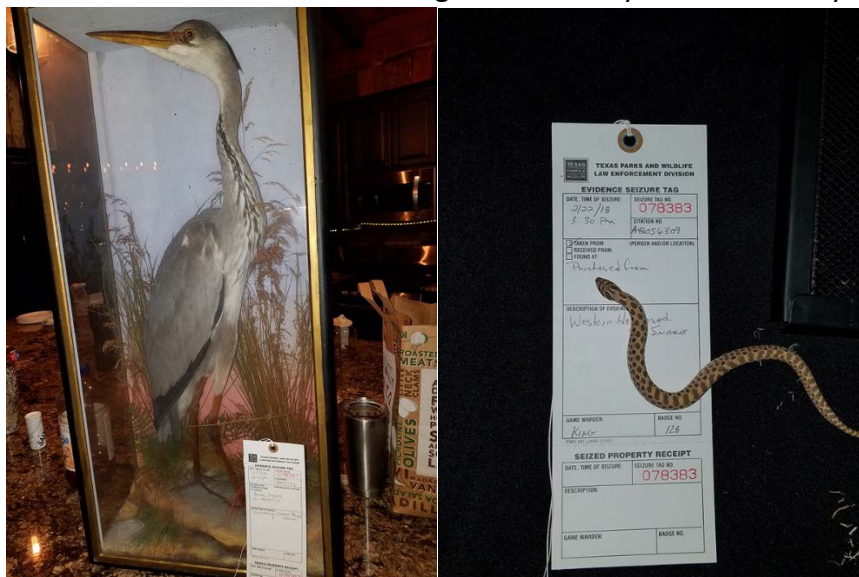


Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement State Report

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

Significant advances have been made by TPWD-LE in support of major conservation law enforcement trends. Whether working traditional conservation law enforcement efforts in federal waters or working border operations, Game Wardens continue to adapt and excel as their job duties change and expand.

Non-Game conservation enforcement continues to be increasing. TPWD continues to work with USFW on operations such as Wild-Web. One Wild Web Operation was just completed in the north Texas area resulting in over 20 cases filed for the sale of protected species such as alligator products, non-game bird mounts, alligator snapping turtles, and hummingbirds. This is a concentrated multi-day effort focusing on the illegal trade on the internet. An example of similar efforts was TPWD assisting with a multi-year USFW Lacey Act case.



Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

Texas Game Wardens continue to maintain a strong working relationship with our partners at the United States Coast Guard. In 2017, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was recognized for the significant number and type of assets deployed along the gulf coast. Texas Parks and Wildlife maintains 380 equipped vessels with the capabilities to be used in a myriad of situations and environments. Texas Game Wardens are present on each of the USCG Sector Area Maritime Security Committees within the state and work with all the partners to share intelligence and conduct directed operations. The Texas Game Warden Maritime Tactical

Operations Group (MTOG) recently trained with USCG Maritime Security Response Team (MSRT) east on deep draft ship boarding's and takedowns. Texas Game Wardens continue to maintain a number of Memorandum's of Agreement (MOA) including one which allows our agency to communicate on the US Coast Guard Encrypted radio channels.

TPWD continues to maintain a presence along the Texas-Mexico border and in the Gulf of Mexico, serving as a force multiplier alongside local, state and federal partners. Game Wardens are uniquely situated and equipped to fill a vital niche on both water and land. This includes navigating the waterways and patrolling the back country areas in rural Texas. In addition to performing their vital conservation law enforcement duties, Game Wardens encounter drug trafficking, human trafficking and human smuggling activities.

A large IUU operation was conducted along the Texas-Mexico border in conjunction with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and NOAA OLE resulting in many illegal fish seized along with oysters imported from Mexico.



Cost Savings Initiatives

Use of online training opportunities to save on travel expenses.

The Law Enforcement Division has been aggressively implementing SharePoint as an online two-way CJIS-secure collaboration tool. It allows disparate teams to join in discussion groups, document sharing, and even simultaneous editing. This decreases travel/meeting cost.

The division has also implemented Skype for Business. This allows video/conference calls at no direct cost. Screen sharing is also enabled. So wardens may get together in workgroups to have ad hoc meeting without any travel costs. Bandwidth remains a concern; the division is upgrading servers and going to open market to increase bandwidth at lower costs.

One Drive is scheduled for a 2018 rollout. This will enable Game Wardens to store CJIS-secure data in the cloud. It will decrease risk, as items are stored securely online. It will also speed up laptop replacement, since old laptops will no longer be sent to headquarters in advance for data transfer.