

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WDFW)

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

2007 Annual Report



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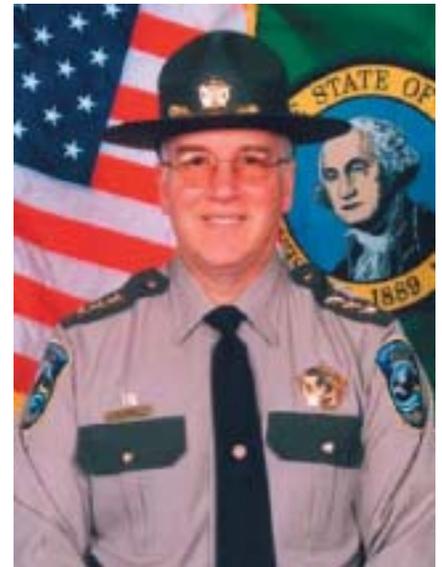
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Introduction

This report acknowledges the outstanding work of the 160 employees of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Enforcement Program in 2007. We continue to make improvements in order to achieve our mission of protecting citizens and our state's precious fish and wildlife resources.

Please contact me at enforcement-web@dfw.wa.gov if you have any comments or questions regarding this report.



Chief Bruce Bjork

VISION/MISSION/VALUES

Enforcement Program Vision

Safe, orderly, and quality experiences for all who enjoy natural resources.

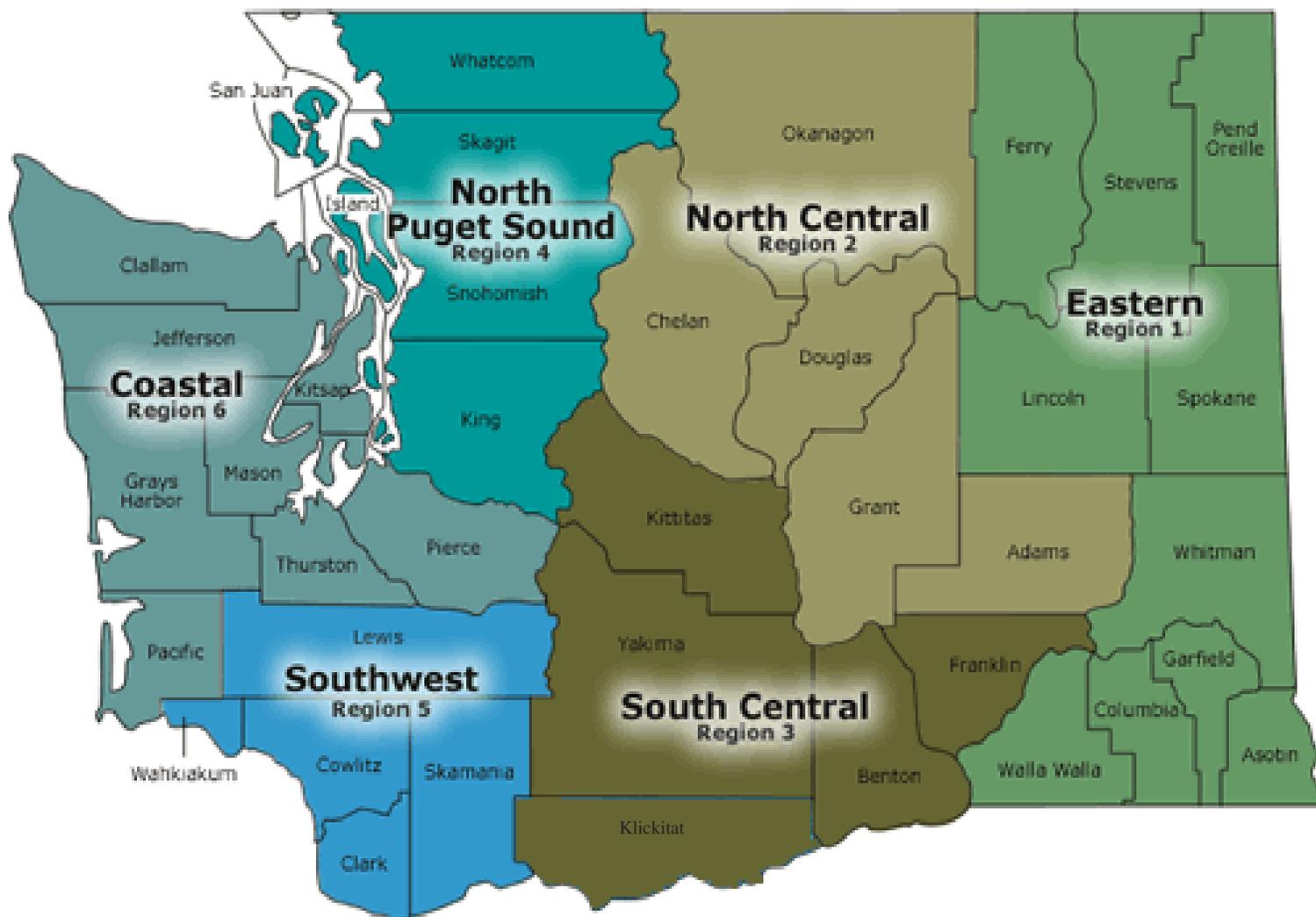
Enforcement Program Mission Statement

We serve Washington's citizens by achieving compliance with laws focused on fish, wildlife, habitat, and public safety; providing responsive public service; promptly resolving conflicts between humans and dangerous wildlife; and forming partnerships with the public and other agencies and governments to benefit our natural resources.

Enforcement Program Values

- **P**rofessionalism - Our actions communicate pride in our chosen profession and ourselves. We are adaptive and progressive, investing in continuous learning, development, and innovation to accomplish our mission.
- **R**espect - We value diversity, fairness, and teamwork. We believe in respectful, open, and honest communication in our relationships. We treat everyone as we would like to be treated.
- **I**ntegrity - Our conduct always befits the Public Trust. We live by the standards we set for ourselves and the public expects us to uphold. We have the courage to hold each other accountable. We lead by example.
- **D**edication - We have a sense of purpose and are selflessly committed to protecting Washington's natural resources, a cause larger than any of us. We value commitment, yet recognize the need to achieve balance in our lives.
- **E**xcellence - We value efficiency and effectiveness and are customer oriented. We are strategically oriented to achieve results that advance our mission.

Washington State - Regional Map

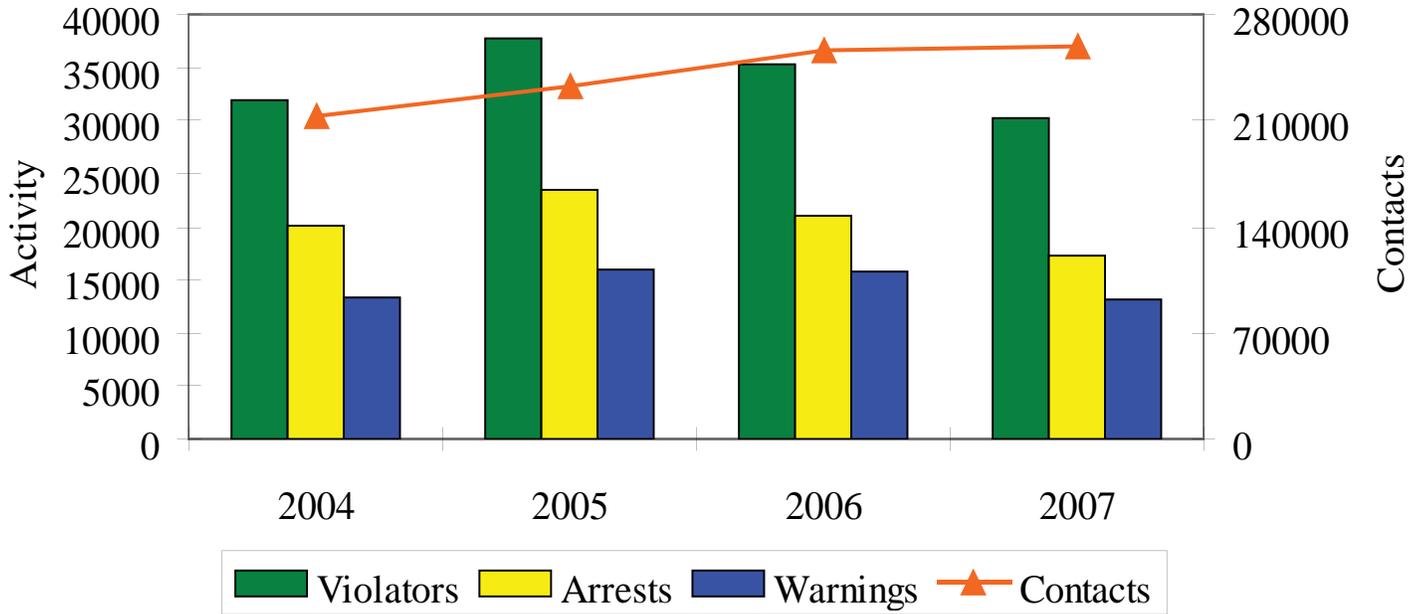


* Statewide Marine division includes all of Puget Sound as well as the Pacific Western Coast outwards to 200 miles.

