

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

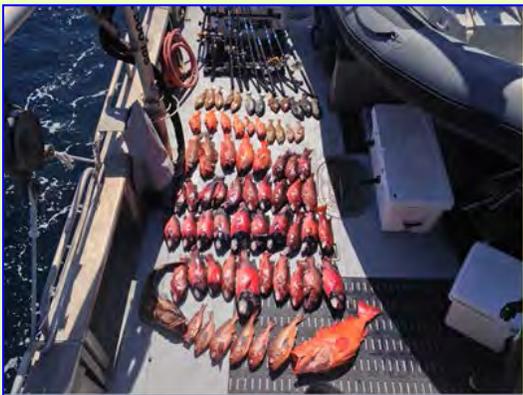
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT *March 2016*



Southern Enforcement District

While on patrol, the PV Swordfish crew observed a stationary boat offshore Santa Barbara Island, inside the marine reserve. When **Wildlife Officers Cohen, Lengning, and Van Epps** manned the skiff towards the vessel, it motored off before the officers were able to confirm if anyone had been fishing. The skiff crew conducted several compliance checks in the area while **Lt. Boyle** monitored the original vessel's location via radar. This vessel again stopped within the Marine Protected Area in approximately 800ft of water. Lt. Boyle advised the crew. The skiff crew was able to observe people fishing as they approached the vessel. The six licensed fishermen aboard were using top of the line fishing equipment, electric reels, and five hook ganions. Although they had only been fishing in the deep water for approximately 20 minutes, the boat was already littered with deep-water rockfish species. The fishermen assured the officers that all the fish they had were at the back of the boat, in the cooler and



in the bait tank. Warden Lengning manned the skiff while Warden Cohen counted the fish and Warden Van Epps searched the boat. Warden Cohen found them in possession of an overlimit of sheephead which were most likely caught earlier when the boat was seen close to shore, in addition to fishing in closed waters.

The fishermen again assured the officers these were all the fish they had. But Warden Lengning believed the fishermen were acting suspicious and related to Van Epps to check under the chairs the fishermen were sitting on. Van Epps was amazed when he opened the compartment under the chair and found a huge Cowcod. Van Epps advised the fishermen that taking and hiding a Cowcod caught in a Marine Reserve, and in a Cowcod conservation area, was a serious offense.

The officers told the fishermen their fishing gear would be seized and citations issued. After the fishermen turned over their gear, Warden Cohen noticed something dark at the bottom of the bait tank. This surprised him because he had already removed all the fish. Upon closer inspection, one of the fishermen had attempted to hide his fishing reel in the bait tank, so it would not be seized. Warden Cohen seized the reel.

Warden Holyoak investigated a report of a commercial trapper who used a steel-jawed leg hold trap to take coyotes. Unfortunately the trapper had trapped a neighbor's cat. Warden Holyoak will be filing a formal complaint with the Riverside County DA's office for several trapping related violations.

Warden VerBrugge assisted CHP and San Bernardino Sheriff with a single vehicle accident on I-40. The crash resulted in the vehicle being fully engulfed in flames. The driver fled the scene into a remote part of the desert. The search of the area was unsuccessful in locating the suspect.

Warden Nemlowill and K-9 Buddy responded to a CalTIP regarding an invasive plant found in Ferguson Lake, on the Colorado River. The plant was identified as **water hyacinth**, which is considered a highly problematic invasive species outside its native range in the Amazon. Nemlowill turned it over to Arizona Game and Fish biologists who went out to Ferguson Lake. They confirmed the presence of water hyacinth and invasive water lettuce.



Warden Budish responded to a CalTIP in Malibu of three subjects fishing in closed steelhead waters. Budish was the only officer on duty and available at the time of the CalTIP. Budish responded within 15 minutes of the report and was able to apprehend three subjects. All three subjects were fishing approximately 600 yards inland of Malibu Creek, below Rindge Dam. Two of the three subjects did not possess a fishing license and all three were cited for fishing in closed waters.

