

# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

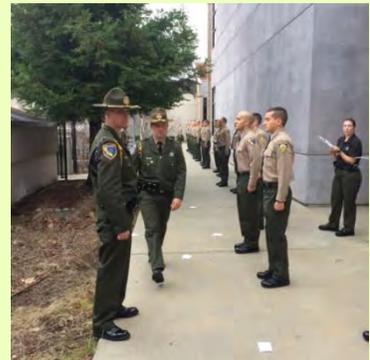
### *MONTHLY REPORT* *January 2016*



# Central Enforcement District

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**Warden Schultz** along with **Warden Kraft** assisted Academy 59 with the first two days of drill instruction and uniform inspections. During the first few hours of the class instruction, the class learned the hard way that fish and wildlife officers work in any type of weather because it was heavily raining during their inspection. The cadets were then given a quick rundown of basic drill movements and marching. Overall the class' performance was outstanding.



**Lt. Vielhauer** set up a buy bust for waterfowl in San Joaquin County. Two subjects were cited for illegally offering to buy, and then ultimately buying ducks. Vielhauer obtained the sport taken waterfowl and then set the deal in motion by coordinating with the buyers. The operation was successfully implemented with help from Officers Cahill and Lomeli who made uniform contact after Vielhauer sold the ducks. The deal went down at a gas station in the small town of Thorton along the I-5 corridor.

This past month **Warden Hall** responded to a hunter casualty report on a private duck club in the Los Banos area. Prior to Hall's arrival the victim was transported by ambulance and then medi-flighted out to a Modesto area hospital. Hall was able to speak with the victim's brother who had been hunting with the victim at the time of the accidental shooting. According to the brother, the victim had shot at and wounded a Mallard drake. The duck went down across the pond and began swimming away from the victim. The victim took his dog and went after the duck which was heading for some reeds. The victim began kicking at the reeds trying to get the duck to show itself for the dog to retrieve. The duck finally popped up next to the victim who reached down with his left hand to retrieve the duck. The victim was holding his shotgun in his right hand and as he grabbed the duck he lost his grip on the shotgun which spun the muzzle downward. Somehow, with the muzzle under the water and pointed at the victim's left ankle, the trigger was depressed and the gun discharged, shooting the victim on his high outside left ankle. The brother had no idea what had happened until he heard the victim scream out he had shot himself. The brother had heard a weird muffled gunshot, but had not thought anything about it, thinking it was someone shooting in the distance. Hall, a week later, spoke with the victim's wife via phone and learned the victim was still in the hospital waiting to be transferred to a specialist/orthopedic surgeon to hopefully have a bone graft done. The wife did say the victim was looking at multiple surgeries probably over the next two years and the victim was thinking about writing an article for an outdoors/sporting magazine about his experience and the importance of keeping the safety on while walking around with a gun.

**Warden Moss** spent the month of January patrolling the deer winter ranges and migration routes in his district. The long nights did pay off the first part of the month. Warden Moss and Lt. Detrick were able to follow and eventually stop one subject who was spotlighting in an area known for holding large migrating bucks. The subject stated he was not spotlighting for deer, rather he was looking for shed antlers, at 3am. With deer still having antlers, the subject was asked if he knew when the deer shed their antlers and he said yes. He was not looking for fresh antlers; he was looking for old antlers. There had been several snow storms in the

area that left about eight inches of snow on the ground, covering any old shed antlers. He was then asked why he needed the 30.06 caliber rifle that was on the front seat next to him while looking for shed antlers. His answer, "that's where it always is." The subject was subsequently cited for his violations.



Warden McNulty has spent several hours patrolling a nearby dairy due to numerous complaints of hunters shooting too close to the houses and possibly taking waterfowl illegally. McNulty located a subject hunting at the dairy and watched as he chased a downed mallard. Her contact and investigation lead to a citation for taking

waterfowl without a state or federal stamp, no hunting license and illegal method of take. McNulty performed a necropsy on two other ducks located at the scene and the case was forwarded to the DA.



