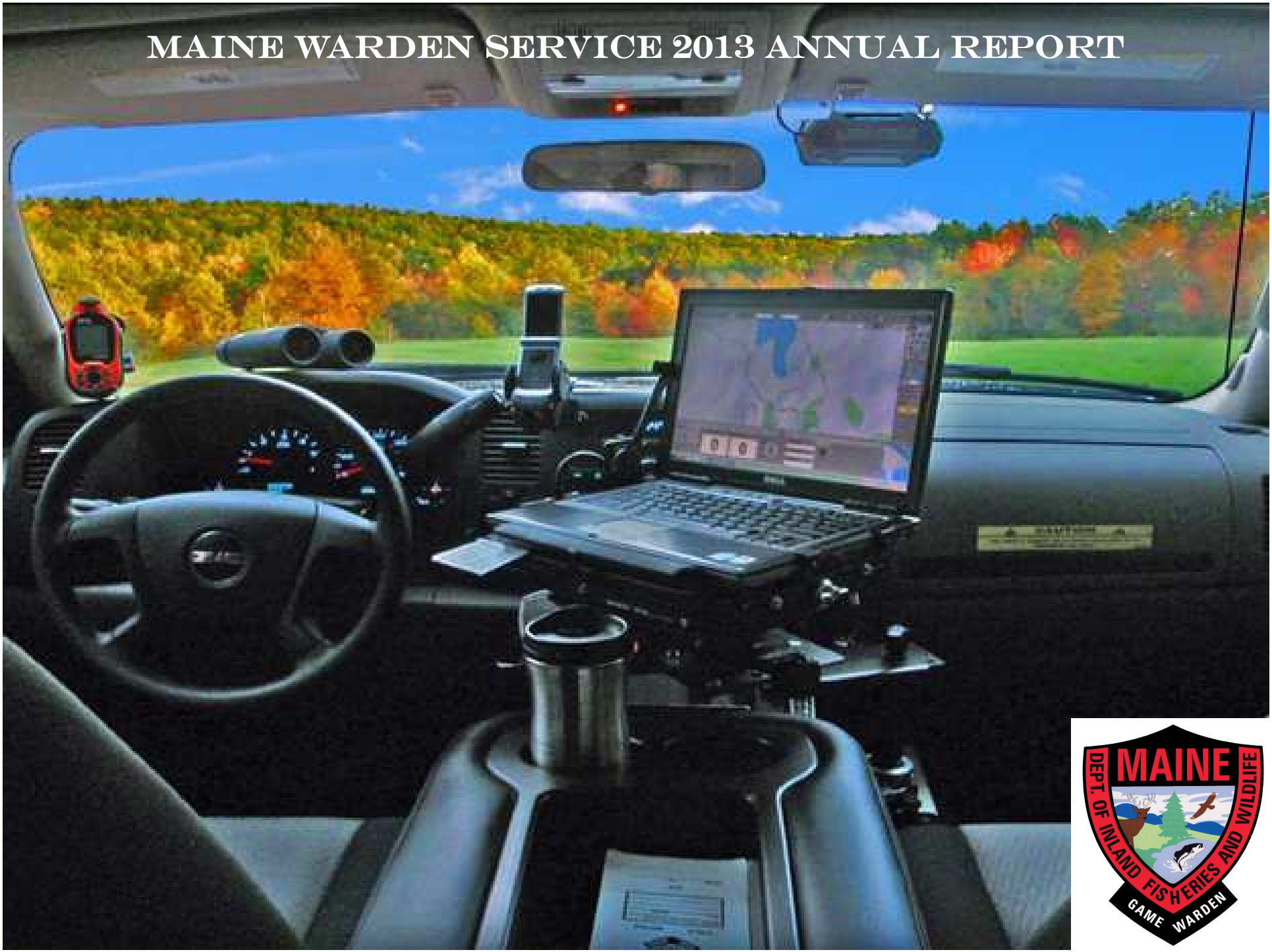
MAINE WARDEN SERVICE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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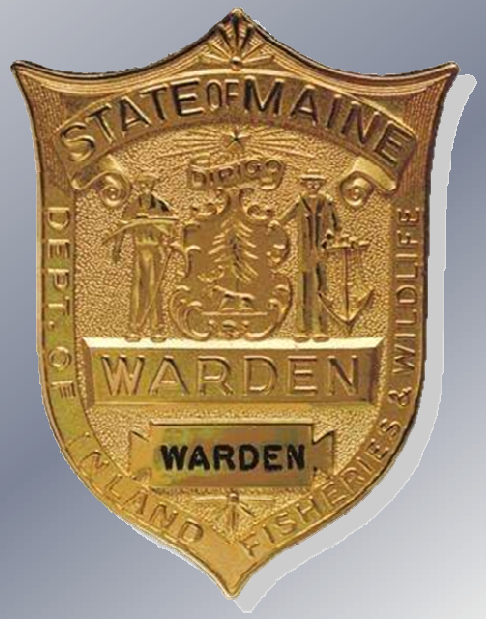

Our Mission

Through education, community involvement, professional law enforcement, and search and rescue practices, we serve and protect the public while conserving Maine's fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

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BUREAU OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

October 1, 2014

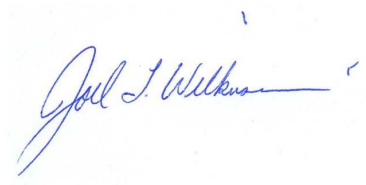
Dear Commissioner Woodcock and outdoor enthusiasts,

I would like to present to you the Maine Warden Service 2013 annual report that highlights the Bureau of Warden Service activities and expenses for both calendar and fiscal year 2013. As we continue to move forward and meet the ever-changing needs of all we serve, the Maine Warden Service is focused on providing professional off-road law enforcement services as Maine's second largest state law enforcement agency. Whether enforcing our fish and wildlife laws and regulations, or providing public safety to all those who enjoy the many outdoor activities Maine has to offer, Maine Game Wardens have been dedicated and committed to Maine's natural resources and to those who enjoy them, for over 134 years.

Today, as an agency, we are mindful of the many changes in technology that have impacted our line of work; from enhancements in communications devices to the latest technology for hunting and fishing implements. Balancing out the intent of the law as it relates to the latest and greatest innovations in hunting, fishing and trapping is something that Game Wardens face daily. We must be adaptive to this change and seek reasonable resolutions to complex situations and scenarios while maintaining public trust and confidence. We must continue to foster the public support from those that engage in the activities we regulate. We must balance education and enforcement decisions on a model that focuses on the intentional violators that steal from all of us. We must continue to focus enforcement on those that engage in behaviors that risk the safety of law abiding outdoor users. The mission of a Maine Game Warden is diverse, complex, dangerous and challenging at times. However, the men and women of the Maine Warden Service meet this mission daily and are proud to be part of such a rich and proud Maine outdoor heritage.

Please take the time to learn more about the Maine Warden Service by viewing the details within this comprehensive report. You will be provided with helpful and interesting information relating to the structure, budget, mission and work product of all that work for the Warden Service. Thank you for taking the time to read and view this report and please support your local game warden. We cannot conduct our mission without the valuable support and assistance of all that enjoy Maine's precious outdoor resources.

Thank You,



Colonel Joel T. Wilkinson

Maine Warden Service

JOEL WILKINSON

COLONEL SINCE 2008

Game Warden Colonel

The Director possesses full authority and responsibility for administering powers and duties of the bureau, subject to the direction of the Commissioner and except as otherwise provided by statute.

BUREAU STRUCTURE

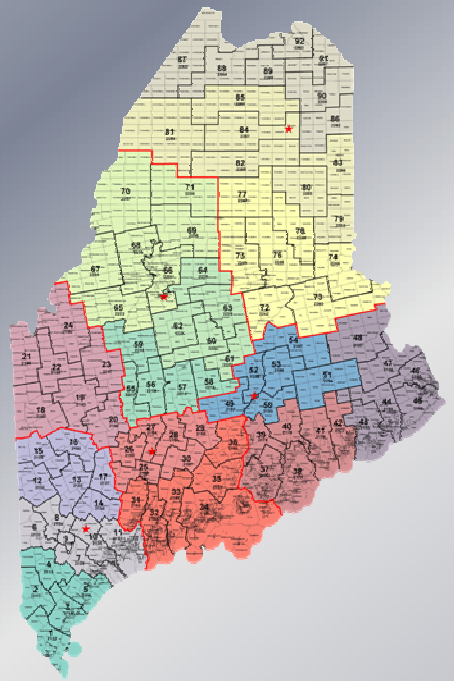
Law Enforcement Operations

The Maine Warden Service is the law enforcement branch of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It is equal in organizational level and status with other major organizational units within the department to its successors.

The bureau is administered by a Director — Game Warden Colonel — who is immediately responsible to the Deputy Commissioner.

The responsibilities of the bureau include, but are not limited to:

- General enforcement. Enforcement of laws or rules as designated by this part, or as specified:
- Wildlife and fisheries enforcement. Enforcement of laws and department rules pertaining to the management and protection of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife resources:
- Snowmobile, watercraft and all-terrain vehicle enforcement. Enforcement of laws and department rules pertaining to the registration and operation of snowmobiles, watercraft, and all-terrain vehicles;
- Investigations of hunting-related shooting incidents and recreational vehicle crashes;
- Search and rescue. The coordination and implementation of all search and rescue operations;
- Safety. Assistance with programs for hunter safety and for the safe operation of snowmobiles, watercraft, and all-terrain vehicles.
- Landowner Relations.



CHRIS CLOUTIER

MAJOR SINCE 2013

- Data collection. The collection of data as needed for the management and protection of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife resources; and
- Other. Such responsibilities as specified in state law.

The Maine Warden Service is made up of a field operations branch and special services branch that provides support services to the overall law enforcement mission. The Maine Warden Service has 125 sworn law enforcement officers, including 6 deputy wardens, 7 non -sworn civilians in administrative support functions and 1 Chaplain, for a total compliment of 139 staff. The main office headquarters is located in Augusta, with the five division offices located in Gray, Sidney, Bangor, Greenville and Ashland.

Field Operations:

The field operations divisions are supervised directly by the Game Warden Major and are made up of five Game Warden Lieutenants that supervise five divisions with a compliment of 117 uniformed law enforcement officers. These 117 law enforcement officers are broken into three sections within each of the five divisions. Each sections is supervised by a Game Warden Sergeant who is the field supervisor for 6-7 districts, which are the responsibility of the Game Warden assigned to the district. The Investigations Division is made up of four Game Warden Investigators that are stationed throughout the state. They are responsible for criminal investigation of all death-related incidents resulting in prosecution that the Maine Warden Service is responsible for. Additionally, they investigate the circumstances surrounding lost or missing persons and violations of the commercialization of fish and wildlife resources.

