

STAFF SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 7-8, 2015

- 18, dated Aug 18, 2015
- F6. CDFW News Release: *Photo Shows Wolf Pups in Northern California*, dated Aug 20, 2015
- F7. CDFW News Release: *CDFW Now Recruiting New Wildlife Officers*, dated Aug 25, 2015
- F8. CDFW News Release: *Reporting Resources Violations Faster, Easier Using Technology*, dated Aug 26, 2015
- F9. CDFW News Release: *Camp Meeker Water District Releasing Water to Save Salmon*, dated Sep 4, 2015
- F10. CDFW News Release: *American River Hatchery Suffers Fish Die-off*, dated Sep 9, 2015
- F11. CDFW News Release: *Reward Offered for Return of Satellite Tags from Federally Protected Green Sturgeon*, dated Sep 15, 2015
- F12. CDFW News Release: *CDFW Recognizes National Hunting and Fishing Day, Celebrates Contributions of California's Hunters and Anglers*, dated Sep 23, 2015

Motion/Direction (N/A)

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT *JUNE 2015*



Southern Enforcement District

Lieutenant Specialist Struble's K9 partner Leo was requested to assist in an evidence search in tall grass at Quail Lake. Leo, under the direction of Lt. Struble, located a backpack which contained 29 undersize black bass and three throw nets. Once that evidence was collected, Leo was deployed a second time to search for another subject associated with the case. Leo located a male lying prone in the tall grass. A case was made by Warden Trainee Fleet.

Warden Cohen, Warden Alisio, Warden Dostal, and Warden Peters assisted with the security and fishery closure patrol caused by the Refugio Oil Spill. They assisted both on land and sea on the P/V Swordfish, Coho, and hammerhead. Several vessels, including the Commercial trawl vessel pictured below, were diverted from fishing in the closure.



Warden Cohen was patrolling the coast outside of the closure at Summerland Beach, when he observed a shore fisherman catch a lobster on hook and line. The fisherman then placed the lobster in a bag in the bushes. Cohen watched the fisherman for another few hours and contacted him as he was walking to his car. The fisherman denied having any lobster even though Cohen specifically asked about lobster twice. Cohen located the lobster in a plastic bag and cited him appropriately.

Warden Rosenberg observed a small grass fire along Highway 126, while patrolling in Santa Paula. He was able to use water he keeps from a container

in the bed of his patrol truck to extinguish the blaze, before it grew out of control.

Warden Huber conducted a traffic stop then requested assistance from California Highway Patrol when he suspected the driver was driving under the influence. The CHP officer performed field sobriety tests and arrested the driver for DUI.

Warden Banks worked with the 5130 squad on a detail targeting the illegal use of nets to take fish, at Quail Lake. This detail resulted in multiple citations being issued and SIX throw nets seized.

Warden Pell participated in two successful details for unlawful method of take of fish at Quail Lake. Wardens Pell and Collins contacted a group using a throw net to catch undersize bass, which were then to be used as live bait for striped bass. Appropriate citations were issued.

Warden Collins worked several marijuana eradication/reclamation details this month. The most notable took place on CDFW's Hilmar Wildlife Area. The team removed 2332 plants along with 2120 pounds of trash, including three bottles of the toxic chemical Furadan. The growers were irrigating the garden by pumping water directly out of the already drought stricken San Joaquin River. Warden Collins also worked a night saturation patrol at Quail Lake with Warden Pell. The wardens contacted a group that was using a Hawaiian throw-net, fishing with too many rods and in possession of an over-limit of bass, nine of which were undersized. One of the subjects was also cited out on a \$2000 warrant for failing to appear on a take and possession of lobster out of season case from 2012.

5140 P/V Swordfish

Warden Crocker was assigned to offshore security patrol of the Refugio Oil Spill. His duties included boarding officer, operating two patrol vessels and coordinating with commercial fishermen on removing fishing gear from the closed area. Warden Crocker made sure any fish in the commercial catch was immediately returned to the sea. He also assisted OSPR and our Department Scientists with fishing and diving operations to sample fish and invertebrates to be tested for contamination from the spill.

Warden Lengning spent his month on assigned patrol shifts working aboard the PV Swordfish for the Refugio Oil Spill Incident. He was responsible for contacting vessels in the closed area and educating them on the closure boundaries.

Warden Van Epps issued one citation to a fisherman who admitted to taking croaker without a fishing license to give to his boss, for bait. But his boss turns out to be a well-known commercial rock crab fisherman. The case is still under investigation to determine if there are additional commercial violations.

SED continued to assist in the Refugio Spill response, patrolling the closed fishing areas, providing security along the coast, and participating in the transport of the piece of pipeline to Ohio for testing.

SED officers **Adam Smith, Paul Ton, George Struble, David McNair, Trevor Pell, Ben Matias, Michael Loudon, and Rodney Nemlowill** participated in multiagency operation, "Flyaway", organized by Homeland Security. The purpose of the task force was to target, identify, and examine high risk passengers who have traveled to South America or Mexico and may be smuggling illegal wildlife. The operation consisted of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agents, Federal Wildlife Agents, Homeland Security, and CDFW. Lts Struble, McNair and Warden Nemlowill utilized their K9 partners to search over 30,000 packages at the international mail facility in Torrance, while other wardens assisted in screening passengers. Numerous federal violations were found, however no state violations were identified.



While driving back from Refugio **Lt. Hoffman** conducted a traffic stop on a reckless driver that was racing through traffic pushing people out of their lanes and tailgating. The driver pushed two cars into the center divider before being pulled over and cited accordingly.

Warden Arkinstall conducted an undercover buy of sport caught yellowtail. With an extremely "hot bite" of yellowtail just off the coast, a sport angler decided to take advantage and try to sell some of his fish. With the assistance of an SOU officer, Arkinstall was able to secure a purchase of fresh fish via text messages with the angler at a designated spot in Long Beach. After a delay in meeting time (the angler was fishing and the bite was really good according to him), the angler brought Arkinstall fish he had just caught and filleted. The buy went as planned and **Warden Nguyen**, who was in uniform, cited the angler for Fish and Game code 7121, which states, it is illegal to sell fish under a sport fishing license. Arkinstall will be filing his case with the Long Beach city prosecutor.

The **5220 squad** responded to a report of a coyote bite in the city of Irvine. Irvine Animal Control, the USDA and CDFW were on scene following the incident and dispatched two coyotes in the area. DNA from the victims clothing is being tested at UCLA in hopes that we are able to identify the offending animal. The Natural Resource Volunteers canvassed the area educating the residents on what attracts coyotes to certain areas, and how to respond when a coyote is seen.



Warden Nelson responded to a report of a young bear harassing hikers and campers in the Angeles National Monument. The bear was reported to be approaching recreationist and begging for food like a dog. With the help of Lt. McNair and Struble, the bear was located near the West fork of the San Gabriel River. McNair treed the young bear and Nelson immobilized it with his department issued dart rifle. The bear became immobilized approximately 25 feet up in a crook of a small pine tree. Struble, who has ample search and rescue experience, jumped into action by immediately securing a ladder from a nearby forestry fire station. Struble set the ladder to the proper height and swiftly climbed up the ladder to the bear's location. Struble secured the bear in a harness and slowly lowered the bear to the awaiting hands of Nelson and McNair. The bear was examined and was determined to be in good health weighing approximately 70 pounds. The bear was ear tagged and released deeper into the Angeles National Monument in an area that is closed to the public.

Warden Matias' case involving a subject who was illegally using a goshawk trap to kill hawks concluded in Federal Court this month. The subject plead guilty for violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and was sentenced to serve two years on probation, fined \$510, and ordered to complete 200 hours of community service. The subject's trap was destroyed and a juvenile Cooper's hawk was saved during the seizure.

Warden Molsberry has been working alongside Newport Beach Animal Control after the home owner and a privately hired contractor, removed and demolished active snowy egret and black crowned night heron nests. The crime was so egregious, that concerned members of the public were catching nestlings as they were forced from their nest by a large excavator. Most of the nestlings were buried and crushed alive in the wood piling created by the operator of the large excavator. A total of six snowy egrets and one black crowned night heron were recovered alive. The nestlings that survived were taken to the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center, a licensed bird rehabilitation facility in Huntington Beach. Charges against the suspects will consist of state and federal law violations under the migratory bird treaty as well as animal cruelty.



Lt. McNair/ K-9 Reno attended open house for Tustin PD and Chino Hills State Parks re-grand opening, educating approximately 1,800 public members on CDFW, Keep Me Wild, K-9 Program, and quagga mussels with numerous demonstrations. K-9 Reno inspected over twenty watercrafts for quagga mussels this month. The K-9 team was called out twice from local agencies for assistance to locate/ clear for handguns. Reno searched and cleared a garage and backyard for Buena Park PD on a domestic violence case. The second callout was for Fullerton PD to search for a handgun used by a suspect in attempted murder on two police officers. The area covered over two miles of railroad tracks, industrial yards, parking lots, and numerous vehicles. The team learned that the area was not secured and a resident unknowingly drove off to work with the suspected firearm in their rear bumper. Fortunately, neither police officer was injured.



5310 Squad / Coastal San Diego

Warden Vicknair participated with members of the **5310 and 5320 squads** in a Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) detail focused on the enforcement of bag limits and fillet violations. Two licensed CPFVs operating out of H & M Landing and Point Loma Sport Fishing Landing, in San Diego Bay, were contacted. Compliance was high with no significant violations discovered during the inspections. Vicknair also attended a San Elijo Ecological Reserve management meeting, acting as a Law Enforcement Division liaison. Vandalism inside the reserve has increased dramatically, causing the Department to try and create a strategic plan to address the issues.

Warden Potter continued to work with supervision and the Department's legal staff in an effort to assist CDFW with the possible suspension/revocation of a Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel permit holder. He also continued working with a local court regarding the prosecution of a CPFV operator who was running unlicensed charters and failing to provide the Department with fishing activity records.



Warden Gladstone and Warden Vuich seized a pet raccoon from a young couple in Lakeside, upon determining the couple did not possess the required permit from the Department. The raccoon was allowed to roam free in their house, like a pet, with multiple domestic cats.



Wardens Gladstone and Vuich also investigated a man who had shown a picture of a mountain lion he killed to residents around town. After an

interview with the man, a lion pelt and skull were located and seized along with a carcass that had been picked over by scavengers. A formal complaint was filed with the District Attorney's office.

Warden McCorkle spent time in the New York Mountains helping the group, "Water for Wildlife" and local volunteers build and repair big game drinkers. During this continuous drought it has been essential for volunteers to continue to create water sources for wildlife. McCorkle also assisted other Wardens deliver and secure evidence from the broken oil pipe, to a lab in Ohio as part of the ongoing Refugio Oil Spill investigation.



Warden Shanley's tenacity was finally rewarded when he was able to locate a group suspected of multiple violations including littering, burning illegal camp fires on state property, and possible illegal fishing activity. The family apologized for their actions, and explained to Shanley how they were on welfare and worked minimum wage jobs. Shanley realized this was the same group responsible for illegally selling sport caught flathead catfish on the internet. Upon issuing a citation, Shanley noted the group drove away in a brand new truck. Shanley was first on scene of a victim of domestic violence. The woman was forced to exit a vehicle on a remote I-10 off ramp and had apparent injuries from physical abuse. Blythe PD arrived and took over the case.



Warden VerBrugge assisted Mohave County Sheriff and San Bernardino County Sheriff in the search and location of a person that went missing and presumed to have drowned on Lake Havasu. The subject was found deceased and the body was recovered by Mohave County Sheriff deputies. VerBrugge checked several wildlife water sources to ensure there is water available as the temperatures soared into the 110 degree range.

Warden Nemlowill and K-9 Buddy assisted Border Patrol with the apprehension of four subjects who swam across the All American Canal with

approximately 200 pounds of Marijuana. Nemlowill and K-9 Buddy also attended Operation Flyway with US Fish and Wildlife, Customs and Border protection and other agencies inspecting mail coming in from Mexico and South America. In two days, K-9 Buddy inspected 10,000 packages. US Fish and Wildlife was able to find two boxes of Queen Conch Shells being imported into CA. Nemlowill also patrolled the desert checking drinkers for activity. Nemlowill found signs of several drinkers being used heavily by deer, quail, doves and other animals.



Warden Green was issuing a citation to a subject for fishing without a license when he discovered the subject had a local warrant. Warden Green arrested the subject for the warrant and discovered two bindles of methamphetamine in the subjects pocket with a total gross weight of 8.24 grams. The subject was booked into the Imperial County Jail for the warrant and possession of methamphetamine.

5340 Squad / Western Riverside and Western San Bernardino Counties

Warden Bellis discovered a remote location where it appears deer poachers go to process illegally taken animals. Warden Bellis believes the animals are killed elsewhere in the forest and brought to this location to be processed. There is a large metal spike nailed into a tree approximately 9 feet off the ground. Below the spike, the ground and debris is permanently bloodstained and sticky. A total of eight different deer have been identified from this site (per DNA testing). The area seems to have been chosen both for its remoteness and for the level of difficulty in placing trail cams that would go undetected. Work will continue on this case.

Warden Holyoak and Warden Wardlow were summoned by two locals to the shoreline of Lake Elsinore. The locals thought they found some bones they believed were human. A request was

made of Riverside County Sheriff's Department who responded with assistance from the Coroner's office. The bones were determined to most likely not be human, at the scene.

Warden Garcia was patrolling Silverwood Lake when he found a subject in the act of burglarizing a vehicle. The subject fled into a remote area near the lake. With the assistance of sheriff deputies and Silverwood rangers, the subject was located and arrested.

Lieutenant Chang investigated two, large, black trash bags full of marijuana stems, leaves, and potting soil located on the French Valley Wildlife Area. The bags were found by employees of the Wildlife Area, hidden in the brush. The MET team was notified of the find and advised it was not an active grow, but a dump of marijuana waste.

Central Enforcement District

Drought Information: Warden Dishion continued to patrol the local waters around Bishop. Drought continues to cause problems in areas for fishing. The local lakes continue to drop. Water in South Lake in the Bishop Creek Drainage is so low it has not been planted for three years. The water in the lake



is so far away from the boat ramp, the Department has not planted and the fishing continues to get worse. The owners at the South Lake Marina have even given up and not opened this year.



Lt. Barnhart and Warden Golden investigated a complaint of a possible 1602 violation in the Kings River near Laton. Warden Golden and Warden Paz had responded to the same area in late December in regards to a property owner complaining about illegal water diversions due to the drought.



He complained that upstream property owners were illegally diverting water, which was causing him and other downstream owners to get no water. He said the drought is having a devastating effect on the riparian habitat and water flows are needed to sustain the habitat. In this latest complaint, the original complainant has now installed a concrete irrigation standpipe and underground PVC pipe within the river channel. It appears that he installed this to capture water

whenever water begins flowing in the Kings River again. A LSAA was not obtained prior to the installation of the concrete standpipe and PVC pipe. Additionally, the irrigation district is claiming the property owner illegal encroached on their property to complete this work. Although the disturbance does not appear to be substantial, a LSAA Notification should have been made. This illustrates the battles the drought is causing between property owners, irrigation districts, and the riparian habitat.



Warden Smittle and Warden Estrada planned a joint patrol in Mono County in search of illegal night time fisherman. When Smittle arrived at Estrada's HQ, things took an interesting turn as a CHP officer pulled into the driveway and requested help with a vehicle rollover in the back country. The rollover took place in a remote canyon outside of Mammoth Lakes. Fortunately, two ATV's were sitting idle at Estrada's HQ. Warden Smittle and Estrada suited up and took off knowing they would probably be first on scene. After about a half an hour on the trail, the wardens came across a grisly scene, with an unrecognizable vehicle at



the bottom of a 300' cliff. The driver of the vehicle had been ejected approximately 1/3 of the way down. An off-duty deputy observed the rollover and called for help, but unfortunately did not have the necessary equipment to rescue the driver. Estrada and Smittle stayed on scene for a few hours until Mono County SAR team arrived and assisted in the body recovery. This is just another example of how a Game Warden's back country knowledge and equipment can be utilized in an emergency situation. After they returned the ATVs the wardens continued the night patrol, not locating any law breaking fishermen.

Warden Newell started a 1602 investigation on Los Gatos Creek near Interstate 5 in western Fresno County. Newell discovered a front-end loader actively gathering sand in the dry creek bed. The operator of the equipment stated that he worked for a transportation company out of the Fresno area and said the sand was being hauled to a local almond farm to be used for farming operations. Newell spoke with the transportation company owner and determined that the sand removal has occurred for several years. Additionally, Newell was able to determine that the property in question is owned by CalTrans, who was unaware that sand was being removed from the creek. The investigation is ongoing.

Wardens Shaw and Halverson assisted the National Park Service on operation Javelin. The operation focused on illicit marijuana gardens within the park boundaries. Halverson and Shaw spent long days running road interdiction. The target vehicles never showed up. However, Halverson and Shaw saw a Lincoln Town Car with expired Washington plates go by their location. They followed the vehicle which had three HMA and two HFA passengers. The vehicle voluntarily pulled over to the side. As soon as the Wardens stepped out they were practically knocked over by the smell of marijuana. The passenger had approximately an ounce of marijuana in his bag, and the driver had a no bail warrant. While searching the vehicle Warden Shaw found numerous condoms, some opened and some still in the package strewn all over the vehicle, as well as many adult toys. The Wardens determined that these were not their target gardeners, but were content that they had successfully ruined what seemed to be plans for an interesting evening. The driver was transported for the warrant and the passenger was issued a citation.

The 2nd day of interdiction was oddly enough strangely similar to the first. The Wardens spotted another vehicle that passed their location and then moments later went back the other direction. Suspicious of this behavior the Wardens initiated a vehicle stop, once again as soon as they stepped out of their vehicle they were overwhelmed by the smell of marijuana, and once again to their surprise they found the same HFA passengers from the previous day with two new HMA. The driver was in possession of approximately an ounce of weed. Warden Shaw asked the HFA if he was going to find anything "new or different" this time when he searched. They said no with big smiles, and Shaw found exactly what he had found the previous day. The driver was cited accordingly. After clearing the contact Warden Shaw wondered out loud, "I'm not sure why I searched that 2nd vehicle, I should have given you the chance to partake in the fun." Halverson was perfectly content to watch the suspects while Shaw searched in and around all the unmentionables.

Lt. Stevenson worked two separate fires this month with the Madera County Sheriff's office participating in evacuations. The first fire started on Sky Ranch Rd just above the Oakhurst area and burned up into the forest. Lt. Stevenson worked with deputies evacuating a summer camp and all the area campgrounds; Soquel, Grey's Mtn, and Texas Flat. No structures were burned as a result of the fire.

The second fire started in the North Fork area and burned up close to area homes that were off of Corrine Lake Rd.





One garage burned down and the entire area of Rd 225 near the Mammoth Pool Mobile Home Park had to be evacuated because of a spot fire that started about a mile and a half away from the main blaze. On both fires large jets assisted in the fire-fighting efforts. This DC-10 spent 4 hours dropping retardant at the Corrine Lake fire.

During the last weekend of June Lt. Stevenson was patrolling the Bass Lake area when MSO dispatch put out a boating accident on the lake. Boat patrol deputies brought two victims into the Millers Landing area with critical injuries. One of the victims was

being administered CPR by an off duty physician and an off duty firefighter. When Lt. Stevenson arrived he assisted briefly at the scene, and then drove over to the dam and opened up the forest service gate so the life flight helicopter could land and emergency vehicles could have access to the chopper. Stevenson then transported the two flight RN's to one of the victims that was being brought over to the public boat launch area. Unfortunately the male juvenile that was being administered CPR died, however the female juvenile was flown to Fresno with critical head injuries. It is unknown at the time of this report if the female survived. Through investigation it was determined that a jet skier riding a three seater-sitdown didn't see the two juveniles who were in the water. The jet skier ran over both the male and female. The parents actually witnessed the accident and watched their son die. The MSO is pursuing manslaughter charges against the jet ski operator.

Nuisance Wildlife Information: In mid-June **Warden Milazzo** began receiving reports of numerous home invasions by two small yearling bears in the Yosemite West development within Yosemite National Park. Park biologists reported that the sow had recently disappeared leaving the two yearlings alone and that they had intensely hazed them away from the residences. Yosemite West is a private inholding within the Park and consists of several dozen homes, primarily vacation rentals. Yosemite National Park does not have jurisdiction within the Yosemite West area. In one week the bears were responsible for nearly 20 entries into occupied and unoccupied homes, with multiple entries on several days. No major property damage was ever reported and the bears had not showed any overt aggressive behavior towards any person. The bear responsible for most of the incidents was described as 70-80 pounds with a dark head and legs, with the rest of it being a very distinguishable cream or blond color. The other bear was described as being slightly larger, a darker brown color, but with some light coloration on its back. The blond bear always acted alone in entering the homes. No reports of the other bear being inside a residence had been made, he usually stayed nearby as his sibling committed the breaking and entering. They would both walk away with the goods however. The bear usually entered through partially opened windows tearing down the screen and climbing through. Sometimes and as the situation required, he would stand on a deck railing and reach across to grab the screen. Once he had a grip he would horizontally scale the wall to get through the window. He would also walk through opened doors as people were in the house. On some occasions he was seen opening unlocked doors by pushing down on the handle. During most intrusions the bear would take food that was left out on the table or kitchen counter, such as cookies, loaves of bread, condiments, and other snack foods. During at least two break-ins he opened the refrigerator and took chocolate, mustard, sweets, and other items. Typically only the window screen would be destroyed, however during some entries furniture would be moved around but not damaged. Interestingly, despite the numerous vehicles in the area with ice chests and other attractants inside, the bear's only attempted to enter two vehicles, both unsuccessfully.

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he bears were a source of entertainment for most of the tourists. Many had photographs and videos of the bears inside and outside the rentals and would say they had some great Yosemite vacation stories to bring home. Some however were not so amused by these little bears and became frightened and concerned and left earlier than scheduled. The rental owners were also not so amused, as this was a continuing and worsening problem for them and was beginning to cost them

money in repairs and lost income. The bears were determined to be too habituated to human presence for any hazing program to be effective and relocation was not an alternative. The bear's boldness increased with each home intrusion and they showed no fear or concern of people. Their activity was increasing and the permanent residents and rental managers desired the bears be removed and a depredation permit was issued to a homeowner.

Warden Milazzo began trapping for the bears on June 15th. The first night was unsuccessful. The second night an individual intentionally closed the trap. He was caught doing so on a hidden trail cam. His identity is unknown but he is being sought for questioning. On June 17th the trap was relocated to a more secure and isolated location. The following morning the permit holder notified Warden Milazzo he had shot and killed the primary instigating bear as it was on his back porch. Later that day Warden Milazzo and Lt. Bruce arrived to recover the carcass. As they were photographing and surveying the scene they were surprised and confronted by a large bear about 30 feet away. The bear was approximately 250 pounds and was wearing a radio collar and two ear tags. It was first assumed the bear was the sow of the dead cub. The bear stood its ground and challenged Milazzo and Bruce by huffing several times. A few seconds later the bear began moving towards them at which point they shot and killed the bear.

