillance and gaining intel on some illegal poaching. The case is ongoing.

Warden Pascoe patrolled Lake County and surrounding Mendocino National Forest, helped the Lake County Search and Rescue Team locate two missing males reported as stranded in the snow on Hull Mountain, assisted with the Highland Springs Junior Pheasant Hunt and taught Hunter Ed classes.



Warden Stephenson contacted several fishermen this month. Activity has slowed around the lake however so Stephenson worked other cases. Stephenson also received notification that a baiting case he made back in August was settled in the courts. The suspect plead out and received a \$8,500 dollar fine and is now on probation for three years. The suspect also lost his hunting privileges for the next three years.

Warden Henderson spent his month continuing to focus on band-tailed pigeon hunters in the Los Padres National Forest. December picked up where November left off, with pigeons being taken out of season. Wardens Hampton and Schad came down to assist Wardens Henderson and Walker with the illegal activity. From November 14th through the conclusion of the band-tailed pigeon season, the officers issued 25 band-tailed pigeon related citations for over 80 misdemeanor and three felony violations. The officers seized 24 firearms and 158 band-tailed pigeons.

Warden Jones responded to a CalTIP at Sea Cliff State Beach (Santa Cruz County) on a report of fishermen illegally catching and retaining salmonids. He cited two subjects for unlawful take (FGC 2000). He assisted **Warden Schad** in responding to a CalTIP complaint of

a subject firing a gun at a golf course, which was reported through CalTIP by a San Jose Police dispatcher. The officers responded and investigated the incident, determining the golf course had been using a licensed hunter, named on a current wild pig depredation permit, to unlawfully eradicate coots as well. The investigation established violations of conspiracy, unlawful take and waste of game. Warden Schad will be filing a formal complaint. Jones responded to Corcoran Lagoon in Santa Cruz County on a CalTIP complaint that suspects had unlawfully breached the lagoon, which is habitat for Tidewater Goby, a federally listed endangered species. He investigated, identified two of the suspects, and will be filing a formal complaint for unlawfully diverting the flow and changing the bank of a State water way and the unlawful take of Tidewater Gobies.

Warden Anderson responded to a sewage leak along Chorro Creek in San Luis Obispo where approximately 72,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled onto the Camp San Luis Obispo roadways with approximately 6000 gallons making it into the creek. Anderson backed up Arroyo Grande Police on a suicidal man with a loaded handgun ¼ mile from a local school. The subject was taken into custody without further incident.

Warden Chance and Trainee Huntsman teamed up with **Wardens Hodel and his Trainee** to investigate the report of unlawfully taken ducks near the Morro Bay Wildlife Area. The team was able to identify the suspect who shot too close to numerous occupied residences and discarded several duck carcasses that went needlessly to waste. Through their investigation and subsequent interviews, the officers determined the hunter had been confronted by concerned neighbors who voiced their opinion regarding his unlawful hunting practices. The neighbors became good witnesses by providing solid information which included a vehicle description, license plate number and lots of great pictures of the suspect, the discarded duck carcasses and the area where the man was hunting. A formal complaint was filed with the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's office for various hunting related offenses.

Warden Gil and **Warden Thomas** were on patrol at Fort Hunter Liggett in Monterey County. The two officers watched a tan Jeep station wagon run a stop sign and decided to investigate. Gil approached the driver's door and immediately noticed a large "Game Warden Stamp" sticker attached to the center of the door making the vehicle appear to the untrained eye like a government vehicle. Thomas noticed the exact same sticker centered on the passenger door. As Gil spoke with the adult male driver who apologized for running the stop sign and stated he and his father were out pig hunting. Thomas mentioned



to Gil she could see a dead deer in the back of the vehicle and there were no deer seasons opened anywhere in the area. The officers conducted a search of the vehicle locating two dead deer in the back including a pregnant doe deer with two embryos as well as a male fawn. The officers located six different spotlights in the vehicle and four rifles including two with lights taped to their barrels. The officers also found a unique heat seeking device used to determine if wildlife is present at night through a set of

earphones that beep when heat is found. The middle aged driver and older father decided to argue about who had killed the deer with each of them claiming the other had done the dirty deeds. The investigation discovered multiple wildlife crimes and will result in a future court date to answer the many wildlife crimes discovered.