BUREAU STRUCTURE

SHON THERIAULT

CAPTAIN SINCE 2013

Special Services Division:

The special services division is made up of ten sworn law enforcement officers and two civilian employees that provide critical law enforcement support functions to the Maine Warden Service. These services include:

The Investigations Division, Training Program, Landowner Relations Program, Specialty Teams, White Water, and Internal Affairs Program all fall under Game Warden Captain Shon Theriault. The Investigations Division is made up of four Game Warden Investigators that are stationed throughout the state. The Investigators are responsible for the criminal investigation of all death-related incidents resulting in prosecution that the Maine Warden Service is responsible for. Additionally, they investigate the circumstances surrounding lost or missing persons and violations of the commercialization of fish and wildlife resources.

Whitewater Enforcement Program. One Game Warden Whitewater Boating Corporal is assigned to enforcement of Maine's commercial whitewater rafting industry. In 2012, Corporal Rick Clowry took over for Warden Aaron Cross.

Corporal John MacDonald is in charge of managing outreach, education and recruitment efforts. This position acts as liaison between Warden Service and media outlets, as well as organizing community educational events, and acting as contact person for possible recruits. Corporal MacDonald is also responsible for overseeing the Animal Planet TV Series, North Woods Law.

The Aviation Division is comprised of one Chief Game Warden Pilot. Chief Pilot Durward Humphrey is directly responsible for the air operations program to include supervision of pilots, policy development, maintenance, training and budget oversight, and two Game Warden Pilots. This division provides critical support to the search, rescue, and law enforcement mission of the Maine Warden Service. The Chief Game Warden Pilot reports directly to the Major.

NEW HIRES

Game Warden

Evan Ackley

Game Warden

Lucas Bellanceau

Game Warden

Timothy Coombs

Game Warden

Carleton Richardson

Game Warden

Chris Roy

Game Warden

Chris Sargent

Game Warden

Will Shuman

NEW HIRES

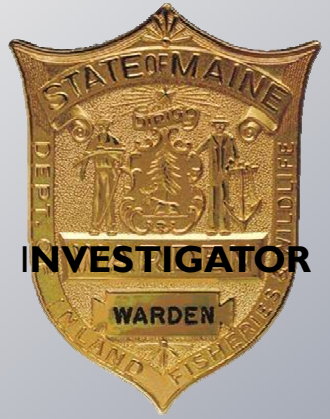
PROMOTIONS

Chris Cloutier from Captain to Major

Shon Theriault from Lieutenant to Captain

Tim Place from Sergeant to Lieutenant

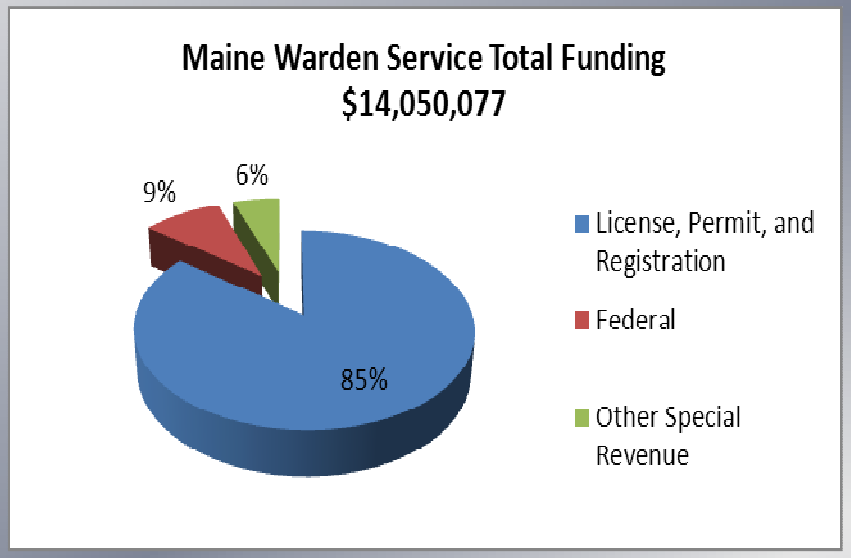
Durward Humphrey from Warden Pilot to Chief Warden Pilot



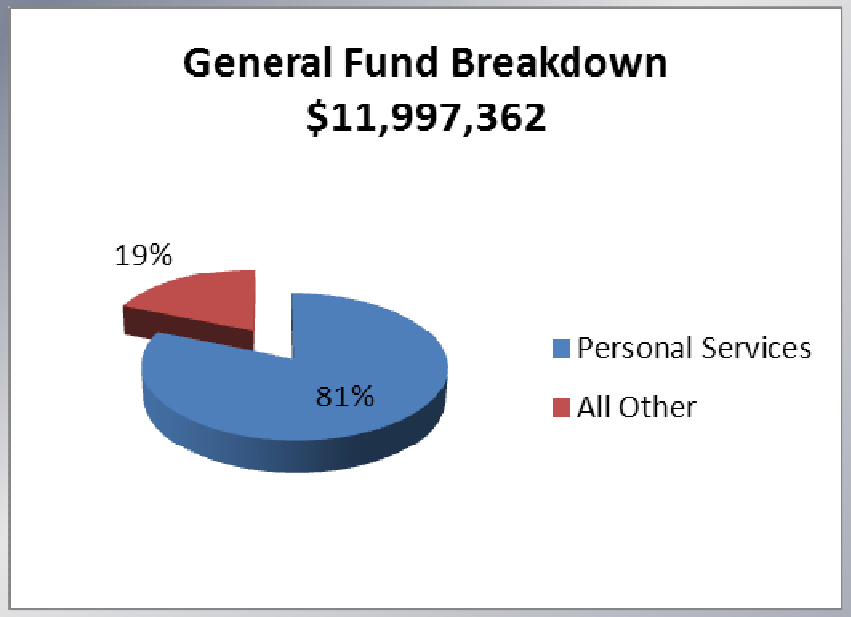
Joshua Bubier from Warden to Warden Investigator

Kris Barboza from Warden to Sergeant.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



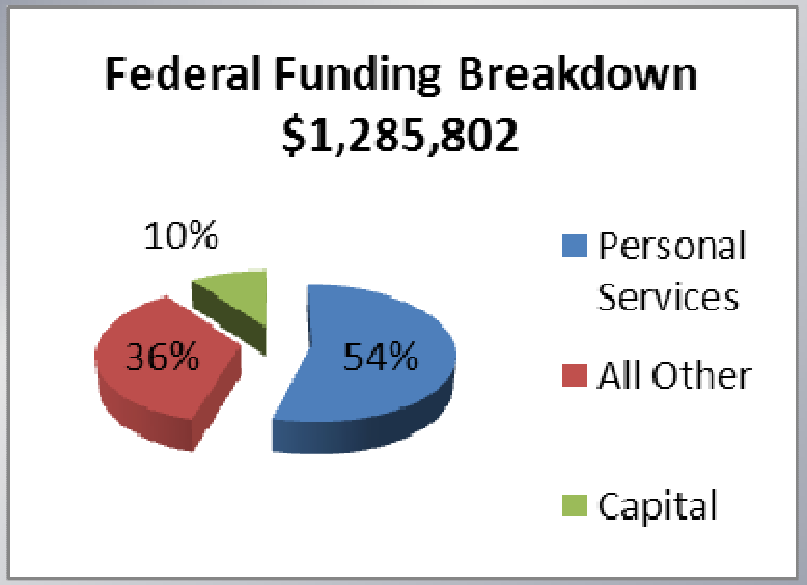
This graph represents the total law enforcement budget for the Maine Warden Service for 2013. The Maine Warden Service is involved with a number of federal grant and state special revenue programs that provide financial support to our law enforcement program and unique mission.



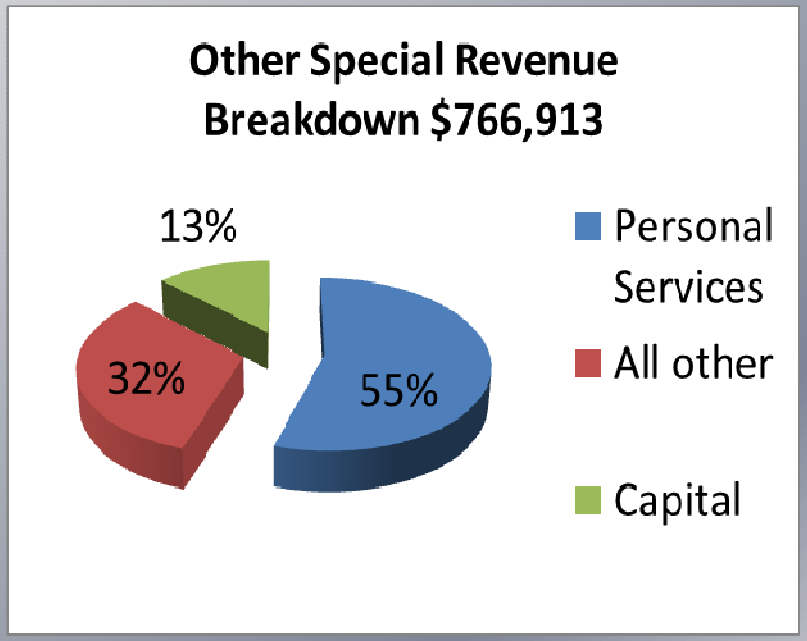
This graph represents a breakdown in our general fund revenue to the Maine Warden Service from our license, permit, and registration funding that is constitutionally protected and totals $11,997,362. Personal Services represents the total fully burdened costs for our entire sworn and non-sworn staff. It includes salary, overtime, insurance, retirement costs and represents the largest portion of our budget. All other funding includes the costs of our entire vehicle fleet, annual training costs, headquarters maintenance costs, uniforms, issued equipment, and general daily operating costs. Capital Equipment costs reflect all purchases of equipment exceeding a five thousand dollar value.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