The bear was a male and had been trapped and radio collared by Yosemite National Park biologists the previous year in the El Portal area just outside the Park as a research bear. The bear had moved into the Yosemite West area within the past 24 hours. The ear tags and GPS tracking collar were returned to Park biologists who were not so pleased one of their bears was killed.

Based on this bear being a male and breeding season, and in speaking with DFW biologists, the working theory was the sow had entered estrous early which caused her to push away the yearlings before they were mature enough to live on their own. The sow being in heat was now drawing male bears into the area. Without the sow the yearlings discovered the easiest way to find food was in houses. The sow and the cubs were seen last year and had not caused any problems. So it

appeared the yearlings had taught themselves to enter homes in search of food.



With the primary offending bear removed, it was anticipated the other yearling would not be so inclined to pick up where the other had left off since he had not actively participated in the break-ins but also was an accessory after-the-fact. As such the trap was locked closed. However, the following day the opposite happened. Warden Milazzo received multiple reports of the surviving yearling committing home invasions and doing exactly what his sibling was doing a few days before. The bears motive and techniques were exactly as his sibling.

Trapping resumed on June 22nd for the second yearling. Another large bear, presumably a male, had now moved into the area. He was seen by a few people but all reports indicated he was not a problem bear. Trapping was unsuccessful and the break-ins continued through the week and were escalating. In the early morning of June 26th the bear entered two homes through partially opened windows while the residents slept. The residents, including young children, were awakened by the bear's activity and were able to scare the bear away. While investigating the morning break-ins Warden Milazzo found the bear behind one of the residence's it had entered earlier that morning. Warden Milazzo followed it until it was in a safe shooting location and shot the bear with one round from his .308 patrol rifle. The bear hunched up and fell backward rolling down a steep hillside. After searching two hours for the carcass Milazzo was unable to locate it and it is presumed dead. No further sightings or break-ins have been reported. Before being euthanized the bear was responsible for over a dozen home invasions.

Warden Rodriguez responded to a report of a man who was injured in an attack by a wild pig. The injured victim was in a Merced area hospital and had several large lacerations and puncture wounds as well as a broken leg from the attack. During the investigation, Rodriguez learned that the victim and a second man were working irrigation in a corn field along the Merced River when the wild big attacked unprovoked. The victim was only able to escape the attack by the very aggressive pig, with the assistance of another worker. During interviews with the farm owner, Rodriguez learned that the farm had been plagued by a very aggressive boar who would reportedly attack equipment working around the same field. A depredation permit was issued and the land owner made arrangements to have pigs removed from the property to protect others working on the farm.

Case Disposition: A multiple count deer poaching case involving a state correctional officer who had poached several deer near Yosemite National Park was settled this week in Mariposa County Superior Court. The case, filed by **Warden Frank Milazzo** last fall began with a CalTip from a disgruntled hunting partner who became tired of the boasting from his friend who had poached deer in the Yosemite area for years. His conscience finally convinced him to report his friends poaching exploits. The correctional officer pleaded no contest to three of seven charges. The court sentenced him to a fine of \$2,730, forfeiture of all equipment seized, and issued a court order prohibiting him from all hunting for three years. His attorney stated in court that the officer had lost his job over this matter and asked for a reduced fine. The judge refused. Apparently the Department of Corrections offered the officer the option of being fired or to retire. He chose the latter.

On a very windy afternoon in northern San Joaquin County, **Warden Mello** observed a vehicle parked near a bridge where angling activity is common. As Mello approached the shoreline underneath the bridge, he observed a subject who was holding a large pole with an attached large fixed-blade knife. The subject, who was unaware of Mello's presence, was observed as he retrieved a juvenile swallow from the water. The underside of the bridge above the subject contained hundreds of swallow nests.



When the subject turned around and saw Mello, he appeared surprised and immediately dropped the pole-knife. Mello approached and asked the subject what he was doing, and the subject stated he was looking for recyclables. When asked about the juvenile swallow, the subject stated he had seen it swimming in the water and retrieved it. Mello asked the subject if he had any other birds or fish, and the subject replied he didn't. When Mello accompanied the subject to his nearby vehicle, he noticed a brown paper bag containing two partial deer legs that were wedged in a cargo rack on top of the vehicle. Mello did not immediately make his observations known to the subject, and again asked the subject if he had any

birds or fish or game in his vehicle. The subject once again replied that he didn't. The subject voluntarily opened his vehicle and Mello immediately observed a live juvenile red-tailed hawk in a bucket on the front passenger floorboard. Mello asked the subject why he hadn't been truthful about the hawk despite being asked twice about birds or fish in his vehicle, and the subject could not provide an answer. When Mello brought the deer legs (which appeared to have been recently taken) to the subject's attention, the subject stated the vehicle did not belong to him (despite stating the vehicle was his several moments earlier, before the deer legs were revealed) and he did not know how the legs got on top of the vehicle. A subsequent records check of the subject revealed several outstanding warrants out of San Joaquin County. The subject was arrested and transported to San Joaquin County Jail. The live juvenile hawk was successfully transported and released to a local wildlife rehabilitation facility. Mello originally cited the subject for possession of the juvenile hawk, but after additional follow up and investigation, a report was submitted to the San Joaquin District

Attorney's Office with recommended charges of FGC 2002 for possession of the deer legs, FGC 2012 for failure to exhibit upon demand, FGC 3503 for destruction of swallow nests, and FGC 3503.5 for possession of the juvenile hawk.

Warden Lomeli investigated a leg hold trap trapping call in the city of Tracy this month. This information was brought to Warden Lomeli's attention after someone discovered their house cat was captured in a leg hold trap in their neighbor's yard. Warden Lomeli investigated the call knowing that fur bearing mammals, non-game mammals and domestic animals were present in the area. Warden Lomeli located the subject who was using the leg hold traps and interviewed him. The subject freely admitted to using the leg hold traps to catch cats. Warden Lomeli will be filing a formal complaint for a violation of Fish and Game Code section 3001.1 (c), unlawful use of leg hold traps.

Warden Lomeli received a call from OSPR this month requesting assistance on an illegal petroleum discharge coming from a large ship that was docked on the San Joaquin River. This ship is currently being investigated by the County (Special Task Force) and OSPR. Warden Lomeli coordinated boat transportation with the Sheriff's Department and assisted with boarding the vessel with OSPR and the Sheriff's Department. A petroleum discharge was in fact occurring and the discharge was stopped. This investigation is still on going.

Warden Moss was on patrol looking for anglers at Yosemite Lakes Campground when he overheard a call for a heatstroke victim at the campground. Moss arrived at the camp site and found an 85 year old female in grave condition. Moss confirmed fire and medical were in route and cared for the female until medical personal arrived. It was discovered the female had stage two Cancer, Alzheimer's, dementia, kidney failure and a DNR order in place. The victim passed away at the scene. The medical personal were called away for an ATV accident. Moss stayed and kept the scene secure until the coroner could arrive.

During the month **Warden Cahill** came across four different DUI related solo vehicle crashes resulting in four arrests by CHP for DUI. While conducting multiple boat patrols of Modesto Reservoir several stranded boaters were found needing assistance. One jet ski exploded on the water resulting in the driver of the jet ski needing rescue due to his injuries. Another jet ski sank for unknown reasons in the middle of Modesto Reservoir. Warden Cahill found the occupants of the jet ski swimming in the middle of the reservoir after their jet ski capsized. Due to the high heat and drought conditions people are flocking to the nearby reservoirs and rivers and activity has picked up.

Northern Enforcement District

Unlawful suction dredging continues to be a problem in Siskiyou County. This issue has been greatly exacerbated by the drought. In June in a normal year, rivers and tributaries would be receding from spring snowmelt, and flows would be low enough to begin dredging in early July. Due to the lack of snowpack this year, the Klamath and tributaries were at flows more typical of August during the month of June. On June 3, the 2120 squad removed two dredges from the Klamath River just above Interstate 5 and cited the owner. On June 4, the squad served a search warrant on a residence near Happy Camp to recover suction dredge evidence from a violation that was observed in April. The dredge and related equipment were seized. On June 22, the squad removed another dredge from Horse Creek, and a formal complaint will be filed against the owner. In addition, because of an injunction hearing on June 23, many miners staged pumps and other equipment on local waterways so they could begin dredging immediately if they prevailed. This generated numerous reports of dredges that had to be investigated. Despite the miner's loss in court, the squad continues to get reports of dredges, and has several additional investigations in progress.



residence near Happy Camp to recover suction dredge evidence from a violation that was observed in April. The dredge and related equipment were seized. On June 22, the squad removed another dredge from Horse Creek, and a formal complaint will be filed against the owner. In addition, because of an injunction hearing on June 23, many miners staged pumps and other equipment on local waterways so they could begin dredging immediately if they prevailed. This generated numerous reports of dredges that had to be investigated. Despite the miner's loss in court, the squad continues to get reports of dredges, and has several additional investigations in progress.



Warden Beck investigated an unlawful streambed alteration at the Farmer's Ditch diversion on the Scott River near Callahan. A flood occurred on February 7, and the Farmer's Ditch Company rebuilt a section of washed out ditch soon thereafter under the emergency provision in FGC 1610. They were advised to submit a notification for other maintenance work that would need to be done once water levels receded, which they did. The ditch company President had been working with HabCon staff, and the agreement was being expedited. At least one member of the ditch company grew impatient, and used a backhoe to complete some work on his own. The work that he did included creating a second point of diversion, in violation of the Scott River Adjudication. Three members of the ditch company subsequently submitted emergency notifications for the work. The work clearly does not meet the definition of an emergency written in the code. A case was forwarded to the Siskiyou County District Attorney's office. In the meantime, some members of the ditch company have contacted their elected representatives in an attempt to persuade the Department to drop the case.



The 2200 Captain's squad was kept busy in the month of June with numerous wildlife incidents taking place. This included a non-fatal Otter attack of a female swimmer at Lake Madrone, a non-fatal Black bear attack of a female victim in Magalia, and the dispatching of a habituated nuisance and public safety Black bear by Wildlife Services in Oroville, all taking place in Butte County.



The unprovoked attack by the Otter resulted in the victim receiving numerous scratches and deep bites to her lower body and legs, resulting in an emergency trip to the hospital to have her wounds treated, and necessitating the Rabies vaccination series to be administered. Warden Weckman responded and located an overly aggressive and hissing Otter and dispatched it for public safety reasons.

In the Magalia incident, the female victim heard a rattling of her trash can outside of her house that sounded to be more than the normal raccoon making noise. Deciding to investigate, she opened her garage door and released her dog, which was immediately attacked by the marauding black bear. When the victim exited the garage, the bear charged over her making its escape, but not before scratching the woman and biting her on the shoulder. The black bear that was dispatched by Wildlife Services in Oroville had been captured near Bishop and then released in Slinkard Canyon in the summer of 2014, both in Mono County. It had been causing problems in Bishop first and then proceeded to cause more problems in the town of Walker, near where it had been relocated. One can only guess to how many other issues this bear caused on its lengthy journey over the Sierras on its way to the Central Valley to Oroville, before being dispatched for public safety reasons.



The 2200 Captains squad was also involved in a two-week long detail in Plumas County at Gold Lakes, providing security, public information, and support, while fisheries attempted to remove non-native Brook trout from the lake in an effort to make the lake hospitable to restore and rehabilitate the endangered Yellow-legged frog population in the area. Several threats were made against the Department and its officers prior to the detail beginning by upset residents of the county, but the detail ended up going smoothly, with approximately 180 brook trout removed from the lake without incident.

The 2200 Captain's squad also had its share of drought related issues during the month, with an incident in Shasta County being indicative of the environmental damage to the wildlife and resources that can occur while water is at a premium. Streambed damage due to an illegal



panning and/or high banking operation where juvenile salmonids were found resulted in two suspects being cited for pollution issues, significant alteration to the bed, bank, or channel without a Streambed Alteration Agreement, and trespass. Rehabilitation of the creek is in progress with the hopes of sustaining the salmonid population.

North Coast Enforcement District

Warden Stephenson patrolled Lake County and handled several wildlife calls. Due to low water levels in surrounding streams several animals are edging closer to town. Stephenson responded to a call regarding an abandoned fawn deer that was found near the shoreline of Clearlake. Stephenson took the deer to a rehab center.



Warden Smith assisted Lake County Sheriff's Department with a couple of marijuana grows which included a 13,000 plant grow where they were pulling water from the state's water resources. Smith finished his investigation of a suspect who had been altering his abalone report card. A follow up was done in San Francisco at his residence where other violations were found including

untagged abalone and an over possession limit. Smith investigated and served a search warrant with other wardens from Lake and Mendocino counties. The suspect has been trapping and hunting wildlife without a license for years on a large plot of land behind his house. Smith filed cases on two marijuana cultivation operations where there were multiple alterations and water diversions.

Warden Willson and K-9 Jasmine trained with three other new detection teams from Alberta Canada during a two week detection academy in Upper Lake. Jasmine did very well. While conducting drought patrol, Warden Willson contacted subjects trespassing on private property along a creek. One of the subjects, a juvenile, was booked into juvenile hall for possession of prescription medication taken from the step-father. The juvenile also had an upcoming court date for an assault charge. Warden Willson will be submitting a formal complaint to the DA's office, on two subjects who were found in possession of almost 600 crappie and sunfish.



Warden Little investigated a mountain lion depredation incident involving goats. He observed several Bass Tournament weigh-ins on Clear Lake. Warden Little met with the tournament directors and discussed improvements to be made for future tournaments.

Lt. Freeman investigated a water diversion from a water meter. The case was referred to the Lake County Sheriff's Office for theft of water from a municipal water district. The water district obtains water from Indian Valley Reservoir which is waters of the State. As the drought increases in severity people are taking drastic measure to steal water. The people were illegally taking water from a vacant lot and absentee land owner. The water was being diverted to a marijuana grow site

Warden Donald White assisted several other agencies with evacuations in the Covelo valley after a tractor started a fire. Several other fires



started due to high winds and embers. Several residences and structures were destroyed but luckily nobody was injured.



Warden White

also worked several night patrols in the Mendocino National Forest. A USFS trail camera caught subjects unlawfully running dogs in a remote part of the forest. The investigation is ongoing. White also investigated several different habitat loss and water diversion violations (see photos).

Formal complaints will be submitted through the DA's Office.

Warden Morton caught three anglers attempting to take 23 undersized Dungeness crab from San Francisco Bay. The anglers had hidden about 21 of them in a small hand bag and attempted to say they were not aware of the regulations.

Warden Thiem worked numerous low tide events throughout the month of June with fellow squad mates from around the Bay Area. A four day window of negative tides leading up to a June 20th saturation patrol resulted in approximately 50 citations and numerous warnings. **Wardens Garrett, Rehse,** and members of the Marlin crew were instrumental in the success of the overall detail. Cases of high grading were made using undercover officers. On the second day of the detail, Thiem identified a fisherman who had eluded them the previous day. He observed the subject high grading clams. Upon approach, the subject threw an over limit into a hole. The over limit was retrieved and the subject cited. Thiem also spent a few mornings in court testifying this month. The burden of proof was upheld and five smaller cases dispo'd for approximately \$4,000. Thiem is noting several repeat clamming offenders.

Warden Swaney issued thirty seven citations for violations including taking over limits of gaper clams, possessing moon snails taken north of San Francisco, failure to possess fishing licenses while fishing, and littering in public. A group of six anglers were cited for possessing over limits of gaper clams and failure to show upon demand after the group was found to be in possession of one hundred and twenty seven gaper clams. Each of the anglers had hidden numerous clams with the shells removed on their person and throughout the vessel. The vessel and all clamming equipment were seized as evidence. Swaney attended several traffic court proceedings in Marin County for clamming related violations with dispositions ranging from five hundred dollar fines to over two thousand dollars. In total, the court dispositions throughout the month were over six thousand dollars.

Warden Reed went to the Russian River Sportsman's Club for an informal inspection before work begins to remove lead from areas near the Russian River. No Fish and Wildlife involvement is expected, as all work will be outside of the riparian area. Department ES staff is aware of the upcoming work and situation. Reed spent a lot of time patrolling sensitive salmon and steelhead habitat which is heavily affected by the drought and found no violations, which is a very positive sign.

Warden Wolvek issued seven citations for failure to tag and report abalone taken, one citation for take of 406 turban snails, and additional citations for taking over limits of clam, undersized abalone, take of canary rockfish, taking undersized Dungeness and rock crab, illegal methods of take, and passing on the double solid lines. Stinson also is working on a pollution case for a commercial

laundry company who spilled 200 plus gallons of wash water into a local creek, killing a couple dozen small fish.

Warden Mead worked low tides on Tomales Bay, issuing citations for gaper clam over limits. Mead and Stone cited six individuals with 198 clams. Warden Mead cited one man in Petaluma for possession of methamphetamine and probation violations. Warden Mead testified in court on several dates this month for contested clam violations. Several subjects paid fines ranging from \$600.00 to \$3700.00.



Warden Esquivel investigated a call of a flashboard dam in a creek in the Sonoma Valley. The dam was located and was actively blocking passage of fish in the creek. The reporting party video-taped the suspect removing rocks in the creek and building up walls with the rocks to create a deeper pool. The suspect denied moving any rocks not knowing he was on video doing otherwise. Esquivel is waiting for an environmental assessment report from the fisheries biologist that assisted. During abalone patrol along the Sonoma Coast, Esquivel saw an abalone fisherman with his juvenile son take five abalone. The fishermen then gave one to his son and put the fifth abalone back in the water when he realized his son only needed one abalone to fill his bag limit. Esquivel cited the fishermen for take of over-limit of abalone.

Warden Mike Harris received a court disposition for two individuals who were found guilty of taking crab out of season with a fine of \$1,500 each. Warden Harris and Warden Glau teamed up with the crew of the PV Steelhead for a night patrol of San Mateo beaches. They issued (16) citations under-sized Dungeness crab, fishing without a license, over limits of Dungeness crab, and failure to show fish or game upon demand.

Warden Garrett spoke at a Striped Bass Association Meeting in the Delta. He has been investigating an unauthorized fill of a wetland in the Contra Costa Delta. He has attended several multi-Agency meetings. The investigation is still pending further inquiry with the Army Corp, and RWQCB. Warden Garrett investigated a caltip report of a possible Burrowing Owl nest destruction. He concluded that all the burrows were at the edge of a sidewalk and not destroyed by construction work.

Warden Rogers started FTO with trainee Laird. Laird has issued numerous citations including take of a canary rockfish, over limits of crab and undersize leopard shark. They also seized numerous native reptiles in an ongoing investigation. The shipment from SFO was bound for Malaysia.

Warden Jacobsen and Warden Kozicki attended court on the last two subjects out of the original four on a dove baiting case from last year. Previously two had been found guilty and fined \$ 500.00 dollars each, unfortunately the Judge dismissed the charges on the final two defendants. He had taken the case under submission. Jacobsen and Lt. Christensen plan to have a meeting with the Judge to find out the reason. This case was an unfortunate loss since the subjects have been cited/dismissed before.

Patrol Vessel Marlin/3240 Squad: In June 2015 members of the Patrol Vessel Marlin boarded a commercial trawl vessel at the commercial receiving docks in San Francisco. The crew of the vessel showed the wardens a large plastic tote with approximately 1000 pounds of halibut in it. They also showed small containers with starry flounder, sand sole and rock sole in them. The fishermen claimed that there were no other fish than what were in the totes. Wardens inspected the deck of the large boat and started separating plastic bins that were stacked together. About five bins down, they

found six halibut that were clearly undersize. The boat captain replied “you got me, I’ll go get my paperwork” and he went to the front of the boat. At the front of the boat, he tried to dump some fish from an ice chest into the water. Wardens stopped him before he could get more than one plastic bag’s contents overboard. They found fish in the ice chest including brown rockfish, a species he was permitted to have. They spoke with the captain again and asked him if there were any more fish on board and he said there were not.



They inspected the kitchen and found



filets that came from undersized halibut. They went below the decks and found 10 more filets. They also found two whole small halibut that had the head and tail removed. Each filet was wrapped in a plastic grocery bag and hidden in a different spot throughout the boat. While offloading the fish, wardens found an additional undersize halibut. The entire load of fish was seized and sold to a fish



receiver. The proceeds of the seizure are going to the Fish and Game preservation fund. Further investigation of VMS and GPS on the vessel showed they were fishing inside the three mile state water boundary where trawl vessels are not allowed. Charges are pending on the Captain and crew. The case has also been referred to Federal fisheries for investigation on federal violations.

Warden Meyer assisted the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, CA Highway Patrol, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security with a drug smuggling panga boat that came ashore near Mill Creek, a remote location of the Big Sur Coast. Meyer assisted the other agencies with interviews and attempting to locate outstanding suspects who fled the boat once agencies arrived on scene. Meyer assisted a deputy locate two suspects the day after the panga boat landed near Fort Hunter Liggett. The men, who were very dehydrated and hungry, admitted to transporting the contraband from Ensenada, Mexico over 400 miles to its landing place. Nine men were arrested and an estimated \$18 million worth of marijuana was seized.

Warden Schad investigated several cases including a subject who was reported to be in possession of a number of rattlesnakes. A “knock and talk” resulted in the seizure of 13 Western Rattlesnakes (a gross overlimit), as well as the seizure of two ferrets. Charges will be filed with the District Attorney. Additionally Warden Schad cited a subject for possession of an American Crow during a bicycle traffic stop

The **Patrol Boat Steelhead** finally returned to service early this month after six months in the shop. The crew conducted multiple offshore patrols resulting in three commercial crab cases where the vessels were crabbing within MPAs in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. They also made two commercial rockfish cases in addition to over 75 sport cases for both salmon and rockfish violations.

PV Bluefin/Warden Hanson facilitated the removal of a string of Blackcod traps that had been fishing (unchecked) for over two months. He and Warden Thomas assisted a commercial fishing boat remove the gear from the water, finding live and dead fish inside. A formal complaint will be filed against the owner of the traps. Hanson and Warden Hare travelled to Santa Barbara to assist the patrol boat squads with the Refugio oil spill fishery closure patrols. Hanson operated the Patrol Boat Bluefin on four single day patrols with Wardens Hare, Meyer and Engineer Mendes.

Captain Kelly joined fellow NCD Captains Wayne Kidwell and Steve Riske in Fort Bragg to bid retiring A/C Bob Farrell "Mahalo" at his BBQ hosted by Retired Warden Eric Bloom. His new career as a Conservation Officer on the big island of Hawaii begins this week!



Warden Kinnard and Boele, were patrolling the Usal area and received a report from one of the campers that there were approximately 20 steelhead stranded at the mouth of Usal creek. The duo investigated the report to find that the creek was no longer flowing into the ocean but barricaded by the beach and at the beach there was a shallow pool of water. With little to no flow from Usal creek into the pool, the Steelhead were stranded and not going to make it upstream (due to the lack of water in the stream) and they were not going to make it to the ocean (due to the mouth of the creek being barricaded by the beach). The wardens along with some help from a few campers were able to net 16 Steelhead and transfer them into the ocean. All steelhead successfully swam away in the ocean.

