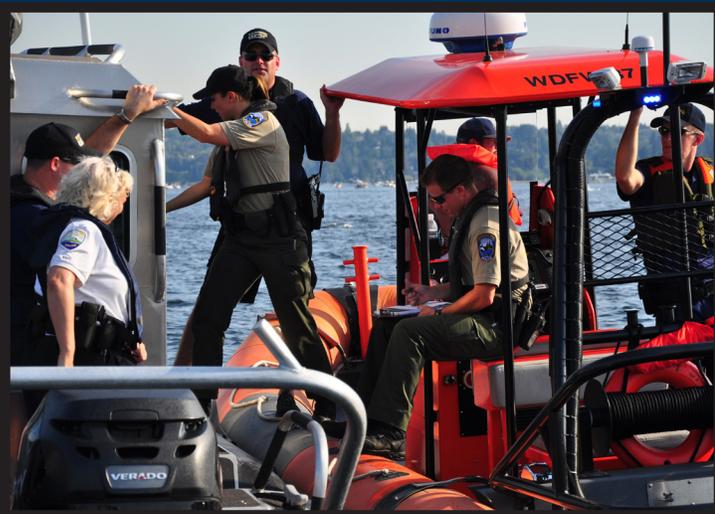


WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Summer 2009 Newsletter



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Policing the outdoors since 1887



FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF



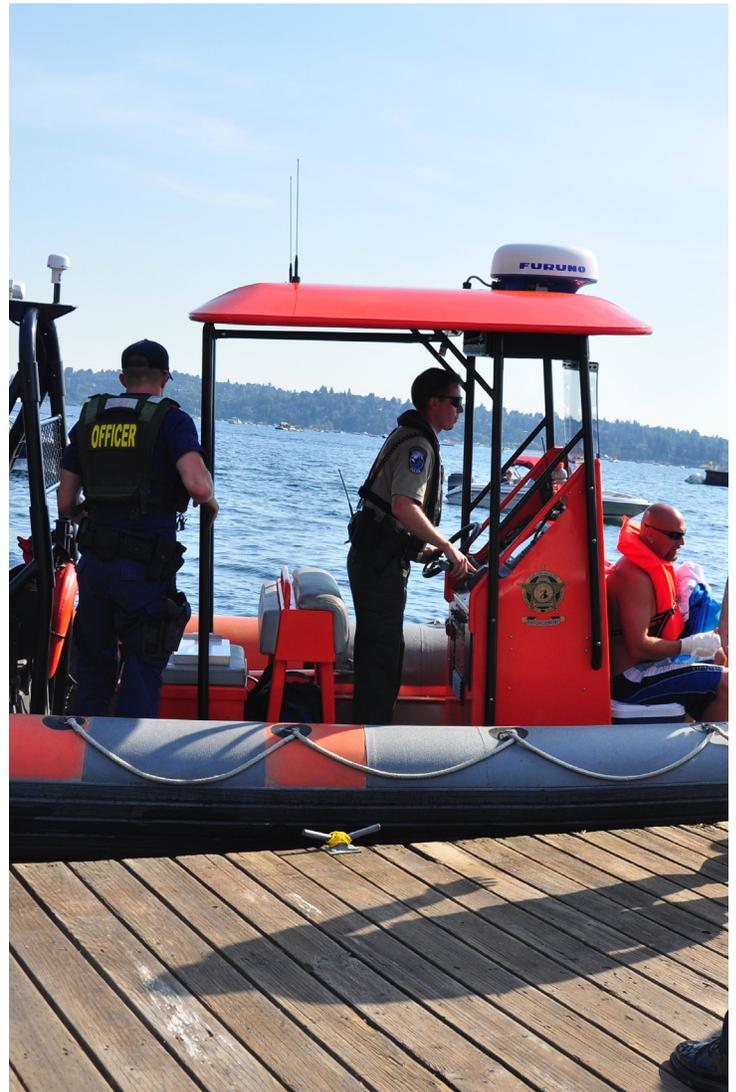
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Officers provide a wide variety of diverse public services.

The following real-life events are meant to provide a snapshot of enforcement activity for the Summer Quarter. Rather than attempt to list all of the Program’s accomplishments, examples were selected to show the diversity of issues our Officers encounter while protecting your natural resources. The WDFW Enforcement Program is made up of a number of

specialized work units: Land-based Enforcement, Statewide Marine Patrol, Special Investigative, Hunter Education, and Aquatic Invasive Species. Patrol and outreach responsibilities often overlap and the different units commonly assist each other. All violations are considered “alleged” unless a conviction has been secured.

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Fish and Wildlife Officers preparing to go out on a Seafair emphasis patrol.

You're in bed and the phone rings at 2 am. You know it's never good news at that hour, and one look at the caller ID confirms it. The police dispatcher is asked to "hold on one minute" while you try to clear the cobwebs and find a pen and paper in the dark. An elk was just poached in a remote area with the aid of artificial light – an illegal activity known to Game Wardens as "spotlighting." Now armed with a vehicle description and a phone number for the witness, you pull on your uniform and gunbelt. Your boots go on without lacing them all the way to the top, and you rush out the door, hoping you didn't just wake up the whole family. You have to hurry because you know that the poachers won't stay put long, and there are many logging roads that lead out of the area. As usual, you're going it alone, because staffing is thin and the distances between you and another Fish and Wildlife Officer eliminate any hope of immediate help.

Tracking Device Aids Officers in Serial Poaching Investigation

Officers James and Alexander and Sergeant Nixon attended a two day Superior Court trial in Grays Harbor County where a serial poacher was held accountable for his killing spree. The subject was found guilty of hunting while his privileges were revoked, use of artificial light to poach big-game, hunting without licenses or tags, and unlawful possession of a firearm as a convicted felon.

The subject's attorney fought the charges hard on various technicalities, but could not overcome the strength of the case. The guilty verdict, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. Officer James, in another investigation of the same person, obtained a tracking warrant for his vehicle. This allowed for the placement of an electronic device on the vehicle, which recorded his movements and ultimately led to the discovery of additional wildlife crimes and a new set of charges. In yet a third investigation, Officers James and Alexander have been able to link the subject to approximately twenty big game animals he has poached over the past year.

While he received a year in jail for the initial charges, investigation #2 and #3 will hopefully result in additional appropriate penalties for what we classify as habitual poaching.

While the act of violating natural resource laws while armed with a gun is enough to make many law officers give pause, our officers routinely wade into these situations. And often, the act is not the only problem, as many violators are either intoxicated or have used drugs, have warrants for their arrest, or are convicted felons that possess firearms illegally.

Officers are engaged in wildlife protection on a year-round basis. From endangered species to animals typically hunted, regulations are in place to ensure natural resource sustainability for all to enjoy, and a fair playing field for sportsmen and women.

It is important to understand that law-abiding citizens who enjoy wildlife through hunting, fishing or by just observing them, are crucial to our protection efforts and successes. Officers rely on tips and help from the public to solve many abuses.

Nineteen Pelicans Found Dead: Investigation Underway

Sergeant Grant spent two days assisting the Yakama Nation with an investigation. Twenty pelicans were shot, leaving 19 dead and one wounded. The violation occurred on Tribal lands and appeared to involve violators that have no affiliation with the Tribe. Sergeant Grant and USFWS Special Agent Roberts accessed the property where the violation occurred and swept the area for possible evidence. This case remains unresolved and the Enforcement Program welcomes any information leading to identification of the suspects.