Budish also coordinated two patrols in the Ballona Wetlands State Ecological Reserve, with **Warden Nguyen**, and **5210 squad**. Both patrols yielded contacts with multiple subjects unlawfully trespassing and camping, in the Ballona Wetlands. All subjects were cited and advised of local organizations that may provide assistance to those without a home. Several illegal camps were cleaned up by CDFW staff.



The **PV Thresher** with **Lt. Kord, Wardens Rojas, Sandvig, and Holemo** patrolled out to Catalina Island to look for lobster fishermen, just before the season's closing. Near the east end of Catalina Island, the Thresher officers boarded a boat with three fishermen hoop netting. Upon inspection, the officers found 19 undersize lobsters. The lobsters were seized and the subjects cited accordingly.

This patrol at Catalina and San Clemente Island resulted in 39 vessels boarded with 137 sport fishermen contacts, and 10 citations issued. The additional citations included four citations for undersize lobster, one for undersize Kelp Bass, one citation for fishing inside the Blue Cavern SMCA, and 4 for fishing without required licenses.

The **Southern Enforcement District Natural Resource Volunteers (NRV)** assisted the Department in reaching the community with the Wood Duck program, Trout in the Classroom, and Wildlife Watch in Newport Beach, Torrance, Laguna Beach and Irvine. Volunteers worked at the Fred Hall Sportsman shows in Long Beach and Del Mar, while responding to public calls for coyote, mountain lion, and bobcat. NRV's handled over 135 additional informational calls.

Central Enforcement District

Warden Scott Moss and Lt. Ryan Detrick were working one last deer spotlight patrol at the beginning of the month when a call for assistance came over the radio. Tuolumne S.O. was asking for help with a robbery that occurred in Groveland. It was reported that a subject had robbed his camping partner at gun point and fled the scene in a motorhome. Tuolumne S.O. had no units in the area and issued a BOLO for the motorhome. Moss headed to the location from his hiding spot and Lt. Detrick was also in the area. Lt. Detrick located the suspected motorhome traveling towards Yosemite National Park on Hwy 120 and followed closely, relaying its location. Moss soon fell in behind Lt. Detrick. The subject pulled the motorhome off Hwy 120 onto a side road and stopped. Moss and Lt. Detrick activated their code three lights and began to conduct a high risk stop. A Tuolumne S.O. Deputy arrived on scene during the stop. After completing the high-risk stop and detaining the subject, an additional Deputy with the assistance of Warden Walther interviewed the victim at the original location. It was determined that a robbery had not occurred. The real story was the victim became irate and began to assault the suspect, who pulled a pellet gun to defend himself and left the area to get away. Neither party wanted to press charges.

Warden Moss and Lt. Detrick doubled up for a patrol of the Tuolumne River in Stanislaus County. Again a call for assistance, this time from Stanislaus S.O. Moss and Lt. Detrick met with Warden Cahn and a Stanislaus County Deputy. The Deputy was asking for help to locate and arrest a subject involved in a hit and run turned domestic violence. The suspect was known to be violent and resist arrest. The suspect was located at his residence and taken into custody without incident.

Warden William Witzel along with Warden Brad Mello and Lieutenant Alan Gregory answered questions and provided information to the public on a variety of topics including dredging, hunter education, and the lead ban at the Lodi Gun Show. Warden Witzel spent the rest of his month patrolling for angling activity and gearing up for the spring turkey season. He also attended the Baker to Vegas Relay Race where the CDFW Team placed 4th in the 800 division placing 47th overall. Warden Witzel finished the month running a turkey decoy and working the opening of the spring turkey season.

Warden Lenz received a call regarding a turkey hunter who witnessed a subject walk up to his decoy and shoot it using what he described as a sawed off shotgun. The hunter described the subject as a male Hispanic wearing camo clothing. The victim believed the subject was associated with a marijuana grow and could smell the strong odor of marijuana coming from the subject. The shooter stated he would pay the hunter for the damage he caused to his decoy. The hunter took a photo of the Hispanic male while at the scene.

