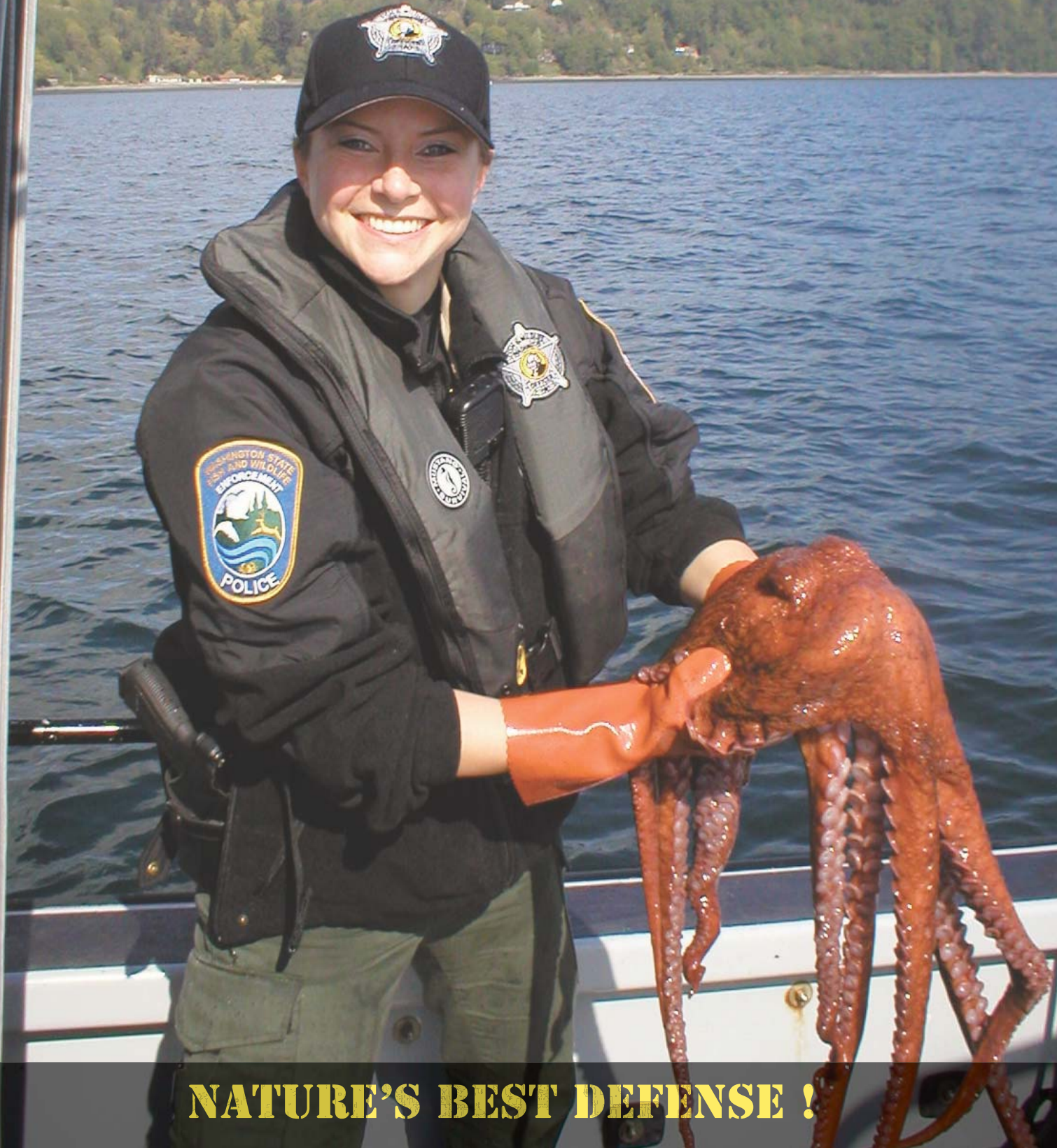


Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program

SPRING
2008

This edition is dedicated to Jon Geschke



NATURE'S BEST DEFENSE !

FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF

Washington Fish & Wildlife Officers provide diverse public service.

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

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

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—In Memoriam—

“Big” Jon Jeschke

Born September 25th, 1955

Died May 8th, 2008



On May 28th, 2008, long time Officer Jon Jeschke was on-duty in the Randall, WA, area when he sustained a heart attack, leading to his untimely passing. Jon will always be remembered as an extremely dedicated Fish and Wildlife Protection professional, watching over Washington's natural resources and helping to keep a fair playing field for 30 plus years. A memorial was held in Pierce County on **May 19**. The abundance of law enforcement from agencies across the state and public support was a

testament to the respect everyone had for Jon. Jon never ducked difficult tasks. He was known as firm but fair. His work ethic reminded us to never give up, no matter how tough the investigation or how slick the bad guy. That was the case with Jon, all the way to the end. May you be in a better place, maybe a Game Warden Heaven: where we always catch the crook, the guilty are always convicted, and we get to pick the sentence.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Wildlife protection is a year-round event for officers. People often associate this kind of enforcement with open hunting seasons. When seasons are open officers are involved in enforcing bag limits and special

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

Search Warrant: Officer Alexander prepared a search warrant for a residence in Humptulips after working with an informant for over a year. The informant witnessed the suspect kill a deer and provided specifics which Officer Alexander and James verified by finding a deer carcass hidden in a clear-cut. Officers from Sgts. Makoviney's and Rhoden's detachments participated in the raid. Evidence was recovered which will likely lead to numerous charges for the poaching of multiple bull elk and deer. A small marijuana grow was also found and numerous felony weapons charges will be filed. The suspect is a very long time Grays Harbor poacher with a violent past.

