

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM



FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER



NATURE'S BEST DEFENSE !



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 Fall 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, Statewide Marine, Special Investigations, 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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WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Wildlife protection is a year-round event for Officers. People often associate this kind of enforcement with open hunting seasons. When seasons are open, Officers are involved in enforcing bag limits and special species restrictions, patrolling closed areas, investigating trespass cases, and checking for licenses and tags, along with many other regulations. Unfortunately, wildlife is commonly taken when seasons are closed, and often at night with the aid of spotlights.

Every hunting season, we see the full range of violation types. . . from inadvertent violations and temptations getting the best of someone, to hardcore poaching. Everyone makes mistakes; we recognize that. Often, it's not the mistakes themselves that become the issue, but it's how a person handles the incident. Many people do the right thing in their efforts to rectify the situation, but others simply compound the problem and make it difficult for law enforcement to ascertain the difference between what was intentional and what wasn't.

Repeat Offender Busted Again: Fish and Wildlife Officers Hughes and Moats responded to a report of a closed-season deer investigation in the Yacolt area. The Officers secured a confession and seized a freshly killed buck deer from the violators, who were already under current investigation for other violations in the Davenport area. The family had shot the deer the day before near their residence, claiming they suddenly realized the deer season was closed. The father stated that he and his son would have reported the mistake but felt sure authorities would think they were just poachers after all the fuss over the Davenport investigations.

Bad Karma: Fish and Wildlife Officer Hobbs cited a man for having a loaded rifle in a motor vehicle the opening morning of the modern firearm elk season. Officer Hobbs also warned the man about his cigarette butts being on the ground outside his Bronco, due to the potential fire hazard. He was issued an additional warning for having his vehicle in an off-road restricted area. The next day, the man's Bronco burned to the ground after he

had driven into another area with the same restriction. Other hunters reported hearing rifle rounds and seeing the vehicle's tires and gas tank exploding while it was on fire. Fish and Wildlife Captain Mann contacted the man's son later in the day and returned rifle parts recovered from the truck and. The son assured Captain Mann that he knew where his father was (the hospital). As it turned out, the subject had missed the turn-off to camp in the Observatory Road area and ended up in the upper Wenas Valley near the top of Clemens Ridge.

Poor Ethics Related to Master Hunter: A Fish and Wildlife Officer responded to a call-for-service on Reecer Creek on opening morning of modern firearm elk season. A Yakama Nation tribal member called the Officer to inquire about taking a calf-elk that had been shot and left in the middle of the road. The Officer found out a man named Carl had been near the calf. "Carl" had told a passing hunter that he "finished it [the calf] off." The Officer later located a "Carl," who matched the description, in a camp. While he mentioned



seeing the calf, Carl failed to mention that he had killed the calf. He and his son held to their stories until the Officer left. The Officer heard two more accounts from others that didn't match Carl's and returned to Carl's camp. Eventually, Carl and his son confessed to Carl killing the calf, although Carl claimed it was a mercy killing. Carl had coached his son to leave out the critical pieces of the story. As a Master Hunter, Carl gave false information on two occasions, killed a calf elk, and then returned to camp without calling WDFW about the incident.

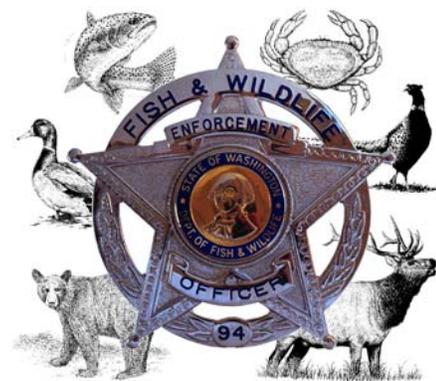
that was how they found it when they got to it, according to the hunters. In addition, the elk tag was not notched as required (notching is required in order to validate the kill and to ensure the tag will not be used to take a second elk.) The Officer convinced the hunters he had seen this type of cover up before, and the officer soon confessed. The unfortunate part was, this was a 13-year-old's first elk and his dad was coaching him on how to lie to the game warden in order to cover an animal taken contrary to antler restriction rules. The elk was seized and confessions obtained. Charges were forwarded for both the juvenile and his dad.

Illegal Elk Killings: Fish and Wildlife Officer Vance responded to a call in the Trout Lake area regarding a possible illegal elk killing. Officer Orr and a sheriff's deputy arrived to assist and found the suspect. The suspect said his party had three elk down. When the Officers arrived at the suspect's location, they found a 5x5 bull, a 4x4 bull, and a calf. The area is a 3-point or better unit. The subject said he, his brother, and his daughter got into the herd at first daylight, and he unloaded his semi-automatic rifle and must have accidentally killed the calf in the excitement. After the subjects were separated and interviewed, the Officers found that there was actually a fourth elk killed that the party had stashed in the bushes. The suspect and his brother said they planned to leave it to rot. It was also determined that the one subject had actually killed all four of the elk, and then his brother arrived to see what all the shooting was about and tagged one of the bulls. Only one elk per hunter per year is allowed. In all, twelve citations were issued and a .338 Browning rifle was seized for forfeiture.

The Art of Reducing the Number of Antler Points - Take II:

Sergeant Sprecher investigated a report of a two-by-two bull elk shot in GMU # 329. He found the suspect and his two juvenile boys field dressing the elk. The elk antlers had been modified to make it a spike-by-two between the time a witness initially saw the elk and the arrival of law enforcement. The father admitted to shooting the bull elk, but tried to tell Sergeant Sprecher that the antlers were that way when he shot it. After a lengthy discussion and a whole lot of denying that the point was broken off, the suspect admitted to breaking the point off with a rock. Sergeant Sprecher recovered the missing antler point, and seized the elk and the suspect's rifle.

The Art of Reducing the Number of Antler Points: While a Fish and Wildlife Officer was en route from one closed season-call to another, he came across three individuals taking the "back-way" home... with a modified one-by-three bull elk in the bed of the pickup. The Officer observed hatchet "hesitation marks" on the spike side of the elk's antlers, as well as fresh dirt rubbed on a freshly broken tine. Of course,





Tinsel Town - It's all fun and games until you get caught

Detachment 17 served a search warrant on a residence in Kittitas. The Detachment, along with two Washington State Patrol (WSP) Troopers, executed the warrant after a two-week long investigation by Fish and Wildlife Officers. Five subjects, all of whom were at the residence, were involved in poaching numerous deer and elk during nighttime spotlighting "adventures" in northern Kittitas County. Seized from the residence were antlers, skullcaps with antlers, and skulls with antlers of eleven deer and two elk. Officers have only investigated carcasses of seven deer and two elk, but are hoping the GPS unit and cameras seized will help identify additional kill sites and wildlife taken. Also seized was a 1998 GMC pickup, two rifles, cameras, cell phones, five spotlights



, and other poaching related items. Most of the suspects eventually came clean about their midnight operations over the past month. All the deer and elk were admittedly killed at night using spotlights. The suspects' removed only the antlers from the deer and elk and left the rest to rot. Officers noticed a large amount of silver tinsel all over the driveway and throughout the house and pickup. Officer Hobbs had found the same tinsel around two poached



bull elk carcasses a week earlier. Blue shop towels and/or silver tinsel linked most of the carcasses investigated. One of the females involved had a birthday, and they had celebrated with the tinsel. When the birthday girl found out the tinsel allowed WDFW to get the warrant, she hung her head. Multiple counts of spotlighting, closed season, hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, wastage, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of meth, and possession of marijuana will be filed in the coming weeks.



While Officers often find themselves trying to sort out the truth and establish intent, there are many examples of cases where this is very clear. . . enter the hardcore:

Court Hammers a Poacher: Kenneth Farmer, spree killer of deer and elk on SR 504, was sentenced in Cowlitz County Superior Court for unlawful possession of a firearm as a felon, possession of a stolen firearm, and five big game charges. He received 43 months in prison and \$14,000 in civil fines, penalties, and costs. Farmer was connected to the illegal killing of five branch antlered bull elk in the St. Helens area last year and is a suspect in many others. He was arrested in possession of parts from the five animals after removing them from a mini-storage and stuffing them inside a Nissan Pathfinder. He had been arrested a month prior as he attempted to retrieve a cow and a spike elk he had poached. To the Officers and Sergeants in Region 5 - NICE WORK!

Closed Season Elk: Officer Weaver completed an investigation into a bull elk being unlawfully killed on the opening day of deer season in the Goat Rocks Wilderness Area. Armed with information from an informant, Officer Weaver hiked into the high country and recovered DNA and shell casings. The informant also provided a license plate number of a vehicle parked at the trailhead. Officer Weaver, along with Officer Johnson and Sergeant Holden, conducted a knock-and-talk at a residence in Pierce County. The suspect came clean and gave a written statement. Officers seized the rifle and located the spot where the suspect dumped the meat a week prior. Charges were filed.