Protected Wildlife Case Solved

Officer Erickson and Officer Anderson responded to the report of a dead common loon at Yokum Lake in Pend Oreille County. A male loon carcass was discovered by the Loon Lake Loon Association and USFS volunteers. A reward notice was placed in the Spokane and Newport newspapers soliciting tips. Officer Erickson received an anonymous call leading Erickson to believe that one of two local suspects could have killed the loon using a high-powered rifle. Officers Erickson and Anderson located the suspects and gained a written confession. They were cited.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

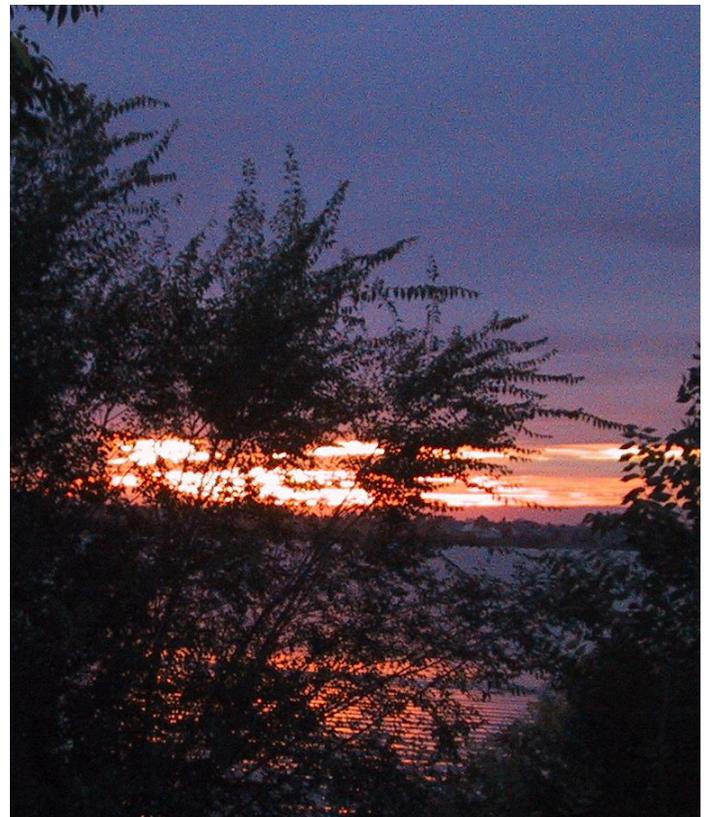
Officers Provide Assistance in Wolf Monitoring Project

Officers assisted with the monitoring and subsequent capture and collaring of two wolf pups, along with the alpha male of the “Diamond Pack” in North Pend Oreille County. Officers were on stand-by at a field location over the course of four days waiting for confirmation of a capture from the trapper. On the fifth day, The trapper and WDFW biologist Anthony Novack went to check the traps while a volunteer, Officer Taylor and District Wildlife Biologist Dana Base waited for word. The trapper radioed that they could proceed on up the road. That only meant one thing...there was a capture, as previously no one was allowed through the gated area in order to minimize disturbance and human scent. Novack was holding a wolf pup. According to Officer Pam Taylor, this was “way cool.” The pup was processed for DNA and ear tags were attached, and then the pup was released. While they had their hands full with the first pup, they could hear yelping, which probably meant there was another wolf in a live trap. Carter (the trapper) and Novack went to check, and again they heard promise on the radio..... “come on up.” As they approached, Carter pointed into the woods to where a large Wolf was sitting very still, obviously in a Trap. This would turn out to be the adult alpha male. The wolf was tranquilized and processed for DNA and ear tags and a radio collar were attached. As they waited with the wolf for it to recover from the sedation, Carter and Novack went on to check the rest of their

trap line. A few minutes later they returned with a second pup. One half of the pack was trapped in one night. This pup was also processed and ear tagged and then released. Biologists and Officers waited for about an hour for the alpha male to regain his composure and watched as he slowly headed for the safety of the forest.



Fish and Wildlife Officer Taylor with captured wolf.



Sunset at Moses Lake, Washington

Poachers of Grizzly Bear Finally Charged

In October 2007, three individuals from the Moses Lake area went to North Pend Oreille County to scout for moose, as one or more had a valid moose tag. While scouting, they observed a bear and shot it. When they went back to the hotel, someone saw the bear, determined that it was a Grizzly, and called in the information to dispatch, including the license plate of the vehicle the men were driving.

Officer Weatherman and Sergeant Jewel collaborated with a USFWS Agent, identifying the suspects and where they lived. Our officers and USFWS Agents went to the suspects' home and ultimately recovered the skinned out carcass and head/hide buried in a remote area on the family farm.

This bear was originally from the state of Idaho and was ear tagged. So, Idaho had 14 years of history on this animal, which was a productive female that contributed cubs year after year.

Even with experienced hunters, it is much more common to mis-identify a black bear as being a Grizzly bear than a Grizzly bear as being a black bear. Young black bears have classic grizzly coloration characteristics.

Our department has gone to great lengths to provide outreach materials on Grizzly ID. This is done through bear ID postings in our hunting pamphlet. Biologists, concerned groups, and state officers visit hunting camps, issue fliers and post signs.

Between the Selkirk Mountains and the North Cascades about two dozen grizzly bears exist in Washington. The Legislature has mandated by statute that our department protect grizzly bears and develop management programs on public land that has suitable habitat. Our officers are highly engaged in endangered and threatened species protection and support biologists' efforts to recover them. Unfortunately, we investigate a fair number of incidents every year where protected species have been taken illegally, either intentionally, or unintentionally. Either way – when our biologists are faced with saving fish and wildlife in trouble, and

the numbers are in the low digits, any illegal take is a major setback to their recovery efforts.



Sergeant Jewel with the remains of the poached grizzly bear.



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

As humans continue to encroach on wildlife habitat, conflicts rise. Sometimes those conflicts are nothing more than a nuisance animal raiding the garbage can and leaving you with a surprise to clean up when you go out to fetch the morning paper. Some encounters, however, pose some risk to the safety of the public.

Unfortunately, many of these situations are the result of people intentionally or unintentionally attracting the wildlife with a food source. Our officers respond quickly when public safety is at risk, and work hard to provide long-term resolutions.

House Cat Alarms Homeowner

Officer Zuchlewski received a call regarding a cougar sleeping on the back patio at a residence in George, WA. Officer Grant, Sergeant Ward, along with Bear and Cougar specialist Beausoleil, responded to the area. Officer Zuchlewski arrived first, and observed the cat sound asleep on the patio behind a bench swing. Biologist Beausoleil was able to get close enough to dart the cat with a tranquilizer dart. The animal was covered with porcupine quills in its face and front paws. The quills were removed, and the cat collared and ear tagged. After obtaining a blood sample for DNA, the cat was later released in another area.

have been shot with buckshot. He fired several more rounds and the bear ran away through the woods. Officer Cook and two deputies tracked the bear for a short time before losing the trail. A hounds-man was called in to track the apparently wounded animal. While the dogs ran a bear and treed it for a short time, the animal escaped capture. The man said in retrospect that he believed the bear was not actually on the attack, but rather was running scared and he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Bridgeport Cougar Removed

Officer Scherzinger responded to a call of a cougar near a residence on the Bridgeport Bar, sitting up in a poplar tree in a backyard. Sergeant Brown arrived, and used hazing techniques to remove the cougar from the area, as capture did not seem feasible under the circumstances. The officers attempted to haze the cat from the area using cracker shells, but were unsuccessful. The officers then peppered the cat with birdshot in an effort to haze it from the tree. At this point the cougar jumped from the tree, and immediately went into an attack posture at the base of the tree. At this point, concerned with the safety of approximately 20 bystanders and neighbors, the officers were forced to dispatch the animal.

Circus Bear

Sergeant Chandler and several members of his detachment dealt with a wayward bear struggling with community acceptance. The young bear moved from the Ballard neighborhood, north, to Shoreline with every available media source attempting to be first to report his ever-changing whereabouts. At one point, King County Guardian One helicopter was called in to use its FLIR technology to search for the bear in a Shoreline park. Sergeant Chandler answered over 50 calls from the media, law enforcement dispatch, and concerned citizens.

