



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program
Weekly Hot Topics

Hot topic items will include fish, wildlife, habitat, and public safety items that may have a **significant** impact on the public, environment, or agency conservation goals, or may need cross-program coordination. Newsworthy items and **those that may have a political impact at the local, state, or federal level should also be included.**

Name	Region	Week Of
North Sound Marine Det.	SMU	06/25/12

Fish (Commercial, Recreational, Dealers)

Officer Rosenberger and SO Koontz patrolled MA 6 for shrimp fishermen midweek. Officers found an oversized recreation crab pot measuring 13 feet in perimeter and 24 inches tall. The pot was seized and Officers are attempting to locate the owner. Officers also recovered 2 pieces of derelict gear. One shrimper was cited for failing to have rot cord on his pots.

At approx. midnight Wednesday Officer Rosenberger inspected sea cucumber offloads in Anacortes. Officer Rosenberger recognized one of the fishermen from previous contacts. During the inspection it was discovered that the fisherman had failed to complete his logbook entry for the day. He had previously been warned a couple years ago for the same violation. The fisherman was cited.

Sgt. Mullins worked the S. Fork of the Nooksack River on evening and quickly uncovered several ESA related violations. The first contact was a fisherman who was casting toward a school of listed Chinook in an effort to hook one. Examination of the lure revealed that a clear paste had been added to the lure. The fisherman apologized and admitted that he had applied some krill paste to the lure because he could not get the fish to bite. He was cited for the selective gear violation and warned for targeting Chinook closed season. Two additional selective gear violations were dealt with shortly thereafter.

On Sunday Officers Rosenberger and Gaston and SO Koontz worked the recreational crab opener in MA 8-1. Officers contacted several dozen crab fishermen during the opener, violations encountered included undersized crab, failure to record catch, and no rot cord violations. The officers also cited two vessels for salmon fishing within the southern Rosario closure in MA7 on the way home.

Sgt. Mullins assisted Officer Stevens with surveillance equipment application on a Snohomish County River.

Sgt. Mullins assisted Officer Jorg by conducting a site survey for possible surveillance camera installation on an ongoing ESA violation.

Wildlife

Officers Rosenberger and Koontz worked whale watchers along the western side of San Juan Island and issued a VW to a recreation vessel attempting to get too close to the whales.

Habitat

Officers Rosenberger and Gaston and SO Koontz patrolled the San Juans monitoring BLM lands and sites. Officers contacted several recreaters however no citations were issued.

Public Safety

Early Sunday morning Officers Rosenberger, Gaston, and SO Koontz responded to a distress call of a vessel aground near the Swinomish Slough . The vessel had run aground in the mud flats, there were no injuries and the vessel was advised to wait until high tide to continue on its way.



Tribal

Officer Rosenberger and SO Koontz monitored tribal crab harvest sales at Oak Harbor Marina. Pacific Dream was at the dock buying crab. Two Swinomish tribal members failed to carry their tribal ID, and charges were referred to tribal enforcement. Another Swinomish member was observed to be gillnetting salmon near Cornett Bay without his tribal ID, charges will be referred with the tribe.

During the recreational crab opener on Sunday Officers responded to a WSP call for service regarding a tribal member selling sockeye salmon to recreational crabbing vessels out of his boat while gillnetting near Cornet Bay. Thanks to the RP's fantastic observations officers observed the tribal vessel still fishing near Cornett Bay, and located the recreational vessel that had purchased the crab. **Officers contacted the recreational vessel and found out that the group had paid the tribal fisherman \$100.00 for six sockeye salmon.** The subjects possessed no receipt or paperwork for the fish. The subjects gave a written statement of their interaction with the tribal member. The six sockeye were seized and were later donated to the Swinomish Tribal Fisheries Enforcement to be given to the tribe. **Officers then located and contacted the Swinomish tribal member who had sold the subjects the fish.** Officers identified the tribal member and asked if he had sold anyone fish on the water. The fisherman stated that he had **sold fish to numerous recreational boats** who wished to purchase fish. **The fisherman then offered to sell some to the officers. The officers asked if the salmon had been recorded on a fish ticket prior to being sold.** The fisherman stated that he would later record the sold fish on his fish ticket as take home fish. The tribal member was informed that **this was a violation of state and tribal law**, and that the officers would be in communication with tribal fisheries officers. Officers later made contact with Swinomish Fisheries officers and verified that all tribally caught sockeye had to be landed to a licensed dealer before being sold. Charges will be referred to Swinomish Tribal Fisheries enforcement for prosecution. **It appears that the violator is the Swinomish Tribal Charman!**



Newsworthy/Political

Cross Program Coordination

Captain's Schedule

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly Accomplishments

SO Koontz attended DT training in Bremerton with Region 6.
Sgt. Mullins attended a Cody meeting via conference call.
Sgt. Mullins removed one of the props from WDFW#6 and dropped it off at Master Marine for hub replacement. Officer Gaston picked it up a couple days later and the boat is now operational.