

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM



SUMMER NEWSLETTER



NATURE'S BEST DEFENSE !

FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF

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

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

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

Inside this issue:

In Memoriam	4
Wildlife Protection	6
Human-Wildlife Conflicts	9
Recreational Fishing	12
Commercial Enforcement	19
Marketplace Inspections	24
Habitat	26
Boating Safety.....	27
General Law Enforcement	31
Invasive Species Enforcement	34
Community Service	36
HQ News	37



—In Memoriam—



United States Forest Service Officer Kristine Fairbanks



A Friend and Partner Lost

On September 20 we received tragic news that a long-time friend and fellow law enforcement officer with the U.S. Forest Service had been shot and killed during a contact in the Dungeness Recreation Area in Clallam County, Washington.

Officer Kristine Fairbanks was the wife of Washington State Fish and Wildlife Officer Brian Fairbanks. A 20 year veteran, Kris and her K-9 dog, Radar, had a large patrol beat that included Clallam, Grays Harbor and Jefferson counties. We have all relied on Kris's help on many occasions and thought of her as one of us. In fact, given the similarities of the job and all of the poachers she apprehended, she was one of us, only in a different uniform. I can't even begin to describe the pain we all

felt while responding to her aid on that very dark day.

Kris had been working alone and miles from back-up when she contacted Sean Roe. Roe was a convicted felon and under active supervision by Department of Corrections. At some point a struggle ensued and she was shot and killed. Roe later shot and killed a citizen in order to steal his truck in an effort to further evade authorities. The citizen, Mr. Richard Ziegler, was a retired corrections officer from California. The suspect was identified at the Seven Cedars Resort convenience store hours after the shooting. Two Clallam County Sheriff's Deputies arrived to investigate when Roe opened fire and was shot and killed.

During the memorial service, friend and Forest Service colleague Tom Lyons said, "We have lost one of our

best, and that leaves a void that we will never fill. With her death, we all died a little.”

Despite the sadness of it all, Headquarters was proud of the law enforcement response in catching the killer, and the show of support for the families of the victims, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Over 3,000 people attended the memorial service including law enforcement entities from tribal, state, and federal agencies, and the Chief of the CA Dept. of Fish & Game.

Out of respect for Officer Kris Fairbanks, we think that it is appropriate to ensure that the uninitiated have a real-life perspective relative to the area of outdoor law enforcement. It would drive her crazy when someone failed to appreciate that her job was commensurate with the title. Understandably, some people do not consider the whole universe when they think about the role, responsibilities, and challenges of this field. Kris was not, as some may have misunderstood our jobs to be, a natural historian who takes people on forest tours and scolds those who pick the flowers. Yes, she was well versed in natural history and understood forest, fisheries and wildlife ecology, and management, but she was a Police Officer and was commonly engaged in the business of policing.

Sure, Officers such as Kris spend a great deal of time enforcing regulations meant to ensure the wise use of public lands and natural resources. But while much of the enforcement work involves bringing generally decent people back into the fold when tempted by opportunities they did not have the strength to pass up, there is another, sometimes unknown side to this business. You may not know that Kris spent many long days and nights catching cedar poachers that could care less that they were cutting down ancient old growth trees to perpetuate a methamphetamine addiction, eradicating marijuana grows from public land, arresting felons in possession of firearms, serving arrest warrants, dealing with protesters, intervening in domestic violence situations at camps, discovering meth labs, helping to coordinate search and rescue for the lost, arresting drunks, backing up other law enforcement and providing the same range of services that you would expect from the police, but in an outdoor setting. The value of our natural resources to poachers and remoteness of wildlands from law enforcement or public attention provides an attractive environment

for people looking to steal a quick buck, hide out, or engage in criminal activity. Please remember that it is often the natural resource officer standing between a quality outdoor experience and the bad guys. While many officers dedicate their lives to this endeavor, sometimes they also give it.

By the conclusion of the services, Officer Kristine Fairbanks signed out of service for the last time. When the USCG helicopters flew overhead and broke into a “Lost Officer Formation” we all thought: “yes, she is lost.....but she will never be forgotten as a friend, a partner, and a steadfast guardian of our public lands and natural resources.” Please keep Mr. Ziegler’s family, and Kris’s husband Brian, and his young daughter in your thoughts and prayers.....they will need all of our support during this very difficult time.



K-9 officers and their charges parade into Port Angeles Civic Field prior to the start of Monday’s memorial service for Officer Kristine Fairbanks, the Forest Service’s only K-9 officer in Washington State. --

Photo by Chris Tucker/Peninsula Daily News

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 and investigating trespass cases, and checking for licenses and tags, along with many other regulations. Unfortunately, wildlife is commonly taken when seasons are closed, often at night with the aid of spotlights.

Bighorn Sheep Poaching: Sergeant Morgan Grant received information of a possible sheep poaching on the Yakima Training Center near Priest Rapids Dam. Officers Caton, Myers, and Sergeant Grant interviewed numerous subjects and the vehicle used in the incident was identified. Working with a Yakama Nation Officer, they located the vehicle, served a search warrant, and interviewed a suspect, who turned out to be the shooter. Two sheep had been killed and evidence was gathered. A second suspect was found in Chelan County jail and Officer Graham Grant assisted in obtaining a written confession from him. The case will be completed and turned over to the Yakama Nation as both are enrolled members of the tribe.

Tragedy Investigated: Officers Lee, Cook, and Capelli, along with Sergeant Heinck and Skagit County Sheriff's Dept. Investigators, responded to a fatal hunting incident on Sauk Mountain in Skagit County. At about 10:30 a.m. on a Saturday, a 14-year-old bear hunter (while bear hunting with his 16-year-old brother) shot and killed a 54-year-old female hiker in the fog after misidentifying her as a black bear. The hiker died instantly at the scene and fell off the steep trail at 4,800 feet. The shot was fired from a distance of about 120 yards and when the hunters discovered they shot a person, emergency personnel were called.

A Washington State Patrol explosives canine was called to assist in locating the single .270 rifle round.

Hook Set on Bear Baiting Duo: Officer Bolton received information about an active bear-bait site in the Klickitat area. The Reporting Party (RP) agreed to show Officer Bolton where two tree stands were positioned above a garbage can full of cereal, birdseed, and bacon grease. Officer Bolton and the reporting party then went to a second suspected bait site approximately 300 yards away. The second site was surveilled and determined to be the suspect's camp. Officer Bolton and the RP then backtracked to the original bait site where the two suspects were now hunting from the tree stands. Marijuana was seized from one of the suspects. Both tree stands and a firearm were seized for forfeiture in this case.

Tribal Member Convicted: Officer Bolton testified in court on a deer case. The suspect who is a Yakama Tribal member shot a doe deer on posted private property during the closed season. The defense brought many clouded arguments but the jury only took 40 minutes to find him guilty.



Closed Season Elk: A 30 year Moscow, Idaho resident decided to cross the state line and shoot a cow elk in Washington, south of Pullman. The poacher first claimed that there weren't any signs and it was hard to tell where he was. Later, the poacher reluctantly admitted that he knew he was in Washington only to change his story back when he gave a written statement. The cow elk was killed approximately 1½ miles west of the border. Officer Spurbeck and Sergeant Rahn issued the citations and the forfeiture paperwork for the rifle, the quad, and the quad trailer.

responded to a report of three subjects killing a buck deer near the Naches Fish Hatchery. Upon arrival Officer Baird talked with hatchery manager Matt Mathes who was the witness/reporting party. Officer Baird and Sergeant Sprecher located three possible suspects working in a new cherry orchard above where the deer was killed. The suspects were identified and for about an hour they were interviewed and for the most part denied having any involvement in killing the deer or seeing anything. One suspect went as far as changing his clothes to conceal his identity, but another agreed to show Officer Baird where he hid the two .22 cal rifles they used to kill the deer.

Deer Poaching: Sergeant Brown responded to a report of a 3X4 mule deer shot and left in an orchard at Riverside. Upon investigation of the carcass, the officer found that the deer had been shot with an arrow, with the broadhead and broken shaft still embedded in the neck. Another kill site was located about 150 yards away. A second deer was actually taken from the site. Surveillance was conducted without results so far.