Bear Attack?... Maybe not

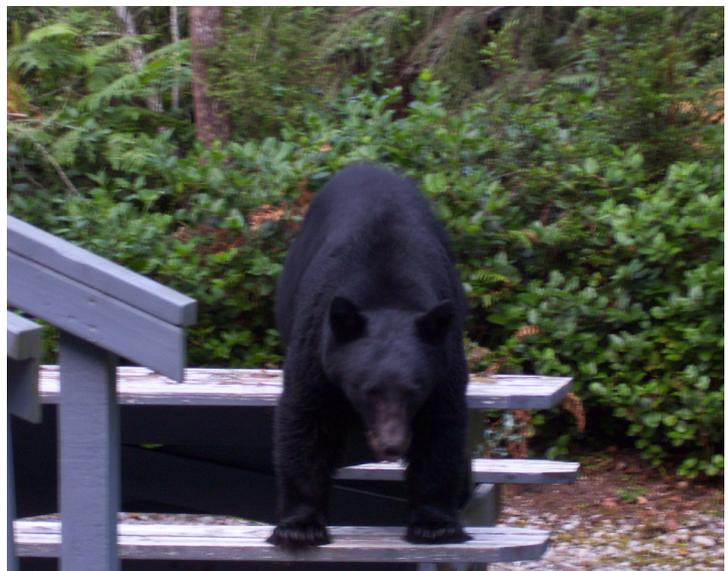
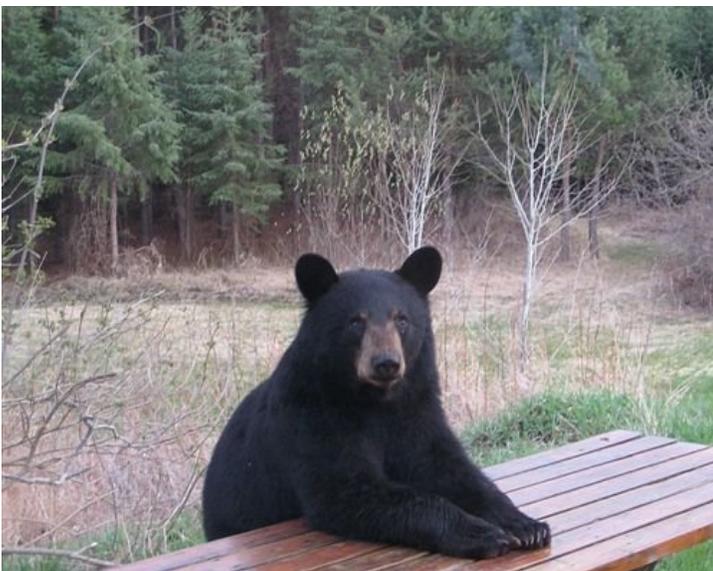
Officer Cook responded to a reported bear attack in Sultan, Washington. A man was walking from his shop to his rural home through his yard when he heard a noise, turned around, and saw a bear “charging” him. He happened to be armed with a .40 handgun and fired a shot in the air. The bear stopped, reared up on its hind legs and advanced towards him. At that time he saw that the bear appeared to

Under siege, the sergeant handled numerous television and radio interviews and was featured on the front page of the *Seattle Times* where he gave the quote of the year by saying “You have more chance of getting run over by the *KIRO News* van than being eaten by a bear.” The last sighting of the bear was in Edmonds where it appears he started from. At no time did the bear ever display any signs of aggressive behavior and seemed to be doing fine on his own wandering around through alleys and greenbelts.



Problem Bears Continue

Officer Hopkins handled four separate bear complaints. The most troubling one is as a result of an Ilwaco woman who is a habitual “feeder”. Her neighbors see her unload four 50-pound bags of dog food out her car every week so she can feed the bears and raccoons. The neighbors are getting very concerned. This is an ongoing problem; Officer Hopkins dealt with her last year as well and trapped two bears out of the area. She adamantly states that the animals are her “happiness.” She knows there is not a law against feeding wildlife, but given the law of nature, failing to trade in happiness for public safety, including her own, could result in tragedy.



RECREATIONAL FISHING

Fishing is a great Northwest pastime enjoyed by thousands of enthusiasts each year in this great state of ours. Unfortunately, many of our stocks are in trouble because of habitat loss, poor water conditions, and over-harvest. To add to that, some long-lived species are slow to grow and reproduce. Balancing resource sharing among the Treaty Indian Tribes, recreational users, and commercial interests

with managing for sustainability has resulted in a very complex set of regulations. Regardless, fishing opportunities are abundant, resulting in some national and world-class adventures. Our officers are highly engaged in protection efforts, to ensure a fair playing field for legal anglers and harvesters and educating the public.

Vancouver Hatchery Vandalism

Officer Hart investigated the vandalism of a holding pond at the Vancouver Hatchery. A display pond with 50 ten-pound trout had the intake water source intentionally turned off resulting in the death of all 50 fish.

Halibut Opener Patrol Emphasis

The ever popular coastal halibut fishery received a focused patrol effort this year. One area of concern is the impact of halibut fishing on overfished Yellow-eye Rockfish. Yellow-eye rockfish live at great depths and do not lend themselves to survivability when released. Because of this, and the fact that they are often associated with halibut, some areas have been closed to halibut fishing in an effort to minimize impacts to this rockfish. Officer Klump, Officer James, and Officer Pat Anderson patrolled three days by boat, out of Neah Bay. Over that time, officers logged in 33 boat hours, covered 270 nautical miles, boarded 125 vessels, contacted 379 fishermen, issued 20 citations, and 49 verbal warnings.

Clam Scam: Almost 8,000 clams taken illegally

Officer Brightbill arrested four subjects with 7,852 clams on Columbia River, taken when the season was closed. The suspects had been digging for two hours and intended to dig for another three hours before returning to Tacoma. Officer Brightbill will coordinate with the Department of Health regarding potential charging under Sanitary Shellfish statutes. DFW Officers commonly enforce sanitary shellfish laws, regulated by the Department of Health. Many shellfish harvest areas are polluted and eating those clams can cause grave consequences to human health and safety.

Clam Gluttony

Officer Valentine was not buying ignorance of the rules on this particular contact when the violators stuck to chapter one of their excuse manuals, emphatically stating that it was their “first time” digging clams. Amongst six diggers on Semiahmoo Spit, Officer Valentine found a group with over 1,200 hard shell clams (the limit is 40 each), 72 horse clams (the limit is 7 each), and 53 unshucked oysters (the limit is 18, and all must be shucked on the beach). Officer Valentine issued approximately \$2500 in fines, which was still very accommodating as fines could have been easily twice that. Including this group, Officer Valentine wrote a total of 18 citations this week; all clam related.



“I can’t believe I got caught”

Rockfish Limits Ignored

Sergeant Chadwick and Officer McLerran received a report of people taking overlimits of rockfish in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The officers found the

suspects with one pass of a spotting scope, though they did not know it at the time. All they saw was a 12 foot boat with two men and one of them catching fish non-stop. When the two men stopped fishing, officers approached the duo. The men claimed that a woman had also been out fishing with them, thus accounting for all the extra fish. With a raised eye brow from Sergeant Chadwick, they quickly decided she was not with them after all. Officers found 12 fish over the daily limit on the boat. But that's not all. Back at camp, another 32 rockfish over limit were discovered. These violators packed up and left after receiving their citations. Coincidentally, two more camps packed up at the same time, perhaps due to a guilty conscience. The park proprietor expressed concern that WDFW was chasing his customers away. Hopefully his business was not relying on poaching opportunity for highly regulated rockfish.

Floundering With Understanding Limits

Officers Olson and Rosenberger were on boat patrol in Marine Area 10 when they contacted three subjects in a vessel south of Alki Point. The three mentioned that they were done fishing for the day, and after checking the contents of the boat, the officers had to agree. When asked if they had been keeping track of the number of fish caught, they stated that they had not. An inspection of the tub yielded 77 flounder, which is 57 flounder over the daily limit. The three were cited for unlawful fishing first degree.

Two-poler goes for broke

While checking local fishing spots, Officer Hughes contacted a subject who knows the two-poling rule all too well (you may only fish with one pole – or one line at a time). I guess he decided to make the citation worth his money this time, so he had out three fishing poles on this occasion.

