

FWC

Division of Law Enforcement



Weekly Report

June 24 through June 30, 2016

This report represents some events the FWC handled over the past week; however, it does not include all actions taken by the Division of Law Enforcement.

Patrol, Protect, Preserve

NORTHWEST REGION

Officers in the Northwest Region participated in Operation Dry Water, focusing their patrol efforts on Boating under the Influence (BUI) education, awareness and enforcement. They worked 715 boating safety hours and made 5 media contacts. The officers conducted 1,056 vessel inspections, checked 3,007 users, issued 53 boating citations, made 5 BUI arrests (alcohol) and one BUI arrest (drugs), and issued 126 boating safety warnings. The three highest blood alcohol content (BAC) recorded were .137, .210 and .220.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

CASES

Lieutenant Hahr was patrolling the Perdido River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) when a girl came running up to tell him about a man assaulting a woman in the parking lot. After running back to the parking lot, Lieutenant Hahr was directed to a truck where the man was about to leave with his family. After a short investigation, he determined that the man had been drinking and was upset with his son and daughter for getting ahead of him and his wife on their float trip. He had thrown his 14-year-old daughter around by her hair and violently grabbed his 17-year-old son by his throat and hair. The man was arrested for two counts of domestic violence battery.

Officer Clark was on patrol in Opal Beach Federal Park and observed a vehicle exceeding the speed limit. He initiated a traffic stop, approached the driver and asked for his driver license. The driver stated he left it at the office. Officer Clark could smell an odor of cannabis emanating from the vehicle. He asked the driver if he had anything illegal in the vehicle. The driver stated he had a pipe in his backpack. Officer Clark informed the driver he was going to search the bag and the driver stated that there was also cannabis in the bag. On the passenger seat, a metal grinder was in plain view. All items were seized and the driver was identified through FWC Dispatch with no valid license and as a habitual traffic offender with five previous suspensions. Officer Clark placed the driver into custody and charged him with felony driving with license suspended, possession of cannabis under 20 grams and possession of paraphernalia.

Officers Hutchinson and Clark were patrolling at Whiting Park on Blackwater River. The officers were inside the office when an anonymous complainant informed them that an extremely intoxicated person just returned from operating a vessel. He advised that the individual almost fell down when exiting the vessel. While they were standing in the office, the complainant pointed at a white male in a blue truck and advised that he was the person he was talking about. Officers Hutchinson and Clark left the office and while getting in their patrol vehicle, the truck had already started to drive off. The officers followed for a short distance observing the vehicle swerving out of the lane several times. They stopped the vehicle and approached the driver. The driver spontaneously stated that he was going to let someone else drive. He said he had been drinking and that he was not safe to drive. While talking with the driver, Officer Clark could smell a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. Officer Clark requested the driver to participate in some field alcohol tests and he agreed. The driver performed poorly on all tests and

was arrested and transported to Santa Rosa County Jail for DUI. The driver provided a breath sample of .125.

Officer McHenry was on vessel patrol in Big Lagoon State Park and stopped a vessel that did not have a registration decal displayed. While speaking with the vessel's operator, he noticed several signs of impairment. The operator agreed to perform several field alcohol tests, performed poorly and was arrested and transported to the Escambia County Jail for BUI. The breath sample provided resulted in a blood alcohol content of .224.

Officer McHenry was patrolling the area in the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) in front of Big Lagoon State Park. He stopped a vessel displaying Alabama registration numbers but no registration decal. Because of the time and the amount of boat traffic in the area, Officer McHenry had the suspect operate the vessel at idle speed to the state park in calmer waters with less boat traffic. While conducting the boating safety inspection, he noticed a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the suspect's breath. The suspect also had red, glassy blood-shot eyes and slurred speech. The suspect voluntarily performed field alcohol tests, performed poorly and was charged with BUI and failure to register his vessel.