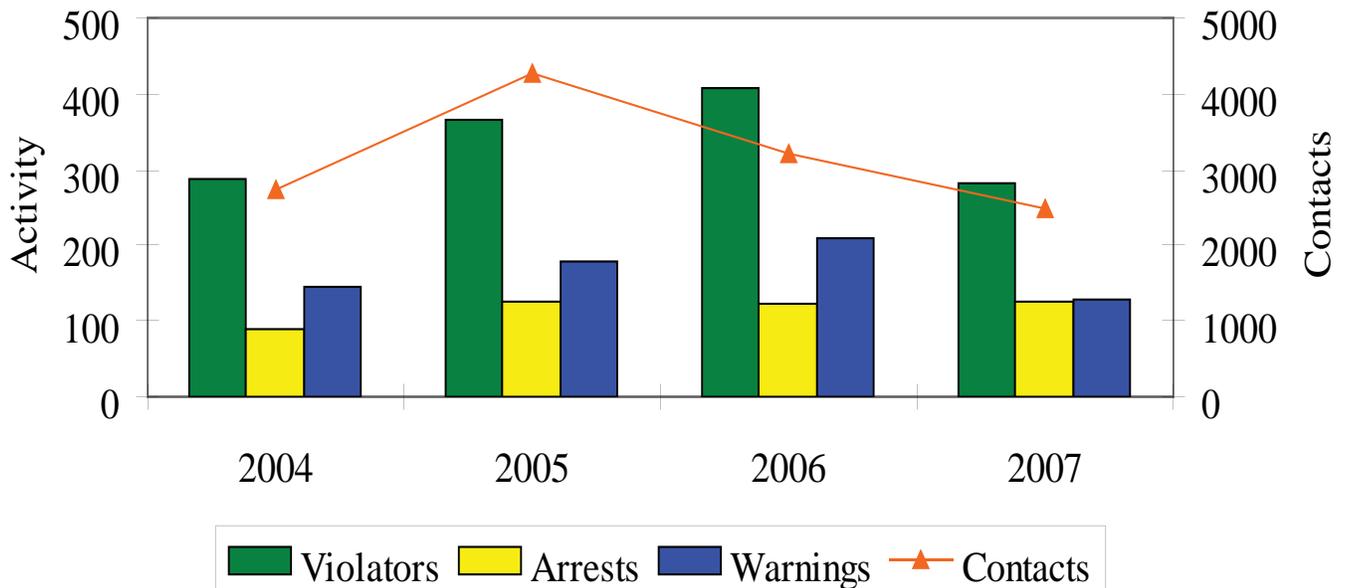


Enforcement Activity 2007

Enforcement Activity



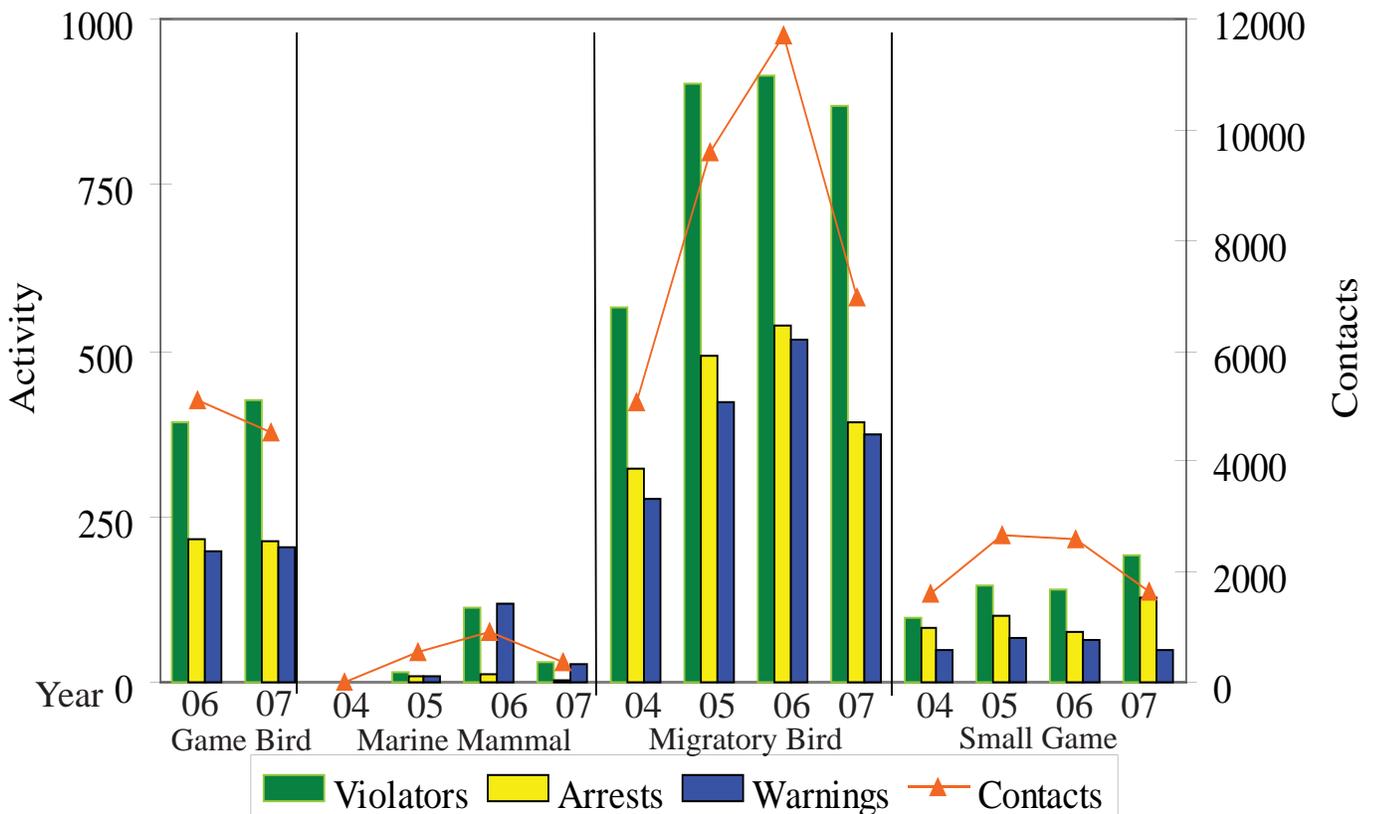
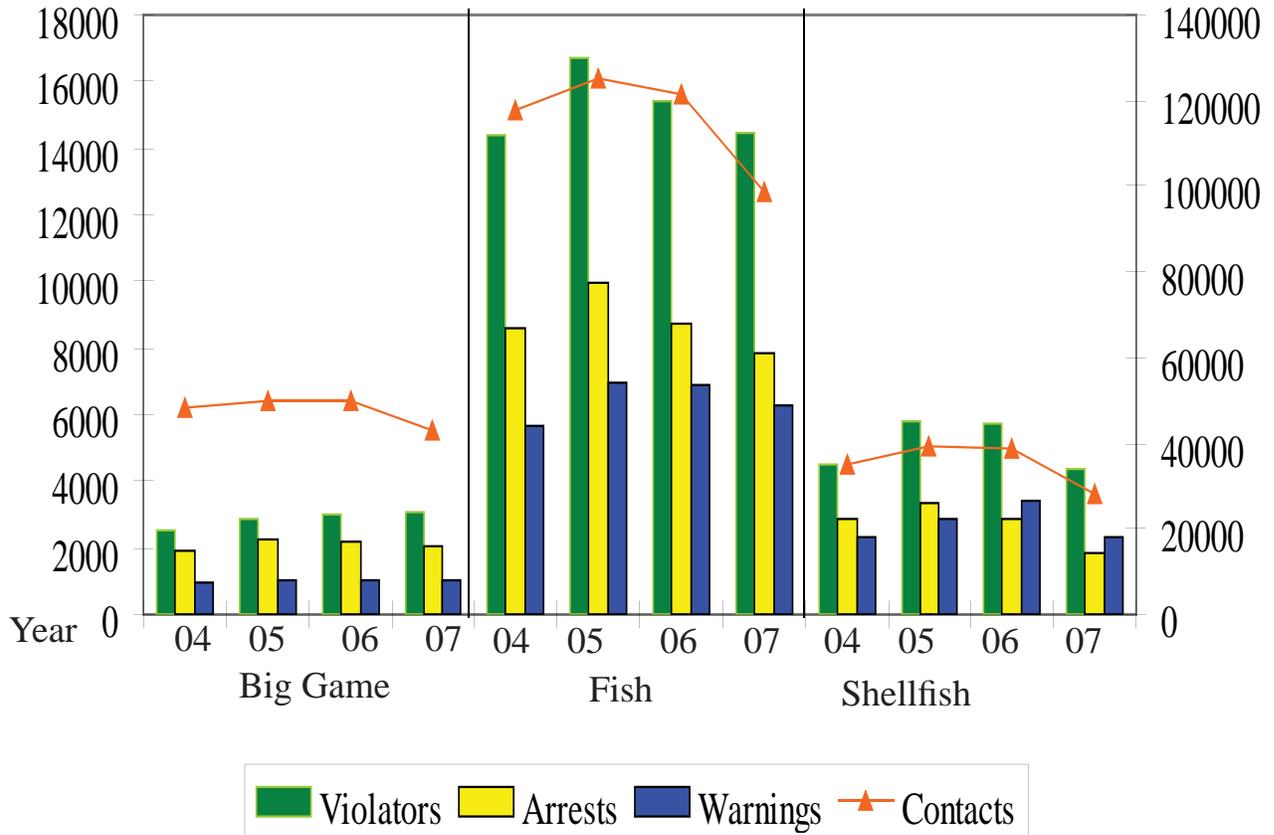
Habitat Enforcement



Enforcement Activity 2007



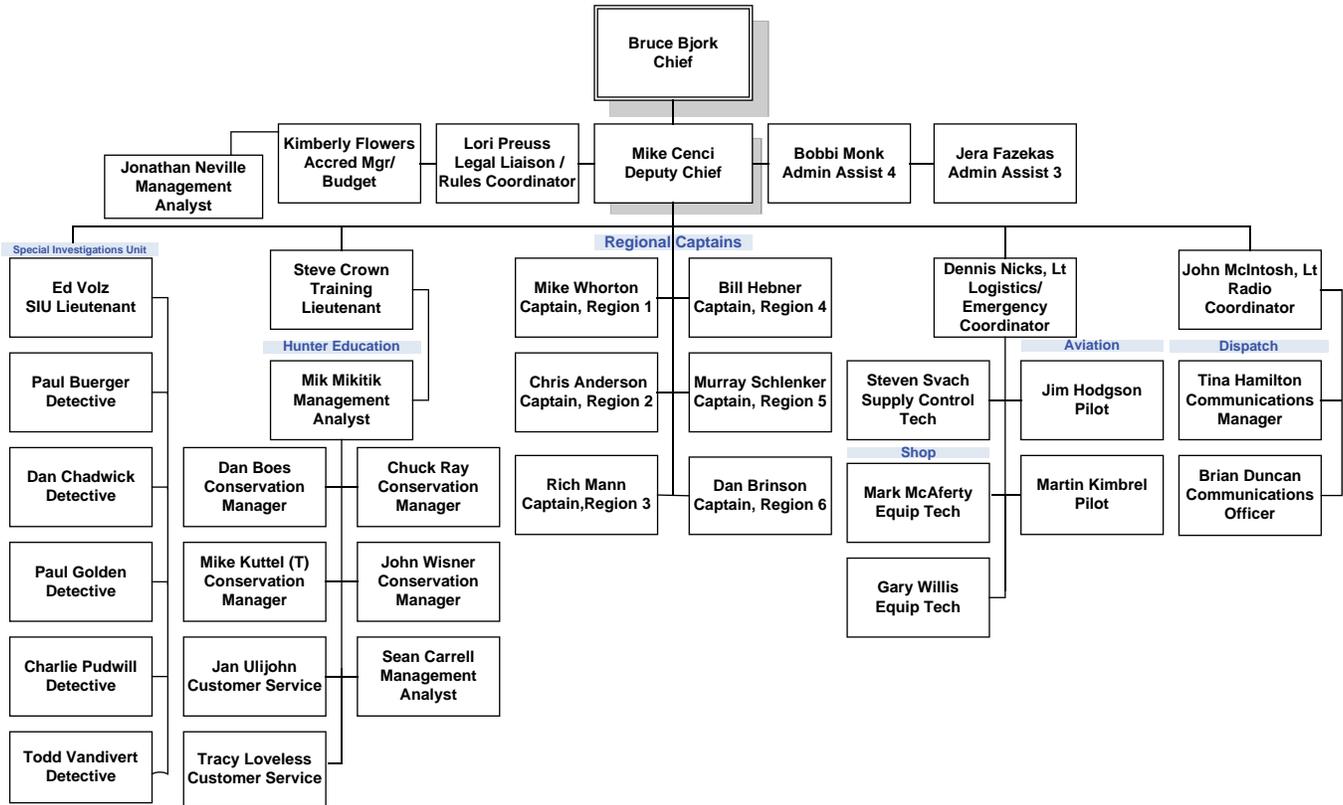
Fish and Wildlife Enforcement by Species Category





Headquarters Staff

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Enforcement Program - Headquarters

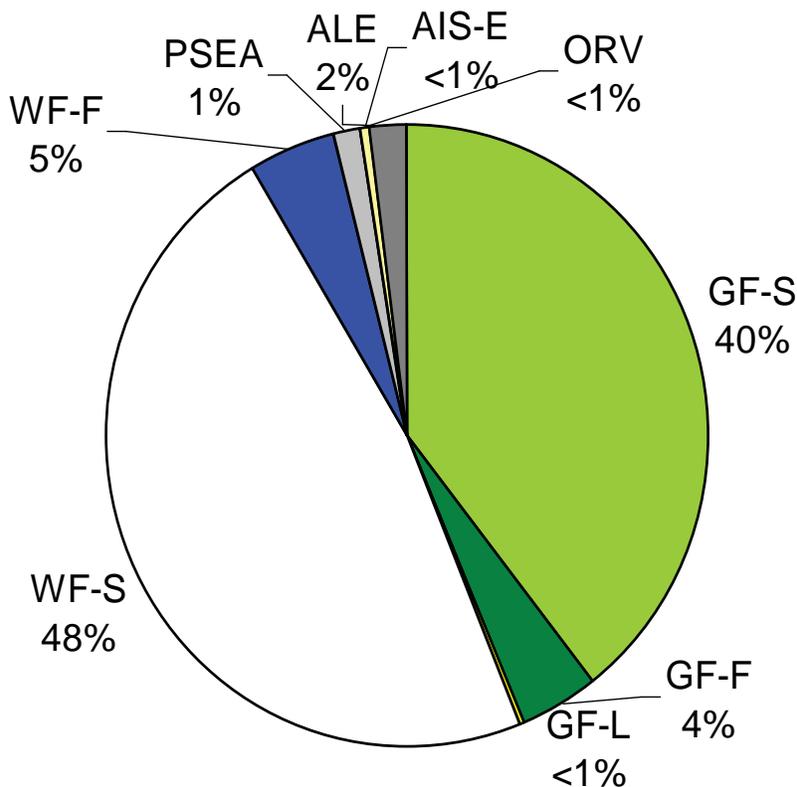


Deputy Chief Mike Cenci



Deputy Chief Bill Jarmon
Retired in September 2007

Enforcement Program Budget



Funding Source	Amount
General Fund – State (GF-S)	\$14,861,341
General Fund – Federal (GF-F)	\$1,564,974
General Fund – Local (GF-L)	\$47,259
Wildlife Fund – State (WF-S)	\$17,886,465
Wildlife Fund – Federal (WF-F)	\$1,803,103
Aquatic Lands Enhancement (ALE)	\$742,498
Public Safety Education Account (PSEA)	\$487,548
Off-Road Vehicle (ORV)	\$24,720
Aquatic Invasive Species Enforcement (AIS-E)	\$181,334
TOTAL 07-09 BIENNIUM	\$37,599,242



Recently-Enacted Legislation

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5923

Brief Description: Regarding aquatic invasive species enforcement and control.

Background: Invasive species are generally considered to be animal or plant species that are thriving in a geographical area to which they are not native. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has authority to manage aquatic nuisance species and is charged with tracking and proposing solutions to manage these species.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Account and the Aquatic Invasive Species Enforcement Account were created by the Legislature in 2005. One dollar fifty cents of each annual vessel registration fee is deposited into the Prevention Account and fifty cents of each annual vessel registration fee is deposited into the Enforcement Account.

Funds in the Prevention Account are appropriated to WDFW to develop an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program for recreational watercraft. Funds from the Enforcement Account are appropriated to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) to develop an aquatic invasive species enforcement program for recreational watercraft.

Summary: Aquatic Invasive Species Enforcement and Prevention Program: Funds from the Aquatic Invasive Species Enforcement Account may also be appropriated to WDFW to develop an aquatic invasive species enforcement program for recreational and commercial watercraft. WDFW is authorized to establish random check stations and require persons transporting recreational and commercial watercraft to stop at the check stations. Persons stopped at a check station who possess watercraft or equipment that is contaminated with an aquatic invasive species are exempted from certain criminal penalties if that person complies with all WDFW directives for the proper decontamination of the watercraft or equipment. WDFW will also provide inspection outside of check stations to persons requesting inspection and provide a receipt indicating the watercraft is not contaminated.

The new crime of unlawfully avoiding aquatic invasive species check stations is created. Persons who fail to obey check station signs, or who fail to stop and report at a check station if directed to do so by a uniformed fish and wildlife officer, are guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

WDFW must post signs warning vessels of the threat of aquatic invasive species, the penalties associated with introduction of an invasive species, and proper contact information for obtaining a free vessel inspection. The signs must be posted at all ports of entry and at all boat launches owned or leased by WDFW. WDFW must also provide signs to all port districts, privately or publicly owned marinas, state parks, and other state agencies or political subdivisions that own or lease boat launches.

WDFW is directed to develop a plan for treatment and immediate response to the introduction of prohibited aquatic invasive species into Washington waters. This plan will be reviewed under the State Environmental Policy Act.