This is this subject's fifth citation for fishing with more than one rod.

Officer Hughes cited him for the violation and seized his fishing gear for forfeiture. Later in the week, Officer Hughes was working with Officer Orr when they got a complaint from the Yakama tribe of a

non-tribal member keeping two salmon at Bonneville Dam during the closed season. Officers Hughes and Orr responded to Hamilton Island to find "Mr. Two-Poler" walking out with two salmon. When he saw the officers he quickly set the salmon down next to a tribal member's truck and tried to tell the officers that the salmon were not his, and that the salmon were given to him for free. The adult and jack salmon were seized, he was cited and once again his fishing gear was seized for forfeiture for the second time in one week. To his credit, he only used one fishing pole this time.

Tribal Contact

Officer Meyers walked into Shippard Falls to see a group of four tribal members fishing below the falls. Three of the subjects were using rather large treble hooks with an equally large weight used to illegally snag salmon. After they spotted Officer Orr some time later, they cut their gear. It turns out two were Warm Springs Tribal members with no fishing rights on the Wind River. The other was a Yakama who could fish there legally, but was using an illegal method. Enforcement action was taken.

Recreational Sturgeon Emphasis

Officers conducted several night boat patrols on the Snake River to detect and apprehend illegal sturgeon fishers, which has been a continuing problem. These patrols resulted in 14 arrests.



Sergeant Chadwick with a Sturgeon

Skokomish River Emphasis

Officers Haw and Zimmerman observed suspicious activity on the Lower Skokomish River. A car was parked on the fog line with its emergency flashers activated. A bed sheet was spread out inside the open trunk as if something smelly was about to be loaded into it. Scanning the scene the Officers observed two persons picking salmon from a gill net. Combining 60 years of Game Warden experience they instantly came up with a plan, which consisted of “Lets go check this out.” One of the suspects was observed making a cell phone call and stated that the “Game Wardens” were seen just up river. From a distance of about ten feet and in plain view the Officers just watched the perpetrators remove 20 King Salmon from the net. It was at this point that Officer Haw decided to advise both felony poachers that, “No, the Game Wardens are right here!” One suspect ran away leaving behind his Washington I.D. Card.

NOTE: Both Officers Haw and Zimmerman were counseled by Sergeant Makoviney on cuffing bad guys and gals more readily in the future, which prevents and/or makes running away more difficult for the bad guys. When the remaining female was asked, “Was that your boyfriend?” She answered, “Not anymore!” A car (belonging to the female), boat and gill net were seized for forfeiture proceedings.

Closed Area Commercial Salmon

Officers Wickersham and Hopkins, along with a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) boarding team, contacted a Makah Tribal salmon troll vessel 20-plus miles offshore. The vessel had been spotted earlier in the day by USCG aircraft, fishing outside Makah Usual and Accustomed fishing area (U&A). Officer Hopkins inspected the hooks being trolled and all were barbed. It is illegal for tribal fishers to fish outside of their U&A and, in this case, the activity affects another competing tribe. The fish were seized by state officers. Officer Hopkins boarded another tribal troll fisher the following day and hooks were barbed. The use of barbed hooks is illegal in this fishery as barbless hooks are meant to facilitate the live release of salmon species that cannot be possessed.

Columbia River Gillnet Fishery

Sergeant Chadwick and Officer Anderson patrolled the commercial gill-net opening on the Columbia River. While contacting a gillnetter with an oversized sturgeon onboard, they noticed that a nearby vessel was anxious about leaving the area. Sergeant Chadwick’s suspicion that the hasty departure indicated a desire to avoid law enforcement turned out to be spot-on. Sergeant Chadwick gave up on the “fail to immediately release” an oversized sturgeon violation and chased the boat down. The skipper claimed that he had mechanical problems, which turned out to be untrue. He possessed 22 Sockeye onboard, inconsistent with the 8” mesh restriction. After peeling the lawful sized net from the drum, the officers observed a net with 4.5” mesh underneath. Other fishers participating in the fishery had one, or no Sockeye. The netter did not admit to using the illegal net and no doubt will take his chances in court. Officers seized the fish and net.

Commercial Crabber in Closed Area

Officer Klump received information that non-tribal commercial crab gear had been spotted in the northern portion of the Quinault Special Management Area (SMA) which was set to open the next day at 8 a.m. Officer Klump spent much of the afternoon sorting out details and confirming regulations. The next morning, the coastal marine detachment got underway at 5 a.m. on the Corliss from Westport to head to the SMA location 2 hours north. As the CORLISS approached the area, the suspect vessel was sighted in the closure and it made a drastic course change from a north/south direction to due west. A very odd course change, but one that the CORLISS crew is used to seeing when suspects try to divert officers attention from the true activity they were engaged in. The CORLISS was able to catch up with the vessel just as it exited the closure. The CORLISS crew then diverted back into the SMA and quickly identified 136 commercial crab pots actively fishing there. The limit of crab pots once the SMA opened is 100 crab pots per vessel. The suspect vessel came back into the area just after 8 a.m. and Officer Klump and Officer Anderson boarded the suspect vessel off the CORLISS in rolling seas. The skipper and crew were interviewed and were directed

to empty the crab out of 50 of their pots while other officers seized the remaining 86 crab and 100 pound crab pots for forfeiture proceedings.



Illegal Netter Caught Again

Officer Vance contacted a Yakama Tribal member who had set gillnets during the closed season in the exact same spot he was caught fishing a closed season gillnet last July. The subject, who is known to swim his net out into the water, pled guilty to last year's charge of Unlawful Use of a Net 2nd degree. So, this time, he was booked into jail for Unlawful Use of a Net 1st degree, a class C Felony. He was also booked on an unrelated misdemeanor arrest warrant. Officer Vance received notice recently that the suspect pled guilty to the felony offense. Daniel Kuneki received 30 days in jail and a \$1495 fine.

Craigslist - Fish for Sale

Sergeant Webb had been watching Craigslist due to recent advertisements for selling crappie alive for sturgeon bait. He responded to the ads in an attempt to make a purchase. Upon checking, there was a new advertisement for crappie, which were dressed and frozen. These had been caught at Brownlee Reservoir/Powder River in Oregon and were now advertised for sale in Vancouver. Sergeant Webb called and set up a quick buy and asked Officer Moats to show up after the exchange. Two subjects were cited as they had 400 fish for sale. Obviously "dummies" but they soon learned a quick lesson and they were willing to print a nice apology on the

listing to attempt to educate future buyers and sellers against selling game fish.

Don't Eat These

Clams may not be offered for sale unless they are certified as being harvested from a sanitary beach by State Dept. of Health. Our officers routinely patrol polluted beaches and the market place in an effort to keep illegal sales from happening. Recently, Officer Willette drove past a sign for a local farmers' market in Maple Valley that advertised fresh clams and oysters for sale. She contacted the seller and began inspecting the product for certification tags. The oysters were certified, but none of the 24 bags of manila clams had tags. The company has been cited before for this same violation, in Carnation, a few years ago. All the clams were seized and destroyed and the company will be cited again. An angry customer, who observed the seizure, demanded her money back and thanked Officer Willette for looking out for her and the other customers.



Bell Buoy Crab Co. Investigation into the Fraudulent Concealment of Black Cod

On May 6, 2009, the owner of the Bell Buoy Crab Company entered into a Civil Settlement Agreement with the United States Department of Justice, through National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), where the company agreed to pay a \$63,152 penalty to NMFS and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The owner of the company agreed to pay the penalty after an investigation conducted by NMFS and WDFW revealed that the company was

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

hiding overages of black cod by falsifying fish tickets and selling the illegal product in interstate and foreign commerce. Three employees of Bell Buoy, who were responsible for facilitating the illegal purchase, have pleaded guilty to criminal misdemeanor Lacey Act charges. The three defendants are scheduled to be sentenced this coming September.