JACKSON COUNTY

Officer Forehand was conducting surveillance at Chattahoochee Landing along the Apalachicola River when he watched a fisherman throwing a cast net along the river's edge. Officer Forehand watched the fisherman empty the catch from the cast net into the live well of his vessel. Upon inspecting the fisherman's catch, he found that the fisherman had taken 31 bream with the cast net. He was charged with taking freshwater game fish by an illegal method and the fish were returned to the water alive.

OKALOOSA COUNTY

During Operation Dry Water, Officers Molnar and Bartlett were on vessel patrol in the East Pass when they observed a vessel violating the idle speed/no wake restricted zone. While conducting a vessel stop to address the wake zone violation, Officer Molnar could smell of strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the operator's breath and he also stated he had been drinking throughout the day. Officer Bartlett administered field alcohol tests on the individual and observed indicators of impairment. The operator was arrested for BUI and later provided a breath sample of 0.116 and 0.112. The individual was transported to the Okaloosa County Jail.

During Operation Dry Water, Officers Molnar and Bartlett were on vessel patrol and observed a small vessel in violation of the idle speed/no wake restricted zone. After Officer Molnar established communication with the operator, he observed several open cans of alcoholic beverage. Officer Molnar had concerns the operator was impaired. The operator agreed to perform field alcohol tests which indicated his impairment, and

he was arrested for BUI. The operator provided a breath sample of 0.063. The operator was transported to the Okaloosa County Jail.

Officers Pifer and Corbin were on vessel patrol in the East Pass and Destin Harbor conducting state fisheries inspections. Throughout the day, the officers conducted fisheries inspections on five charter boats they observed coming back from fishing trips. The first charter boat was found to be in possession undersized, out of season greater amberjack. The second charter boat was found to be in possession of undersized gray triggerfish, also out of season. The third charter boat was found to be in possession of an undersized king mackerel and an undersized red snapper. The fourth charter boat was found to be in possession of over the bag limit and undersized red snapper. The fifth charter boat was found to be in possession of undersized red snapper. All operators/vessel captains were issued notice to appear citations.

While in Destin Harbor, Officers Pifer and Corbin observed a swimmer in the channel causing a navigational hazard as well as endangering himself. The officers responded quickly and ordered the swimmer to swim back to the dock. The swimmer ignored the officers and continued to interfere with navigation in the harbor. The officers began to direct vessel traffic as they continued to give verbal commands for the swimmer to swim back to the dock. At one point, the swimmer submerged himself under the water where he could not be seen. Eventually, the swimmer complied. At the dock, Officer Pifer asked for the swimmer's name. Again, the individual would not cooperate, was sarcastic, provided a false name, and attempted to walk away from the officers. The individual was arrested for interference with an FWC officer and transported to the Okaloosa County Jail.

Officers Molnar and Bartlett were on vessel patrol in the East Pass when they were notified about an individual who was in possession of a spear gun while scuba diving the East Jetties. They made contact with two males who were scuba diving at the jetties and found one of them in possession of a pole spear. Officer Bartlett issued the individual a notice to appear citation and educated the divers on the rules of spear fishing along the jetties in East Pass.

RESCUES

WALTON COUNTY

Lieutenants Hollinhead and Golloher, Pilot Tolbert, and Officers Letcher, Bartlett, Molnar and Tison participated in a search and rescue on Choctawhatchee Bay after receiving information of an overdue kayaker. The subject was last observed traveling across the bay and was reported as not having a personal flotation device. Walton County Sheriff's Department marine units and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) assisted with the search. The following day, the subject's kayak was located submerged along the shoreline. On the third day of the search, the body of the subject was located by Pilot Tolbert from the FWC aircraft. FWC Investigator Armstrong will be conducting the boating accident investigation.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

CASES

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Officer Boone was on land patrol when he observed a vehicle leaving Suwannee River Water Management District property. Officer Boone observed the vehicle swerve and then come to a stop in the roadway. Officer Boone made contact with the driver and subsequently conducted a driver's license check through FWC dispatch. He was notified the driver's license was suspended and cancelled and then observed a hollow pen and tin foil in the driver's seat. When asked if there were any drugs in the car, the driver produced a small baggie of marijuana from the dashboard. The driver then consented to a search of the vehicle. A search of the vehicle further revealed a hollow pen with teeth marks on the end, a glass pipe, and tin foil containing a clear, crystal-like substance. The substance was field tested and was positive for methamphetamine. The driver was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended, possession of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Officer Boone participated in the Century 21 Program held at the Branford Library. He brought an American alligator and taught the children about the alligator and the importance of not feeding wildlife. There were approximately 35 children in attendance.