Spring Hunting Accident: Officer Mosman and Sergeant Charron investigated a hunting accident. A 13-year-old boy, who failed Hunter Education

in November, shot a 27-year-old male at a distance of 20 yards with a load of #8 shot. The majority of the shot pellets hit the victim in the neck and face and he remains in ICU. The shooter said he thought he saw a turkey move in the brush.

Favorable Ruling: Officer Oswald and Grant attended a Motion Hearing to suppress the reason for a vehicle stop on a deer poaching case. The defense attorney attempted to use the recent Schlegel case law to argue that Fish and Wildlife Officers don't have the authority to stop vehicles that appear to have hunter occupants. The judge ruled in favor of the state and WDFW.



Human Remains to be turned over to the state for repatriation to first B.C. Nation: as printed in the San-JuanJournal.com News:

Human remains recovered from the home of a Deer Harbor man nearly two years ago will be turned over to the state Department of Archeology, which is expected to repatriate them to the Canadian First Nation on whose territory the remains were found some 30 years ago.

Prosecuting Attorney Randy Gaylord, who is also county coroner, is in possession of the remains. He said Monday he expected to turn the remains over to the state Department of Archeology, which will make arrangements to repatriate the remains.

The remains were discovered in the home of Peter Paul Whittier by state Fish and Wildlife officers investigating a report that Whittier had killed an eagle and possessed eagle feathers and other parts. Officers saw two human skulls on display in Whittier's home; they consulted Gaylord, who asked that the remains be

confiscated.

Gaylord asked King County archeologists to analyze the remains and determine their age; they were determined to be "historical," Gaylord said.

Whittier said in court documents that he found the remains on a Vancouver Island beach during a boating excursion there in the early 1970s. Whittier and his attorney, now-Superior Court Judge John Linde, asked District Court Judge Stewart Andrew to return the remains to Whittier, saying the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act didn't apply because the remains were found in Canada. Andrew declined and Whittier later pulled his request for the remains.

Whittier would have been required to declare the human remains to Customs agents when he returned to the U.S., Friday Harbor Customs official Dennis Hazelton said in an earlier interview. At that point, Customs agents would have taken possession of them and contacted authorities.



In addition, Dr. Julie Stein, director of the Burke Museum at the University of Washington, said it is illegal to transport human remains across an international border.

Officers obtained a search warrant and searched Whittier's home on June 21, 2006, acting on a tip from a former housekeeper, according to court documents.

In the home, officers found two human skulls — one with jawbone — in a glass case; a great horned owl mounted on the mantle above the living room fireplace; and eagle feathers on a kitchen shelf and at a

dump site on the property. They also found feathers and down in several plastic garbage bags in a Jeep on the property.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Ore., analyzed the feathers and determined the feathers found on the shelf and at the dump site to be from an eagle. The feathers in the plastic bags were determined to be "from unspecified raptor(s)," according to court documents.

Whittier reportedly obtained the stuffed owl at a swap meet in the Southwest several years ago.

Possessing eagle and horned owl feathers or other parts is illegal. Bald eagles are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which was signed by the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Japan and Russia. Great horned owls are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The Fish and Wildlife office in Seattle turned the feathers over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Eagle Repository, which issues feathers and parts by permit to American Indians for ceremonial or religious purposes. The great horned owl could be used for educational or scientific purposes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife spokesman Nicholas Throckmorton said at the time.

Gaylord sought to prosecute Whittier for "unlawful taking of protected wildlife," based on allegations by the housekeeper that Whittier and an employee had shot and killed four eagles that attacked or



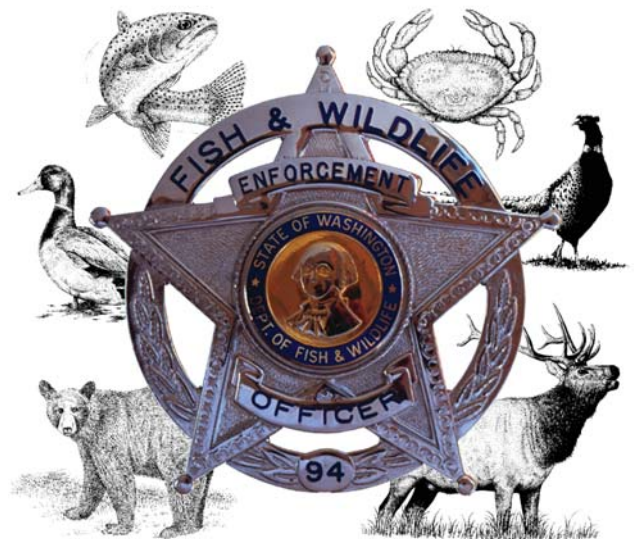
threatened chickens on his 160-acre estate. Whittier denied those allegations, but paid \$813 in fines.

casing.

