

# NEAFWA ABSTRACT ARCHIVES: 2015 Law Enforcement Sessions

Law Enforcement	
Monday, April 20, 2015 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	
1:00 p.m.	<p><b>Conservation officer safety: Research, recent advances, and policy changes in Pennsylvania</b> <i>WCO Robert V. Dunbar, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; Dr. Michael J. McSkimming, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania</i></p> <p>The purpose of this study was to identify risk factors affecting the safety of waterways conservation officers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its primary focus was on verbal assault, physical assault, and the use of force on the part of conservation officers. Interviews [n=73] were conducted with both full-time and part-time conservation officers specializing in waterways law enforcement (i.e., fish, boat, and reptile/amphibian laws). These findings were then compared to similar studies of conservation agencies conducted in Virginia, Florida, and Louisiana. The final results of the study indicate that there are similar risk factors for conservation officers of these four agencies. Furthermore, the results seem to indicate that the nature of resource use is changing and natural resource agencies are merging and evolving from a conservation-specific focus to that of a more general police-style posture. This change in responsibilities and focus, coupled with the unconventional nature of conservation law enforcement patrol practices, results in higher risk patrols. The paper concludes by detailing the various policy changes (i.e., new patrol vehicle configurations, advanced weapons training, and officer body cams) initiated since the completion of the study.</p>
2:00 p.m.	<p><b>Combatting the illegal and unreported black market seafood industry in Maine</b> <i>James MacDonald, Special Agent, NOAA/OLE; Renee Cloutier, Lieutenant, Maine Marine Patrol</i></p> <p>Marine resource managers require accurate landings information to make informed decisions regarding effort control measures in various New England fisheries. When landings go unreported, the ability to sustainably manage these fisheries at both the federal and state level is compromised. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement works closely with its state and federal partners to ensure all landings are documented and that those who engage in “off-the-books” black market transactions are held accountable. In particular, the Maine American lobster fishery, and more recently the American eel (elver) fishery, have a significant black market component within them. Combatting this illegal activity presents unique challenges to law enforcement, due primarily to the use of cash to make purchases that result in no invoice/receipt. Moreover, these transactions inherently require a conspiracy between a harvester and a dealer, making detection that much more difficult. In recent years, however, NOAA/OLE and the Maine Marine Patrol have had considerable success in uncovering these conspiracies, bringing the perpetrators to justice, and putting laws, policies and procedures in place which seek to further deter this criminal activity. This presentation will present an overview of our efforts, including investigative methods and specific case examples, and will also outline the challenges that remain. It is our hope that other agencies might learn from our successes and failures and take back something they can utilize within their own agencies.</p>
<b>BREAK 2:30 p.m.</b>	
3:00 p.m.	<p><b>Exotic Wild Animal Regulations</b> <i>Dr. Scott Marshall, DVM, Rhode Island State Veterinarian</i></p>

	<p>The responsibilities of the state veterinarian is ensuring public health and animal health within the state and making sure the requirements for the importation and exportation of animals to other states and countries are met. Dr. Marshall will discuss Rhode Island's regulatory structure and application towards exotic wildlife importation. Dr. Marshall will go over a few recent cases with resolutions. Discussion on hitting logistic issues such as having a warrant, coordinating between different agencies, and having a plan for disposition of seized illegally possessed wildlife. Dr. Marshall will also hit on the cost of care if a case is contested. Several recent cases include a Tardie bobcat, Muntjac, Zebra and Savannah cats.</p>
<p><b>3:40 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Falconry</b>  <i>James Gwiazdzinski – RI Falconry</i></p> <p>Falconry cannot be learned overnight, or in a single lesson. Only after many years of hard work does the falconer begin to fully understand the complexities of the sport and the birds utilized in falconry. There are countless additional details and suggestions to aid in the successful and legal practice of falconry. The presentation will talk about the basic equipment, housing and different birds used in falconry. Jim is an accomplished falconer in RI and will show some of his photos that have been published in national falconry publications.</p>
<p><b>Law Enforcement</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday, April 21, 2015</b>  <b>9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</b></p>	
<p><b>9:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Connecticut Hunting Related Shooting Investigations</b>  <i>Sgt Keith Schneider- CT Hunter Related Shooting Investigation Unit</i></p> <p>DEEP's Environmental Conservation Police Division is responsible for the investigation of hunting related shooting incidents. The Division recognized that these investigations can be extremely complex in nature. In 2004, the Hunting Related Shooting Investigation Unit was formed when two officers were trained by the International Hunting Incident Investigation Academy. It is offered exclusively to law enforcement officers tasked with natural resource law enforcement and is specific to outdoor crime scenes. Since that time, four additional officers have been trained and added to the unit. Two team members now serve as instructors for the IHEA annual training academy. While Connecticut has an extremely good record for safe hunting practices, in the event of a hunting related shooting incident, this unit is equipped and trained to conduct a thorough and accurate investigation.</p>
<p><b>BREAK 9:40 a.m.</b></p>	
<p><b>10:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Visual Tracking and Woodland Tracking Teams: What is Visual Tracking?</b>  <i>Scott Frederick, Wildlife Conservation Officer, Pennsylvania Game Commission</i></p> <p>Visual Tracking and Woodland Tracking Teams: What is Visual Tracking? All Game Wardens do it without thinking about it. Visual Tracking by one definition is to follow by means of physical evidence, by focusing on specific sign indicating the passage of a human. By taking your time and being patient, you can extend your crime scene to follow the "spoor" left by your suspect. I will provide information on the training our Trackers have taken to prepare them for tactical tracking applications. This presentation will also describe the procedures that the PA Game Commission followed to establish a Tracking Team. Tracking Teams have been used for crime scene tracking, footprint evidence recovery, pursuit of fleeing felons, rural narcotics investigations, environmental investigations, reconnaissance and intelligence surveillance and search and rescue. The potential applications of the Tracking Team are endless.</p>