Shortly after the above incident, a USFS officer contacted another Hispanic subject parked in a vehicle in a nearby turnout on Redinger overlook. In the trunk of the vehicle the officer found 30 small marijuana plants. It was determined that both Hispanic subjects were associated with the same marijuana grow in the area. The subject who possessed the marijuana plants was arrested by the USFS officer for suspicion of marijuana cultivation. While at the scene



with this subject a passersby reported that they saw a Hispanic subject walking down the road and when he saw their vehicle the male ran over the side of the road.

A short time after this information, CDFW officers and USFS officers surveilled the area to see if the subject would walk down the road again. Officers stayed in the area for about two hours and were unable to locate the male.

Warden Brandon Alisio had a busy month, with patrols at Kaweah and Success lakes resulting in eight citations and one warning. Additionally, department Wildlife Biologist Evan King witnessed an individual poach a turkey out of season, with a rifle on public land.



Alisio responded and was able to intercept the suspect vehicle, resulting in multiple Fish and Game Code violations and two Health and Safety Code violations for possession of over five pounds of marijuana and concentrated cannabis.

Wildlife Officers Brandon Alisio, Stephanie McNulty, and Rich Watkins assisted the National Park Service with a marijuana eradication operation. Over 8,800 baby plants were eradicated.

Warden McNulty spent a great deal of time at Lake Success and along the Friant Canal and made numerous contacts and issuing 17 citations this month. McNulty completed a restricted species inspection for fallow deer and also assisted Warden Alisio in his investigation of a restricted species investigation for a subject who reportedly possessed a caiman.

Lt. Barnhart assisted various agencies with calls, including a fatal accident near Lemoore, an interrupted burglary at the Exeter Airport (Lt. Barnhart was third unit on scene and helped establish the perimeter), and the search for a missing at-risk adult.

Headquarters

WATERSHED ENFORCEMENT TEAM (WET)

WET Environmental Scientist (ES) staff conducted a post-remediation site visit March 11, 2016, on the Baran property in the Island Mountain region, east of Garberville. The landowner notified for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSA) on October 15, 2015, a little over 30 days after receiving a Notice of Violation (NOV) letter from the Department. The original inspection was conducted during the execution of a search warrant inspection on the property on June 24, 2015, in cooperation with Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. All the violations identified by the Department have been addressed and remediated. The consultant stated the remediation effort cost approximately \$100,000 to complete. Several before and after photos of violation site remediation are found below:



Several additional sediment discharge issues were identified in the field. Uncontrolled runoff from a cultivation site and cattle entering the property from a neighboring parcel are causing sediment discharge into tributaries to the Eel River. Additional remediation measures are necessary to mitigate these impacts. The cattle belong to nearby cattle rancher, who tells his neighbors that his cattle can go wherever they please based on yet to be determined deeded access. The consultant could not confirm nor deny if such a cattle easement exists.



Cultivation site erosion.



Cattle damaging newly constructed road crossing.

ES staff observed extensive pre-cultivation season activity on the way to the site. Soil is being hauled to sites throughout the Harris/Island Mountain area, and an excavator on a low boy was observed. One last observation worth note is the poor state of the Island Mountain Road. Road runoff is contributing sediment to streams, and most if not all culverts are undersized and in need of replacement.

CDFW WET and MET also served two search warrants and conducted inspections on grows in the Igo area of western Shasta County. Both sites were encroaching on waters that feed the Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek, critical habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon. One grow yielded 10,500 marijuana plants and two arrests for felony cultivation. Carbofuran was suspected at the grow and samples were collected. In the other grow, 615 marijuana plants were eradicated and there were five arrests for felony cultivation. Neither site had any significant stream alterations. Both appeared to have been irrigated by water supplied by water trucks which were suspected of illegally drafting from the Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek by a subject who is currently under investigation.

MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT TEAM (MET)

Throughout March, MET operators conducted scout, eradication, arrest, and reclamation and outreach missions in Shasta, Fresno, Stanislaus, Kern, Tulare, Monterey, Glenn and San Diego counties as well as conducting outreach presentations to conservation and regulatory groups in Santa Clara and Sacramento County this month.