Warden Powers arrested two individuals at the Botanical Gardens for commercial take of abalone (33 total). Powers found evidence that one of the individuals had taken over 150 abalone during the month of June. The individual also admitted selling several thousand abalone over the past several years to different buyers. Powers and Lt. Hendricks had cited the individual in the past for taking over-limits of abalone. The case is ongoing and Powers is working with SOU to further investigate the illegal sales of abalone. Powers investigated a large water diversion in Comptche where a landowner was pumping water from a small stream with a well pump. The water was being diverted to several large water tanks (8- 2,500 gallon tanks) that provided water to his residence (only source of water) and over sixty large marijuana plants. Powers contacted the landowner who claimed he had been working with a biologist to get a 1600 permit. Dept. biologist Wes Stokes later told me that the landowner had been working on getting a permit several years prior but refused several conditions on the permit so it was never issued. Powers later met up with Wes Stokes at the residence and flow rates from the stream where taken. It was found that the stream was severally low and way under the threshold for water being pumped out of it. Powers and Stokes noticed several juvenile steelhead in the creek. The case will be further investigated.

Office of Spill Prevention & Response

On May 19 2015, OSPR officers responded to a suspected oil sheen report along the Santa Barbara coastline and discovered something much more significant. California's largest marine oil spill in almost 50 years, the Refugio Beach Incident has dominated the news and will be the primary focus of OSPR's responders for next few months. More than 1,400 federal, state and local emergency response personnel, and numerous environmental cleanup contractors have been deployed to the spill and have participated in assessing, booming and



continuing to remove oil from affected



areas. This incident has included a large scale "Fishery Closure", enforced by Wildlife Officers from the Southern Enforcement District, as well as a concerted volunteer coordination operation and cultural resource protection effort. Responders have rescued numerous oiled wildlife, while multiple animal care facilities have been activated and are being used to treat the affected wildlife. Multiple on-water response vessels, oil skimmers, site workers,

and Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques teams have helped in recovering thousands of gallons of oily-water mixture as crews work 24 hours a day to remove the last vestiges of oil from the Southern California coastline.

Warden Scott Murtha, and OSPR support staff, responded to an oil spill release of an "unknown amount of steam with a light mist of hydrocarbon into the air," which was impacting a riparian area near the Salinas River. The original report stated



that there was no impact to the waterway; however, further investigation found oil within the wetland area.

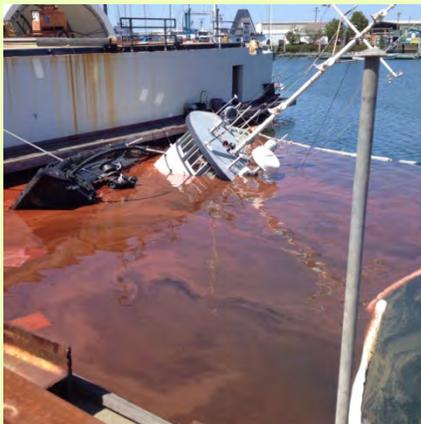


Clean up operations continued for approximately a week with the capture and treatment of several oiled animals.

Wardens Katherine Tran and Sau Garcia received and responded to a report by Los Angeles County Lifeguards of a "tarlike material on the beach from an unknown source". Both officers responded to Manhattan Beach, and to an area just south of Marina Del Rey, and found the beaches covered with tar-balls. The U.S. Coast Guard also responded and opened the Federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for clean-up. A "Fishery Closure" was initiated and the protective booming of environmentally sensitive sites was ordered. This

incident had heavy media coverage with OSPR and USCG Public Information Officers handling numerous requests for information and interviews. Wardens continue to monitor the Southern California beaches, as OSPR Wardens have received over 200 reports of tar-balls from Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Warden Mike Conely had a busy month responding to oil spills throughout the Central Valley. Although there were several significant events, the most prominent incident occurred near McKittrick Kern County. Warden Conely assisted Chevron personnel with the response to a crude oil into a dry streambed. It was estimated that approximately four barrels of produced water and three barrels of crude oil exited the oil field and reached state waters. Warden Conely coordinated his response with both OSPR and Regional staff. Chevron hired a clean-up contractor and removed the oil from the dry streambed.



Wardens Ryan Rodriguez, Scott Murtha, and Mitch Goode responded to a large sunken vessel in Contra Costa County. Upon arrival, the wardens discovered an approximately 90 foot vessel, listing heavily and in the process of sinking. This vessel had not been operated in numerous years and contained upwards of 1,200 gallons of old diesel fuel. The wardens noted a heavy sheen of fuel on the surface of the water and initiated an investigation and clean-up operation. Along with the USCG and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office personnel, the wardens assisted with the response efforts and ensured that the spilled fuel was cleaned up and the threat to the environment was removed.

Headquarters

Professional Standards Unit

PSU has started 57 background investigations for the 2015 Warden Cadet hiring cycle (2016-Academy). As of July 1st, only 37 remain in the process. Investigators have had candidates withdraw from the process as well as withheld candidates that did not meet POST peace officer standards. We are hopeful to be sending the remaining 37 to Chief's Interviews in September with the ultimate goal of hiring approximately 25 candidates for the January 2016 Academy. The week of interviews, PAT and PSY testing is tentatively scheduled for September 16-18th. Backgrounds will be completed by mid-August with reporting review heavy the rest of July and August. RA's Hileman, Darr, Allen, Woods, Schwall (Orme), Ponting, Joe, Sforza, and Lt. Andreen have been doing a fine job of processing our background investigations.

Additional investigations have kept PSU investigators extremely busy during the past three months. PSU investigators are gaining some invaluable experience conducting investigations, attending SPB hearings, crossing new ground daily, and obtaining necessary training. On that note, I am very pleased to welcome Lt. Bob Pera to PSU as the newest edition. Bob has jumped in with both feet and already is a valuable asset to his new assignment. Additionally, with the experience of Lt. Melvin and the determination and drive of Lt. Gonzalez, PSU has a very strong group of Lieutenants conducting these necessary and sensitive investigations.

PSU has the responsibility to respond to inquiries from other law enforcement agencies as well as providing access to DFW files for other agency review. We are currently updating Warden Cadet interview questions. We are working with HRB to possibly streamline the withhold process for candidates that do not meet POST standards. We are also involved in recommended Policy changes.

All background investigators are DVSA (Digital Voice Stress Analysis) trained examiners. All background investigators have had background investigations training within the past two years or have attended update training this past year. All full time PSU staff is scheduled to attend IA PRO training in September. IA PRO is a database program for tracking internal investigations. This program is dubbed the "Leading Professional Standards Software, Worldwide". Lt. Pera is scheduled for IA training, Interview/Interrogation training, POBR and Pitchess Motion training later this year.

Telecommunications/CalTip/Prohibited Species

The 14/15 Patrol **Truck Radio/Code 3 installations** project is winding down. The K9 trucks builds are almost complete; PSC is waiting to receive rear back up cameras for installation. The patrol truck prototypes are now reaching the field for testing of the new equipment. PSC is starting production of the U/C trucks. This year's vehicle replacements have been ordered along with the radio/Code 3 equipment. The patrol trucks will be four door Dodge 1500/2500, the SUVs will be Chevy Tahoes. The first of the vehicles are expected to arrive at the beginning of August. The Department and CHP have entered into a contract that will have CHP doing the radio/Code 3 installs on our fleet of Dodge 1500 trucks. We are hoping that this will be a faster and cheaper production.

Testing continues on the **Justice Mobile** program. iPads will be issued to the test group in mid-July. This is to help with the test that is being conducted on an iPhone right now. One of the Justice Mobile testers is currently testing both the tablet and prototype truck in the field.

The firmware issue with the **Harris Portable** that caused the radios to malfunction has been resolved and tested. We are getting ready to resume the firmware update and channel plan programming on both the Harris and Kenwood radios. More information on the radio update will be sent through the District Radio coordinators.

Lt. Milotz provided training to Rancho Cordova NRVP's working on **CalTIP**. This included the use of Tip411 and an initial training for one new volunteer. For July, the NRVP's will be taking CalTIP calls on 14 days, the most for any month so far. Two new volunteers will be trained in July giving us coverage for approximately 75% of the August (Monday – Friday 0900-1600).

While Lt. Milotz was on vacation 6/19-6/29, Tip411 received 63 tips and updates. Tip411 has generated 188 CalTIPs since the middle of February.

Total calls for 2014 – 4,242

Total calls for 2015 (through June 2015) – 2117 an increase of 14% over the same period in 2014 and a 25% increase in calls from 2013.

2015, most significant reported violation increases over 2014 (through May):

Unlawful take of non-game birds (not related to tree/nest destruction) 316% increase

Unlawful possession of a restricted species 70% increase

Marine Protected Area violations 37% increase

Violations relating to the take deer 29% increase

Violations relating to the take of waterfowl 28% increase

Overall there has been an 8.5% increase in violations relating to marine fisheries and a 20% increase in violations related to hunting.

2015, reported violations related to drought (Fiscal year)

| % Change FY 7/1-5/31 | FY 13-14 | FY 14-15 | % Change |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Marijuana Cultivation | 32 | 64 | 100% increase |
| Streambed Alterations | 228 | 228 | 0% |
| Tree/nest destruction | 74 | 88 | 18.90% increase |
| Inland Pollution | 66 | 90 | 36.30% increase |
| Marine Pollution | 2 | 14 | 600% increase |
| Dredging | 30 | 25 | 16.60% decrease |
| Unlawful take of Water | N/A | 59 | N/A |
| Littering in State Waters | N/A | 23 | N/A |

For 2015 CalTIP's received 316 drought related calls or 19% of all CalTIPs received for 2015

FY2014-2015 Dispositions – over 1600 contacts, 183 citations, 24 physical arrests and 85 warnings.

Hunter Education Program

Lt. Gregory coordinated two Advanced Hunter Education clinics - Deer Hunting at Canada De Los Osos Ecological Reserve and Land Navigation in the El Dorado National Forest. He also coordinated LED's efforts at the annual Legislative Outdoor Sporting Caucus. Hunter Education Program staff and several additional Wildlife Officers acted as range safety officers and shooting coaches. This event has been a great opportunity for department staff to interface directly with capital staff to represent the

Department of Fish and Wildlife and expose them to shooting sports and the concept of hunting in a safe controlled environment.

Legislation/Regulations/Public Outreach

In one month LED responded to a river otter attack, bear attack, and four coyote attacks creating an intensive amount of media coverage. However, a long term, but equally intensive media relation topic of interest these days is the water theft for marijuana cultivation in the fourth year of drought. The Department's efforts are being recognized nationally and even internationally through media reports. Several bills that directly affect how wildlife officers do their jobs are currently moving through the legislative process. The two most important ones are medical marijuana bills. The legislature for years has failed to make any real progress on regulating the medical marijuana industry. This year, two bills are moving through the process to set up the regulatory framework to reign in the thousands of growers who have produced marijuana without much governmental oversight. LED is attempting to engage in the process to be sure our law enforcement and reclamation efforts are funded adequately. Media coverage has helped the Department convince the Legislature of the severity of the situation. Other bills have recently in progress, one of which to reduce many MPA violations to wobblers, a potential bill to require intensive enforcement of elephant ivory and rhino horn trade laws, and a bill to dramatically curtail use of drones for future LE and non-LE operations. No guarantees on if these bills will prevail.

In the Regulatory world, the FGC is faced with an August decision to either dramatically reduce the area of the state where bobcat trapping is authorized or eliminate it altogether. An emergency regulation was recently approved to authorize the Department to close certain waterways to fishing if certain conditions apply such as high water temp, low dissolved oxygen, or severely reduced flow. In process but still in the works are efforts to address regulation of take of nests, scientific collection permits, and improvements to restricted species regulations.

Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET)

MET assisted the USFS with two marijuana eradication and reclamation operations in the Los Padres National Forest. Both cultivation sites were affecting watersheds in the Arroyo Seco drainage area supporting critical steelhead habitat. In total 7,876 marijuana plants were eradicated, 6000 feet of poly pipe, 850 pounds of fertilizer and 3700 pounds of processed marijuana was removed from the area. Three dams were also removed restoring the waterway back to its original flow. **It is estimated that these particular cultivation sites were using over 47,000 gallons of water per day.**



MET also assisted the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office with a marijuana eradication operation on private land. With the landowners diverting water from a local creek for their marijuana grow. MET filed charges with the DA's office for unlawful streambed diversion in addition to Health and Safety violations. MET



wildlife officers also responded and was one of the first on scene for a **Panga boat landing on the Big Sur coastline. Six suspects were apprehended** during the operation, along with approximately **2,000 pounds of processed marijuana being seized.**

After several intense scout operations, MET wildlife officers put together a takedown operation for the West Hilmar Wildlife Area. **MET, DBEEP, and CED wildlife officers** eradicated and reclaimed a



marijuana grow on the West Hilmar Wildlife Area. The West Hilmar Wildlife Area is owned by DFW and is a type C wildlife area in Merced County that is on the San Joaquin River. **19 DFW officers participated in the operation and helped remove 2332 marijuana plants and 2120 pounds of trash.** The growers diverted water from the San Joaquin River using a series of gasoline powered pumps to water the marijuana plants. Several 55 gallon drums full of water, served as storage containers for the illegally diverted water

from the San Joaquin River. The current severe drought conditions have the San Joaquin River at historic low flow levels, and it is now only a few inches deep in many areas of the waterway. Compounding the problem was the fact that this grow operation was diverting hundreds of gallons of



water per day. Many of the marijuana plants showed signs of the use of the illegal



pesticide Furdan. Three bottles of pink Furdan were removed from the grow site and were properly destroyed. Several dead rodents and birds were located in the grow sites near the toxic chemicals. The West Hilmar Wildlife Area is once again free from illegal marijuana cultivation and ready to be utilized safely by the public.

MET and WET wildlife Officers participated in multiple arrest and eradication missions in Shasta County, resulting in over 12,000 plants being seized or destroyed. During those operations, **18 suspects were apprehended, two of those by K9 deployment.** Several water diversions and water pollution crimes on these sites were rectified.

Special Operations and District wildlife officers helped trained 780 Law Enforcement Officers in certification for Short Haul for the 2015 season. MET has taken on the responsibility of LZ Management and Short Haul Master during this season for all CAMP teams.

Watershed Enforcement Team (WET)

WET participated in ten details last month. They included but were not limited to:

6/9/15 - Bridgeville/Alder Point Road Detail; 6,000 plants; no arrests, no weapons

6/10/15 - Benbow Assist State Park; 350 plants, no arrests, no weapons

6/16/15 - Bridgeville/Alder Point Road Detail; 4,000 Plants; no arrests, unknown if any weapons, FGC 1602, 5650 violations pending

6/19/15 - Browns Creek inspections- 10 parcels inspected, 6 Notice of Violations (NOV's) pending and 1 possible one Administrative Civil Liability Action (ACLA).

6/22-25/15- Assist Mendocino, Trinity and Humboldt Counties with the Island Mountain detail; 47 grow sites eradicated; 87,000 plants documented and destroyed; 6 arrests; 17 parcels inspected and

97 violations documented. WET staff is still crunching through the documentation to determine what parcels will potentially be subject to NOV's and ACLA's.

6/30/15- Weitchepc/Yurok Tribal Land; 500 Plants; No arrests, 1 AR-15; FGC 1602, 5650, 5652 violations pending

The most noteworthy activity last month was the Brown's Creek inspections and the Island Mountain Detail. CDFW WET staff joined with State Water Board staff to conduct ten consent inspections on Browns Creek in Trinity County. Of the ten parcels inspected, six were found in violation of FGC 1602.

During the Island Mountain detail, CDFW WET team members assisted Mendocino, Trinity and Humboldt County Sheriff's Departments with eradicating **47 different grow sites during the four day operation. 87,000 marijuana plants were eradicated and five were arrested for felony cultivation.**



Ironically, almost all of the self-proclaimed "legal and environmentally conscious" growers had vacated the landscape prior to law enforcements' arrival. In total, **CDFW WET conducted 17 parcel inspections and documented 97 Fish and Game Code violations (55- FGC 1602, 3-FGC 5650 and 5- FGC 5652).** To date, these were some the worst violations that WET has documented:

numerous unpermitted instream ponds, poorly constructed and failing dams and stream crossings, large scale diversions and rodenticide in the grow of a well-known grower who claims to be "sustainable and environmentally conscious."



CDFW WET members testified at a State Water Board hearing in regards to and Shasta County case that was initiated by CDFW WET Law Enforcement. A Texas/Florida resident had purchased eighty acres near Ono, and with the help of one of the largest Shasta County contractors, graded two acres of a mountain top off and constructed three illegal stream crossings. **After hearing the hearing the case, the State Board issued an Administrative Civil Liability Action on both parties totaling \$297,000.**

June 25, 2015, while returning from the Island Mt. detail, **Wardens Galwey and Cardoza** made two separate vehicle stops. The first vehicle was a large UHaul box van. The driver was stopped for unsafe driving. The nervousness of the driver and passenger lead the Wardens to believe marijuana was being transported. **Upon searching the van and the occupants 55 growing marijuana plants were destroyed and \$2,500 dollars was seized and turned over to Humboldt County SO for asset forfeiture.**



While on the stop Warden Galwey noticed a truck drive past full of boxes which he believed to be marijuana clones. Approximately 30 miles up the road Warden Galwey saw the same vehicle make an unsafe lane change. Warden Galwey initiated a vehicle stop; Warden Cardoza contacted the driver and found him to be in



possession of 135 marijuana clones. The suspects from both cases were issued citations for: H&S 11359, H&S 11360 and PC 182.

Delta Bay Enhanced Enforcement Project (DBEEP)

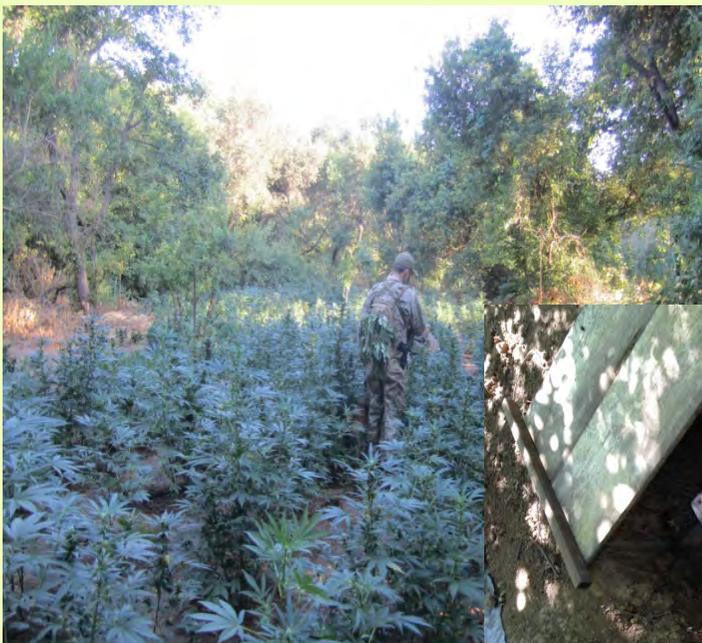
DBEEP Officers patrolled the Feather River for salmon activity and observed a subject that appeared to be angling for salmon out of season. While making observations on the subject it appeared that he had snagged a salmon. While reeling it in his fishing rod broke near the handle. The subject was frantically trying to reel the fish in to no avail. After about a 30 minute fight they decided to contact the angler and get the fish in and release it before it expired. The subject was using a three ounce gibbs minnow with a treble hook and the fish was snagged in the back. After hand lining the fish they were able to revive and release it to live another day. The subject was cited and released.



DBEEP along with several other law enforcement agencies participated in the Sacramento Delta Blitz. Numerous patrol boats from several law enforcement agencies patrolled the Sacramento River from Garcia Bend to Sand Cove Park. The operational goal of Delta Blitz is aimed at decreasing the number of recreational boating accidents and fatalities in the Delta. Law Enforcement agencies will patrol the Delta to raise public awareness about boating laws and promote boating safety. The Delta Region is known as a haven for thousands of California boaters, and is considered one of the State's hot spots for water recreation. Coast Guard boating statistics show that despite the decrease in the overall number of boating-related deaths, boating accidents remain on the rise. The most common causes of these boating accidents include intoxication, reckless operation and excessive speed. DBEEP Officers contacted well over 200 boaters and issued a total of 11 citations for fish and game code and boating and waterways violations. One vessel operator was taken into custody for Boating under the influence. He tested a .12 in the field and was arrested and turned over to Sacramento County SO.



DBEEP / MET Alternate officer spent the month investigating illegal marijuana grows on the Delta in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Sacramento counties. Four suspects were arrested in three of the grow sites. Two of which were armed with a Ruger 10/22 and pistols during apprehension. **One suspect was also responsible for poaching several deer and a turkey.** The four grow sites were on Federal and State owned properties within the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. All the sites yielded thousands of plants which were eradicated and each site was completely reclaimed. **All of the grow sites were found diverting water from drought effected waterways.** **Wildlife Officers** continue to coordinate with the Stanislaus County Drug Enforcement Agency, San Joaquin County Metro, FBI, and MAVMIT regarding Operation Green Valley. Several suspects have been identified as members of an unknown drug trafficking organization who are responsible for numerous large illegal grow sites in five different counties. The case is ongoing.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT
July 2015



Central Enforcement District

Lt. Barnhart handled and assisted with numerous depredation/nuisance wildlife type calls, including two deer that had become trapped in the Friant Kern Canal and several bear calls. He recovered a stolen vehicle that had been stolen the previous night and he also responded to a gang shooting in Poplar and assisted TCSO with the crime scene and later searching for a suspect vehicle.

Lt. Barnhart was the first law enforcement unit on scene of a dead body with suspicious circumstances. Lt. Barnhart secured the scene until TCSO deputies and supervisors arrived on scene.



Lt. Barnhart, Lt. Dailey and Lt. Halverson attended Public Law 280 (PL-280) training at the Tule River Indian Reservation. The POST course was one of the better and more practical courses attended by the lieutenants. A lot was learned about law enforcement jurisdiction on California Indian reservations.

Lt. Barnhart began a hunter trespass investigation. Three houndsman were caught trespassing by a rancher. No trespassing signs had been torn down, chains on the gates had been cut, and damage was done to one gate. The houndsman had dogs on the ground when contacted by the rancher. One houndsman stated he knows there's lots of bear and pig in this area. None of the houndsman has a hunting license. The investigation is continuing.

Warden Newell continued investigating a fairly large scale sand removal operation in Los Gatos Creek. A bit more follow up is required, and the case should be wrapped up and filed in the next couple of weeks. Warden Newell and Lt. Barnhart investigated the poaching of a doe in D8 near Johnsondale. A hunter scouting for the upcoming season discovered the gut pile and head by chance and called it in. The investigation is ongoing and hopefully with some luck it will go somewhere. Warden Newell began investigation the death of three red fox on the north side of Visalia. It appears as if the deaths could be the result of a secondary exposure to rodenticides. Newell is working with the Tulare County Ag Commission to see if a nearby property owner possibly applied the rodenticide improperly.