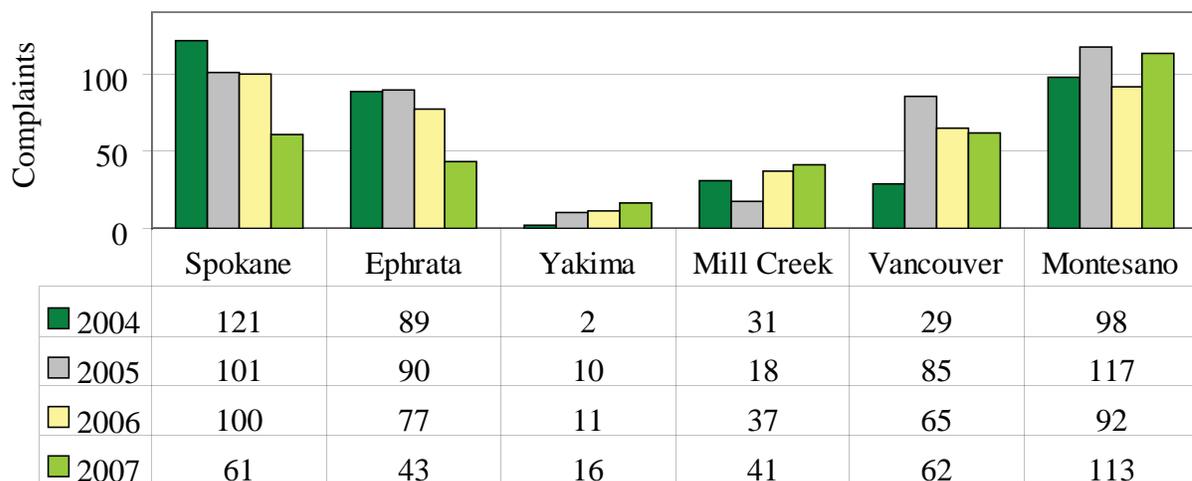
Effective: July 22, 2007

Permits & Nuisance Complaints



PERMIT TYPE	PERMITS ISSUED 2006	PERMITS ISSUED 2007	% CHANGE
Special Trapping Permits	776	882	13.7%
Timber Damage Permits	222	236	6.3%
Public Safety Cougar Permits	12	14	16.7%
Snag Permits	15	8	-46.7%
Salvage Permits	13	5	-61.5%
Special Wildlife Permits	9	4	-55.6%
Nuisance Wildlife Operator Permits	12	10	-16.7%

Nuisance Wildlife Complaints by Region

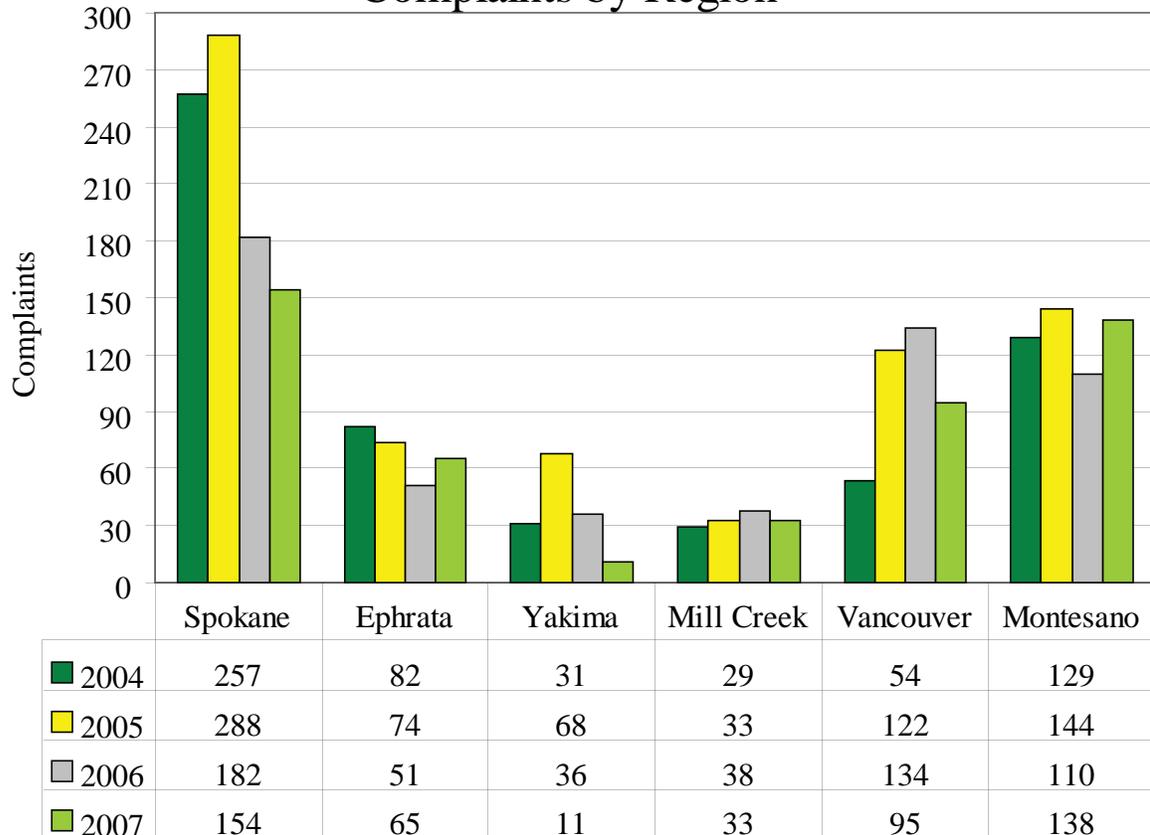


Nuisance Wildlife is defined as coyote, deer, elk, raccoon, squirrel, skunk, opossum, and crow.



Dangerous Wildlife Complaints

Dangerous Wildlife (Bear and Cougar) Complaints by Region



Damage Claims-Statewide



DAMAGE CLAIMS-STATEWIDE (DEER AND ELK)

Region	Deer		Elk		Damage Claims Filed		Dollar Claimed		Damage Claims Awarded		\$ Percentage Awarded	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Spokane	4	1	8	12	12	13	\$61,738.73	\$177,904.97	\$47,223.02	\$43,342.41	76%	24%
Ephrata	1	0	0	0	1	0	\$135.87	\$0	\$135.87	\$0	100%	-
Yakima	0	0	8	3	8	3	\$203,787.25	\$15,418.70	\$24,893.72	\$5,197.00	12%	34%
Mill Creek	0	0	5	2	5	2	\$27,616.90	\$16,905.00	\$6,157.80	\$3,102.00	22%	18%
Vancouver	2	3	9	8	11	11	\$152,188.78	\$57,100.36	\$13,669.38	\$26,844.21	9%	47%
Montesano	0	1	19	23	19	53	\$135,710.63	\$144,150.53	\$39,242.95	\$21,324.73	29%	15%
<i>Total</i>	7	5	49	48	56	53	\$581,178.16	\$411,479.56	\$131,322.74	\$100,110.35	23%	24%
<i>Change</i>	-28.6%		-2%		-5.4%		-29.2%		-37.9%		4.3%	

*2006 Data from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

*2007 Data from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

DAMAGE CLAIMS BY CROP-STATEWIDE (DEER AND ELK)

Region	Fruit Claimed/ Paid		Grain Claimed/ Paid		Grasses Claimed/ Paid		Legumes Claimed/ Paid		Other Claimed/ Paid		Total Claimed/ Paid	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Spokane	\$1000/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$41237/ \$33760	\$41040/ \$27716	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$16102/ \$10000	\$30572/ \$15627	\$3400/ \$3463	\$106293/ \$0	\$61739/ \$47223	\$177905/ \$43342
Ephrata	\$136/ \$136	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$136/ \$136	\$0/ \$0
Yakima	\$3948/ \$3948	\$0/ \$0	\$72130/ \$24894	\$5197/ \$5197	\$0/ \$0	\$10222/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$203787/ \$24894	\$15419/ \$5197
Mill Creek	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$9600/ \$3102	\$1575/ \$1575	\$7305/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$26042/ \$4583	\$0/ \$0	\$27617/ \$6158	\$16905/ \$3102
Vancouver	\$9883/ \$383	\$0/ \$0	\$890/ \$890	\$38428/ \$26844	\$89738/ \$1878	\$16632/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$0/ \$0	\$51678/ \$12209	\$2340/ \$0	\$152189/ \$13669	\$57100/ \$26844
Montesano	\$19483/ \$4759	\$33166/ \$0	\$3395/ \$8154	\$33632/ \$19273	\$44369/ \$23457	\$77352/ \$2352	\$9571/ \$9571	\$0/ \$0	\$58892/ \$36984	\$0/ \$0	\$135711/ \$39243	\$144151/ \$21625
<i>Total</i>	\$34450/ \$9226	\$33166/ \$0	\$10538/ \$67698	\$127898/ \$82132	\$135682/ \$26910	\$11511/ \$2352	\$25673/ \$19571	\$30572/ \$15627	\$140012/ \$57239	\$108633/ \$0	\$591179/ \$131323	\$589385/ \$143453
<i>Difference</i>	-\$1284/-59226		-\$177360/\$14434		-\$134171/-24558		\$4899/-3944		-\$3179/-57239		-\$1794/\$12130	

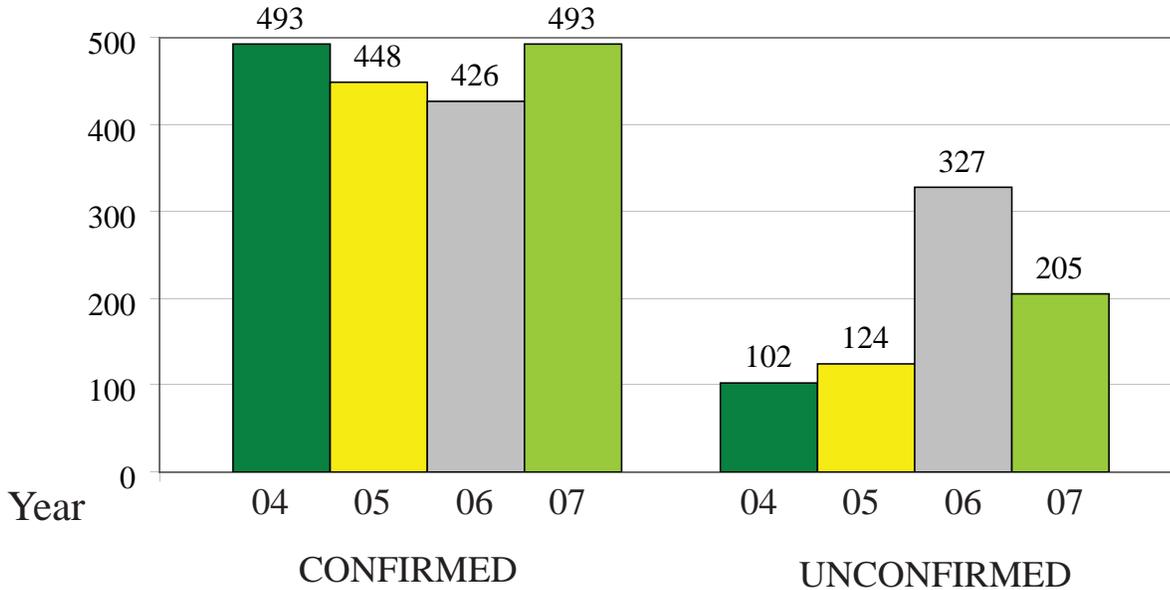
*2006 Data from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