Sgt. Russ Mullins of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, said his department seized Whittier's Jeep under civil forfeiture laws, because of evidence found in the vehicle that showed it had been used to transport or store dead eagles. Originally printed by: Walker, Richard "Human remains will be turned over to state for repatriation to B.C. First Nation" [SanJuanJournal.com](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/jsj/news/19510344.html) June 3rd, 2008. < <http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/jsj/news/19510344.html>>

Local Physician's "Surgery"
Interrupted with Search Warrant:

Sgt. Nixon received information from a citizen that he had observed deer parts being butchered at a residence in Montesano. He was able to corroborate the information and wrote a search warrant for the house. The suspect was a local doctor who killed the buck with a .22 and butchered it in his shop. He insisted it was a goat. Sgt. Nixon and officers located the buried carcass and hide and Officer Alexander found a



Poacher Sentenced

A Cosmopolis resident recently pled guilty in May to the closed season harvest of a Blacktail deer in Grays Harbor District Court. Criminal and civil fines were assessed and hunting privileges were revoked after almost three years of investigation.

In 2004, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Officer Danyl Klump began to investigate a complaint he received from concerned citizens that Danny W. Bonnell of Cosmopolis had illegally killed a large “trophy class” four point Blacktail deer during the closed season, using a recently-purchased crossbow. Crossbows may not be used to hunt game in Washington State unless the hunter is disabled. The deer was a well known resident of city of Cosmopolis and provided enjoyment to many that lived in the city. In this case, the public provided key information used by the investigating officer to secure and serve three separate search warrants for evidence of the crime. During the execution of these warrants, a crossbow, all terrain vehicle, and miscellaneous hunting equipment were seized.

DNA samples and other evidence were sent to WDFW and State Crime labs for analysis. Charges were eventually filed with the Grays Harbor Prosecutor’s Office, who worked closely with WDFW officers.

In a plea agreement, Danny Bonnell pled guilty to unlawful hunting in the 2nd degree and making a false statement to a public official, receiving criminal and civil fines amounting to \$2,700. His hunting privileges were revoked in Washington State and other States for the next two years. He will also be on probation for the next 24 months. As part of the plea agreement, another case involving the alleged unlawful baiting of a black bear and false reporting were not filed by the Prosecuting Attorneys Office, however the antlers of the trophy class deer, skull as well as the hide of the black bear were turned over to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

According to Officer Klump, this investigation would not have occurred without the help of witnesses who were willing to step forward and do the right thing. “It was encouraging to see members of the community step forward and turn in Bonnell because he took something that belongs to all of us. As it turns out this deer was a magnificent creature that the community of Cosmopolis enjoyed viewing in their backyards and by illegally shooting it, he effectively stole from the public.”

Individuals who have information on poaching are encouraged to call 1-877 WDFW TIP (877-933-9847) or their local Regional Office. Confidentiality will be honored and rewards are offered to tips leading to charges.



Communications Officer Brian Duncan in the Field



On May 21st, we received a call from a resident that a bear had been caught in the trap during the night. Brian Duncan took advantage of the opportunity to leave the radio room and meet two biologists and two officers in East King County to watch the process. Bear, who weighed 250 pounds, was darted, wounds cared for, tagged and released back into the woods with two bear dogs chasing it to ensure it did not return.

HUMAN -WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

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

Typical Weekly Report from Region

2: “We have been overwhelmed with bear complaints and cougar complaints, plus several calls for service on coyotes and cougars. Sergeant Ward and Officer Grant

spent the majority of last week handling numerous bear complaints. Officers are receiving about a dozen calls for service a week from the west end of Chelan County. Numerous calls for service related to this issue and the lack of adequate staffing are definitely impacting arrest numbers. Officer McCormick issued a Depredation Permit for a bear that has been trying to get into occupied residences. Numerous callers have complained and we have not been able to abate the problem with advice on attractants. Officers



Christensen and McCormick responded to the report of two sheep killed in the Loomis area. The sheep injuries were consistent with cougar attack. Also, the reporting party states that one week ago a dog pup went missing. Houndsmen located and quickly treed the cat and it was lethally removed. The cougar was a young sub-adult female.”

A Stubborn Bear: Officer Flowers received a midnight phone call from dispatch advising that Mason County and Shelton Officers were out at a park in Shelton with a bear in a tree. Officer Flowers recruited the assistance of Sgt. Makoviney and Officer Jewett. Officer Flowers darted the bear and it retreated high up in the tree. The dart was placed well but the drug did not have the desired effect. They waited for awhile

hoping the bear would come down low enough for a second dart shot. The bear did not cooperate and the decision was made to leave and let the bear come down and retreat back into the woods. City police kept a close eye on the bear and as expected it soon came out of the tree. City officers were afraid that the bear did not leave the park as expected. Officers Flowers and Jewett returned to the park early in the morning and placed a culvert trap. Park officials closed the gates to the park and posted it as closed to public access.

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Fish and Wildlife Officers have thousands of miles of rivers, creeks, lakes, marine waters and beaches to patrol. The popularity of Washington’s great outdoors has led to an increase in use, and a decrease in available natural resources available for harvest. Our officers work hard to provide for a fair playing field and to protect management strategies meant to provide for sustainable natural resources for everyone’s enjoyment.