Not a Shrimpy Investigation

Officer Beauchene contacted a commercial shrimp fisherman as he was landing his spot shrimp harvest at Squaticum Harbor. She found that he had exceeded the 600 lb./week harvest limit by over 173 lbs. She seized the shrimp harvest and cited the fishermen for the overage. Sergeants Krenz, Mullins and Officer Beauchene seized the vessel for forfeiture and, the following day, Officers Rosenberger, Downes, Brazier and Kim seized 60 of the suspect's shrimp pots. Officer Beauchene contacted officers in Canada and Oregon in attempts to track down invoices for product that the fisherman had sold to different buyers. Search warrants were served enabling the investigators to better determine additional markets and the full extent of any overharvest.

COLUMBIA RIVER PATROLS

Illegal Fish Trafficking

Officer Bolton met with the Skamania County prosecutor and briefed him on a case where a tribal member sold three subsistence-only sturgeon to

undercover officers. While sturgeon caught during a tribal subsistence fishery cannot be sold, the real issue was the size of the fish. While cut up in large chunks, the Ashland crime lab was able to confirm that two of the three sturgeon parts were from animals over the maximum size allowed to be kept. As you all know, those upper size limits are meant to ensure population sustainability by protecting the brood-stock. This case originated from a cooperative investigation involving Officers from WDFW, Oregon State Police (OSP) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Officer Bolton filed charges for unlawful trafficking 1st degree and unlawful commercial fishing 1st degree in this case. OSP also recently filed charges on this suspect who now has warrants in Oregon for similar violations.

Unlawful Participation in a Treaty Indian Fishery

Officer Fairbanks was contacted by the Makah Enforcement regarding tribal and state violations involving a non-tribal member participating in a treaty fishery. Makah enforcement learned the Ceremonial and Subsistence (C&S) fish that were caught were later sold to a fish buyer. The sale of the C&S fish is a violation, which is being handled by the tribe. The non-tribal fisherman was located in Olympia and interviewed by Officer Haw and has confessed to illegally participating in the treaty fishery. Charges for the state violations are pending.



Not a Shrimpy Investigation: Seized vessel

WDFW Detectives and a British Columbia Fisheries investigator took an undercover fishing trip with an illegal guide. They left from Blaine Marina, and headed to Saturna Island to fish for bottom fish. The plan was that if they caught and retained and/or wasted Rockfish, B.C. Fisheries and Oceans would be called in to arrest the subject and seize the vessel. Within two hours they had caught an overlimit of Rockfish, and two Lingcod (one over 25 pounds), and the takedown team was called in. The suspect had wasted five Rockfish (by high-grading and feeding Rockfish to Eagles) and had retained five (the limit

is one per person). He was arrested without incident, and his boat was seized. WDFW Officers Jones and Valentine executed a search warrant on his residence and vehicle. The vehicle was seized for forfeiture proceedings. This concludes a 3-month investigation of the unlicensed fishing guide that took the Officers on two fishing trips into B.C., where he was also unlicensed, a fishing trip for ESA Nooksack Chinook, unlicensed charter fishing for bottom fish in the San Juans Islands and several other illegal activities.



“An aerial view of the Selkirk Mountains and the Darkwoods lands. (Nature Conservancy of Canada)”
Source: www.cbc.ca



HABITAT AND DEPARTMENT MANAGED LANDS

Habitat Violation in Progress

While on boat patrol on the Columbia River, Officer Lantiegne and Sergeant Holden came around a bend in the river to see a subject with a front-end loader tractor pushing material into the river. The bucket and front wheels were under water. He said that he was just cleaning the beach. The violation was thoroughly documented and the subject cited.

Maintaining Order on Department Lands

Detachment 16 (Grant Co.) conducted a Memorial Day weekend emphasis patrol on Columbia Basin wildlife areas and waters. A three-day “Sasquatch Festival” concert brought an additional 20,000 people per day into the Quincy and George areas, many of whom chose to camp on WDFW lands. Many wildlife areas in the basin were heavily impacted. Officers encountered numerous violations that included unlawful vehicle operation on agency lands, fishing violations, alcohol and drug use, dogs running loose in campgrounds, unlawful ORV use and several active arrest warrants.

Gang Activity at Quincy Wildlife Area

Officers responded to the Quincy Wildlife Area after receiving a report of possible gang activity in progress. An access employee observed several gang members in the wildlife area acting suspicious near one of the outhouses. He suspected that the individuals might try and tag the outhouses with graffiti. “Tagging” is nothing more than a gang staking out territory. Messages (usually unkind ones) are often left for rival gangs. These bathrooms were recently cleaned, and the gang tagging in the wildlife area is rampant. Officers issued four citations to several gang members for a variety of violations.

Operation “Eat my Dust”

Officer Rogers coordinated and implemented a Lands Emphasis patrol in the Elk Heights area of the LT Murray Wildlife Area. Officers Baird, Hobbs, Rogers and Sergeant Sprecher participated in the patrol. Officer Baird and Sergeant Sprecher patrolled on ORVs while Officer Rogers and Officer Hobbs

patrolled in their pickups. There have been ongoing problems with ORVs failing to obey the Green Dot road system, tearing up terrain and natural habitat, and dumping garbage. One of the first groups contacted on the patrol was a group of young males on a closed road near a large pond. The group had two vehicles both of which were caught “mudding.” While seven of eight in the group were minors, they had enough cold beer for a good-size party and firearms and ammo to either put down or start a small-armed conflict. Members of the group were cited for minor in possession of alcohol, furnishing alcohol to minors, loaded rifle in a motor vehicle and Green Dot Road System violations. Additional contacts were made with ORVs operating off the Green Dot Roads, no valid ORV registration and no spark arrestor. The patrol resulted in 19 contacts and 14 citations.

Marijuana Grow

Ever walk into an illegal marijuana plantation? A number of hikers, campers, hunters, and anglers have. In fact, illegal growing activity on public lands is on the rise. What’s also on the increase is jeopardy to your safety when you encounter one, as the bad guys are usually armed. Our Officers were involved in a number of eradication events this summer. Here are some of examples:

Officers Hopkins and Anderson assisted Pacific County Sheriff’s Office with a very large outdoor marijuana grow. Officers were advised that there were three suspects at large and all were believed to be armed. One man had been taken into custody. A loaded handgun was found in his waistband. Officers responded and performed a perimeter search with the assistance of K-9. The at-large suspects were not found. Officers began processing the evidence. In all, about 20,000 marijuana plants were seized. There were several campsites where the men were living. It appears that the four men were living there and were having food and supplies delivered to them. The one man apprehended was a Mexican national. This grow had a value of several million dollars and was very elaborate.

While conducting a marijuana eradication mission, Officer Myers and his partner encountered two armed

HABITAT AND DEPARTMENT MANAGED LANDS

subjects leaving a grow site. The two officers gave repeated orders for the subjects to surrender. One of the two finally surrendered a .22 caliber long gun he had slung over his shoulder and was taken into custody. Regardless of numerous verbal commands to keep his hands in sight, the second subject repeatedly lowered his hand toward his right side. Our officers superior firepower and tactical advantage

convinced him that any act of aggression was a losing proposition. A 9mm was located on his right hip. Officer Myers stated that his training had kicked in. The importance of our training, having our heads in the game, and focusing on our objectives can't be emphasized enough. We never know when or where we will encounter these subjects.



On a mission: WDFW marijuana eradication Officers in full dress



HABITAT AND DEPARTMENT MANAGED LANDS

Acts of Vandalism and Littering on Department Lands

18th Street Gang



Pepper Farmer Arrested

Officer Snyder patrolled Beda Lake in the Desert Wildlife Area to check anglers. He had not gone very far from the parking area when he saw movement in the brush. At first, he suspected fisheries violations, but upon further observation, decided there really was no water where the man was standing. The Officer covertly approached, and as he walked up, he saw him dump what appeared to be a fertilizer mixture on the ground. The Officer realized something was amiss, but immature Cannabis plants were not covered in his rangeland plant classes in college.