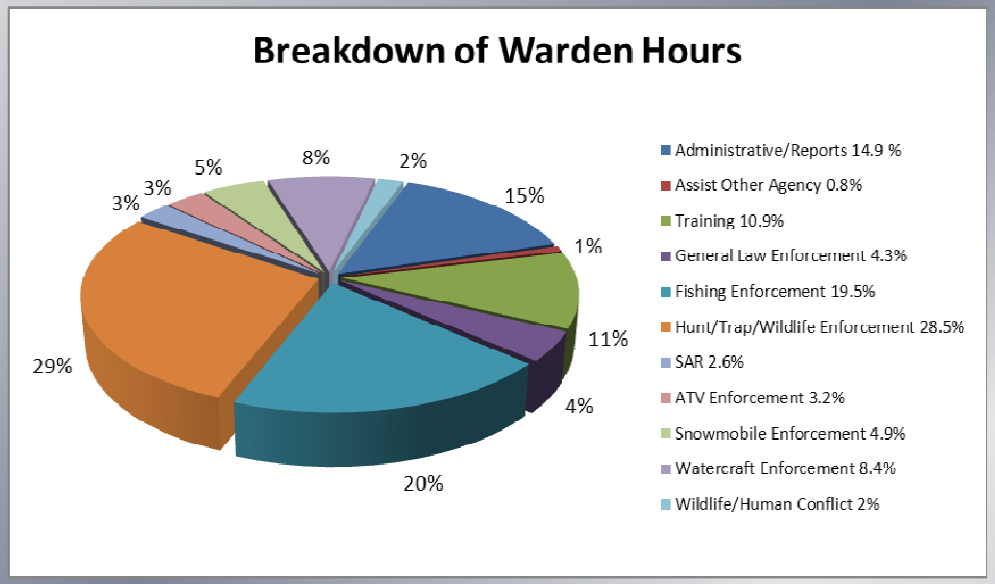
Included in this graph is a breakdown of costs in our total federal grant funding from the United State Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, and the United States Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing (COPS) program. The Maine Warden Service has worked diligently to identify and participate in federal grant opportunities to provide necessary financial support to our critical law enforcement role. These opportunities have allowed the agency to acquire vital capital needs for our field staff to include snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, trailers, computers, and various technology needs. These federal grant opportunities have been an opportunity for the Warden Service to address the structural underfunding that we have faced due to no general fund capital allotment being approved in past budgets.



Included in this graph are other special revenue accounts that contribute to our law enforcement mission. This funding totals $766,913.00. They include a portion of non-resident snowmobile registrations, a portion of the lake and river protection sticker fees, a portion of the whitewater rafting head and allocation fees, a portion of the ATV enforcement grant program, and a portion of the supersport license designation. These funds pay for equipment, training, and personnel costs related with the regulation, licensing, and enforcement of activities that generate the funding.



SUMMARY OF WARDEN ACTIVITIES



This chart is a breakdown of how Warden Service has spent its time over the past year. As you can see, the majority of time was spent on enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and wildlife laws. Protecting Maine's natural resources and stopping intentional violators, is of vital importance to the Warden Service mission.

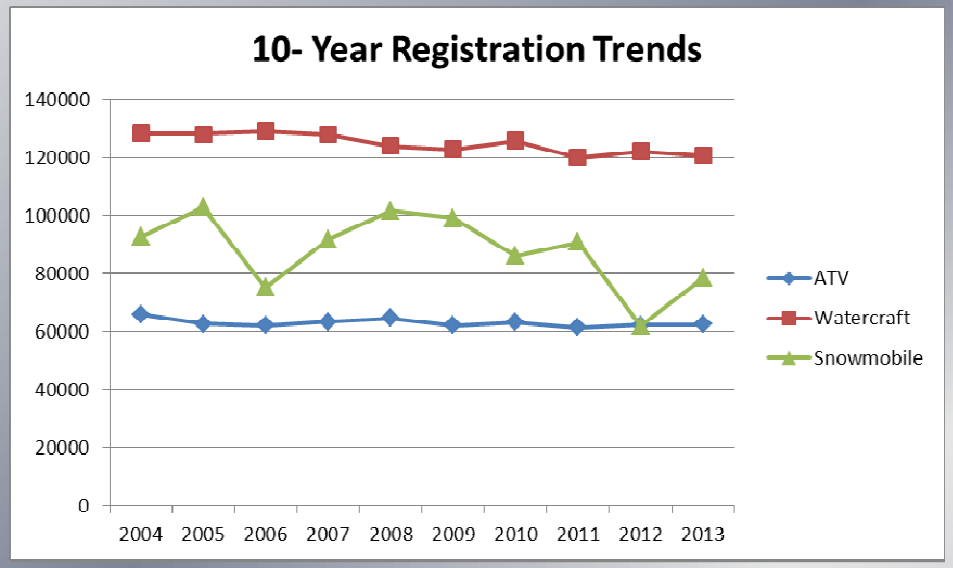
15-YEAR LICENSE SALES TRENDS

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
RESIDENT															
Fishing	112,928	111,808	109,242	104,224	102,618	104,282	102,188	108,447	107,963	108,343	112,656	110,298	104,582	108,100	106,651
Comb. Arch. & Fish.	559	537	532	522	805	1,041	1,188	1,473	1,113	1,166	819	765	728	745	777
Comb. Hunt. & Fish.	76,472	77,902	77,092	79,709	76,414	75,010	75,016	73,879	73,774	71,775	71,355	70,221	68,313	68,030	67,791
Serviceman Comb.	488	372	227	1,015	1,378	1,711	1,880	1,653	1,553	1,378	1,361	1,278	1,249	1,312	1,266
Serviceman Fish		172	209	141	161	160	192	175	161	188	155	148	172	159	148
Serviceman Hunt		153	172	50	47	50	41	34	38	33	35	30	20	15	28
Archery	9,976	9,782	9,541	10,836	12,165	12,891	12,838	12,277	12,494	11,536	11,873	10,839	9,881	10,455	10,789
Hunting	54,551	51,948	50,317	56,525	55,224	54,701	52,273	51,846	50,824	50,659	49,178	47,878	46,040	46,422	47,866
Junior Hunting	15,934	15,387	15,225	17,515	17,578	16,883	15,920	15,234	14,349	13,578	12,351	12,206	11,942	12,053	12,628
Small Game	888	828	857	948	1,013	1,078	931	876	861	799	967	1,151	1,244	1,371	1,342
Sucker-sack								724	954	1,865	1,453	1,945	2,481	2,059	2,102
Apprentice Hunt										679	834	627	668	777	893
Apprentice Archery										172	179	59	68	67	80
subtotal Fishing	190,458	190,621	186,386	184,761	181,522	182,214	180,464	186,351	185,518	184,715	187,799	184,655	177,525	180,405	178,735
subtotal Hunting	168,798	167,377	164,981	165,871	166,675	163,526	160,087	157,996	155,960	153,640	150,205	146,999	142,634	143,306	145,562
RESIDENT LIFETIME LICENSES															
Fishing		202	578	930	1,569	1,932	2,484	2,941	3,527	4,172	4,851	5,675	6,505	7,555	8,767
Hunting		48	141	204	322	391	512	699	685	785	877	993	1,121	1,270	1,420
Combination		1,374	2,751	3,625	5,125	7,539	9,864	13,243	17,022	20,945	24,881	29,149	33,466	38,560	43,958
subtotal Fishing		1,277	3,330	4,455	7,693	9,462	12,348	16,184	20,549	25,117	29,732	34,824	39,971	46,115	52,725
subtotal Hunting		1,123	2,892	3,829	6,447	7,911	10,376	13,842	17,707	21,730	25,758	30,142	34,587	39,830	45,378
Total Resident Licenses															
Fishing	190,458	191,898	189,716	189,216	189,215	191,676	192,812	202,535	206,067	209,832	217,531	219,479	217,496	226,520	231,460
Hunting	168,798	168,500	167,873	169,700	173,122	171,437	170,463	171,838	173,667	175,370	175,963	177,141	177,221	183,136	190,940

15-YEAR LICENSE SALES TRENDS

NONRESIDENT															
Season Fishing	13,878	14,412	14,821	15,136	14,833	15,537	15,892	16,266	16,804	16,805	17,195	16,274	15,884	16,405	16,385
1-Day Fishing	16,809	15,719	14,221	12,755	12,507	11,161	10,594	10,577	11,264	10,390	11,089	11,863	11,569	12,589	12,709
3-Day Fishing	22,697	22,882	22,110	22,385	20,405	20,121	19,865	19,686	20,471	19,457	19,966	22,088	21,262	22,044	22,252
7-Day Fishing	16,516	16,871	16,884	17,216	16,582	16,234	16,537	17,044	18,066	17,490	17,204	14,460	14,440	14,881	15,274
15-Day Fishing	4,467	4,443	4,371	4,306	4,072	3,954	3,607	3,757	3,760	3,712	3,719	3,795	3,719	3,782	3,849
Junior Fishing	5,455	5,353	5,180	5,248	5,155	4,838	4,628	4,685	4,842	4,580	4,536	4,146	4,043	4,069	4,102
Comb. Hunt. & Fish.	3,925	3,941	3,646	3,941	3,751	4,107	4,251	4,519	4,766	4,676	4,557	4,177	4,037	4,181	4,408
Archery	887	1,099	1,115	1,152	1,227	1,282	1,297	1,310	1,275	1,115	1,030	926	735	813	861
Big Game	30,666	31,399	30,678	30,676	29,508	29,961	27,189	26,087	24,103	20,878	18,471	17,513	16,328	15,906	16,434
Small Game	1,775	1,895	2,051	2,299	2,092	2,178	2,223	2,089	2,232	2,101	2,033	2,282	2,184	2,434	2,493
3-Day Small Game	1,679	1,715	1,962	2,017	2,175	1,870	2,004	1,932	2,001	1,900	1,987	2,080	1,998	2,234	2,181
Junior Hunt	728	773	768	977	858	833	961	925	925	866	830	762	718	745	730
Apprentice Hunt										97	167	118	106	101	149
Apprentice Archery										18	23	3	6	7	8
Apprentice Small Game										92	84	37	38	72	62
subtotal Fishing	83,048	83,117	81,012	81,658	77,415	75,953	75,474	76,534	79,971	77,110	78,266	76,803	74,954	77,961	78,979
subtotal Hunting	38,870	40,221	38,820	40,866	38,704	38,342	37,925	36,842	35,301	31,743	29,182	27,898	26,150	26,493	27,326
ALIEN															
Fishing	134	112	106	122	114	125	138	152	183	194	191	187	192	200	225
Comb. Hunt. & Fish.	33	30	18	26	31	21	40	41	35	26	19	16	21	19	33
Archery	15	12	11	12	26	12	18	9	1	4	5	2	8	6	4
Big Game	927	865	556	490	445	427	429	403	219	150	141	159	139	184	219
Small Game	65	78	52	59	40	39	40	32	61	69	57	55	67	78	73
subtotal Fishing	167	142	126	148	146	146	178	193	218	220	210	203	213	219	258
subtotal Hunting	1,040	986	638	582	542	508	527	485	316	249	222	232	235	287	329
NONRESIDENT LIFETIME LICENSES															
Fishing											0	4	19	44	77
Hunting											1	10	16	27	46
Combination											3	9	16	47	100
subtotal Fishing											3	13	35	91	177
subtotal Hunting											4	19	32	74	146
NONRESIDENT & ALIEN SUBTOTAL															
Total Fishing	83,215	83,259	81,137	81,806	77,560	76,099	75,652	76,727	80,189	77,330	78,479	77,019	75,202	78,271	79,414
Total Hunting	39,910	41,207	40,558	41,538	40,246	39,850	38,452	37,327	35,617	31,992	29,408	28,149	26,417	26,854	27,801
GRAND TOTAL															
Total Fishing	273,873	275,157	270,853	271,022	268,775	267,775	268,464	279,262	286,256	287,162	296,010	296,498	292,698	304,791	310,874
Total Hunting	208,708	208,707	208,431	211,238	213,368	211,287	208,915	209,165	209,284	207,362	205,371	205,290	203,638	209,990	218,741

10-YEAR REGISTRATION TRENDS



Game Wardens spend a great deal of time enforcing laws related to recreational vehicles. Maine has approximately 6,000 lakes and ponds, and hundreds of miles of ATV and snowmobile trails. Combined, Maine registers nearly 300,000 recreational vehicles every year. Maine residents and riders from all over New England choose Maine as their destination for snowmobiling, boating or ATV riding due to our vast waterways and trail systems.