Forgotten Fish: Officers Downes and Lee checked three fishermen in Griffin Bay in the SanJuan Island area who stated that they lost one of their three lingcod overboard just before being checked. When they asked for permission to try to find the lost lingcod, officers insisted they open their fish hold where they found four lingcod and 18 rockfish. The violators were cited for over limit lingcod and over limit rockfish 1st degree. The fish were seized and donated to the Anacortes Food Bank.

Lost Count: Officer Lee responded to a report of two people exceeding

limits on oysters at Drayton Harbor in Whatcom County. Officer Lee was able to stop the vehicle as they were leaving the area with six buckets of unshucked oysters – 494 of them. The limit is 18 per person. The oysters were seized and the two males were issued citations for no license and 1st degree over limits. Citations for Sanitary Shellfish violations were referred to the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office. Possession of oysters require certificates of compliance with sanitary shellfish rules. There is some indication these were poached with the purpose of selling them.





Multi-Agency Assist: Officer Myers was called to check four subjects in a public park in Clarkston who were fishing in the Snake River. Officer Myers arrived and upon contact got into a foot pursuit with the subjects. During the chase, one subject ditched some paraphernalia and marijuana while others threw their fishing poles into the Snake River. All four subjects were captured and arrested, thanks in large part to the aide of an off duty forest service officer, who happened to be walking his dog in the park, along with several officers from surrounding agencies.

Where There's Smoke... Officers Krenz and Moszeter contacted a fireman fishing without a license on opening day of low-land trout. He claimed that he had a license, but that it was at another location. The officers allowed him an opportunity to retrieve it. The problem was, he never came back. When he couldn't be located at his residence or side business, the officers were forced to contact him at his primary place of employment: a Fire and Rescue Station. He continued to lie to the officers even when confronted with the evidence. He

even told the officers he didn't remember seeing or talking to them on the day in question, claiming that he had a valid license at the time. Well, not exactly. The officers found that he actually purchased one just three hours after the contact. Finally, after the officers informed him that he was going to be cited for fishing without a license, making a false statement, and obstructing a police officer, he made a veiled attempt at a bribe by inviting the officers to his pancake breakfast! Just like doughnuts, we never touch the stuff.

Fishy Story: While Officers McQuary and Johnson were working Quarry Pond, Officer McQuary observed a female sneaking through the brush. When she saw Officer McQuary she had the "uh-oh" look. She had a limit of trout in her bucket, and a sack with three extra fish. She explained that the three extra fish were her husband's. Her husband was contacted and he already had five of his own fish (which is the limit). Officer McQuary escorted her back to their vehicle, when the woman pulled a fourth fish out of her jacket and attempted to throw it into the brush. She was issued the appropriate citations.



Suspects Use Poor Judgment: While on boat patrol in Marine Area 10, Officers Stephenson and Willette spotted two men fishing from the shore near Don Armeni Boat Ramp. Officer Willette went to contact them while Officer Stephenson stayed with the vessel at the ramp. When Officer Willette asked the men for their fishing licenses, both became belligerent and evasive. She saw a knife in the back pocket of one of the men. She radioed to Officer Stephenson for assistance. The men began to run toward a woman waiting in a car. Officer Willette caught up to a man and ordered him down. He failed to comply so she pepper sprayed him. That man ran to the back of the car where Officer Stephenson had just arrived. Officer Willette turned her attention to the other subject who yelled at her, "If you spray me, I'll hit you." Not knowing where the knife was, Officer Willette drew her firearm and ordered the man to the ground. He got down slowly, but would not comply with her instructions to get his arms out. He then stood back up and began to approach Officer Willette, saying, "You're gonna have to shoot me." Not seeing a weapon, she holstered her gun and deployed pepper spray, scoring a direct hit.

The man sat down and she grabbed his arm. He went static and would not allow her to cuff him. He was able to stand back up, so Officer Willette disengaged and drew her baton. The pepper spray really kicked in then and took the fight out of the man. He sat down and Officer Willette cuffed him. Officer Stephenson was able to get her subject on the ground, but had to use force to get him to give up his arm. He was handcuffed but continued to attempt to get up and away. Officer Stephenson used her body weight to keep him down. Seattle Police Department arrived seconds after both were in custody. Seattle Fire had been on scene throughout the ordeal and stepped in to decontaminate both subjects once they were under control. Both men stated that the Officers weren't real police and that they needed to go to the academy if they wanted to be. Officer Willette explained that she went to the real academy six years ago and that they were "going to the real jail now." Their fishing rods were seized for forfeiture. Officer Willette had previously arrested one of the men for no license on April 8, 2008. Once again, neither had licenses, and one guy had a warrant for his arrest – big surprise.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

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

West Coast Commercial Halibut

Opener: Officer Hopkins and National Marine Fisheries Service Special Agent Mickey Adkins worked in concert with Oregon State Police and the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure compliance in the coastal commercial halibut fishery. After a United States Coast Guard helicopter flight located and identified participating vessels, officers, troopers, and agents moved to the docks in order to monitor offloads.

While total commercial catch accounting is crucial, some fishermen tried to duck this requirement by sneaking fish away. In one case, Officer Hopkins and Agent Adkins tracked down two subjects that were smuggling fish filets in duffle and other bags. The fish turned out to be blackcod taken in excess of limits,

as well as rockfish, possibly yellow-eye rockfish, which are designated as overfished. SA Stanley arrived on the boat and interviewed the suspects.