# Headquarters

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## **MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT TEAM**

Throughout January, MET operators conducted scout, reclamation and outreach missions in Shasta, Fresno, Stanislaus, San Diego and Mendocino counties. On the outreach front, the MET participated in a marijuana cultivation legislation panel presentation hosted by the California Growers Association in Mendocino County. MET was very well received by the 350 attendees at the event after highlighting the extensive environmental destruction and public safety threats occurring all over California on outdoor trespass grow sites. MET also conducted MJ environmental crime and public safety presentations to two high school classes in Fort Bragg. The presentations were very well received by the teenagers in attendance. MET operators also provided outreach support for junior conservation and K9 public relations at the International Sportsmen's Expo in Sacramento this month.

MET operators located and scouted a large marijuana grow complex in San Diego County that contained hundreds of pounds of trash including several empty bottles of Furadan. The marijuana grow site, located on some sensitive state waterways, and 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.



Photo: Furadan Bottle painted green.

## **WATERSHED ENFORCEMENT TEAM**

Ten complaints were fielded by Watershed Enforcement Team (WET) staff last month where reporting parties complained about potential environmental impacts associated with marijuana cultivation. Complaints are being researched by WET LE for further investigation and inspection. Lt. Little attended town hall meeting in Redway, Humboldt County. He was part of a multi-agency panel to discuss the roll out of AB 243. Also present were Senator McGuire and Assemblyman Woods. Lt. Little and Warden Crowl attended a Lake County meeting where various Lake County officials, Water Board staff and CDFW WET law enforcement staff gave presentations to various Growers Associations about the potential impacts of AB 243.

## **DELTA BAY ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PROJECT**

DBEEP officers focused their time doing numerous boat patrols in the Sacramento delta during the month. During the skiff patrols more than 20 citations were issued for untagged sturgeon, possession of oversize sturgeon, sturgeon report card violations, no fishing license in possession, no second rod validation, using more than two fishing rods, boating violations, and unlawful possession of a gaff.



PHOTO: This Sturgeon was over 72" long and was not tagged. The angler was cited and DBEEP officers were able to revive the fish and release it alive.

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT**

Lt. Matt Gonzalez (former SOU) reports that Operation Mystery House (2013) was resolved in SF Superior Court earlier this month. Scott Huang purchased 45 abalone which he later sold to various buyers in San Francisco. Huang received three years' probation, permanent revocation of fishing license, \$15,000 fine with a stay of \$5,180 (this was credit for the cash seized and used to purchase the abalone in the first place). His fine is out-of-pocket \$9,820, and three days jail with credit for time served.

# North Coast Enforcement District

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**Warden Smith** patrolled the lakes and mountains of his district. Smith continued working on stopping the flow of an artesian well flowing into Soda Creek. Smith followed up on a CALTIP of individuals powerboating ducks in Clearlake Oaks. Smith observed the individuals powerboating and upon contacting the group and found eight plucked ducks in the ice chest of their vessel.



**Warden Morton** reports \$500.00 fines for fishing without a license in Napa County.

**Warden Wolvek** received an anonymous call about a subject clubbing a salmon in a tributary off of the Russian River and keeping it. Wolvek interviewed subjects in the area and wound up getting statements from two responsible parties who admitted to taking the fish in the closed tributary by clubbing it. Wolvek retrieved the carcass and found that it was a steelhead. Wolvek will be filing a formal complaint for the violations.

**Warden Reed** stopped a vehicle driving erratically on HWY 101 near Healdsburg. The elderly driver was confused about her location and where she lived. She could not tell Warden Reed her name and gave different cities as possible residences. Warden Reed called for medical assistance and CHP. She was taken to a local hospital for further evaluation.



**The Marlin Crew** checked several anglers using throw nets to take herring from the shore and piers. Several tons of herring are being taken by recreational anglers as there is no limit on herring. The Crew also assisted a stranded commercial herring vessel that had broken down on the fishing grounds.

**Warden Henderson** focused patrols on pig hunting activity in Carmel Valley. The rains have elevated the pig activity and hunting/poaching activity as well. He and Warden Walker located a dump site containing the remains of four pig carcasses. Henderson continues to receive reports of night pig hunting activity on private property. He has also kept a close eye on the band-tail pigeon population in the Los Padres National Forest, after a busy couple of months chasing pigeon poachers. As the band-tail season came to a close, a majority of the birds seemed to move on, but in recent weeks, they have been observed in great numbers in the area again. Zero pigeon hunting (poaching) activity has been observed.