Over the last ten years, registrations have remained consistent for watercraft, totaling nearly 125,000 annually. Boating in Maine remains a very popular recreational opportunity. All motorboats are required to have a Maine registration, although we do honor registrations from boats registered in other states. These motorboats include all motor propelled pleasure crafts, personal watercraft, and electric powered boats and canoes. Hand and wind powered vessels do not require registrations in Maine. However, they do account for a significant portion of our recreational boating traffic as they too enjoy all of Maine's lakes, ponds, rivers, and our 3,500-mile Atlantic coastline.

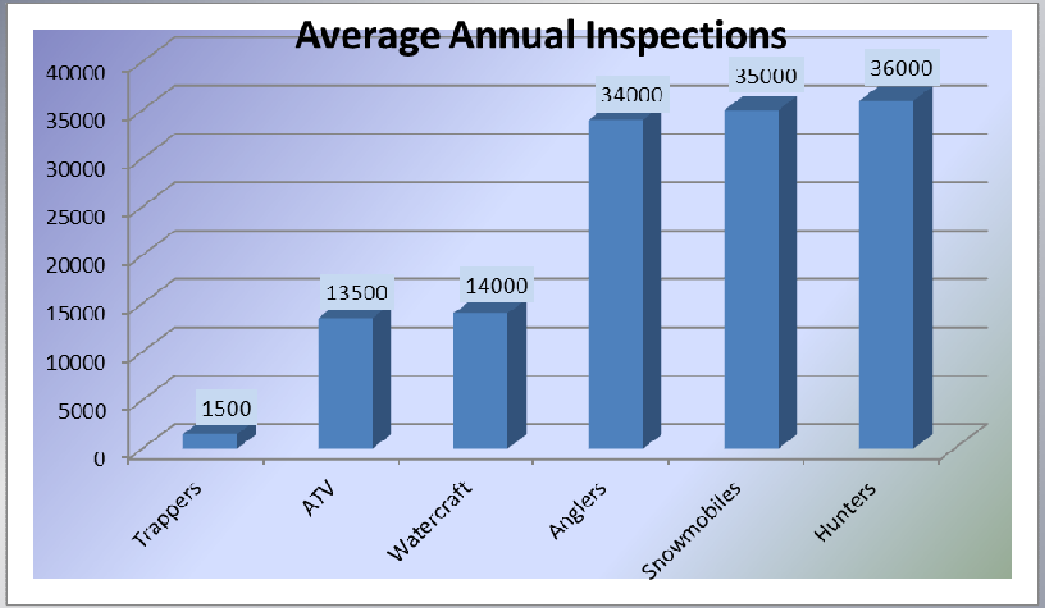
10-YEAR REGISTRATION TRENDS

Snowmobile registration numbers are the least predictable. They are often proportionally related to snow depths found across the state each year. Northern and Western portions of Maine consistently receive moderate amounts of snow, often totaling well over 150 inches. When southern Maine finds itself in a light snow year, registrations will often be fewer as well. Non-residents from all over New England choose Maine as their favorite place to ride. Maine offers over 14,000 miles of groomed trails that interconnect to nearly all corners of the State. Registrations totals have fluctuated between a high of 102,802 in 2004 to a low of 62,012 in 2011. That is a difference of over 40,000.

ATV registrations are clearly trending toward higher numbers. In 2003 there was a peak of over 66,000 registrations in Maine. Since that peak in 2003, ATV registrations have leveled out and average about 63,000 registrations a year. The registration trend can likely be attributed to both the ability of four-season riding and the continuing effort to create and maintain good quality ATV designated trails. Additionally, ATV models have become very user-specific. Some are now equipped with tracks for snow, camouflage for hunting, and two passenger versions for longer, more comfortable trail riding.

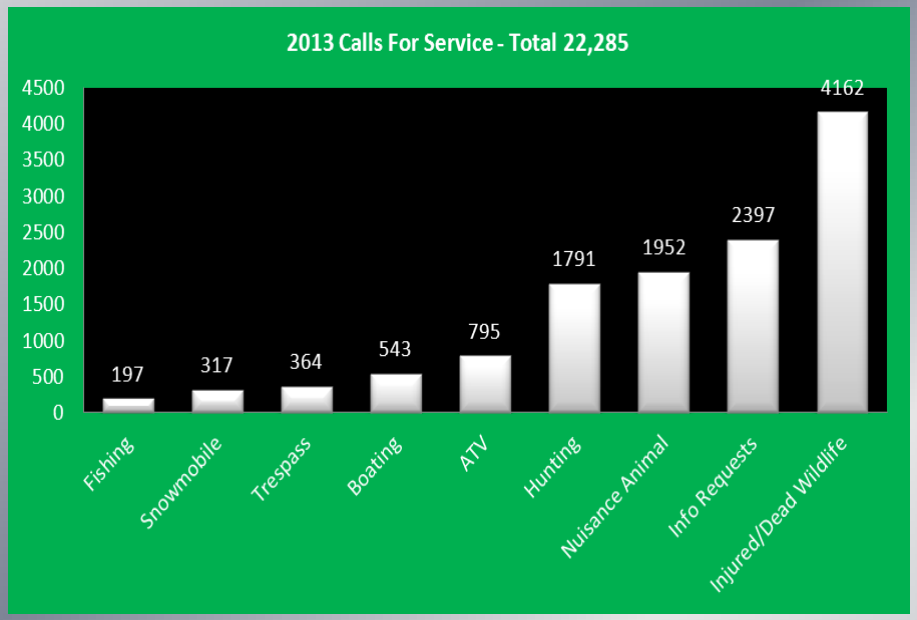
FIELD CONTACTS—INSPECTIONS

Each year, Maine Game Wardens inspect thousands of outdoor enthusiasts from trappers and anglers to ATV's and snowmobiles. An average of 134,000 inspections are made every year. Inspection numbers sometimes fluctuate depending upon weather conditions and special enforcement efforts. The accompanying graph clearly illustrates our most frequent inspections. Trappers represent the fewest amounts of inspections made by Wardens while anglers, snowmobiles, and hunters share nearly equal inspection data every year. As registration trends continue to increase for ATV's, the amount of inspections will likely begin to increase proportionally.



Game Wardens are essentially the front door for the Bureau of Warden Service and often provide the only opportunity for sportspeople to engage in conversations with an IF&W employee. Inspections are critical to the mission of the Warden Service for both public relations and enforcement purposes. Both share an equally important role for the future of the bureau.

CALLS FOR SERVICE



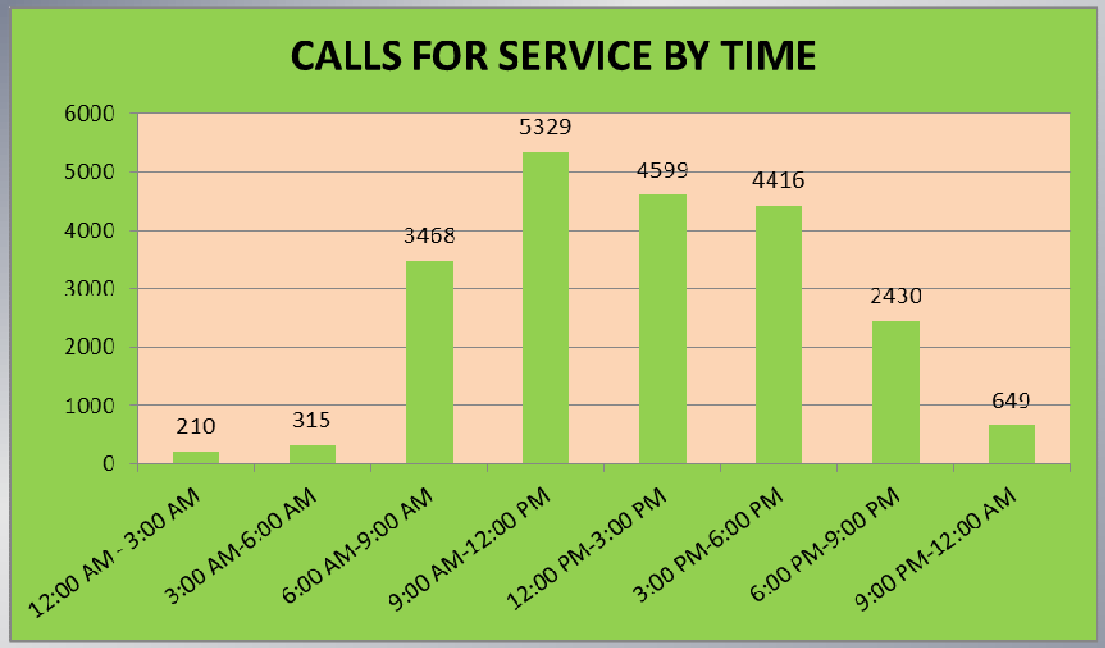
Calls for service are displayed in several graphs, illustrating quantity of calls, their type, and the time reported. Calls regarding information requests and injured/dead wildlife topped our list for number of calls received in 2013. Hunting and nuisance animals are also frequently dispatched to wardens. Calls vary by season and generate a great deal of work for wardens due to follow up telephone calls, emergency responses, and complex investigations.