He obtained ID and started questioning him. A substantial language barrier existed, so he pulled several of the plants and they hiked back to the parking area. The man repeatedly claimed that they were “pepper plants.” After handcuffing and detaining the suspect, he began making phone calls and surfing the Internet for pictures of marijuana starts. After about 15 minutes, he found a photo that was a mirror image of the small plants in his hand. The suspect was placed under arrest, and Sergeant Erhardt and a Grant County narcotics detective arrived to assist. Eventually, 220 marijuana starts were recovered and the vehicle was seized. The suspect was booked into Grant County Jail on charges of Manufacturing Marijuana.

Camp Out

Officer Hobbs responded to a complaint of an illegal recreational dam constructed across Taneum Creek by a large group of campers. The campers actually maintained claim of ownership to the property they were on, even though it was WDFW managed public property.

The officer also discovered that the group was in possession of a stolen camp trailer. Of course the camper belonged to some guy named Dennis, last name unknown, and... you guessed it, Dennis was not around. It’s likely one of the members of the group was watching when “their” trailer got hauled away via a tow truck. They were told to remove the dam and to clean up the camp area.

Detachment 19 (Benton Co.) Officers participated in

Operation Gang Busters II, which focused on access sites and lands in the Lower Valley. 14 arrests were made, including:

- Three misdemeanors warrants
- One Driving Under the Influence (DUI)
- One Driving While License Suspended (DWLS)
- One Open Container
- Three Fishing Without License (FWOL)
- One Two-Poling
- Two Littering
- One No Valid Operator’s Permit (NVOP)
- One No Insurance

OPERATION GANG BUSTERS

While contacting a subject at the McGee Rd. access, Officers Horn and Fulton observed a vehicle driving erratically pass them and continue on McGee road. They made a stop on the vehicle and found the driver to be DUI, DWLS and possessing an open container. He also had a warrant for his arrest. Troopers were called to handle the DUI. His Breath Alcohol Content (BAC) at the jail was .272. The undercover vehicle was placed as a bait car at the S. Emerald access site, in an attempt to catch vehicle prowlers, but there were no takers.

Stolen Vehicle

Officer Alexander and Officer James responded to a report of a “stuck/abandoned vehicle” that was confirmed stolen at the Humptulips Fishing Access Site. Upon arrival the vehicle was gone. A deputy was called to assist in checking the area for the rolling stolen. The vehicle was located near the back of a residence about three miles away. Upon entering the driveway a male fled from the house and disappeared into the woods. A search of the area failed to turn him up, but the owners of the home were happy to provide his name. The deputy was familiar with the subject as a compulsive burglar in the area. While recovering the vehicle, two large marijuana plants were observed in plain view in the greenhouse next to the car. Additional growing plants were located on the property. A consent search of the residence turned up additional marijuana and a large quantity of drug paraphernalia.



FOREST PRODUCT ENFORCEMENT

Fish and Wildlife Officers have always been engaged in specialized forest products enforcement on public and private property. Harvest for commercial purposes is regulated by permits. When harvesters

don't have them, they are stealing from property owners. Profits from some forest products can be high, and the damage can take decades, even centuries to repair (such as old growth cedar trees).

Commonly Stolen Forest Products



Cascara plant



Cedar tree



Fern plant



Salal plant

Forest Product Theft

While checking fishermen at Stump Lake in Mason County, Sgt. Nixon contacted a van with nine subjects and 2000 lbs. of illegally harvested cascara bark. Sgt. Nixon had knowledge that cascara permits are no longer being issued to protect wildlife trees on private timberlands. The subjects were all undocumented aliens. The Green Diamond Timber Company security manager had seen the vehicle leaving the

area but was unable to contact it. The subjects had cut a lock to get into the area. Officer Klein arrived to assist. The product was seized and given to the Green Diamond Company. All the subjects were cited for the forest product violation, trespass, with one also cited for malicious mischief.



Cascara theft

Cedar Theft Suspect Gets Burned...

Officer Fairbanks concluded a month-long cedar theft investigation with an arrest when he observed the suspect, with a known suspended driver's license, driving through Clallam Bay. The suspect noticed Officer Fairbanks and attempted to elude him by driving onto a side road and parking in someone's driveway. When Officer Fairbanks caught up to the vehicle he found that his man was gone and a female passenger had moved to the driver's seat.

Officer Fairbanks began discussing the suspended license ticket that was going to be mailed and the possible obstructing arrest with the female. When the male heard that the passenger was also going to be cited, he decided to turn himself in and crawled out from under the vehicle. The individual was surprised

to find out he was a suspect in a cedar theft, however, when confronted with the evidence against him decided to cut his losses and admitted to the crime. While conducting the interview, the suspect showed Officer Fairbanks a burn on his elbow that was severe enough that it was draining fluid.

The suspect stated he burned himself on the vehicle's exhaust and commented about how impressed he was with himself that he didn't make any noise while being burned.

Wild Ride

Sergeants Nixon and Makoviney responded at 2:00 a.m. at the request of Green Diamond Security and Mason County deputies to a "Music" wood theft site. Music wood is essentially maple burl – coveted by guitar and instrument makers. Thieves kill entire trees to access this valuable forest product, usually to fund a drug habit.

In this case, the suspect drove very recklessly around Sergeant Makoviney and Sergeant Nixon's patrol vehicles with all appropriate emergency equipment activated. The suspect then drove at very high speeds down a local county road, and then just like a scene out of the Dukes of Hazard, went completely airborne by hitting and then going up and over a stump and dirt pile, and then out through the woods in order to go around a locked gate. ***Sergeant Makoviney, after a brief moment of indecision, decided, for some unknown reason, NOT to take the same route as the bad guy with his state issued enforcement vehicle, and simply but quickly unlocked the gate to continue chase of the suspect.***

This of course meant that the bad guy was going to get away for sure. The suspect was in fact successful in eluding fish and wildlife officers. We will of course follow up and no doubt catch this guy another day. The good news is that no enforcement officials were injured. Not sure we can say the same thing about the bad guy though. He hit pretty hard going up and even harder coming down! This guy did not seem like someone that would wear his seat belt on a regular basis either.

BOATING SAFETY

Recreational boating, the lure of catching a salmon or trout, and commercial fishing draws thousands of Washingtonians to our diverse waterways year around. Anyone who has spent any significant time on the water in a boat has probably encountered WDFW Officers patrolling Washington's waterways

in an effort to protect marine and freshwater species. Always alert to an equally important public safety mission, Officers enforce boater safety laws and provide life-saving services at the same time.

Vessel Fire

Officer Miller and Officer Velie contacted a commercial shrimp trawler, the KEMO SABAY, that was on fire and gave the crewmen, who had been rescued from the burning boat by a recreational fisherman, a ride to Port Townsend to meet up with the medics. The medics evaluated the injuries and one crewman was flown to Harborview in Seattle for treatment of 3rd degree burn injuries. The vessel was a total loss.

Yet Another Vessel Fire...

Officer Rosenberger and Sgt. Mullins were on patrol along the US/Canada border near Patos Island when a USCG Mayday broadcast of a burning 30' sailboat came out within two miles of their location. The sailboat was just inside Canadian waters. The two Blaine residents had abandoned ship into their dinghy and were unharmed. The boat was fully engulfed by flames at this point. Officers contacted the vessel owners and verified that they were OK and offered assistance. The owners advised that the sailboat was powered by two one-thousand pound tanks of liquid natural gas. With explosion in mind, Officers maintained a wide perimeter and watched the burning sailboat until it drifted into US waters and sank into about 700' of water. There did not appear to be any lasting environmental effects and the cause of the fire is unknown. The owners made their own arrangements to get home.



Response to Tragedy

Officer Klein assisted Thurston County with a rescue effort on the Nisqually River searching for a Fort Lewis soldier who was thrown from a rubber raft. Officer Klein's knowledge of the river was greatly appreciated by the county; helping coordinate the rescue and securing a location for the command center. Rescue efforts were unsuccessful.