Officer Boone also participated in the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office summer camp at the Branford High School. He conducted a boating safety presentation, stressing the importance of wearing a life jacket while a vessel is underway. There were approximately 15 children in attendance.

NORTHEAST REGION

CASES

BREVARD COUNTY

While on patrol in Three Forks WMA, Lieutenant Lightsey was waved down by a concerned citizen. The man advised he saw two men, drinking beer, leave their truck lights on and go out in a small boat at dark. After waiting some time for the men to return to the ramp, the officer observed two men fitting the description and yelling as they approached the dock. While conducting a boating safety inspection, the officer

encountered several indicators of impairment. Additionally, the operator had been arrested by the officer at the same place three months earlier for boating under the influence (BUI). After performing standardized field alcohol tests, the man was arrested for BUI and additionally charged for refusing to submit to a breath sample for the second time or subsequent time. The man was transported to the Brevard County Jail without incident.

While on patrol at Three Forks WMA, Lieutenant Lightsey observed a vehicle with a headlight out. Once the driver parked the vehicle, the officer approached the female driver to advise her of the violation. While speaking with her, FWC dispatch advised him that the woman had a warrant for theft out of Brevard County. The woman was arrested and delivered to the Brevard County Jail.

MARION COUNTY

Officer Hargabus organized a detail in Rainbow Springs State Park that focused on public safety and alcohol violations. Members from the Marion County squad worked together with park staff to identify problem areas to target enforcement. The detail resulted in nine citations and five written warnings issued for alcohol and speeding violations, as well as other public safety issues.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

While on routine water patrol on the St. Johns River, Officer Cogburn and Lieutenant Hudson observed an individual on plane in the Lemon Bluff slow speed zone. The vessel was stopped for the violation and a vessel safety inspection was conducted. During the inspection, the operator appeared to be intoxicated. Standardized field sobriety tasks were conducted as part of the BUI investigation. Based on initial observations and the field sobriety tasks, the defendant was placed under arrest for BUI. Additionally, the operator was issued three citations for boating safety and slow speed zone violations, and was charged a \$500 civil penalty for refusal to submit to a breath test.

SOUTHWEST REGION

CASES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Officer Birchfield was conducting routine land patrol at Charlotte County Fishing Piers. While Officer Birchfield observed several anglers fishing on the Boca Grande Fishing Pier, he noticed one individual catching and keeping multiple fish. When Officer Birchfield conducted a resource inspection with that individual, he was found to be in possession of one undersized gag grouper, five undersized grey snapper and 10 grey snapper, 5 over the bag limit. The gag grouper was alive and returned to the resource

and the illegal grey snapper were seized as evidence. Multiple notices to appear were issued for the fishery violations.

DESOTO COUNTY

Officer Stephens responded to a boating accident with injuries on the Peace River. Dispatch received a report of a PWC crashing into a bridge. The operator was admitted into Desoto Memorial Hospital and, after being evaluated, released with minor injuries. The operator was cited for violation of navigational rules and issued a written warning for not having a Boating Safety Education Identification Card.

HERNANDO COUNTY

Officers Little and Spradlin were on vessel patrol on the Weeki Wachee River when they observed a subject appearing to hide something in his kayak. As the officers approached, they could smell an odor of burning marijuana. The subject was found to be in possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana as well as paraphernalia. He was charged accordingly.

Officer Henry was checking inbound vessels at Bayport Boat Ramp. While at the ramp, he observed a vehicle driving in an unsafe manner. Officer Henry stopped the vehicle and observed the driver showing signs of impairment. Field alcohol tests were performed, and the driver was subsequently arrested for DUI and cited for careless driving. At the jail, the subject provided a breath sample and was more than twice the legal limit of .08.