*2007 Data from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

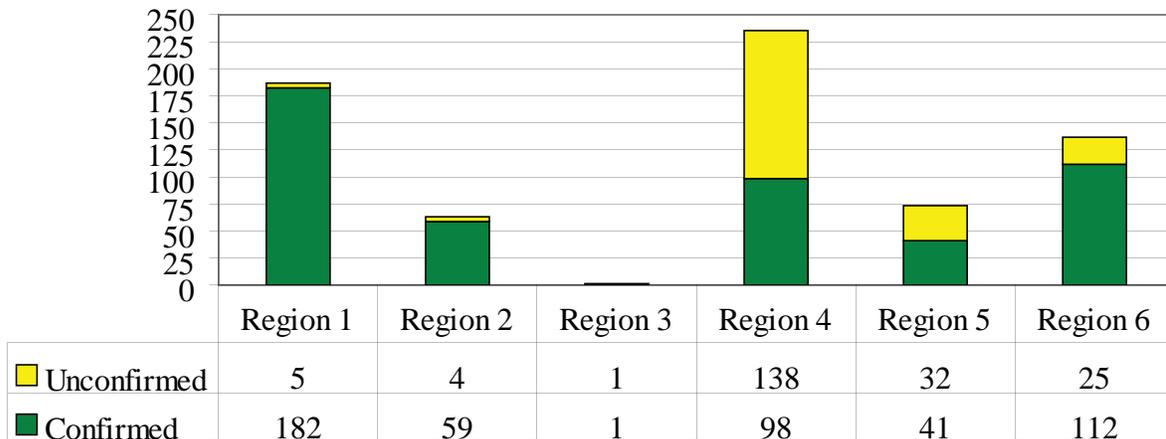


Bear Complaints

Total Bear Complaints



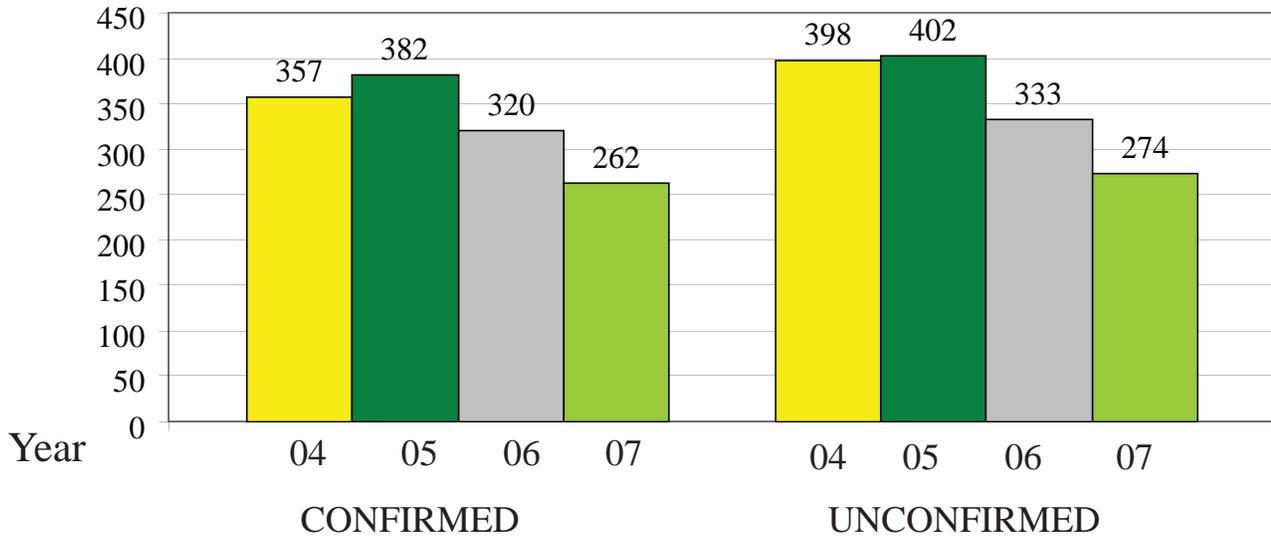
2007 Bear Complaints



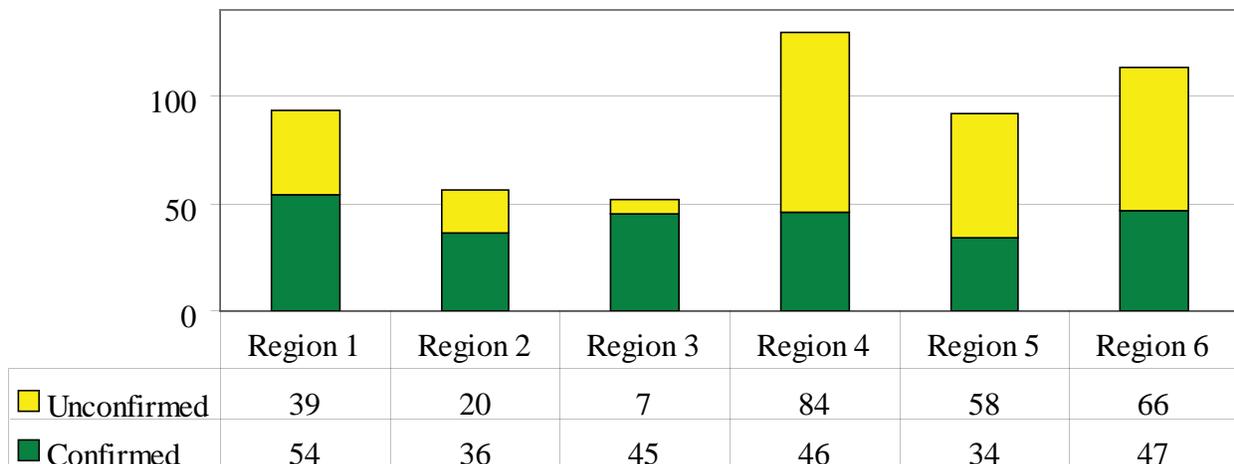
Cougar Complaints



Cougar Complaints



2007 Cougar Complaints





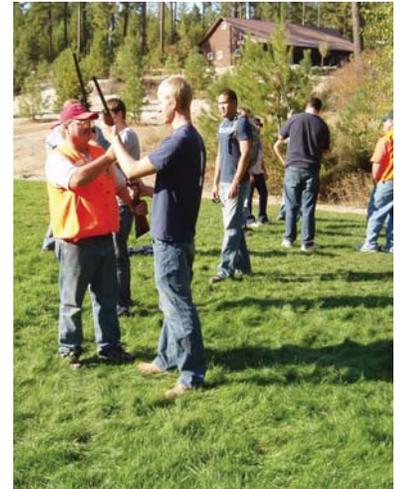
Hunter Education Division

The Hunter Education Division conducts public training for basic hunter education, bow hunter education, trapper education, and advanced (now renamed as master) hunter education. Most staff effort is directed at the mandated, basic program and the advanced (master) hunter education program. Highlights for 2007 included:

- Implementation of the new hunter education deferral program, legislation passed during the 2007 session
- Expansion of the instructor incentive recognition program
- Revision of the advanced (now renamed as master) hunter education program administrative regulations
- curriculum and staffing
- Development of a new five-year program plan to guide future hunter education activities

Summarized Data For Basic Hunter Education Training

Fiscal Year	Students	Classes	Instructors
2007	*12,348	609	865
2006	13,561	624	779
2005	13,659	583	699
2004	13,577	591	686
	53,145x = 13,286/ year	2,407 total 602/ year	3,029 total 757/ year



None of the above student totals include the online / home study student totals.*
NOTE: Does not include 877 hunter education deferrals for license year 2007.

Hunting Incident Data Summary: FY 1999 - FY 2007

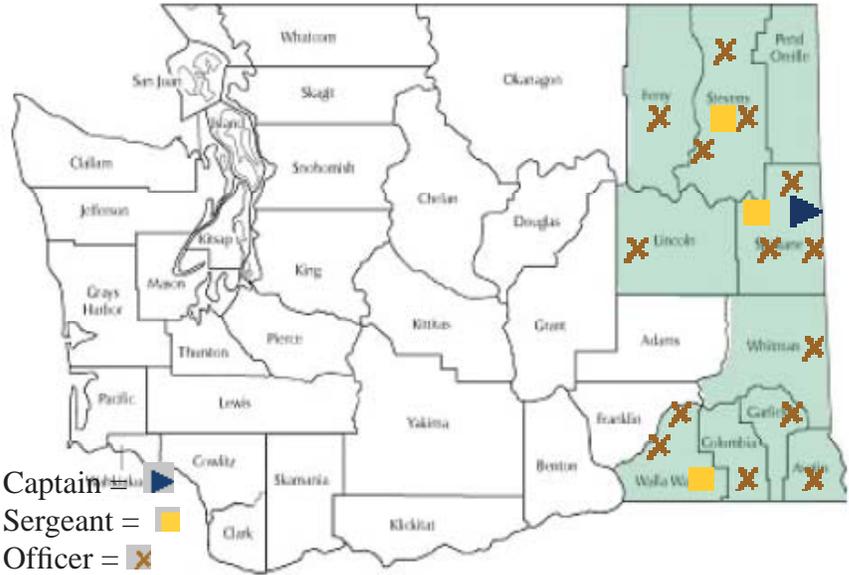
Fiscal Year	# Fatal Incidents	# Non-Fatals	# Licenses Sold	Rate/100,000
FY 2007	1	11	307,905	3.91
FY 2006	1	7	*283,846	2.83
FY 2005	4	13	*284,138	5.98
FY 2004	0	13	*284,482	4.57
FY 2003	0	14	*277,779	5.04
FY 2002	1	10	*275,435	3.99
FY 2001	1	11	185,762	5.92
FY 2000	0	7	218,842	3.2
FY 1999	0	9	186,178	4.83

* License sales systems and vendors changed in FY 2002 and FY 2007. Data is currently unavailable for the past two fiscal years. License sales are broken down into eight different categories, including deer license only, deer and elk licenses, a comprehensive multi-species license, elk license only, a deer, bear and cougar license, a bear and cougar license, and an elk, bear and cougar license, and, finally, a small game only license.

Region 1 - Spokane



Captain Mike Whorton

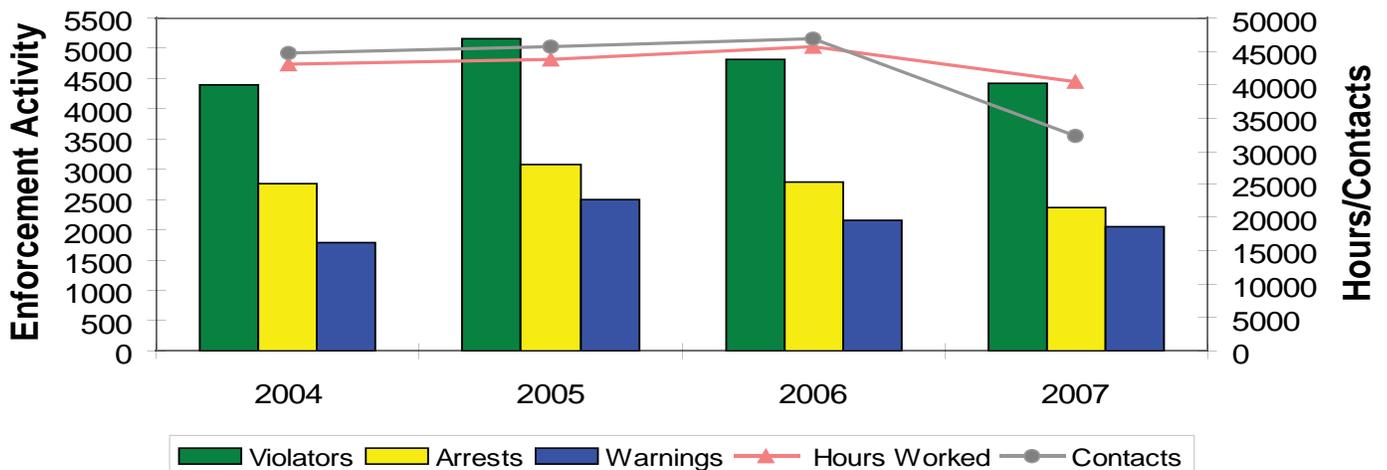


Region One Officer of the Year: Lenny Hahn

- Conducts big game investigations that lead to successful prosecutions
- Serves as detachment evidence custodian
- Assists Idaho and Montana officers on big game cases
- Held in high esteem by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife internal and external stakeholders and citizens
- Actively involved in the community
- Field Training Officer



Region 1 - Spokane





Region 1 - Spokane

Challenges

Moose Complaints: Spokane officers responded to well over 100 moose complaints in 2007, and approximately 15 moose were tranquilized and relocated out of the city limits of Spokane.

Bear and Cougar Complaints: Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties receive the vast majority of bear complaints during the spring. Officers are kept busy during most of the spring and late summer season trapping and relocating problem black bears that are creating a public safety concern. Officers are often pulled away from their other duties and spend several days each week addressing bear complaints by relocating or euthanizing problem animals.

Responding To and Investigating Deer and Elk Damage to Agricultural Crops: Officers routinely work with landowners that are experiencing crop damage. They attempt to alleviate the damage by hazing and herding animals, advising landowners on fencing and other physical barriers, and by issuing extra harvest permits.

Inadequate Staffing: During 2007, the Pend Oreille County duty station was vacant, and Stevens County was down to just one officer position.

Significant Cases

Moose Poaching Investigation: Officer Taylor responded to several reports of dead moose that were poached in the Suncrest area over the past two years. Due to the Officer's knowledge of certain suspects, and the retrieval of spent bullets inside each carcass, she was able to narrow down the suspect list, interrogate that person, and obtain a confession.

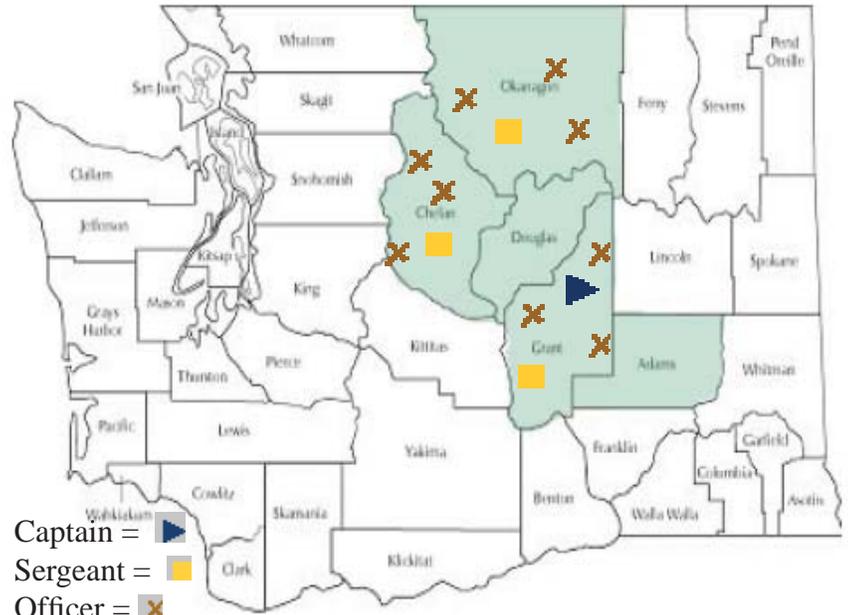
Spotlighting and Waste: In September, Officers Johnson and McQuary apprehended two subjects who had spotlighted several trophy deer and shot and left an 8X8 bull elk to rot in the Blue Mountains. When all was said and done, 24 charges were filed including closed season elk and deer, spotlighting, several counts of first-degree wastage, obstructing officers, and numerous other charges. Criminal assessment penalties on one suspect alone stand at \$14,000!



Region 2 – Ephrata



Captain Chris Anderson

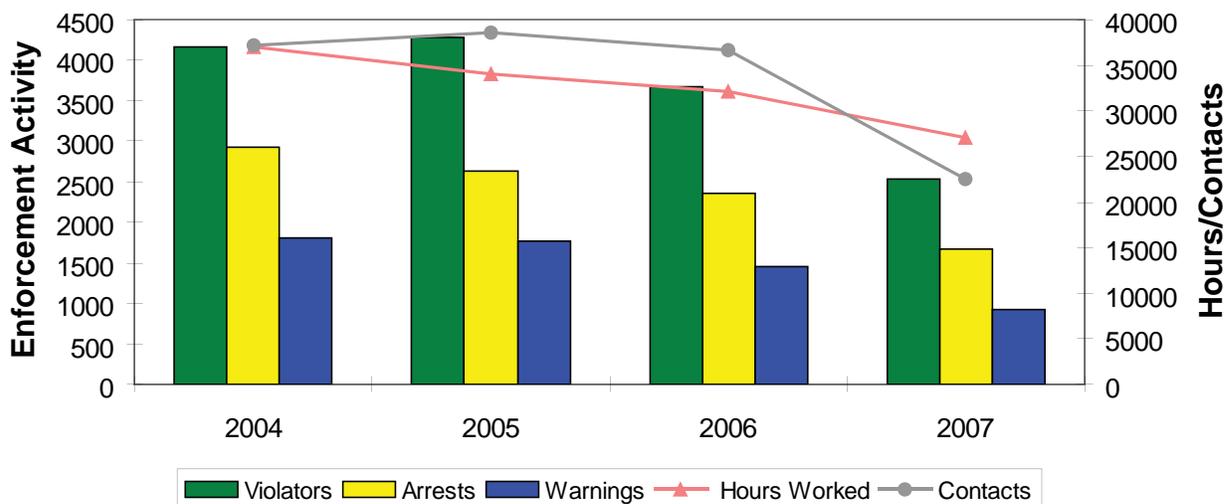


Region Two and WDFW Officer of the Year: Mike Jewell

- Field Training Officer
- Is an Emergency Vehicle Operator’s Course Instructor
- Innovative
- Makes numerous school and Hunter Ed presentations
- Initiated joint elk poaching investigation with Colorado
- Investigated numerous metal thefts for local farmers
- Recipient of Shikar-Safari International Turkey Federation awards



Region 2 - Ephrata





Region 2 – Ephrata

Challenges

Severe Staffing Shortage: For the majority of the year, the region had a total of six Officers, three Sergeants, and one Captain. These ten commissioned staff handled calls for service, responded to complaints, and conducted proactive patrols to ensure compliance with state hunting and fishing regulations in five counties: Okanogan, Douglas, Chelan, Adams, and Grant.