Warden Golden assisted Kings County Environmental Health and Water Board with interviews and reports regarding an ongoing investigation of a large scale dumping case in Kings County. Warden Golden has a couple small details to

finish, but should have his report wrapped up in the next week or two. Warden Golden filed a formal complaint on a subject that was fishing without a license a week after receiving a citation from Warden Golden the week prior for the same violation.

Wardens Scott Robledo, Kyle & Levi Shaw (no relation), along with Lieutenant

Halverson assisted USFS in a Marijuana eradication operation in the Sequoia National Forrest. The operation was a resounding success. There were only two



suspects in the grow and they were both taken into custody, one was



apprehended (bit) by the local USFS LEO K9 unit. In all nearly 2800 marijuana plants were destroyed. As seen in these pictures, the illegal growing operation had dammed up a tributary of brush creek to supply water to the marijuana plants. This allowed no water to continue downstream into brush creek. The Wardens plan on returning in the early fall to complete the reclamation process. This location was an historical grow operation as there was

evidence of activity for the past two to maybe three years.

Warden Kyle Shaw assisted the Kern County Sheriff Department in the search of an armed and dangerous suspect who is suspected in a kidnapping, a homicide, and of getting in a shootout with Kern County Swat that left one SWAT member wounded, and breaking into several cabins, trailers, and homes. The suspect is believed to be in a remote area that is populated by the occasional house or cabin. Shaw assisted by manning a roadblock into the area, making sure that anyone coming or going was an actual resident of the area and not the suspect. The suspect has been on the run for 8 days and has still managed to avoid being captured.

Eastern Sierra Bear Issues:

The bears in the Eastern Sierra have been extremely active. Due to the summer mountain rains, there was a significant growth in grasses and other vegetation. However the bears are searching for fattening foods as the winter approaches.

Fattening food supply is lacking in the rural areas bringing the bears into campgrounds and the Eastern Sierra communities. The squad has responded to approximately 20 different bear calls in July. In one campground there are at least six different bears visiting the campers. The campers have been very good locking up all food in bear proof boxes. However the bears have learned to wait until the campers remove their food to cook. That is when the bears will charge in to steal their food. Bears have been extremely active in many campgrounds and in communities where bears are rarely found; to include Rovana, Paradise, Swall Meadows, Crowley, Mammoth Lakes, Walker, and even Hot Creek Hatchery.

Warden Dishion responded to two different bear calls at two different residences in Mono County. Both calls had bears pushing in screens on the RP houses. One bear damaged a car door by trying to open the door to get to some small amounts of food that was left in the car.

Warden Doerring responded to a nuisance bear that is visiting Hot Creek Hatchery. The bear had accessed the hatcheries fish food, broke a visitor feeder station, getting into the trash, and destroyed one of the residence bird coupes.

Lt. Dailey conducted a kayak patrol down the Upper Owens River on the 4th of July in an area that has gear and take restrictions. Anglers were surprised to be contacted from a kayak. Lt. Dailey inspected 23 anglers of which 12 were found in violation. The area is wide open, allowing anglers to see a marked patrol vehicle a couple of miles away. Anglers have ample time to hide their violations if wardens try to access the area in a marked patrol vehicle. Kayak patrol in this area is extremely effective. Violations included illegal gear, unlawful use of baits, and no fishing license.

As Lt. Dailey departed the area, he observed a vehicle driving approximately 60 mph on Benton Crossing Road directly towards Lt. Dailey's patrol vehicle. Lt. Dailey observed all three passengers were sitting on the window seal hanging outside of the vehicle. Only their legs were still inside of the vehicle. Lt. Dailey turned around and initiated a vehicle stop. The vehicle was occupied by 25-30 year olds. When asked what they were doing the occupants replied "Just being stupid." Lt. Dailey took appropriate action.

Warden Dishion received a complaint of illegal hunting activities in the Bishop area. Warden Dishion was provided an Instagram photo that showed two teenage girls posing with five dead rabbits at night on a dirt road. Warden Dishion was able to identify and interview one of the girls in the photo. When provided the Instagram photo, the female suspect identified the remaining two suspects. The three suspects admitted to using the headlights of the truck to

illuminate the rabbits. All three took turns driving and shooting the rabbits. Further investigations showed none of the hunters had hunting licenses and none of the girls had never even taken a hunter education class. The rabbits were left in the road to go to waste. The case was filled with the Inyo County D.A.'s office for review and filing of charges.

Warden Estrada also spent a lot of time dealing with nuisance bears in Rock Creek Canyon, June Lake and Mammoth Lakes. The bears in Rock Creek are terrorizing the East Fork Campground. There are approximately seven bears utilizing the campground for all their shopping needs. The bears are waiting



just outside of camp and waiting on the campers to remove the food from the bear boxes before they enter the campsites. Additionally there was a bear in Mammoth that became trapped inside of a Subaru for an hour or so. The car was totaled from all the damage to the interior. It is believed the bear was attracted to the vehicle because the owner had left a Lipton tea bag inside. The bear entered the vehicle through the one door that was left unlocked. Once inside the door closed sending the bear into panic mode. After an hour the bear was able to escape when the driver's window broke out. Lt. Dailey would like to use this photo as a billboard to educate Eastern Sierra Visitors.

Warden Chad Elliott reports that drought is also causing more bear encounters in his area, but no major incidents have occurred as of yet. Elliott participated in the annual youth fishing event in Mammoth Lakes. The event was well-attended but plagued at the end by the poor judgment of some adults who decided the only way to catch the left-over fish was by snagging them. Elliott issued a citation to one of these poor role models, as many families and future anglers looked on. Elliott was able to conduct a couple of day-ride horse patrols in the back country.

Warden Rodriguez received several complaints of a suction dredger working in the Merced River near Merced Falls. Rodriguez conducted an investigation into the activity and checked the area regularly attempting to find the activity in progress. Eventually a suction dredge was discovered stored on the bank of the



river. The following day Rodriguez was able to observe and video record the suction dredger in action in the river. Contact was made with the dredger who said he was told that suction dredging was now legal. Rodriguez advised otherwise. The dredge was seized as evidence and the case was filed with the circuit prosecutor.

In early July, **Warden Schultz**, along with other members of the department Honor Guard, participated in retired Warden Bill Slawson's memorial. The Honor



Guard helped escort Warden Slawson's remains from Walnut Grove to the National Cemetery in Dixon where he was buried with full military honors. Warden Schultz then attended the reception back in Walnut Grove with members of Warden Slawson's family and many members of the

community, including many retired wardens. In late July, Warden Schultz along with Warden Kraft and Warden White attended the memorial for slain Hayward Sgt. Scott Lunger. The memorial was held at the Oracle Arena in Oakland with thousands in attendance including Governor Jerry Brown and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The memorial was a fitting send off for a warrior like Sgt. Lunger.

Warden Moss was kept busy in July with numerous wildlife incident calls. Calls mainly included mountain lions such as: a lion in the middle of Camp Mather, a lion that killed a goat and lamb, a lion that killed a puppy, a lion that killed a turkey and house cat, a lion that was in a backyard in Sonora that was possibly injured, and finally a lion hit by a CHP cruiser. Other calls included a bear on a front porch, and amazingly, only one call for an abandoned fawn in Pine Mountain Lake. Moss occupied the rest of his patrol time checking for anglers in the lakes and streams of his district. While patrolling for anglers, Moss assisted U.S.F.S. with a large fight at Rainbow Pool on the Tuolumne River. One female was arrested by U.S.F.S. for assault on a peace officer. About two hours later, Moss returned to Rainbow Pool to assist U.S.F.S. again. This time the call was for a missing three year old child. Witness reports were inconsistent and it was unknown if the child had slipped into the river or walked away. Moss began checking the shoreline for the child with a U.S.F.S. LEO and citizens began checking in the water. The child was located about ten minutes later under water and on the other side of the river from Moss. The child was unresponsive.

Moss, the U.S.F.S. LEO and a U.S.F.S. employee immediately crossed the river and began CPR. They were later joined by a Tuolumne County Deputy and additional U.S.F.S. personnel. CPR was continued for forty-five minutes until medical personnel arrived on scene. The child was then transported by ambulance to a local hospital in unknown condition.

Warden Marino attempted to stop a vehicle for following too closely and unsafe lane changes on Highway 108. The vehicle cut off another car so close that the victim swerved off the road and onto the shoulder to avoid a dangerous situation. The driver failed to yield and Marino pursued him for 8.7 miles, with full emergency lights and sirens, at relatively safe speeds of 75mph. Marino saw stopped traffic ahead and the suspect slowed and stopped in the traffic. Marino exited his vehicle, drew his handgun, and ordered the man to put his hands up. The man replied, "You got problems. I didn't do anything wrong." Marino explained why he was trying to stop him. Marino ordered him to pull over to the shoulder and to remove his keys from the ignition. The man refused and said, "Why don't you get some fish!!" The man sped around the stopped traffic and continued on highway 108. Marino returned to his vehicle and attempted to catch up. Marino was traveling 90mph and was not gaining on the suspect. Marino aborted the pursuit due to unsafe speeds and losing sight of the vehicle. Marino's radio was faster than the man could drive and CHP stopped and detained the driver 30 minutes later. Marino arrested the man and booked him into jail for evading.

Office of Spill Prevention & Response

Warden Michael Kirchner and Lt. Michael Horn were assigned to the "Refugio Incident" oil spill response in Santa Barbara County. Warden Kirchner and Lt. Horn continue duties as Tribal Liaison Officers coordinating with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians, and the Barbareno Band of Chumash Indians. Tribal members were assigned to the incident as Cultural Specialists and were responsible for helping to preserve cultural resources during the clean-up effort.



Warden Mike Conely had another busy month responding to numerous oil spills in Kern County. Warden Conely also responded to a sunken boat at Bass Lake in Madera County. Warden Conely assisted the Madera County Sheriff's Department and was the Department's representative/SOSC during the

recovery of the boat and related spill investigation.

Warden Katherine Tran responded to a traffic collision involving a truck with two 30-40 gallon saddle tanks that released approximately 40-50 gallons of diesel into the storm drain. The storm drain led to an ecological reserve that belongs to the community in Huntington Beach. Ocean Blue was contracted to do the clean-up with the



assistance of the City of Huntington Beach.



Warden Katherine Tran also responded to a spill of a 55 gallon drum of waste oil in the city of Ontario. The waste oil was

released into the storm drain, which leads to the Santa Ana River. Warden Tran arrived on scene to assess the situation and requested immediate clean-up.



Warden Jerry Borjeson had a fairly active month with violators. He completed two pollution reports on "mystery sheens" where the source of the releases was initially unknown. Searching for responsible parties on



mystery sheens is often like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Unfortunately for these two suspects it was a rather large needle.



Warden Jerry Borjeson also issued twelve citations, including one citation to a multiple repeat lobster poaching offender who was made locally famous by Warden Simmons. Simmons observed the subject poaching lobster in one of the area MPA's and when

he contacted the subject he found that he was concealing the poached lobster inside his pants! On this occasion the subject was in another MPA, but was unsuccessful in his attempts at snagging lobster. His partner, nevertheless, was found in possession of four out of season lobster (three under-sized). Both subjects were appropriately cited.

Warden Sau Garcia was on call six days and received multiple calls. The most significant call was that of a sunken vessel in Marina Del Rey. Responding with USCG, the owner of the vessel was identified and recovery efforts were monitored. During patrol, Garcia checked fisherman and asked the right questions to yield two citations for undersize kelp bass. Continuing to patrol up the coast, Warden Garcia ended the night with a DUI check of a driver that turned into a citation for driving on a suspended license.

Warden Santos Cabral responded to the small community of Cuyama, in Santa Barbara County, to assist local emergency managers with series of flashfloods that damaged an oil production field. A



wall of mud and water flashed down the dry bed of the Cuyama River and caused significant damage to the Russell Ranch Oil



Lease infrastructure. The impact of the flashflood was so great that it uprooted pipelines and concrete pillars. Although the oil field was

damaged and oil was spilled onto the ground, there was no evidence of an oil spill into the River.

Warden Amanda Johnson attended two days of Incident Command System 400 training this month, wrote citations for F&G code and CVC code, and attended a two week Basic Maritime Officer Academy in the City of Wilmington at the Maritime Law Enforcement Training Center. The course included simulation training while making enforcement stops with the boat and water survival where Johnson had to swim in her full uniform and vest and weighted belt and demonstrate defensive tactics.



Warden Paul Zurawski made a total of nine physical pollution responses during the month. Zurawski responded to a minor pipeline leak that ended up belonging to Valero after long night of hand-digging the suspect pipeline.



Warden Paul Zurawski also responded to a two vehicle traffic collision that resulted in some gasoline entering a storm drain. All was contained in the

catch basin and cleaned up promptly. He ended his month by responding to a sail boat that sunk at its slip in Marina Del Rey. The sail boat's fuel source was two red gasoline cans that floated nicely on the surface and did not empty their contents into the water. The owner's insurance company funded the raising and salvage of the vessel.



North Coast Enforcement District

Warden Foster continued with the adjudication process in several streambed alteration cases and worked with department biologists on several plans for restoring crucial steelhead habitat along several major rivers and streams in Santa Cruz County. He met with local county code compliance and other agencies to discuss ongoing issues related to drought, streambed alterations, and illegal use of water within the county.

Warden Henderson participated in the California State Parks 4th of July detail. He conducted an ATV patrol on Seabright State Beach in Santa Cruz County. A strong law enforcement presence kept the crowds of beachgoers relatively tame and the detail was an overall success. Henderson saw an increase in hunting activity in Carmel Valley as the A-Zone archery season got underway. The coast remained busy with many boat based anglers finding success fishing for rockfish.

Warden Jones responded with Warden Schad to a report from Anderson Lake of the collapse of a tree containing a nest of Bald Eagle fledglings. The wardens reported the circumstances to Department Environmental Scientists who determined the birds were best left unmolested. One of the eaglets was later observed flying.

Over the course of the month, and as a result of regular river patrols, responses to CalTIP complaints of illegal encampments, and a request from Santa Cruz County Deputies for assistance, Warden Jones and other local wardens (Schad, Juarez, and Quintal), working together on the Pajaro River, Corralitos, and Aptos Creeks (Santa Cruz County), and the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek (Santa Clara County), booked or cited six subjects for trespass, four for possession of narcotic paraphernalia, three for pollution of State waters, three for violation of probation, three for possession of a controlled substance, two on possession of illegal weapons, two on parolee-at-large warrants, two on outstanding misdemeanor warrants, one for violation of a stay-away (Pajaro River) order, one on a felony warrant, one for destruction of riparian habitat, one for theft, and one for unlawful possession of a shopping cart. One of the cases on the Pajaro River involved an admitted Surenno gang member seen emerging from the Pajaro River stream channel in possession of a bow and arrows, air pistol with ammunition, sling-shot with ball bearing ammunition, and machete. Jones and Warden Juarez booked that subject.

During a patrol of the Big Sur area, **Wardens Hare and Meyer** were asked to assist the Monterey County Sheriff's Office in a search and rescue of a hiker that had been lost for 9 days in the Big Sur backcountry. The hiker was possibly seen near the Big Sur River in a very remote location. The wardens hiked several miles into the forest in order to provide water and first aid to the victim while search and rescue personnel were delayed in their response. A CHP helicopter was also used to attempt to locate the missing hiker. A man fitting the description was later found by the search crews in the CHP helicopter but he was not the reported missing person. Unfortunately, the missing hiker still has not been found.

Warden Hampton responded to a complaint of a mountain lion that had taken up residence in a backyard. The lion was drinking from the homeowner's water fountain. After asking the homeowner to drain the fountain and eliminate the water source the lion moved on. Hampton also conducted a foot patrol at the Capital Flea Market in San Jose where he located a vendor selling a variety of fish out of the back of their truck without possessing receipts. Hampton informed her that she had 24 hours to provide the proper documentation. The following day Hampton and the subject handed over a generic receipt for the purchase of salmon from that morning. Hampton seized all the unlawfully possessed salmon which totaled 700 lbs of whole salmon, 300 lbs. of salmon fillets and steaks, and 1000 pounds of salmon heads and salmon stomachs. Wardens Jarrett and Schad assisted with the transport and processing of the evidence, and Lieutenant Moore, Lieutenant Ober, and Warden Glau assisted with arranging the sale of the useable fish.

Warden Schad and members of his squad continued to enforce litter/ pollution violations on Los Gatos Creek and Guadalupe River, where he cited one subject for felon in possession of tear gas and misappropriation of lost property. Further investigation lead to the discovery that the items were stolen from a resident in Sunnyvale. Warden Schad contacted a subject at a local reservoir who had altered the Quagga inspection tag on his boat/trailer, making it removable. The subject was cited for obstructing a police investigation and the father was cited for failing to comply with Quagga regulations. Warden Schad is currently assisting North Carolina Fish and Wildlife with a boating homicide investigation.

Warden Walker contacted a subject angling on the coast off of 17 Mile drive, Monterey County. During a routine license inspection Walker asked the subject his date of birth. The subject tried to give Walker the run around, but it was ultimately determined the subject was using someone else's license and on probation out of Mendocino County for abalone related offenses. The subject was cited accordingly and due to statements Walker obtained from the subject, Walker went to Oakland and interviewed the party that provided the Fishing license. A Formal Complaint was filed with the Monterey County DA's office.

During a night flight detail **Warden Anderson** encountered a land owner and his two guests hunting pigs on his property under a depredation permit. The land owner did not have the permit in his possession, and the other two people were not on the issued permit. Further investigation determined that the crops the depredation permit was issued for were no longer being farmed or harvested. A formal complaint is in process. Anderson responded to a report of a baby sloth being offered for sale on Craigslist. The investigation was turned over to local authorities after it was determined the ad was placed by a dissatisfied customer of a local attorney, using the attorney's phone number. Anderson responded to a report of a small dam built across the San Luis Creek by a local golf course maintenance crew to divert water into a pumping area to irrigate the course. The diversion was needed to allow the course to pulling between 150,000 – 200,000 gallons a day out of the creek for the irrigation of the golf course greens. A formal complaint is in process.

Warden Chance filed a formal complaint against a Paso Robles resident who continued to feed deer after being educated and warned by Chance in June. Chance assisted environmental scientists for security purposes during a site visit of a sand mining operation within the Estrella River. The site visit went smoothly with Chance only having to divert a couple of people who wanted to talk to the scientists as they were collecting data for several potential permit violations. Warden Chance made a great trespass case with the help of SURCOM and fellow wardens from Kern and Santa Barbara County. On the opening day of the archery only deer season, a man shot a small buck deer on private property without permission and was seen by an anonymous witness who was able to get a partial vehicle plate number. The witness also gave a good description of the man and the truck he was driving. SURCOM was able to get several possible vehicle plate matches which were followed up on, but the registered owners were not involved with the illegal take of the deer which was indicated by ALDS checks and interviews conducted by neighboring wardens. About a week later, SURCOM found a couple of additional plate matches which Chance followed up on. After an ALDS check, Chance felt he had found his suspect who appeared to be an avid hunter and was hunting deer under an archery only tag, which Chance suspected from the start of this investigation. Chance went to the man's residence with Warden Strouss where they contacted the archer's parents. The contact verified Chance's suspicion where deer meat and antlers were recovered along with an incomplete deer tag. Later that day, a telephonic interview was conducted with the man giving a full confession of his crimes after he was told DNA evidence had been collected at the kill site which would be compared to the deer meat collected at his residence.

Warden Hodel investigated a CalTIP call involving a dead deer. He was able to recover a .22 caliber bullet in the abdominal cavity. With suspect information from the reporting party Hodel was able to track down two subjects who were

shooting .22 caliber rifles in the area the day before. One subject admitted his partner saw a deer and popped off a shot as the deer was running away. Hodel will be filing a formal complaint on the subject for the illegal take of a deer.

Lt. Tognazzini found a large pile trash dumped on private property in rural San Miguel while patrolling the opener of archery A-zone deer season. He was able to locate an electric bill with a name and address and drove to the address where he contacted one subject tending to his marijuana crop! Tognazzini, Warden Gil and Deputies from Monterey County Sheriff's Office searched the residence and outbuildings after obtaining a warrant. 1500 mature marijuana plants were destroyed along with a number of juvenile plants and a few pounds of processed marijuana. The subject was arrested for not being in compliance with his PC 290 requirements and the marijuana operation.

The **PB Steelhead** crew concentrated on commercial Dungeness crab violations after the closure in June. Dozens of traps were pulled in the Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties producing several citations for taking out of season, abandonment, no destruct devices and a few other gear related violations. The crew also inspected several squid boats producing citations and warnings for various log and light violations in addition to illegal take of Dungeness crab. On the 4th of July, the crew inspected a commercial tuna boat from San Diego that had multiple Lampara nets deployed in order to catch bait fish to use as they trolled north to Oregon. Violations discovered included no license, no registration and no numbers displayed. The skipper said he had not received them in the mail yet. The crew looked him up on ALDS only to find no records.

Warden Hanson operated the Patrol Boat Bluefin down to Santa Barbara in response to the Refugio incident. Hanson, Warden Hare and Engineer Mendes met a group of Chumash tribe members and took them aboard the Bluefin to the Refugio incident. The Chumash members had an at sea memorial for several cultural artifacts recovered during the cleanup process on the Refugio Beach. The crew was honored to be a part of the event, and the tribe members were very appreciative for the experience.

The Bluefin crew took six scientific divers aboard the Bluefin to San Miguel Island for an abalone survey. The survey focused on sampling known populations in a certain area of San Miguel Island. High winds made for long nights of anchor dragging, but the trip was a success

Wardens Reed Wolvek and Swaney were the first responders on scene at a shooting in Bodega Bay. The severely injured woman was down in the street in front of a house with an unknown and armed suspect inside. The three wildlife officers were able to cover each other and an arriving Sonoma SO deputy who

provided medical care for the woman until SWAT arrived. The armed suspect was discovered in the house deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound several tense hours later. <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/4281941-181/woman-wounded-man-dead-in?page=2>

Warden Wolvek issued citations for clam over limits, one case included a subject who ripped off extra clam necks and hid them in her pockets. She was also cited for FGC 2012. Upon further investigation Wolvek found the subjects had an extensive history of violating Fish and Game regulations including unlawful sales and FGC 2012. Wolvek violated their probation and has requested that their fishing licenses be revoked for five years.

Warden Mead worked low tides in Tomales Bay. Multiple subjects were cited for taking over limits of gaper clams. Warden Mead appeared in Marin Traffic court three times for contested clam violations. All were found guilty and paid fines ranging from 600.00 to 3,200.00 dollars.

Warden Esquivel investigated a couple calls of deer being located with arrows in them. One deer in Santa Rosa was located with an arrow in it that had died near a golf course. The other deer was not located but eye witnesses saw two subjects loading up the deer into a pickup truck. No other information was given on that case. Later Warden Esquivel assisted Wardens Wolvek and Morton on boat patrol out of Bodega Bay and contacted a salmon angler with two fishing lines and barbed hooks with a salmon on board. The angler said he was tired of losing fish and had not had a good fishing season so far. The angler was cited for use of barbed hooks and multiple lines with salmon on board the vessel.

