

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



2015 Accomplishments

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LWC Accomplishments for 2015

- Major progress on the Surface Water Assessment project, including the completion of river basin models for the Saluda and Edisto River Basins and Stakeholder meetings in the Saluda, Edisto, Catawba and Pee Dee River Basins
- Partnered with U.S. Geological Survey to establish a computer-based statewide groundwater model
- Partnered with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston District to conduct water demand forecasts in the 8 major river basins of SC
- Substantial progress on the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study, which focuses on Corps of Engineers management of the reservoirs in the Savannah Basin
- Produced 3 geologic maps and made them available to the public in digital format
- Continued Earthquake Hazard studies and updated geologic hazard maps
- Completed Broad River sediment study
- Completed first year of the offshore sand study and database compilation for Bureau of Offshore Energy Management
- Conducted Coastal Vulnerability Study (multi-year project)
- Expanded Saltwater Intrusion monitoring network and Surface Elevation Table (SET stations) network
- Completed water level measurements in Black Creek, Middendorf and Floridan Aquifers
- Expanded digital capabilities and uses for the dissemination of information online
- Enhanced the LWC webpage with additional GIS capabilities
- Retained and recruited rainfall observers for the CoCoRahs rainfall monitoring network
- Coordinated 4 Drought Response Committee meetings and provided drought status reports to a wide audience of customers

- Provided weather data and interpretation to state and federal agencies before, during and after severe weather events
- Provided outreach and technical assistance to 261 communities in the National Flood Insurance Program
- Conducted Substantial Damage Assessments (SDA's) and trained local communities to do SDA's following the October Flood event
- Provided ordinance assistance to communities in 7 watersheds and 5 counties where preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps are available
- Provided 3 counties with updated flood maps
- Treated 2,764 acres of water bodies for the control of aquatic nuisance species
- Provided outreach and educational materials to the public at several events, including the Palmetto Sportsman's Classic and the SE Wildlife Expo
- Coordinated Aquatic Invasive Species prevention and management with border states and Santee Cooper
- Maintained 100% accurate GIS records of all ANS treatment areas
- Established a new Archeological database for the cataloging of properties and artifacts
- Expanded the Heritage Trust Cultural Resources program with a new Archeologist position
- Major progress on the Ft. Frederick restoration and access project in Beaufort County, including the completion of a documentary film on the history of the Fort and area
- Established a cultural resources survey plan for Wateree Heritage Preserve
- Repaired and enhanced the information kiosks at 17 Cultural Heritage Trust properties
- Developed restoration plan for Poinsett Bridge in Greenville County
- Provided technical assistance and administrative support to the Scenic River Advisory Councils

- Serviced 600 conservation plans for the 46 Conservation Districts, delivering Farm Bill Programs to farmers, ranchers and landowners
- Secured grant for rainfall simulator and began using it to assist farmers, ranchers and landowners in water conservation efforts
- Held a successful Envirothon, with 156 high school teams from across the State participating

MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

OFFICE OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- Initiated cooperative agreement with US Army Corps of Engineers to develop SC Shellfish Mariculture Plan
- Designed and tested electronic reporting platform for charter boat data reporting
- Tested use of tablets for real time entry of angler interview data
- Conducted night time survey of flounder gigging fishery, encompassing interviews with 134 parties between June and November
- Conducted interviews with 4,158 recreational anglers in all modes
- Printed 5th Edition of "Guide to SC Marine Artificial Reefs"
- Permitted one additional reef site increasing total area permitted from ~37 to 40 square miles
- Conducted 10 reef deployments during the year adding 100,000 cubic feet of material
- Completed contract for marine towing company to conduct reef deployments in coming year
- Received the highest total donations (\$77,150, + 4%) to Governor's Cup in program history
- Recycled a record 28,547 bushels (785 tons) of shell
- Opened two new oyster shell public drop-off locations within Richland County and one in Berkeley County
- Initiated tri-county restaurant recycling initiative. In its first year the program added 19 new restaurants for a total 32 and increased the amount of oysters recycled from restaurants by 37%
- Planted 32,825 bushels of oyster shells on State and Public Shellfish Grounds, creating 13,101 square meters (3.24 acres) of shellfish habitat along approximately 1.2 miles of shoreline
- Community restoration program (SCORE) involved 4,065 volunteers in hands-on stewardship including but not limited to bagging oyster shell, building oyster reefs and growing/planting marsh grass

