

Region 5 Enforcement Update



- ▶ Captain Jeff Wickersham
- ▶ Sgt. Brad Rhoden – Detachment 4

Region 5 Enforcement Demographics

- ▶ Enforcement responsibility for Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis and Skamania Counties
- ▶ 3 Sergeants (2 currently vacant)
- ▶ 14 Officers (2 currently in Field Training/In House academy)
- ▶ The only region with both eastern and western Washington habitats and species
 - Result – Challenging enforcement landscape

Region 5 Priorities

- ▶ Fisheries Enforcement
- ▶ Catch Accounting
- ▶ Habitat Protection
- ▶ Public Lands Enforcement
- ▶ Curtailing Wildlife Trafficking
- ▶ Ensuring Public Safety in the Outdoors
- ▶ Big Game Seasons

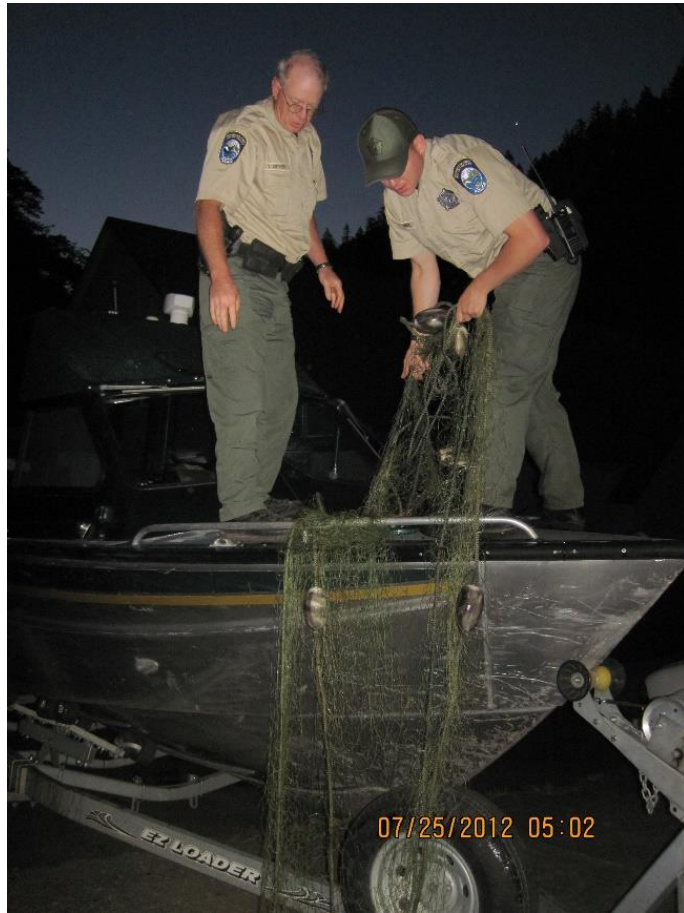
Region 5 Officers aren't afraid of a challenge...



Fisheries Enforcement

- ▶ Region 5 is the gateway for fish returning to hatcheries and spawning grounds on the Columbia River.
 - ESA listed species are present during most fisheries in the Columbia or Tributaries
 - Effective enforcement presence is vital to ensure sustainable and orderly fisheries during both recreational and commercial seasons
 - Inconsistent regulations complicate effective enforcement
- ▶ We are striving to provide “Gravel to Gravel Protection”