Warden Chan coordinated a MET arrest, eradication, reclamation mission on private hunting club property in Laird Slough, Stanislaus County in the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge. This was a MET only operation incorporating K9 Phebe and an outdoor diversionary device (flash bang) formation and deployment

when clearing a large tent. Operation yielded the destruction of approx. 8000 two inch marijuana plants as well as the rectification and elimination of ground water contamination from multiple underground wells dug by the growers. The site was completely reclaimed before the team cleared the grow.



Warden Quintal assisted Santa Cruz County Code compliance with a site visit of a property that had been illegally growing marijuana two years prior. The property had changed hands and it is unknown whether the new owner will repeat the activities of the last owner. The site inspection revealed no new plants in the ground, and the mandated site restoration was still in effect.

MET Officers, Wardens Imbrie and Grove assisted The Fresno County Sheriff's Department with the service of two search warrants for illegal marijuana cultivation this month. Several thousand plants were eradicated and one arrest was made.

DELTA BAY ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PROJECT (DBEEP)

Warden Bolla began the month focusing on the Sacramento River and activity related to the take and use as bait of juvenile salmon. The river conditions were perfect for this type of unlawful activity for the first week of the month up until several storms drastically raised river levels. During that week, Bolla contacted several groups of anglers during the late night/early morning and several citations were issued for taking salmon out of salmon and using salmon as bait. One weekend night, Bolla doubled up with Warden Matthew Manes for a night patrol of the Sacramento River, north of Sacramento. At 0200 hours, the duo spotted a pickup truck parked along the river in a very remote location. Bolla and Manes spent approximately one hour sneaking up and observing two anglers fishing along the bank. While making observations, heavy rain began to fall, making conditions very slippery and cold. The officers sprang into action, announcing their presence and sliding down the bank to contact the anglers before any evidence could be tossed into the river. Due to their stealthy approach, Bolla and Manes were able to catch the two anglers with juvenile salmon on their fishing hooks and several more stored in water bottles, totaling over 20 salmon.

Warden Bolla took possession on his new K9 partner Luna. Bolla and K9 Luna focused on bonding and getting to know each other before the start of the K9 academy.

Warden Grinton worked with Warden Galli on an ongoing sturgeon investigation this past month. Warden Grinton downloaded and analyzed a cell phone that was seized during Warden Galli's search warrant. From the cell phone, Warden Grinton was able to discover multiple additional sturgeon violations and generate many additional reports for Warden Galli's case. Warden Galli continued to work on the investigation leading to five additional suspects being charged with violations of FGC 12012: Take/possess sturgeon for commercial purposes.

North Coast Enforcement District

Warden Powers investigated a commercial abalone poaching case that involves a suspect had previously arrested for commercial take of abalone. Powers along with DBEEP served a search warrant at the suspect's house. Evidence was found that linked the suspect to commercial take of abalone in Mendocino County as well as Sonoma County.

Wardens Little and Stephenson responded to a report of Clear Lake Hitch stranded in pastures and ditches as a result of recent flooding. They assisted ES with a fish rescue effort.

Warden Willson and K-9 Jasmine assisted the Bureau of Reclamation with a mussel vessel inspection. The houseboat was previously at Lake Mead and was going to be launched at Lake Berryessa.

Wardens Mead and Swaney cited two men for taking and high grading (31) Dungeness crab.

Warden Swaney attended court in Marin County for an individual cited at Lawson's Landing. The individual was found guilty and fined over \$3,000.

Warden Wolvek filed a complaint against a commercial fisherman selling fish in 2015 without a retailer's license. Wolvek investigated a significant streambed violation in Cloverdale.

Warden Glau and Lt. Ober, Department biologists, the UC Santa Cruz Puma Project and the USDA attended and presented at a mountain lion depredation meeting hosted at UC Davis Elkus Ranch by the San Mateo Agricultural Commission.

Warden O'Brien & Lt. Ober attended and answered questions at a coyote public safety meeting hosted by the city of San Francisco with presentations by the Presidio, San Francisco animal care and concerned citizens.