**Warden Jones** responded to a report from CALFIRE of a vehicle floating in Pacheco Creek (Santa Clara County) after the driver lost control of her Jeep Cherokee in poor weather and plunged off the side of Hwy 152 approximately 200 feet into the water below. He coordinated the recovery of the vehicle with CHP. He inspected the vehicle and found the

gas tank intact, but oil leaking from the engine block. He notified the Office of Emergency Services (#16-0412) and OSPR.

**Warden R. Walker** began patrolling Monterey County, after completing his FTO program. On the second day of patrol, he and Officers Henderson and D. Walker arrested two subjects on Chew's Ridge for drug and weapons violations. He also issued one citation for a rockfish violation and wrapped up the month with a mountain lion depredation call with Captain Kelly. Warden Walker states, "Coming into the Monterey position has been very exciting. I have been learning the area slowly, and meeting many people. Everyone in the Captain's squad has been very welcoming. It feels like everyone wants to double up and provide me with much needed information of their areas. Everyone on the Steelhead has been helpful as well, walking me through commercial regulations. Overall, the month has been a great start to my career and I look forward to learning every day."

**Warden Anderson** conducted multiple 1600 investigations throughout the south San Luis Obispo County as part of El Nino preparations. There was a successful prosecution of 1600 violation from last year with a fine of \$5000 paid to local county fines commission. Anderson cited a subject for failure to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk where the driver almost hit two people. Anderson also cited a subject for driving her two year old through Pismo Beach sitting in the front seat with no child safety seat. Anderson worked the closing Saturday duck detail at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge with two subjects cited for possession of too many shotgun shells.

**Warden Chance and Gil** stopped a car of would- be road hunters for a vehicle code violation as they were patrolling the Adelaida in rural Paso Robles. Chance and Gil noted furtive movement from the backseat passenger where they saw a long gun being moved around. They found two .22 caliber rifles in the backseat area of the vehicle with one of the rifles being loaded, pursuant to Fish and Game Code 2006(a). The men in the car claimed they were not hunting and were only looking for work in the local vineyards. The officers did not believe the "fish tale" being told as the trunk of the car was completely empty and could easily accommodate a large animal carcass. The men were cited accordingly. Later in the month, Chance investigated four reports of agricultural waste being dumped into the Salinas and Estrella rivers that was located by Warden Strouss and Lt. Tognazzini during a patrol. Chance warned the responsible parties who had deposited the waste and ordered clean up.

**Warden Gil** started off the New Year with his third deer poaching case within the past few months. Three suspects were seen posing for pictures with a dead forked horn buck in a closed area of Fort Hunter Liggett. Two reporting parties called in the violation. The RPs obtained information and statements about the suspects shooting the deer a short time earlier. Warden Gil contacted the suspects who adamantly denied poaching the deer and left the entire deer in the field. It was determined none the subjects had ever attended a Hunter Education Course. During the investigation Gil found an assault rifle inside the vehicle belonging to one of the occupants that was determined to be an unlawful. One of the subjects had a visible cut above his eye from the scope on the rifle and was found to be a convicted felon currently on active probation. The investigation yielded over 20 violations split among the three men varying from hunter trespass, violation of probation, felon in possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of an assault weapon, illegal methods of take and take out of season just to name a few. Gil also received a disposition on a spotlighting

case during a night flight back in September. The suspect pleaded guilty resulting in the forfeiture of his firearm, several hundred dollars in fines, three years no hunting in Monterey County and a ten day jail sentence.

**Warden Strauss** patrolled Avila Beach and the surrounding areas multiple times this month. One citation was issued for an angler with no steelhead report card. He and Warden Anderson participated in a detail at the Kern Wildlife Refuge for the last hunt day of the waterfowl season. The detail resulted in several citations including too many shotgun shells and alcohol in the wildlife area.