Warden Hodel and Warden Gil teamed up on a Stonegarden patrol that resulted in a contact with two men in a suspicious U-Haul. The information gathered appears to be tied to several men intercepted by USCG with 5000 pounds of marijuana in a panga that departed Mexican waters the day before.

Warden Thomas continues to investigate a case of a poached trophy bull elk and a case of a several unlawfully taken deer. She executed a search warrant on the suspect's phone which has since led to additional suspects and the confession of two more poached deer from a different suspect. Further interviews will be done to determine the three remaining dead, untagged deer on the suspect's cell phone.

Warden Thomas worked the band-tailed pigeon opener check point at Fort Hunter Liggett. She contacted a subject who was wearing camouflage clothing and soccer cleats. The subject spoke minimal English but was able to provide a current 2015 resident California Hunting License. While the subject was thumbing through his wallet, Warden Thomas noticed a document which was similar to a hunting license and asked to see it as well. The subject pulled out a 2015 resident Minnesota archery deer tag. The subject's California ID Card was issued 13 months ago and he stated he has lived in California for a year. While continuing the investigation Warden Thomas found three plucked band-tailed pigeons in the glovebox of the vehicle. She found one additional whole bird under the back seat. The suspect only had a .22 rifle in his possession. The pigeons appeared to have been shot with a small caliber rifle. The suspect said he didn't shoot them and was taking them home for his friends, however, he didn't know his friend's names. It appeared the subject shot the band-tailed pigeons the day before, out of season and they cooled overnight as temperatures dropped below 40 degrees. Warden Thomas and Warden Huntsman worked together to acquire the use of Language Line, a program that assists law enforcement in language translation. Language Line was used to translate to the subject that he had violated many Fish and Wildlife laws and that all his hunting equipment and birds would be seized and he would be receiving a notice in the mail from Monterey County Court. Warden Thomas followed up with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Officer Brad Johnson who covers the area the subject claimed to reside. He was able to determine the subject was in violation for claiming residency in two states and he will be filing an additional formal complaint against the subject for two Minnesota wildlife violations.

Lt. Tognazzini spent many hours finishing FTO items but was lucky to get out on a couple of band-tailed pigeon patrols. During the first one on opening day, he apprehended two subjects with pigeons taken the day before season started including one subject who had killed her pigeons with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle. The subjects explained to Tognazzini that they thought as long as they ate their pigeons, they could shoot them before season. Two days before Christmas, Tognazzini and his dog **Sage** conducted another band-tailed patrol making two overlimit cases and locating hidden pigeons buried in leaf litter that resulted in an excellent 2012 FGC case.

Captain Kelly would like to congratulate **Wardens Justin Cisneros, Taylor Dericco, Sara Huntsman and Rich Walker** on the successful completion of their field training programs! They all took a much-needed vacation before they report to their squads.

Office of Spill Prevention & Response

Warden Ryan Thiem conducted several shoreline patrols in Contra Costa and Alameda counties this month with Wardens Rehse and Rogers. The fishing activity seemed relatively high given the inclement weather and cold snap. A few citations were issued for basic 7145 violations in varied locations. One citation was issued to a fisherman for exceeding his bag limit of ghost shrimp. At the time, weather conditions up north had all but stopped the flow of shrimp baits being delivered out of Oregon. If you fish sturgeon, you'd see the importance! The officers ran the OSPRey out of Richmond Marina on a pair of maintenance/general patrols this month. Thiem had a couple successful outings along the Napa River this month. Two citations were issued at different locations for licensing issues. Thiem also had an opportunity to help out the Solano SO and 2330 squad with a search warrant. Deputy Dehoney made a nice drug case on an individual that eventually parlayed into several hunting violations associated with the attempted take of wildlife at night. The investigation is ongoing and additional follow will likely result with the subject in custody.