While on patrol on the Weeki Wachee River, Officer Bergwerff and Lieutenant Grover made two separate drug cases. Both involved the possession of marijuana, and one subject also was in possession of prescription drugs without a prescription. Both subjects were charged accordingly.

Officer Bergwerff and Lieutenant Grover stopped a vessel for a boating violation on the Weeki Wachee River. A passenger was also found in possession of alcohol. The subject provided the officers with a false name and date of birth, trying to show he was over the age of 21. He was charged with possession of alcohol by a person under 21 and providing false information to a law enforcement officer.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Officers Adams, Smith and Stephens responded to a complaint of a fisherman snatch hooking fish at the 621 spillway. Officer Smith in plain clothes was able to observe a subject snatch a Crappie and place it in his cooler. Officers Adams and Stephens conducted a fisheries inspection and found the subject had in his possession two Crappie's that had been taken by snatch hook. The subject was issued a notice to appear for taking freshwater fish by illegal method.

Officers Alvis, Creel, and Smith responded to a complaint of a subject having a fawn deer in his possession. Upon contact at the subject's residence, the officers observed a fawn deer in a cage. The subject was issued the appropriate notices to appear. The fawn deer was turned over to a wildlife rehabber.

MANATEE COUNTY

Officer Martinez was on land patrol in the area of the South Skyway Fishing Pier. While on patrol he stopped and performed a fisheries inspection on a man fishing from the pier. During the course of the inspection, he found that the subject had caught and kept one undersized cobia. The subject was given a criminal citation for possession of undersized cobia and will have to appear in court.

PASCO COUNTY

Multiple FWC officers worked the Anclote and Pithlachascotee rivers in support of Operation Dry Water. In all, the officers inspected 52 vessels for compliance. During the inspections, the officers encountered numerous violations and the appropriate citations or warnings were issued. One individual was arrested for BUI; the individual refused to provide a breath sample.

Officer Williams was on water patrol in the early morning hours near the mouth of the Anclote River. While on patrol, he observed a vessel returning to shore from the Anclote Island area. He stopped the vessel to conduct a boating safety inspection and during the inspection, he noticed bait fish and fishing rods. Officer Williams then conducted a resource inspection and located an oversized snook inside the angler's live well. Officer Williams issued a citation for the violation and the fish was seized as evidence.

PINELLAS COUNTY

Officer Martinez was on land patrol in the area of the North Skyway Rest Area. While on patrol, he stopped and performed a fisheries inspection on a man fishing from the shoreline just before the pier. During the course of the inspection, he found that the subject was in possession of one undersized and out-of-season snook. The subject was given two criminal citations for his violations and will have to appear in court.

POLK COUNTY

Officers Alvis and Chase observed two subjects fishing from a vessel on Lake Easy. During a resource inspection, the officers discovered the subjects were in possession of undersized bass. Neither subject had any type of measuring device or a valid freshwater fishing license. The subjects were cited accordingly and the fish were returned to the water alive.

Officers Alvis and Tyer observed two individuals commercial fishing from a water control structure at Lake Hancock. After making contact with the subjects, dispatch advised that

one of the subjects had an active warrant. Officer Alvis placed him under arrest and during a pat down, discovered he was in possession of a bag of cannabis. The operator of the vessel consented to a search of the vessel. In a small compartment that contained a phone, keys and sunglasses, Officer Alvis discovered a bottle of pills with no label. Poison control confirmed the pills contained in the bottle were a Schedule II drug. Both subjects were subsequently arrested and transported to the Polk County Jail without incident.

MAJOR WILDLIFE ASSISTANCE

LEE COUNTY

Officers Fogle and Spoede responded to a bear which had been wandering through a neighborhood near downtown Fort Myers during the early morning hours. The officers attempted for many hours to encourage the bear to move to a more suitable location with no avail. FWC biologists then set a trap for the bear in an attempt to capture it. The bear eventually found a spot to hide from the heat of the day. After some heavy rains pushed through in the afternoon, the bear once again began moving around the neighborhood. Officers Thompson, Rogers, Collazo, Wilkenson, Lieutenant Ruggiero and Fort Myers Police Department responded to the scene and secured the area. The officers were able to guide the bear towards the trap. After a while, the approximately 200-pound juvenile bear entered the trap and was secured inside long enough for the local media and residents to get a few pictures before it was transported to a more suitable habitat.