More Deer Poaching: Based on information from a citizen, Officer Jewett located a very fresh dead deer with a through-and-through hole behind the head. The citizen advised that he had observed two kids shoot the deer with an arrow and then run away when they saw him. The suspects were tracked down with the help of Officer Flowers and interviewed. Evidence was collected and reports will be filed with the juvenile prosecutor's office.

Orchard Workers Harvest Local Deer Population: Officer Baird and Sergeant Sprecher





WHALE HARASSMENT CASE

The Southern Resident Orca Whale population is listed as endangered under state and federal law. New this year, state law provided officers with another tool to address whale harassment by vessels. Vessels must maintain a distance of 100 yards from Orca Whales, with some exceptions. Officers from the North Sound marine detachment conduct about 30 directed anti-harassment patrols each summer during the peak whale-watching season. While many warnings are given to vessel operators who fail to maintain the distance provided in the new law, charges are likely to be filed in two cases against whale-watching charters. These involved intentional, egregious violations.

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.

Bullwinkle Gets Into Trouble: Sergeant Ward, Officer Grant, and Officer Oswald responded to a report of one cow moose near the Wenatchee Valley Mall and a bull under the pedestrian bridge in Wenatchee. The contract veterinarian was not available and the next ten hours were spent trying to herd these two moose out of the business center of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office sent a boat with two deputies to assist. Because officers were unable to dart these moose, a difficult process became much more difficult. Biologist John Gallie spent most of the day assisting. There were large crowds with video cameras. On Friday, July 4th, the bull moose returned to the East Wenatchee Mall and caused a huge ruckus. Officers were able to dart the bull moose using a drug cocktail from Doctor Hein, and the moose was loaded into a borrowed horse trailer and was transported to a remote location.



Bear Necessities: Officer Christensen responded to a report of a bear in the Tonasket area 17 miles east of Tonasket. Upon arrival and attempt to find the residence received a second call of a bear complaint and responded to that residence. After observing blood on the Reporting Party's hands, the officer learned that the man had shot and killed the bear at the first residence. The man claimed self-defense and that the bear was acclimated to the human food sources, which included a compost pile designed for an alternative lifestyle. The bear found lots of rotting fruit and vegetables in the worm beds.

A Typical Relocation

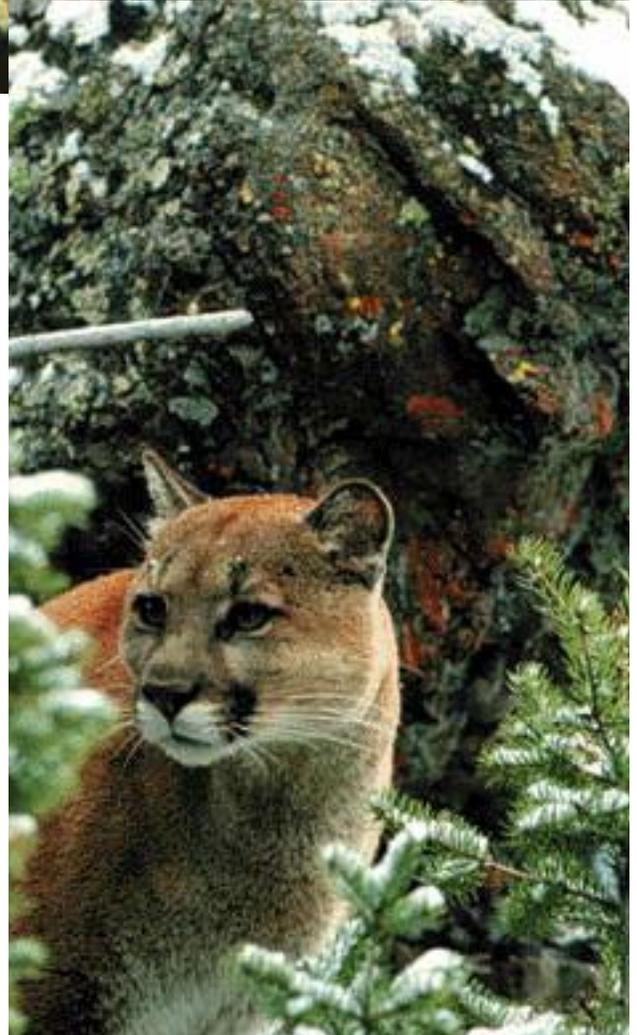


WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE • ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM •

The Wonderful World of OZ



Officer Vance received a call from WSP Communications of two hunters that were being stalked by numerous cougars prohibiting them from making it back to their truck. Officer Vance was able to call one of the subjects on his cell phone, and he advised they had seen at least 20 cougars that day while hunting, and now they were stuck in a clearcut and they were being surrounded by the pack of cats. He said their flashlights died and they were scared to go through the timber back to their truck. The subject stated they had fired numerous warning shots, but the cats would not leave. He said the cats kept coming within 10 feet of them, and they were growling and screaming. Officer Vance responded and found the subject's truck. The two subjects were found shortly after, and amazingly all of the cougars disappeared seconds prior to Officer Vance's arrival. The hunters described how all day long they saw cougar after cougar, and even found where the cats had been hanging deer in the trees after killing them. Apparently one of the 20 cougars they saw was a cougar that drug a deer into a tree right in front of them. Amazingly, neither subject appeared intoxicated.



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.

Dupont Spinner: Officer Fairbanks had an unpleasant surprise one evening. Some fishermen had found a live pipe-bomb while angling the Sol Duc River and delivered it to his home. Obviously someone had been trying to use the explosive device to enhance his catch rate. The officer called the bomb squad and it was disposed of.

Jackson and Officer Langbehn issued citations, and all of the product was seized and destroyed.

Salmon Emphasis Patrol: Region Six personnel set up an emphasis patrol targeting snaggers and "two trippers" (those who, once they catch their one salmon, quickly and discreetly return to their vehicle, stash it in the trunk or cooler, and then return to the river to catch another.). With the use of Captain Brinson's RV, surveillance was set up where anglers park their vehicles while a couple of officers fish undercover. As violations were observed the undercover operators radioed in the uniformed officers to make the bust. In all, a total of 35 arrests were made during the two-day emphasis patrol, most of those were for snagging and exceeding or attempting to exceed the limit.

Spear Fishing: Officer Mosman responded to a complaint of spear fishing at the Sutton Bay Resort on Newman Lake. The staff had warned the fishermen in the past for taking bass but they came back and tried again. The men were contacted and cited.

Shellfish Overharvest: Officer Langbehn observed numerous harvesters taking hardshell clams off of Ross Point in the Sinclair Inlet, a closed beach due to pollutants. When contacted, five out of the six harvesters did not have a license. The group was collectively in possession of over 130 pounds of clams. Sergeant

Fishing Violation Grows to Felonies: Officer Vance found a subject fishing at Northwestern Lake without a license. While citing him, dispatch advised that he had two felony warrants for meth and unlawful possession of a firearm totaling \$50,000. After arresting him, an inventory of his vehicle revealed more meth, drug paraphernalia, and debit cards in someone else's name. Of course the subject said the people knew he had their cards but didn't have phone numbers or addresses for them or a reason why they would lend him their bankcards. Charges for theft will follow soon.