The Maine Warden Service received just over 22,000 calls for service in 2013. Calls are generated from the public and can range drastically from a simple information request to the reporting of a fatal crash or a lost child. Calls are compiled in our Records Management System (RMS) by dispatch centers, regional headquarters, and from Game Wardens. Much of the information contained within this report was taken directly from the RMS.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Maine Game Wardens are available to the public for response 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Calls are received at all hours of the day and can range greatly regarding call type. Wardens are the primary agency in Maine responsible for investigating fish and wildlife crimes, recreational vehicle crimes and crashes, conducting and managing search and rescue missions and hunting related shootings. Additionally, wardens respond to calls regarding information requests, law interpretations, as well as many other inquiries from the public covering a broad range of topics.

As shown in the following graph, calls occurring between the hours of 9:00 am and noon were the most frequent at 5,329 with the fewest calls occurring between midnight and 3:00 am with a total of 210. Total calls for service for 2013 were just over 22,000.



SEARCH AND RESCUE

The majority of calls were from the southern and central portions of the state, however, due to the remoteness of some patrol areas, even sections of northern and western Maine that are virtually uninhabited produced several calls for service either from campers, hunters, fishermen, or sporting camps.

Game Wardens conduct and manage searches in Maine at any hour, location, and in every weather condition imaginable.

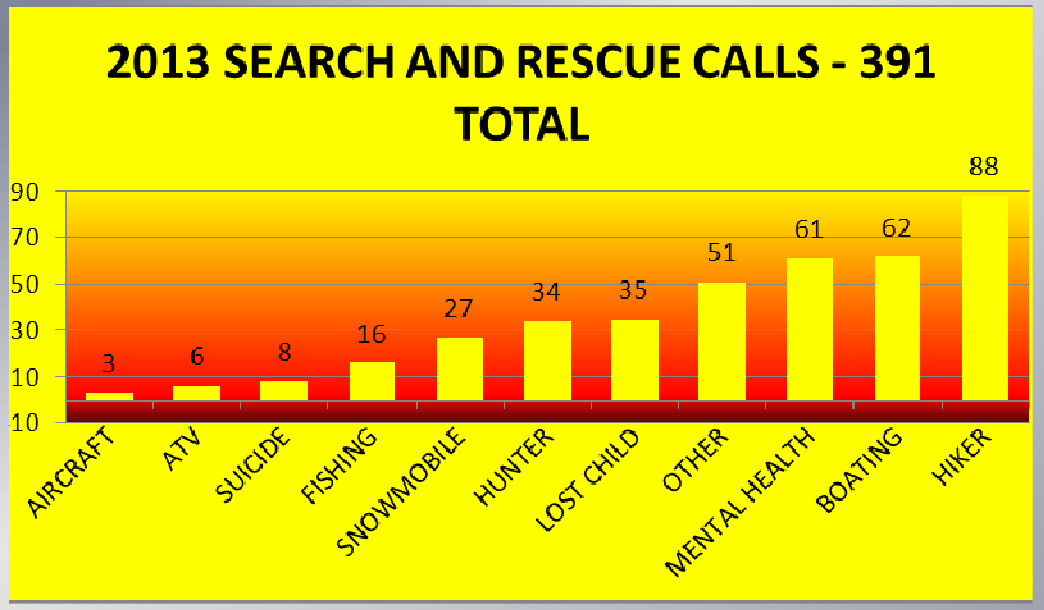
Life Flight Helicopter

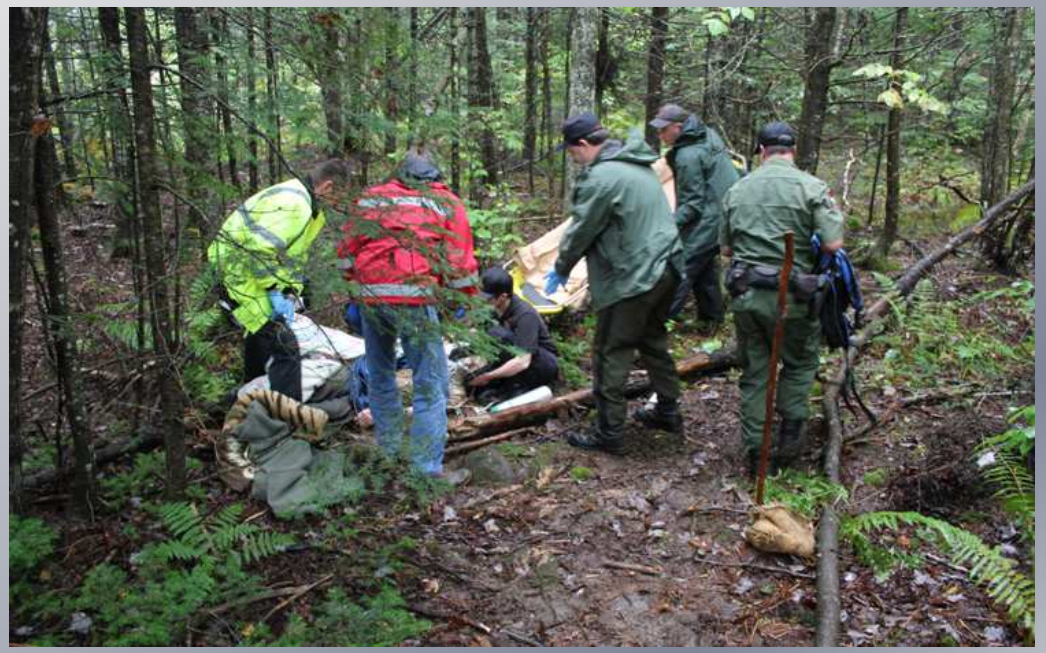
SEARCH AND RESCUE CALLS FOR SERVICE

The Maine Warden Service received 391 calls for service last year related to search and rescue. Typical searches that game wardens respond to include lost children, overdue hikers, missing Alzheimer persons, lost hunters, and fisherman, overdue snowmobilers, and missing despondent individuals. The IMT (Incident Management Team) is deployed for about 10-15 searches or when it gets too large for local wardens to manage effectively. The "OTHER" category represents campers, gatherers, bikers, SAR workers, skiers, substance abuse, 4wd vehicles and water related that isn't boating.

The IMT regularly provides assistance to other law enforcement agencies in the state. The IMT has worked with the Maine State Police to provide assistance in missing person and homicide cases. We also provide assistance for people that are missing when a search of an area could assist in the investigation to better determine the location of that person.

Hikers accounted for the majority of SAR calls at 88 missions. Wardens responded to 62 boaters in need of help and 35 lost children reported missing.





SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Maine Warden Service has statutory authority to search for and manage resources whenever any person has gone into the woodlands or onto the inland waters of the State on a hunting, fishing, or other trip and has become lost, stranded, or drowned. The Warden Service exercises this authority and takes reasonable steps to ensure the safe and timely recovery of those persons.

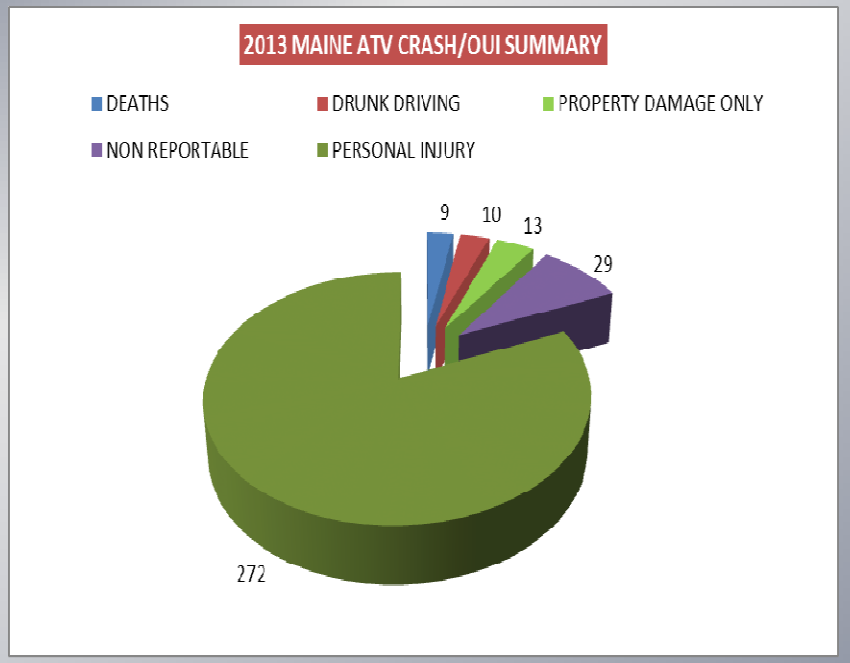
In some cases when search and rescue missions become prolonged and resources beyond a district game warden are needed, the IMT will oversee and manage these incidents. The IMT was created back in the 1980's to manage large scale and high priority searches occurring in the State of Maine.

Search and/or rescue calls can vary greatly and include lost or overdue hikers, hunters, fisherman, boaters, snowmobilers, and ATV riders. Wardens also conduct missions to locate missing Alzheimer patients, nursing home residents, and assist in off-road searches for victims or suspects related to other serious crimes.

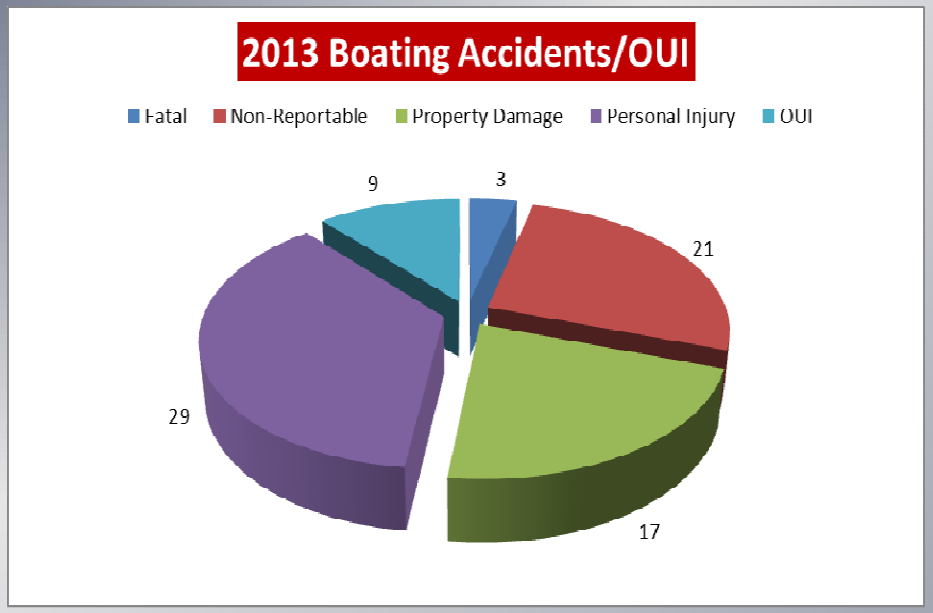
ATV CRASH DATA

A significant amount of effort has been placed on ATV law enforcement by Maine Game Wardens. Landowner complaints coupled with increasing registrations created a situation in the late 1990's in which the Warden Service had to reevaluate its law enforcement presence and approach regarding ATV's. Many game wardens now have ATV's issued to them to assist in patrol. Funding has been secured in recent years to pay for special enforcement details to help combat localized areas of complaints. These details allow wardens to focus specifically on ATV issues and have become an important factor in reducing complaints from the public regarding ATV's.