Officer Hopkins then went to a boat in the adjacent mooring slip where four people were on the back deck gutting halibut. Officer Hopkins identified himself, climbed onboard, and noticed that some of the halibut looked small. Officer Hopkins measured the first fish and found that it was 29 inches (the legal limit is 32”). The skipper told him that they hadn’t had a chance to throw that one back yet, but the officer reminded him that all undersize halibut must be returned to the water immediately unharmed, not hours later at the dock after they are dead. The skipper said that he had a crew of “greenhorns” and



they did not do a good job of sorting fish. Officer Hopkins went through the rest of the fish and found 43 undersize halibut on board. The fish were seized by NMFS SA Adkins and Stanley. Sgt. Rhoden and Officer Wickersham arrived and helped remove the hundreds of pounds of illegal fish.

Sanitary Shellfish Patrols: While the Washington State Department of Health administrates the sanitary shellfish program in our state, WDFW is specifically referenced in statute as a primary enforcer of associated laws. Our Officers provide a uniformed presence on beaches and the market place to ensure that harvested shellfish are safe for human consumption.

Commercial Vehicle Inspections: Officer James organized an emphasis on the commercial transportation of Oysters and Oyster shell through Grays Harbor from Pacific County. The permit biologist from the Pt. Whitney shellfish lab, Russell Rogers and Sgt. Nixon participated. Officer James included Officers from Washington State Patrol, Governor's Highway Safety Office, and Cosmopolis and contacted several vehicles. All vehicles were in

compliance.

Commercial Shellfish Case on Polluted Beach in Dyes Inlet:

Officer Langbehn contacted two people harvesting shellfish at Naval Ammo Depot Park in Dyes Inlet. Both turned out to be tribal members; however, one had an expired Tribal ID Card, and the other did not have his with him. A driver's check of the Tribal Member yielded two warrant hits that he was taken into custody for (Officer Czebotar transported him to jail). Officer Langbehn contacted tribal enforcement, who informed him that they were harvesting on a closed beach and could not retain any of the 580 pounds of hardshell clams in their possession. At the request of tribal Officer, the product was photographed, seized and destroyed.

Group of Four Apprehended While Harvesting Clams from a Polluted Beach:

Sergeant Jackson, Officers Langbehn and Czebotar responded to a report of hardshell clams overlimit at NAD Park in Bremerton. The report came from a Suquamish Tribal Officer. Four subjects were contacted with over 2,900 clams, many undersize.



Illegal Sales: Officers Downes and Lee observed tribal fisherman that they had contacted the day before, clamming at Penn Cove with a large amount of butter clams. Officers observed the tribal member selling 145 pounds of clams to non-tribal members for \$100 cash. The tribal member was cited for a Sanitary Shellfish violation and two of the non-tribal members were cited for over limits on the clams they had already had in their possession. The clams were returned to the water and the money taken into evidence.

Coastal and Puget Sound beaches are home to the richest shellfish resources on the West Coast. Our shellfish industry contributes over \$100,000,000 annually to the states economy. It is not uncommon for unscrupulous poachers, drawn by the high value of clams and oysters, to harvest hundreds of pounds from polluted beaches where the resource has flourished due to harvest restrictions. Many of these polluted clams are then sold to retail and wholesale outlets and pose a significant risk to the consumer. While some markets are part of the conspiracy, others are unaware that they are



Endangered Species Act Patrols

Spring Chinook Bust: Sgt. Mullins and Officers Beauchene and Jones assisted National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association special agents on a spring Chinook poaching investigation. Two weeks of 24-7 surveillance led to the suspect being videotaped setting the illegal gill net in a remote reach of the lower Nooksack River. The net had no floats and was set so it was not visible on the surface. The next day the suspect returned and checked the net. While on camera, he removed a Chinook salmon and returned to his nearby house. When officers arrived, the suspect briefly hid with the fish in the house. A wild spring Chinook was later recov

ered from where it was hidden. Tribal officers immediately responded to assist. A full confession was taken by special agents at Lummi Law and Order. The suspect is the same person who was caught with around ten poached spring Chinook last year after taking as many as 20 more prior to that. The Tribal Court fined him about \$2,000 and suspended his fishing privileges (he is not a fisherman). This year he was caught as he hauled his net the first time and his boat was seized. South Fork Nooksack Chinook are very rare (only 15 to 50 adult fish are expected to return to their spawning grounds), and because this wild fish could have been one of the very few returning adults, NMFS and Tribal law enforcement will be pursuing joint prosecution.

A photograph showing two men in a small, light-colored wooden boat on a river. The man in the foreground is wearing a green plaid shirt, dark pants, and a blue cap, and is holding a long wooden pole. The man in the background is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and a blue cap, and is also holding a long wooden pole. The water is dark and rippled. The background is a blurred green shoreline.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Seized the . . . Uh . . . Boat

MARKETPLACE INSPECTIONS

Officers frequently monitor commercial landings of fish and shellfish, but due to staffing shortages, only a small percentage are actually observed. When violations are missed at the dock, inspections at the market place provide yet another opportunity to discover illegally harvested product. These activities are very successful in ferreting out illegal competition with legitimate commercial businesses

Tri-state Operation: This operation included the cooperative effort of multiple Federal and State natural resource agencies, with a specific emphasis on illegal interstate commerce. WDFW Officer Olson designed the plan. Officers and Agents were assigned to two and three person groups throughout Washington, Oregon and California. In all, 58 Washington, Oregon and California Officers, NOAA Agents, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agents and Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans Agents participated in the operation. WDFW flew three of their best officers to California and two to Oregon.