Capsized Boaters Rescued

Officer Vance was patrolling Rowland Lake when he witnessed a small boat capsize. Two subjects were onboard, and only one of them was wearing a life jacket. Officer Vance was able to communicate with the subjects, and the person without the life jacket advised he was too cold to let go of the capsized boat to put his life jacket on. Officer Vance alerted KCSO dispatch, and they had a deputy en route from Goldendale with a boat. Aid arrived, and another KCSO deputy arrived without their boat. The boat was en route, but was still 30 minutes out, so Officer Vance decided to put his life jacket on and swim out with a line to pull them back in. Thankfully, just as Officer Vance was wading out into the water, a volunteer firefighter who was windsurfing in the area showed up with a wetsuit on and swam the line out to the subjects. They were successfully pulled back in and were treated for mild hypothermia. Their boat was a small Livingston that had holes in it patched by wood screws.

Operation Drunken Sailor

Sergeants Jewell, Nelson and Officers Horn, McGary, Fulton, Grant, McLerran, Hahn and McQuary participated in the 2009 Hydroplane emphasis in the Tri-Cities. Officer Horn coordinated the patrol in response to the USCG's request for WDFW assistance with on-water patrols and as a Boating Under the Influence (BUI) patrol. Officers conducted vessel patrols in WDFW 47, WDFW 30 and an unmarked Hewescraft in the local Tri-Cities area. Officers also conducted shore patrols in marked vehicles. WDFW officers contacted hundreds of individuals with numerous violations found, including 55 arrests ranging from boating safety offenses to executing warrant arrests. Five of the

seven BUI arrests made by all involved agencies came from WDFW officers. Officers also assisted disabled vessels and rescued four individuals in two separate incidents where the intoxicated individuals had swam away from their vessels in swift current and nearly drowned. Officers worked long hours and endured very hot temperatures.

Seafair 2009

The operational goal of WDFW Enforcement at Seafair, was to ensure compliance with Washington State boating safety laws, with an emphasis on boaters operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol and/or narcotics. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement also acted in a law enforcement support role for the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Mercer Island PD, the Washington State Patrol (WSP), the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and the Seattle Police Department Harbor Patrol Unit (SPD).

This is the fourth year WDFW Enforcement has participated in Seafair. Based on their participation in 2008, WDFW Enforcement was asked once again by all the law enforcement agencies involved, to take a more primary role in 2009. WDFW Enforcement stepped up to help meet the needs of their fellow city, county, state and federal law enforcement partners. WDFW provided five vessels for all three days of Seafair. All of the vessels were staffed with a WDFW Officer as the boat operator. In addition to a WDFW boat operator, four of the vessels were staffed with a WSP Trooper as the Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST) expert. Each day consisted of a meeting at the Seattle Harbor Patrol Station in North Lake Union. After which, WDFW was assigned to flight box boundaries to ensure that only authorized vessels entered the Blue Angels fly zone. During and after the Blue Angels air show, WDFW vessels patrolled the lake to ensure compliance with all State and Federal boating safety laws. Each WDFW Enforcement Officer worked 12 hours a day for three straight days. WDFW vessels accounted for 2,093 contacts and, out of 110 BUI arrests made by all the law enforcement agencies, WDFW vessels accounted for 63 of them (57%). Although the number of BUIs on WDFW vessels remained virtually the same from 2008 (60), the total number of BUIs rose from 84 in 2008 to 110

BOATING SAFETY

in 2009, a 23 percent increase. This does not include other criminal arrests for crimes such as minor in possession (MIP), resisting arrest, obstruction, etc. The number of contacts also rose immensely from 2008, primarily due to the weather and the amount of people attending the event. As a result of the BUI arrests, many of the vessels were impounded. Nearly every vessel contacted resulted in a brief vessel inspection, however, due to the high paced activity, only 15 vessel inspection forms were completed. Unlike last year, the amount of aid responses rose for WDFW. WDFW responded to five aid calls, two

of which involved subjects that had been struck by vessel propellers. These subjects were administered emergency first aid and promptly taken to the aid station at Mercer Island.

As it is every year, media attention was high in this event. WDFW vessels hosted three camera crews, *KOMO 4*, *KIRO 7* and *KCPQ 13*. During each patrol with an accompanying media crew, multiple arrests were made for BUI and MIP.



Enforcement Program Purchases a New Vessel



Vessel # 47 is newly deployed to the Columbia River and assigned to the Tri-Cities detachment for ESA patrols and boating safety enforcement – pictured Sergeant Nelson and Officer Horn

It is a well known fact among Fish and Wildlife Officers that criminals attempting to maintain a low profile or engage in illegal activity are attracted to remote areas where law enforcement resources are thin. Of course that's the environment that our officers typically work in, and as a result, we come into contact with these folks. WDFW Officers are general authority police officers, which means that

they are able to provide the same policing services that would be expected of Sheriff's Deputies and City Police. Many partnerships have been formed with other agencies as general criminal activity and our primary mission of public safety protection and natural resource enforcement is often integrated.

Wanted Man Captured

Officer Van Vladriken contacted a subject at Merrill Lake who had a \$20,000, nationwide extradition felony warrant for failing to register as a sex offender. Subject was booked into the Cowlitz County Jail by the officer.

subject's name and found he had two felony warrants; one for assault 3rd and one for escape.

Sex Offender Booked

While patrolling the Kalama River, Officer Conklin contacted a fisher that started to tremble and sweat profusely when she asked for his fishing license. Though his mother assured Officer Conklin that he was always nervous, there turned out to be a felony warrant for Rape in the second degree. The subject was arrested and booked into the Cowlitz County Jail by the officer.

Wasco County and Inter-tribe Enforcement both launched boats on the Columbia to assist, and Oregon State Police had foot patrols on the Oregon shore in case he made it across the Columbia. WA State Parks and KCSO Deputies assisted Officer Vance search the area on foot, and Hood River County launched an airplane to assist. Just as a Skamania County deputy arrived with a tracking dog, the airplane spotted the subject running nearby along the railroad tracks. The subject was chased, but he dove off of a 40-foot cliff into the Columbia just before the dog was unleashed. He then swam to a nearby island in the Columbia, but the airplane circled overhead, maintaining visual contact. Officer Vance was able to convince the tri-athlete to give up and swim back just before the boat arrived to bring the dog over to bring him back.

Wanted Felon Captured

As Officer Vance was patrolling Spearfish Lake, he found a group of four people fishing. Three of the four people did not have fishing licenses, and another subject was fishing with two poles. Officer Vance gathered their information, and told them that they were being issued citations and were not free to leave. As he was about half way back to his patrol vehicle, he looked back and saw one of the subjects running along the bluff above the lake towards a cherry orchard. Officer Vance alerted State Patrol and County Dispatch centers and drove around to the orchard. The subject spotted Officer Vance and ran back to the boat ramp, but when he got there, the runner was nowhere to be seen. Other fishermen said the bad guy dove into the lake, got back out and ran towards the Columbia River. Officer Vance ran the

Law Enforcement Assist

Officer Richards was requested by Park Rangers to bring our Karelian Bear Dog, Mishka, into the West side of Mt. Rainier Park, after a human skull was found near Spray Waterfall in Spray Park. After several hours, the dog responded with a lot of barking, a jawbone was located above the trail, not in the creek as suspected. As the rangers were getting information from that site, Officer Richards went above that area, and eventually found a jacket, pants, and other clothing, along with different bones.

Mishka responded by bringing a sock out of some dense brush, and Officer Richards realized that all the foot bones were in the sock after the dog presented Richards his find. Upon reading about cadaver scent on old bones, he found the body scent will actually



GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

leave the bones and enter the trees, etc. in the vicinity, making it very difficult for a dog to pinpoint. Officer Richards is very confident that the dog was barking at this scent still left in area. It appeared that the person was struck some time last year by a large rock that came off the very steep hillside.

wedding ring set sized that very morning and took the afternoon off, only to get into an argument that ended in domestic violence. The male was arrested for one felony count of Assault 2 and bail was set at \$50,000. The female was transported to a local hospital by EMS for treatment of her facial injuries.