Trail systems have continued to grow and landowner cooperation is making it easier for ATV clubs to use and maintain trail systems in many areas of Maine. The trails have provided a completely new adventure for the ATV rider, allowing clear access and hundreds of miles of riding opportunities. Due in part to the increased traffic, game wardens continue to respond to ATV crashes that involve either property damage, personal injury, or in some cases, death. Wardens are responsible for investigating ATV crashes to gather crash statistics. They determine if violations of law have occurred that may have contributed to the crash. Drunk driving continues to be a contributing factor in many ATV rider fatalities. Totals for both ATV deaths and drunk driving have remained quite steady every year since 1998. Crashes and injuries, however have trended downward since 2002.



BOATING CRASH DATA



Game Wardens are the primary law enforcement agency responsible for investigating watercraft crashes on the inland waterways of the state.

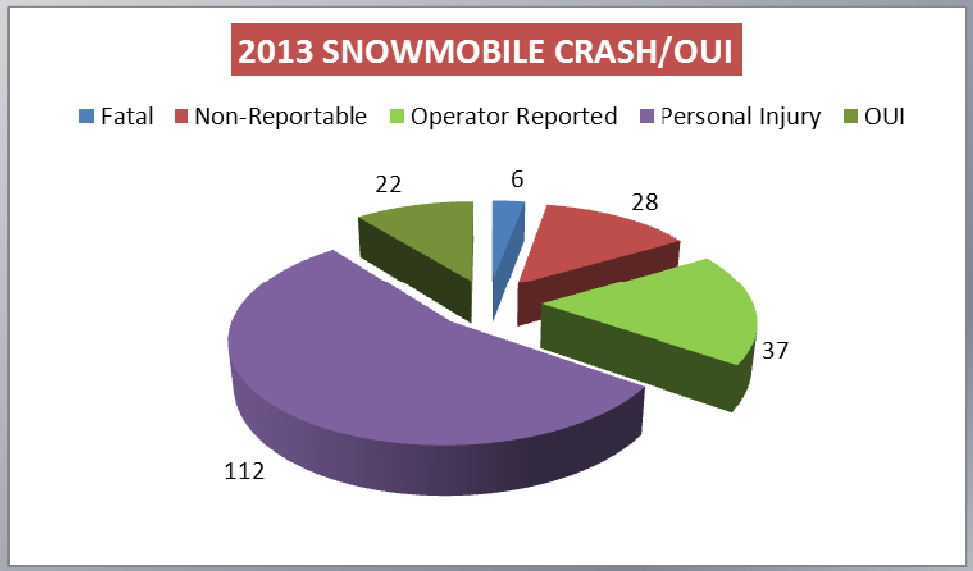
With more that 120,000 motorboats and tens of thousands of canoes, kayaks, and sailboats operating on Maine's waters, crashes involving injuries and property damage keep wardens very busy during the summer boating season.

As the chart shows, there were total of 79 boating crashes in 2013. Nine were due to OUI, and three of them were fatalities.

SNOWMOBILE CRASH DATA

As is the case with snowmobile registrations, yearly snowmobile crash totals can fluctuate dramatically from year to year depending upon snow depth. To help reduce the amount of snowmobile crashes and provide a safe sport for approximately 100,000 snowmobiling enthusiasts, Maine Game Wardens make snowmobile law enforcement one of their highest priorities during the winter, dedicating thousands of hours toward law enforcement and education. Wardens work from their snowmobiles, out of their patrol vehicles at trail crossings, and at snowmobile club meetings to help ensure snowmobile law compliance and safety.

The accompanying graph shows that game wardens investigated 112 personal injury crases, 22 OUI's, 17 operator reported and 6 fatal accidents.

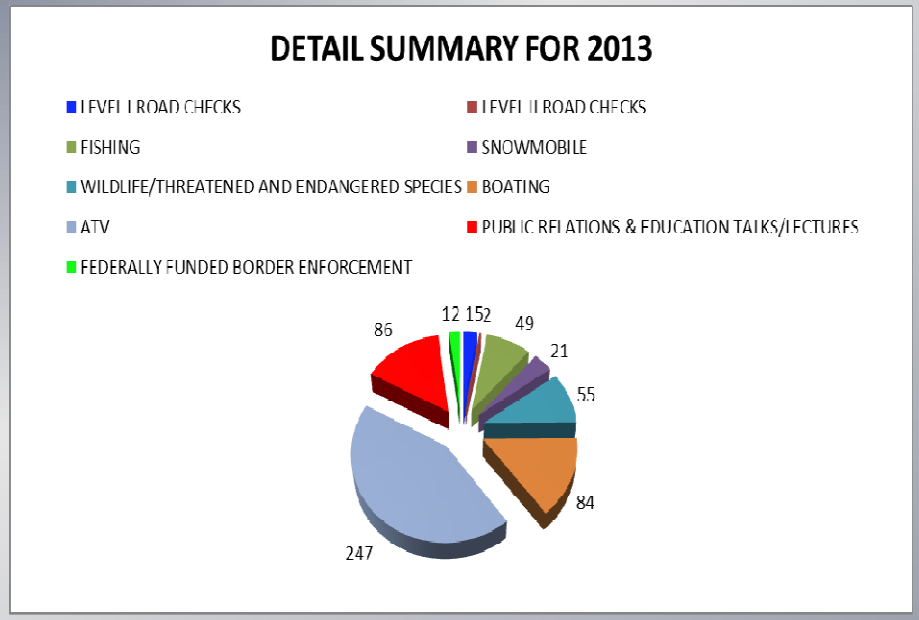


SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT DETAILS

As part of an effort to focus attention on issues regarding education, resource protection, and public safety, Maine Game Wardens performed 571 details in 2013. The intent of a special enforcement detail is to focus attention on a particular issue and dedicate workforce efforts toward a particular goal. Details have proved very effective and compliment the general law enforcement efforts of day-to -day warden work.

ATV enforcement details were the most common performed in 2013 totaling 247. These details were the result of state gas tax grants issued to law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Public Relations Talks (86) and Boating (84) were the next most frequently performed respectively. Boating and snowmobile details are performed similarly to ATV enforcement details. Wardens make thousands of contacts with recreational vehicle operators and outdoorspeople during these details over the course of a year.



EDUCATION

Wardens spend hundreds of hours each year educating school children, the public, and other law enforcement agencies regarding regulated outdoor activities.

Hunter education and recreational vehicle safety courses are attended regularly by game wardens. Public outreach of this nature influences those who enjoy outdoor recreation for life. Education at this level will often influence someone's understanding and behavior regarding outdoor sports in ways that will last a lifetime.

Speaking engagements create a non-law enforcement environment that establishes a relationship with the public that focuses on teamwork and the fact we all own a piece of Maine's outdoors and that we are all responsible for conserving it and making it safe.

NORTH WOODS LAW

North Woods Law debuted on Animal Planet on March 11, 2012. Since then, the show has become a national sensation, drawing fans from all over the country. The show gives people a new respect and insight into what it is that Maine Game Wardens actually do. It also offers a unique way to educate the public about wildlife and outdoor recreation.

As it says on the show's Facebook Page: "NORTH WOODS LAW follows the elite force of Game Wardens as they patrol the rugged backcountry of Maine from land, air and water to save lives and fight crime." Each day is unpredictable with the Wardens protecting wild animals, performing search and rescues, enforcing state laws, and busting poachers. Annually, approximately 30 million independent viewers across the nation watch North Woods Law. It has resulted in a significant increase among youth viewers being recruited into outdoor activities.

2013 DIVISION A SUMMARY

Division A

Lieutenant Adam Gormely

Division A consists of the lower part of the state roughly from Harpswell up through Lewiston to Rumford then back to the NH Border with everything south included. The division is broken down into three sections and those sections are supervised by one sergeant assigned to each section. In addition, the Lieutenant supervises the entire division and is supported by one regional secretary, both are located in Gray.

Division A has a significant population of the State that lives and recreates year-round within the Division. As a result, game wardens are busy providing service to the public. This year wardens answered 6287 total calls for service and issued over 653summonses. With many miles of coastline as well as big woods in the north, Division A offers a variety of experiences from one end to the other. As a result of the diversity of the division, Maine Game Wardens assigned to patrol this vast area respond to a variety of calls for service and investigate and solve many intentional wildlife crimes. Wildlife opportunities for both hunting and viewing are numerous with ducks, plovers and even peregrine falcons nesting here.

Banded Peregrine falcon on the million dollar bridge in Portland

2013 DIVISION A SUMMARY

It is incumbent upon the Division A warden to work with the landowners that allow sportsmen and sportswoman to recreate on their land.

During the past year, Division A wardens worked on numerous landowner complaints ranging from trespass and litter, to destruction of property.

Game wardens assigned to Division A often respond to nuisance and or injured wildlife. This year Division A wardens responded to 1672 calls related to injured or nuisance wildlife.

Anytime there is a situation where people and wildlife co-exist, there are bound to be conflicts. Specific work includes rehabilitating, relocating or simply removing animals.

2013 DIVISION A SUMMARY

Deer hunting opportunities abound here with high numbers of deer being harvested in the area each year. With the high density of deer coupled with the high number of hunters, wardens are busy during the fall season.

These deer were seized in the Livermore falls area with one hunter having 6 deer at his residence. Trapping enforcement also holds illegal trappers accountable to the law.

Recreational vehicle enforcement is a priority with strong emphasis on boating enforcement. With some of Maine's busiest boating lakes situated in Division A, many hours are spent patrolling in watercraft. Last year the Maine Warden Service allocated federal dollars earmarked for boating enforcement to be spent on two Deputy Game Wardens. These part time wardens were assigned to patrol Maine's busiest lakes, including Sebago Lake and enforce boating rules and regulations. The Maine Warden Service also entered into a contract with the town of Lovell to provide extra boating coverage on Kezer Lake.