Jurisdictional Issues: One of the challenges in the region has been the controversy and jurisdictional issues that have existed for a number of years between the Colville Tribe and WDFW on the boundary waters surrounding the reservation including Lake Roosevelt, Lake Rufus Woods, and the Okanogan River.

Dangerous and Problem Wildlife: In Chelan and Okanogan Counties, the number of calls involving dangerous and problem wildlife has steadily increased as building and development has continued to encroach upon traditionally rural areas.

Natural Disasters: In Chelan County, Fish and Wildlife Officers assisted local law enforcement agencies at a number of large wild land fires with public evacuations, road closures, security, and staffing issues.

Significant Cases

Grizzly Bear Investigation: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Officers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agents conducted an investigation on the illegal killing of an Endangered species. The investigation began when a grizzly bear was shot and killed. Officers and agents simultaneously went to three separate residences to conduct interviews. The suspects admitted that the bear carcass was buried on the family farm near Moses Lake. Officers quickly confirmed that the remains were from a grizzly bear.

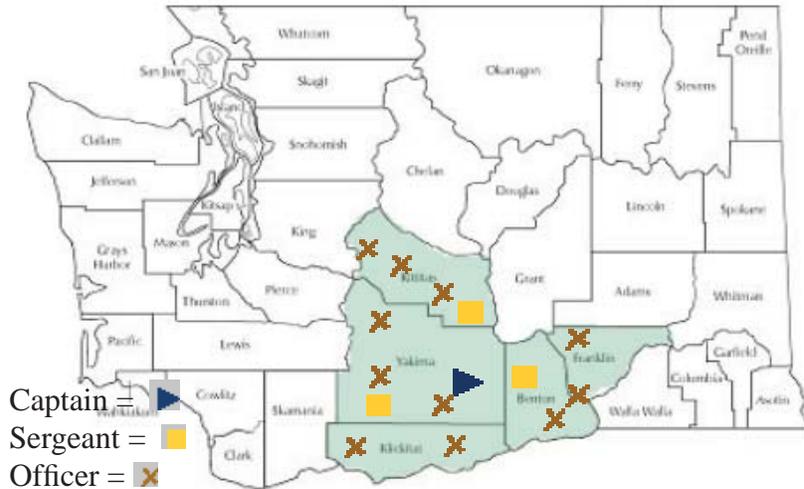


Habitat Destruction: Sergeant Ward and Officer Grant responded to a report that some serious habitat destruction had occurred on Orr Creek in the Stemilt Basin area of Chelan County. Apparently there had been a large beer party, and the drivers had used four-wheel-drive vehicles to destroy a nearby pristine meadow. The Officers were able to later identify several suspects who had been involved in the destruction of the meadow. Charges were later filed against three young men.

Region 3 - Yakima



Captain Rich Mann

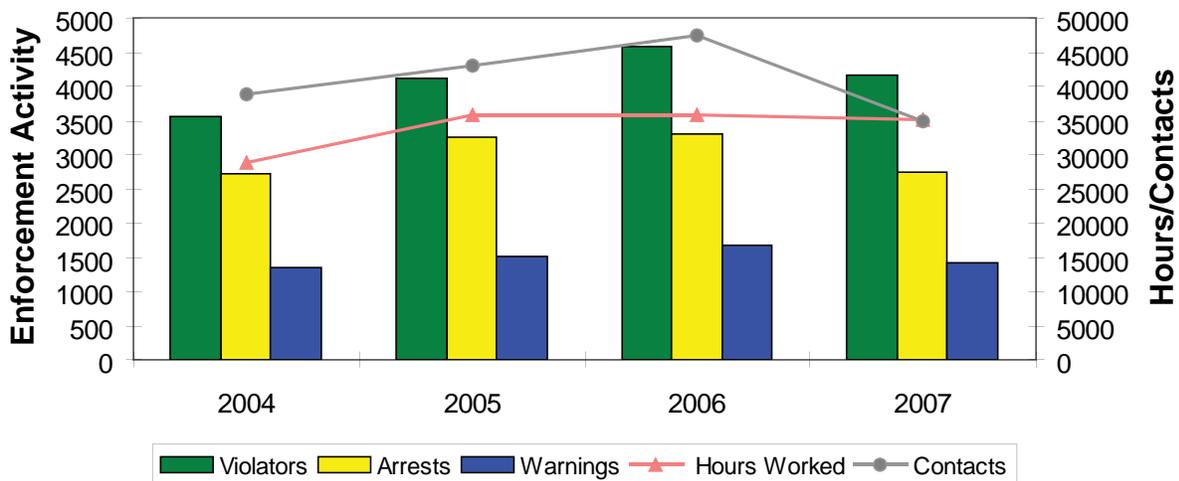


Region Three Officer of the Year: Dan Bolton

- Field Training Officer and Boating Instructor
- Leads the Region in human/wildlife conflict resolution
- Engages with community groups
- Made several significant cases despite difficult circumstances



Region 3 - Yakima





Region 3 - Yakima

Challenges

Department Owned/Controlled Lands: Meeting agency and public demands for enforcement presence on the large amount of WDFW-owned lands and cooperative road management areas within Region 3 continues to be a challenge.

ESA Species Protection: Region 3 rivers and streams are home to listed populations of Bulltrout, Salmon, and Steelhead.

Yakama Nation Issues: The Yakama Indian Nation reservation encompasses a significant portion of the south-west Yakima County and northwest Klickitat County.

Human/Wildlife Conflicts: Human conflicts with large carnivores, mainly cougar, continue to require officer response and creative solutions as problems increase. Many of the reported issues are determined to be unfounded or unsubstantiated rumors.

Significant Cases

Rescues: Detachment 17 officers led aid units in to an injured archery hunter who had fallen out of his tree stand, sustaining a broken ankle and possible broken ribs. Detachment 18 officers conducting a snowmobile patrol located ten lost snowmobile operators and safely led the group back to their vehicles in blizzard and whiteout conditions.



Serial Poacher: A waterfowl hunter charged by officers for Hunting While Suspended was convicted and faces a lifetime suspension of his hunting privileges. The man continued to hunt and claimed that he did not know he was suspended when contacted. While awaiting trial on these charges, Region 3 officers learned he was under surveillance by Region 4 officers and provided information regarding the suspension of privileges. This cooperative effort involving multiple counties resulted in additional charges for Hunting While Suspended and Unlawful Use of Another Person’s License along with seizure of equipment.

Illegal Artifact Investigations: On two separate occasions, Region 3 officers responded to requests from Department of the Army Police regarding unlawful collection of Indian artifacts on the Yakima Training Center. Officers located the subjects who initially denied involvement. WDFW Officers interviewed the subjects and obtained confessions. Thirty-five Indian artifacts, including a bone, were recovered. In a second case, Department of Army Police had two subjects in custody for unauthorized removal and alteration of archaeological resources.

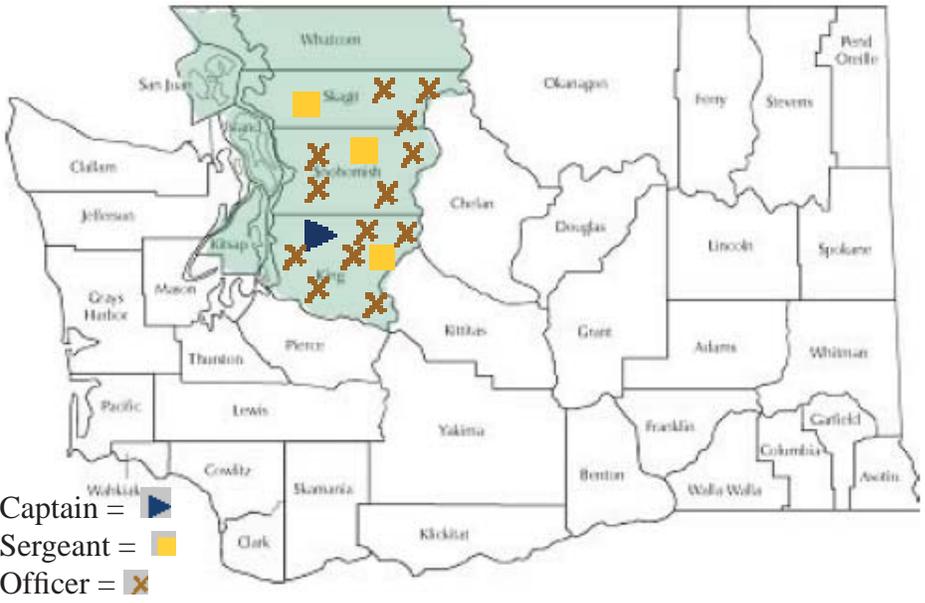


Illegal Use of WDFW Lands: Illegal marijuana grows continue to be a problem on WDFW lands. Detachment 17 officers assisted the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office with a marijuana grow located on WDFW lands and nearly 3,500 plants were seized. The suspected growers were arrested early morning and the marijuana grow was eradicated by 1300 hours.

Region 4 - Mill Creek



Captain Bill Hebner

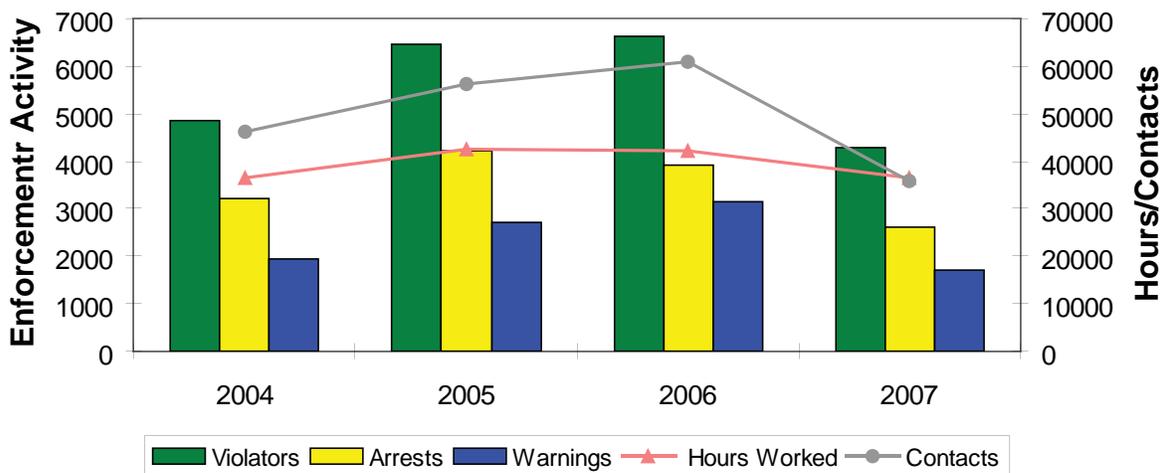


Region Four Officer of the Year: Mike Krenz

- Instrumental in working with Prosecutor’s Office to file habitat violation charges
- Dangerous/problem wildlife expert
- Defensive Tactics Instructor, Firearms Instructor, and Field Training Officer
- Volunteers for out-of-Region patrols
- Demonstrates commitment to outreach and education programs



Region 4 - Mill Creek





Region 4 - Mill Creek

Challenges

Fir Island Snow Goose Initiative: In Fir Island in Skagit County, illegal and unethical hunting had escalated with the increased snow goose numbers to a point where public safety and unethical hunting had become a concern. WDFW staff recommended and the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted several new hunting regulations specific to Fir Island to address these concerns. WDFW staff has regularly met with a group of Fir Island stakeholders over the past two years to address issues related to snow geese and snow goose related recreation on Fir Island and the surrounding area.



Nooksack Elk Herd: In the mid to late 1990s, the once robust Nooksack elk herd was depleted to critical levels necessitating the closure of both state and tribal elk hunting seasons. Over the past decade, WDFW spearheaded a cooperative effort with tribal co-managers to rebuild the Nooksack elk herd to where 30 bull permits were issued in 2007.

Urban Wildlife Conflicts: King County is the most densely populated County in the state but it is not all high-rise buildings, sports stadiums, parking lots, and surface streets. Some parts of east King County still remain wild and undeveloped providing ideal habitat for wildlife and often times these same areas are immediately adjacent to urban and residential areas.



Boating Safety Enforcement: Due to our familiarity and expertise operating watercraft, WDFW Officers are being increasingly asked by our other law enforcement partners to participate in boating safety enforcement. For the first time, Region 4 Officers were asked to provide three WDFW patrol vessels and associated staff to assist the Navy, Coast Guard, local and state law enforcement with patrols on Lake Washington during the 2007 Seafair weekend.



Significant Cases

Catching Illegal Poachers: In August 2007, while Officer Cook was on foot patrol in rural Snohomish County, she discovered an illegal bear bait site. After performing extensive surveillance, Officers Cook and Maurstad located a Dodge pickup with blood, hair, and empty grain bags in the bed of the truck. As the Officers approached the bait site they discovered and arrested two hunters who were dressed in camouflage and armed with archery equipment. The Officers seized the pickup and all of the hunting equipment for forfeiture and their miscellaneous equipment, including cell phones and cameras for evidence. After conducting a follow-up investigation and examining photographic evidence, additional information and a third suspect was identified. Officer Cook obtained a search warrant and with the help of Officers Jorg and Oosterwyk executed the warrant at one of the suspect's residences. The Officers received full confessions and additionally discovered and seized evidence and a confession of a closed season deer. The suspects lost their vehicle and hunting equipment to forfeiture and their criminal charges are still pending final disposition.