Engagement Celebration Ends in Domestic Violence

While working an evening patrol of closed waters along the lower Toutle River, Captain Schlenker was contacted by three teenagers who reported they had just seen a man punch a girl in the face at a campsite on the river not far from his location. Captain Schlenker located the victim and suspect at a campsite. The man, a 28-year-old, 6 foot, 214 pound resident of Cathlamet, and the “girl”, his 5’ 6”, 32-year-old fiancée from Cathlamet, were celebrating their recent engagement by enjoying the nice weather and planned an overnight camp out. The two had their

Wanted Felon Captured

Sergeant Ward responded to a report that a hang glider had crashed on Chelan Butte. Sergeant Ward, Chelan County deputies and Chelan County fire were able to locate and stabilize the “pilot”. The victim was airlifted out of the area by a helicopter from Moses Lake. The victim suffered multiple injuries, but is expected to recover.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species pose an environmental and economic threat to Washington’s citizens and natural resources. Currently, Washington spends millions of dollars each year trying to control invasive species that have already made it into the state and have established a foothold. It has been proven time and time again that preventing a of new species from being introduced

is far more cost effective and less environmentally damaging than trying to control or eradicate one that has become established. Enforcement of our state aquatic invasive species laws is one of the cornerstones upon which prevention of invasive species introductions is built.

Officer Hahn received a report from Skipper Bill’s that they were working on a boat with Quagga mussels on it. Officer Hahn and biologist Wilkinson responded and verified the report. The boat was pulled out of Lake Mead on May 28 and transported to Spokane. Officer Hahn and Wilkinson power washed the boat the next day while *KREM 2 News* filmed it. The owner was cited for the offense.

for not taking more aggressive action to detect and deter the AIS threat. Finally, a documentary aired on MSNBC described vividly how the quagga and zebra mussel infestations have decimated the habitat, fish populations, and economy of the Great Lakes and Michigan. Michigan spent \$420 million last year just trying to control their zebra mussel problem! But there is more...

This past boating season saw some significant increases in AIS preventative activities both in our Department and outside Washington State. AIS continues to receive increasing coverage in the media and in editorials in major publications. A recent editorial in the *Olympian* even chastised Washington

The Army Corps of Engineers in Washington has expressed growing concern over the threat of mussels and the potential for them to destroy power production in dams along the Columbia River and associated tributaries. The Corps requested information and training on the zebra/quagga mussel

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



threat and is instituting a boat inspection program on their public ramps to assist in the prevention effort. Additionally, both Oregon and Idaho implemented AIS programs recently, passing legislation prohibiting the transport and introduction of invasive species and increasing their staffs to combat the AIS threat. Idaho even instituted a mandatory AIS vessel inspection sticker that all boat owners must purchase if they intend to boat in Idaho waters. Idaho also instituted mandatory vessel inspection checkpoints at major points of entry to their state that operate seven days a week, seven hours a day.

But what about us?

We conducted approximately 16 formal AIS check stations this year, inspecting 695 vessels for the presence of AIS. Approximately 6 boats were detected entering the State with live zebra mussels on board and all were decontaminated before being placed in our waters. We fell short of our goal of conducting 36 statewide check stations due to reduced staffing and other mission essential details that competed for limited staff resources. Although we didn't meet our goal, we did identify improvement areas and best practices for our check station effort next year. For example, we have begun the initial research into handheld technology to help capture data and record inspection results. We also conducted our first check station on Interstate 5 at the Ridgefield point of entry with a great deal of

success. We obtained a portable, 550-gallon capacity decontamination unit available for deployment to anywhere in the state from Tumwater. Perhaps our most noticeable achievement though is quantified as a zero: no zebra or quagga mussels gained a foothold in Washington waters as of today.

We conducted six significant AIS presentations and training sessions to stakeholders and have been asked to train AIS decontamination procedures to Marine Service Unit Officers at the upcoming Marine Law Enforcement Conference in Vancouver. And, we met with two private contractors establishing vessel decontamination business enterprises. One can assume that as the threat of zebra and quagga mussels grows, we will encounter many more of these entrepreneurs.

We want to extend our appreciation to all of you who helped us conduct the AIS check stations this year. Your continued assistance and enthusiasm towards this program is the foundation of prevention and deterrence. We are always soliciting new ideas to improve the AIS program and look forward to hearing from you. If you need AIS outreach materials or have been asked to conduct AIS training, please contact us at anytime for assistance!

Dreissena polymorpha
(Zebra mussel)
(Actual size = 15 mm)



Dreissena rostriformis bugensis
(Quagga mussel)
(Actual size = 20 mm)



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Combined Fund Drive Fundraiser

On September 8, 2009 the WDFW Enforcement Program set the bar high by making a big “Splash” with the kick-off event for the Combined Fund Drive. Deputy Chief Mike Cenci, Lieutenant Steve Crown and Sergeant Eric Anderson all got dunked for charity. The proceeds from the dunk tank are going to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Thurston County Food Bank (The Enforcement Program take on helping “Habitat & Humanity”). The event was announced with a series of special announcements that generated lots of laughs and excitement for the event. When the water finally calmed down \$600 dollars had been raised for the charities and a lot of fun was had by all.



What caliber is that gun?



Deputy Chief Cenci dunked



Lieutenant Crown soaking



Chief Bjork takes aim



Deputy Chief soaking

Tragedy

Officer Jeff Lee who was on a late night patrol was involved in a fatality accident in Skagit County late in the evening on August 5th. A vehicle driven by an 18-year-old driver with two teenage passengers failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of the Farm to Market Road and the Josh Wilson Road and entered the intersection. Unfortunately, visibility is extremely limited and Jeff was unable to see the vehicle enter the intersection in time to take evasive action and a collision occurred.

All three teens were members of the Ferndale swim team and were returning home from a swim match. Tragically, one of the teens (a 15-year-old female) died at the scene. The other two teens received minor nonlife threatening injuries. Jeff received multiple and serious injuries. His left arm was broken in three places and also received nerve and substantial tissue damage. He has several broken ribs and also suffered multiple lacerations on his head, arm and leg, including a large laceration (about 6 inches long) on his forehead and upper scalp. Jeff was treated briefly at the Skagit Valley Hospital and then early Thursday morning (August 6) was air lifted to the Harborview Trauma Center for emergency care. After receiving emergency treatment at Harborview, Jeff underwent reconstructive surgery on his arm. Jeff retired from the State Patrol after 25 years and has been a Fish and Wildlife Officer for 7 years.

Officer Transfers

FWO3 Phil Johnson has been selected to fill the AIS/Boating Safety position at headquarters. This transfer was effective on July 20. Officer Johnson will be spending approximately 45 percent of his time on AIS field and administrative duties, 35 percent on Boating Safety duties, 10 percent as the State Agency Liaison (SAL) with Emergency Management Division, and 10% on other headquarter assignments. The Eatonville FWO position will be advertised for lateral transfer.

FWO Brendon Vance was selected to fill the Clarkston duty station, effective September 14. The White Salmon FWO position will be advertised for lateral transfer.

Officer New Hires



Former New York State Environmental Police Officer Brandon Chamberlin was hired as a lateral FWO1 on Monday 7-20-09 and assigned to Westport. Brandon has completed in-house training with Officer Klump.



Mr. Kristian Erickson was hired as a temporary FWO1 on July 27th and currently is at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) in Burien. Upon successful completion of BLEA, Mr. Erickson will be assigned to Detachment 11, Sergeant Lambert, in Everett/Marysville.



Mr. Tony Leonetti was hired as a temporary FWO1 on July 27th and worked for the Spokane County Sheriff's Department as a Corrections Officer. On August 4th he began the BLEA in Burien.

Mr. Leonetti's permanent duty station will be in King County.

John McIntosh was hired as a temporary part-time Electronic Technician effective August 3rd. John will be responsible for WDFW statewide radio coordination, equipment, installation, service/maintenance, inventory, and frequency coordination.