Property damage jet ski crash on Long Pond

2013 DIVISION A SUMMARY

Working together with White Mt. National Forest federal officers.

Dive Team searching for a person presumed drowned on the Saco River.

2013 DIVISION A SUMMARY

There is always a chance for a poacher to take advantage and misuse the resource anytime fish are easily caught.

Poached trout out of a pond in Southern Maine.

In addition to law enforcement, Division A wardens take time to educate and speak with members of the public on a variety of different issues.

2013 DIVISION B SUMMARY

Division B

Lieutenant Tim Place

Division B of the Maine Warden Service is headquartered in Sidney. Our headquarters is shared with 3 fisheries biologist, and 3 wildlife biologists. Wardens in the division patrol from the Atlantic Ocean to the Canadian Border and includes the capital city of Augusta, numerous unorganized townships, and the Appalachian Trail. As a result, Game Wardens assigned to this division respond to a variety of calls for service ranging from search and rescue missions, investigating fish and wildlife violations, and assisting other enforcement agencies.

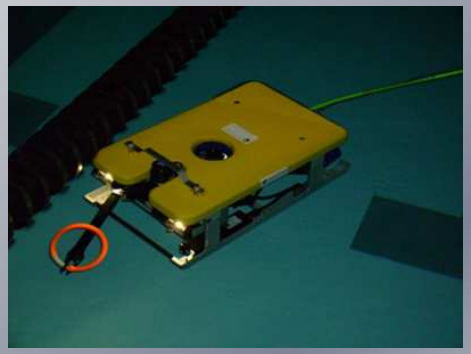
Division B is comprised of 19 game wardens, 3 game warden sergeants, a game warden investigator and a secretary. The division has an abundance of recreational opportunities ranging from moose, deer, turkey, and bear hunting to the coastal region for duck hunting including Merrymeeting Bay which is renowned for its duck hunting.

2013 was a very busy year for Division B. There were three notable events, two of which were tragic, one in Rangeley and the other in Carrabassett Valley. Below are the details of the three incidents along with other outstanding work performed by Game Wardens in the division.

On 12/31/2012, 3 subjects who had gone snowmobiling had failed to return home. An investigation and search was started in Carrabassett Valley, where the 3 subjects had started their trip. A simultaneous search was ongoing on Rangeley Lake for a female snowmobile operator who had operated her snowmobile into open water.

Above is a picture of the open water on Rangeley lake where the four snowmobilers drove into it and drowned. One victim was recovered the next day and the other three were recovered in the spring. The open water froze that night, suspending the search until the spring.

2013 DIVISION B SUMMARY



This is the ROV warden service utilized in the search for the missing snowmobilers. One victim was located in 134 feet of water and the body was recovered utilizing the hand on the ROV grabbing the clothes and bringing the body to the surface.

Because of the extreme conditions the air boat was utilized to tow a conventional boat to the open water before it froze. This boat was utilized to try and locate the victims utilizing the side scan sonar. The search area was approximately 1 square mile.

Another incident involved Nicholas Joy a 17 year old male who went missing while skiing on Sugarloaf Mountain. On March 3, 2013 an extensive search was conducted for Nicholas Joy 17 from Medford Massachusetts. He was reported missing by his family after he did not return from skiing. Nicholas was located on March 5th by Joseph Paul who was snowmobiling on the Caribou Pond Road. Nicholas told investigators he survived two nights in the woods by finding a blown down tree and building a make shift shelter. Nicholas said he learned this from watching reality survival shows.

The third major incident involves the search for Geraldine Largay who was hiking the Appalachian Trail. Geraldine “Gerry” is 66 years old and is from Brentwood, Tennessee. Geraldine was hiking alone and was last seen by her husband July 21st at the route 4 trail crossing in Sandy River Plantation. Geraldine was supposed to meet her husband in Wyman Township where the trail crosses route 27, but she never showed up. An extensive search was conducted lasting 10 days with no clues to Geraldine’s location. The conditions and terrain during the search were described as some of the most extreme in the state.

2013 DIVISION B SUMMARY

There have been several other searches conducted since the disappearance of Geraldine and still no clues have been located as to her location. These searches utilized search members from MASAR (Maine Association of Search and Rescue), MASAR, (Maine Search and Rescue Dogs), Maine Forest, US Border Patrol, 35 local fire departments, and members from the general public.

Section 4 wardens handled 1190 calls for service and were very busy with searches and working hunting and fishing activity. During the fall section 4 apprehended 11 night hunters.

On 11/15/2013 Warden Tim Coombs, Warden Brock Clukey, and Warden Pat Egan were working night hunting activity utilizing the deer simulator. While working the simulator they observed a vehicle approaching there location. The vehicle stopped where they could see the simulator and then the vehicle backed up and turned slightly towards the decoy.

This is where the passenger hit the deer shooting out his window. The subjects were arrested for night hunting.

2013 DIVISION B SUMMARY

Here Warden Dan Christianson and Sergeant Scott Thrasher help rescue a deer that had fallen through the ice on Clear Water Lake in Industry.

This is a picture taken by Pilot Jeff Spencer of subjects fishing a closed pond in weld on the last day of muzzle loader season. The subjects were summonsed for fishing closed waters.

Section 5 handled 2247 calls for service.

Working baited tree seats was a priority for the division. The pictures illustrate that illegal baiting was a common violation in the division. Numerous hunters were apprehended hunting over bait.

This marten was caught by a trapper on Frye Mountain in Montville. Warden Cross identified the hide for the trapper.

2013 DIVISION B SUMMARY

This sled broke down on three mile pond and was left by the owner. The wardens assumed he was just going to leave and it would sink to the bottom when the ice melted. It was frozen in the ice and had been there for a while. The wardens removed the sled, located the owner, and addressed the issue.

Section 6 handled 2757 calls for service:

In the fall, while working a night time aircraft/night hunting detail, Section 6 wardens received a complaint from Operation Game Thief (OGT) that there was a vehicle lighting fields and shots had been fired in Warren. Game Warden Pilot Charlie Later responded and located the vehicle as it was lighting. Pilot Later followed the vehicle until Warden Merrifield arrived. Warden Merrifield was able to get a confession for night hunting, seized a deer that was shot illegally earlier in the week, confiscated a firearm, and responded during daylight hours to locate another doe deer they had shot which is what they were looking for that night when the plane spotted them. The subject pled guilty and was fined and spent time in jail.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

Division C

Lieutenant Dan Scott

Division C of the Maine Warden Service is headquartered in Bangor, the third largest city in the state. Our headquarters is unique in that we share a facility with the Department's Research staff and are a direct communication link between research biologists and warden service.

Our division encompasses Washington, Hancock and much of Penobscot County. Our entire south-eastern boundary is coastal and we share an international border with New Brunswick to our east. Division C is comprised of 18 game wardens, 3 game warden sergeants, a game warden investigator and a secretary.

The division is rich in game species over all its area, with high populations of deer on its western side and along the coast. High bear populations in its central and eastern region as well as a moderate moose populations in its central and eastern regions. Having a coastal border, the division is also rich in marine resources and coastal waterfowl

populations. The division is crisscrossed from West to East with a number of major watersheds including the Penobscot River, The Pleasant River, Machias River and the St Croix River, all contributing significantly to rich fisheries populations from fast and furious Smallmouth Bass to native Brook Trout in backcountry streams.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

The geographical location of Division C also lends it to be a “hot point” for a number of high profile wildlife policy issues including: a measurable population of federally endangered Lynx and many miles of spawning ground for federally endangered Atlantic Salmon.

Division C is also home to two federally recognized Native American Tribes. The Passamaquoddy Nation whose reservation is located in the Princeton Region and owns a large area landmass throughout the Division. The Penobscot Nation’s Reservation includes the islands in the Penobscot River from Old Town to Medway.

It is not uncommon for wardens who patrol lakes and rivers along our coastal region to encounter violations including the taking of endangered Atlantic Salmon.

Here Division C Wardens, State Police and Penobscot Tribal Wardens working together to recover a vehicle and body of a 75-year-old victim that crashed into the Penobscot River in Passadumkeag during a snow storm on an early February morning.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

During the calendar year of 2013 Division C Wardens responded to more than 3400 calls for service, including more than 60 search and rescue missions, 8 fatal incidents and an attempted murder. They logged over 8,500 hours of fisheries enforcement efforts and over 12,700 hours of wildlife enforcement hours.

In January, wardens host an annual fur tagging day to provide trappers an opportunity to bring their fall fur to a central location for tagging and preparation for upcoming NAFTA Auctions. During this 2013 event, wardens tagged over 300 pieces of fur. 2013 fur prices were high, resulting in an increase in trappers heading to the field.

Here Warden Fahey inspects a bobcat harvested by a trapper during the 2013 bobcat hunting season.

Division C is home to one of the few venues where snowmobiling is possible along the ragged edge of the US. Here wardens stop for a photo from the top of Cadillac Mtn. in Acadia National Park.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

Above, Division C Emergency Response Team (ERT) processes large amounts of evidence seized at the completion of a major poaching investigation in the town of Greenfield. Wardens are pictured with a number of trophy bucks allegedly killed during the night time as well as an illegal bobcat and numerous items of stolen property.

Above, wardens respond to a personal injury snowmobile crash. During 2013 Division C wardens responded to more than a dozen reports of snowmobile crashes including one fatal incident.

The above photo is from an incident where Warden Dave Georgia arrived just in time to save a person from taking her own life on Sunkhaze Wildlife Refuge by overdosing on pills and subjecting herself to carbon monoxide poisoning. Warden Georgia received an Exemplary Service Award for his quick action which unquestionably saved the woman's life.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

The consequences of urban sprawl into the vast areas of forestland throughout the regions results in a high number of human / wildlife conflicts in the division. During 2013 Wardens responded to over 100 CFS regarding nuisance bears during 2013.

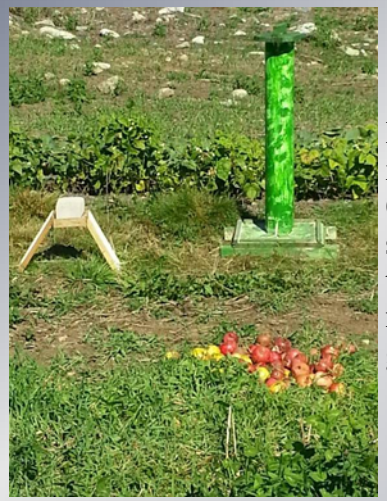
Several over-limit and short Brook Trout cases from Wardens Rudolph and Curtis.