Illegal Deer Hunting: Officers Cook and Jorg responded to a reported untagged deer at the boat launch of the Three Rivers Trailer Park in Snohomish County. According to the reporting party, the suspect told him, “\$#@ no, I’m not going to tag it, I’m going to get another one!” The Officers arrived just as the 3x4

deer was being towed across the Snohomish River by a dinghy to one of the residences. The hunter blamed his former friend but he eventually admitted it was his deer. He had shot it the night before, and in the process of dragging it back to the trailer park, dropped it in the river where it sank. He retrieved it the next day using a 12-foot gaff hook and a borrowed boat. He told the Officers that he didn’t notch the tag because he didn’t know what day it was. The citation he was issued cleared that up for him.

Tribal Violation: Officer Valentine received a call from an Acme farmer who heard rifle shots on his property at dusk. The modern firearm elk season was closed. Officer Valentine responded and found two Lummi Nation Tribal hunters with two dead bull elk (5x5 and a 3x3). A white male accompanied them. The land was located in GMU 407 and was clearly posted “No Trespassing,” and the farmer had not given them permission to hunt. Even if he had, the land was clearly not open and unclaimed, or industrial timber land, as there were houses and fences on the agricultural property. In other words, in the case of hunting on private property, absent some agreement with WDFW, the Tribal hunter is compelled to follow Washington State hunting regulations. The two tribal hunters and their white companion were all cited for trespass, and the elk were seized. Additional charges were referred to the Prosecutors Office.

Serial Poacher Arrested: A citizen called Headquarters to report ongoing deer hunting violations. Officer Haw spoke to this person and recognized an association between the acts described and a bad guy he has dealt with in the past. Another Officer asked the caller, “Are we talking about ___ who lives on ___ Drive?” The caller said, “How did you



know?" This suspect (name not provided here until charges are filed) is well known to our Officers. His rap sheet includes felonies, wildlife offenses and domestic violence convictions. His hunting privileges have been revoked several times, as have the privileges of his sons and brothers. Officers have removed many deer and elk from his residence in at least four separate raids going back to 1992. The citizen reported that this man was currently hunting with a rifle (as a convicted felon) and was due back at his residence soon. He added that the suspect was in possession of two untagged doe deer at his house. Officers Klein and Haw then employed a very complicated Game Warden tactic in order to apprehend the suspect (they waited for the suspect to show up at his residence!) Within a few minutes, the suspect arrived with four rifles in plain view in his car. Also in plain view was an untagged doe deer. (Did I mention that this deer was covered with fly eggs and smelled rotten?) A consent search was conducted of his residence where two additional deer and eight firearms, including two handguns, were recovered. In addition, he was in possession of fraudulently obtained hunting licenses and tags issued to a Non-Resident son with an even worse wildlife violation history! A Ford Expedition, twelve firearms, three deer, and associated hunting equipment were seized for intended forfeiture. Charges are pending.

Resisting Arrest: On opening day of modern-firearm elk season, Officer Myers contacted a hunter in the Cloverland area who claimed he was not hunting despite being dressed in camouflage clothing and having a high-powered rifle in his possession. The subject was also using binoculars and a spotting scope to overlook a large open area sustaining a large deer and elk population. The hunter refused the Officer's requests to submit to a field inspection of his rifle and license. After numerous attempts at reason, the hunter was advised he was under arrest. Although the subject decided to resist, Officer Myers took him into custody with the help of the Asotin County Sheriff's Office.

Two Birds, One Stone... (Peone Prairie Incident): Sergeant Rahn and Officer Mosman investigated a highly publicized elk hunting incident on Peone Prairie. Numerous calls and media attention were garnered after a wounded elk crossed the main road and then was put down. Armchair detectives were sure that this constituted reckless endangerment (shooting towards houses, kids, etc.). However, this was proven not to be the case. After talking to the two hunters as they field dressed the two elk they had taken. Officer Mosman followed out a blood trail and found a third cow elk down. This led to a new round of investigations in which it was finally determined that one of the men had shot into the swirling herd of elk and killed two elk with one bullet.

Dumb and Dumber: Officer Baird was called by WSP on a possible poaching in progress on the Chinook Pass. The reporting party had noticed two people hiding in the bushes when he drove by and was able to provide a license plate number for the suspect vehicle. Upon arrival in the area, the Officer could not find anything. With the assistance of Officer Myers, he contacted the registered owner of the suspect vehicle, where the vehicle was parked at his house. Officer Baird observed fresh blood in the bed of the truck. The Officers interviewed two subjects and got a full story of what happened. The subjects stated they observed an injured doe lying next to SR-410 and they thought they would do the right thing by killing it. One subject tried shooting the doe, but only wounded it in the leg. They decided to cut its throat instead of shooting again, just in case somebody heard the first shot, but neither subject had a knife. The subjects then decided to load the doe in the truck and take it back to one of the subject's home and cut its throat there. After loading the injured deer in the truck, the doe decided it didn't want any part of what was going on, so it jumped out of the truck and ran off. The subjects took the Officers back to the scene and the mortally wounded doe was located and dispatched. The two subjects will be charged with various violations.



Elk Poaching: Officer Klump responded to Wahkiakum County where, accompanied by Fish and Wildlife Sergeant Chadwick, he investigated community complaints that a notorious poaching family illegally killed two 5x5 bull elk. The Officers interviewed several family members, taking inconsistent statements. With the help of Officers Hopkins, Prater, and Johnson, the case was made with confessions from everyone. Two brothers and a family friend went out elk hunting without any elk tags. They saw four legal bulls in a field and one of the brothers shot two elk. They left the scene and gathered two elk tags back at the house and returned. In the end, one Officer's pickup-truck was filled with two 5x5 bull elk heads and eight quarters of skinned out elk meat. Several charges will be filed, to include a felony big game charge, thanks to Officer Spurbeck arresting the same guy in 2005 for the same offense.

poaching incident near Woodland. She learned from the Regional Staff that they had just sealed a cougar, and that it may have been taken before the tag was purchased. The Officer made contact after she gathered local information about the suspect and was successful in securing a written confession that the cat was shot and then a tag was purchased in Woodland a few hours later. The 160+ pound cougar was seized from the suspect and a citation is forthcoming.



Cougar Investigations: Officer VanVladriken developed violation information about a cougar

Officers use many tools to catch poachers, and one of them is the elk or deer decoy. Decoys are sometimes placed in areas commonly found to hold deer and elk populations during the hours of darkness. The bad guys will use artificial light to locate and temporarily paralyze animals, buying time until they can get a shot off. Often, it's our decoy they shoot instead of the real thing.





Decoy Emphasis Patrol: Officer Treser, with the help of Officer Kim, Sergeant Phillips, and Officer Scherzinger, conducted a successful decoy patrol near Washington Pass. In classic fashion, the suspect used a spotlight and shot the decoy. He was a felon in possession of a firearm and also in possession of marijuana. Numerous charges are to be filed.

Unhappy Poachers: Officer Prater assisted Forest Service Officer Ian Canaan who had asked for priority back-up in Wilkeson. The subject had been using artificial light to illegally spotlight game and became uncooperative. Other Officers from Buckley Police Department, Bonney Lake, Pierce County, and other locations arrived to assist. As it turned out, the subject had been a previous suspect in a murder and is well known to local law enforcement as a dangerous person and convicted felon not allowed to possess a firearm.

Hunters Shoot at Decoy: Officers Myers, Baird, and Deputy Cypher worked the Chinook Pass area for two nights. Both nights produced subjects shooting the decoy. There were seven arrests. Within five minutes of getting the decoy set up, the first vehicle that came along, stopped and lit up "Bucky" with its headlights. The driver got out of his truck, quickly loaded his rifle, and shot poor old "Bucky" in the neck from the highway. The driver then realized what was up and tried to make his get-away. Officers stopped the suspect vehicle a short distance away from the crime scene. The driver was cited for shooting after-hours, spotlighting, and shooting from the roadway. His 30-06 rifle was seized for forfeiture. Bucky has requested a couple days off. Headquarters approved his request.

Deer Decoy: Sergeant Chandler and Officers Moszeter, Capelli, Willette, and Stevens, along with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Officer McIntosh, set up the deer decoy coming out of Stampede Pass on Sunday night. A vehicle was observed across the valley, shining a spotlight while heading toward the pass. The Officers picked up one of the set deer decoys and headed to a location where the vehicle was going to come out. Within five minutes, the pickup truck with two occupants came to a screeching halt and trained a light on the decoy. Seconds later, two shots from a .300 Winchester completed the hunter's activities. The "spotlight" was actually a tactical light on the business end of a loaded 10MM Glock pistol. Both firearms were seized for forfeiture. The location of the decoy was in Kittitas County, so closed season charges are among the numerous citations being considered.