- Constructed 24 new oyster restoration projects

MARINE RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- Expanded MRD Conference to include agency-wide involvement
- Completed construction of an MRRI library conference room
- Began renovations of Waddell Mariculture Center laboratory
- Completed replacement of Turnure house roof, lab roof, and pump house roof at the Waddell Mariculture Center
- Stocked 315,377 spotted seatrout and 1,218,428 red drum in estuarine systems from Little River to Port Royal Sound
- Completed public meeting/involvement process for development of alternative management strategies for cobia in the southern inshore waters.
- Implemented flood monitoring to determine impacts to resources
- Logged 7,770 man-days of data collection in support of cooperative regional fishery stock assessments
- Participated in 9 SEDAR stock assessments of marine fish species
- Published 37 scientific articles in journals and magazines
- Submitted 82 proposals and were funded on 52 (63%)
- Awarded \$4.5 million in grants and contracts from external sources
- Added new genetic tool – eDNA –to fisheries research and monitoring program
- Expanded aquaculture nutrition research program
- Completed quick Blueline Tilefish genetic evaluation for SAFMC
- Documented several success criteria for Robust Redhorse restoration program
- Documented genetic uniqueness of spring and fall spawning Atlantic sturgeon
- The Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction (program) MARMAP completed its 43rd sampling year and the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) completed its 30th Trawl Survey sampling year.

- The MARMAP/SEAMAP-SA Reef Fish Survey:
 - Completed 49 sea days on the *R/V Palmetto*, 16 days on the *R/V Lady Lisa*, and 11 days on the *R/V Silver Crescent*.
 - Deployed 553 chevron traps, 85 short bottom long lines, 45 long bottom long lines, 116 water chemistry casts, and made 71 hook and line collections in off-shore waters.
 - Caught, identified, and weighed 17,535 fish representing 69 species, and kept 5,201 fish for life history (age, growth, reproduction, diet) studies
- The SEAMAP-SA Trawl Survey:
 - Completed 69 sea days on the *R/V Lady Lisa*.
 - Made 329 (dual-net) trawls and 329 water chemistry casts during three sampling seasons in near-shore waters.
 - Caught and processed 933,777 fish, 101,858 crustaceans, and 47 turtles, and kept 4,012 individuals for life history studies.

COASTAL RESERVES AND OUTREACH

- Hosted MRD Fall Open House at Fort Johnson with 1,700 in attendance
- Boating Infrastructure Grant: 10 current projects underway totaling \$ 3,937,486 (federal funding); 10 new proposals submitted totaling \$ 6,065,186 (federal funding)
- Clean Vessel Act: 47 projects completed or currently in progress at 36 facilities; 2 new proposals submitted (coastal & inland) totaling \$ 1,562,918 (federal funding)
- Nearly 400 coastal decision-makers (county and municipal) received training promoting stewardship of natural resources.
- 10 youth-focused saltwater fishing events along the South Carolina coast, including pier fishing tournaments and fishing rodeos.
- Completed renovation of Capers Island impoundment, then damaged by storms.
- Reached approximately 5000 students and teachers through our K-12 grade marine education programs.

FINANCE AND BUDGET SUPPORT

- Initiated replacement of engines in *R/V Palmetto*
- Responded to physical plant/building & electrical needs during October flooding event
- Supported Information Technology, AV, and GIS needs of over 200 scientific and administrative users at DNR's Charleston, Bennetts Point, and Waddell facilities with an IT/GIS staff of only 3
- Implemented Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) configuration on DNR Charleston network to improve local network security and efficiency
- Migrated 95% of MRD computer users to Office 365 subscription services for Email and Office Applications
- Redeveloped and maintained the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series website using modern web standards
- Developed, maintained and improved numerous scientific databases (e.g., Eagle Nesting, Botany Bay Volunteers, Vehicle Mileage, Uniform Ordering, Bears Bluff, Inshore Fisheries, Mariculture tagging, MRRRI Presentation, LE Marine Events, WFF Diadromous acoustic telemetry)
- GIS office successfully produced all necessary Commercial Shellfish bed maps on annual schedule.
- Supported DNR's Chief Information Security Officer in addressing and improving all IT security concerns (hardware, software, networking) in the DNR Charleston location.
- Document and address continued deficiencies in Internet bandwidth to DNR's Charleston offices.