Division C Wardens responded to more than 450 calls for injured wildlife in 2013. Pictured here is Warden Rudolph rescuing an injured Loon on Hopkins Pond.

Wardens spent several weekends during the summer patrolling the Summer Concert Series along the Penobscot River in Bangor. Here we see a boatload of “Phish” fans who were attempting to get a view of the concert from a 21 foot canoe.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

Our own Warden Rudolph WINNING the 2013 Sugarloaf Marathon! Reportedly, just prior to doing so, he actually checked the boat registration on the pictured watercraft to make sure it was current. Congratulations Eric!



Deer baiting operation located and investigated by Wardens McBrine and Carter. Note the illegal bait is placed in a series of food plots which undoubtedly took many hours to prepare, plant and maintain. The temptation to bait seems greater than ever.

Warden Jim Marin patrolling remote sections of the St Croix River.

Subject arrested by Wardens McBrine and Carter for ATV OUI.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

Warden Sargent with a closed season buck seized by him and Warden Simmons during the fall of 2013.

Large buck seized by Wardens Richard and Martin during a successful night hunting investigation in the Princeton area.

Wardens spend hundreds of hours annually patrolling hundreds of miles of snowmobile and recreational trails to ensure everyone is operating responsibly. Here two wardens prepare to ride off into the sunset (literally) after a long day of snowmobile patrol.

2013 DIVISION C SUMMARY

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

2013 DIVISION D SUMMARY

Division D

Lieutenant Kevin Adam

Division D is based out of Greenville Maine with our headquarters and the Stobie Aircraft Hangar on site. The headquarters is situated on the waterfront of Moosehead Lake, which makes this an ideal location. The division is characterized by varied geography. It is a destination point for fisherman, hunters, summertime recreational vehicle enthusiasts as well as wintertime recreational sports. Division D has 17 district positions and 15 have consistently been filled, the Chamberlain Lake and Boundary Cottage Districts have not been filled for several years even though the districts are rich with fish and game. The division responded to 2748 calls for service in 2013.

Wardens in Div. D routinely patrol in adverse weather conditions

Big fish are abundant in Div. D waters (5.7 lb. brook trout)

2013 DIVISION D SUMMARY

Section 10 is comprised of urban, rural and remote wilderness within its borders. Skowhegan is the major city in the district and is also the county seat for Somerset County. The Kennebec River flows through most of section 10. The section has a large deer, bear and small moose population. The fishing in the area is very diverse, with the Kennebec River flowing through most of it and is interspersed with many quality lakes and ponds. Section 10 is a high complaint section and received 1411 calls for service in 2013.

Spring time young of the year critters always keep a game warden busy. PR events at schools and organizations are done on a regular basis.

2013 DIVISION D SUMMARY

Wardens in Div. D never know what they will respond to. Here's a plane crash and ATV crash.

Deer baiting violations are commonly worked in Division D

Section 11 is mostly rural farm country in the south and remote wilderness in the north. Dover is the major city in this section and is the county seat for Piscataquis County. This area is marked by Katahdin Iron Works and the roach river which is a popular fishing destination. Section 11 received 777 calls for service in 2013.

2013 DIVISION D SUMMARY

Section 12 is mostly remote wilderness along the Quebec border to the West and borders Baxter State Park to the East. This section also includes Moosehead Lake, Maine's largest lake. This area is marked by the Golden Road, and headwaters to the Kennebec River. This area contains trophy moose hunting, remote wilderness, deer hunting and trapping opportunities for every trapping species in Maine. Section 12 received 560 calls for service in 2013.

2013 DIVISION E SUMMARY

Division E

Lieutenant Tom Ward

Division E is the largest geographic division the state and encompasses Aroostook, northern Piscataquis, and northern Penobscot Counties. The regional office is located on Rt. 11 in Ashland, the “gateway” to the North Maine Woods. The division is also bordered by the two Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick. This area consists of both large tracts of industrial forestland and several thousands of acres of agricultural ground and is sparsely populated in many places. In addition, many miles of pristine rivers and streams, large lakes, and small ponds are located here. We also have hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails that folks enjoy for over four months of spectacular riding most winters. The opportunities for traditional outdoor recreational sports in this region are abundant and each year many hunters, anglers, and trappers spend countless hours afield throughout the division.

Operationally, one lieutenant, three sergeants, twenty-one wardens, one investigator, and a pilot work in this region to protect the public and the valuable natural resources that we have in the division. A secretary assigned to the Ashland headquarters greets the public and supports the wardens in the field. Our working relationships with our many federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement partners are very good; it has to be as backup is often an hour or more away due to the size of our patrol areas.

2013 DIVISION E SUMMARY

Warden Service personnel in Division E responded to 3133 Calls for Service (CFS) and worked on numerous search and rescue operations, plus ATV and snowmobile crashes. 756 apprehensions were made by the hardworking group of wardens assigned to Division E.

Wardens spent nearly a week on a search looking for a missing Canadian man in the Umbazooksus Lake area after he failed to return to his Quebec home for Thanksgiving. The man's snow covered vehicle was discovered while wardens were in that area on another search. Below freezing temperatures and snow hampered search efforts and his body was discovered by a MWS pilot after ice out in the spring of 2014. We surmise that he broke through the thin ice and it froze over him after the sub-zero temperatures blew in.

Wardens investigated a snowmobile fatality on a major ITS trail west of Shin Pond when the operator lost control of his machine near a bridge and died at the scene.

Wardens investigated a serious injury ATV crash in New Sweden where the 76 year old operator rolled his machine and died from his injuries a couple days later.

Wardens in the Medway area investigated another ATV fatality where the 51 year old operator died at the scene from head injuries.

Division E is home to some of the highest populations of moose and black bear in New England and our deer herd saw a rebound last year due to a series of milder winters. We also have excellent grouse, waterfowl, and furbearer populations and many people participate in trapping, small game hunting, and waterfowl hunting. There were numerous intentional violations committed throughout the division and I was proud of the enforcement work our officers did to hold these poachers accountable.

Wardens worked on numerous illegal moose and deer cases last fall and some of the violations included: shooting the wrong sex animal, double kills, possession of firearm by a felon, moose hunting in the wrong WMD, exceeding the bag limit, night hunting, baiting deer, Sunday hunting, and false registrations. The apprehensions from moose hunters definitely were on the increase in our region. Carelessness, lack of preparation, or just poor ethics may have played a role in this increase. As our deer herd has increased, unfortunately, so did some of the violations we encountered.

One of the most flagrant abuses of our natural resource occurred during a moose hunt last fall. A man, who also possessed a guide's license, was apprehended after a thorough investigation where three moose were shot and killed by the same individual. Two bulls were left to rot and the cow was taken and tagged.

2013 DIVISION E SUMMARY

Wardens traveled 200 miles and executed a search warrant on the violator's residence where evidence used in this crime was seized. He was convicted of two counts of exceeding the bag limit on moose and wanton waste. He received a $2100 fine, spent 10 days in jail, and lost his hunting and guiding privileges for five and seven years, respectively.

One man was apprehended in the St. John Valley in mid-October after he tried to illegally take a deer prior to the open season. He chose the second recreational moose hunting week to poach, banking on the fact most wardens were working moose hunters. What he didn't know was wardens had his house under surveillance for several days attempting to pattern his illegal activities. In the end, wardens did just that and caught him shooting a deer from the seat of his ATV on the farm in back of his home. He received a very steep fine and loss of his privileges for a couple of seasons.

A father-son duo were prosecuted and sentenced to four days in jail, plus received a $3500 fine and forfeited a $1000 rifle after they exceeded the bag limit on deer and violated several Class E violations in Section 14. This investigation started after a complaint of criminal trespass came to a warden's attention. Wardens teamed up and executed a search warrant to gain key evidence needed for the conviction.

A New York resident using a crossbow was apprehended for multiple deer hunting violations in the Patten area. Charges included Sunday hunting, hunting deer in closed season, baiting deer, and no license.

In the Howland area, wardens served a search warrant on illegal deer. Before the investigation wrapped up, wardens learned that he illegally shot three doe deer at night. Meat, firearms, and other equipment were seized and he was charged for three separate counts of night hunting.

In the same general area, a warden responded to a trespass complaint behind a locked gate and caught a local man with a freshly killed doe deer that had been killed earlier that morning. The problem was, it was Sunday, and he did not have an antlerless deer tag.

Information was obtained that there was an illegal deer at a residence in the Springfield/Wynn area. Wardens went to see the subject and were told to "get a warrant". Wardens left to do so, but shortly after they pulled out of the driveway the subject's wife ran out back with a big bag of deer meat and dropped it on another warden's feet that stayed behind to watch the residence. Appropriate charges were filed and the shooter lost his license and paid a steep fine.

Not all hunting stories were bad ones; some were very inspirational. One particular group which participated in the Aroostook County Controlled Moose Hunt consisted of disabled veterans and many of

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these men and women had terrible wounds they received in combat while defending our freedoms. Their spirits and attitudes were awesome and most were able to take a moose off from the broccoli farms to assist the commercial growers who annually incur much damage to their crops. I met another young man who was a Hunt-of-a Lifetime participant. He made a good shot on a nice bull and helped a homeowner who was repairing her horse fence on a weekly basis. This young man displayed much courage and fortitude while hunting and never complained about his illness. Again, it was awesome and very inspirational. Thanks to the VA, guides who volunteered their time and services, and the groups and organizations that sponsored these appreciative hunters.

Division E has some of the best fishing in the state, and generally wardens see a high compliance rate by legal and ethical anglers. The Allagash Waterway, the Fish River chain of lakes, and East Grand Lake consistently produce

trophy brook trout, lake trout, or salmon and hundreds of miles of rivers and small trout ponds present some diverse angling opportunities. Many of the ponds have never been stocked and are naturally wild with native brook trout. Unfortunately, wardens also encounter anglers who abuse the resource. Numerous cases including over the limits, worming in fly fishing only waters, and possession of short fish were made. These people are stealing an opportunity from the folks who abide by the rules. *(The photos to the right show over the limits, short fish, and fishing in closed waters.)*

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We saw an alarming increase of drug abuse in the field while performing our warden duties and tasks. Wardens assisted MDEA this past year on numerous occasions with dealing with methamphetamine labs and synthetic bath salts. On three different occasions, while working ATV and snowmobile enforcement, subjects were found with large amounts of bath salts. One incident led to an arrest after the operator dragged the warden down a trail and we were lucky he received only skinned knees. Three men were arrested while a warden was working fishing activity in the Presque Isle area one night after observing them using heroin. A felony marijuana apprehension was made along the East Branch of the Penobscot River as well.