It is estimated that 250 inspections were conducted in the three States. Approximately 43 violations were observed for State Fish and Wildlife laws in all three States. Some of these violations include, but were not limited to, no paperwork

for fish/shellfish in the marketplace, no wholesale dealers license, no health certification tag for shellfish, failure to report harvest on fish receiving tickets, no live fish import permit, product harvested by an unlicensed fisherman, commercially sold sport caught fish, multiple tribal fishing violations, possession of aquatic invasive species, etc.

Oregon and California issued 11 citations on the spot for violations observed. At the request of the County Prosecutor, Washington Officers were instructed to not issue citations on the spot. All 23 Washington violations, not requiring in-depth follow-up investigations, will be filed with the County Prosecutor.

The number of unlicensed wholesale dealers is astounding. Approximately 25 unlicensed wholesale dealers were discovered, with multiple other dealers



being unearthed in the midst of follow-up investigations. The legitimacy of the product being harvested, packaged, sold, and shipped by these companies needs to be confirmed. In California and Washington, large amounts of abalone, sea cucumbers, fish, crab, geoduck and manila clams were found to be undocumented during this event.



HABITAT

Eagle Nest Spared: Officer Wickersham received a call from a concerned citizen in the Bay Center area of loggers preparing to cut down a tree with a bald eagle nest in it. Officer Wickersham responded and found the loggers gone and an eagle nest still in a tree. Wildlife biologist Max Zahn responded to the area the next day and took coordinates of the nest. The landowner was contacted and is willing to work on preserving the nest and surrounding trees that still stand as eagle habitat.

Wild Fire at Tarpiscan: Sergeant Ward and Officer Grant responded to a wildland fire in the Tarpiscan Creek drainage of the Colockum Wildlife area. The fire consumed 300 acres of critical shrub steppe wildlife habitat. No buildings or other infrastructures were threatened. Officer Grant and Sergeant Ward traced the fire back to the suspected point of origin and examined a remote camping area as a potential crime scene. The Officers conducted an investigation and have identified several persons of interest who will be interviewed. The evidence that was seized was processed, logged at the Leavenworth Fire Station and examined by several arson investigators. Some valuable information was obtained thanks to their expertise.

BOATING SAFETY

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



LEFT: Officers training in swiftwater rescue; in order to provide better service to the public.

Joint Patrol Turns Into Joint Lifesaving Mission: Mason County Deputies attended and participated in the planning of upcoming Shrimp patrols at a planning meeting coordinated by Sergeant Makoviney. The main purpose was to enforce general fish and shellfish regulations as well as to conduct boating safety inspections during the Hood Canal Shrimp Season. On the second day of the emphasis, Officer Haw and Deputy Dugan received radio traffic reporting a capsized boat near Sunrise Beach in Hoodport. They immediately responded and observed a 20-foot vessel upside down at the waters edge. There were numerous persons on scene including at least one Trooper and a Mason County Deputy.

The wind was blowing out of the south at about 20 mph with a three to four foot chop and two persons were trapped inside the capsized vessel. The transom of the boat was surging with the waves and was sometimes grinding into the rocks. The bow of the vessel was on the beach and the persons on scene were trying to roll the boat over. After many efforts, it was clear that was not going to work, and the cabin was filled with gas fumes. Officer Haw went into the water and was able to reach under the boat and attach a line. Numerous persons then pulled on the rope while others lifted the hull on the windward side. This extraordinary effort by all did finally nearly right the vessel.



Once the vessel was about at 45 degrees to the water, and while others held it in that position, Officer Haw reached into the cabin area and pulled out a victim to the beach. Another popped out from under the boat at the same time. Both were dragged up to the beach where EMT personnel already on scene took over. Both subjects were unconscious and not breathing. CPR was preformed. The male began to breath and is believed to have survived. Sadly, the female victim did not survive. It should be noted that Fish and Wildlife Officers Dennis Flowers and Brian Alexander also arrived by vessel during the rescue efforts and were instrumental in rescue efforts as well.

Foul Weather: All of Detachment Eight staff (Sgt. Henry and Officers Anderson, Fairbanks, and Miller), and officers from neighboring detachments (Lt. O'Hagan, Sgt. Nixon, Officers James, Klump, and Klein) participated in the annual emphasis patrol during the opening of recreational halibut season off the northern coast of the Olympic Peninsula. The weather was typically unpredictable, with heavy seas and high winds complicating the season. The boat patrols were punctuated with several vessel rescues and assists. On the Tuesday

opener, while the Coast Guard was busy with three other rescues, Officer Fairbanks and crew were able to extract a boat from the beach in high surf near Umatilla Reef. The boater (from Montana) had decided to take his seasick son to shore, and quickly discovered that he couldn't get off the beach. Two of our patrol crews also came upon a boat with a medical emergency. The victim was transferred to WDFW F/V-24 and then transported back to Neah Bay for medical assistance. Neah Bay medical staff transported the individual to their medical center. After a particularly long day, the Neah Bay Coast Guard staff awakened the officers that night, requesting their assistance. Heavy seas swells were tearing apart the docks at the Snow Creek Resort and several boats had been ripped from their moorings. At least two boats sustained severe damage and sank. It was not a good opening week.