Joint-State Efforts Result in Convictions: WDFW Officers were contacted by a game warden from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, pertaining to an ongoing deer investigation he had been conducting in Eastern Montana. He indicated that a rancher from Montana had been allowing several of his Washington resident hunting buddies hunt and illegally harvest deer from his property. A total of six Washington residents were identified and suspected of the illegal activity. WDFW Officers, with the assistance of other King County Officers, organized and performed numerous personal visits with each of the suspects. In the end, patience and persistence prevailed as full confessions were obtained from all parties. The investigation revealed the illegal killing of eight deer, several turkeys, and numerous tagging violations. One large 4x4 mule deer buck was seized here in Washington. All information was referred to Montana for prosecution and in the end a total of twenty-two charges were filed against the poachers, resulting in convictions with monetary penalties amounting to well over \$20,000. Each subject also had his hunting license privileges revoked by the state of Montana for four years.



Region 5 – Vancouver



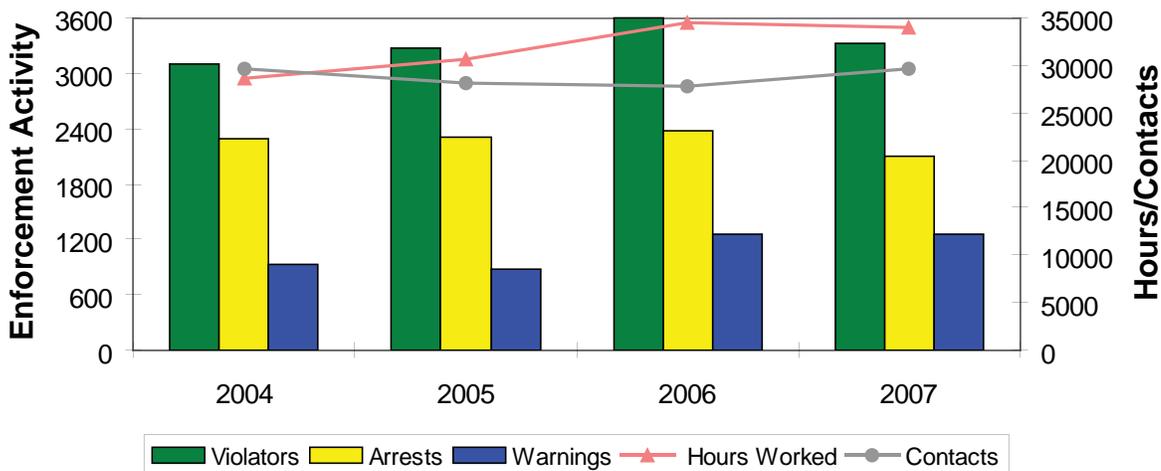
Captain Murray Schlenker

Region Five Officer of the Year: Tom Moats

- Has done excellent work with the community and local agencies
- Reclaimed the Washougal River from snagging and poachers
- Makes public outreach a priority
- Responds to all reports of habitat violations
- Is a lead investigative officer for commercial exotic species



Region 5 - Vancouver





Region 5 – Vancouver

Challenges

Increasing Commercial Fishery Work on the Columbia River: Region 5 Officers worked closely with the Oregon State Patrol (OSP) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) personnel in monitoring commercial and sport fisheries on the Columbia River. These efforts resulted in 27 felony and three gross misdemeanor charges being filed against individuals in Cowlitz County, all related to commercial activities.

Addressing Increasing Complaints of Snagging on Local Rivers: Officers conducted focused patrols utilizing undercover Officers to address snagging and a myriad of fish and public safety issues on the Cowlitz and Kalama Rivers. Hundreds of gross misdemeanors, and notices of infraction were issued on these two rivers.

Increase in the Significant Number of Special Elk Permits: Officers monitored the St. Helens elk herd during the hunting seasons. Due to public and political pressure, this herd was targeted for reduction in size. An additional 1800 permits were issued above and beyond what is normally issued for the herd.

Lewis County Flooding: In December 2007, Lewis County requested WDFW assistance with responding to flood victims.



Sgt. Holden responding to the Lewis County flood

Freshwater Clams: Efforts were made to stem the harvest of freshwater clams. The clams are toxic (PCBs and heavy metals). We have worked with the Department of Health and local medias to spread word of the closure and health issues; however, the commercial market for these clams is extremely high.

Significant Cases

Multi-State Investigation: During routine inspections of fish buyers on the Columbia River in Longview, Officer Conklin noted that the signatures on the fish receiving tickets did not seem to be consistent. She initiated an investigation that, ultimately, resulted in the filing of 27 felonies and one gross misdemeanor charge for falsifying fish receiving tickets. Her investigation showed that one fisher was actually in Alaska during the time that his vessel was fishing on the Columbia and selling fish. She utilized a forensic documents examiner in the investigation to show that one person, who was not the fisher, had been signing nearly all of the fish receiving tickets.

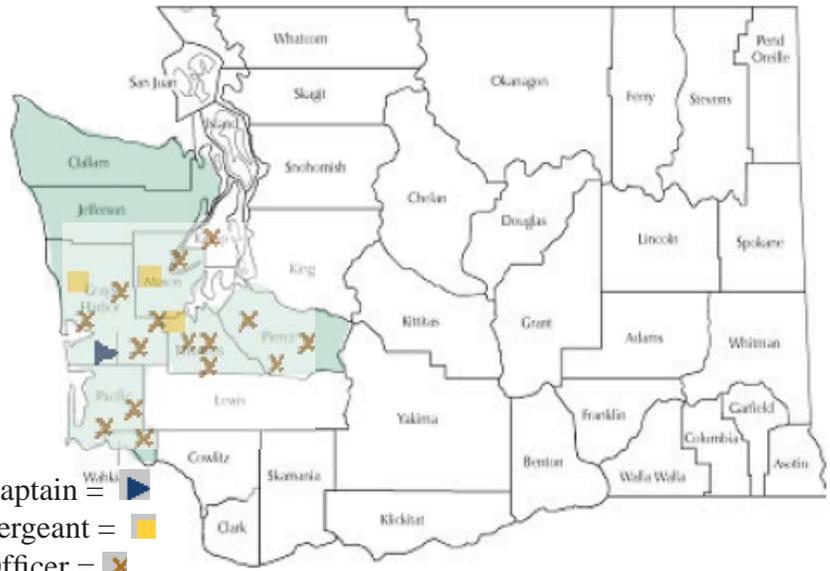
Ending a Pikeminnow Reward Program Scam: Officers Lantiegne and Martin were conducting a patrol on Mayfield Lake in Lewis County. When the Officers inquired about the 100-quart cooler on board, the man suddenly “remembered” that he also had a number of Northern Pikeminnow on board. There were 30 live Pikeminnow swimming around in the cooler. The man’s story went from taking the fish home to feed his cat to the truth, which was that he was enrolled in the Pikeminnow Reward Program and was being paid for the fish, which were supposed to be coming from the Columbia River. Felony charges are pending in this case.

Repeat Offender: In November, Officer Foster began to discover elk that had been shot and left, some with the antlers taken. Officers eventually arrested a suspect in the area that had returned to butcher two elk that he killed the previous evening. Two weeks later, he was arrested again in Kelso with six sets of elk and two sets of deer antlers. Taking elk closed season, hunting with an artificial light, felon in possession of a firearm, and possession stolen property charges are pending at this time.

Region 6 - Montesano



Captain Dan Brinson

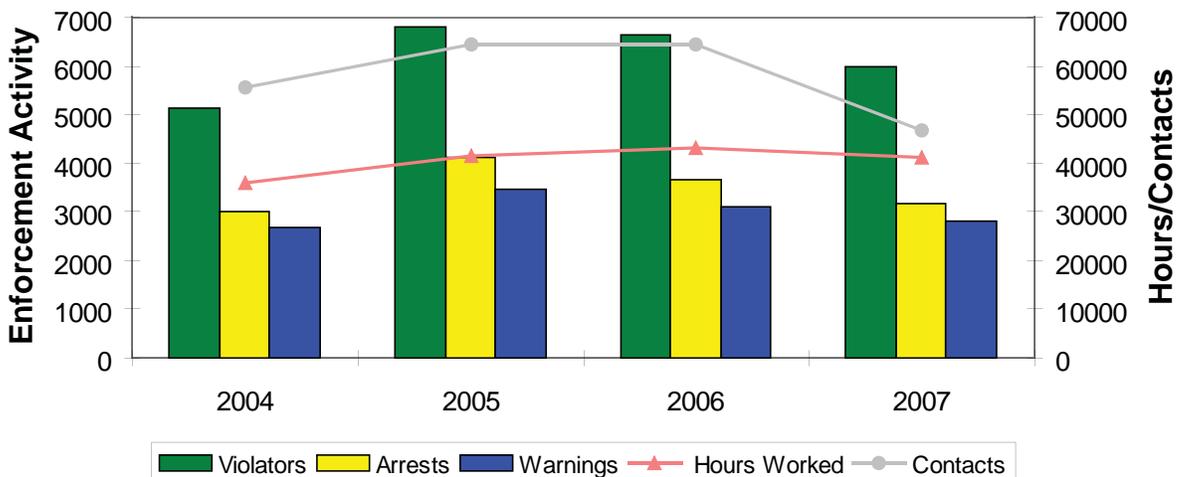


Region Six Officer of the Year: Phil Johnson

- Tenacious in pursuing and catching violators
- Has a very high level of enforcement activity
- Involved in Hunter Ed, school presentations, and Eyes in the Woods training
- Organizes and leads emphasis patrols
- Serves as a WDFW Boat Instructor team leader



Region 6 - Montesano





Region 6 - Montesano

Challenges

Sanitary Shellfish Enforcement: Fish and Wildlife Officers in Region Six play an important role protecting public safety and health by patrolling areas in the Puget Sound where harvest is prohibited due to pollution. Officers work all hours of the day and night, depending on the tide, patrolling these polluted beaches, conducting surveillance and doing investigations to apprehend and prosecute these ruthless violators who care more about a quick dollar than the harm they pose to innocent consumers.



Big Game Conflicts: Issues exist with crop damage to Christmas trees, cranberries, hay and pasturelands, as well as traditional agricultural crops. Opposing views where agricultural land is intermixed with urban sprawl often complicates the damage issues.

ESA Salmon Protection: During the summer and fall months, Region Six Fish and Wildlife Officers are prioritizing their activities in order to maintain a focus on protecting several runs of ESA-listed Summer Chum and Chinook Salmon making their way through the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Hood Canal, and Puget Sound to return to their spawning grounds in Region Six rivers and streams.



Significant Cases

All Night Surveillance Pays Off for Officers: Officers apprehended two cedar thieves in Naselle where a high-risk stop was initiated and the suspects, a couple from Grays River, were arrested. Methamphetamine, paraphernalia, and a load of illegal cedar were taken as evidence. Both were booked into jail and the male subject provided a good statement. Officers conducted follow-up on 20 illegal loads of cedar transported to a mill in Oregon.

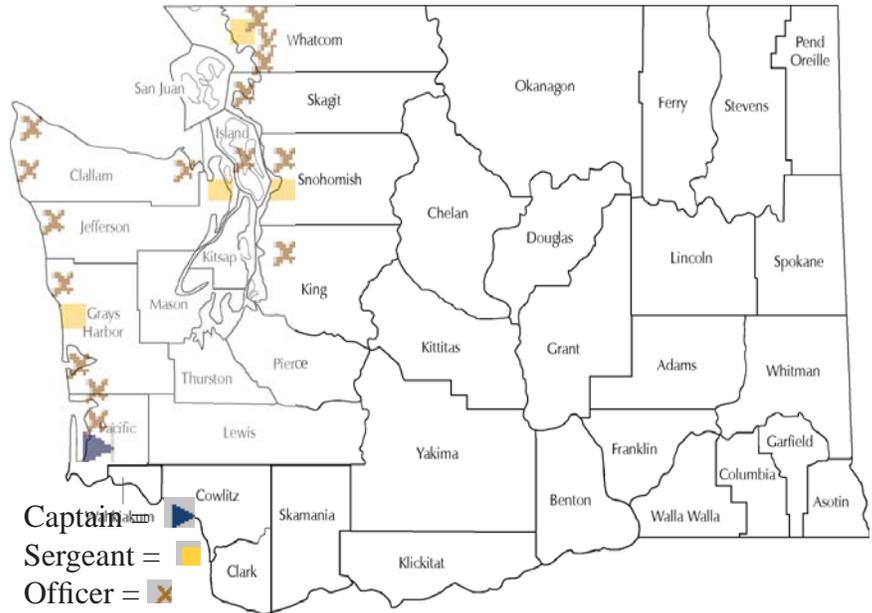
Suspect Failed to Cover His Tracks!: State Patrol dispatched Officer Klein to a call where an individual found a recently-killed deer in his yard. The reporting party reported that the deer had been shot with an arrow and the blood trail led to his neighbor's yard. Officer Klein contacted the neighbor who admitted to killing the fawn earlier in the evening. Officer Klein obtained consent to search and seized the deer and a compound bow from the suspect. The suspect was cited for hunting closed season, fail to tag, unlawful transportation, and trespassing.

WDFW Officers Assist Assaulted Trooper and Engage in Foot Pursuit: Officers responded to assist a Trooper who had been assaulted after a confrontation with a subject stopped for traveling over 100 miles per hour on State Route 12. They assisted in the canine track of a second subject who ran from a WDFW Officer when he responded to a report of a suspicious person at the Department of Transportation fuel pumps near the location of the original stop. The officer later identified the subject from a photo and will be assisting with follow-up. The suspects had numerous felony warrants, switched plates on the Jeep, and burglary evidence in the Jeep.