OSS 2015 Accomplishments

- The retooling of IT- The hiring of the Director of IT, the GIS Analyst and the Network Administrator. The development of a clear direction for IT which includes a clear direction for IT's support role to the agency, staff cross training and coordination and server platform transition plan.
- A thorough review of the agency's major funding sources starting with 4609 that has allowed for better budgeting and forecasting.
- Integrating end user staff throughout the agency on OSS administration interview panels in order to provide the users with a voice in the hiring process on positions that impact their functional areas.
- Completed the move of licensing section the SC Farmers Market to the create DNR at the Market. This move served as a beta test for moving major components of the department's infrastructure which included , but was not limited to (IT hardware , Phones, Deposits, Mail, and data communications).
- Boat Titling & Licensing took the first step at redefining how we train our Customers Service Specialist, utilizing MTI and with the hiring of a new trainer.
- Successfully transitioned the administrative components of the Water Recreation and County Game & Fish Funds to different personnel.
- Implemented VoIP telephone Call Center for Licensing and Boating. This permitted the Licensing section to relocate to Farmer's Market location while maintaining current telephone numbers and "Call center" features. VoIP calling will lower the monthly phone bill for the Licensing and Boating section. **The direct acquisition of VoIP phones as compared to purchase/lease of VoIP phones from service provider results in an additional \$250.00 per month savings.**
- Implemented "Time Matters" Case Management Application in Legal office. Application will streamline the gathering of documentation (documents, e-mails), scheduling of meetings/Court dates and permit the sharing of information. All data is stored in a SQL server database.
- The initiation of Electronic Forms (E-forms) training. Secured E-forms training at **a \$12,000 cost reduction** which will train DNR IT staff in the creation of Electronic Forms for multiple agency uses. The test form will be the creation of the E-purchase order, but will be available on all types of forms and uses.

- SCI Commercial Licensing: SC-DNR and SCI staff worked on documenting and analyzing the Commercial Licensing and Permitting application. All document and System Analysis documents are being finalized and will be used to rewrite the application with an implementation deadline of May 2016
- Due to extensive technical issue with the original, 3 year old Dell “NAS” server, which is used for document sharing across the agency, a new Dell “NAS” server was acquired and implemented. **Extensive discussions with the hardware vendor, Dell Inc. resulted in a new server being provided to SC-DNR at no cost.**
- USGS Groundwater grant: Working with the SC-DNR Hydrology group a \$49,500.00 technology grant was received for the development of web-services to provide ‘real-time’ access to Well data. This grant will be used purchase server hardware that will increase the SC-DNR processing power by 25%. The development of Web-services by hired consultants will provide the SC-DNR with technical templates for future development of web-services for secured data sharing initiatives.
- Digital Communication Management: An RFP was developed and posted to implement a vendor provided solution for SC-DNR List server needs. The current SC-DNR List server does not comply with federal laws regarding “opt out” features and resulted in the agency domain “DNR.SC.GOV” being blacklisted as a spam site. Utilizing a vendor provided solution will permit adherence to all Federal laws.
- MRD Network Capacity: Increased MRD bandwidth to 20 Mbps, working on further expanding there capability.

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division 2015 Accomplishments

Freshwater Fisheries

- The twelve year Robust Redhorse Restoration Project reached a major milestone in 2015, with the first detection of natural reproduction of the species since its assumed extirpation. Two individuals were genetically determined to be wild spawn fish, off-spring of hatchery produced fish, and likely hatched in to different years.
- The fish production partnership with the USFWS enabled the stocking of a record number of phase II striped bass in Santee Cooper Reservoir during the 2015 growing season. This was essential to determining the utility of using enhanced grow-out as a management option.
- Produced and stocked over 11.5 million fish and over 288 thousand pounds of fish into public fishing areas in support of fisheries and conservation projects.
- Certified over 35,000 grass carp as sterile for stocking into South Carolina waters.
- Completed renovation of 8 production ponds and a water supply access road at the Cohen Campbell Fisheries Center
- Reopened the Barnwell Fish Hatchery to expand storage capability and prepared for future production expansion.
- Completion of a three year angler creel survey of the Lower Saluda River which included approximately 800 angler interviews.
- Completion of a three year trout growth and mortality study in the Lower Saluda River.
- Completion of a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the Lower Saluda River's fish community as a whole.
- Initiated a study of the Waccamaw River in collaborative effort between Region 4, Region 2 and North Carolina Wildlife Resources personnel.
- Participating in a multi-state SWG Grant for work on the Great Pee Dee River to support the regional robust redhorse restoration effort.
- A publication was accepted by the SEAFWA Proceedings of the results of the flathead catfish study on the Little Pee Dee River, a collaborative effort between SCDNR and GADNR.