The **3220 squad** worked the commercial Dungeness crab opener and encountered an unusually high number of commercial fishermen taking crab without a commercial fishing license.

Warden Kozicki's criminal portion of an illegal grading and destruction of endangered species habitat concluded with both the State and Federal courts sentencing James Tong and Wildlife Management LLC to the terms of the plea agreement. The agreement included payment of \$1 million dollars, a conservation easement and endowment for 107 acres, four months home confinement, one year probation and 100 hours community service. The civil portion of this case is still ongoing.

Warden Rehse received a tip about a group of individuals taking large over limits of Dungeness crab using sport fishing licenses and selling their catch. After hundreds of hours of surveillance by SOU and fellow squad members these acts were confirmed. Rehse obtained and executed a search warrant for the property where the sales occurred with assistance from several squads. The suspect's vessel and several other items were seized in accordance with the warrant. Violations confirmed include, but are not limited to: felony conspiracy,

unlawful sales of sport caught fish, illegally selling fish for profit or personal gain, license violations, Dungeness crab vessel permit violations, unlawful possession, and over limit of Dungeness crab. The case will be filed in Alameda County.

Many members of the 3300 Squad attended both the Wildlife Forensics training in Napa and the Maritime Smuggling Indicators course conducted by HSI, USCG and US Border Patrol and hosted by Santa Cruz County SO. Both trainings were well received.

Warden Meyer stopped a vehicle that was suspected to be involved in maritime drug smuggling operations along the northern San Luis Obispo coast. Meyer conducted a search, and questioned the four occupants. He issued the driver a citation for driving without a license and possession of a small amount of marijuana in the vehicle. The information gathered was passed along to the Department of Homeland Security.

Lts. Schindler and Bailie, Wardens Schad and Glau and Captain Kelly assisted the USFWS, HSI and FBI with two search warrants in the San Jose area involving the unlawful commercialization and smuggling of elephant ivory, as well as other federal crimes.

Warden Schad investigated a large California mushroom growing company suspected of water pollution. He completed his investigation into a local golf course, where a subject previously convicted of illegal hunting was engaged in more illegal hunting activity. Charges of felony conspiracy to commit wildlife crimes have been filed with the District Attorney.

Warden Gil captured an injured Bald Eagle found at Fort Hunter Liggett. The Bald Eagle was in very poor condition. Gil turned the eagle over to a rehab center the next day, and then learned that the eagle he rescued was a 12 year old female. He also learned that the eagle was hatched at the San Francisco zoo and relocated to the Channel Islands.

Lt. Tognazzini attended a landowner meeting with Warden Gil about recently discovered evidence of marijuana grows starting on private property in southern Monterey County. The following day, Tognazzini hiked into the area and conducted an investigation locating about 1000 pounds of tarped and stockpiled fertilizer in an extremely remote location several miles from any public road. A detailed water system was also located with ponds dug and lined in a live oak woodland watershed. The water led to a large growing area with 2-3 inch recently planted marijuana plants. The property owner came in the following day and destroyed the existing grow with his bulldozer cutting paths through the brush.

Wildlife Officers Cisneros and Huntsman received good information on a suspected shark and ray poacher in the area. They received pictures of the poacher killing and cutting off shark and ray fins, while returning them back to the water in waste. The investigation is still on going.

Wildlife Officers Huntsman and Strauss investigated a case where a commercial fisherman failed to complete his logs. Huntsman will file a formal complaint on the 153lbs of Surf Perch found at the fisherman's residence.

Warden Hickey and K-9 Keara were called out to assist the San Luis Obispo SO with two subjects that had fled on foot during a narcotics operation. The team located and detained one suspect until deputies arrived.

Office of Spill Prevention & Response

Warden Michael Kirchner, as part of the OSPR Outreach program, taught a Hazmat First Responder Operations course to the wonderful volunteers and agency representatives of Alta.