Warden Mike Harris filed Formal Complaints against (2) commercial Dungeness crab fishermen that left gear/traps in the ocean after season. The fishermen left strings of traps with some traps without the required destruct device, some traps without the fisherman's commercial license number on the buoy, some traps did not have Dungeness crab buoy tags, and some contained Dungeness crabs.

Wardens Wait and Glau found six fishermen with four coolers full of Rockfish fishing for groundfish in waters 90 feet past the depth restriction. Wardens Wait and Glau seized the rockfish and issued a citation to the captain of the boat.

Warden Kozicki reports the Attorney General's office, on behalf of the Department, filed a civil case in a streambed alteration and pollution, as well as a Federal ESA case that Warden Kozicki started investigating in November 2012. Criminal charges were filed in July 2013. The criminal case has a tentative plea agreement and should be finalized by October.

Warden Garrett worked with a Multi-Agency Task Force on a property that had multiple environmental issues. The investigation has concluded with a meeting at the DA's Office with the property owner, and attorneys. A 30 day time period was agreed by all parties for the responsible party to clean up to avoid prosecution. Warden Garrett attended Hayward P.D. Sgt Lunger's funeral in Oakland.



Warden Rehse responded to a spill in Union City of 1,000 gallons of "Food by/product waste," into Alameda Creek. The investigation is ongoing and a leak in the pipeline has been going on for some time. Approximately 18,000 gallons have been discharged into Alameda Creek over a period of six weeks. Rehse issued several citations for the possession of Coho (Silver) salmon this month and an undersized



lingcod. Rehse continues to respond to numerous injured and trapped deer calls in the Oakland and Berkeley Hills.

Lt. Christensen continues to notice an increase in the amount of injured deer calls mostly in the Oakland/Berkeley area. They seem to be moving out of their normal range in search of food and water. Lt. Christensen attended the Bay Delta Region all staff meeting. She also attended Hayward Police Sgt. Lunger's funeral. She and Warden Rehse responded to a food waste discharge in Union City.



In July 2015 members of the **Patrol Vessel Marlin** boarded CPFV's fishing illegally in the Gulf of the Farallons NMS. The CPFV's were actively taking rockfish in deeper than 30 fathoms of water. The vessels were boarded and the captain and crew issued citations for the violation. The Crew retrieved several abandoned crab traps from the local shipping channels and the offshore areas of Marin and San Francisco County. The Crew worked the local MPA's checking activity in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties. They responded to calls for service and contacted an illegal CPFV that was fishing in the SE Farallon MPA Closure. The captain and crew were known to DFW from previous violations and a formal complaint was sent to the DA for prosecution. The Crew contacted a long line fishing vessel off the Marin Coast with several thousand hooks in violation of the 150 hook restriction. The captain of the vessel has pending cases for similar violations and a formal complaint was forwarded to the DA for prosecution of this most recent violation.

Warden Shane Embry and Trainee Laird began Warden Laird's second cycle of field training this month. Last week, the duo received a complaint from an allied state agency regarding two trucks stuck in the nearby South Fork Eel River. Embry and Laird responded and were unable to locate the trucks so they pulled into the facility to obtain a better location. They quickly learned that the trucks had been recently towed from the river. Before leaving the facility, Laird and Embry observed a small deer fawn in the front "visitor's office." They interviewed the responsible employee and learned that she "rescued" the one-day-old fawn and bottle fed it for nearly one month. Laird and Embry took the fawn to the Humboldt County Wildlife Care Center for rehabilitation.



Warden Matt Wells worked on several deer poaching cases this month. In one case an eye witness saw a suspect shoot a deer with a handgun and called Cal-TIP. Wells responded to the area and was able to locate the suspect. The suspect eventually admitted to shooting the deer but claimed he used a .17 caliber rifle. Wells located a spike buck in his possession. The suspect had a felony warrant for his arrest and Wells arrested him on the warrant. Wells later necropsied the deer and found a .22 caliber slug in the deer. Wells learned that the suspect had a .22 caliber handgun registered to him. Later in the month Wells received a call from a homeowner who witnessed an injured deer in her yard. Wells responded and discovered a large buck that had been shot with an arrow. The buck had staggered into a barn on the homeowner's property and died. The homeowner stated that this wasn't the first time a wounded deer has showed up in her yard and she was quite upset after witnessing the deer suffering. With the help of the homeowner Wells was able to identify a suspect and conduct an interview. Wells discovered that the suspect was hunting on private property adjacent to the homeowner's during the archery season, which was open. Wells discovered that the suspect had unlawfully shot the deer just 50 yards from the homeowner's residence the night before.

Warden M. White investigated the report of a trespass onto a large ranch in Boonville. Accompanied by a State Park Ranger and the reporting party,



Warden White noticed a water diversion and marijuana grow across the canyon. As the three walked toward the grow, two Hispanic males took off running down the canyon. A half mile into the foot pursuit, Warden White and State Parks apprehended the suspect, while the other suspect was caught approximately thirty minutes later by a responding CHP unit along HWY-253. The two



suspects were arrested for cultivation of 59 marijuana plants, trespass, water diversion, and 148 PC.

Warden Smith assisted Lake County Sheriff's Department as well as the State CAMP Team in eradicating illegal large scale marijuana grows on county, state and federal lands. Smith is compiling supplemental reports for these marijuana cultivation sites where large scale water diversions were in place to feed these large scale growing operations. Smith also assisted in evacuation orders for the Rocky Fire which has consumed 60,000 acres in Lake, Yolo, and Colusa counties.



Warden Little patrolled the Mendocino National Forrest for A-Zone archery hunters and found little hunting activity. Warden Little investigated a possible poached buck next to a vineyard, and responded to a residence where an elderly lady was trapping raccoons on her dock and drowning them in Clear Lake. Warden Little waited a few nights for a problem bear to return to the trash cans it kept getting into. Eventually the bear returned and was introduced to some bean bag rounds in hopes to scare the bear off. The bear hasn't returned in two weeks. Warden Little spent the last several days assisting with evacuations of people and livestock from the Rocky Fire. The fire has spread to Lake, Yolo, and Colusa counties.



Warden Stephenson patrolled Lake County and checked several archery deer hunters in the A-zone area. He also attended and assisted in a Bear Aware presentation in Clearlake Oaks.



Stephenson and Warden Little successfully hazed a bear that was causing issues in the Clearlake area with the use of less lethal bean bag rounds. During the month of July wildlife calls have been on the rise and are becoming more prevalent.

Photo: A rattlesnake that was removed from a women's property after being located on the lawn near her front porch.

Warden Willson and **K-9 Jasmine** along with **Lt. Shimek** and **K-9 Lance** assisted Mendocino S.O. with the search of a firearm that was possibly used in a felony. While heading out for a night patrol, Warden Willson observed a driver who had crossed over the yellow line multiple times. A traffic stop was initiated and the driver had no form of identification. Warden Willson could smell alcohol on the driver's breath. CHP was notified for an evaluation. The subject was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, under the influence of a controlled substance, driving on a suspended license, giving a false name to a peace officer, and violation of probation.

Another night, Warden Willson heard one gun shot and tried to locate the shooter. Warden Willson observed two vehicles backed in to an unusual location. After searching the subjects and vehicles no firearms were located. A records searched found one of the subjects had a cite and release warrant for vandalism and violation of a court order. Another night, Warden Willson initiated a traffic stop on a subject and during the course of the contact displayed signs of impairment. CHP was notified for an evaluation. The subject did not do very well during the Field Sobriety Test and then refused to perform a preliminary alcohol screening test. The subject was taken into custody for driving under the influence. The Deputy District Attorney for Lake County emailed Warden Willson to notify him of a disposition in a crappie over-limit case earlier this year. The subject was fined \$775 and was placed on probation for three years with a no fishing condition.

Northern Enforcement District

The **2100 Captain's Squad** again spent most of the month dealing with suction dredges. With low river flows due to drought conditions, many locations are more easily accessed and dredged and it seems many miners can't avoid the temptation.

On July 5th, **Lt. McDonald, Warden Cervelli, Warden Edwards, and Warden Beck** removed a dredge from the Klamath River near the town of Klamath River. Warden Cervelli had observed and recorded a man dredging there a few days earlier. The dredge was located just upstream from a river access point, making removal easy. While seizing this dredge, the Wildlife Officers were contacted by a claim owner whose claim was on nearby Horse Creek. He told the officers that his partner was at the claim the previous night, and found claim jumpers dredging on the claim. The claim jumpers matched the description of a group of miners who had been found to be dredging and cited near that claim in June. After completing the investigation in Klamath River, the wardens proceeded to that claim location, but the miners had already left. Apparently the confrontation with the angry claim owner was enough to get them to pack up.



On July 14, **Lt. McDonald** and **Warden Edwards** kayaked 14 miles of the Sacramento River looking for two reported dredges there. They were unable to locate the dredges but gained lots of experience using the squad's inflatable kayaks.



On July 15, **Warden Beck** received a report of dredging and claim jumping on Deadwood Creek near the town of Fort Jones. Warden Beck and Lt. McDonald responded to the location, contacted the miner and seized the dredge. It appeared that two miners had claimed portions of the same area, so they were advised to work out the claim jumping issue through the civil process. The

suspect told the Wildlife Officers that he had read on the New 49'ers Mining Club website that dredging was legal because of the San Bernardino ruling.

On July 17, **Warden Beck, Warden Cervelli, Warden Edwards, and Warden Sutterfield** investigated two reports of dredging. The first was in the Klamath River near Horse Creek. The wardens found that the dredge was incomplete and not able to create suction. As the wardens were wrapping up the investigation, they saw another dredge being put in the water just below their location. Apparently the owners hadn't realized that the wardens were there. That dredge was complete and was seized, and the owner was cited. The wardens continued to Russian Creek, tributary to the Salmon River, to investigate the second reported dredge. It was located and seized, and the owner cited. The owner of that dredge, who was from Arkansas, also said that he had heard via the New 49'ers website that dredging was legal.



On July 25, **Warden Cervelli** located another dredge on the Klamath River, this time near Interstate 5. He recognized the operator as a man who had already been arrested twice for refusing to sign dredging-related citations. Warden Cervelli left the scene at about 1230 hours and met with other wardens at the Yreka office. When they returned to the scene at 1530 hours, the subject had packed up his mining equipment and camp and had left the area. A formal complaint will be filed.

On July 27, **Lt. McDonald** located another dredge in the Klamath River. The squad continues to investigate it to determine ownership.

Warden Gomes worked the A zone archery deer season where five buck deer were harvested. Warden Gomes observed a lot of hunters but only the most driven hunters were successful. Warden Gomes continues to work on subjects trying to snare wild pigs. Trail cameras have been placed and he continues to monitor them.

Warden Beals spent much of the month working salmon fisherman and looking for subjects attempting to take salmon or other wildlife at night. He made several salmon cases in the Feather River area around Oroville for gear violations, unlawful trespass and take of salmon in closed waters. He contacted a subject from Sacramento angling with illegal gear and proceeded to watch the subject attempt to hide his lure by breaking off the line. Warden Beals told the subject to stop his actions when the subject retrieved a lighter to burn his fishing line and hide the lure. This plan was foiled when the subject lit his hand on

fire which had the line wrapped around it from previously trying to break it off. Warden Beals located the lure and cited the subject for various violations.

Warden Beals worked with **Warden Hulse** to observe four subjects unlawfully attempting to snag salmon in the closure with illegal gear. The two snuck up behind the salmon fishermen to better observe their activities, only to hear them joke about not being checked by Game Wardens. One clever subject informed his three friends that Game Wardens watch you from far away and then contact you. At that time Warden Beals and Hulse contacted the group and cited them for the various violations.

Warden Beals issued multiple no license and trespass citations throughout the month. While working a night time detail, Beals attempted to make a vehicle stop on a suspicious vehicle only to find himself in a 13mph failure to yield with a naked young man. The young man was attempting to drive away from Warden Beals, not to escape but to put his pants on.

After running over several bushes and small trees on both sides of the roadway, the subject yielded and it was found that the subject was naked and waiting for someone else to arrive but got bored. The subject then decided to steal elk antlers off of a barn and proceed to run over and steal county road signs which displayed "County Road 69" because he thought that the number "69" on a road sign was so awesome. The teen was arrested for DUI and charged with the theft.



Warden Beals contacted three subjects trespassing in a Type A wildlife area and found them to be in possession of over limits of black bass. He issued three citations, two for over limit and one for vehicle trespass.

Warden Pirtle discovered a residency case on a local Yuba County individual who had drawn a desert bighorn sheep tag and premier late season deer tag in the State of Nevada. Warden Pirtle researched local records and forwarded the information to Nevada Warden Lusetti. Warden Lusetti traveled to California and spent the day with Warden Pirtle gathering information at the Yuba County Assessor, Voter Registrar, and Records. The Wardens documented the subject's business and later conducted a lengthy interview. Warden Lusetti was able to locate the sheep, deer, and mountain lion tags in California at the subject's residence. The subject claims he does have two residences but his primary is in Stateline, Nevada. The mountain of evidence gathered does not indicate this information. Warden Lusetti advised the subject that it is a gamble for him to

use these tags as the penalty goes from a misdemeanor to a felony if the animals are harvested in violation of Nevada State Law. However, as Warden Lusetti pointed out it is difficult to prove where a subject was residing six months prior to draw application deadlines in April 2015.

Lt. Wharton responded to multiple CalTIP's relating to harassment of an osprey nest by a helicopter. The helicopter was conducting a survey of power lines in the area of the Sierra Pacific Industries HQ and mill in Anderson. Witnesses reported seeing the helicopter being operated in an unsafe manner and the operator appeared to make several passes at an osprey nest that contained two adults and two juveniles. Eye witnesses reported seeing the spectacle conclude with an impact between one of the adults and the tail rotor of the aircraft. The investigation is on-going and the follow-up will include contact w/ the FAA and the power generator regarding safe flying practices and policies regarding flight operations near raptor nests



While patrolling along the Sutter Bypass **Warden McVay** noted that the water level was extremely low due to the drought. Warden McVay then noticed that a farmer had driven his tractor down the inside of the levee so that he could get his pump low enough to pump water into his rice field. Warden McVay continued less than a mile downstream from the pump where a weir and fish way for salmon was located.



Warden McVay found that the weir and fish way were **COMPLETELY DRY**. There was no flow going down stream. The farmer was pumping what little flow existed into his rice. Warden McVay documented the evidence and turned the case over to the State Water Board.

Lt. Kroll dealt with several bear related issues throughout the month, as well as continued to assist the squad documenting and investigating suction dredge related violations for prosecution. Kroll also assisted Plumas SO and Plumas USNF with several large DTO marijuana grows. One of the grows was located in a Fish and Game Refuge within X6A, with evidence of deer poaching. Kroll coordinated with inland OSPR regarding planning clean-up operations of the grows later in the year, as they are all located in very important public land high

mountain watersheds. Kroll, along with Wardens Awbrey and Ulrich attended the newly formed Plumas Environmental Crimes Task Force meeting.



Warden Awbrey responded to numerous bear calls throughout the County. Several depredation permits were issued due to property damage and loss of livestock. He also assisted Plumas Sheriff's office and Plumas USFS with several marijuana grows throughout the county. Awbrey and Kroll continued to investigate a sunken boat in Bucks Lake, and were able to convince the boat owner to have the boat removed

from the lake. Awbrey also made a case on a subject who took and skinned a fawn deer.

Warden Hernandez received a call of a doe mule deer near Eagle Lake that had wandered into a garage and fell through the floor and into a cellar. Hernandez coordinated with the Lassen County Biologist, and they were able to successfully tranquilize, remove, and release the deer unharmed.



Warden Kraft qualified eight retired wardens on the range. Kraft enjoyed hearing all of the interesting stories from the combined 200 years of experience.

Warden Kraft represented the CA Wildlife Officer Honor Guard along with

Wardens Schultz and D. White at the memorial for Hayward PD Sgt Scott Lunger. Sgt Lunger's memorial was spot on and he sounded like a fantastic officer. EOW 07-22-15.



Lieutenant LaFave was patrolling the Mokelumne River, off Electra Rd, in Amador County when he observed a suspicious truck parked along the bank of the river. He followed the trail down the steep bank and observed a subject at the bottom operating a gas powered suction dredge in the river. Lt. LaFave contacted the man and asked why he was working the dredge in the river. The man, at first, stated he was told that it was ok to use a suction dredge as long as it was not on floats and then, after Lt. LaFave convinced him that playing stupid was not a good defense, admitted that he knew it was illegal to dredge, but had heard that D.A.'s were not prosecuting miners because the law was written poorly. Lt. LaFave advised the subject that the law was very clear and that the

Amador County D.A. had no issues when it came to prosecuting dredger cases. The subject then stated he was not going to sign the citation as a way to protest the law. Lt. LaFave told the subject that he had no problem with arresting him and that the jail was only a few miles down the road. He also had no problem with towing the subjects' truck, incident to arrest, which would only cost the man around \$700.00 to get back. The subject stated he was just joking around, and would gladly sign the citation.



Lt. LaFave and **Lt. Alan Gregory** received a Cal-Tip regarding a vineyard worker in Lotus who just shot a deer on the R/P's property and had fled back to the vineyards warehouse with the deer. Both lieutenants rushed to the scene and contacted the R/P who showed the two a fresh blood trail, on the paved road, leading to the vineyard. The R/P also stated he did not see the worker kill a deer, but knows they have shot a lot in the past. Lt. LaFave and Lt. Gregory located the farm worker and started interviewing the man. The subject denied shooting



anything, but was clearly nervous. The two looked for evidence around the area and located a shotgun wad near where the blood trail was found and shotgun shells were found on an UTV parked in the driveway, but no blood or fur was found. After some lengthy questioning, the subject admitted to shooting a turkey that had been pecking at some drip lines in the vineyard. The man then showed Lt. LaFave and Lt. Gregory where he had hidden the turkey in

the woods behind a barn. The bird had been cleaned and plucked and made ready for consumption. It turns out that the vineyard had been issued a depredation permit in the past, for deer only, but had violated the permit conditions numerous times. When they applied for a new permit for deer or turkeys they were denied. Lt. LaFave had no issues with the depredation of the turkey, which was causing visible damage to exposed drip lines in the vineyard; it was the failure to show and the unlawful possession once they prepared the turkey for their own consumption that was an issue. Lt. LaFave will be filing a formal complaint for unlawful possession with the El Dorado County D.A.'s

Warden Stevenson responded to a call of a dead bear in South Lake Tahoe. After a few hours of investigating the death of the bear, Stevenson confirmed it was shot with 00buckshot. Stevenson interviewed several neighbors in the neighborhood where the bear



was found and eventually located a suspect. The suspect confessed to shooting the bear. The bear was a nuisance bear and was habituated to humans. A report of the unlawful killing was filed with the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office.

Warden Stevenson also attended a hearing in Sacramento in front of an Administrative Law Judge, regarding a permanent lifetime revocation of a hunting license and hunting privileges of a subject who pled "no contest" to possession of three gall bladders and 20 bear claws in the woods of El Dorado County on April 20th, 2013. The subject and his partner killed a sow and two cubs and removed their livers, gall bladders and twenty claws from the sow, prior to meeting up with Wardens Stevenson and L. Gregory. The Administrative Law Judge will review all evidence in the case and make a final decision on the lifetime revocation, by the end of August, 2015.

Warden Kenady worked on a streambed alteration violation in Yolo County in which the landowners did not notify any agency and did not have any permits. The work done amounted to a one mile stretch of Ridge Cut Slough in which one side of the waterway was sloped back and compacted. The work cannot be undone, so the focus for DFW at this time is to work with the landowner to stabilize the site and see that proper permits are acquired for any future work.



Warden Kenady received information about marijuana grow activity near Rio Vista. He passed the information along and is continuing to assist in the investigation when requested.

Warden Kenady opened two investigations into large items dumped near waterways. One was a large boat filled with garbage, and the second was a double-axle trailer filled with debris from a remodel project. Both investigations are still in progress.

Warden Keiser issued several sport fishing related citations this month within his assigned district, one of cases which involved the taking of short black bass from Lake Herman in Benicia, and another involved the use of illegal fishing gear to take trout in Putah Creek. While patrolling area waterways, Keiser observed a high number a saltwater fish species in the areas of the Napa River and Carquinez Straits to Suisun Bay. Numerous sharks, bat rays, and jack-smelt were seen in the area, while very few sturgeon and striped bass were seen taken in this area by anglers. This is likely due to the continued drought conditions and heavier salt water intrusion into the areas.

Keiser completed an investigation regarding the destruction of a killdeer egg and nest on a bridge project in Winters. Keiser found there to be violations of the 1602 agreement and addressed these violations with the permit holder and their biological monitor who was most responsible for not following the conditions set forth in the permit. Keiser requested a notice of violation be prepared by Department ES staff.



Keiser coordinated and actively assisted Wildlife Area staff in the clean-up and removal of illegal structures on the White Slough Unit of the Napa Sonoma Marsh Wildlife Area. Utilizing an ATV to access the area, large bags of trash were hauled out of the area along with couch cushions, plastic chairs, mattresses, drip lines, and numerous plastic buckets, bags and poly tarps. Most of the trash was generated from fisherman littering the banks and constructing these make

shift fishing shelters.

NRVP Rancho Cordova

Forty-eight NRVs reported 1,477 hours of volunteer service for the month in the Divisions of Enforcement, Wildlife Management, Habitat Conservation, Inland Fisheries, Marine Fisheries, Administration, NRVP, and Office of Community Education & Outreach.



Enforcement – Thirty-one NRVs reported 547 hours assisting LED staff with office duties, answering the statewide enforcement assistance line (**345 calls**), taking Code 3 equipment from six retired patrol vehicles, transporting old patrol vehicles to R2HQ and/or auction yard in Davis assisting at the Warden’s Academy Scenarios, transporting pig carcasses to R2, and answering the CalTIP phone line.

Wildlife Management – Twenty-six NRVs reported providing 282 hours opening & closing the

gate & patrolling the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, entering DPD information into electronic database, transporting raptors from So Cal for release in the Sierra foothills, transporting various carcasses for



storage at R2, assisting with EBM hikes to maintain cameras at various sites, and assisting with fence repair at Butte Creek House Ecological Reserve.

Habitat Conservation – Ten NRVs reported 77 hours performing LSAA desk reviews of files in preparation for future site visits.

Administration – Twenty-nine NRVs reported 226 hours of assistance at the R2 HQ front desk answering the telephone (**684 calls**) and performing other duties as requested.

NRVP – Twenty-nine NRVs reported 208 hours in support of chapter operations: preparing for and implementing VMS, preparing monthly and annual reports, Shutterfly updates, attending the monthly staff meeting, taking NRVP required courses, and acting as liaisons for the various projects.

Office of Community Education & Outreach – Seventeen NRVs reported 133 hours taking training on Mobile Aquarium transport, set-up and use, and making Bear Aware outings to campgrounds in South Lake Tahoe to remind campers about bears in the area.



Headquarters

MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT TEAM

With July being one of the busiest months of the year for the MET, the team travelled and worked extensively throughout the state on multiple arrest, eradication, and reclamation missions. Throughout July, MET completed



tactical marijuana operations in Santa Clara, Fresno,



Stanislaus, Glenn, Butte, San Mateo, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis, Shasta, Ventura, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Mendocino counties. During these operations, the MET

safely apprehended approximately 20 felony DTO suspects, with most of them armed or in reach of assorted rifles, pistols, and more specific assault weapons.