- The Family Fishing Clinics Program included 44 Clinics with 1,054 participants and 20 new instructors trained and certified.
- The Youth Fishing Rodeos Program included 20 rodeos with 2,994 participants.
- Youth Bass Fishing Clubs were supported at 35 schools with 502 students involved.
- SCDNR Youth Bass Fishing Championship was attended by 51 schools with 146 student anglers to the tournament.
- Trout in the Classroom Program included 19 Schools with 2,000 students coming in contact with the program.
- Fishing Tackle Loaner Program included 30 sites where 696 participants have borrowed 1,480 rods and reels.
- The Reel Art Program included 26 schools with 674 pieces of artwork submitted for judging.
- The Fish Habitat Partnership that constructed all the concrete fish attractors in Santee Cooper
- New blue catfish management regulations to effect on Lakes Marion and Moultrie.
- A five year project that monitored the movements of adult striped bass in J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir and their use of an artificially oxygenated area was completed. During the study 169 striped bass were monitored with acoustic telemetry resulting in 8.25 million locations and 1.8 million temperature observations of the instrumented fish. This data was used to describe the seasonal movements, habitat use, and mortality of striped bass and will improve our ability to manage this fishery.
- A collaborative project with MRD and GADNR was initiated to develop environmental DNA for detection of blackbanded sunfish, a species of conservation concern. This tool will allow detection of a species from a water sample. Environmental DNA has great potential to improve the detection of rare species in hard-to-sample habitats.
- The publication, "Dominance of invasive mollusks in the benthos of Lake Marion" was completed. For the first time, it fully documents the abundance and defines the critical role that invasive Corbicula clams play in the ecology of Lake Marion.
- Work was completed on the first 90 acres of fish habitat enhancement at Lake Hartwell utilizing funding from the Lake Hartwell PCB natural resource damage

settlement. Permits were obtained through the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to all work to be initiated at five additional sites in Lake Hartwell.

- The visitor's center and viewing room at the St. Stephen Fish Lift facility was renovated through the collaboration of SCDNR and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Visitation at the facility increased some 325% over the previous six year average. During 2015, 1244 visitors tour the facility up from the six year average of 384 (between 2009 and 2014).

Wildlife Management and Statewide Projects

- Maintained a public hunting program on over 1 million acres of public land. Added over 12,000 lands to the WMA program through acquisitions and cooperative agreements with landowners.
- Wateree River Heritage Preserve and Liberty Hill WMA were prepared for public access and opened to the public for hunting and other natural resources dependent recreation.
- Prepared and maintained 45 Public Dove Fields, encompassing over 1,700 acres throughout 27 counties. These fields provided opportunity for over 3,500 adult hunters and over 200 youth hunters on opening day of dove season.
- Deployed 15 automated recording units (ARUs) to record gobbling activity and chronology from March 1 – June 1.
- Collected biological data from all bears harvested during the 2015 mountain bear season. Harvest of 91 bears was the 3rd highest total on record.
- Continued monitoring movements and habitat use of coastal plain bears using satellite telemetry.
- Control efforts and hog hunts on WMAs resulted in the removal of over 660 hogs.
- Filled key vacancies including Project Supervisor for the Upper Coastal Waterfowl Project, numerous technicians on the Upper Coastal, Heritage Preserve Biologist for Region 4, and Heritage Preserve Biologist for Region 3.
- Managed habitat, facilities, infrastructure and access on over 260,000 acres of Department-owned lands which occur on over 85 WMAs and Heritage Preserves across the state.
- Established a day use pass requirement on selected WMAs to get a representative sample on the number of non-hunting visitors using WMAs and what non-hunting activities are occurring on these WMAs.
- Special hunt opportunities provided on WMAs included 15 Special Youth Dove Hunts accommodating 273 youth hunters, 54 Special Youth Deer Hunts

accommodating 348 youth hunters, and 9 mobility impaired hunts accommodating 205 hunters. In addition, a Wounded Warrior Dove Hunt was held on Canal WMA by Region 4 staff in cooperation with USACE staff.