Grouse Decoy: Fish and Wildlife Officers Capelli, Stevens, and Moszeter dummied up a dead hen pheasant to look like a grouse and set it up along one of the Hancock Timber roads at the close of shooting hours. One subject ran over it because he couldn't stop in time and another blasted it with a shotgun in the headlights of his truck. Since this particular decoy looked something like a Turducken, these guys must have been pretty desperate.

Unfortunately, a number of hunting related tragedies or injuries occur each year. Our Officers respond to and investigate these incidents. Officers also enforce a number of regulations meant to enhance the safety of all who use the outdoors, to include: the wearing of hunter orange when that attire is required; enforcing the prohibition against possessing a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle; reckless endangerment; and hunting while intoxicated, as well as felons illegally possessing firearms.

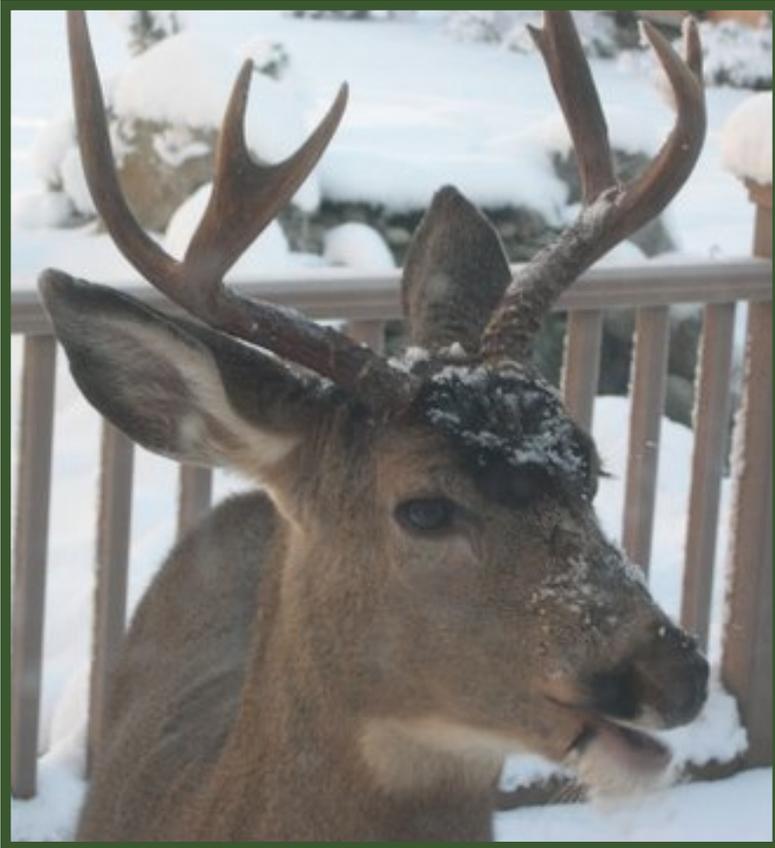
Know Where Your Partner Is: Officer Mosman spent most of the opening elk season investigating a hunting incident in which one bird hunter shot his partner with a load of #5 Copper plated shot in south Spokane County. The victim will most likely lose at least one eye.

Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound Claimed Life of Duck Hunter: Officer Horn completed the investigation into the fatal hunting accident that occurred on Whitcomb Island in Benton County. The lone duck hunter was found deceased from a single self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. The incident appeared to be accidental.

Fatality Investigated: Fish and Wildlife Sergeant Webb received a 2:00 a.m. phone call from Skamania County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). They were requesting assistance in the investigation of a possible hunting fatality incident in the Lone Butte area. Several Fish and Wildlife Officers responded to the area and determined that a subject engaged in harvesting specialized forest products had been shot with a high powered rifle. The case is being treated as a homicide and a suspect is being sought.



Fish and Wildlife Officers See Poacher Put to Justice



Fish and Wildlife Officers Jorg and Stevens responded to a deer poaching call outside of Duvall. The two Officers conducted a traffic stop of the suspects as they were attempting to gain possession of a large trophy black-tailed deer they had just shot with a bow during the closed season. The two Officers then conducted an investigation that, unknowingly would later be scrutinized in detail. When the suspect finally got to handle the deer he told the Officers “It’s even bigger than I thought it was,” and that he had to shoot it during the closed season and without a deer tag because he had to get it before anyone else did. This was a crime of ego and greed ending in the loss of this neighborhood’s pet deer.

Officers Jorg and Stevens were able to put an end to this case with a jury trial. The Officers assisted with many aspects of the trial, including advice, testimony, rounding up witnesses, and development of complaint language.

The result of this collaborative work between the prosecutor and the Officers was a big win. This trial of Chad Leonard resulted in fines of \$6,840, two days in jail, three days of work crew, and forty hours of community service. Also, for two years, Judge LaSalata revoked all hunting privileges, and prohibited Leonard to hunt, having any criminal violations, and possessing any weapons, including bows, guns, knives, or hunting equipment. If Leonard is found in possession, even constructive possession of any weapons or hunting equipment for the next two years, the weapons will automatically be forfeited to WDFW. He also is required to take a hunter safety class.

This judgment falls on the heels of a recent plea deal with the main suspect’s accomplice, Kyle Deboer. The accomplice received fines of \$635, five days of work crew, and a requirement to retake a hunter safety course, Deboer is prohibited from hunting or attempting to engage in any hunting activity, and possessing any weapons or hunting equipment for two years.

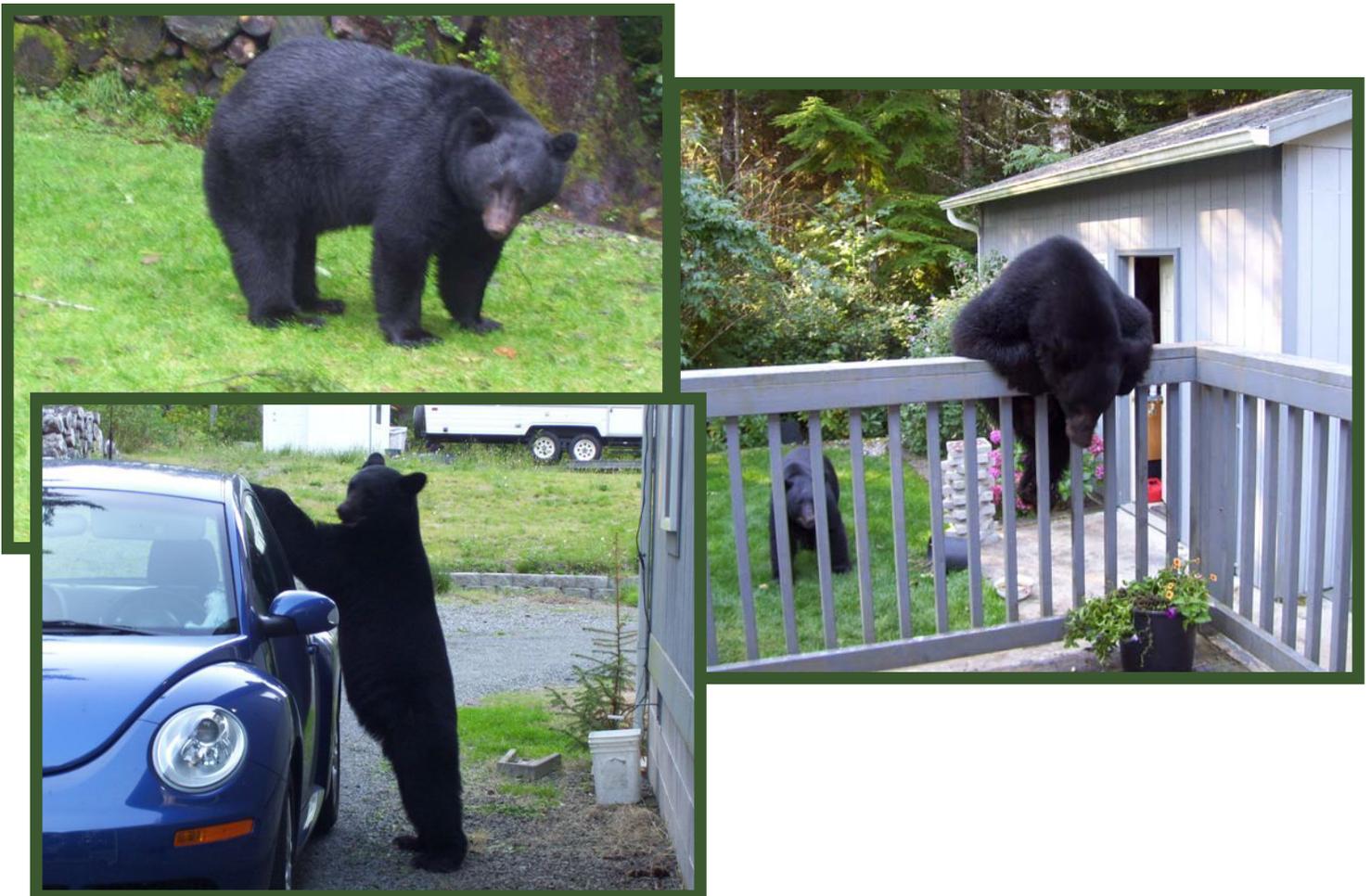
The Enforcement Program would like to thank Deputy Prosecutor Cromwell and the rest of the King County Prosecutor’s staff at the Redmond District Court for working so hard for WDFW.