Clams, what Clams? Officer Jewett received information of an extreme over-limit of hardshell clams. By the time Officer Jewett arrived the five female suspects had gotten away. Officer Jewett decided to drive into the access site undercover the next day. As luck would have it, the suspect vehicle was there with

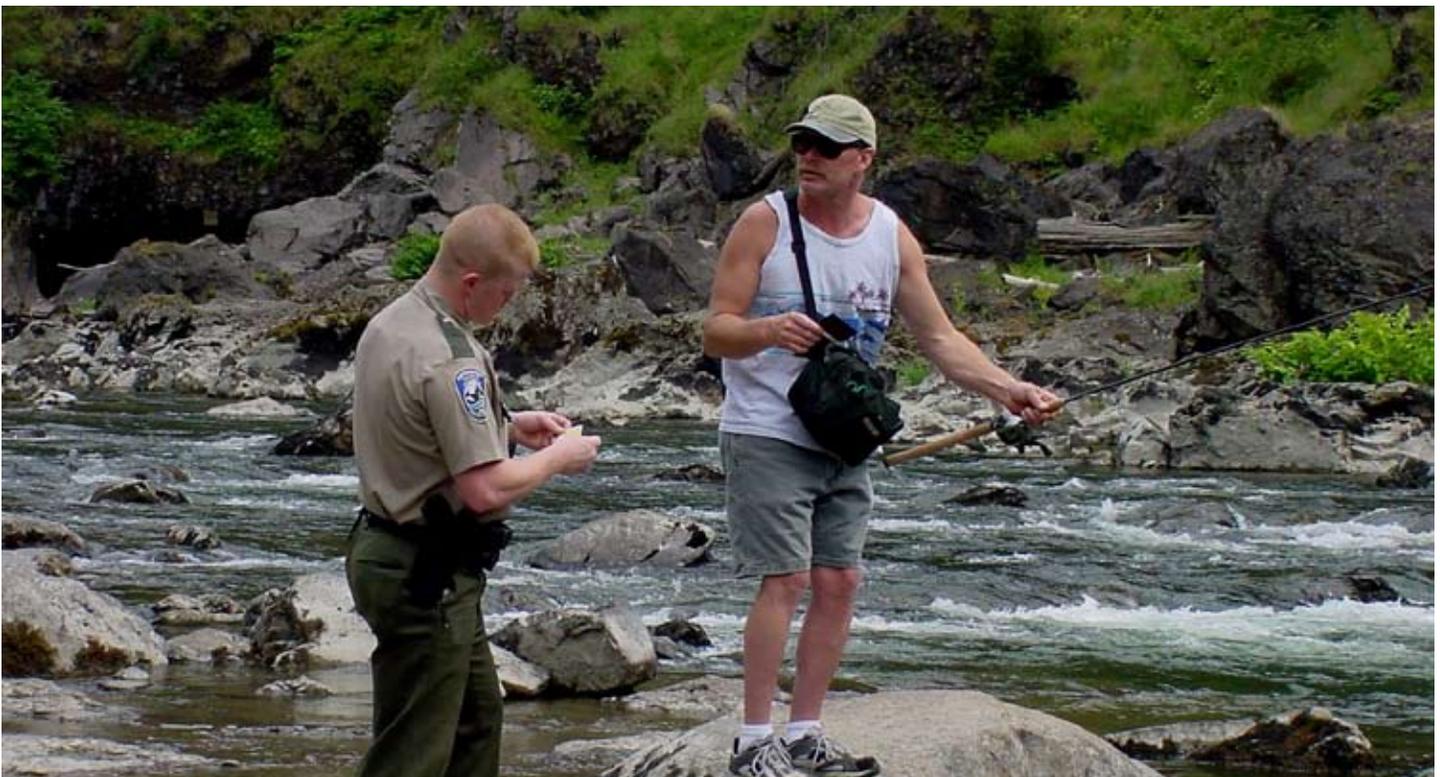


two individuals loading their van with large canvas bags filled to the top with clams. Officer Jewett attempted to make casual conversation with the two violators as they were hiding their clams under one of the seats in the van. The violator pretty much told Officer Jewett to bug off. It only got better from there. Three more ladies walked past Officer Jewett, attempting to conceal their bags which were over-flowing with clams. Officer Jewett attempted to talk to them but the ladies just ignored him. After all the bags were properly stowed, hidden under the seats with cloths covering them, the ladies were ready to leave. Officer Jewett contacted the ladies identifying himself as a Fish and Wildlife Officer. The total count was 2,264 clams. The next day, Officer Jewett found a similar group having 2,048 clams. After a single week of shellfish patrols were over, eleven people were found in possession of 1st degree over-limits at Oakland Bay WDFW access site, Victor WDFW access site, and on the Hood Canal. Overall, 5,000 hard shell clams were seized in the violations with six citations given for fail to submit shellfish for inspection. Other violations included undersized clams, oyster in the shell, and 1st degree over-limit oysters. Several verbal

warnings were also given for other minor over-limits and license violations.

A Little Clammy: Officer Vance parked on a pullout on Highway 14 to look down on Horsethief Lake and saw three subjects harvesting freshwater clams. Upon contact with the subjects, one of them insisted they were getting them for her duck. When Officer Vance found their entire stash of clams in the bushes and in their trunk, she admitted they “ate a few of them” also. The three had well over 30 gallons of clams in five-gallon buckets and tubs. Officer Vance educated them on the potential dangers of eating the clams due to pollutants, and issued the ringleader a citation.

Emphasis Patrol: Officer Hobbs planned and coordinated an emphasis patrol with Sergeant Sprecher and Captain Mann. The three patrolled in plain clothes on pontoon boats on the Yakima River, targeting illegal fishing activities. The three found selective gear and





fishing without licenses as well as other violations including multiple keg registration violations, minors in possession of alcohol, and furnishing alcohol to minors. In the five-hour float they contacted twenty people, with thirteen arrests. EVERY fisherman contacted (all fly-fishing) was in violation.

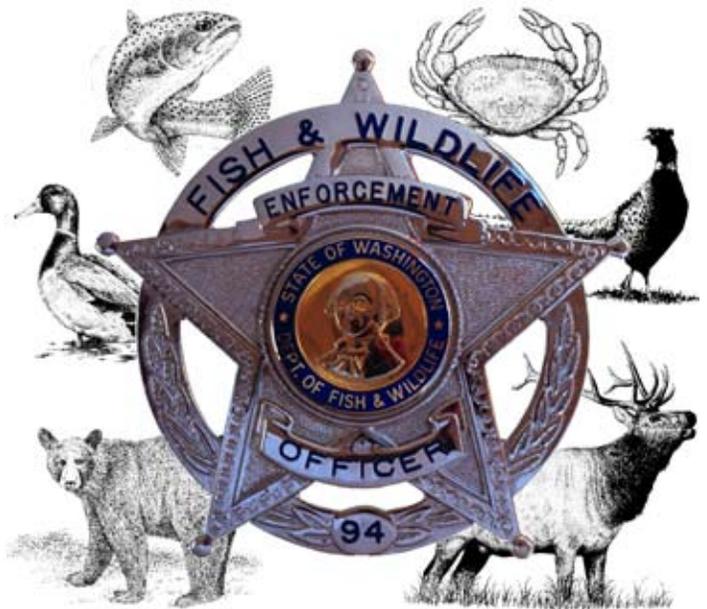
Chinook, What Chinook?: Officer Valentine worked the Squalicum boat ramp for salmon fishermen. Officer Valentine contacted a boat with Officer Beauchene and found that one of two fishermen had caught a nice Chinook. A check of both fishermen's licenses found that each man had recorded a Chinook on their Catch Record Card. Officer Valentine asked the second fisherman where his fish was. The man, feigning surprise, said he had forgotten all about his Chinook salmon and produced his fish for inspection. Before the man could put his fish away, Officer Valentine hopped on the boat and found two more Chinook in a live well on ice. The two men were cited for first degree over limit of Chinook and fail to record salmon. They were both warned about their initial failure to produce their catch.

Illegal Use of License: Sergeant Krenz attended Burien District Court for a pre-trial identification hearing. The defendant that had been issued all the citations related to multiple clamming violations at Seahurst Park claimed she wasn't there. That proved to be the case. However, further investigation revealed she had loaned her license to a subject she said she didn't know but later admitted was her cousin. Additional charges have now been filed.

Operation "No Bull": Officers Baird and Meyers coordinated emphasis patrols on both Chinook Pass and White Pass for Bull Trout protection. Officer Hobbs, Sergeant Sprecher, and Sergeant Grant participated in the emphasis patrols. Operation NO BULL on Chinook Pass was successful in locating several subjects fishing

in the American River closure area. A total of four citations were issued for fishing closed season waters on Chinook Pass.

Just Water: Sergeant Chandler contacted a subject walking up the boat ramp at Armeni carrying two full buckets of water. The subject stated that he was taking the salt water home to soak his feet in it. Sergeant Chandler became suspicious when the subject put both full buckets in the back seat of his Honda Civic instead of in the already open trunk. An inspection of the trunk ensued and 31 pounds of steamer clams were discovered. The subject told Sergeant Chandler that he had harvested the clams from Lincoln Park, a closed beach in King County. He also had a warrant for a 2007 fishing violation.