- Management and maintenance activities on WMAs and Heritage Preserves include planting of 2,667 acres of annuals, planting of 145 acres of perennials, mowing or disking of over 10,265 acres, prescribed burning of 14,198 acres, maintenance of 376 miles of firebreaks, mowing of 478 miles of dikes, re-topping of 15,840 linear feet of dikes, mowing of 751 miles of roads, grading of 539 miles of roads, re-topping of 51 miles of road with gravel, maintenance of 205 miles of trails, and maintenance of 233 miles of WMA boundary with posting of 4,675 signs.
- Botany Bay Plantation WMA/HP accommodated 68,227 visitors and 29,995 vehicles. As a result of continued diligence of on-site staff, roads remained open on the WMA despite excessively wet conditions throughout the region.
- Completed a NAWCA Project on Bonneau Ferry WMA that resulted in significant enhancements to wetlands habitat quality and improvement of public hunting opportunity.
- Completed installation of a new swing bridge at Yawkey which will expand timber harvest abilities and facilitate efficiency in management.
- Transitioned to a single approach for turkey tags to minimize abuse and reduce cost.
- Obtained new turkey hunting season and a reduced bag limit through the General Assembly
- Hosted 63 youth and 38 adults at the Annual Palachucola Shooting Range Day
- Completed the update of the SC State Wildlife Action Plan and received approval from the USFWS
- Compiled an orientation handbook for new employees in WFF and conducted the first training session as part of an effort to expand employee preparedness.
- Initiated the Carolinas Bat Acoustic Project to gain a better understanding of bat species diversity and abundance.
- Administered a bird banding program which resulted in banding of 294 wood ducks, 147 black-bellied whistling ducks, 126 mottled ducks in support of state and region-specific research objectives and Atlantic Flyway banding goals.

- During the summer of 2015 with the help of many Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries staff, USFWS staff, and several volunteers the Small Game Program was able to band 2,143 mourning doves. This is the most doves ever banded in a single banding season in SC and will greatly assist in determining dove populations throughout the state.
- Banded 460 landbirds encompassing 32 species, 18 of which are State Wildlife Action Plan species, to gain information on temporal and spatial patterns of species populations and assist in the development of population trends. First out of state band recovery from the wintering Baltimore oriole banding project was received. The bird was banded in Myrtle Beach, SC on 8 March 2011, and was recovered in British Columbia in August 2015.
- Initiated a two year study to assess the distribution of the Black Rail, a secretive marsh bird of special concern. Conducted surveys at 283 points on state, federal, and private lands in the coastal region of South Carolina and succeeded in finding black rails at 11% of the points.
- Continued participation in a multi-state Black-bellied whistling duck color banding project in which 143 ducks were color banded in 2015. A total of 250 birds have been banded in SC. Sightings have occurred in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey and Virginia. Recently a group of 7 made a fall migration from Georgetown County to Orlando Florida.
- Worked with the General Assembly to file Senate Bill 454 related to a limit on antlered deer and a tagging program for deer in SC. Conducted 7 public meetings on these issues with 685 people in attendance. Produced a "virtual meeting" that was posted on the agency website which received participation from 4,556 individuals. Produced a comprehensive report detailing these activities.
- Complied with Senate Joint Resolution 463 which directed SCDNR to conduct a review and produce a report of wildlife tagging, validation, and methods for checking harvested game utilized in other states with recommendations concerning such programs in South Carolina.
- Completed year one of the cooperative research project with Louisiana State University entitled "Preliminary evaluation of reproductive phenology and ecology of Eastern wild turkeys in South Carolina". This included the capture of 83 wild turkeys and the subsequent monitoring of 75 of the birds which were outfitted with GPS radio-telemetry units.
- The South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative was initiated in 2015 after the South Carolina Quail Council was created in December of 2014. A Prescribed Fire Committee, an Education and Outreach Committee and a Technical Committee were subsequently created. In the last year the SC Bobwhite Initiative has

developed a facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/scbobwhites/>), a website, developed prescribed fire strike teams, developed four focal areas, and has begun reshaping the landscape in order to provide more suitable habitat for bobwhite quail and other grassland/pine savanna species.