Lt. Josh Nicholas responded to a vehicle accident that had occurred in a remote area of Placer County. The vehicle in question had left the roadway of Yankee Jims Road



and had come to rest into the high waters of Shirt Tail Creek that was located a few hundred feet below the roadway. The waters of the creek were running high and created dangerous conditions for the responding rescuers. It was determined that the driver of the vehicle did not survive the accident and was removed by the Placer Sheriff's Department Dive Team. Media interest into the event was high due to the nature of the accident and the victim that was involved.

Warden Ryan Hanson

responded to a spill of an overturned vehicle in Webber Creek, in the town of Rescue. The driver attempted to cross the flooded creek at night, in the middle of a rain storm. The driver had to be rescued by the swift water team, and then was arrested for DUI.



However as the flood waters lowered the vehicle was left in the stream channel. In addition, Warden Hanson

responded to a call for assistance from EDSO regarding water pollution. Hanson found assorted used automotive parts leaking fluids into a natural spring runoff that led to Hangtown Creek which flows through downtown Placerville. Hanson took soil and water samples and will pursue a formal complaint for petroleum and deleterious water pollution.

Warden John Amis responded to a situation where the high winds blew a tree down subsequently knocking a fuel storage tank down. This caused approximately 200 gal. of red dye diesel to be released. The product flowed over a paved driveway until it reached a lower spot in the dirt, adjacent to the driveway. Environmental Health had responded and Butte County HAZMAT was doing some clean up until other contactors arrived.



Wardens AJ Russo and Mitch Goode responded to a palm oil spill at the Port of Stockton. By the time Russo arrived on scene the palm oil had solidified and was easy to identify in the water.



Warden Mike Conely and Warden Newell, acting on an in progress tip in February 2014, were able to locate a suspect who shot a deer out of season/on private property. The officers located the suspect at his girlfriend's house in the process of butchering the deer. The suspect claimed to be exempt from State Laws based on his religion. He claimed the poached deer was to be used for an Apache religious ceremonial purpose. Warden Conely took the subject into custody and booked him into jail that night on numerous poaching violations. During the hearing the suspect alleged that Warden Conely was racist and used ethnic slurs during the investigation and arrest. The case was set for trial on several occasions. The suspect failed to appear each time. The case was set for trial again on March 8th. The suspect failed to appear again. The judge finally issued a \$60,000 bench warrant.

Warden Jacob Juarez, with assistance from **Warden Matthew Plaza**, acted as the State On-Scene Coordinator for the remediation of an old concrete oil vault located on the beach in Cannery Row, Monterey.



Later in the month Warden Juarez along with wildlife e officers Jones and Sommer patrolled the Pajaro River for polluters and unlawful hunting and fishing activity. The group encountered a suspect who had recently been released from jail and decided to camp along the river. The subject cut down several trees on the river bank to make an unlawful encampment and shelter. He was in possession of a freshly killed jackrabbit and sling shot, in addition to \$5500 worth of stolen electrical equipment. Last, but definitely not least, the subject was in possession of methamphetamine, a glass pipe, and a large chunk of cocaine base (over 1 pound). The officers booked the suspect into Santa Cruz County Jail.



Warden Paul Zurawski resonded to the 'Istra Ace' incident. The 'Istra' leaked bunker fuel into the port of LA from her starboard bunkering station. A formal complaint is being compiled and will be submitted to the Los Angeles City Prosecutor when completed.

Northern District

Wildlife Officers Pinnow, Castillo, and Chase responded to a mutual aid call from Cal Fire concerning medical aid assistance on a remote area of the Klamath River. The officers responded with a Department skiff in order to assist with the extraction of a fall victim. When the officers arrived a Coast Guard helicopter also arrived and extricated the victim.

Warden Renner and Warden Chase performed a fish business inspection on a local restaurant and found the owners to be in possession of undocumented fish on the premises. A formal complaint is pending against the owner.

Warden Mengel worked marine angling around Humboldt Bay, Trinidad Bay and Eel River areas. He teamed up with the Hydesville Community Church and taught the third of three traditional hunter education classes. He also patrolled inland Trinity and Humboldt counties for turkey hunters.