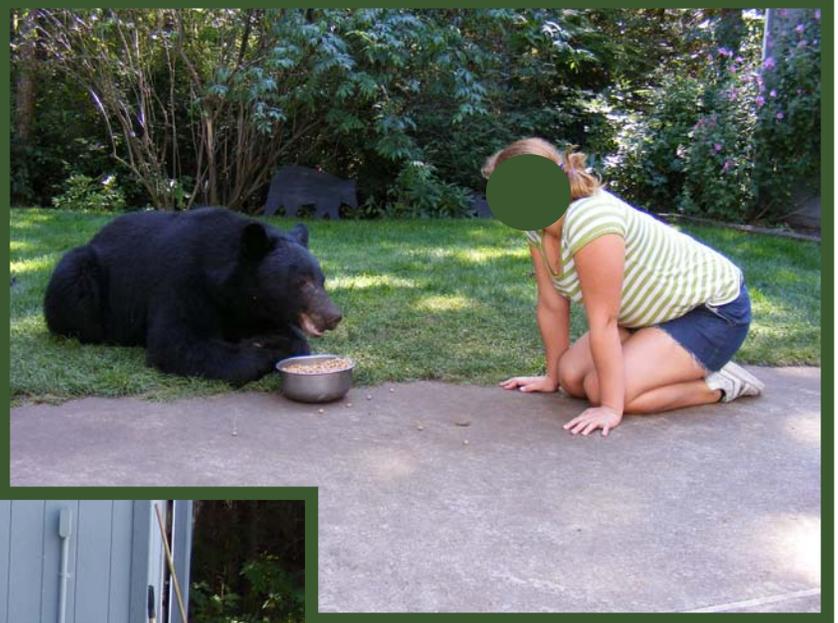
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HUMAN -WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Officer responses to human-dangerous wildlife conflicts seem to dominate our time each summer. Officers are trained in animal removal, have assigned immobilization equipment, and have access to traps and transport cages.

Yogi's Best Dream (and our nightmare): Fish and Wildlife Officer Brightbill contacted a subject in Pacific County who has been going through 100-pound sacks of dog food on a daily basis to feed the local bears. The two legged residents have attracted six different bears to their yard daily. Enforcement received a call from one person that claimed he had seen eight adult bears in a single tree (which just happened to be in the area the bears were being fed). This creates an obvious concern for the rest of the neighborhood! Efforts are now underway to remove the bear, but the larger issue is the baiting problem. Feeding wildlife in this manner is currently not illegal, but the repercussions (to include being attacked) can well be imagined. The bottom line is that bears are unpredictable wild animals. However, legislation will likely be proposed to change this.





Dangerous Deer: Fish and Wildlife Sergeant Erhardt responded to a complaint from a truck driver of an aggressive mule deer buck on State Route 24 near Wahluke. The Sergeant arrived to find the buck bedded at the door of the man's truck, not allowing him to leave. The rutting 3x4 buck then tried, repeatedly, to climb into the cab of the Sergeant's patrol vehicle. The buck was obviously acclimated to humans, and would intermittently become aggressive. The deer was hazed off far enough to allow the citizen to leave. The following afternoon, the Sergeant received another report from a subject who said that he had fed the deer "half of a box of doughnuts, an apple and two bottles of water, and it still would not leave." The Sergeant returned to the area with Officer Chad McGary from the Royal City Police Department and WDFW biologist Brock Hoenes. The three arrived to find several people alongside the highway photographing and petting the deer. The deer was loaded into a stock trailer with very little effort and transported to a remote location.

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Fish and Wildlife Officers have thousands of miles of rivers, creeks, lakes, marine waters, and beaches to patrol. The popularity of Washington's great outdoors has led to an increase in use, and a decrease in available natural resources

available for harvest. Our Officers work hard to provide for a fair playing field and to protect management strategies meant to provide for sustainable natural resources for everyone's enjoyment.

WDFW License Staff Alert Officers:

Officer Willette spearheaded a team of Fish & Wildlife Officers, Kirkland Police, and federal agents that served a search warrant on a residence in Kirkland. A substantial amount of background work went into the issuance of the warrant that was initiated after a tip from WDFW's Licensing Division. Seven recreational fishing licenses had been purchased online at the house with a stolen credit card number. During the search of the suspect residence, statements of admission were obtained and several pieces of evidence were gathered, including all seven of the licenses and a computer. The father of the home was an illegal alien and was deported back to Mexico. One of the other occupants of the residence was booked for her outstanding fishing warrant. The primary suspect stated he had gotten the number over the phone from a friend in California.



Wild Steelhead:

Sergeant Lambert was near Bering on the S.F. Skykomish River when he located two anglers using illegal gear and in possession of a wild steelhead. He had observed them place the fish on a stringer and leave it tied off in a side channel, then moving upstream a quarter mile to continue fishing. After denying any catch to the Sergeant, both brothers were escorted back to their vehicle and summarily cited.

Big One Doesn't Get Away:

Checking sturgeon anglers at Bonneville Dam, Officer Meyers watched as two subjects landed an oversized sturgeon, and then proceed to turn their truck around to make it easier to load the large fish. They got it over halfway to the truck when another fisherman came over and chewed them out. The suspects then took the fish back down the bank and put it in the river. The sixteen year old who caught the fish also hadn't purchased his '08 license. It turned out to be an expensive day for the lad off from school.

Losing Count:

Officer Wickersham was on the beach watching razor clam harvesters with his night vision goggles when four subjects came on the beach using vulgar language. Their language and attitude was so bad, in fact, that harvesters began leaving the beach to get away from them. Over the next two



hours, Officer Wickersham, and later Officer Klump, observed the subjects dig numerous clams. Only two of the subjects were digging clams, and the other two were carrying bags of clams. One was carrying a beer and was so intoxicated he fell down on a routine basis. The subjects finally left the beach and were contacted at their vehicle. After one subject failed to submit a bag of clams and claimed his wife dug them, the officers counted 134 razor clams between the two harvesters (the bag limit is 15 clams). All had suspended drivers licenses, one subject had a felony warrant from Florida, one had three misdemeanor warrants, and two of them were convicted felons. Citations were written for first degree over-limit of razor clams, harvesting razor clams for another, and failing to submit catch for inspection. Officer Klump transported and booked the subject with warrants into the Grays Harbor Jail.

Snagger Sentenced: Officer Conklin and Sergeant Holden attended a pre-trial hearing for a local serial fish poacher. The hearing turned into a plea and sentencing when the defense learned that the Officers were ready and anxious to go to trial. The judge sentenced the man to 15 days in jail to be served, 50 hours work crew, and nearly \$2,000 in fines for his most recent Spring Chinook snagging escapade.

Wild Coho: While checking four subjects on the Clark County side of the Lewis River as they were leaving, a routine check of a cooler found two Coho, with one fish being wild. After gathering their information, the FWO checked the remaining subjects' licenses and was informed the fish in the cooler were foul hooked as well. While speaking to the four subjects in possession of the fish, it was confirmed that the wild fish and the other hatchery Coho were both foul hooked. Citations were issued.

Tempting Fish at the Hatchery: Officer Moats stopped in at the Lewis River Salmon Hatchery after working elk hunters all morning. Numerous people were fishing and one group caught his eye. Pods of Coho salmon were circling around below the hatchery ladder, and four subjects were attempting to take a little too much advantage of the situation. Three were cited for attempting to snag salmon, and one was cited for illegal gear. In addition, the subject that had the illegal gear had three felony warrants out of Clark County and ended up in the Clark County Jail.



COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

Commercial fisheries enforcement is by far the most complex area of our Officers' jobs. Fisheries resources are highly sought after, with millions of dollars in harvests, and exports/imports occurring each year. When people are asked to describe typical Fish and Wildlife Officer responsibilities, many do not realize that this includes everything from patrolling far offshore waters, border protection against illegal foreign fishing, keeping polluted shellfish out of the market, and checking cargo at the airport and at border crossings.

DERELICT GEAR

The Coastal Marine Detachment, which includes Lieutenant O'Hagan, Sergeant Chadwick, Officer Klump, and Officer Hopkins, retrieved 108 commercial crab pots out of Grays Harbor after the commercial crab season ended September 15, and the gear had obviously been abandoned. WDFW never received any notice from the skipper that he was unable to retrieve his gear or that he was attempting to reclaim his commercial crab pots. It is important to note that the crab pots continued to fish, without being tended, well into November, as was evidenced by the presence of live and dead crab in the pots.