Fisheries Enforcement



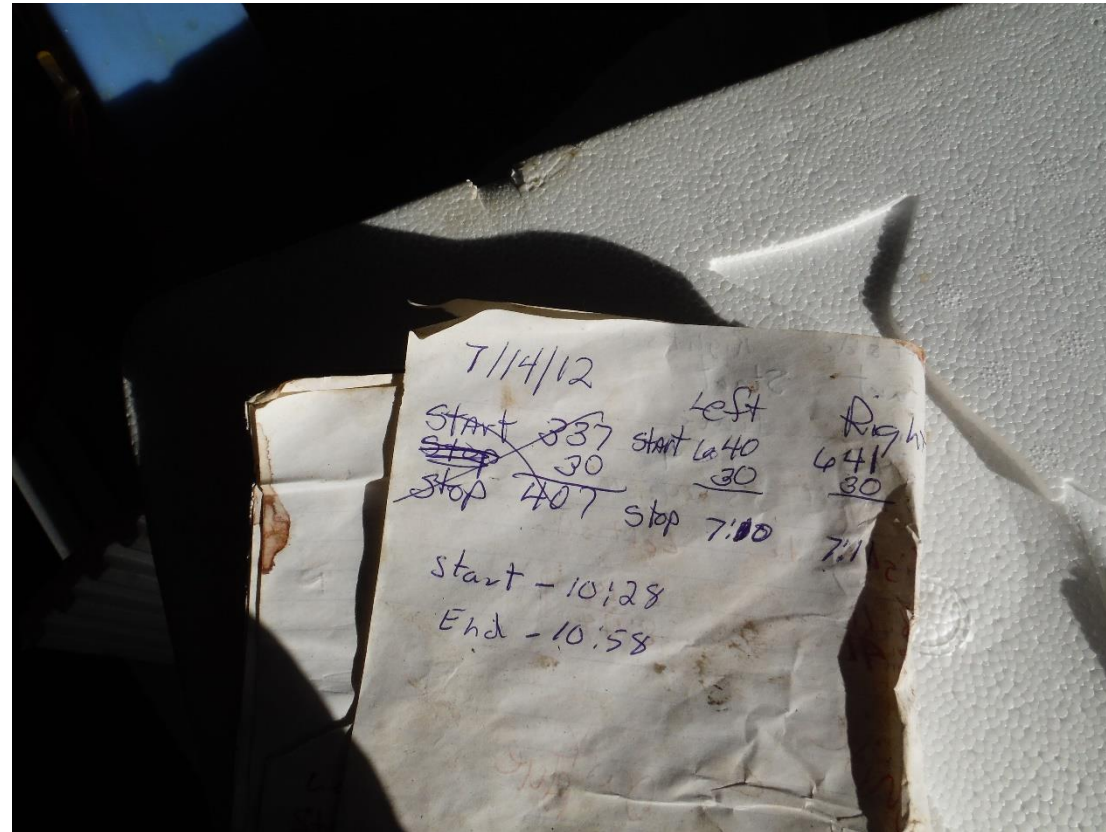
Fisheries Enforcement



Catch Accounting

- ▶ Problems with this particular issue have arisen due to blurry lines of jurisdiction, case law and a system that is porous – results in unlawful trafficking
 - Due to complexity, it is difficult for some jurisdictions to bring successful prosecutions
 - Some buyers have been found with years worth of un-submitted fish receiving tickets
 - Some buyers are operating at sites where the State lacks jurisdiction
 - One particular case revealed over one million pounds of unreported catch, and not one fish receiving ticket submitted

I could assign all of my Officers to work this one issue and we would not curtail the problem.



Habitat Protection

- ▶ Field enforcement of fish and wildlife rules during times of harvest means little if the habitat those species depend on is not protected
 - Habitat protection is an integral piece of “Gravel to Gravel protection”



Habitat Protection



Public Lands Enforcement

5 Wildlife areas and numerous boat ramps, campgrounds and access sites are situated within the vast area of region 5 and are heavily used..... and sometimes abused



Curtailling Wildlife Trafficking

- ▶ Limited harvest opportunity and lucrative black markets make some of Washington's Fish and Wildlife species prime targets for thieves
- ▶ Examples
 - Organized salmon snagging groups caught during closed hours, often for roe
 - Black market sale of oversized sturgeon
 - Subject shot deer for use as bait, then harvested eagles – caught twice and finally paid the price

Curtailing Wildlife Trafficking



Curtailling Wildlife Trafficking



Ensuring Public Safety in the Outdoors

- ▶ Dwindling budgets have forced many agencies to cut back on staffing, and the first locations of coverage to be cut are remote areas.
- ▶ WDFW Police Officers work closely with our Law Enforcement partners and often provide first response capabilities when a call occurs in remote areas
 - Search and rescue and general authority issues.
- ▶ We are already working in these areas and help to fill the void.

Big Game Seasons

- ▶ Elk hunting is a major draw in Region 5
- ▶ Well known hunting areas attract families spanning generations as well as first time users
- ▶ With high numbers of people concentrated in specific areas, violations typically occur
- ▶ Private property and subsequent hunting while trespassing calls are all too common
- ▶ Upgrades to communication systems have made reporting violations much easier and allows for a faster response by Fish and Wildlife Officers

Big Game Seasons



Big Game Seasons



Thank you for your time.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