**Warden Thomas** completed her investigation that began with a call from SLO Sheriff's Department conducting a burglary search warrant and locating a deer head and antlers. As part of the investigation, Thomas obtained a search warrant on a suspect's cell phone and located many additional pictures with dead deer. The investigation resulted in three suspects and charges related to two unlawfully taken buck deer.

**Warden Hare** welcomed three new officers Cisneros, Dericco, and Huntsman to the Patrol Boat Bluefin. The Bluefin also welcomed a new patrol Lieutenant, Ames. He patrolled the coastline of San Luis Obispo County and also monitored recreational and commercial fishing activity in Morro Bay and Port San Luis, finding great compliance.

**Warden Hickey and K-9 Keara** received a call regarding the release of 6,000 gallons of raw sewage that was near Chorro Creek. Hickey determined that the sewage was contained and had not entered the watershed. She and K-9 Keara conducted many foot patrols of San Luis Obispo Creek, Stenner Creek and Chorro Creek for steelhead anglers. Later in the month Hickey conducted several inland patrols of Los Padres National Forest contacting many wild pig hunters and a few upland game hunters.

# Office of Spill Prevention & Response

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**Wardens Angel Tapia**, Mitch Goode, Ryan Hanson, and AJ Russo responded to a potential spill of 1,000 gallons of diesel in Folsom. The RP was notified by the Folsom Fire Department that a potential release due to a failure of the coffer dam at the Folsom Dam could occur. All personnel were evacuated from the construction site. Several tanks of diesel and equipment stayed behind and were at risk.



Warden Goode, Folsom Fire Chief, contractors and Army Corps of Engineers mitigated potential failure and successfully removed all equipment from site.



**Warden Ryan Hanson** responded to Kirkwood Ski Resort to investigate a reported diesel spill on a ski run. Hanson met with Kirkwood staff and patrolled the area via skis and toured the described spill area. No spill was discovered nor were there any signs of a spill present. A follow up will be done in the spring after the snow melts.

**Warden Ryan Thiem** responded to a pair of sunken vessels this month at Fishermen's Wharf, S.F. County (CalOES #16-0216) and Montezuma Slough, Solano, Co. In both cases, neither party was insured, but the RP's were cooperative and more than willing to work towards a resolution that involved vessel salvage and recovery. A garbage truck with North Bay, Novato, (CalOES 16-0250) released an estimated 80 gallons of hydraulic fluid. The product entered the storm drain and impacted the waterway. Clean up was handled by the RP and they did a commendable job at limiting further impact. Marin Fire (McCarthy) and CalOES (Barnes) did an excellent job on the incident. Thiem conducted follow up the next morning after a significant rainstorm. OSPR ES Mike Schomer requested vessel assistance with a boom deployment exercise/drill near the mouth of the Loch Lomond Marina. NRC completed their objectives and everyone was pleased on the whole.



**Warden Mike Conely** and fellow honor guard members participated in the funeral services for retired Warden Steve Messick in El Centro. Warden Conely responded to several pipeline spills in Kern County and a spill in Tulare County involving a local water district.

**Warden Jacob Juarez** responded to Pt. Lobos at the request of the on-call warden and obtained tarball samples to be tested by the Petroleum Lab. Juarez also responded to OES



16-0239 in Salinas during the month. Salinas Valley Wax Paper reported a spill of diesel, oil and water due to a broken pipe. The water from the pipe flooded their manufacturing area that had diesel and oil on the floor from their normal manufacturing process. The mixed diesel, oil and water entered their storm drain system. Inspection of the system found the spill was contained within the system and did not enter an adjacent drain. Juarez cleared the scene and Monterey County Health remained onsite to facilitate cleanup.

**Warden Scott Murtha** physically responded to four incidents in the San Francisco Bay area. The Richmond Channel had two large 120' tug boats sink. A landing craft with a vacuum truck on board helped to recover 2300 gallons of mixed oils from the tugs. Someone had purposely manipulated valves allowing bay water free access to the engine compartments of both vessels. In addition, an Alaskan salmon tender at the Vallejo Marina was reported as throwing oily waste in the Marina. The anonymous reporting party was contacted and was proud to have kept the mess away from the hull of his boat by using a dispersant.