Several charges were filed, and for four years the defendant purposely stayed out of Grays Harbor County to avoid the warrant for his arrest. A Fish and Wildlife Officer (FWO) received a tip on the whereabouts of the defendant in the Marysville area, and with the help of other FWOs, the defendant was taken into custody. He eventually pled guilty to six out of the seven gross misdemeanor charges, totaling \$1,500 worth of criminal fines, plus court costs and the civil forfeiture of the crab gear used in the violation. The value of the gear is estimated at \$13,500.



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Commercial Crab Violator: Officers Erickson and Beauchene boarded a crab vessel and found that the captain did not have the extra 50 buoy tags aboard the vessel as required. The captain, who had been a licensed commercial crabber in Puget Sound since 1979, said he did not know he needed the tags aboard and that they were at his residence. The Officers issued the crabber a citation for failing to have the tags aboard his vessel. They followed up two days later, stopping by the crabber's residence to see the 50 unused tags that were supposed to be there. They found that the crabber was actually in the process of cleaning some of the buoy tags when they arrived. After a lengthy interview, the crabber admitted to using 61 crab pots in an area restricted to 50 and that he was cleaning the tags that had been removed when the extra gear was brought in. He provided a written confession and will be cited accordingly.

Court Ruling Setback: Officer Bolton continues to work with the Klickitat County Prosecutor on tribal-related issues. Information on various cases is being gathered to provide the Attorney General with information to consider appealing a district court judge's ruling that WDFW has no jurisdiction over tribal members on in-lieu sites. It is believed this ruling is in direct opposition to rulings made in federal court under *U.S. v. Oregon*.

Written Warnings to Wholesale Dealers: Sergeant Krenz and Officer Olson investigated two complaints regarding wholesale dealers. Both involved the failure to report in a timely manner. One dealer had moved and changed the name of the company, but will be contacted in the near future. The other dealer/processor was contacted, inspected, and given written warnings for various violations.



Container Ship Inspections: Sergeant Krenz and Sergeant Jackson attended the Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation briefing at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Museum in Seattle. Later, the Sergeants participated in the operation at the Port of Seattle. About fifty containers were opened and inspected. Three refrigerated containers were also opened that contained bottomfish and sea cucumbers. Paperwork was obtained, and a follow-up will be conducted of the shippers to ensure legal harvest. The USCG and Canadian Border Patrol personnel said they had never opened a refrigerated container before. They are mainly interested in hazardous materials and deleterious insects.

Commercial Crab: Officers Anderson and Klump conducted a flight with the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) Station of Astoria on the morning of the commercial crab season opener. Fishermen were allowed to start deploying their gear at 0800. During the flight, the Officers discovered a commercial fisher that had started fishing before the designated start time. When the Officers found him at approximately 0740, the fisherman had 30 crab pots already deployed. USCG personnel onboard the flight videotaped the vessel and pots that it had deployed. After arriving back at Astoria, the Officers drove to the Tokeland Marina. There they contacted the operator of the fishing vessel they observed earlier that morning. The operator provided a written statement about what had occurred. A citation will be issued to the fisherman for commercial crab fishing during closed season.

Crab Theft: Enforcement received a call from Anacortes Police Department regarding about 400 pounds of Dungeness crab that were stolen during the night from a local wholesale dealer. Suspect information was obtained when a licensed crabber attempted to sell a large quantity of crab to a second wholesale dealer under suspicious circumstances. The wholesale dealer, who was aware of the recent theft,

became suspicious because the garbage cans that contained the crab had other crabbers' names written on them. The suspect was arrested for a non-related felony warrant and interviewed about the crab theft. According to the suspect, he was simply helping his friend who had stolen crab from his dad on Thanksgiving. The Officers, along with an Anacortes Police Department Officer, located the second suspect and interrogated him for about two hours. The suspect initially confessed he'd taken the crab from his father, but not to stealing from the wholesale dealer. After being confronted with the evidence at hand, he ultimately confessed to stealing two garbage cans (roughly 280 pounds, at a \$1,300 value) of crab from the wholesale dealer. He admitted to conspiring with the second suspect to sell the stolen crab to another wholesale dealer. Officers arrested the suspect for Theft, 2nd Degree, and Unlawful Trafficking of Shellfish, 1st Degree. The suspect was booked into Skagit County Jail.

International Investigation: Officer Beauchene continues to assist the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) with an investigation into the unlawful sales of tribal ceremonial salmon that were imported from Canada for processing and storage. Officers Beauchene, Erickson, and Kim, Detective Buerger, and NOAA Special Agents, searched through hundreds of pounds of frozen salmon to gather further evidence for the case against the suspect companies.





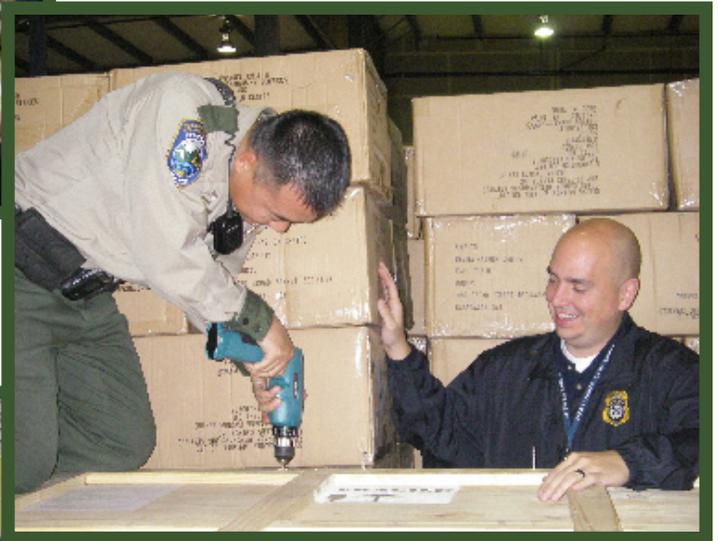
The Officers were able to obtain key pieces of evidence from the company that is processing some of the fish and the roe, which will help support the assisting NOAA agents' search warrant. A federal search warrant was then issued, which ordered the seizure of approximately 90% of 240,000 pounds of frozen H&G chum salmon that was shipped into Washington by a Canadian company. The vast majority of the fish had gillnet marks. There had been no legal gillnet fisheries in British Columbia during the time in question. Catch accounting documents had not been completed, per Washington State law. It appears that one or more Canadian wholesale dealers conspired to purchase and export chum and Chinook that were illegally taken during closed season. Totes were sorted. This constitutes a solid Lacey Act violation. Teams of five Officers and special agents sorted totes full of frozen fish for the presence of fish with gillnet marks.



Flasher? Fisherman? Officer Beauchene received a call from a trooper regarding an individual that he had in custody for DUI and indecent exposure. While searching the man's vehicle, the trooper saw there were two salmon lying in the back of the truck. He asked the suspect about the fish, but the man would not answer any of his questions. Officer Beauchene asked the trooper to seize the fish. Before taking the man to jail, the trooper brought him to Officer Beauchene's location so that she could talk to the suspect and take custody of the fish. The salmon were wild Coho, which were headed and gutted. Officer Beauchene noticed gillnet scars on both fish. Officer Beauchene seized the fish for unlawful transportation. She later contacted Lummi Natural Resources Enforcement officers and they recognized the suspect's name. Although the suspect was not a tribal member, they believe the man may be a relative of a Lummi gillnet fisherman.



Airport Inspections: Sergeants Krenz and Chandler organized Region Four's participation in a five day multi-agency emphasis (Operation Finders Keepers) focused on inspecting all state and international wildlife imports at SeaTac Airport. Shipments of fish and shellfish were also inspected. One of the crates of interest contained a mounted water buffalo and a lion. An additional lion skull and zebra hide were located in the crate, and all were being imported into Washington from Africa. The mounts had all the appropriate USFWS documentation. No initial violations were observed. Several companies suspected of brokering fish without a wholesale dealers license will be investigated. Sergeants Krenz and Chandler, and Officers Olson, Kim, Cook, Stephenson, Willette, Lee, Brazier, Richards, Moszeter, and Capelli, were involved.



STATEWIDE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Detectives of the Statewide Investigations Unit (SIU) can be described as the WDFW Enforcement Program's unknown soldiers. Often working covertly in support of our uniformed Officers, they use a number of specialized tactics to tackle organized crime or to concentrate efforts toward the hard-to-catch serial poacher. Many of the cases they take on involve long-term projects, with adjudication occurring long after the initial investigation. Below are just a few examples:

Failure To Report Commercial Harvests: An SIU Detective investigated an Olympic Peninsula husband and wife operating a wholesale fish dealer company that failed to submit state copies of fish receiving tickets to WDFW for a fifteen-month period. Fish receiving tickets are critical catch accounting documents relied upon by our fisheries managers to control harvests. These particular fish tickets were for purchases of Dungeness crab harvested by state and tribal fishermen, mostly in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Detective recovered 495 completed fish tickets that had not been returned to WDFW. These purchases totaled more than 164,000 pounds of Dungeness crab. This total is a significant portion of the total catch from the Straits catch areas. A WDFW shellfish biologist, not knowing that the dealer was not reporting his purchases, had begun to assume that the area had been over-fished, since fishermen were apparently not able to meet catch quotas. Charges were filed in Clallam County District Court on the license holder and business owner. The owner pleaded to four counts of Wholesale Fish Buying and Dealing rules violations.