SOUTH A REGION

CASES

BROWARD COUNTY

While Officer Strader was on patrol near Dania Beach, he observed individuals spearfishing just offshore. The spear fishermen exited the water and proceeded to a car. The officer contacted the individuals and found the individuals to be in possession of six wrung (heads detached) spiny lobster tails and an undersized grouper. Officer Strader issued the two individuals citations for possession of spiny lobster out of season and possession of wrung spiny lobster tails. A warning was issued for the undersized grouper.

Officer Gamage and Investigator Coffin responded by vessel to assist the USCG with a migrant vessel offshore from Dania Beach. Once on the scene, they determined that the vessel was going to make landfall just south of the Dania Pier and coordinated land-based units to respond to the area. Officers Matthews, Vacin and Brock, as well as Investigator Warne, responded to Dania Beach by land to assist. Officers from the Broward County Sheriff's Office, Hollywood Police Department, and US Customs and

Border Protection were also on scene. As the migrant vessel made landfall, the subjects on board were detained. The subjects were in the custody of the US Customs and Border Protection. The many agencies on scene were tasked not only with safely detaining the migrant subjects, but also with ensuring the safety of hundreds of beachgoers.

Officer Brock was dispatched to the area of the Commercial Pier in reference to a snook complaint. Officer Brock arrived to the pier in the early morning hours and, with information gathered, he made contact with an individual. The individual was in possession of a snook. Officer Brock issued the individual a criminal notice to appear for possession of snook out of season. The dead snook was seized as evidence.

MARTIN COUNTY

Officers Aswall and Morrow conducted a fisheries inspection of a vessel that was returning from offshore through the St. Lucie Inlet. Upon boarding the vessel, Officer Morrow measured approximately twenty dolphin, 16 of which were undersized. The minimum recreational size limit for dolphin in Florida Atlantic waters is 20" to the fork. When the vessel occupants were asked if they had measured their catch prior to keeping it, they advised that they had not, despite the fact that they had a measuring device on board. Two vessel occupants admitted they were responsible for catching the undersized dolphin. Each was issued a citation for possession of eight undersized dolphin. Sixteen undersized dolphin were released to the resource at the conclusion of the call.

Officer Cobo received a call from a local fishing guide who stated he was told to stop fishing from his vessel unless he was two feet off of the property line in a well-known housing development attached to the ICW. The guide said he was with his client and was chumming an area when a security guard in a small skiff told him to stay two feet from the edge of the property line. The security guard started running his skiff in circles, agitating the water and making it uncomfortable for the fishing guide and his client. Officer Cobo contacted the local security office and spoke with the captain of security and informed the captain that it is illegal to harass hunters or fishermen and that no one may disturb fish or game or attempt to affect their behavior with the intent to prevent their lawful taking by another. A verbal warning was issued to the security officer.

Officers Rogers and Moss were on vessel patrol offshore and made multiple vessel stops and conducted fishery inspections throughout the day. The officers watched a sport fish vessel coming in from far offshore, stopped the vessel and conducted a fisheries inspection. When asked, the operator of the vessel advised they were fishing all day and that they had three small dolphin in the cooler. Officer Rogers asked the operator of the vessel if he measured the fish or knew the minimum legal length for dolphin. The operator advised that he was unsure, but knew it was something to the fork of the tail. When Officer Rogers opened the cooler, he noticed three undersized dolphin and a sticker tape measure that was stuck on the inside of the cooler. The sticker displayed dolphin minimum size at twenty inches. When Officer Rogers asked the

subject why he had kept the undersized fish, he advised he could not find mahi-mahi on his regulations ruler. The subject was issued a citation for possession of undersized dolphin and was educated on the two names.