**Warden Amanda Johnson** helped the 5120 squad on a mountain lion call and a waterfowl detail. Warden Johnson also accepted the San Francisco OSPR position and will be transferring to San Francisco in April. She will greatly miss her squad-mates and Lieutenant and everyone from the Southern LED and the beautiful City of Ventura, but she is looking forward to learning a new area and being closer to family and friends since she was born and raised in NorCal.

**Lt. Michael Horn** assisted a regional wildlife officer in Inyo County by phone with a rollover of a truck carrying hazardous soil out of state. It was ultimately determined the soil was spilled on upland habitat outside of state waters; cleanup was handled by Cal Trans and the responsible party. Horn also worked with an OSPR wildlife office related to issues on an Indian Reservation adjacent to a state wildlife area.

**Lt. Bryan Gollhofer** is continues coordination of the investigation into the Refugio incident. We are still involved in the grand jury process and working in and out of state to complete the investigation.

# Northern Enforcement District

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**Warden Embry** compiled the electronic forensics and wildlife forensics and reviewed GoPro camera footage obtained from suspects in a deer poaching case initiated by Wardens Zulliger, Alfaro, Dericco, and Embry. Embry completed the final arrest reports for filing. The GoPro video shows the suspects shooting at deer from the vehicle at night on the river-bar in Ferndale.

**Warden Mengel** worked waterfowl and marine angling around the Crescent City Harbor, Humboldt Bay and Eel River areas. He met with members of the Humboldt Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue and discussed improving communications during multi-jurisdictional rescues and water events. There have been some rescues that caught the attention of the local media and involved our customers or occurred when wildlife officers were in the area. He teamed up with the Hydesville Community Church and taught a traditional hunter education class. Also during the month Warden Mengel cited a subject who shot a swan at the Humboldt Bay Wildlife Refuge.



**Warden Wells** spent the first few days of the month working the Mattole River steelhead opener. He noted that fishing was average and he issued a couple citations for various fishing violations. Later in the month he spent a week in Napa and received his Field Training Officer certificate. He spent a considerable amount of time investigating a streambed alteration complaint in Ferndale. He discovered that a landowner had built a large levee about 300' long that had totally reversed the flow of a small creek and was causing some flooding. Wells also spent time working on a pollution complaint, he discovered a vehicle that had been abandoned into the Eel River where it was leaking petroleum. He was able to track down the owner, an elderly man, and work with a local tow operator and insurance company to have the vehicle removed.

**Warden Chase** patrolled Humboldt Bay and contacted numerous waterfowl hunters and anglers. Warden Chase also teamed up with the Coast Guard and patrolled the



California/Oregon border to verify no commercial activities were taking place in California waters while the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab season opened. Warden Chase also spent time patrolling MPA's in his

district. While patrolling for waterfowl hunters, Warden Chase encountered two subjects taking items off the Mad River Slough Wildlife Area. During a subsequent investigation, one of the persons was found to be in possession of a stolen item from California State Parks and in possession of controlled substances.

**Warden Hernandez** arrested a subject at Lake Almanor for multiple violations including felon in possession of firearm, methamphetamine, and unlawful take of waterfowl with a .22 rifle. Warden Hernandez identified the suspect angling on the bank of Lake Almanor as a convicted felon from the Chester area, with a violent past history. Hernandez made a case against the suspect during the previous 2015 archery deer season for cutting a hole in the fence of a gated water district property, killing a buck deer, and ultimately failing to retrieve the carcass and leaving the deer to waste. That previous case is still pending in Plumas County. As Hernandez covertly observed the suspect angling, the suspect picked up a .22 rifle and began shooting at a widgeon on the water, ultimately wounding and failing to retrieve it. The suspect was discharging the rifle toward the town of Chester, and homes adjacent to the lake well within the lethal range of a .22 long-rifle projectile. Not wanting to approach the suspect on foot through an open snow field, Hernandez opted to contact Plumas SO for cover, and planned a vehicle stop on



the suspect as he left the lake. The nearest SO deputy was approximately an hour away, so Hernandez ultimately conducted a vehicle stop and contacted the 6'4" 300 pound suspect as a lone officer. Hernandez learned that the suspect became paranoid and buried the rifle in the snow prior to leaving his fishing location. Hernandez returned to the location adjacent to the lake and located the rifle, along with spent shell casings. He safely booked the suspect into the Plumas County Jail on methamphetamine, hunting, and penal code violations.