Nez Perce Tribal Member Retains Undersize Sturgeon: A vessel was observed in the Avery area with what appeared to be a non-tribal member onboard. Officers Vance, Myers, and Sergeant Grant went to Avery and contacted a female subject who was there. She said the people on the boat were fishing. Soon after she was observed making a cell phone call, the non-tribal member was quickly dropped off on the shore, and the tribal member pulled several nets. Non-Indians may not be present aboard a vessel engaged in a tribal fishery. Officers watched the boat, and the non-tribal subject was not picked back up. Officers then saw the non-tribal member that was dropped off return on foot to Avery. Officers Bolton and Caton then went down and interviewed the non-tribal member who said he was just going for a ride and got dropped off to look for rocks – a likely story. The fisherman was contacted when he returned to shore after pulling his nets. Two suspected undersized sturgeon were observed on board the vessel and the fishermen advised that he had to release the fish and pull one last net before the close of the season. The tribal fisherman left and pulled the last net. An Inter-Tribal Fisheries Officer also arrived at the location and was advised that the tribal fisherman may have undersized sturgeon on board his vessel. When the fisherman returned, he still had not released the undersized fish. The fisherman then jumped into a vehicle and left the boat ramp. The vehicle was stopped at the suspect's driveway where he boiled out of the car and ripped off his shirt. That's usually a bad sign but ready for battle officers were able to calm him down. He was finally escorted back to Avery. On the boat were 40 sturgeon still entangled in the gill nets and 38 were documented to be undersized. Unfortunately, 23 of those were dead. Live fish were placed back in the river in an effort to revive them but some expired anyhow. Intertribal Fisheries seized the vessel, nets, and fish. Over sixty state and tribal charges will be forwarded to the prosecutor's office. The motor on the suspect's vessel was listed as stolen, so this was seized as well. The fish were donated to the food bank.





While preliminary data for the summer 2008 recreational crab season showed a marked increase in compliance from previous years, the temptation still remains for some.

Subjects Caught Stealing Large

Amounts Crab: While on patrol in King County, a Fish and Wildlife Officer observed three subjects crabbing from a pier around midnight. As one of the subjects made a trip to his vehicle to drop off a load of crab, the officer contacted the subject asked him how the crabbing was.



The subject did not see the officer until he was approximately two feet away. The subject appeared stunned to see him and did not respond to his question. The officer observed the crab moving around in the bag and asked the subject if the crab were in the bag. The subject still did not respond. The

officer then seized the bag, which was found to contain 41 Red Rock crab. The three subjects were issued citations for 1st degree overlimit and fishing for crab during closed season. They were given verbal warnings for fishing without a valid license. One of the three subjects was found to have a misdemeanor warrant for failing to appear on a DWLS charge. The subject was booked into the King County Jail.

I In a similar case, an officer received information regarding several subjects fishing from the Pier at Golden Gardens Park. The officer, working with NOAA Special Agent Kevin Porter, observed the three subjects fishing from the pier. They also observed one of the subjects making multiple trips back to their vehicle.

The Fish and Wildlife Officer asked the driver for his fishing license. The driver stated that the license was in the back of his vehicle and popped the trunk. The officer then asked the subject where the crab were located. The subject shrugged his shoulders. The officer observed a large metal pot containing a large plastic bag in the back seat of the suspect vehicle. Officer Olson inquired about the metal pot, with no response. The pot was removed and found to contain 37 Red Rock crab. Three citations were issued for first degree overlimit.





Overlimit Crabbing at Sea: While on a boat patrol in King County, officers observed a vessel south of Hat Island. The two officers observed the subject pull three crab pots and place them inside the small dingy. Without sorting through the crab inside each of the pots, the subject began rowing the dingy back to shore. As the Officers approached the small dingy, the subject began to frantically row towards shore. When the dingy was approximately 10 feet from shore, the Officers yelled to the subject to come back out, or they would be forced to come and get him. The subject rowed back out to the Officers. The subject was in possession of nine female Dungeness, 13 undersized Dungeness and three soft shell Dungeness. None of the crab were recorded on a catch record card. The subject also did not possess a shellfish license. The subject was issued citations for possession of female Dungeness, 13 undersize Dungeness, fishing without a license and first degree over limit.

Oblivious Crabbers Over Limit: Officer Olson responded to a call from a concerned citizen who observed two subjects fishing for crab at Shilshole Marina in the Ballard area of Seattle. Officer Olson was off duty, however, quickly called onto duty and approached the two subjects in plain clothes. Officer Olson asked them if they were crabbing? The two subjects stated that they were crabbing and could not believe how many crab they were catching. One of the subjects stated, “They are everywhere. All we have to do is throw our pot into the water and we bring in all sorts of crab.” Officer Olson asked the two subjects how many crab they had caught. One of the subjects stated that they were not keeping count. Officer Olson observed two white buckets filled with crab on the deck of the pier. Three crab lines were also tied to the railing.

Officer Olson provided the two subjects with his credentials, identifying himself as a FWO. Officer Olson informed the two subjects that the area was closed to crabbing. A count of the crab within the buckets came to 22 Red Rock crab. Only one of the two subjects stated that they had been fishing for crab. Citations were issued for 1st degree over limit and fishing for crab during closed season. A verbal warning was given for fishing with more than two crab pots at one time.



COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

Commercial fisheries enforcement is by far the most complex area of our officers job. 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 protection

responsibility, 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.

Salmon Processor Goes Up in Smoke:

Officer Hobbs presented 47 charges (40 felonies) to the prosecuting attorney's office on Thursday. The charges are the result of an investigation into a business smoking salmon without a wholesale dealer's license and for not having records of approximately 450 pounds of commercially caught and possessed salmon. Also discovered in the investigation was the person delivering the salmon shipments did not have necessary documentation and a license to be a broker of salmon. Charges included unlawful trafficking in fish 1st, engaging in unlicensed fish dealing 1st, secondary commercial fish receiver's failure to account for commercial harvest and criminal conspiracy. The suspects in the case were given a written warning about the violations and six months later were still engaging in the activities. Officer Hobbs and Sergeant Sprecher interviewed several suspects and Officer Rogers assisted with the seizure of the illegal product. Both assisted in the search warrant yielding evidence of these violations occurring for at least the last four or five years.

Gill-Net Patrol: Officers Wickersham and Hopkins conducted a nighttime boat patrol on the Columbia during this week's commercial gillnet opener. Five contacts were made on the water resulting in one citation for failing to immediately release sturgeon over the weekly possession limit and two written warnings will be issued for the same offense.





Coastal Marine Officer Intercepts Load of Illegal Halibut:

Officer Hopkins received information that a commercial fishing vessel was possibly in possession of closed season halibut. The vessel monitoring system showed the vessel as fishing at Blue Dot (North of Pt. Chehalis) two days prior to traveling South and fishing along the Astoria Canyon. The area above Pt. Chehalis was closed to halibut possession, and the Blue Dot area is known for lots of halibut. Officers Hopkins, Klump, and Anderson got underway and contacted the vessel at the Astoria Canyon, 28 miles off the coast. The vessel and crew possessed 21 halibut taken from a closed area. The fish were seized by the Officers and sold in Ilwaco, bringing in \$2,664 in revenue for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA).

Oversized Sturgeon:

Officer Jewell received a call from Washington State Patrol regarding a possible oversized sturgeon at a residence in Warden. Officer Jewell responded and discovered a 74-inch sturgeon that the suspect claimed he caught on the Snake River below Lower Monumental Dam near Windust. The sturgeon had been cut up onto three pieces and the suspect tried to hide one of the pieces of vertebrae to make the fish appear shorter. The suspect's father was extremely argumentative and confrontational throughout the investigation and repeatedly tried to intimidate the officer. Eventually, both the suspect and his father offered admissions of guilt and claimed they had retained several oversized sturgeon over the past several years. Officer Jewell is working with the Grant County Prosecutor's Office to have the violation charged as a mandatory appearance. The carcass was placed into evidence and the fillets donated to the Moses Lake Food Bank.

Emphasis Patrol on Commercial Crabbing:

Officers Downes, Jones, and Erickson completed marine patrols, during this recent summer, on two commercial crab fisheries. This fishery coincided with the commercial Puget Sound spot prawn fishery opener

resulting in numerous commercial checks. During the patrol, verbal warnings were given to two wholesale dealers for fish ticket related issues and one commercial crab fisherman was cited for a closed area violation. The commercial catch of over two hundred pounds of Dungeness crab was seized and sold per Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife regulation.