Of significance, the MET worked with several county marijuana teams for the first time this month including San Mateo, Glenn, and Mendocino County teams. During these allied agency operations, MET shared and highlighted their K9 and stalking suspect apprehension tactics, in addition to assisting on the eradication phase of all operations. In addition to this apprehension tactics emphasis, the MET focused on assisting those agencies having little experience in environmental reclamation. The San Mateo Narcotics Task Force team was especially receptive to reclamation operations, working their first one with the MET in early July.

The MET also provided some critical and informative drought related environmental crime outreach presentations to various DFW groups throughout the month, the most notable being to DFW's Directorate staff. Focusing on the drought impacts from outdoor trespass cultivation operations throughout California, the MET



illustrated through examples of their productive 2014 and 2015 seasons, the importance of funding this area of LED enforcement activity. The negative impacts to



California's wildlife and water resources, in addition to the egregious impacts to the statewide drought, were made clear during this presentation.

During this busy month of daily operations, the MET's Designated Marksman Observer (DMO) Team conducted their first night training. Utilizing their recently issued night vision scope adapter units, the team verified their zeros and target identification and accuracy shooting in complete darkness. This training solidified the DMO team's day and night, all hour, deployment capability throughout the state.

Warden Imbrie assisted Wardens Imsdahl, Chan, Quintal, Boyd, Baquirin and Lt. Nores with an apprehension/eradication/reclamation detail in Glenn County put together by Warden Imsdahl. With the record heat reaching 113 degrees that day, the growers did not water during the day, so the team eradicated and reclaimed the site before the end of the evening. Warden Imbrie then assisted Wardens Imsdahl, Quintal, Baquirin, Chan, Boyd and Lt. Nores with a scout mission in Mendocino County near Hopland, CA. After an extensive hike a small grow was located, with Mendocino County's COMMET team. Later in the month, Warden Imbrie coordinated a MJ eradication mission with the Fresno County Sheriff's Dept. and CAMP near Coalinga. Several MET members assisted, with over 1200 plants eradicated from the site. Warden Imbrie also assisted USFS with a MJ eradication-reclamation mission in the Sequoia National Forest where over 1500 plants were eradicated. Warden Imbrie also assisted Warden Quintal, other MET members and The San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force with a MJ scout/eradication/reclamation mission. During this operation, several thousand plants were eradicated and a full reclamation of the site was completed.

Warden Imsdahl helped conduct MET missions in Santa Clara, Butte, Glenn, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Stanislaus and Mendocino counties throughout July. A notable mission in Butte County yielded the apprehension of an AK-47 assault rifle armed DTO suspect. This man fled out the back of a residence, when a high risk search and arrest warrant was served on the building at first light by the Butte County SWAT team and MET operators. Supported by Warden Chan and Warden Boyd, K9 Phebe apprehended a suspect fleeing from the house before he could engage team members with the assault rifle. The suspect was a convicted felon having felony warrants for his arrest out of San Francisco County. After the apprehension, and needing to find the ejected live round from the AK-47's firing chamber, Butte County SWAT requested K9 support to help find the critical AK cartridge. When brought back on scene, Warden Boyd and K9 Phebe found the round within 30 seconds, rounding out the felony arrest nicely. An additional 5 assault rifles and pistols were found in the 3000 plant marijuana grow on BLM property when the team cleared and eradicated it later that morning. Another high mountain grow operation in Butte County yielded almost 10,000 plants, with a single apprehension made on a DTO suspect. The

man made an escape attempt after he was walked out of the garden to the team's patrol vehicles, but did not make it far running with handcuffs on before being apprehended again and taken back to a patrol unit.

Warden Boyd and K9 Phebe had an exceptionally busy month, participating in DTO arrest, eradication, and reclamation missions in Shasta, Mendocino, Tehama, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Glenn counties. During those operations, approximately 30,000 marijuana plants were removed and destroyed, along with 18 water diversions, dams, and other drought enhancing water crimes rectified within those grow sites. Boyd and Phebe were instrumental in 10 felony DTO suspect apprehensions throughout the month, and located and/or seized 13 various firearms used in the above mentioned operations. Also during those missions, Boyd assisted in the removal of approximately 3000 pounds of grow site trash, pollutants, and other assorted environmentally harmful chemicals. July was a diverse month of activity for K-9 Phebe, with numerous dangerous suspect apprehensions necessary for the safety of the team as well as some exceptional evidence finds including the AK-47 chamber ejected round described above. Boyd was very proud of Phebe and her continued high level of performance this late in her service career. In the spirit of succession planning, Boyd began training with and evaluating K9 "Karma," a young female like Phebe, in anticipation of developing her into a well suited K9 to join the LED ranks.

Warden Chan assisted with several marijuana grow eradications which included grows in Fresno, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Butte and Mendocino counties. Chan also located a large marijuana grow complex in Merced County on US Fish and Wildlife property.

Warden Grove worked with the CAMP Region 2 team in northern California on a full time basis throughout the month. Grove and CAMP Team 2 worked primarily in Tehama, Shasta, Trinity and Sacramento counties throughout July (with assistance from USFS, DFW, and local county teams) and eradicated 126,506 marijuana plants, made 10 arrests, conducted 342 short hauls, recovered two firearms, seized 270 pounds of processed marijuana and removed 22 net loads of trash and infrastructure during those operations. Warden Grove will continue to work with CAMP Team 2 until Lt. Laughlin returns. Best of luck to a speedy recovery!



Warden Quintal conducted marijuana scouts in Mendocino and Santa Clara counties, while also assisting with marijuana eradication and reclamation

operations in Fresno, Monterey, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Mendocino, Butte, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties. Warden Quintal was the case officer on a marijuana eradication operation in Santa Cruz County, with DFW MET leading the operation and investigation. With the assistance of the Santa Clara Sheriff's Office MET K9 team, and the CHP helicopter crew, one DTO suspect was apprehended with 5,000 budded marijuana plants eradicated. During this operation, a tactical shotgun loaded with slugs was recovered. The grower apprehended was charged with cultivation and environmental violations.

Warden Baquirin travelled all over the state working on MET specific missions in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Mendocino, Glenn, and Stanislaus counties throughout the month, completing multiple arrest, eradication, and reclamation details.

Lt. Nores completed arrest, eradication, and reclamation missions with his team mates in Santa Clara, Mendocino, Santa Cruz, and Glenn counties this month. Nores also conducted two MET presentations to DFW staffers. One presentation was given to DFW's Deputy Director and the rest of the Directorate staff, highlighting MET's drought enforcement effectiveness throughout 2014 and 2015. During this meeting, Nores conveyed the importance and effectiveness of the drought related work the MET and WET team's do on a daily basis. The presentation was very well received and support for the MET/WET efforts was clear. Nores also provided some marijuana grow safety training to Hab-Con, Wildlife Management, and Environmental Scientist staffers out of the Nimbus Region 2 Office. The training was well received and prepared them for procedures needed when encountering grow site operations during their field work operations.

WATERSHED ENFORCEMENT TEAM

In July, the Watershed Enforcement Team (WET) conducted approximately 45 parcel inspections while attempting to document environmental damage associated with marijuana cultivation. Their efforts were largely summed up in two large Humboldt County details. Operation Yurok Borders, where WET members inspected private parcels surrounding Yurok tribal land north of the town of Willow Creek, and the Willow Creek watershed inspections.

During Operation Yurok Borders, WET inspected 24 private parcels, documented (54) streambed/diversion violations, (24) pollutions violations, (12) litter violations and (3) prohibited bird violations. The four day multi-agency was highly successful. Over 30,000 marijuana plants were eradicated





which calculates to approximately 180,000 gallons of water flowing back into the Klamath River system daily.

During the Willow Creek Inspections, WET inspected 16 private parcels, documented (20) streambed/diversion violations and (5) pollutions violations. In addition, WET also assisted the Humboldt County Sheriff's

Department with a search warrant on one private parcel where 1426 marijuana plants were eradicated. Ironically, the property owner had been previously convicted of felony cultivation. At the time of the warrant, only one subject was contacted. She



claimed to be from New Zealand, and stated that she hoped to earn approximately \$50,000 for helping a local building contractor grow his crop this summer. She also stated that she hoped to buy a sailboat with her profits. Perhaps her medicinal nexus was the relaxation gained from sailing the high seas.

In addition, Lt. Little gave presentations to: The Senate Commission on Fisheries and Aquaculture, The North Coast Resources Partnership Committee and attended the Sproul Creek Watershed meeting where concerned landowners within the watershed had a chance to voice their opinions about the inspection process and pending administrative action. Senior ES Scott Bauer testified at a Senate hearing for SB 243, and gave a presentation to the Senate Environmental Caucus in Sacramento.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT

Operation Klamath Krew Disposition

The Special Operations Unit (SOU) received information from uniformed wardens about a serial poacher in Crescent City. SOU investigated his activities and discovered the poacher and his wife used friends and family to take gross overlimits of salmon from the Klamath and Smith rivers, and Dungeness Crab from Crescent City Harbor. Throughout the course of their surveillance SOU

determined he fished in closed areas and used unlawful gear, nets, and double/triple tripped. As the poacher fished, his wife and friends served as couriers and carried multiple overlimits of salmon back to their residence to store for later sales. SOU observed multiple sales of salmon and crab locally, as well as, in Oregon.

The poacher's vast history of past convictions typically resulted in community service, of which he never performed. Upon the conclusion of the case, the poacher pled guilty to a felony charge of conspiring to illegally take salmon for profit or personal gain, along with two misdemeanor violations of the Fish and Game Code relating to illegal take of salmon in a closed area and illegal sale of sport-caught salmon. His wife pled guilty to one misdemeanor count of illegal sale of sport-caught salmon. In punishment, he was sentenced to serve 120 days in the Del Norte County Jail and a fine of \$20,376.00. Due primarily to the defendant's youth at the time of the violations, the fine as well as 90 days of the jail term were suspended so long as he strictly obeyed his probation terms. Among the terms of his three-year probation are that he is forbidden from fishing or being within 30 feet of anybody fishing, in any state, and that he must sell all of his fishing gear in his possession and forfeit all gear seized by the Department of Fish and Wildlife in relation to this case. He may also be searched at any time for probation violations. His wife accepted a similar plea offer, and pled guilty to a violation of Fish and Game Code section 7121, a misdemeanor. She was sentenced to 15 days of jail and a \$20,376 fine, both of which will be suspended if she obeys her terms of her three-year probation, which are the same as her husband. She must also serve 50 hours of community service, which were not suspended.

DELTA BAY ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

The majority of the DBEEP squad has been working on an ongoing investigation concerning marijuana cultivation.

Warden Marrone continued to work on an illegal cultivation of marijuana case in San Joaquin and Sacramento counties with several other DBEEP officers and air services. The case stemmed from an earlier marijuana raid on a wildlife area in San Joaquin County. The arrest from that raid has resulted in 5-7 other suspects and other grow locations.

Warden Holley patrolled along the Feather River in the Oroville Wildlife Area at night and contacted a vehicle next to the River. After contacting the driver and issuing him a citation for night time trespass, it was discovered that he had two felony warrants out of Butte County, with 11 separate violations total. The male subject was arrested and booked into the Butte County Jail.

Warden Holley was driving into the area of the Feather River Fish Hatchery at night when he observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road. Warden Holley pulled up to the vehicle and observed the male passenger attempting to conceal a hypodermic needle in his hand. After Oroville Police arrived on scene the passenger was detained. When the driver was asked if there was anything else in the car he advised that he had some marijuana in his backpack behind the seat and did not have a prop 215 card. After detaining the driver, a small amount of marijuana was discovered in the back pack as well as **a loaded 9mm handgun**. Two more hypodermic needles were located on the passenger side and also two containers with in unknown clear liquid residue. When the passenger was asked what the liquid was he advised that it was liquid meth. Both subjects were arrested and booked into Butte County jail. The driver was arrested for a loaded concealed firearm in a vehicle and the passenger was arrested for possession of hypodermic needles and violation of probation.

Warden Holley was working an afternoon shift when he contacted two male subjects at the Feather River Hatchery fishing in the river for trout. Both subjects were using heavy rods with multiple hooks set on a wire leader with a 1 ounce weight affixed to the bottom of the leader. The Weights were affixed within 12" of the hooks. Both subjects were cited for angling in closed waters (7.50(b)(68)(A)) and use of a weight affixed within 18" or less of a hook (CCR T14 section 2.10(b)2).

Warden Trunnell worked with **Warden Matt Manes** at the Nimbus Dam on the American River. Warden Manes was fishing undercover alongside other anglers. He observed a subject hook into a salmon. The subject reeled I the fish directly in front of Manes. Manes could see the hook imbedded in the tail of the salmon. The subject put the salmon on a stringer and continued to fish. When the subject left with the fish Trunnell made contact and cited the man. The man was adamant he hooked the salmon in the mouth but Manes' observations and the deep wounds in the tail of the fish tell a different story.

Warden Galli provided outstanding depositions on cases!

Petr Dyachishin and Nikolay Krasnodemskiy Commercial Sturgeon Case Disposition:

Arrests for this case were made in February 2010. Preliminary Hearing in 2012
Jury Trial in 2014. Motion for a new Jury Trial in 2014. Sentencing for
Kransnodemskiy in 2014. Sentencing for Dyachishin in June of 2015.

Nikolay Krasnodemskiy: Convicted at Jury Trial
2 counts PC 182(a)(1)
1 count FGC 7370(a)

1 count FGC 2000
2 counts CCR T-14 2.00
2 counts CCR T-14 4.20(d)(2)
4 counts CCR T-14 5.80(b)

Sentence:

75 Days County Jail, \$5,000 fine, 3 year Formal Probation, 5 years Fishing License Suspension, Stay Away Order from Sacramento River

Petr Dyachishin: Convicted at Jury Trial

2 counts PC 182(a)(1)
1 count FGC 7370(a)
2 counts CCR T-14 2.00
2 counts CCR T-14 4.20(d)(2)
2 counts CCR T-14 5.80(b)

Sentence:

40 days county jail, 160 hours of community service, 3 years Formal Probation, 2 years Fishing License Suspension, Forfeiture of all fishing equipment, processing equipment, sturgeon and caviar.

Michael Triplett Commercial Salmon and Striped Bass Case Disposition

Michael Triplett pled no contest to the following:

1 count Penal Code 182(a) Felony, with deferred sentencing and if successfully completes probation he will be able to withdrawal his plea for this count
1 count FGC 12012(a) Illegally Take/Possess/Sell fish for Commercial Purposes

Sentence:

\$5,000 fine, 2 Years Summary Court Probation with the following terms: do not possess fishing gear, do not possess sport caught fish, do not be within 30 feet of any person fishing, nor be on a boat with fishing equipment, do not possess a fishing license, forfeiture of all fishing equipment and fish.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MARIJUANA PLANTING (CAMP) TEAM – JULY STATS

DFW Team Leader: Lt. Robert Gaske

Team #1: Lt. Steve White

Team #2: Warden William Grove and Lt. John Laughlin

Team #3: Lt. Tony Spada and Warden Stephanie McNulty

Team #4: Warden Martin Willis and Eric Craig

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE



TOTALS FOR SEASON

ERADICATION

| TEAM | # MJ Grow Sites Raided | MJ ERADICATED | FLT HRS | Short Hauls | Sling Loads Total | MEDVAC | Arrests | Wpns | Crossed M.J |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| I | 58 | 88,436 | 41.6 | 248 | 34 | | 2 | 12 | 1,052 |
| II | 25 | 79,495 | 37.9 | 148 | 83 | | 10 | 2 | 270 |
| III | 13 | 52,524 | 36.7 | 210 | 39 | | 1 | 2 | 35 |
| IV | 31 | 73,941 | 51.8 | 283 | 124 | | 2 | 4 | 217 |
| Total | 127 | 294,396 | 168 | 889 | 280 | | 15 | 20 | 1,574 |

| TEAM | Nets Reclaim | LBS of Infrastructure | Acres Effected | Restricted use Poisons (OZ) | FERT (LBS) | Pesticides Common (OZ) | Water Line (YARDS) | 20LB Propane Tanks | Car Battery | Dams |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| I | | | 60.1 | | 430 | 81 | | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| II | 22 | 4,173 | 151.5 | 48 | 3,150 | 672 | 4,305 | 16 | 12 | 8 |
| III | 11 | 4,000 | 20.5 | 25 | 250 | 10 | 7,350 | 22 | 1 | 8 |
| IV | 4 | 1,250 | 121 | 178 | 1,765 | 282 | 1,000 | 12 | 3 | 1 |
| Total | 37 | 9,423 | 353.3 | 251 | 5,595 | 1,045 | 17,755 | 54 | 20 | 25 |

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

The HQ Professional Standards Unit has been busy finishing background investigations for the 35 remaining candidates in the current Warden Cadet hiring process. Planning and organization of the week of hiring these cadets is scheduled for September 16- 18, 2015. This will entail Chief's Interviews and conditional offer of employment on 9/16, physical testing, eye test and drug screening on 9/17, and written psychological screening on 9/18. We are hopeful that once again we will have a strong Academy class for Lt. Ceccon in 2016. Lateral candidate written testing just occurred and PSU is awaiting the hiring list from HRB. All full time PSU staff will be attending IA PRO training in September. IA PRO is a software program that will allow statewide

correspondence (access) and a tracking database for all citizen complaints and internal affairs investigations.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Lt Alan Gregory successfully coordinated a basic bow hunting advanced hunter education clinic. Interest in joining the hunter education program as an instructor remains steady with about a dozen instructor application packets sent out per district. This year's Instructor Incentive Program drawing was conducted and instructors were awarded incentives including: wild pig hunts at the Tejon Ranch, four day fully guided / outfitted management buck hunt at Arrow Five Outfitters, doe deer hunt at Catalina Island, turkey hunt for two at Western Wildlife Adventures, ¾ day fishing trip out of Newport Beach, six bird pheasant hunt and 100 clays at Mike Raahuage Shooting Enterprises, and of course ten X zone deer tags!

REGULATIONS / LEGISLATION / PIO

The legislature took their summer recess and returns to work on Aug 17, so there has been a bit of a lull in legislative action. AB 96, the bill that will make the sales and trade of ivory and rhino horn illegal is making its way through the legislative process. Exact parameters of the bill are still in the works. The legislative session ends in mid-September. The Governor will have until Oct 11 to act on all bills. By now, most have heard the bobcat trapping regulation change was heard and resulted in a statewide ban on bobcat trapping. Personnel across Department functions put a tremendous amount of time and effort into coming up with a recommended option for the Commission to vote on that would have continued to authorize bobcat trapping, but in a reduced portion of the state. The Commissioners voted 3-2 to outright ban the practice.

The LED PIO team handled media calls on a variety of subjects for the month. The team covered several marijuana cultivation related stories, all focused on drought and the negative environmental impacts of cultivation. Early in the month **Lieutenant Stoots** and **Captain Foy** sorted through reports of a river otter attack on an adult female. The report was confirmed and the details were documented. The team released an announcement of CDFW's selection of prosecutors of the year. Stoots and Foy conducted lexipol policy reviews for media relations and social media use, as well as compiled the sections reviewed by other officers. Stoots prepared a press notice of the passing away of K-9 Ruger. The team responded to numerous media calls regarding a Tahoe bear shot in a backyard of a resident. Stoots and Foy conducted review of the upcoming waterfowl handbook. The media month concluded with response to calls regarding wildlife officers being first on scene at an active shooter type event which ended in the gunman's suicide.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS / CalTip / 671

Telecommunications:

The first three vehicles from this year's **vehicle** order have arrived. These vehicles are Ford Interceptors. The patrol trucks have not arrived yet. Parts for the Code 3 installs are also arriving at the PSC Radio Shop in Sacramento.

Testing continues on the **Justice Mobile program**. iPads have been issued to the test group. This is to help with the test that is being conducted on an iPhone right now. Early reports on the iPad/ Justice Mobile test are positive

PSC has developed a schedule for the Harris Portable/Kenwood Mobile Radio reprogramming, more information on the radio update will be sent through the District Radio coordinators.

A/C Griffith & Capt. Lehman are now handling LE Division **drought stats reporting** to the DFW Drought Response Team.

CalTip:

NRVP's out of the Rancho office were able to work approximately 2/3's of the month (Mon-Fri). Approximately 3/4's of the month (Mon-Fri) will be covered in August, with two new trainees starting up. To date CalTIP has received 240. Lt. Milotz is working with Alexia Retallack and Jennifer LaBay on an advertisement project involving signage throughout the Sacramento River Watershed. Approximately 50 signs will be placed at marinas and boat ramps for two years. The primary message will be, call CalTIP to report poaching and pollution. Lt. Milotz also is working with Mary Fricke to create ads for the OSPR Facebook page promoting the use of Tip411.

CalTIP Stats :

Total calls for 2014 – 4,242

Total calls for 2015 (through July 2015) – 2608 an increase of 15.5% over the same period in 2014 and a 29.7% increase in calls from 2013.

FY2014-2015 Dispositions

Over 1600 contacts, over 183 citations, over 24 physical arrests and over 85 warnings.

Southern Enforcement District

Lieutenant Specialist Pourroy received information of a marine aquaria dealer importing live species of fish from Mexico, possibly without the required Importer license and permits. While investigating this Importation case, in an undercover capacity, she visited several retail aquaria dealers associated with this importer. Lt. Pourroy's second retailer visit, supplied her with the name of an additional aquarium retailer, when she asked if they had any sharks for sale. The employee said he sends all customers who ask to buy sharks to this other retailer, because they always have sharks in stock. He also advised her that most of these sharks were illegal. He said he didn't know who supplied the retailer with the sharks, but she always has a good supply, including undersized leopard sharks, and smooth hound sharks. The case is ongoing.



Warden Cohen, Warden Alisio, Warden Dostal, and Warden Peters met up to deal with a nuisance bear in Lompoc. The bear was wandering through a residential neighborhood when the wardens were alerted. They responded and found the bear in a small stand of trees and bushes adjacent to the neighborhood and a major road. They took a hands-off approach and waited for the bear to make a move. The wardens hazed the bear away from the road and residential neighborhood, into a riverbed, and towards denser vegetation.



The 5110 Squad also got their patrol boat, the "Gordan Lynn", back from Davis Boats in Arroyo Grande. The "Gordan Lynn" is a 22' Cortez with a davit and hydraulic winch for pulling commercial traps. Davis Boats completed a full repower of the vessel including new engine, outdrive, fuel tank, and more. The capability of a small boat to pull traps will be very useful in the upcoming lobster season.