Wardens Thiem and Goode attended a "table top" exercise for Flyers in Santa Rosa. It appeared to be a learning experience for not only the newest SOSC, but the personnel drilling as well. Goode was able to explain and filter out the overall process as the Deputy SOSC.

Warden Ryan and Lt. Nicholas attended a pre planning meeting with multiple agencies from Placer and Nevada counties for a future Multi Casualty Incident Exercise involving a rail/crude oil incident. It is expected that the exercise will take place in late spring and will involve approximately 400 participants. In addition, staff with OSPR LED is heavily involved with the planning and prevention portions of spill response training throughout Northern California.

Warden John Amis attended the Renner Petroleum Drill in Eureka. Amis served as the SOSC for the exercise with **Warden Josh Zulliger** serving as the Deputy SOSC/trainer. **Warden Angel Tapia** served as the Deputy SOSC/trainer for the FOSS exercise drill in Richmond with **Warden Matthew Plaza** serving as the SOSC.

Lt. Christian Corbo travelled to Santa Barbara and conducted a walking tour of the Refugio Incident oil release cliff-face known as Section IV with members of the Unified Command from the USCG, RP, and County officials. The area is progressing nicely and natural vegetation is beginning to replenish the landscape. In a one day travelling blitz, Corbo attended the Refugio HotWash and All-Hands meeting in Sacramento and returned home to his AOR. He finished off his month by patrolling the coastline for White Croaker enforcement efforts and attended a Career Mentor Breakfast at Downey High School speaking on the merits of becoming a Conservation Officer.

Warden Mike Conely kept busy responding to numerous oils spills in Kern County. One spill involved a pipeline break that resulted in the release of 5-30 barrels of oil and 100 barrels of produced water (initial estimates). The pipeline break occurred in a dry creek bed. The oil and water flowed downstream and impacted approximately one mile of the creek bottom. A unified command was put in place to address the spill. Numerous OSPR staff were involved with this response. The clean-up took approximately one week. The spill impacted

approximately a dozen small rodents and mammals. Warden Conely also responded to several other spills that had direct impacts to wildlife such as owls, rabbits, dove etc. Although most of the wildlife impacted by the spills did not survive, one notable exception was a heavily oiled Red Tailed Hawk. The hawk was oiled during a pipeline break and was taken to the CALM Rehab Facility in Kern County. During December, wildlife staff spent several weeks cleaning and rehabilitating the animal for release. It is anticipated the hawk will be released in the near future.



Lt. Michael Horn gave a cultural resource briefing by WebEx for the OSPR oil spill hot wash. He also attended the OSPR all hands meeting by WebEx. Horn completed and submitted his cost recovery package for his cultural resource work on the Valley Fire in Lake County. Horn worked with the Region VI LEPC to coordinate training spots for OSPR personnel for an upcoming 32 hour "Railcar Safety" training. He also spent several days conducting CISM outreach to the Ontario office in the aftermath of the San Bernardino shooting.

Warden Paul Zurawski attended one pollution response drill for OC VAC and handled 12 CALEMA petroleum pollution reports telephonically and two physically during the month. The first physical response was a vessel that sunk at it slip in Marina Del Rey. Luckily the vessel's tanks were empty as they had been pumped out and cleaned in part of recent vessel maintenance.



The second physical response was a traffic collision of a semi-truck versus a car. Both occupants of the car were killed in the crash. The crash resulted in a very small amount of crankcase oil and antifreeze to enter a storm drain catch box. CHP stated that the car was at fault for causing the accident and the pollutants were cleaned up quickly.

Southern Enforcement District

Warden Coombs assisted **Lt. Dostal** with a mountain lion immobilization in Santa Barbara County. Once the mountain lion was immobilized, Coombs transported the animal to DFW Wildlife Biologist Christine Thompson for field assessment of the lion's health. Due to its poor health, the animal was transported to the California Wildlife Center, a permitted wildlife rehabilitation facility, for a wildlife veterinarian assessment and immediate medical care. The mountain lion's health improved and it was returned to Santa Barbara County for a successful release back into the wild by **Warden Huber**, **Warden Dilts** and Wildlife Biologist C. Thompson.