Tribal Member Takes Plunge to Set Illegal Nets:

Officer Vance located a closed season gillnet along the Columbia River. The net had been tied off to the shore and appeared to be fishing. Officers spent two nights monitoring the net. On the second day, Officer Vance found the net had been pulled and there were now two nets laid out on the river's bank. Officer Vance and Oregon State Police (OSP) Troopers set up on the Oregon side of the Columbia to watch the nets. Just before dark, a male subject started laying the nets out in preparation to set them. OSP Troopers stayed on the Oregon side to relay info while Officer Vance hurried back to the Washington side. Officer Bolton made record time from Goldendale, Washington. Officer Vance watched the subject wade out chest deep with one of the nets, and it appeared he had already swam out and set the other net. The Officers were able to sneak in right above the subject and take him into custody without incident. He was booked and Officers pulled and seized his nets.

Good Relations With Tribal Enforcement Pays Off in Sanitary Shellfish Case:

Officer Michael Stewart, Suquamish PD, received a report of a non-tribal individual harvesting commercial quantities of clams on a local tribal beach. The individual was gone by the time Officer Stewart got word and responded to the poaching. The reporting party advised Officer Stewart that he thought the individual was planning to sell the product to a certain shellfish buyer in the Mason County area. Officer Stewart in turn forwarded the information on to Skokomish PD Officer Tim Baker who contacted WDFW officers. Officer Jewett received the vehicle description and started surveillance



on the shellfish buyer in case the delivery was made. After several hours, the two individuals arrived in a vehicle matching the description. Officer Jewett called Skokomish Tribal Officer Tim Baker and informed him that the suspects had arrived. While looking through binoculars, Officer Jewett noticed that the suspects and the buyer had already spotted him. Officer Jewett contacted the suspects and took statements from both individuals attempting to sell the illegal product. A statement was also taken from the potential buyer, who stated that one of the suspects attempted to sell him the clams. The buyer obviously wasn't going to buy the clams because there were no certification tags with the product. The charges will be filed through the Mason County Prosecutors Office for no Department of Health Operators License, Harvest Site Certificate, Certification Tags and 1st Degree Unlawful Trafficking of Shellfish. Special thanks to Officer Stewart, Suquamish PD, and Officer Baker, Skokomish PD.

Over-turned Gillnet Vessel Turns Over Illegal Gillnetting Case:

Officer Haw assisted Thurston County Sheriff's Office with a boat accident investigation in Marine Area 13. A gill-netter with a net deployed capsized and a person went overboard. A retired firefighter, in his personal vessel, rescued both. Officer Haw observed the interview with the victims and while doing so it became very clear that both subjects were unlawfully gillnetting at the time of the accident. Both suspects admitted to similar activity on six days during August 2008. Tribal fish ticket data corroborated their statements. Written statements were taken. Numerous charges will be referred to the prosecutor and the Squaxin Island Tribe.

Boat Seized for Illegal Crabbing:

Officer Downes and Sergeant Mullins began investigating an Anacortes commercial crab fishermen for various violations. The fisherman has twelve WDFW priors and recently had his Puget Sound crab license suspended by a Department of Social Health Services hold resulting from his failure to pay child support. Despite basically

not having any fishing privileges, the fisherman continued to commercially crab.

24-hour surveillance was set up on the suspect's residence and a wealth of evidence was gathered over the next two months. The suspect was videotaped making over ten fishing trips. The video surveillance also revealed that the suspect was delivering his illegal product to two prominent Anacortes wholesale dealers. A GPS tracker that was installed on the suspect's truck and aboard his vessel provided location data that confirmed the suspect's activities.

The prime suspect was recorded as he made sport shrimp trips on closed days and without a valid license. Each time he returned with more pots than he left with, all without buoys or line attached. Numerous sport buoys were also seen, some with the names of others or signs the names had been shaved off. It appeared that all this gear had been stolen.

On July 24th, twelve WDFW Officers and two NOAA Special Agents served three search warrants on residences and businesses owned or controlled by the suspect and associated wholesale dealers. As a result, the prime suspect's commercial crab fishing vessel, pickup truck, 100 commercial crab pots, and about 10 shrimp pots were seized for forfeiture. In addition, a pickup truck owned by one of the cooperating wholesale dealers was also seized for forfeiture.

Each of the suspects was interviewed. Deputy Chief Cenci and Officer Jones interviewed the prime suspect. Over the course of two or three hours, the suspect confessed to over twenty felonies and provided a lengthy written statement. Officers Hopkins and Valentine, along with Sgt. Rhoden, interviewed the first wholesale dealer and obtained a full confession. Officer Downes, Detective Golden and Special Agent Bowyer interviewed the second wholesale dealer and obtained another full confession. The wholesale dealer admitted that he had purchased crab from the prime suspect without completing a fish ticket on several occasions and that his boss knew he had done so.



Officer Downes and Sgt. Mullins executed a follow-up search warrant at a LaConner wholesale dealer's bookkeeper's office. As expected, numerous off-ticket purchases of illegally caught crab were documented through seized records. In addition, it appears that several hundred-thousand pounds of crab were not quick reported as required. The manager for the wholesale dealer was cooperative and provided incriminating statements. Dozens of felony and misdemeanor level charges are pending on six different suspects.

SEIZED VESSEL





The above picture shows a Fish and Wildlife Officer boarding a commercial vessel who caught halibut off of the Columbia River at the Astoria Canyon incidental to fishing for sablefish south of Pt. Chehalis which is forbidden. Officers responded from Montesano at a moment's notice to intercept this vessel.

MARKETPLACE INSPECTIONS

Officers frequently monitor commercial landings of fish and shellfish, but due to staffing shortages, only a small percentage are actually observed. When violations are missed at the dock, inspections at the market place provide yet another

opportunity to discover illegally harvested product. These activities are very successful in ferreting out illegal competition with legitimate commercial businesses.

Operation Walk the Line: On August 14 –15, 2008 a multi-agency operation was conducted at the U.S.-Canada border at several ports of entry in Whatcom County. Officers, agents, and inspectors from WDFW Enforcement, NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, Environment Canada, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Canada Conservation Officer Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife participated in the large-scale emphasis.

and companies that are transporting various products to and from Canada. Our presence at the ports of entry has also led to a closer working relationship with U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers who work the inbound and outbound traffic at the border. They have become more familiar with fish and wildlife regulations and issues, and as a result have relayed information to WDFW officers regarding suspicious activity and product.

The focus of the operation was to ensure compliance with State and Federal Fish and Wildlife regulations and other applicable laws, especially those pertaining to possession and transportation of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and aquatic invasive species within Washington State. Special attention was also directed toward detecting border-related criminal activity such as narcotics trafficking, bulk cash smuggling, alien smuggling, weapons trafficking, and fugitive interceptions.

2008 Cold Storage Inspection Emphasis

Summary: In August, nine groups of personnel (25 total) from WDFW and NOAA teamed up to conduct inspections of cold storage facilities from Bellingham to Tacoma. A total of twelve facilities were checked in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. The operational objective was to ensure compliance with all state and federal laws and rules pertaining to harvesting, shipping and marketing fish and shellfish. Officers conducting these inspections track the product being held back to origin in order to determine if it was harvested during an open season, with the proper licenses and permits, and in the amounts authorized under fisheries management regulations.

The operation led to approximately 300 recreational and commercial contacts by WDFW Officers. Verbal warnings, written warnings, and citations were issued for state and overlapping state/federal violations. NOAA Special Agents are conducting follow-up on possible license violations in Alaska, as well as investigating the origin of 400 pounds of Coho salmon that was imported by a sport fisherman. Canada Conservation Service had follow-up work to conduct as well, which was a result of a contact at the Sumas port of entry. The operation also provided an opportunity for state and federal officers to gather valuable information about the individuals

In Snohomish County, three cold storage units were inspected and found to contain large amounts of fish and shellfish. Records were reviewed with 145 different owners of seafood product identified. Of those, approximately thirty have been scheduled for follow-up investigations to check for unlicensed wholesale dealers.



In King County, seven facilities were checked. Most were in compliance. Follow-ups will be conducted to check for unlicensed dealers. Vietnamese Catfish were discovered at one location with a connection to a Seattle restaurant that has been investigated before for marketing violations. NOAA will take the lead on this investigation. Another facility was found without records in English and incomplete records. The officers were able to eventually account for all the product at the site and gave a verbal warning for the lack of proper record keeping.