Warden Wells met with members of the Humboldt-Del Norte Cattlemen's Association and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office regarding the cattlemen's concerns over loose dogs in rural areas of the county. The cattlemen report that loose dogs, likely used to guard marijuana farms in the area, are attacking their livestock and also wildlife. Wells followed up on a report of a streambed alteration violation in the Ruth area that turned out to be unfounded. Wells provided some training on fish and wildlife laws and enforcement for local state and national park rangers.

Warden Embry conducted a streambed alteration inspection in Garberville where a landowner graded several areas near an Eel River tributary for the benefit of a marijuana garden. Warden Embry also followed up on a commercial fishing case and issued several citations in the illegal river encampments in Garberville and Redway.



Warden Diehl and Lt. Harrison both took advantage of the hot striped bass bite on the Feather River, each citing individuals for exceeding their daily bag limits and for taking undersized fish.

While on boat patrol of the Feather River in Sutter County less than a mile below the Highway 99 Bridge, **Warden McVay and Lt. Harrison** witnessed a lone Sea Lion cruising the river.

Considering its distance from the ocean, the wayward mammal drew much attention from other boaters and shore fishermen.



Warden Pirtle spent a significant amount of time working a 1602 violation associated with a marijuana grow in Yuba County. A suspect from Fresno bought a piece of property in Yuba County and destroyed a creek so he could draft water and grow marijuana on the property. Warden Pirtle met with ES Amy Kennedy and Yuba County SO on site to start the case which will be forwarded to the circuit prosecutors for prosecution for 1602, 5652, and 5650 in relation to the cultivation of marijuana.



Warden Pirtle ended the month searching for a group of wild turkey hunters that decided to open the season a day early by shooting a regal gobbler from the driver's side window with a 12 gauge, within 80 yards of a residence. After four days of searching Warden Pirtle received an anonymous tip clarifying the circumstances of the pre-Easter gobbler shoot. Warden Pirtle spanned three counties conducting interviews on three subjects who admitted to shooting the gobbler from the window of the vehicle and tossing the poor bird in the dumpster at the local pizza restaurant in the wee hours of the morning as the word around town was the local wildlife officer was hot on their trail and looking for the long beard that met his early demise. This case netted nine charges for the trio that preferred a white Ford F-150 for a turkey blind that ranged from hunting during closed season, take game from vehicle, unlawful take and possession, aiding in commission of misdemeanor, destruction of evidence, and shooting too close to a dwelling.

Warden Brennan wrapped up yet another taxidermy investigation, which led to a complex deer poaching case involving two large bucks. Brennan was able to piece the case together using electronic date stamped media, showing the deer were taken and possessed unlawfully. When he concluded the investigation, the charges filed included: failure to countersign deer tag, take deer without a deer tag, possession of game unlawfully taken, false information on document, possession of game mammal during closed season and possession of a nongame bird.

Warden Hernandez received a favorable disposition in Plumas County. During the previous deer season, Hernandez made a case against a subject for poaching a town buck deer behind the Chevron gas station in Quincy. The subject trespassed, then took the whole, un-gutted deer to a location on forest service property a considerable distance away where he gutted it, and falsified his deer tag. The suspect paid a \$1,070 fine, lost his compound bow, and received probation terms of three years no hunting or accompanying hunters in field.



Warden Karnow was the keynote speaker at the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release yearly event held at the Methodist Church in Grass Valley. With the increase in complaints of persons feeding deer illegally, Karnow in response worked a pro-active project educating farm stores, hardware stores and the public concerning the laws about illegally feeding deer. Karnow made inspections on properties illegally feeding deer and warned two residents (very elderly) for illegally feeding deer. Most feed stores were found to sell food products specifically for feeding deer; he provided each store with a stack of CDFW Keep me Wild pamphlets which outline the law and reasons for not feeding deer.

Karnow spent significant amount of time on streambed alteration investigations, including meeting with the CDAA Prosecutor, defendant and his attorney on scene to inspect damage by the defendant on a secluded ranch and teamed up with CDFW Biologist Bob Hosea on two 1602 violations on Wolf Creek; working on two Notice of Violation (NOV) documents for the neighboring properties.