During a night patrol, **Warden Coombs** saw three subjects spotlighting and one of the subjects shot at a nearby rabbit. All three subjects were later apprehended and cited appropriately. Coombs responded to a bear in a tree

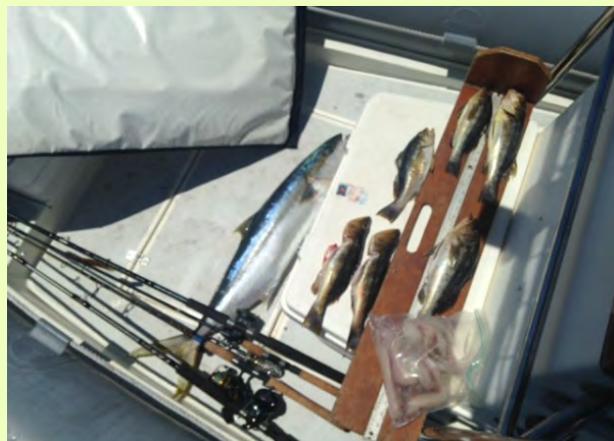
at a residence in Ojai. He monitored the bear until it left the area and returned to open space.

Warden Collins worked marijuana eradication details in Ventura County. The operations removed over 14,000 marijuana plants which resulted in thousands of gallons of water going back into the local streams. One suspect was arrested and over 500 pounds of fertilizer were removed from the forest.

The Swordfish Crew worked two trips aboard the Patrol Vessel Swordfish. During one of the trips, **Wardens Crocker, Van Epps and Lengning** responded to an injured hiker in a remote cove on Santa Cruz Island. Crocker and Van Epps provided first aid and oxygen to the young man who was suffering from a head injury and a possible broken leg. Warden Lengning coordinated via radio with the USCG and Santa Barbara Fire Department helicopter. The Wardens stabilized the subject and cleared a landing area for the helicopter to land. The young man was then flown to an area hospital for further medical care.

Warden Arkininstall has been conducting an investigation of the illegal take of a listed California threatened species, the island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*). There was a camper in Little Harbor, on Catalina Island, who had their dog off leash, the dog attacked and killed an island fox. During the investigation Arkininstall had acquired a witness' statement, stating they watched the dog go after the island fox, attack it, then drag it into some bushes before being commanded to drop it by the owner, subsequently killing the island fox. The attack happened after the witness had warned the owner there was an island fox in the area. Arkininstall has tried on numerous occasions to contact the dog's owner for a statement, without success. Arkininstall will be filling a case against the dog's owner for the illegal take of a listed California threatened species.

During a nearshore skiff patrol off the city of Dana Point in Orange County, **Wardens Molsberry and Stephens** located a recreational fishing vessel anchored inside the Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area. Upon boarding the vessel, Warden Molsberry, was presented with a large yellowtail and a bag of unidentifiable fillets. The subject stated the fillets were kelp bass. Giving the subject the benefit of the doubt, Molsberry treated the fillets as kelp bass and soon identified the bag of fillets were all undersized. Additionally Molsberry could piece together 20 fillets equaling 10 kelp bass. Molsberry conducted a full inspection of the vessel which resulted in the



discovery of six additional kelp bass hidden inside a compartment. All fishing gear was seized. Warden Molsberry advised the subject he would be charged with violations for, three times the daily bag limit of kelp bass, failure to show, 16 undersized kelp bass, unlawful fillets aboard a vessel, no fishing license and unlawful possession of a yellowtail.

Warden Stephens received a Cal-TIP call of a trespasser, fishing inside the Talbert Marsh Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach. While inspecting the area, Stephens observed three anglers actively fishing the Santa Ana River (adjacent to the marsh). While driving towards the anglers, one of the subjects began to walk away in the opposite direction. Stephens immediately contacted that subject who was in possession of an undersized CA Halibut. Stephens proceeded with a records check on the subject who was later determined to be wanted on an arrest warrant involving three violent felonies. After confirming the subject's identity, Warden Stephens placed the subject under arrest and transported him to the Orange County Jail in Santa Ana for booking.

FTO Nelson and **Warden Fleet** followed up on a reported stream bed alteration along San Antonio Creek, in the town of Mt. Baldy. The two wildlife officers observed there had been some significant work done on the stream bed with some sort of tractor. The land owner was contacted. It was determined the land owner and his son had created the dam with a backhoe. Warden Fleet documented the stream bed alteration with several photos and completed interviews with the land owner and the land owner's son. A formal complaint will be filed with the Los Angeles District Attorney's office.

Lt. McNair/ K-9 Reno were first on scene of another coyote bite on a child in Irvine. Lt. McNair assisted **Warden Stephens** with the interview of the victim. He then assisted in the planning, coordinating, and implementation of capturing the offending animal, with Irvine Animal Control, the 5220 squad, and USDA wildlife services. Lt. McNair implemented the Natural Resource Volunteers for public education and **Lt. Smirl** for Wildlife Watch.

The Thresher crew made 226 vessel boardings at sea, issuing 43 citations. 24 of those citations were issued by **Warden Holemo**. The most significant case occurred at San Clemente Island near White Rock.

On Sunday, 7/12/15, **Warden Rojas** contacted a diver on a private yacht at anchor, San Clemente Island. There were fishing rods displayed all over the vessel, so the officers approached the boat to inspect their catch. While on board, Warden Rojas found the diver on the vessel in possession of nine Spiny Lobsters, out of season. Upon further investigation, it was determined the suspect used a spear pole and SCUBA gear to take the lobsters. The suspect had removed the tails from the carapaces, making them impossible to measure.

Most of the tails appeared to have come from undersize lobsters. Warden Rojas cited the diver and seized the divers gear and the lobster tails.

While in the Thresher skiff, **Warden Holemo** observed a shore fisherman in the no take area of Lovers Cove SMCA, Catalina Island. As they approached the fisherman, the suspect pretended to not see the Wardens and began walking back towards Avalon. Warden Holemo managed to hop onto the rocky shoreline, without getting wet, and caught up to the suspect after a short jog. The man was cited and released for fishing inside the closed SMCA.

Lt. Smirl along with some **Natural Resource Volunteers (NRV)** met with the local government in the cities of Lakewood, Los Angeles, Studio City, Griffith Park, and Long Beach to educate and do public outreach regarding coyotes in Irvine. Over 80 members of the public were in attendance, as well. Lt. Smirl and the NRV's also participated in the Tustin, Huntington Beach and Ladera Ranch National Night Out.

Warden McCain had a diverse workload this month from lobster out of season, to arresting a trespasser in felony possession of a controlled substance who attempted to flee and assaulted McCain. McCain received a CaTIP reporting a subject shooting egrets with a shotgun and leaving the birds dead or dying in a field. McCain immediately responded and was able to locate 10, dead, egrets in a field. One egret was attempting to fly but had a severely broken wing. McCain questioned individuals on scene which led McCain to the shooter, who admitted shooting the egrets for pleasure and to assist the land owner who felt they were a nuisance. McCain transported the injured egret to a wildlife care center and is completing a formal complaint



Warden Shanley issued citations to four individuals for indiscriminately killing fish by spear gun and with hook and line. A total of 36 fish were illegally taken, including 10 undersized small and large mouth bass. Besides the unlawful take of fish, violations included littering and failure to show a spear gun upon demand. One of the men submerged himself under water and hid the spear gun underneath brush extending into the water. Shanley allowed the suspects to bathe in the Colorado River while he wrote the citations in 110 degree temps.



Warden Green conducted a drought overtime patrol checking the desert big game drinkers. During the patrol, Warden Green observed a young woman, teenager, and a 3yr. old stranded in the middle of the desert, off Highway 78. Warden Green checked with the young woman and asked if she needed assistance. The young woman advised her car had broken down. Warden Green radioed dispatch for a tow service for the young woman's vehicle. Warden Green then had the young woman, 3 year old, and teenager get into his air conditioned patrol vehicle while they waited for the tow truck. Temperatures reached 110 degrees or more on the asphalt with 40% humidity that day making conditions dangerous for the young child to be sitting in a hot car. Warden Green waited with the individuals for approximately 1.5 hours before the tow truck company and CHP were able to arrive on scene. The extended response time could have been detrimental to the 3yr old, if it had been left in the disabled vehicle. The tow truck driver transported the individuals and the vehicle back to Brawley.



Warden Bellis assisted Caltrans with gaining access to the Warm Springs Overflow area in San Bernardino. CalTrans wanted to clean a freeway underpass that had become a homeless encampment littered with human feces and drug paraphernalia. A full hazmat team was deployed to clean the overflow which drains to the Santa Ana River.

Warden Esconde received a CalTIP of a resident in Rancho Cucamonga keeping a Red Tailed Hawk. Upon investigating the complaint, it was found the suspect was harboring an adult Red Tailed Hawk, in a small cage in his backyard. When **Wardens Esconde** and **Garcia** met up with the suspect to seize the bird, it was found to have died while in the suspect's care. The suspect was cited appropriately. Warden Esconde was also dispatched to a call regarding an injured bear that had been hit by a Deputy Sheriff's patrol vehicle in Oak Glen. Upon arrival, she found the Deputy had clipped the bear's rear end, breaking its two back legs. The officer then tried to shoot the bear in the forehead, but was unsuccessful at euthanizing the animal. The bear then ran down a dry creek bed, approximately a half mile. The officer tracked it and attempted to dispatch it, a second time, unsuccessfully. The officer was advised



by his supervisor to contact CDFW for a Game Warden's help. The animal was successfully dispatched.



Warden Holyoak was on patrol at Canyon Lake and observed four subjects using throw nets at the lake. When Warden Holyoak contacted the anglers, he found them attempting to conceal several throw nets near a vehicle and behind a tree. Warden Holyoak found the four subjects in possession of ten throw nets and several undersized bass. Three of the subjects did not have fishing licenses. Holyoak issued citations for failing to show upon demand, unlawful possession of throw nets, undersized bass and fishing without licenses.

State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Memorandum

Date: September 24, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Craig Shuman 
Regional Manager, Marine Region

Subject: **October 7, 2015 Fish and Game Commission Meeting; Marine Region Update on Marine Fisheries Management Authority**

At its August 4, 2015 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) inquired into the structure of the management authority over marine fisheries in California. Management authority varies among and within fisheries creating a complex regulatory framework. The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) Master Plan provides a comprehensive summary of management authority in *Appendix E. Management Authority for California's Marine Fisheries (by Species)* and *Appendix F. Management Authority for California's Marine Fisheries (by Gear)*.

Adopted by the Commission in 2001, the MLMA Master Plan and associated appendices do not reflect recent changes to management authority resulting from the adoption of Fishery Management Plans or other actions at the state and federal levels. However, the Department considers Appendices E and F to be useful summaries that were complete and accurate at the time of preparation, and still reflect the prevailing landscape of disjointed authority over California marine fisheries.

The Department is in the early planning stages to update the MLMA Master Plan. When a revised Master Plan is presented to the Commission in 2017 it will include an updated summary of management authority.

Attachments

ec: Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov

Tom Barnes, Environmental Program Manager
Marine Region (Region 7)
Tom.Barnes@wildlife.ca.gov

Appendix E. Management Authority for California's Marine Fisheries (by Species)

A. Species for which the Commission has complete management authority

1. Sport fisheries only (all sections refer to Title 14)

Anchovy (all species; section 27.60 c)
Barracuda, California (section 28.25)
Bass, Striped (section 27.85)
Bonito, Pacific (section 28.32)
Butterfish (Pacific pompano; section 27.60 c)
Clams (gaper, Washington, geoduck, littleneck, soft shell, chiones, quahogs, cockles, Pismo, razor; sections 29.20-29.45)
Crab (Dungeness and all other species of the *Cancer* genus; section 29.85)
Eel grass, surf grass, sea palm (section 30.10)
Flounder, starry (section 27.60 c)
Grunion (section 28.00)
Grouper (Gulf and broomtail; section 28.12)
Halibut, California (section 28.15)
Halibut, Pacific (section 28.20)
Jacksmelt (section 27.60 c)
Lobster (section 29.90)
Mackerel (jack, Pacific; section 27.60 c)
Marlin (all species; section 28.50)
Moon snail (section 29.71)
Queenfish (section 27.60 c)
Sanddabs (all species; section 27.60 c)
Sardine, Pacific (section 27.60 c)
Scallop (rock, speckled; sections 29.60, 29.65)
Sculpin (Pacific staghorn; section 27.60 c)
Shark, (blue, thresher, shortfin mako, soupfin, sixgill, sevengill, leopard (sections 27.60 b, 28.56)
Smelt (surf, night, day, whitebait; section 28.45)
Squid (all species; section 29.70)
Sturgeon (all species; section 27.90)
Surfperch (shiner; section 27.60 c)
Swordfish (section 28.40)
Topsmelt (section 27.60 c)
Tuna (albacore, bluefin, skipjack; section 27.60 c)
Whitefish, ocean (section 28.58)
Yellowtail (section 28.37)

and all other species not specifically listed in either Title 14 or Fish and Game Code (Title 14 sections 27.56, 27.60 c, 29.05, 30.00; FGC section 200)

2. Sport and Commercial fisheries (Management authority for sport and commercial fisheries does not mean that both fisheries currently exist for that particular species.)

Abalone (all species; Title 14 section 29.15, 100; FGC sections 5220-5222)
Bass (kelp, barred sand, spotted, giant sea; Title 14 sections 28.30, 28.10; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Blacksmith (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Croaker, black (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Eel, (monkeyface-prickleback, California moray, wolf; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Garibaldi (Title 14 section 28.05; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Goby (blackeye, bluebanded; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1))
Greenling (rock, painted; Title 14 section 28.29; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)

Halfmoon (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Herring (Pacific, round; Title 14 sections 27.60, 163-163.5; FGC section 8550)
Herring eggs (Title 14 sections 28.60, 164; FGC section 8389)
Kelp and other aquatic plants (all species; Title 14 sections 30.00, 165-165.5; FGC section 6653)
Kelpfish (giant, island; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Mussels (California sea, bay; Title 14 section 29.55, 115; FGC section 8344)
Opaleye (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Ray, Pacific electric (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Salema (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Sargo (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Sculpin, buffalo (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Seabass, white (Title 14 sections 28.35, 155; FGC section 7071)
Sea urchins (all species; Title 14 section 120.7; FGC section 9054).
Senorita (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Shark (basking, horn, swell; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1, 8599.4)
Sheephead, California (Title 14 section 28.26; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Shrimp and prawns (bay shrimp, blue mud shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, ghost shrimp, Pacific ocean shrimp, red rock shrimp, golden prawn, ridgeback prawn, and spot prawn; Title 14 sections 29.86-29.88, 120, 120.3, 120.6, 180.1; FGC sections 8591, 8842)
Surfperch (black perch, dwarf perch, kelp perch, pile perch, rainbow seaperch, reef perch, rubberlip seaperch, striped seaperch; FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Tidal invertebrates (barnacles, chiones, cockles, sand crabs, limpets, mussels, sand dollars, octopuses, shrimp, sea hares, starfish, worms, and native oysters; Title 14 section 123; FGC section 8500).
Whitefish, ocean (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)
Wrasse, rock (FGC sections 8586, 8587.1)

B. Species for which the Legislature has complete management authority

1. Commercial fisheries only

Barracuda, California (FGC sections 8382, 8384, 8386)
Bonito, Pacific (FGC section 8377)
Clams (FGC sections 8340-8343, 8346)
Croakers (spotfin croaker, yellowfin croaker, and California corbina; FGC section 8373)
Crabs (FGC sections 8275-8284)
Far offshore fishing (FGC sections 8110-8114)
Grunion (FGC section 8381)
Hagfish (FGC section 9001.6)
Halibut, California (FGC sections 8391-8392)
High seas interception of salmon (FGC sections 8120-8123)
Marlin (FGC section 8393)
Scallop (rock, speckled; FGC section 8345)
Shark, angel (FGC section 8388)
Shark, leopard (FGC section 8388.5)
Shark, white (FGC sections 5517, 8599)
Skipjack (FGC section 8378)
Striped bass and sturgeon in nets (FGC sections 8370-8371)
Surfperch (species not primarily inhabiting rocky reef or kelp habitat in nearshore waters; FGC section 8395)
Tuna (bluefin, yellowfin, albacore; FGC sections 8374-8376)
Yellowtail (FGC sections 8382, 8384, 8386-8387)

and all other species not specifically listed in either Title 14 or Fish and Game Code (FGC 8140) and not primarily inhabiting rocky reef or kelp habitat in nearshore waters.

C. Species for which the Commission has limited management authority (commercial fisheries)

Anchovy (Title 14 section 147; FGC sections 7708, 8183, 8780.1). Authority limited to reduction permit and use of bait nets only. Anchovy managed under Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) Coastal Pelagic Species FMP.

Goby (chameleon, yellowfin), midshipman (plainfin), mudsucker (longjaw), sculpin (Pacific staghorn); (Title 14 section 119). Authority limited to take by trawl nets inside of Golden Gate Bridge.

Groundfish (Title 14 section 189; FGC 8403). Authority limited to adopting regulations not in conflict with federal groundfish regulations. Groundfish managed under PFMC Groundfish FMP. Species include: cabezon; cod (Pacific); finescale codling; flounder (arrowtooth, starry); greenling (kelp); grenadier (Pacific rattail); lingcod; ratfish; all rockfishes of the genus *Sebastes*; sanddab (Pacific); sablefish; scorpionfish (California); shark (leopard, soupfin, spiny dogfish); skate (big, California, longnose); soles (butter, curlfin, dover, English, flathead, petrale, rex, rock, sand); thornyhead (longspine, shortspine); whiting (Pacific (hake));

Lobster (Title 14 section 121-122; FGC sections 8254, 8259). Authority limited to issuance and revocation of permits, and establishment of permit conditions. Season and size restrictions in Fish and Game Code.

Mackerel, Pacific (Title 14 section 148; FGC 8411, 8412). Authority limited to conforming regulations to FMP. Authority limited to issuance and revocation of permits, and establishment of permit conditions. Pacific mackerel managed under PFMC Coastal Pelagic Species FMP.

Pelagic Sharks (Title 14 106; FGC sections 8561-8577). Authority limited to issuance and revocation of drift gill net permits. Several pelagic sharks and other species are being addressed in a PFMC Highly Migratory Species FMP currently being developed^a (see below).

Salmon (Title 14 sections 27.80, 182-183; FGC sections 7652, 8210-8226). Authority limited to conforming regulations to FMP. Salmon managed under PFMC Salmon FMP.

Sardine (Title 14 section 157; FGC sections 8150.7, 8780.1). Authority limited to conforming regulations to FMP, importation of sardines for bait, and use of bait nets. Sardine managed under PFMC Coastal Pelagic Species FMP.

Sea Cucumber (FGC section 8405.3). Authority effective until 1/1/03.

Squid (Title 14 section 149; FGC section 8425). Authority effective until 1/1/04. Squid listed under PFMC Coastal Pelagic Species FMP but is a monitored species only. Pacific Fishery Management Council has deferred management of squid to the State as long as management is consistent with federal regulations.

Swordfish (Title 14 section 106,107; FGC section 8394, 8561-8577). Authority limited to issuance and revocation of drift gill net permits. Authority for management of hand-held hook and line and harpoon fishery. Swordfish are being addressed in a PFMC Highly Migratory Species FMP currently being developed.

^a The following species are included in a Draft Highly Migratory Species FMP currently being developed. These finfishes would be under management authority of the PFMC: dolphin fish; escolar*; louvar*; bullet mackerel*; marlin (striped); opah*; sunfish (ocean)*; shark (basking*, blue, salmon*, shortfin mako, thresher, bigeye thresher, pelagic thresher, white); swordfish; tuna (albacore, bigeye, bluefin, skipjack, black skipjack*, yellowfin).

* denotes species that would be included in the plan if they become targeted or significant bycatch, discard, or incidental catch.

Appendix F. Management Authority for California's Marine Fisheries (by Gear)

A. Complete management authority under the Commission

Fin fish taken in traps (FGC section 8403)

Experimental gear fisheries (FGC section 8606)

Trawl net fisheries in waters inside the Golden Gate Bridge (FGC section 8832); including shrimps, oriental gobies, longjaw mudsucker, plainfin midshipman, and staghorn sculpin

Possession of trawl nets in specified waters (FGC section 8833)

Powered equipment to take crustaceans and molluscs (suction dredges on mud flats) (FGC section 9053)

Bait nets (8780.1)

B. Complete management authority under the Legislature

Nets (FGC section 8601)

Areas closed to gill and trammel nets by the Marine Resources Protection Act of 1990 (FGC sections 8610-8610.16)

Purse, seine, and roundhaul nets (FGC sections 8623-8626)

Nets in Districts (FGC sections 8660-8665)

Gill and trammel nets (FGC sections 8680, 8685)

Incidental take of swordfish and marlin (FGC section 8684)

Salmon, steelhead, and striped bass taken in gill and trammel nets (FGC sections 8685.5-8685.7)

Drift gill nets in districts 6-10 (FGC sections 8687)

Gill nets in districts 11-13 (FGC section 8688)

Rockfish and lingcod in gill nets (FGC sections 8691-8692.5)

Use of nets in districts 17, 18, 19, 20A (FGC sections 8693-8694)

Gill nets west of Pt. Reyes Headlands (FGC section 8696)

Trammel nets (FGC sections 8720-8725)

Roundhaul nets (FGC sections 8750-8757)

Beach nets (FGC sections 8800-8807)

Trawl nets (FGC sections 8830-8840, 8843)

Dip nets (FGC section 8870)

Baited hoop nets (FGC section 8890)



California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region News Service

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 22, 2015

Aquaculture Awareness Week: 10 Facts About California Aquaculture

Contacts:

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In recognition of Aquaculture Awareness Week, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) offers 10 interesting facts that show how aquaculture - the practice of farming aquatic organisms - affects every California resident.



1. The California aquaculture industry is diverse, providing much more than just food for dinner. It also produces aquatic pets such as goldfish and koi, algae for biofuels, zebrafish for biomedical research, spirulina for vitamin supplements and more.
2. California's 150 registered aquaculturists aren't just located on the shoreline. You'll find them throughout the state -- from the high Sierra to inland valleys, from the deserts to the coast. They operate in 50 of the state's 58 counties, accounting for some \$140 million in economic benefit.
3. The [California Shellfish Initiative](#) is a collaborative effort among government and private partners to help local growers meet the increasing demand for shellfish, thus decreasing the need for imports and lowering our carbon footprint. California shellfish aquaculture contributes \$25 million to the economy, providing jobs and resilient working waterfronts.
4. California's oyster growers are collaborating with scientists to find solutions to [ocean acidification](#), which is killing off baby oysters at an alarming rate.
5. Commercial oysters and other bivalve shellfish help to [filter and clean](#) coastal waters. In turn, they rely on clean, healthy water for survival.
6. Sacramento is the [caviar](#) capital of the United States, providing approximately 85 percent of the country's supply of the delicacy.
7. California's first fish and game law, enacted in 1851, concerned oyster aquaculture and arose from an era when oyster piracy was a growing problem in San Francisco. Jack London's *Tales from The Fish Patrol* described the early days of fish and game wardens.
8. It takes a fraction of the resources (food, water and

space) to produce one pound of farm-raised fish than it does to produce one pound of beef, making aquaculture an [ideal source of protein](#) for the world's rapidly growing population.

9. [Aquaponics](#), which uses fish waste to fertilize plants in a recirculating system, is growing in popularity in California as a new drought-friendly approach to food production.
10. Aquaculture techniques pioneered in California are a critical tool in the restoration of at-risk species including [trout](#), [salmon](#), [abalone](#), [sturgeon](#) and [white seabass](#).