In Pierce County, fresh salmon and frozen urchins were discovered at a plant where the owner is also a licensed wholesale dealer. There were no mandatory fish receiving tickets for the product. Urchin was being imported from Oregon without fish receiving tickets. A search warrant was requested, granted, and served. Six boxes of paperwork were seized for analysis to determine the extent of non-reporting.

Two fish-plants were found to be processing fish and shellfish as well as storing seafood product. Both possessed wholesale dealer licenses. One dealer will be contacted later regarding halibut and its origin. One plant was holding various by-catch from a fisher on the coast. Confirmation that the fish were documented on harvest reports will be made. They were also found with a few undersized crab from British Columbia and were given a verbal warning and direction on how to address the violation in the future.



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HABITAT

Hydraulic Permit Investigation: Officers Elliott and Hobbs requested and received a search warrant allowing officers to investigate an unlawful hydraulics project currently occurring on Crab Creek near Corfu (along Highway 26 between Royal City and Othello). Officer Zuchlewski, Officer Elliott and Sergeant Erhardt served the warrant with the assistance of representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Ecology and WDFW biologist Eric Pentico. Evidence was collected, including measurements and photographs, and officers recorded the damage that has occurred to the streambed. The investigation continues and several charges are pending including no HPA permit, a violation of a water right and a shorelines violation.

Inspection Reveals Problems: Officer Lantiegne conducted more on-site inspections and interviewed a suspect regarding HPA violations committed by a developer of a 255-acre development in the Toutle/Silver Lake area. Officer Lantiegne is working with Habitat Biologist Steve West wrapping up the investigation of the developer who has committed over 16 HPA violations of various levels of habitat impact on a 255-acre development.



Illegal Bulkhead: While on patrol in Elliott Bay, Officer Olson, Sgt. Krenz and Officer Stephenson observed a possible hydraulics violation west of the Elliott Bay Marina. A backhoe was observed on the beach moving boulders to create a bulkhead. Officer Olson walked into the construction site and contacted the owner. The owner provided Officer Olson with a permit for construction of a residence, but did not mention anything about the creation of a bulkhead. The owner was unable to provide Officer Olson with a WDFW HPA permit. Officer Olson contacted WDFW King County marine hydraulics manager, Laura Arber. After reviewing several pictures that Officer Olson took of the project, Laura determined that a WDFW HPA permit was definitely required. Officer Olson will take further action once Laura has a chance to communicate with the landowner.

BOATING SAFETY

WDFW Officers spend a significant amount of time patrolling Washington's waterways in an effort to protect marine and freshwater species. Always alert to an equally important public safety mission, Officers enforce boater safety laws and provide life-saving services at the same time.

Seafair: Officer Olson and Sergeant Krenz coordinated this year's Region Four's involvement in the Boating Safety Emphasis for Seafair. WDFW provided four vessels and six officers to the multi-agency police presence. The vessel operators for the four vessels were Officers Olson, Johnson, Clementson, Czebotar, and Stephenson. A fifth vessel was added on Saturday and Sunday operated by Sergeant Kim Chandler and Captain Bill Hebner. WDFW boat patrol teams accounted for 32 of the 46 Boating Under the Influence (BUI) arrests made in two days, resulting in numerous vessel impounds and jail bookings.

Fish and Wildlife Officers Search Nisqually for Drowning Victims:

Officers Klein, Flowers, Wickersham, Sergeant Makoviney, and Captain Brinson assisted in searching the Nisqually River for survivors of a boat accident. Five people were thrown into the river after the boat they were in collided with a snag in the river. Two people made it safely to shore and the three others were not seen directly following the accident. The body of one individual, a five-year-old boy, was located later in the evening and the recovery effort continued for the other two still missing.



Burn Victim Response

While on marine patrol in the San Juan Islands, Sergeant Mullins and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Special Agents responded to a marine distress call on the north end of Decatur Island. An individual was trying to restart his 1970s twin gas engine boat by pouring gas into the carburetor when the engine compartment exploded. As the boat was on fire a mayday call went out and numerous vessels, including the San Juan County Sheriff's Office and the United States Coast Guard responded. Upon arrival, the fire was out. The victim had severe burns to his hands and chest. Sergeant Mullins and the special agents transported the victim to Anacortes for treatment. He was in fairly stable condition on arrival, but was later transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle for burn treatment.



SEAFAIR - 2008



A LESSON FROM OFFICER PHILLIP JOHNSON

As the recreational boating season comes to a close, I would like to recognize all of you for your tenacity and “can-do” attitude. Thanks to your efforts, we have conducted over 700 hundred vessel safety inspections. Furthermore, our officers assisted many boaters in distress situations, particularly Officers Haw and Flowers who placed themselves at great risk to rescue victims of a capsized vessel in Hood Canal. Finally, our participation in Seafair had a dramatic impact on the quality and quantity of BUI arrests and underscored our strong enforcement presence on the water with the boating public.

Where are we going from here? Now that the bulk of Basic Marine Law Enforcement training is over, our instructors will continue to participate in the Department-level MOCC effort that provides intra-disciplinary basic seamanship training to new hires and non-commissioned employees. Dan Klump has been trained as a NASBLA certified BUI instructor and is preparing to teach a CJTC sponsored course with follow-up courses for our own officers. Officers Wickersham, Weaver, and Oswald attended a swift water jet boat training course sponsored by US Fish & Wildlife and

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are preparing a 3 – day jet boat course for our officers. The target date for this training will be early summer of 2009. Finally, many other sustainment-training ideas are being discussed to include Radar/Charting/Navigation, high speed pursuits, boardings, and more. If there are specific boat training items you think should be addressed, please bring your ideas to the attention of any boating instructor so they can be considered.

Finally, safety is an appropriate way to complete this article. We took a BUI suspect into custody during Seafair after he operated his vessel recklessly and failed voluntary field sobriety tests. My partner had him don a Type III PFD before we handcuffed him with his hands in front of his body, as we have been trained. After putting the suspect on our vessel, my partner went onto the suspect’s vessel to find a sober boat operator. Our suspect became uncooperative, threw himself off our patrol boat, and then created a dramatic scene in which he tried to drown himself. He attempted to remove the Type III PFD, but it got caught up in the handcuffs. Unable to submerge himself, he clutched the PFD to his chest and became very compliant as he saw multiple patrol vessels filled with salivating deputies and police officers responding to assist my call for backup. We retrieved the suspect from the water, where he put up a fight on the back deck of our patrol boat. It took two officers to hold him down all the way to shore. Lessons learned: handcuff in the front with a chest –type PFD; handcuff in the back with a horse collar Type I or II PFD and a suspect who is giving you indications he might resist. My partner was within seconds of jumping into the water until it became apparent the suspect couldn’t harm himself. In all cases, keep two officers on the patrol boat if you have a suspect in custody. Lastly, have a plan that won’t put you at risk if the suspect decides to go swimming. Remember your priorities: You and Your Partner always come first. Stay alert; Stay alive! W143



GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

WDFW Officers are general authority police officers, which means that they are able to provide the same policing services that would be expected of Sheriffs Deputies and City Police. Our Officers have the authority to enforce all state laws

while protecting your natural resources and both are integrated. Fish and Wildlife Officers commonly provide backup to other law enforcement agencies.

High Speed Pursuit: Officer J. Czebotar observed a vehicle parked in the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife access area at Long Lake shortly before 10:00 p.m. He contacted the driver, who smelled of intoxicants and provided a false identification. A Trooper was called in to assist for a possible DUI investigation. While waiting for a trooper to arrive, the man suddenly drove off, leading the officer on a short high speed pursuit. The driver eventually stopped after a 4 minute pursuit on Baker Road before fleeing on foot. Troopers set up containment while Kitsap County Deputy Aaron Baker, along with his K-9 partner Ryker, tracked the subject. After tracking the subject for over 2 hours, they successfully located the man, who was identified as 37 year-old Wrexford C. Johnson of Carpinteria, California. Mr. Johnson was treated for dog bites and hypothermia from hiding in the swamps before being booked into the Kitsap County Jail. A search of the vehicle produced a loaded firearm and a small bag of marijuana. Bail was set at \$103,000.00.