Officer Carroll conducted a fisheries inspection on a vessel at Sandsprit Park, in Stuart. The owner of the vessel was found to be in possession of two undersized dolphin. The individual was cited accordingly.

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Officer Spradling participated in Operation Dry Water, a nationwide proactive enforcement effort to combat the use of alcohol and other drugs by vessel operators. Numerous vessels were checked for resource and boating safety compliance. Several warnings were issued.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Officers Payne and Shermetaro also participated in Operation Dry Water. While on patrol conducting vessel stops, they came upon an operator of a vessel who appeared to be impaired. Officer Payne administered field alcohol tests which confirmed his suspicions. The subject was arrested and booked for BUI. A subsequent test of his breath revealed a .137 result.

RESCUES

BROWARD

Officer Brock overheard a call coming in to the Hollywood Police Department about a missing child in John Lloyd State Park. Officers Brock and Vacin responded to assist with the search. A short while later, Officers Matthews and Delatorre and Investigator Warne joined the search. After making contact with park rangers from the state park, it was determined that the missing child might be a duplicate call about a missing child that was located earlier. The search was maintained until the park closed at sunset. Once all subjects were out of the park and no concerned parents or child were located, the search was called off.

PALM BEACH

Officers Moss and Rogers took the 10-meter boat on federal water patrol from Jupiter Inlet. As they neared the inlet, they received an emergency call for help. A small vessel was taking on water two miles east of the inlet. When they arrived at the location, the vessel was sitting low in the water with all passengers on board safely wearing lifejackets. Sea Tow, Tow Boat and one of our unmarked vessels were also on the scene. They were able to escort the vessel back to Jupiter Inlet without issue.

DIRECTED CONSERVATION PATROLS

PALM BEACH/MARTIN COUNTIES

Officers have been working late night/early morning shifts on the beaches to protect sea turtles during their egg-laying season.

SOUTH B REGION

CASES

COLLIER COUNTY

Officer Arbogast initiated a resource and safety inspection on a vessel that was approaching Bayview Boat Ramp in Naples. The inspection revealed multiple safety violations and during the stop, it was found that the operator had an active warrant out of Lee County. The operator was placed into custody and taken to Collier County Jail without incident. The operator was issued the appropriate citations for the safety violations.

While on state water patrol near the Ten Thousand Islands, Officers Araujo and Kleis conducted a resource and safety inspection stop on a vessel that had three individuals actively fishing. When the officers asked what they had caught that day, the captain stated that they had caught catfish. Upon inspection of the subjects' coolers, 14 undersized mangrove snapper were found. The captain took responsibility for keeping the fish and the appropriate citations were issued.

Officers Arbogast and Kleis were on water patrol in the Ten Thousand Islands when they observed a vessel occupied with people actively fishing. The officers stopped the vessel to conduct a resource and safety inspection. Upon making contact with the occupants, it was learned that they were on a chartered fishing trip. When the officers requested the appropriate licenses and paperwork from the captain, he was unable to provide a charter fishing license. A license check revealed that the captain did not have a charter fishing license. The captain was issued a citation for not having a valid charter fishing license and issued warnings for safety violations.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Officers Washington and Ludtke stopped a vessel for a resource inspection at night near the Venetian Causeway. When asked if the operator had any fish, he stated "only one" and opened a deck hatch to show a jack crevalle. Officer Washington boarded the vessel in order to conduct a thorough resource check. When the officer opened a cooler on the vessel, he saw what appeared to be a conch shell. Upon closer inspection, the queen conch marine life could be seen still inside the shell. The queen conch was

returned back to the resource. The operator admitted to taking the queen conch when he was spearfishing and was charged accordingly.

MONROE COUNTY

Officer Garrison assisted Monroe County Sheriff's deputies by giving them a vessel transport to Wisteria Island near Key West in an attempt to locate three suspects who had warrants for felony battery. Once at Wisteria Island, the deputies walked the island but were unable to locate any of the suspects. They provided the names of the individuals and Officer Garrison checked the FWC anchorage database to see if they had been contacted on any of the vessels within Key West Harbor. Upon crosschecking the database, the officers learned that the sister of one of the suspects had a vessel on the west side of Fleming Key. When the officers located and pulled alongside the vessel, the deputies identified the only individual on board as one of the three wanted suspects. The individual was placed under arrest by the deputies and was transported to the jail on Stock Island.