Mr. Gadget: Not your stereotypical guy with a pocket protector (this one carries a gun. . . well, maybe even several guns. . . ok, an arsenal), one SIU Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) Detective has been highly utilized by Field Officers, SIU Detectives, and other natural resource agencies. And for good reason; he is good at what he does. Our ability to utilize his expertise in technology enhances our ability to catch bad guys, resulting in investigative efficiencies unknown to other law entities. One typical case brought from the field to the CCU Detective involved the recovery of photos from cameras and cell phones to corroborate additional evidence that a suspect was involved in a violation at a certain date, time, and place. In one case adjudicated in 2008, a field Officer was able to make a bear-baiting case, and a subsequent deer case, by matching the terrain, trees, and trail to a known bait site from a photo of the suspect and his bear. Overall, the SIU Computer Crimes Unit Detective brought 32 electronic evidence items forward on open cases from 2007. Of those, 19 were completed and archived in 2008. 12 are still awaiting adjudication. Thirty-six new electronic evidence items were received for processing in 2008. Twenty-five of those items have been processed, and 16 of those have been archived or found not relevant to the Officer's case.



Joint Federal/State Fraud Case: In 2005, SIU Detective Golden began a joint investigation with agents from the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement of several seafood companies who were violating state and federal fish dealing rules and were suspected of smuggling. The investigation showed that one of the companies had been importing, exporting, buying, and selling seafood in volumes of over \$2.6 million without a Washington State Wholesale Fish Dealers' license for three years, a violation of state law, and subsequently, the Lacey Act. The investigation also showed that the owners of the company had filed for Chapter 13 and then Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in 2000-2001. While under bankruptcy protection, the business owners opened new seafood businesses, using a family member to conceal their ownership, assets, and income from the Bankruptcy Court. The SIU Detective and NOAA OLE agent arrested the business owners in late 2007, one as he deplaned a flight from China. In the summer of 2008, a U.S. District Court dismissed the Bankruptcy Fraud case due to a Statute of Limitations issue. One business owner pleaded to violations of the Lacey Act and served 62 days in federal detention.

Fireworks or Uni-bomber?: Midyear in 2005, SIU Detective Golden accepted a Field Officer referral of a confidential informant to address big game poaching in the southwest Olympic Peninsula. Despite numerous efforts to deploy the informant against known targets, the informant was eventually determined not to be useful due to his low status within the poaching community. The informant did, however, provide several tips on other types of crimes while he was in the service of SIU. One of those crimes involved a Tokeland male who was manufacturing and selling explosive devices and illegal fireworks from his residence and the Nisqually Indian Reservation. Based on information from the informant, the Tokeland man was arrested by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in 2006. The man was found in possession of 50 live explosive devices and 22 pounds of chemical ingredients for flash powder. He also possessed 1,300 M-80 devices, 75 "tennis ball" bombs, and other illegal fireworks. In March 2008, a federal court found the man guilty and sentenced him to three years of federal probation.

Stolen Duck (not the kind that quack): In June 2008, an SIU Detective working with Sergeants Jackson's Detachment Officers investigated a fish market in Pierce County. He authored and served three search warrants and recently filed charges against an individual who stole and sold \$55,000 of geoduck. Charges filed with the Pierce County Fraud Unit Deputy Prosecuting Attorney include: Three first degree Theft felonies, Two felonies for Trafficking in Stolen Property and Possession of Stolen Property, and a class C felony for Trafficking in shellfish in the first degree. The charges are pending on a Grays Harbor individual, and the fish markets has paid fines levied for the gross misdemeanor charges.

Illegal Netting: An SIU Detective received a referral from Puyallup Tribal officers and their Chief regarding a year old case involving several Puyallup Tribal fishers gillnetting closed season/area for salmon outside their usual and accustomed (U & A) fishing area. The Detective investigated the case and gathered the evidence and statements then filed felony violations in Mason County against two, well-known Puyallup Tribal members fishing in Skokomish Tribal U & A waters. The case is pending trial at this time.

Galling Story: Two SIU Detectives and a Fish and Wildlife Officer, working covertly, responded to a Region One referral request and conducted two undercover sales of bear gall bladder to a market in Spokane. Bear galls are used by some ethnicities for natural healing as it is believed that the bile will improve circulatory functions, among other things. Many bear galls come from poached bears and their sale is illegal. The lead Detective drafted and obtained a search warrant for the market, which was executed by Region One Officers executed the search. The suspect was arrested and charged with two felony counts of unlawful commercialization of wildlife.

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Taxidermist Sting: In response to another referral from Region One, an SIU Detective opened an undercover case on an illegal taxidermist in the Spokane area. During the multiple contacts with the taxidermist, the Detective brought him an illegal hawk, a duck, and an illegal grizzly bear. At the end of the undercover, the Detective wrote three search warrants for buildings in the Spokane area. The search warrants were served by Region One Officers; charges are pending.

Poacher Tours Ellensburg (and receives a warm WDFW welcome): At the request of Region Three; Officers from Sergeant Sprecher's Detachment, and an undercover Detective made a covert contact on a German national who was believed to be involved in large-scale big game poaching in the Ellensburg area. The undercover contact produced probable cause for a search warrant, which Region Three Officers served in November. The officers obtaining extensive physical evidence and a full confession.

Operations Wrap Up: SIU saw an end to several major covert operations. Operation DIME occurred on Decatur Island and involved fish poaching, deer poaching, and the sale/possession of drugs. All defendants charged were successfully prosecuted and a vessel was forfeited to WDFW. Operation Flash was associated with illegal houndhunting, and bear, deer, and elk poaching. The main suspect received 13 months in prison for his part in poaching, and animal cruelty (due to the torture and death of one of his hunting dogs). Operation Shortstick, which was linked to illegal netting of salmon in Washington and illegal selling in Florida, resulted in felony and gross misdemeanor charges being filed. In this case, two SIU Detectives traveled to Florida to assist local Florida Fish & Game Officers and NOAA OLE in surveillance, interviews, search warrant executions, and seizures.

BOATING SAFETY

By Office Phil Johnson

We continue to excel in the area of boating safety enforcement. Where many of our county and municipal counterparts have already winterized their patrol boats, we are still out on the water ensuring the safety of the boating public. At the end of October, we accomplished 1,100 vessel safety inspections! Additionally, Mark Kenny from State Parks informed me that we completed more vessel safety inspections than the combined total of all the Marine Service Units throughout the State! Even as I write this, more vessel safety inspections show up in my mailbox every day, pushing that number even higher. I can assure you that our counterparts in State Parks are very pleased with our performance and commitment.

After analyzing the safety inspections we completed, the most common violations were invalid/expired vessel registrations, no sound producing device, no carbon monoxide warning sticker displayed, and failure to provide life jackets. In the majority of contacts recorded, our Officers addressed many of these violations with warnings. State Parks has asked me to pass on that they would prefer we take a harder line, especially with violations of registration requirements. However, knowing the importance of Officer discretion (and the dangers of armchair quarterbacking), I leave the matter of whether or not to “hang paper” in your capable hands.

How to address the projected reduction in available training budgets was the primary theme of our recent training meeting chaired by Lt. Crown. Since we met our goal of providing boat training to all of our Officers in 2008,



the level of boat training in 2009 will be drastically reduced in intensity. Following our last BMLE training in September, we concluded that our new Officers will not attend BMLE until they enter their final phase of career development from an Officer 1 to an Officer 2. Instead, our new Officers will initially attend the three day MOCC course so they get some basic boating skills, and then will complete more advanced BMLE training after they gain some “street smarts” and hone their skills with managing hostile subjects. Additionally, we are floating (no pun intended) around a lot of ideas to ensure you remain current in boat operation, but training will be reduced to sustainment and specialized learning objectives. A BUI course and a swift water jet boat course are training goals we would like to pursue, but they remain on hold until more urgent training priorities are addressed. Of course, we will keep you advised of any boat training opportunities as they become available. And remember, you may request assistance from any boating instructor, at any time, if you feel your skills in boats are deficient or you would like additional instruction in any area of boat operations.

Finally, we end the year on another positive note: we’ve put many hours on the water and made numerous contacts without any injury to our staff and no damage to our patrol boats. That is a direct reflection of your professionalism and skill as boat operators. Our commitment to training pays dividends in the form of decreased incidents and injuries. Congratulations on your accomplishments! Stay Alert and Stay Alive! W143

Picture: In addition to running his boat aground, this boat owner has a suspicious boat registration number: WA 4193 RG. Also, you can just make out the beer bottle laying between the dashboard and the window in front of the helm. Pictures are worth a thousand words...



GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

WDFW Officers are general authority police Officers, which means they are able to provide the same policing services that are expected of sheriff's deputies and city police. Our Officers have the authority to enforce all state laws while protecting

your natural resources. Fish and Wildlife Officers commonly provide backup to other law enforcement agencies.

Officer Nearly Run Over by Fleeing

Suspects: FWO Weatherman observed three guys fishing on Meadow Lake in Pend Oreille County. After observing them fishing, drinking beer and littering for 2 hours, it was time to make contact. Officer Weatherman positioned himself at the entrance to the lake and waited for the vehicle. The vehicle approached the Officer's location at a high rate of speed, and at one point had lost control. When the vehicle came into view and the driver and occupants saw FWO Weatherman standing in the center of the road, the driver accelerated and came at the Officer at about 35-40 mph. Officer Weatherman had to step to his right to keep from being run over. The vehicle continued down the Meadow Creek Road for about ½ mile before losing control and rolling over. The back seat passenger was ejected and thrown out into the woods. He suffered only minor injuries. The driver and passenger both climbed out of the wreck and fled on foot into the woods. Multiple agencies responded in a joint effort to locate the fleeing subjects. Stevens County deputies, running down the Meadow Creek Road, apprehended the front seat passenger. The driver was not located, even with the aid of a canine unit from the border patrol. Officer Weatherman knows the identity of the driver and is working with Pend Oreille County officials to obtain arrest warrants.

Possible Intimidation Investigation:

Officer Maurstad and USFS Officer Huffman received information from two hikers who claimed they were harassed by two hunters on the North Fork Sauk

Trailhead. The husband and wife crossed paths with the hunters who chastised them for not wearing hunter orange and accused their dogs of ruining their hunt. They threw in some curse words and then wrote a foul message in the dust on their vehicle. The hikers heard a shot they believed was fired to intimidate them. Officers later found the hunters who admitted to having a conversation with the hikers, but denied writing the message and the accusation of intimidation.

Casual Contact Turns Ugly:

Sergeant Chadwick was working the opener of the Upper Naselle River Chinook fishery with Officer Anderson. They were leaving the area to work the night razor clam fishery when they saw a pickup parked along the river. The Officers thought "we've got time for one last angler check; it shouldn't take too long." The only occupant in the vehicle was trying to light a cigarette and did not notice the Officers driving up or standing outside his window. A short dialogue about hunting and fishing began, and the Officers quickly realized the man was highly intoxicated. They explained that if he drove, he would be arrested for DUI. The man identified himself to the Officers, and, Sergeant Chadwick knew had assaulted a Pacific County deputy in a courtroom two years prior. The guy then began clenching his fists and arguing with the Officers about being able to drive drunk in the woods on a logging road. These physical actions are considered "clues" in our world that the contact is about to go south. The Officers patiently explained that the DUI law applied anywhere the public may use roads,

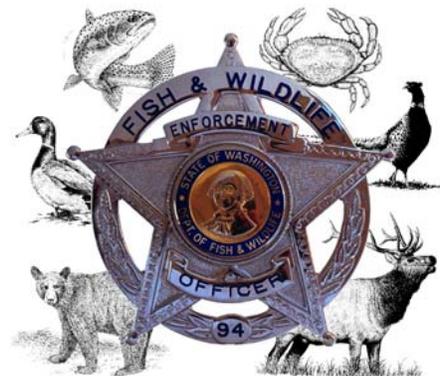


including logging roads. Officers finally talked him into riding back to his camp with them, but when the time came to get in, the suspect changed his mind and jumped into his own vehicle and took off. He led the Officers on a two mile chase over rough terrain. When the Officers closed the gap, the suspect did a 180 degree turn in a large gravel intersection and faced them. In anticipation that he was preparing to ram them, the Officers went down another road and turned around. The suspect had high centered himself in the road, but once freed he drove at the Officers again. The Officers took cover in the woods and ordered the man to stop and get out of the vehicle as he drove up. He did stop, but taunted the Officers to shoot him. He then sped away. Due to the aggressive behavior up to this point, the Officers waited for additional help before going any further. Pacific County Superior Court granted a \$20,000 warrant for his arrest and it was served the next day without event.

Nature Walk: While searching for evidence in a case involving several poached deer and bear, Officer Allen ran into one of the suspects and an unknown partner walking along a logging road. Neither was armed (except for a set of brass knuckles one suspect claimed to carry as a “spare belt buckle”), and both stated that they were simply “out enjoying nature.” Neither of them were likely bets to be Sierra Club members, and when the primary suspect in the case was located nearby, any believability of a nature walk went out the window. A warrant check on the unknown member of the trio revealed him to be a convicted felon with a current felony warrant. With the assistance of Officer Bauman and Sergeant Phillips, he was booked into jail, the two original suspects confessed that everyone had been carrying firearms until hearing Officer Allen’s patrol vehicle approach, at which time all the guns were thrown into the woods. Facing just over 5 years in prison if convicted (due to other convictions), the formerly unknown member of the trio accepted a plea deal to Unlawful Possession of a Firearm 2nd and Unlawful Big Game Hunting 2nd and was sentenced to 29 months in prison.

Weed Control: Officer Zuchlewski, Sergeant Erhardt, and a member of the Grant County INET team eradicated 228 marijuana plants on WDFW land in the Gloyd Seeps Wildlife Area. This was in follow up to a tip Officer Zuchlewski received approximately one week earlier. Many of the plants were between eight and nine feet tall.

Timberland Patrol Results In More Than Trespass: Officer Jewett inspected a gate owned by a local timber company that’s been having several problems recently with people dumping garbage, breaking gate locks, and trespassing. When Officer Jewett arrived at the gate, he noticed the padlock had been removed, and the pin was lying in the gravel. As Officer Jewett was about to continue to patrol the property for the trespassers, he noticed a vehicle coming out with three people inside. Between the three individuals they had eight misdemeanor warrants and one felony warrant. All three individuals were confirmed by Mason County. While searching the vehicle, Officer Jewett located five prescription drug containers with the labels taken off. He also found a mini-Ziploc bag containing a white crystal substance, along with a glass pipe with residue inside. While waiting for a trooper to arrive to help transport, Officer Jewett photographed and documented all the evidence. A padlock was replaced on the gate, and the suspects were transported to Mason County jail. A total of 20 arrests came from the various violations and warrants.





AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ENFORCEMENT

Invasive species pose an environmental and economic threat to Washington's citizens and its 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 the introduction of

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

Spokane–Conrad's False Dark Mussels:

On September 24, 2008, WSP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers (CVEO) stationed at the Spokane Port of Entry (POE) on I-90 near Liberty Lake contacted WDFW Enforcement about a commercially hauled vessel that was possibly contaminated with Aquatic Invasive Species. Officer Dave Spurbeck responded to the POE, where the CVEOs provided him with a sample of shellfish that they collected from the vessel during their inspection. Officer Spurbeck realized that the shellfish were not Zebra/Quagga mussels, but they were very similar in appearance to those species.

The vessel was from Pompano Beach, Florida, and was being transported to Port Angeles, Washington, for a person that had purchased it via non-direct contact (Internet or yacht broker). The vessel was a 1990 Tiara 3600 Express (52'), white with a blue stripe and a black hull. Based upon the fact that the vessel was from Florida, and the description of the mussels, it was concluded they were Conrad's False Dark Mussels, a mussel that occurs in the brackish water of Florida.

Officer Spurbeck was joined by Sergeant Rahn at the POE to assist with investigation of the driver (owner/

driver of the commercial hauling company), based upon his knowledge of the contamination and to help with decontamination of the vessel. The driver was aware of AIS, as earlier this year he had transported a vessel to California and was required to have the boat decontaminated. The driver told Sergeant Rahn and Officer Spurbeck that the vessel had been cleaned before leaving Florida.

Officer Spurbeck inspected the hull of the vessel and discovered mussels near the drive shafts, propellers, thru hulls, and trim tabs. Officer Spurbeck then collected samples of the mussels. Due to Conrad's mussels being an "unlisted" AIS by WAC, it was decided to only issue a warning to the driver and not a citation. Officer Spurbeck used the Region One hot water pressure washer to decontaminate the vessel. The driver and vessel were then released.





Invasive Turtles

Officer Erik Olson received information concerning a shipment of Florida Soft Shell Turtles that were inbound from Tampa Bay, Florida, into Washington State. The information received by Officer Olson also named the company purchasing and shipping the turtles into SeaTac. Officer Olson recognized the company from previous fish and wildlife violations.