The passenger had no identification on him and gave personal information not associated with any official record. Almost everyone has an official record like a driver's license, so when we can't find one, we know we are being provided false information. Upon the officer questioning his veracity, the subject emphatically claimed that he had an Oregon driver's license. An out of state record check was unable to confirm this. However, dispatch did locate a similar individual with a different middle initial and year of birth. This man had \$200,000 worth of warrants out of Enumclaw. After confirming scars on the subject's neck and left leg, the officer took the subject into custody and transported him to the tree farm gate. The subject was none-too-happy to see the Enumclaw Police Department waiting with a previous booking photo.

Man Denying Identity Arrested on \$200,000 Warrant, and Wood Theft: Officer Maschhoff responded to a report of firewood theft and trespass on the Buckley Tree Farm. Upon contact, two subjects failed to produce permits, and when asked about the trailer attached to the truck, the driver said he forgot to take it off before he left home. Not buying this very lame story, the officer informed the men that he believed they were attempting to steal some firewood.

Hunters and Fishers Beware Of Outdoor Grows: WDFW Officers are involved in marijuana eradication efforts, primarily on public lands. Officers participated in over 20 eradication events this past summer. The environmental damage to wild lands is huge as large plots of native vegetation are cleared, water is diverted by elaborate irrigation, mounds of garbage is left behind and chemical fertilizer is applied. Please be careful when recreating in the outdoors. The bad guys really mean business and there is real risk to the public. And even though the growing season is winding down, the potential for you to encounter late gardens, as well as the bad guys, is still high. Many of these grows are



“live in,” meaning long-term camps are established for the duration of the growing season where gardeners tend and protect the plants. Rewards up to 5K has been offered for credible information received through a tip line maintained by the Washington State Patrol. That number can be found in our hunting pamphlet on page 30 and is 1-800-388 GROW (4769). Here is one of over 20 examples of where our officers have been engaged in this eradication activity this summer: Officers McQuary, Johnson, and Horn, and Sergeant Jewell assisted the Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Office and the Drug Task Force with a marijuana eradication effort in the Boise Cascade tree farm near Burbank. The tree farm grow is estimated at 50,000 plants, up to 10 feet tall. Unfortunately the growers had already harvested a majority of the plants and they were beginning to re-bud. The Officers pulled the rest of the un-harvested plants as well as the ones that had re-budded. Officers also located and searched two camps set up by the gardeners, finding what appeared to be fresh game meat drying on a rack.

control illegal activity on lands under the care of these agencies. There were a number of violations detected, including illegal fishing and campfires, No Vehicle Use Permits (WDFW) and non-payment of camping fees (BLM). After dark, foot patrols were conducted in the BLM Campgrounds where large, loud groups of people were “encouraged” to reduce noise in order to preserve a more quality experience for others using the area.

Reckless Shooting: Officers received a call that several individuals had driven around an agency gate and concrete barriers, and into a closed portion of the Gloyd Seeps Wildlife Area. Officer Jewell was able to hike into the area, and watch as the suspects littered, consumed alcoholic beverages, harvested crayfish and shot numerous high-powered weapons, and pistols at a variety of targets. One man was observed shooting one of the rifles several times towards homes and a paved highway. Officer Zuchlewski and Captain Anderson later drove into the area and took the five suspects into custody. Officers checked the weapons, and found that one of the rifles was recently stolen during a residential burglary in the Auburn area. The men were issued numerous citations ranging from littering to fail to obey posted regulations to reckless endangerment. Charges of possession of a stolen firearm will be forwarded to the prosecutor’s office.



Lands Abuse Targeted: Officer Rogers coordinated a multi-agency emphasis patrol in the Yakima River Canyon. Two BLM Officers, two Kittitas County Sheriff’s Officers and WDFW Sgt. Sprecher participated in the patrol. The emphasis was an effort to

Proud Day: Officer Jim Nelson (Pomeroy) was recently interviewed and videotaped by Dateline NBC on the incident he was involved in six years ago in saving the life of the 12-year-old who was abducted after school one afternoon in Clarkston. Officer Nelson made the stop on the suspect vehicle near the Silcott Road and Highway 12 in Asotin County. Jim was subsequently awarded a pin for Valor from Chief Bjork.



Just a Little Too Much Beer: Sergeant Jackson responded to a truck ramming vehicles in the parking lot of the Allyn Market. Sergeant Jackson observed the vehicle turn on Grapeview Loop Road and exceed speeds of 90 mph. Sergeant Jackson was able to stop the vehicle and placed the driver and passenger into custody. While searching the subjects, the passenger stated that he had consumed 40 beers and the driver said he drank 10 to 15 beers. The passenger also stated that he fought in the Civil War with General Washington. The driver was arrested for DUI.

Suspicious Vehicle Leads to Felony Arrests:

As Officer Brian Fulton had Officer Pat Anderson patrolled the Paterson area, a vehicle was observed with two subjects trespassing on posted private property inside a rock quarry. The male subject ran on foot and eventually made it back to his vehicle. As Officers Fulton and Anderson attempted to make contact, they fled in the vehicle, nearly striking the patrol vehicle. A vehicle pursuit ensued along SR 14 and into Oregon. The male subject was able to get away on foot after jumping out of his vehicle in Oregon and the female passenger was arrested. She identified the male driver

and he was arrested several days later by Oregon State

Police (OSP) on seven felony warrants out of Oregon. They next day the officers discovered the two subjects had been burglarizing Benton REA electrical boxes in the rock quarry attempting to steal the copper wiring. Benton County Sheriff's Office took over the attempted theft investigation.

Getty's Cove Medical Assist Response Turns Felony:

Officer Hobbs assisted Kittitas County Sheriff's Office in locating a missing jet-skier. A second call for his assistance came in at the same time. A young man was reported as unresponsive and foaming at the mouth near the entrance of Getty's Cove. The officer checked this out, but was unable to locate the person so he checked in with the campground's security team, one of which he recognized as a man with six warrants. One of the warrants was related to this officer's closed season deer case so he arrested him. By then, a County Deputy arrived to assist in the original man-down call. They found the man as he stumbled out of a sanican, barely able to remain vertical. Upon contact and detention, the subject threw a fist sized ball of cocaine under the Deputy's car. Scales were also recovered. While the security guy with the warrants was released after new information revealed the warrants were no longer valid, this fellow took his place in jail.

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

Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*): are not indigenous to North America, yet are found to be present in 14 states. As recently as 2004, the federal government announced a plan to reduce the population of Mute Swans nationwide by 85%. The remaining are to be neutered and placed in parks. Mute Swans are known to be an aggressive animal, and there have been many reports of Mute Swans attacking children and adults. Their defensive behavior also displaces many species of native wildlife, including Wood Ducks and Loons.

Mute Swans are designated in WAC 232-12-017(a) as deleterious exotic wildlife. As such, it is unlawful to import into the state, hold, possess, propagate, offer for sale, sell, transport, or release live specimens of Mute Swans in this state.

Mute Swan Capture and Sterilization: Officers Moats, Hughes, Meyers, and Hart, along with Wildlife Services Dan Libby, Martha Jordan with the Trumpeter Swan Society, and Biologist Holman, conducted a Mute Swan capture at the Tidewater Cove Condominiums. Initial efforts that morning to drug the birds failed so a full capture using two boats was performed. All five birds were captured and transported to a holding facility.



The adults will be sterilized and returned under permit to the Condominium Association. The effort was well thought out, planned, and coordinated. Information was disseminated to residents of the complex via their association weeks prior to the capture so that there would be no confusion about the goal of the capture event and final disposition of all the animals. The

Condominium Association is paying all costs. Officers received positive feedback and comments from the homeowners in regards to the capture.

More Mutes: Captain Brinson, Sergeant Makoviney along with Officers Summit and Johnson addressed a very difficult and sensitive issue in removing four baby Mute Swans as well as four adult Mute Swans from the Hidden Lake area in downtown Lakewood. With the assistance of two volunteers that were invaluable in this project that really can only be described as a “Swan Rodeo,” we were successful in the removal of all of the Swans. This ordeal was especially difficult as there were numerous onlookers that live around the lake in the Hidden Lake Apartments and consider these birds as family. Several of the tenants were less than pleased that we were removing “family,” especially since there were four juveniles being removed as well. One particular bystander was warned with being arrested for obstruction if her behavior continued. The animals were taken to a rehabilitation facility, the adults pinioned and neuter/spayed and returned via a permit from the Director’s office, and the young euthanized.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Threat Detected: Officer Horn and Sergeant Beireis inspected and cleaned a boat coming into the area for a bass tournament. The boat had most recently been on Lake Mead, which has zebra mussels, and still had

water in the live wells. No evidence of contamination was noted.

Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Check Station: On August 22nd & 23rd, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Enforcement Program and the WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Unit conducted the first ever Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Check Station. The check station occurred on Highway 395/Interstate 82 (I-82) in Benton County Washington. This check station was the first of its kind to be conducted in Washington State and was operated in cooperation with the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division and was operated out of the Plymouth Port of entry weigh station located just north of the Washington/Oregon border. The check station was operated by three uniformed enforcement officers, one AIS biologist and one scientific technician. 85 watercraft inspections were conducted over the course of the two days with 16 written warnings issued for failure to stop at the mandatory check station and four written warnings issued for illegal transportation of aquatic plants (Eurasian milfoil).

WDFW was given authority during the 2007 legislative session to operate AIS Watercraft check stations in an effort to stop the spread of AIS that can have devastating effects on our natural resources and the state economy. All motorists transporting watercraft are required to enter the check station and submit their watercraft for inspection.



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COMMUNITY SERVICES

Kids Derby: Officer Jewell, Officer Zuchlewski and Captain Anderson attended the annual Moses Lake Kids Fishing Derby at Cascade Park. This event attracts hundreds of kids and their parents, and is well attended by local community leaders and members of several sportsmen's groups. Officers spent several hours at the event working with the kids and participating in radio and newspaper interviews with members from the local media. This annual derby is a huge success every year and is well attended by hundreds of kids and their parents. It was estimated that approximately 700 children participated in the event this year. They were allowed a two-fish-limit and were able to keep their new fishing rods.

Wildfires: Officers Spurbeck, Hahn, and Feldner assisted Washington State Patrol (WSP) with emergency evacuations during the fire in the Dishman Hills in Spokane Valley. The Officers were part of five man teams along with WSP troopers who were tasked with assisting in evacuating neighborhoods and residences ahead of the fire. Officer Spurbeck's patrol vehicle was also used to assist Spokane County Sheriff's Office while trying to find an area ahead of the fire for trucks to access an area on a rugged and steep dirt road.

Helping make a wish come true: Officer Stephenson helped brighten the day for a group of kids and one in particular as she participated with a "Make A Wish" boat trip aboard the Northwestern of "The Deadliest Catch" fame. She went out of her way to get a WDFW

enforcement ball cap for the young boy. She then, along with Sergeant Henry and Officer Miller, stopped the vessel, boarded it, and contacted the honoree. She presented him the cap and then posed for pictures with the kids and crew.

Chief for a Day: Lieutenant Crown and Chief Bjork attended the Chief for a Day ceremony at CJTC in August. WDFW's selection was Gavin Houk. Gavin is age 11 and a close friend of Brandy Chin in WDFW Human Resources Program. Gavin was born with a rare genetic disorder known as Smith-Magenis syndrome (which is similar to Autism) that causes moderate mental retardation, delayed speech and language skills, and behavioral problems. Gavin looked good in the Chief's uniform.



HEADQUARTERS NEWS

WASPC Accreditation: Over the past few years the Enforcement Program has been preparing to apply for accreditation through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police of Chiefs (WASPC) and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). To receive accreditation from these organizations, the Program had to develop a comprehensive, well thought out, uniform set of directives in order to meet identified professional standards for law enforcement agencies.

Several benefits of accreditation are:

- Greater accountability within an agency
- Reduced risk and liability exposure
- Stronger defense against civil lawsuits
- Improved support from government officials
- Increased community advocacy
- Facilitates an agency's pursuit toward professional excellence

On July 1, 2008 the Enforcement Program hosted its first WASPC onsite accreditation assessment. In order to receive WASPC accreditation, the Program had to show compliance with approximately 141 professional law enforcement standards. On August 20, 2008, the WASPC Accreditation Commission met to review the onsite report and unanimously recommend that the Enforcement Program be granted accreditation status. The Program is expected to receive its accreditation award at the annual WASPC Conference November 17-20, 2008, in Pasco, WA.

The Program is now busy preparing for its CALEA accreditation onsite assessment, which will be held in May 2009.

Thank you to all of the staff who participated in the onsite. You demonstrated our Program's commitment to best practices by being willing and available to provide information to the assessors. I would especially like to thank all Headquarters staff for your participation;

Captain Dan Brinson, Lieutenant Dennis Nicks, and Officer Brian Alexander for demonstrating our evidence procedures; Lieutenant Ed Volz for providing information regarding SIU; Sergeants Mike Krenz and Eric Anderson for answering field-specific questions; and Bobbi Monk and Jonathan Neville for providing assistance to Accreditation Manager Kim Flowers. Special thanks to Kim for all her hard work, dedication, and organization skills.

WILDCOMM By Tina and Brian: In the World of Communications, Brian and I enjoy working with all of you, your humor and dedication to this program goes without being said.

We encourage all of you to use WILDCOMM to its fullest potential. We have the capability of running anything that you can get from Washington State Patrol. If you aren't sure we can run it, ask! We are here to "support" you!

We have DAPS (Driver and Plate Search), WEBMSS (ACCESS) temporarily at least (due to migration), WSIN (Western States Information Network) or at least we had it prior to migration.

We will shortly have access to OSCCR (On Scene Command and Coordination Radio), which allows us to coordinate with multi-agency incidents on the air.

We were in the process of hiring a Communication Officer Assistant but background checks denied our choice so we are back to the drawing board.

We are submitting the paperwork to "emergency" hire a Communications Officer 1 at this time.

REMEMBER! You are our first priority – we are committed to helping you with anything that you need! Just let us know.

Thank you!

Tina and Brian



International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Staffing Study:

IACP has delivered their draft WDFW Enforcement Program Staffing Study. We will be providing edits to IACP and anticipate a final report by the end of September. Preliminary numbers from their study indicate that officer levels should increase by 108 positions over existing staffing. IACP has also made recommendations of increased staffing of other positions within the program.

This 125 page study is comprehensive and aptly illustrates the role and need for natural resource law enforcement within the state of Washington. Thank you Officers and others for your candid input to IACP. Your involvement assisted them with both their quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Budget: As discussed at our In-Services, and those of you who have attended the recent Director's Regional meetings have heard, we are projecting an agency Wildlife Fund (WF) shortfall for the 09/11 biennium if there is not legislative action to increase WF revenues. A number of proposals are being considered to enhance revenues for the WF. OFM is also forecasting a 3.4 billion dollar general fund shortfall going into the next biennium.

In order to put the Program and Agency in the best position possible for 09/11 the following actions have been put into place:

- (1) All vacant permanent positions will have Deputy Director approval prior to filling.
- (2) Travel, particularly out of state, will be curtailed.
- (3) DOT will be the only fuel vendor used unless conditions warrant otherwise.
- (4) Firearms and DT training need to be combined to reduce travel costs and enhance officer time in the field. The Training Committee will need to look at Firearms and DT training delivery and # of sessions for 2009.
- (5) We still need to complete the remainder of our EVOC training during 2008 and conduct ATV training. We realize that we have had a substantial amount of

training this year and do not anticipate this level of training for 2009.

(6) We will not be conducting a 2009 in-service training. This will save us about 40k. Our mandatory trainings will be conducted during Firearms, DT, 28 day planning meetings, inter/intra net, or CJTC on-line training.

(6) We'll need to budget 100k for fuel in 2009.

(7) Please do all you can to reduce WSP radio use. Remember every time you save a MIC click it buys another gallon of fuel.

Master Hunter Program Update: The transition from the former Advanced Hunter Education Program to the new Master Hunter Program is now complete. Currently there are about 1,450 certified Master Hunters in the program, a reduction of nearly 350 due to non-compliance with new requirements that included mandatory criminal background checks to ascertain prior wildlife convictions. During the last open enrollment period 1,034 hunters applied to join the new Master Hunter program. Historically less than 25% of those applying actually complete all the necessary steps and become certified. A new Master Hunter web site has been developed which provides extensive information including a progress report covering the changes and successes over the last six months (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/masterhunter/>).