Karnow assisted Idaho Game and Fish Wardens coordinating with the BLM lead person in Nevada on the wild horse program for their warden association to acquire horses for patrol. Idaho Wardens are taking a field trip to the Nevada prison to inspect inmate-trained horses.

Warden E. Manes spent quite a bit of time working on Streambed Alteration and pollution cases. Namely, conducting site visits with other agencies, assisting PCSO with a search warrant where FGC environmental crimes were present, coordinating with our department's Environmental Staff, and putting together lengthy case reports. Manes and **Warden Bearry** also conducted an undercover skiff patrol on Folsom Lake, and observed several fishermen catching black bass. Officers Manes, Bearry, **Rose, Kraft** and **Lt. Lawson** set up a turkey decoy on private property in Lincoln. Traffic was good and a few people slowed to look at the decoy, but no violations were observed.



Lieutenant LaFave assisted **Warden Moskat** with two probation searches in Sacramento County. The subjects committed numerous deer hunting violations in El Dorado County, for which they were on three years searchable probation; no fresh violations were found. Lt. LaFave worked a FERC patrol with **Warden Brennan** in Butte County. The two conducted some follow up on a large pollution case Warden Brennan had put together, involving a mineral mine dumping fine sand and sediment in a stream that flows into Lake Oroville. The extensive damage runs the full length of the creek, below the mine, all the way to the Lake Oroville. Numerous samples were collected and submitted for additional testing. Lt. LaFave attended a meeting at the El Dorado Sheriff's Department to discuss angler access laws and trespass issues along streams and rivers. The El Dorado Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the El Dorado Fish and Game Commission were in attendance. Lt. LaFave presented information on navigable waters, the definition of "high water mark", and various case laws that support each.

Warden Moskat assisted **Warden Elliott** on an ongoing deer poaching investigation in Alpine County. Moskat acquired a trail camera and helped deploy the camera in a problem area. Moskat located an advertisement on Craigslist that offered private access to a ranch in Amador County. The advertisement asked for \$250 for a one day turkey hunt. Moskat contacted the seller and determined it was not a guided hunt but could possibly be an illegal hunting club. Moskat forwarded the info to the district officer, **Warden Miller**.

Moskat spent several patrols on foot checking likely turkey poaching areas. He checked an area that was baited last season but did not locate any bait this year. Moskat gave testimony related to a Salmon poaching case at Carol Miller Justice Center in Sacramento

County. Moskat had issued a citation to an individual who was unlawfully fishing at night in a salmon spawning channel along the American River, Nimbus Basin. The subject was also using unlawful snagging gear. The subject was found guilty and fined \$1,000 for the two violations.

Moskat took a report of a doe shot in Grizzly Flat. Moskat responded to the call and located a doe that had been shot. The caller had managed to take a photograph of the suspect's vehicle, including a license plate. Moskat worked surveillance in the area until early the next morning but the shooter never showed up to claim the deer. Moskat performed a necropsy on the doe and discovered it had been shot with a firearm and that the doe had been pregnant. Moskat used several programs to research the vehicle's registered owner and discovered the shooter was most likely the middle-aged son of the elderly registered owner, who lived out of town. Moskat discovered the likely suspect had a long criminal history including felony weapons charges, drug arrests, and poaching arrests. The suspect was also a 290 sex registrant. Moskat contacted a detective in the county where the suspect lived. The suspect was eventually arrested for three unrelated violations. The poaching investigation is still underway and Moskat is confident he found the shooter.

Warden Stevenson provided an update on one of the felons who fled from Stevenson in January of this year along Hwy 50 east of Kyburz. The driver plead no contest to section 29800(A)(1) PC- Felon in possession of firearm. Count 2 was dismissed in the interest of justice. Counts 3,5,6,7 were dismissed with a Harvey Waiver. The defendant was sentenced to one year and four months in state prison and fined less than \$1,000. The other two defendants are still in the court system.