Warden Budish received information from a confidential informant (CI) in July/August (2015) regarding an active Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) not submitting logs to the Department, monthly, as required. After several interviews, researching the Marine Log Database, and obtaining proof of payments received for fishing activity, Budish discovered that only a handful of logs had been submitted over the last five years. In 2013, the Department sent the captain of the CPFV a letter requesting his log book information. The captain responded, stating he had not operated as a CPFV for the last two years. Budish had physical proof that the skipper had been running fishing trips during the last three years, but due to statute of limitations the case could not be filed. After two months of repetitive surveillance, Budish finally spotted the captain returning to port with passengers aboard a different CPFV. Through investigations, passenger interviews and her observations, Warden Budish was able to document and file formal charges for failure to submit logs to the Department for 2015, failure to keep and maintain accurate records of fishing activity (29 charters not documented with the Department), and failure to have logbooks on board a vessel while engaged in fishing activity.

The **5220 squad** set up two weekend details after receiving numerous CalTIPS regarding undersized lobster taken from the San Clemente Pier and the Dana Point jetties. These details resulted in 17 citations, with a total of 25 violations found. Charges included possession of undersized lobsters, lobster report card violations, possession of undersized kelp and barred sand bass, and failure to have a lobster measuring device in possession. The wildlife officers successfully returned a total of 33 illegally harvested undersized lobsters, two kelp bass and three barred sand bass to the ocean.

Lieutenant Smirl continued to work with many cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties regarding coyote management. Lt. Smirl met with the Department's messaging staff to begin developing an on-line information resource that will allow other agencies access to the "Wildlife Watch" program that is being developed to assist other agencies in dealing with human/coyote interactions.

Lieutenant McNair and K9 Reno followed up on a report of boats being sold on Craigslist that were infested with quagga mussels. Lt. McNair was able to determine that the vessels were being stored at Irvine Lake, and took K9 Reno to inspect the boats. The boats appeared to have been removed from the water for an extensive period of time. Visible clumps of dead mussels were discovered among the boats. K9 Reno did not alert on the vessels, seeming to indicate the quagga mussels were no longer alive. An inspection by a Department biologist is pending in order to verify the mussels have all been removed from these boats.



In conjunction with California and Arizona's Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC), **Wardens Vuich and Potter** assisted Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) with the investigation of an elk case. California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) and AGFD officers determined a California resident had participated in a hunt in Arizona along with two Arizona residents, over the bull elk opener weekend. AGFD suspected the California resident of obtaining residency elk tags by fraud/deceit, and unlawful take/possession of multiple elk. Warden Vuich and Warden Potter contacted the suspect who resided in Del Mar, CA. Statements given to CDFW officers during their interview indicated the man had illegally harvested one 7X7 bull in Arizona, considered to be a trophy class animal under Arizona law, and then illegally transported the heads of two bull elk back into CA, across state lines. The California resident was issued a citation by CDFW officers for violations enacted by western states to prevent chronic wasting disease, by transporting the fresh elk heads into California. The two elk heads and tags were seized into evidence and then returned to AGFD to support the wildlife crimes committed in Arizona as well. In addition to the above violations, both California and Arizona residents could face enhanced fines for harvesting the trophy class animal with fine amounts up to \$9,600.

Warden McCain was on foot patrol in a county reserve when he located several apples in a meadow. McCain searched the area and located a tree stand and three trail cameras nearby. Upon further inspection, McCain found one deer carcass and seven coyote carcasses in close proximity. McCain set up a trail camera and began staking out the site every morning and evening. After four days McCain's efforts paid off when he observed a subject approach the site on a bicycle, with a large backpack.



McCain watched as the subject changed into hunting attire and produce archery equipment. Once the subject was positioned in the tree stand, McCain announced himself from his covert location. The subject admitted to poaching the site for multiple years. McCain issued a citation and seized his hunting equipment.