Statewide Marine Division

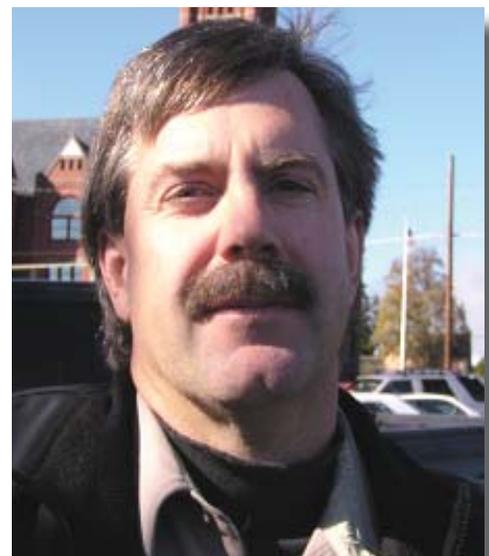


Deputy Chief Mike Cenci

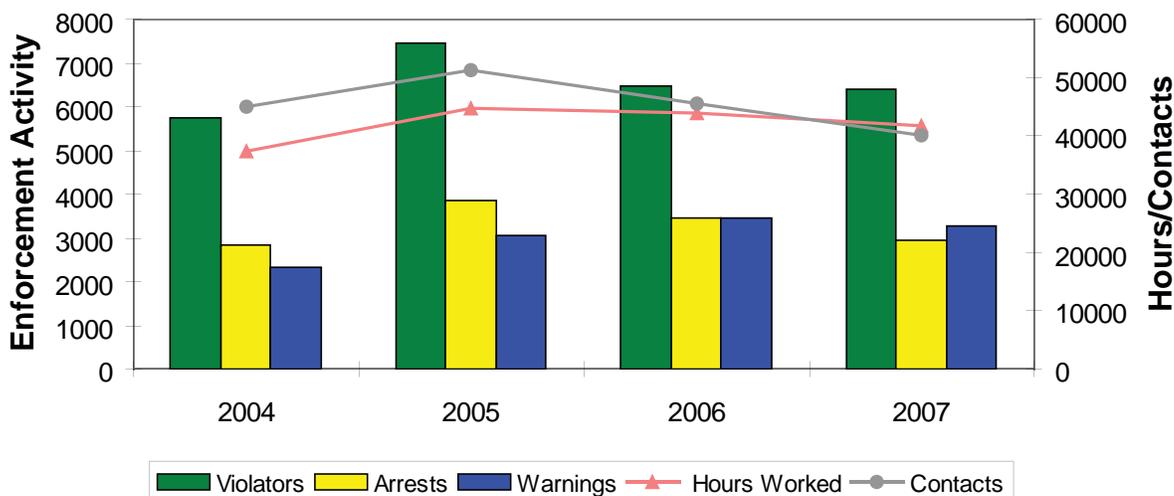


Marine Division Officer of the Year: Brian Fairbanks

- Enforces a large geographic area
- Maintains close connections with the community
- Conducted a successful investigation and prosecution of three tribal cases on private lands
- Cooperates with other agencies
- Investigated and apprehended three juveniles who had killed six elk



Statewide Marine Division





Statewide Marine Division

Challenges

Groundfish Enforcement. Due to the overfished status of many groundfish species, both recreational and commercial harvest opportunities have been severely constrained, forcing fisheries managers to close seasons and areas, apply strict catch limits and restrict the kind of gear that can be used. To ensure our success, specially trained officers are employed through emphasis style patrols.

Foreign Fishing: Encroachment of Canadian fishing vessels has historically been a problem, particularly as it relates to the commercial crab fishery.

Endangered Salmon: Unfortunately recovering salmon stocks has similar challenges as recovering groundfish. Being able to access healthy species that mix with weak populations is dependant on selective fishing. The success of this strategy is dependant on high compliance, which requires a dedicated enforcement presence on the grounds where only hatchery fish can be kept and wild fish must be released.

Significant Cases

Operation One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish: Marine Officers teamed up with the Oregon State Police (OSP), United States Coast Guard, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA) to provide an overt presence during the West Coast Pacific Whiting Fishery. WDFW Officers discovered the illegal at-sea discarding of 16,000 pounds of Widow Rockfish from a vessel that had first shut off its surveillance camera in an effort to avoid detection. WDFW, OSP and NOAA investigated and made the case. The violator ultimately paid a \$40,000 fine.



As industry came within five metric tons of the cap, a Washington fish plant was caught at 3 a.m. by a WDFW Officer trying to grind up the rockfish in order to avoid closing the season down. The amount of fish involved in this violation resulted in season closure due to achievement of the cap, leaving 40% of the available Whiting harvest still on the table, and millions of dollars.



Significant Cases

Illegal Crab Potting: Several Canadian commercial crabbers were observed actively fishing with gear illegally deployed in Washington waters. During the WDFW-led operation, video surveillance evidence was gathered for later prosecution. Patrol vessels were stationed on the water to intercept the violators, but they escaped. Since WDFW Officers had teamed up with Canadian Fisheries Officers from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, they simply followed the suspects into Canada where contact was made. Meanwhile, WDFW patrol vessels seized gear deployed South of the border over two days, confiscating 400 crab pots for forfeiture. The estimated value of the stolen crab that we returned to the water was \$17,000. The estimated value of the gear seized for forfeiture was over \$40,000.



Illegal Gillnetting on the Nooksack River: WDFW Officers received a call from a citizen regarding a Lummi Tribal Member who was gillnetting Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed spring Chinook salmon from the lower Nooksack River. The suspect was reportedly selling large numbers of salmon to locals. Officers began investigating. With returning spring Chinook numbers measured in the hundreds, this became the highest enforcement priority. Two illegal set nets were located in a remote part of the river delta, on the Lummi Reservation. The nets had cut-down floats that were clearly designed to help avoid detection. Officers worked with Lummi Officers and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Special Agents to conduct extended surveillance. This led to video of the suspect using a kayak to remove seven 15 to 25 pounds Chinook from one net over two days and the documentation of commercial sale to multiple citizens. The suspect was immediately contacted at the riverside property where he lives where he was prevented from killing any more of the fish. When confronted with the officers' observations, the suspect decided to cooperate and subsequently admitted he had killed at least 25 spring Chinook over the previous two weeks and had sold 20 of them for \$20 each. Lummi Law and Order subsequently convicted the suspect of several charges and ordered the suspension of fishing privileges. NMFS prosecution under Federal ESA and the Lacey Act is currently underway.



Special Investigation Unit

Special Investigation Unit: Lieutenant Ed Volz



Special Investigative Unit Detective of the Year: Paul Golden

- Firearms Instructor – Incorporated firearms simulation training with Defensive Tactics
- Conducted In-Service training on electronic evidence
- Utilized confidential informant information to make cases
- Lead Detective in North Puget Sound Task Force investigation
- Mentors new Officers and Detectives



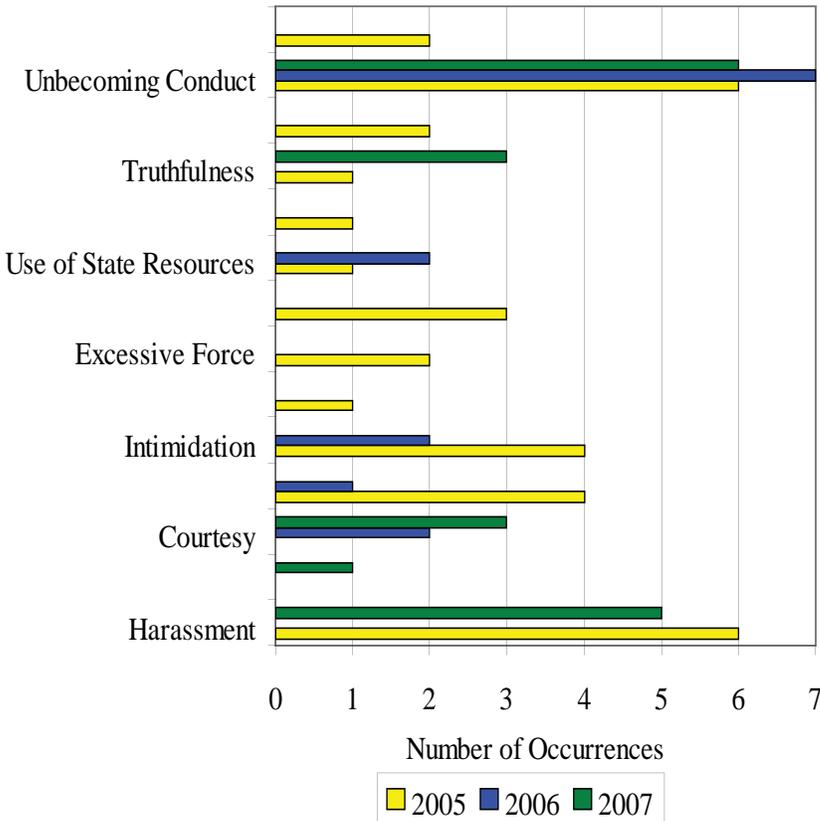
Catching the Kill' em all Boyz: The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) completed a seven-month covert investigation dubbed Operation Flash. In June 2007, more than 40 Fish & Wildlife Officers, Sergeants, Detectives, and officers from other local agencies were briefed by SIU in Longview and executed three arrest warrants, and six Search Warrants; seized three hounds, rifles, vehicles, computers, cameras, and other evidence implicating seven individuals of 76 violations. Suspects have been or will be charged in five SW Washington Counties, as well as Jefferson County. The suspects had hunted with each other for many years and referred to themselves as the "Kill' em all Boyz."

Computer Forensics/Technology: In the field of computer forensics and technology, SIU Detectives continued to take a lead role for WDFW in 2007. After conducting hands on training at the 2007 In-Service, the lead Forensic Detective analyzed more than 30 computer hard drives and cell phones as well as other electronic storage devices relevant to SIU investigations and the investigations of several Fish & Wildlife Officers. On several occasions the evidence recovered by the Forensic Detective turned out to be crucial to the success of the case and guilty finding of the suspects. On the technology side of the fence, SIU detectives employed wireless video surveillance cameras on two joint state/federal investigations. One of the cases resulted in Detectives flying to Florida when the primary suspect unexpectedly packed up and moved back to Florida, taking 1,000 pounds of salmon, which he iced down in the hull of his boat. Some of the salmon were illegally harvested from the Samish River and others he bought and resold in Florida. While working with National Marine Fisheries Service Agents and Florida Investigators, the SIU Detective assisted Florida Fish & Game who made an undercover purchase of 78 of the Washington salmon. This case is pending federal prosecution through the Seattle U.S. Attorney's office.





Closed Complaint Type Comparison

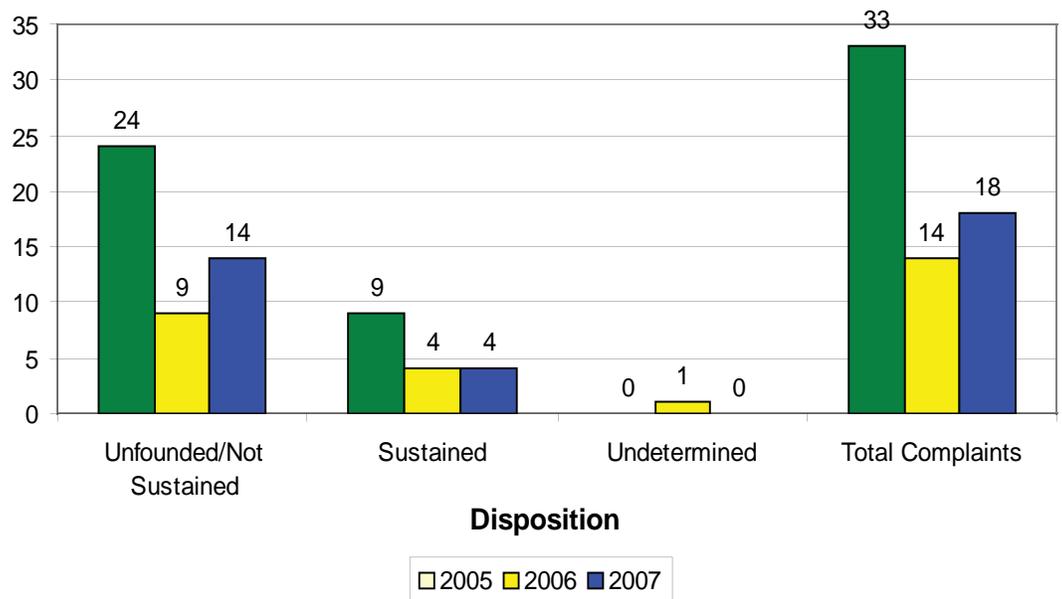


The Enforcement Program accepts verbal or written complaints against any of its employees. An Enforcement Program employee who receives a complaint is required to record the reporting party's name, phone number and name of the employee involved and attempt to immediately refer the reporting party to the employee's immediate supervisor. If a supervisor is not available, the employee is asked to courteously and promptly record as much about the complaint as possible. The complaint is forwarded to the employee's supervisor or next level supervisor.

Complaints of misconduct against the Program or Department are forwarded to the Deputy Chief and Chief for review.

Citizen complaints against officers in the Enforcement Program were up in 2007: 18 compared to 14 in 2006, an increase of 28.6%. Issues regarding Unbecoming Conduct were the most frequent type of complaint in 2007.

Closed Officer Complaints





Customer Satisfaction Survey

Enforcement Program Citizen Survey Methodology

In August 2006, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Enforcement Program began to devise a citizen survey to meet the requirements of a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standard. The standard requires that agencies seeking accreditation must conduct a citizen survey at least once every three years. The on-line survey became active on May 24, 2007, and it was available for completion until December 31, 2007. During that time, we received 2673 responses. Persons interested in completing the survey on paper were mailed a copy at their request. The results of this survey will become a baseline for future surveys.