**Wildlife Officers Awbrey and Doerring** investigated a petroleum train spill call adjacent to the Middle Fork of the Feather River near Portola. The railroad initially reported over a thousand gallons of diesel released, then recanted saying it was only a sixty gallon spill. The officers responded, and determined approximately a thousand gallons were actually missing from the tank and ultimately were released. Luckily, the spill was contained prior to reaching the bank of the nearby river. Union Pacific Railroad acted quickly to contain and remove the petroleum, and the officers monitored the cleanup efforts.



**Lt. Harrison** received a significant disposition through the Yuba County court for the illegal snagging of King Salmon, with fines totaling \$2,381. An audible gasp permeated throughout the courtroom's remaining defendants when the fine was announced by the judge.

**Warden Moskat** gave testimony in El Dorado Superior Court for a felony preliminary hearing. The case involved a suspect Moskat had arrested several years ago for killing five deer out of season. The suspect had also killed multiple other birds and animals including the killing and torture of a nearby neighbor's cat. During a search warrant, the suspect was found in possession of a homemade silencer and eventually plead guilty to various charges including the felony charge of manufacturing and possessing a silencer device. Part of the terms of his probation included no possession of dead wildlife or firearms. Moskat recently tracked the suspect down and with the help of Lt. LaFave and Warden Elliott; the officers performed a

probation search of the suspect's new residence in Cool, El Dorado County. The officers located a shotgun and a deer hunting rifle (30-06) located several feet from the suspect's sleeping area. The judge overseeing the recent preliminary hearing determined the evidence was sufficient to prove the suspect possessed the firearms. The case is currently awaiting a pre-trial conference and the suspect is being charged with three felony charges- two counts of possession of firearms (shotgun and rifle) and possession of ammunition. The judge at the hearing commented the suspect was also in violation of possession of a crossbow because Moskat had located a crossbow several feet from the suspect's cot.

**Warden Stevenson** stopped a Jeep Cherokee on eastbound Hwy 50, east of Kyburz El Dorado County. The reason for the stop was erratic driving, crossing over the double yellow line and right fog line. Stevenson contacted the driver and explained the reason for the stop. Stevenson immediately smelled marijuana. There were three subjects in the car (the male driver, female in right front passenger seat and a male in the rear passenger seat). Stevenson ran the driver's license which came back suspended or revoked. The other two claimed they had no identification and their verbal identification info came back with no record on file. As Stevenson was discussing this with dispatch, the driver and rear passenger fled and ran down into the American River Canyon. Stevenson contacted the remaining female passenger and asked where the subjects went. She stated they didn't want to get into trouble. Stevenson observed a black pancake handgun holster on the floorboard in front of the female passenger's seat. Stevenson handcuffed the female passenger and secured her in front of his patrol vehicle.

CHP and EDSO Deputies arrived on scene to assist. Warden Stevenson went with a CHP Officer and followed the tracks of the two fleeing subjects in the snow. EDSO Deputies drove down the highway and searched from the downstream area. **Lt. LaFave** arrived on scene and became the incident commander for the operation. Approximately 100 yards down the mountainside, the CHP Officer found a dry Glock 9mm handgun, lying in the snow just to the right side of the fleeing subjects tracks. It appeared the gun fell out after they had jumped over a large snow covered log. Stevenson photographed and unloaded the firearm and secured it. After a few hours of searching, Stevenson hiked back up to his vehicle and met with Lt. LaFave and an EDSO Sargent. The vehicle was searched, numerous narcotics, syringes, burglary tools and cell phones were recovered. The unidentified right rear passenger was identified, through CA ID Card found in his wallet in the right rear passenger seat. The female finally gave us her correct identification. Stevenson transported the female subject to jail in Placerville where she was booked for 148.9(A) PC and 11364(A) H&S. A misdemeanor enhancement was added for a probation violation. As Stevenson was booking the female subject, Lt. LaFave and Wardens Michilizzi and Miller stayed in the area with USFS Leo's and attempted to locate the two fleeing subjects. Lt. LaFave and USFS Leo's spotted the fleeing subjects and told them to stop. They jumped in the American River and fled up into the mountains. They told them they would freeze if they remained overnight and the search was called off. Both subjects at large had felony records and one had a felony no bail warrant.