For more information about California aquaculture, visit the [Aquaculture Matters website](#).

#

This is the fourth year of California's drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, please visit [the California Drought website](#).

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [saveourwater.com](#).



CDFW Marine Region News Service
Ocean-related news and information

Visit the Marine Region Website at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine
Visit the CDFW Marine Management News blog at <https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/>

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Aug. 11, 2015

Media Contacts:

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Responsible Angling Practices Help Conserve Sturgeon Populations

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is asking anglers to use caution and extra vigilance to help conserve California's white sturgeon and green sturgeon populations, both of which are being impacted by the drought. Sturgeon are caught by anglers year-round in a popular sport fishery centered in the San Francisco Estuary, but anglers — especially those fishing in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers — need to be aware of special regulations in place to protect and grow the populations.

White sturgeon is a substantial management concern and green sturgeon is a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Green sturgeon may not be fished for, removed from the water if caught, or kept. White sturgeon may only be kept if between 40 and 60 inches and caught by anglers in possession of Sturgeon Fishing Report Cards (including single-use tags) while using single barbless hooks in areas that are not closed.

Strict fishing regulations are designed primarily to conserve older white sturgeon and ensure that all sturgeon survive catch-and-release. The effectiveness of catch-and-release depends in large part on angler technique. CDFW encourages anglers to use high-strength fishing line to reduce duration of the fight and in-water techniques for measuring the size of white sturgeon. Anglers should leave oversize white sturgeon in the water at all times and know how to quickly identify green sturgeon.

In 2014, California anglers reported keeping 2,286 white sturgeon while releasing 4,565 white sturgeon (most were undersized) and 183 green sturgeon. Other data on the white sturgeon fishery and population is available at www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/data/sturgeon/bibliography.asp.

A flyer on identifying green sturgeon can be found at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentId=105326>.

The complete fishing regulations are available at www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations.

###

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Aug. 11, 2015

Media Contacts:

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Recreational Pacific Halibut Fishery to Close August 13

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announces the recreational Pacific halibut fishery will close Thursday, August 13 at 12:01 a.m. for the remainder of 2015. Based on the latest catch projections, CDFW expects the 2015 quota of 25,220 pounds will be exceeded unless the fishery is closed. Authority to close the fishery resides with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which took action to close the fishery following consultation with CDFW.

Although poor weather limited fishing following the May 1 opener, excellent ocean conditions during the July 1-15 open period resulted in record Pacific halibut catch rates for California.

California's recreational quota and season dates for 2015 were the result of negotiations with anglers, the fishing industry, local community leaders and other state and federal partners. Beginning in 2015, CDFW committed to tracking the fishery during the season to ensure catch amounts would not exceed the California quota. The quota amount is determined annually, and is largely driven by results from the annual stock assessment conducted by the IPHC.

Pacific halibut occupy a large geographic range, from the Aleutian Islands eastward through Alaska to British Columbia and throughout ocean waters of the Pacific Northwest. Along the West Coast, they are commonly found as far south as Point Arena in Mendocino County. In recent years, catches in northern California have increased, consistent with a general shift of the stock to the south and east.

CDFW field staff sampled public launch ramps and charter boat landings to monitor catches of Pacific halibut along with other marine sportfish throughout the season. Using this information, CDFW conferred with NMFS and IPHC on a weekly basis to review projected catch amounts and determine when the quota would be attained.

For current information about the Pacific halibut fishery, science or management, please check the following resources:

- NMFS Hotline, (800) 662-9825
- CDFW Recreational Groundfish Regulations Hotline, (831) 649-2801
- CDFW website, www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pacifichalibut.asp
- IPHC website, www.iphc.int

###

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Aug. 11, 2015

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CDFW to Hold Public Meeting on Merced River Closure

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will hold a public meeting on Monday, Aug. 17 to inform the public about the proposed emergency closure of the Merced River to fishing.

The meeting will be held from 6-9 p.m. in the theater at El Capitan High School, 100 West Farmland Ave., Merced (95348).

Last year the California Fish and Game Commission adopted a proposal to implement early restrictions on angling in the Merced River, closing the river from Aug. 29 to Dec. 31, 2014. Earlier this year, the Commission granted CDFW authority to close fisheries when certain criteria are met, such as low water levels and high water temperatures.

This proposed early closure affects only the Merced River from Crocker-Huffman Dam downstream to the Snelling Road Bridge, a distance of approximately 5.5 miles. Angling in the river below Snelling Road bridge is subject to normal fishing regulations and closures..

The lower Merced River is typically only closed to angling from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. The purpose of the annual closure is to increase survival of juvenile and adult wild rainbow trout and steelhead by reducing fish mortality associated with hook-and-line fishing.

The move to close the river ahead of schedule is intended to protect drought-stressed waters and their salmonid populations during the fall spawning.

The river will re-open to anglers on Jan. 1, 2016.

#

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Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the department's Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator Melissa Carlin at (916) 651-1214 or melissa.carlin@wildlife.ca.gov. Reasonable accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility should be received at least 21 days prior to the event. Requests for American Sign Language interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event, and requests for real-time captioning at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but due to circumstances is no longer needed, please contact the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator immediately.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Aug. 14, 2015

Media Contacts:

Lt. Chris Stoots, CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 651-9982
Cpt. Patrick Foy, CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 651-6692

CDFW Wildlife Officer Academy Graduates 30 Cadets

Thirty new law enforcement cadets graduated from the California Wildlife Officer Academy during ceremonies at the Performing Arts Center in Paradise on Aug. 14, 2015. The graduating class includes 23 sponsored warden cadets who will begin field training immediately. Another seven self-sponsored cadets paid their way through the academy and will apply to become wildlife officers.

“After 31 weeks of hard work at the academy, these cadets have earned the right to begin protecting California and ensuring the future of wildlife resources for the people of this great state,” said California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Chief of Enforcement David Bess.

The CDFW Wildlife Officer Academy is certified through the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and offers training consistent with every law enforcement agency in California.

For the 23 sponsored cadets, graduation concludes a rigorous 31 weeks of formal academy training, but marks the beginning of an additional three weeks of specialized training and certifications, followed by an additional 15 weeks of field training with seasoned field training officers (FTOs). Upon successful completion of the FTO program, these new officers will begin their incredible career patrolling California and protecting the fish and wildlife resources.

A special moment will occur during this year’s graduation, when Cadet William H. Castillo will be pinned by his father, Lt. Sam Castillo. Lt. Castillo is nearing retirement after a noteworthy 30 year career as a wildlife officer and Lieutenant for CDFW. Lt. Castillo will pass the torch to his son to honor the commitment of all wildlife officers who dedicate their lives to protecting California’s natural resources.

Annually, wildlife officers make contact with more than 295,000 people and issue more than 15,000 citations. Wardens mostly work alone, in remote areas, contacting subjects who nearly always have some form of weapon, and they do so knowing that backup could be hours away. Wardens cover large patrol districts, the average being more than 600 square miles. They do all this with a sense of pride and honor, for a job that is not only rewarding, but truly enjoyable.

In 2007, CDFW teamed with Butte College to provide peace officer academy training for prospective wardens. That partnership provided CDFW a state of the art academy facility and a POST-certified training program for wildlife officer cadets on the Butte College Oroville campus.

Butte College has a 40-year history of police recruit training. The 928-acre community college campus, the largest in California, is also a designated wildlife refuge.

CDFW anticipates the next round of warden cadet selection to begin in September or October of 2015, for the January 2017 academy. For more information about becoming a warden and to monitor when applications will be accepted, please visit www.dfg.ca.gov/enforcement/career/.

###

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Aug. 18, 2015

Media Contact:

Andrew Hughan, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8944

Emergency Merced River Angling Closure in Effect as of Aug. 18

High water temperatures in the lower Merced River have prompted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to close a portion of the river to angling earlier than usual. This early closure begins today, Aug. 18, and affects only the Merced River from Crocker-Huffman Dam downstream to the Snelling Road Bridge, a distance of approximately 5.5 miles.

The lower Merced River is typically closed to angling from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. The river is still scheduled to be closed during that period, and will re-open to anglers on Jan. 1, 2016.

In June 2015, the California Fish and Game Commission granted CDFW the authority to close fisheries when certain criteria are met, such as low water levels and high water temperatures. This year's move to close the river ahead of schedule was deemed necessary in order to protect drought-stressed salmonid populations during the fall spawning.

Additional information on emergency angling closures, including a map, can be found at wildlife.ca.gov/fishing/inland/closures or by calling the emergency closure hotline at (916) 445-7600. and winter rains, if received in sufficient amounts, will cool water temperatures enough to allow hatcheries to come back online and resume operations.

###

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

August 20, 2015

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Matt Baun, USFWS Communications, (530) 841-3119

Photo Shows Wolf Pups in Northern California

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has photographic evidence of five gray wolf pups and two adults in Northern California.

After trail cameras recorded a lone canid in May and July, CDFW deployed additional cameras, one of which took multiple photos showing five pups, which appear to be a few months old and others showing individual adults. Because of the proximity to the original camera locations, it is likely the adult previously photographed in May and July is associated with the group of pups.

“This news is exciting for California,” said Charlton H. Bonham, CDFW Director. “We knew wolves would eventually return home to the state and it appears now is the time.”

CDFW has designated this group (comprised of two adults and five pups) the Shasta Pack.

Wild wolves historically inhabited California, but were extirpated. Aside from these wolves and the famous wolf OR7 who entered California in December 2011, the last confirmed wolf in the state was here in 1924. OR7 has not been in California for more than a year and is currently the breeding male of the Rogue Pack in southern Oregon.

In June 2014, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to list gray wolves as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. The gray wolf is also listed as endangered in California, under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. Gray wolves that enter California are therefore protected by the ESA making it illegal to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect wolves, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct in California.

CDFW is completing a Draft Wolf Management Plan and will release it soon. Throughout the plan’s development, CDFW has held numerous meetings with stakeholders. Currently, CDFW is incorporating comments from a stakeholder advisory group, and considering revisions due to implications of this news, before releasing the draft plan to the general public. Public meetings will be scheduled to receive public comment on the draft plan.

In addition to the trail cameras, CDFW relies on help from the public to glean information about wolves in California. The public can report wolf sightings on CDFW gray wolf website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report.

Though wolves rarely pose a direct threat to human safety, CDFW recommends that people never approach, feed or otherwise disturb a wolf. For more information about staying safe in wolf-occupied areas, including what people should do if they encounter a wolf, please visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/FAQ.

###

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Aug. 25, 2015

Media Contacts:

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[Cpt. Patrick Foy](#), CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 651-6692

CDFW Now Recruiting New Wildlife Officers

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is recruiting those interested in a career as a wildlife officer. CDFW will accept applications for wildlife officer cadet through the final filing deadline of Oct. 16, 2015. CDFW is particularly interested in recruiting applicants with a passion for conservation of California's fish and wildlife resources.

For information on minimum qualifications and other requirements for wildlife officer cadets, please visit www.dfg.ca.gov/enforcement/career/.

The CDFW Law Enforcement Division expects an overwhelming number of inquiries and asks prospective candidates to extensively review materials on the website before contacting CDFW with questions.

California wildlife officers are charged with ensuring public safety, enforcing fish and wildlife laws, investigating illegal sales of wildlife, protecting the state from pollution, enforcing habitat protection laws, fighting illegal drug trafficking, keeping the homeland secure and responding during natural disasters. As peace officers, they have the authority to enforce all California laws, such as the Vehicle Code and Penal Code, and are federally deputized to enforce federal fish and wildlife laws.

A typical day for a California wildlife officer is diverse as the state's fish and wildlife. Wildlife officers patrol ocean, desert, mountain and valley environments, as well as urban areas. They frequently work independently and conduct full-scale law enforcement investigations. Wildlife officers employ everything from all-terrain vehicles to jet skis and snowmobiles while on patrol and spend much of their typical day making contact with Californians in the great outdoors. CDFW has a dive team and utilizes K-9 partners as well. Environmental crimes and pollution incidents also fall under the purview of wildlife officers. Annually, wildlife officers make contact with more than 295,000 people and issue more than 15,000 citations for violations of the law.

Successful applicants will enter a 31-week academy training program, followed by 19 weeks of field training, where they will work with a seasoned field training officer. CDFW's academy at Butte College is California Peace Officer Standards and Training certified. Cadets are trained as police officers with specific emphasis on wildlife, pollution and habitat protection.

In California, with 159,000 square miles of habitat and wildlife diversity unequaled by any other state, the average wildlife officer has a patrol district of more than 600 square miles. The state has more than 1,100 miles of coastline, 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, 4,800 lakes and reservoirs, three desert habitat areas and scores of high mountain peaks.

For more information and to apply, please visit the following links:

- Job posting: <https://jobs.ca.gov/jobsgen/5FG11.pdf>
- State application: <https://jobs.ca.gov/pdf/std678.pdf>

Applications must be postmarked no later than Oct. 16.

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***Persons with disabilities** needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the department's Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator Melissa Carlin at (916) 651-1214 or melissa.carlin@wildlife.ca.gov. Reasonable accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility should be received at least 21 days prior to the event. Requests for American Sign Language interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event, and requests for real-time captioning at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but due to circumstances is no longer needed, please contact the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator immediately.*

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Aug. 26, 2015

Media Contact:

[Lt. Mike Milotz](#), CDFW Law Enforcement and CalTip Program, (916) 654-1485

[Lt. Chris Stoots](#), CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 651-9982

[Andrew Hughan](#), CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8944

Reporting Resources Violations Faster, Easier Using Technology

Several hunting seasons are approaching and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is asking the public to use technology -- rather than social media -- to report wildlife and pollution crimes across the state.

"We often get reports of violations and other very good tips sent to CDFW through social media, but our Twitter and Facebook sites are not directly monitored by wildlife officers," said Lt. Mike Milotz, CDFW CalTip Program Coordinator. "There are several ways for the public to report issues directly to us in real time, including a CalTIP phone number, a smart phone app, direct text message capability and our website."

All reports can be completely anonymous, as the technology removes all identifying information before wildlife officers see the tips.

The public can report violations or concerns in the following ways:

- Phone Number: (888) 334-2258 / (888) 334-CALTIP
- App: CalTIP app (free via the Google Play Store and iTunes App Store)
- Text Message: Text to 847-411 and a wildlife officer can respond directly. (Please begin your message with "Caltip," followed by the details)
- CDFW's website: www.dfg.ca.gov/enforcement/caltip.aspx
- Call 911

CDFW law enforcement reminds people to never put their safety in jeopardy or try to stop a suspected crime. Report it as soon as possible, including a description of the people, equipment and vehicles involved. The more detail provided, the better.

CalTIP is a confidential secret witness program that encourages the public to provide factual information leading to the arrest of poachers and polluters. The program is funded by penalty assessments generated by fines from wildlife violators and polluters. The existing CalTIP confidential secret witness phone number, 1-888-334-2258, continues to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Wildlife officers encourage anyone who witnesses a poaching or polluting violation, or who has information about a violation, to report it as soon as possible.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Sept. 4, 2015

Media Contacts:

Andrew Hughan, CDFW Communications, (916) 201-2958

David Hines, NOAA Fisheries, (707) 575-6098

Gary Helfrich, Camp Meeker RPD, (707) 326-4051

Camp Meeker Water District Releasing Water to Save Salmon

A western Sonoma County water district is releasing water from its facility to help save fish in an important Sonoma County watershed during the critical drought period.

The Camp Meeker Recreation and Parks District (CMRPD) has begun releasing untreated water from its water treatment facility into Upper Dutch Bill Creek, a tributary to Russian River, for the benefit of summer-rearing coho salmon and steelhead. This is the first voluntary flow augmentation project to be implemented in Dutch Bill Creek and the third to be implemented within the four tributaries subject to the Emergency Regulations for the Protection of Specific Fisheries.

The Voluntary Drought Initiative (VDI) program was initiated jointly by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to address stream flow concerns associated with the California drought. In March of this year, CDFW began asking rural land owners again to sign agreements to voluntarily reduce water demand in four critical watersheds that include Dutch Bill, Green Valley, Mark West and Mill creeks. So far 40 land owners have partnered with CDFW.

In response to increased awareness of the drought crisis, and the imminent threat to coho salmon from low stream flow conditions, several groups have stepped forward to actually contribute water back into streams from their stored sources. The CMRPD effort is unique in that it is diverting water from its supply pipeline in an amount that is immediately benefiting coho salmon.

Since the releases began last month, Dutch Bill Creek is flowing better than it has for the last two months and dissolved oxygen and temperature conditions are expected to keep juvenile coho salmon alive until the winter rains arrive.

CDFW, NMFS and the Goldridge RCD will continue to monitor conditions in the creek to keep enough water following until eventual rains.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Sept. 9, 2015

Media Contact:

[Andrew Hughan](#), CDFW Communications, (916) 201-2958

American River Hatchery Suffers Fish Die-off

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ([CDFW](#)) is working to keep hundreds of thousands of trout alive at the American River Hatchery after warm water temperatures killed approximately 155,000 trout Tuesday.

A chiller that cools water at the hatchery about 18 miles east of Sacramento unexpectedly failed Tuesday, and warm temperatures killed most of the Eagle Lake species of trout being raised at the hatchery. Failure of the hatchery equipment may be related to work by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which owns the hatchery, but the exact cause is not clear and is under investigation. Hatchery staff is working to get a least one chiller working again, which could drop the water temperature – now approximately 70 degrees Fahrenheit – by five degrees, enough to help sustain the remaining trout in the hatchery.

Additional losses are expected because of stress to the fish and continuing elevated water temperatures.

Loss estimates as of Sept. 9, by species:

- 155,000 of the 199,313 (78%) of Eagle Lake trout
- 300 of the 61,839 (0.5%) of Shasta trout
- Five of the 230,000 Lahontan cutthroat trout

Though this fish kill means that CDFW likely will not be able to stock streams and lakes at an ideal level in the Sacramento region next year, all trout at the American River Hatchery were not lost. CDFW will seek ways to supplement the trout produced at its hatcheries to increase angling opportunities next year.

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When you prepare your California income tax return, please consider making a **voluntary contribution** to the California Sea Otter Fund (line 410) and/or the Rare and Endangered Species Fund (line 403). Thank you! [www.wildlife.ca.gov/tax-donation](#).

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Sep. 15, 2015

Media Contacts:

Kristine Lesyna, CDFW Marine Region, (650) 631-6742

Ethan Mora, NOAA Fisheries, (831) 420-3663

Carrie Wilson, CDFW Communications, (831) 649-7191

Jim Milbury, NOAA Fisheries, (562) 980-4006

Reward Offered for Return of Satellite Tags from Federally Protected Green Sturgeon

State and federal fisheries officials are asking for public assistance and offering a \$20 reward for the return of each satellite tag from green sturgeon. The satellite tags, which are programmed to release from the fish after a predetermined time, are most likely to be found along the open ocean coastal portions of San Francisco and San Mateo counties, and the shores and waters of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay and the Delta.

Biologists use the tags to gather information on the Southern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The tag rewards are being offered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in collaboration with the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, UC Davis and central California commercial halibut trawl fishermen.

If you see a live fish with a tag attached, do not remove the tag from the fish. Instead, note the tag number and call or email the point of contact printed on the tag. If you find a detached tag, please pick it up for return and contact [Kristine Lesyna](mailto:kristine.lesyna@cdfw.ca.gov), CDFW Marine Region, (650) 631-6742, or [Ethan Mora](mailto:ethan.mora@noaa.gov), NOAA Fisheries, (831) 420-3663.

More information about the tagging study can be found on the NOAA Fisheries [Green Sturgeon Bycatch Project webpage](http://www.noaa.gov/species/green-sturgeon).



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Sep. 15, 2015

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

Sept. 23, 2015

Media Contact:

Kyle Orr, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8958

CDFW Recognizes National Hunting and Fishing Day, Celebrates Contributions of California's Hunters and Anglers

National Hunting and Fishing Day will be celebrated on Saturday, Sept. 26. In conjunction with this annual observance, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reminds Californians of the plentiful opportunities to enjoy hunting and fishing in the state and commends them for their commitment to conservation.

"California's anglers and hunters play a crucial role in the conservation of California's natural resources," said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. "On behalf of CDFW, I thank them for their invaluable contribution."

President Richard Nixon signed the first proclamation of National Hunting and Fishing Day in 1972. It is annually held on the fourth Saturday in September to promote outdoor sports and conservation.

California is the third-largest state in the nation and approximately half of its land is publicly owned. That translates into millions of acres of huntable public property on which CDFW offers varied hunting opportunities.

In 2014, 284,761 licensed hunters contributed approximately \$25,181,595 toward wildlife management and conservation activities in the state. Wildlife management and conservation activities have resulted in numerous success stories over the years in California. For example:

Tule Elk

1874: Thirty were remaining in California in one herd in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

2015: 4,200 animals distributed in 22 herds across California.

Wild Turkeys

1959: There were virtually no wild turkeys other than game farm birds, which were essentially raised to be shot and killed.

2015: There are an estimated 250,000 wild turkeys in the state.

Desert Bighorn Sheep (Nelson)

1915: They were nearly extirpated in the state.

2014: There are approximately 2,000 in California.

Aleutian Canada Goose

1970: There were approximately 200 to 300 in California.

2015: There are approximately 120,000 in the state.

Fishing opportunities also abound in the more than 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, 4,172 lakes and reservoirs and 80 major rivers in California. The state features more than 1,100 miles of coastline that is home to hundreds of fish and shellfish species.

CDFW offers two “free fishing” days each year in the state, and this year prospective anglers received those opportunities on July 4 and Sept. 5. Fish production is also an important activity of CDFW, which in 2014 produced 2.5 million pounds of trout for recreational angling.

Last year, CDFW issued 1.78 million fishing licenses and those licenses (including report cards and validations) generated \$63 million in funding for fisheries management and protection. California also received \$17.3 million in federal Sport Fish Restoration Grants in 2015 — the grant amount is based on a formula that incorporates the geographical size of a state and the total number of licensed individuals in the state.

Fisheries management and conservation activities have also resulted in numerous success stories over the years in California. For example:

Wild Trout Fisheries

1970: No designated wild trout sport fisheries.

2015: 51 designated wild trout waters, encompassing 1,400 miles of streams and 14 lakes.

Landlocked Salmon

1993: No landlocked salmon sport fisheries.

2015: Twenty-one reservoirs support sport fishing for Kokanee salmon and 12 reservoirs support sport fishing for landlocked Chinook salmon.

Largemouth Bass

1874: Introduced into California.

2015: Twenty of 25 largest largemouth bass caught worldwide have been in California.

Alabama Spotted Bass

1974: Introduced into California.

2015: The current world record for the species was caught in a California reservoir. The state record for the species was broken twice in a one-month span, including a pending new world record.

For more information on hunting and fishing opportunities in the Golden State, please visit www.wildlife.ca.gov. For information on how to purchase a hunting or fishing license, please visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/online-sales. For more information on National Hunting and Fishing Day, please visit <http://www.nhfd.org/>.

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