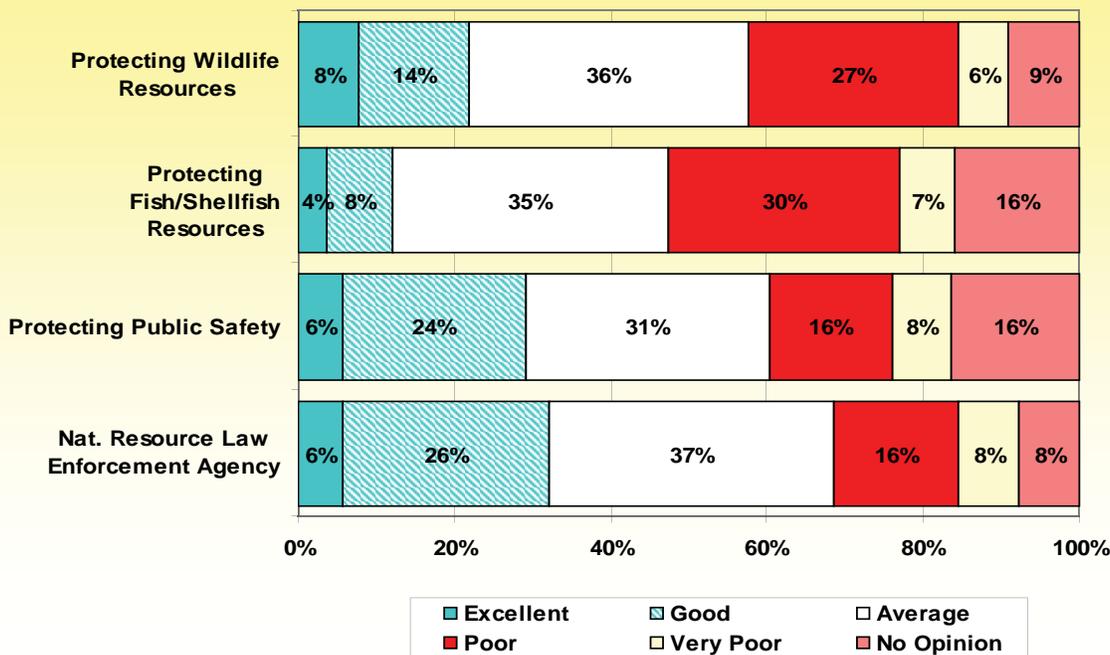
Major Findings

- **Demographics.** Most respondents recreate by fishing, hunting, visiting wildlife, or harvesting shellfish. The respondents recreating are primarily made up of 40 to 70 year old residents of Washington State who have lived in WA for at least twenty years and have hunted and fished for over ten years. The top five counties most frequented are King, Snohomish, Pierce, Grays Harbor, and Cowlitz counties.
- **Contact Information.** Out of 2673 respondents, 62% had recent contact with Enforcement Program staff. Overall, 85% of the respondents viewed their contact with WDFW employees between Neutral to Very Pleasant. Officers made up the majority of contacts at 77%, compared to 15% Hunter Education staff, and 8% being Customer Service employees. Assisting citizens made up 23% of Officer contacts, while only 5% of contacts resulted in citations.
- **Personal Contact Evaluation.** In regards to Officer knowledge and job competence, as well as attitude, 70% of the respondents gave ratings of Good or Excellent. In regards to demeanor, Officers received a 68% rating of Good or Excellent. Appearance resulted in 78% respondents giving officers a Good or Excellent review.
- **Officer Staffing Levels.** While recreating in Washington, 10% of respondents witnessed Officers on patrol Often or Always. In contrast, 27% of participants witnessed violations Often or Always. Moreover, 65% of survey respondents would like to see more Officers on patrol and believe that more officers are most needed in Western Washington, followed by Eastern Washington. Enforcing Recreational Fisheries, Hunting/ Trapping, Commercial Fisheries Rules and Laws as well as conducting Public Education and Responding to Dangerous Wildlife Complaints have been shown to be the most important priorities of the Enforcement Program. Overall, 64% of the respondents believe that there needs to be more Officer presence statewide and 58% more presence in their most frequently visited county.
- **Overall Evaluation.** Only 22% of the respondents believe that the Enforcement Program is at least doing a Good job of protecting wildlife resources while 33% of the respondents believe that the program is doing a Poor or Very Poor job. In regards to protecting fish/shellfish resources, the Enforcement Program had 12% rating of Good or better and a 37% rating of doing a Poor job or worse. For protecting public safety, 30% believed that the Enforcement Program is doing a Good or better job while 24% think the Program is doing a Poor or Very Poor job. Lastly, 32% of the respondents believe that the Enforcement Program is doing a Good or Excellent job as a law-enforcement agency, while 24% believed that the agency is doing a Poor or Very Poor job.

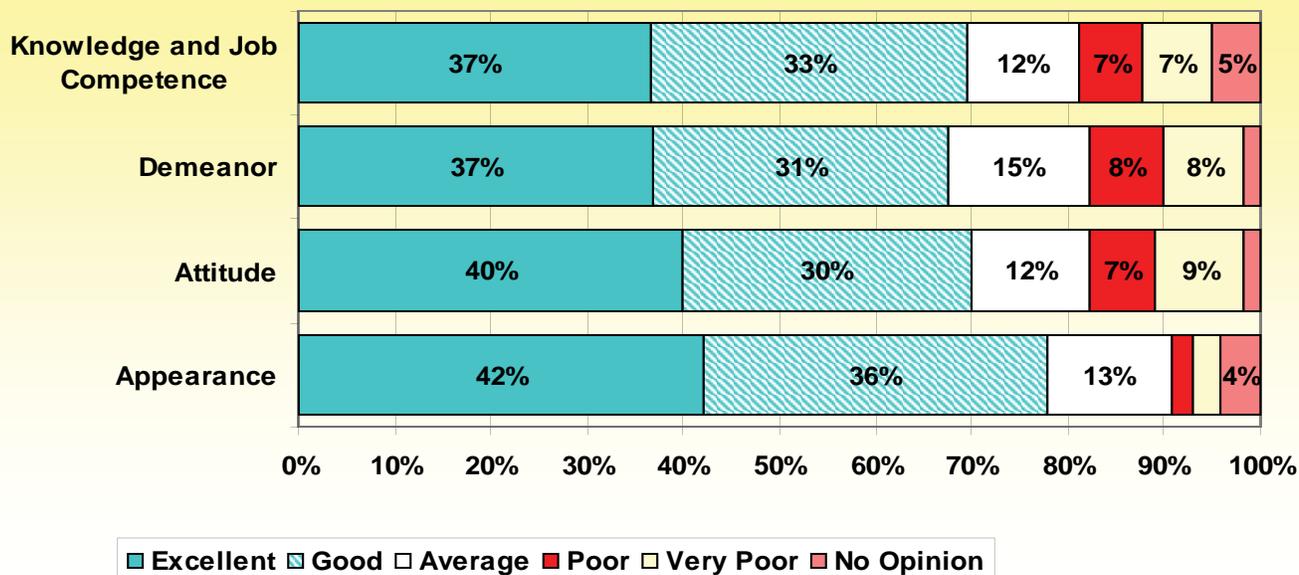
Customer Satisfaction Survey



Q18 to 21. Enforcement Program Overall Evaluation



Q8 to Q11. Personal Contact Evaluation



Web link for online survey report: http://wdfw.wa.gov/enf/customer_survey.htm

Enforcement Program 2007 Yearly Planning Calendar

Season	Entire Program	Region One	Region Two	Region Three	Region Four	Region Five	Region Six	Marine Division	Multiple Regions	October	November	December
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September			
Administrative Duties												
Airport Checks												
All other Bottomfish												
Aquatic Invasive Species												
Archery Deer									1 -30	15-31	23	-31
Archery Elk									8 -21		20	-15
Archery Mule Deer											20	-8
Archery White-tailed Deer											20	-8
Assist Other LEAs with Public Safety												
Assist Other Programs												
Bear Depredation				15-			-4					
Big Horn Sheep									15 -	10		
Black Bear				15-		-31		1-			-15	
Boarder Operations												
Boating Safety												
Bobcat								1-			-15	
Bull Trout												
Bull Trout Emphasis - Upper Lewis				1-							-31	
CA Quail General	-16		-16							1-		
CA Quail Youth									17-18			
Cabezon Area 5-13					1-	-15						
Chukar General	-16									1-		
Chukar Youth									17-18			
CLE - ORV												
CLE - Snowmobile												
Closed Seasons												
Coastal Bottomfish Closure												
Coastal Commercial Crab												
Columbia River Tangle Net Fishery												
Commercial - Sturgeon	10-		-28									
Commercial All-Citizens Salmon												
Commercial Bottomfish Drag Seine	1-				-30							
Commercial Bottomfish Set-Net						-15					1-	
Commercial Clam, Oyster, and Mussel												
Commercial Crab	Det 3	Detachment 3 through september										
Commercial Crawfish												
Commercial Forage Fish												
Commercial Geoduck Harvest												
Commercial Groundfish												
Commercial Halibut/Salmon												
Commercial Herring Seine and Lampara												
Commercial Salmon - Coho									15-		-31	
Commercial Salmon - Fall Chinook								1-			-31	
Commercial Salmon - Sockeye						1-		-31				
Commercial Salmon - Spring Chinook			1-		-30							
Commercial Salmon Summer Chinook												
Commercial Sea Cucumber												
Commercial Sea Urching Patrols												
Commercial Shad					1-		-30					
Commercial Shellfish												
Commercial Shellfish Market Inspections												
Commercial Shrimp												
Commercial Smelt												1-
Commercial Sturgeon				15-31	15-		-15					
Commercial Urchin												
Cooperative Lands Enforcement (CLE)												
Cougar				-15				1-				
Cougar Depredation	-1											1-
Cougar Permit Hunt				-15								1-
Coyote - Hound Season				-15				6-				
Crab	-3							1-	-6			15-
Crab Coast												
Crawfish						1-						-31
Criminal Investigations												
Crow		-31									1-	
Dangerous Wildlife - Bear												
Dangerous Wildlife - Cougar												
Dangerous Wildlife - Coyote												
Dangerous Wildlife - Moose												
Deer/Elk Access Permits												
Deer/Elk Damage												
Disable Hunts Elk									28 -	1 -	2	
Dove									1-15			
Duck General	-29									15-19, 22		
Duck Youth									17-18			
Dusky Goose		-29							10-15			12-
Endangered Species												
Endangered/Protected Species												
ESA Steelhead												
Evaluations	1-			-31								
Evidence Maintenance		by 30		by 30			by 30					
Exotic Pets and Deleterious Wildlife												
Fairs - Sports Shows			Portland						Clark Co.			
Falconry			15	-15								1-
Forest Grouse												
Fox				-15				6-				
Frazier Panel Salmon												
Game Fish												
General Law Enforcement/Public Safety												
Goose		-29									15-	
Goose Youth									17-18			
Gorge - General Authority												
Gorge- Habitat Protection												
Grizzly/Caribou												
Grouse								1-				-31
Habitat Enforcement												
Halibut Area 5-13					14-		-20					
Halibut/Groundfish Patrols												
Homeland Security												
HPAs												
Hunter Education												
Illegal Geoduck Interdiction												
Kids Fishing Derbies				15-				-31				

Enforcement Program 2007 Yearly Planning Calendar

Season	Entire Program	Region One	Region Two	Region Three	Region Four	Region Five	Region Six	Marine Division	Multiple Regions			
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lake Washington Sockeye Fishery												
Lingcod Area 5-13					1-	-20						
Lingcod Patrols												
Marijuana Grow Operations												
Marine Mammal Protection												
Market Checks												
Meat Locker and Taxidermy Inspections												
Meat Processors/CWD												
MH Hunts												
Miscellaneous Calls for Service												
Modern Black-Tailed												
Modern Deer									15-25	15-23	17-20	
Modern Elk	AHE hunts							AHE hunts				
Modern Mule Deer												
Modern White-Tailed												
Moose Permit Season										1-	-30	
Mountain Goats												
Muzzleloader Deer									15-	-7		
Muzzleloader Deer Permit									8-	4-10	3-9	21-15
Muzzleloader Elk										1-7		
Muzzleloader Elk Permit										1-10		9-18
Non-Game and Deleterious Species												
North of Falcon Patrols												
Octopus												
Officer Vehicle Inspections												
Other Duties as Assigned												
Oysters, Clams, Mussels												
Partridge			-16									
Permit Bear				5-	-31							
Permit Hunts	-31								1-			
Pet Shop - Deleterious Monitoring												
Pheasant 65 & Older										19-23		
Pheasant General												
Pheasant Youth									17-18			
Pigeon										15-28		
Public Education												
Puget Sound Commercial Crab												
Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp				16-						-15		
Quilcene River Patrols												
Rabbit			-15					1-				
Raccoon			-15					6-				
Razor Clams												
Recreational Crab Patrols												
Recreational Groundfish												
Recreational Halibut												
Rec- Hardshell Clams and Oysters												
Recreational Salmon												
Recreational Salmon - Rivers												
Recreational Shrimp Patrols												
Recreational Sturgeon												
Regulated Activities												
Rehab Inspection												
Respond to Legislative Requests, Commissioners, Constituents, etc.												
Restaurant Checks												
Returning Salmon Protection												
Road Management Area Enforcement												
Rockfish Area 5-13					1-	-15						
Salmon												
Salmon - Drano Lake Emphasis				16-	-30							
Salmon - Sport - Fall Chinook								1-				-31
Salmon - Sport - Spring Chinook	1-			-30								
Salmon (Closure)												
Salmon Area 1-13 (NOF)						1-				-30		
Salmon Closures												
Sand Shrimp												
Sanitary Shellfish												
Sea Cucumbers												
Sea Lion Hazing Patrols - Control			1-		-31							
Sea Urchins												
Seaweed												
Serve Search and Arrest Warrants												
Shad - Sport					16-	-31	-31					
Shrimp												
Small Game												
Snow Goose												
Snowmobile											1-	-31
Special Forest Product Enforcement												
Sport Shellfish												
Sport Smelt	1-		-31									
Spring Bear Damage												
Spring Bear Hunt												
Squid												
Steelhead												
Steelhead - Drano Lake Emphasis							1-		-30			
Sturgeon												
Support Other Agencies												
Support other programs												
T&E Species Protection												
Taxidermy Checks												
Training												
Trapping				-31							1-	
Trial Landowner Incentive Program												
Tribal Enforcement												
Tribal Hunting/Fishing Issues												
Turkey				15-	-15					24-30	8-	-14
Turkey Permits										24-30		
Turkey Youth				8-9								
Unclassified Marine Invertebrates												
Waterfowl	-29											
WDFW Lands Enforcement												
Wholesale Buyers												
Wildlife Control												
Winter Blackmouth												
Youth Deer Hunts										11-31		



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Enforcement Program

Web Site: wdfw.wa.gov/enf/enforce