At approximately 2045 hours, EDSO and 911 dispatchers received a call from the driver, asking to be picked up because they were freezing to death. EDSO Deputies and search and rescue didn't locate the subjects until 0850 the next morning. Warden E. Elliott and



Stevenson interviewed both subjects at the hospital emergency room. Once released, Stevenson booked both subjects into the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville. The driver was booked for two penal code violation and three felony enhancements. His bail was set at \$173,000. The rear passenger was booked and charged with four penal code violations. Both subjects will be arraigned on felony charges later next week.

# Southern Enforcement District

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**Warden Coombs** planned a waterfowl hunting detail. The team of officers patrolled two private duck clubs, public hunting areas, and a duck hunting unit on the local military base. The officers contacted over fifty hunters and inspected over fifty waterfowl. Other patrols warranted citations for possession of waterfowl without a fully feathered wing or head attached, fishing without a valid license in possession and for fishing with illegal traps.

**Wardens Banks, Paz, and Conely** participated in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Honor Guard for retired Warden Steve Messick's (1950-2016) memorial service in El Centro, California on January 16, 2016.

**Warden Gladstone** responded to a report of an opossum left in a cage trap for three nights and four days. Following an investigation, Gladstone contacted the responsible pest control company and found the following violations; failure to check traps daily, and setting traps without a trapper's license. Gladstone will file a formal complaint with the city attorney's office.

**Warden Sandvig** contacted a boat returning from an evening of lobster hoop netting and found an undersized lobster aboard. When asked if the suspect knew how to measure a lobster, he stated the officer who contacted him earlier in the evening had shown him, while issuing him a citation for possession of an undersized lobster. The subject produced a citation issued by Warden Holemo, written just a few hours earlier. Warden Sandvig then found another, much smaller lobster on board the boat, that hadn't been shown to him earlier. The suspect left with two less lobsters, and a second citation for possession of additional undersized lobsters.

While on skiff patrol, **Warden Ton and Warden Nguyen** saw a boat skippered by a subject Warden Loudon had cited a month earlier, for taking undersized lobster. The boat was underway so Warden Nguyen approached the vessel from behind, trying to stay out of view of the captain as long as possible. As the officers neared the vessel, the captain saw the wardens, and began throwing lobster overboard. Fortunately, the officers were close enough to see that some of the items thrown included lobster tails. The captain was cited accordingly.



The **Thresher** spent six days at sea this month. Thresher officers boarded over five drift gill net vessels. With the help of the CDFW plane and the federal Vessel Monitoring System, the officers were able to find these vessels in the open ocean. The photo depicts a contact approximately 50 miles off shore, in the state's Exclusive Economic Zone. In the background, the north end of San Clemente Island can be seen. The fishermen seemed surprised to see CDFW officers so far offshore.



The Natural Resource Volunteer program donated over 1,210 hours. Volunteers attended Wildlife Watch Program meetings and disseminated information at a La Habra City Council meeting; Newport Beach; Woodbridge/Irvine; Jasper/Native Trail Team meeting in Irvine; a Culver City Council meeting; Irvine Civic Center and began altering their wildlife call log to be compatible with the current biologist tracking database. Volunteers worked with local biologists and enforcement officers to remove quagga mussel from boats being sold from Irvine Lake, responded to 149 wildlife calls involving coyotes (66), mountain lions (10), and other wildlife. They also monitored Craigslist for illegal wildlife postings, and the illicit sale of species prohibited in California (reported 65 ferrets, 26 hedgehogs, and 30 sugar gliders) and 23 other possible violations.