Flipped Kayak: Sgt. Chandler helped rescue an individual who flipped and lost his kayak on the Snoqualmie River. He was pulled out of the water about a half mile from where he dumped it over and is lucky to be alive with the 38 degree water running at near flood stage.

GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

WDFW Officers are general authority police officers, which means that they are able to provide the same policing services that would be expected of Sheriffs Deputies and City Police. Our Officers have the authority to enforce all state laws while protecting your natural resources and both are integrated. Fish and Wildlife Officers commonly provide backup to other law enforcement agencies.

Public Land Use: In mid-May, Officer Horn coordinated a joint WDFW – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) marijuana eradication exercise. Officers Knutson, Haskett, and Irvine with USFWS and WDFW Officer Myers com-

posed the tactical entry team. WDFW Officers Horn and McLerran were assigned to be observers from look-out points from the ridge line north of and above lake. The aircraft was piloted by Special Agent Roberts and WDFW Offi-



Above: Pot plants ready to be planted.



cer Grant flew as an observer to provide air support. The first stop was along the north shore of Saddle Mountain Lake. Historically this area had sites that had been used over several years for illegal marijuana cultivation. The area is also closed to all public entry and is well posted as so.

About thirty minutes into the operation, Officers Horn and McLerran observed two Hispanic males fishing on the east shore of a peninsula about a mile to the west of the entry team's location. The observers guided the team into position to attempt contact with the two individuals. During that time the individuals had moved to a second location. While the suspects walked into the open, Officer Horn observed that one of them appeared to have a long gun in his left hand. The entry team was immediately notified of the possible weapon.

Officer Knutson requested that the aircraft fly in closer to assist in case the suspects attempted to flee. As the aircraft began to fly above the suspects, Officer Horn observed one of them attempt to conceal something under Russian olive trees using brown vegetation from

a nearby clearing. The aircraft left the scene to refuel and the suspects moved to a third location, about fifty yards from the entry teams' location. During this time the officers saw that the suspects had changed clothing and the long gun was not observed again.

Based on the situation and the possibility of armed suspects, Officer Knutson requested that Officer Horn contact Grant County and request a K-9 unit and SWAT. Officer Horn contacted Grant County through WSP dispatch and coordinated the SWAT entry. Officer Horn also contacted Sergeant Chris Erhardt to request more WDFW officers to respond. About an hour later, members of the SWAT team began to arrive. The aircraft had also returned from refueling. Our entry team was joined by the SWAT team and efforts were coordinated. By this time, WDFW Captains Anderson, Mann and Officer Chris Zuchlewski had been notified and were headed to the scene. Upon arrival they assisted with coordination and movement of the suspects.

One of the team members began to verbally give commands in both Spanish



and English for the suspects to surrender. Finally, after about twenty minutes, one of the suspects walked out with his hands in the air. He was taken into custody without incident. The team continued to give commands but the other suspect refused to come out. Several members of the entry team entered the tree line and were able to find the second suspect hidden in a small tunnel that had been carved from the thick under growth of Russian olive trees. He was also taken into custody without incident. The area was then searched for other suspects but

none were found. The camp and marijuana plants were found at the second mentioned location. The Drug Enforcement Agency requested that the scene be secured and that the two suspects remain on scene until they could arrive to take custody. Several hours later, DEA agents from Yakima and Spokane arrived on scene. The suspects' camp was located under a thick canopy of Russian olive trees and had been concealed with other vegetative matter. It consisted of a small tent with two sleeping bags, miscellaneous clothing items, food supplies for





several weeks, miscellaneous personal items, miscellaneous tools, and a small glass marijuana pipe with marijuana residue.

A few feet from the camp were several dozen plastic trays that contained an estimated 12,000 marijuana seedlings that had not yet been planted. The trays had been covered in brown vegetative matter to conceal the marijuana plants. Several buckets and watering holes were found in the immediate area around the camp. Parts of numerous birds, rabbits and mice were observed around the camp. Both suspects were identified with Oregon identification cards and appeared to be Mexican Nationals and illegal aliens.

Plane Crash Assist: On Saturday afternoon Officer Oswald received a call from the Chelan County Sheriff's Office requesting that he assist them with a plane crash at the north end of Lake Chelan. The floatplane, belonging to Chelan Airways, crashed in the lake near Stehekin with six people on board. Unfortunately two of the passengers did not survive the crash. (Region 2)

Officer Fitness Test: While on patrol in

King County, Officer Olson observed three subjects at a park bench next to the ship canal in the Ballard area of Seattle. Initially, it appeared as though the three subjects were cutting up a fish. When he contacted them, one of the subjects provided Officer Olson with a false name and date of birth. Upon being informed that he was under arrest for false information, the subject immediately turned around and ran. Like a coyote chasing a rabbit, our very physically fit Officer Olson pursued the subject around several buildings, backyards and a parking lot. Eventually, Officer Olson tackled him, which must have been like being hit by a Brahma Bull. While on the ground, the subject refused to give Officer Olson one of his arms. Only after he was warned that he was going to use a Taser on the subject, did he finally comply. Why did he run – because he had a felony warrant for “escape”not this time!