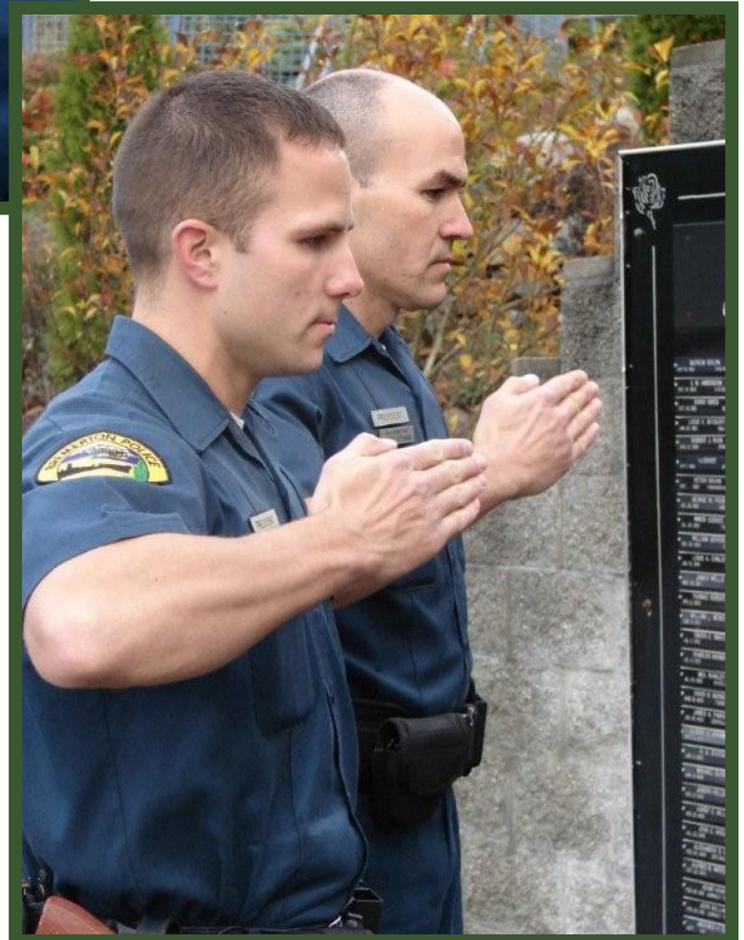
Florida Soft Shell Turtles are classified in WAC 220-12-090(d)(iii) as a prohibited aquatic animal species in Washington State, punishable under RCW 77.15.253, making it illegal to possess, import, purchase, sell, propagate, transport, or release a prohibited aquatic animal species.

Officer Olson proceeded to the Air Freight terminal at SeaTac Airport, where he placed a hold on the shipment. He then obtained the airway bill, which documented the shipment of 421 pounds (16 boxes) of "live turtles," and he inspected the shipment and confirmed that the turtles were Florida Soft Shell Turtles. Officer Olson investigated further and discovered that this was not an isolated incident. Previous turtle shipments had entered Washington via this particular company. Officer Olson informed the owner of the violations. The owner was issued a citation, and the turtles were euthanized and placed into evidence for the pending criminal court proceedings.



FALLEN OFFICER HONORED

On Wednesday, November 5, 2008, Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Kristine Fairbanks had her name added to the Law Enforcement Memorial. Kristine was killed in the line of duty on September 20, 2008. Her name was added to the other Officers who have paid the ultimate price to help safeguard the citizens of Washington. Basic Law Enforcement Academy Class Presidents Rodney Raubach (636/Bremerton PD) and Curt Steinagel (637/Clark County SO) are seen in the pictures installing the nameplate and saluting her memory.



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HEADQUARTERS NEWS

Patrol Sergeant Still On Loan: WDFW Enforcement Program's Detachment 1 Sergeant Rich Phillips was asked and accepted the position of Assistant Commander at the Washington Basic Law Enforcement Academy in March 2008. He continues in that position. Sergeant Phillips supervises the training staff (18 officers/deputies) as well as the students of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. All sworn police officers, deputies, and Fish and Wildlife Officers are required to attend the 19-week basic academy. At any given time, there are between 150-250 recruits on campus. Sergeant Phillips has been a state-certified instructor since 1986. He was an instructor at the academy from 2002-05, and again in 2007.

Volunteers Honored: Hunter education is barely 50 years young in Washington State, but we have four certified Hunter Education Instructors who have been with us continuously since the late 1950s. In honor of his 50 years of service as a hunter education instructor, Robert Fahnestock just received a Browning pump-action shotgun from the Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association and the Washington Hunter Education Resources Organization at the December 12 Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting. Bob joined Howard Gardner, James Kramer, and Bill Newby as one of only four individuals who have been with hunter education five decades (or more). Volunteer instructors form the backbone of the Hunter Education Program, annually donating in excess of 35,000 hours of service in their communities across the state. Currently, more than 900 volunteer instructors conduct hunter education training programs in Washington.

WDFW's K-9 Program Expands: In 1982, after becoming interested in using dogs to deter and repel bears, Carrie Hunt found a breed that seemed perfect for the task—the Karelian Bear Dog (KBD). Unknown in most parts of the world, the KBD has been bred and used by grizzly bear and moose hunters and farmers in Finland and western Russia for centuries. Just as a Border Collie has an instinct for moving sheep, some KBDs enter the world with an instinct for handling bears safely. Under Hunt's direction, Wind River Bear Institute (WRBI) raises, selects, and specially trains KBDs to serve as partners for bear-management specialists and people that live in bear country. Carrie has successfully trained and used KBDs for bear shepherding since 1990. For the purposes of Bear Shepherding, WRBI uses KBDs for deterrence, aversive conditioning, monitoring, tracking, patrolling, investigating conflict scenarios, finding food attractants, capture, early warning, a safety net during conditioning of bears, added "volunteer man-power," and public education.

Rocky Spencer, WDFW Wildlife Biologist, initiated the use of KBD's by WDFW with the use of Mishka. After his untimely death in September 2007, a memorial fund was established to fund the care and maintenance of Mishka so that Mishka's contributions to managing problem wildlife can continue. Recognizing an opportunity to implement and evaluate cutting edge technology in non-lethal wildlife control techniques, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Chief Bjork seized the opportunity to experiment and evaluate the benefits of KBDs. He initiated a one-year pilot program, and because Officer Richards had already established a working relationship with Rocky and Mishka, he also assigned Officer Richards to be Mishka's handler and to respond to resolve as many problem bear complaints as possible.

During the pilot project, Officer Richards and Mishka proved themselves to be a valuable asset to the WDFW Enforcement Program, as they responded to dozens of problem bear complaints in western Washington. They

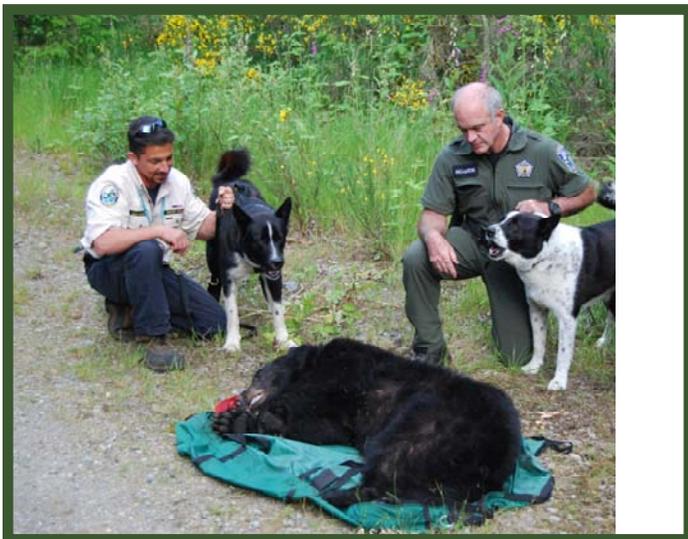


also participated in education programs at schools and fairs, and media interviews on a statewide basis. Officer Richards engaged Mishka in numerous on site “hard releases” (a process that reinstalls a black bear’s natural fear of humans), that for a number of reasons is a much-preferred option compared to the lethal removal or capture and relocation of problem bears. Officer Richards estimates an 80 percent success rate on the black bears he and Mishka hard-released this past spring and summer.



In addition to tracking and locating bear, and assisting in hard releases, KBDs can also be trained to detect items (fish, birds, shell casings, etc.) of evidentiary value. Mishka has been trained to detect all dead animals and animal scat. Mishka was called upon to help Officer Alexander and the National Park Service to locate the remains of an illegally harvested and butchered elk in a remote location in the Olympic National Park. Park rangers and WDFW Officers had unsuccessfully expended over 600 man hours of time and effort searching for the remains before asking for and securing help from Officer Richards and Mishka. Within 15 minutes of their arrival at the scene, Mishka located several elk bone fragments that had knife marks on them and enough tissue to perform DNA testing.

Mishka also helped other law enforcement at the scene of a homicide in Pierce County. In this unusual instance, a woman had allegedly killed her husband, chopped him into pieces, and discarded his remains in a wooded area. The police department wanted Mishka on scene to keep any bear away while their cadaver dogs searched the area.



Cash & Mishka hard at work on a bear



Mishka helping find elk remains on the Peninsula