Officer Wilkins was walking the north end of Long Key Bridge when he approached a group of three people, one of which was fishing. Officer Wilkins asked if they had any luck and the gentleman that was fishing stated that he had caught a few fish. After looking inside the gentleman's cooler, there were several small mangrove snapper and an undersized mutton snapper. In total, there were 11 undersized mangrove snapper and one undersized mutton snapper. The gentleman was cited accordingly.

Officers Martino and Garrison were on water patrol in Cow Key Channel near Key West when they observed an individual standing on shore next to dive gear, a dive flag and spear guns. As they approached the individual, he picked up all of the equipment and began to walk away. Officer Garrison approached the individual and asked him if he had caught anything and he replied that he had not. While standing next to the individual, Officer Garrison noticed a shell inside the dive bag which appeared to be a prohibited queen conch shell. Officer Garrison asked the individual if he could take it out of the bag, and he agreed. The diver then removed 4 queen conch shells. Upon inspection of the shells, there were live queen conch inside each of them. The diver was issued a misdemeanor citation for possession of 4 queen conch.

Officer Mattson and Lieutenant Haney worked together for the nationwide event Operation Dry Water. They encountered and arrested two separate impaired operators. Officer Mattson arrested a very impaired Key Largo man in Whale Harbor Channel; he refused to provide a breath sample. The passenger gave Lieutenant Haney a false name and the wrong date of birth, and he also was arrested.

Lieutenant Haney arrested a man in the area of Big Basin near Islamorada for impaired operation. He also refused to provide a breath sample. After Lieutenant Haney arrested the man, it was discovered that he had one prior DUI arrest and another that had been pled down to reckless operation.

RESCUES

COLLIER COUNTY

While conducting federal joint enforcement fisheries inspections 30 miles offshore of Marco Island, Officers Arbogast and Eaton performed a welfare check on a 48-foot sailboat. The sailboat was occupied by three females who stated that their engine would not start for the past two days and were unable to sail for lack of wind. With no generator and batteries running low, the captain asked the officers to arrange for a tow to Marco Island. The officers were able to have FWC dispatch contact a tow company and they stayed with the occupants until the tow company arrived.

MONROE COUNTY

Officer Mattson was off duty while he and his family were on the way to the Marathon Power boat races. As they were coming off the Channel 5 Bridge in Lower Matecumbe, Officer Mattson observed something white in the water. He soon discovered that it was a vehicle that had gone off the roadway and into the water. Officer Mattson stopped to render aid. The driver was out of the vehicle and standing on the rocks near the roadway. The vehicle soon sank after Officer Mattson arrived. The driver was alert and coherent although he was complaining of some neck and shoulder pain as well as a racing heartbeat. Officer Mattson kept the man conscious by asking him questions and didn't move him in order to prevent further injury. They waited for Fire Rescue to arrive with a backboard. Through questioning, it was determined that the man's heart began racing and his vision had narrowed prior to the vehicle going into the water. The case was turned over to FHP. Officer Trueblood arrived by water to assist with recovery of the vehicle by the tow company.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

MONROE COUNTY

Officer Dube and his son attended the FWC's Everglade's Youth Conservation Camp in western Palm Beach County. The Everglade's youth camp is on J.W Corbett WMA, a 60,000-acre tract of land that is set aside for conservation. Campers are taught how to fish, canoe, and kayak as well as shoot with bows, muzzleloaders, and shotguns. Officer Dube assisted the campers with a multitude of activities during his week's stay. The summer camp programs operate each summer, offering many week-long camps. This is a great way to introduce our youth to the outdoors, stewardship and conservation while learning to appreciate our diverse state. You can learn more about the summer camps at ["Creating the Next Generation That Cares"](#).