Thief Apprehended: Officer Cook and Detective Vandivert were returning from Vancouver on I-5 when they observed a Trooper with a subject at gunpoint in the Kent area. The suspect ran across five lanes of NB I-5 and SB I-5 and down an exit ramp. Detective Vandivert had



to brake hard to avoid striking the suspect, thus giving both Officers a good look at him. Detective Vandivert was able to turn back south and down the exit ramp where officers saw the suspect go around the corner of and board a Metro bus. Detective Vandivert pulled in front of the bus to stop its departure and identified himself to the driver. He

located the suspect while Officer Cook called 911 for backup. The suspect got nervous at the delay and started to get off the bus where he was arrested by Detective Vandivert. Grateful troopers arrived a few minutes later and he was positively identified as the car thief who fled on foot.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Youth Expo: Officer Richards worked a booth at the youth expo in Kennewick regarding dangerous wildlife and also the use of Karelian Wildlife Service dogs. The Wind River Bear Dog Institute showed up and ran several skits on Saturday that were the favorite item of the show for those who watched. The use of wildlife service dogs was certainly very well received and understood from more than 3000 people that came by that booth. Officer Richards talked to Channel 4 news regarding “Bear Aware-

ness Week,” and several stories were run on TV with this interview.

Chief for a Day: Officer Moszeter and Officer Stephenson attended the Chief for a Day career fair at CJTC this week. Of the 50 or so other police agencies present at the fair WDFW seemed to attract more prospective candidates. The officers also made several good connections with Officers from other agencies.

HEADQUARTERS NEWS

New Airplane (well... new to us):

In March, the aviation section completed an aircraft trade transaction, acquiring a multi-engine Partenavia P68 and various upgrades for the two Cessna C-185s in return for the Department's two aging DeHavilland DHC-2 Beavers. The two Beavers, nostalgic favorites among officers and biologists who have spent many noisy hours in them, were originally military surplus and acquired by the Department of Fisheries in the 1970s. They were both well past the age of 50 and were becoming increasingly expensive to insure, maintain, and operate. Additionally, the nature of the Department's current mission has been moving away from their use as a safe observation platform, particularly in operations off shore and in mountainous terrain. Options were explored.

Although the Department's Beavers were valuable trade commodities, they did not hold enough to afford a new airplane outright. A lengthy search in the used market finally turned up a 1986 turbo-charged model P68 in Florida that had very low airframe hours and was originally operated in Bolivia by the Chiquita Banana Company (we know what you are think-

ing, Lt. Nicks checked its background with U.S. Customs). The second owner was a private individual who had recently made numerous upgrades including a Garmin GPS based navigation system with multi function display and auto-pilot, freshly overhauled engines and propellers, and new leather interior and paint.

After negotiations, a three-way trade transaction was made through the State contract aircraft broker that sent the Beavers and their surplus spare parts to Kenmore Air Harbor and the P68 was purchased from an aircraft sales company in Orlando. In addition to the P68, both Cessna 185s will receive new Garmin avionics packages and instrument panels from Kenmore this summer, and the N1977X will be repainted and furnished with a set of floats for seasonal water operations.

In March our pilots went to Florida, and after receiving type-specific training, flew the P68 to Olympia. The trip made eight legs over four days and took 26.5 flight hours. It was an excellent opportunity for the pilots to become familiar with the various systems, and except for the 32-



knot gusting crosswind landing in Midland, TX, and going to 13,000 feet over the Sierra Nevadas with an inoperative heater, the weather was cooperative.

Since taking delivery of the aircraft, we have been pleased with its performance and observation capabilities. It will soon have a digital state radio installed, and we encourage any Detachment with aerial patrol needs to contact us. Additionally, we hope to develop new aerial patrol

tactics over the next couple of years as we find out the particular strengths of the P68, and to project a greater presence, both in the marine environment off shore and in Eastern Washington. Thanks to Lt. Nicks and Jim Hodgson for bringing such a challenging project to fruition. Deputy Chief Cenci had occasion to fly in the craft and Pilot Hodgson's landing was akin to laying your head softly on a pillow.





New Records Management System and Computer Aided Dispatch On-Line

Soon: The Enforcement Program is in the process of purchasing a law enforcement Records Management System (RMS) and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Both RMS and CAD will be similar to systems used by other law enforcement agencies nationwide. The RMS is considered phase one of the project and is slated to be operational statewide by the end of this year. The RMS will be the central database that will allow Officers to access a wide variety of data on individuals who have been contacted in the past, including arrests and citations, or held WDFW licenses, both recreational and commercial. The RMS system will replace InfoCop on Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) and replace our current evidence management system. The CAD system is considered phase two of the project and will be rolled out in one to two years. The CAD system will become the Program's primary way of dispatching calls for service to Officers in the field and will be fully integrated with the RMS. Sgt. Mullins will be the RMS project coordinator and can provide answers as questions arise.



Above: Pictures of the new WILDCOMM Center.