- The Indian Creek Wildlife Habitat Restoration Initiative was revived and expanded to cover 40,000 acres of agricultural and forest lands in Newberry and Union Counties. The restoration efforts focus on bobwhite quail the other species associated with woodland savannas such as Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie Warbler and Bachman's Sparrow. Extensive habitat work has been completed in the area and the bobwhites are already responding, a record high 20 coveys were heard calling during the 2015 Fall Covey Count Survey. The Indian Creek WHRI was also designated as a SC Bobwhite Initiative Tier 2 Focal Area, which follows the extremely intensive National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative 2.0 protocol and is a gold star standard for bobwhite quail habitat restoration work.
- Initiated efforts to establish a Red-cockaded woodpecker population at Donnelley WMA. Funding was secured for the purchase and installation of 36 inserts, anticipating the translocation of Red-cocked woodpeckers.
- Established Tompkins Island as a SCDNR seabird sanctuary to protect the largest Royal Tern colony in the southeast.
- Began an effort to identify and provide population estimates for gopher tortoise populations in South Carolina, and completed the first population estimate at Tillman Sandridge Heritage preserve since 1998 (results indicate ~232 adult tortoises). Additional surveys to be completed in early 2016.
- Extended MOU with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) to support efforts to restock Gopher Tortoise at the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve (AGTHP) by allowing FFWCC to provide up to 112 additional tortoise for relocation to AGTHP.
- Documented successful breeding activity of pine barrens treefrogs (state threatened) at three new locations on public lands in the 2015 survey season.
- Began a project with Clemson University (Dr. Kyle Barrett) to survey the Blue Ridge province for several SWAP 2015 species (bog turtle, wood frogs, pickerel frog, milk snake, dwarf black-bellied salamander, and patchnose salamander) to run through fall 2016, and had 10 detections of targeted species.
- Work continues on the upgrade of the Lottery Hunt Program. Online application and email notification have eliminated almost all of the very expensive postage costs. During 2015, 12,433 persons applied for 10 different hunts; 3,849 persons (31%) were selected and notified. There was an 18% increase in persons

applying for the waterfowl hunts, a 21% decrease in persons applying for the alligator hunts and \$200,130 in application fees were deposited.

- Issued 228 Predator Management Permits for 387,479 acres which is a 92% increase in permits and 33% increase in acreage from 2014.
- Coyote Control & Management: Conducted 17 seminars/presentation with 1,008 persons attending. Conducted 1 ½ day workshop at the Webb Center with 27 attending. Conducted a trapping demonstration at the SC Trapper's Convention with 75 attending. Created a coyote trapping video that is shown in the customer service area at all SCDNR offices.
- Ongoing alligator research project involved the capture and radio instrumentation of 24 alligators, 12 in Santee Delta & 12 in ACE Basin. Seventy seven alligator survey runs were conducted on 22 routes.

Executive Office

Boating Access and Engineering Section Office of Environmental Programs

- Approximately 1,200 environmental reviews were conducted, and science based comments provided to state and federal regulatory agencies.
- Working with the Haile Gold Mine, Inc. and under their permit application to reopen the historic Haile Gold Mine in Lancaster County, we accepted mitigation tracts totaling 4,389 acres in Richland and Lancaster counties and executed an agreement to deliver a \$9.4M endowment for management of the mitigation tracts and aquatic restoration in the Lynches River Watershed. All three mitigation tracts were dedicated under the Heritage Preserve Act.
- Under permit application to expand the Boeing aerospace facility in Charleston County, we continued to work with the Low Country Open Land Trust toward restoration and enhancement of wetlands on the Keystone Tract (1,682 acres) in Berkeley County. The Keystone Tract will eventually be transferred to DNR.
- Under permit application to expand the Volvo manufacturing facility in Berkeley County, we continued work with the applicant's agents, the Department of Commerce and Low Country Open Land Trust toward restoration and enhancement of wetlands on the Bannister Tract (1,667 acres) in Orangeburg County. The Bannister Tract will eventually be transferred to DNR.
- Working with the State Ports Authority and the Corps of Engineers we assisted with the conceptual plan to mitigate for impacts to streams, wetlands and water quality associated with the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project, aka Post-45. The mitigation strategy will result in acquisition of lands to be transferred to an appropriate agency for compatible public uses.
- In cooperation with DOT and Tidewater Environmental we planned the acquisition of the Browder Tract (69.7 acres) in Aiken County to eventually be subsumed into the adjacent Henderson Heritage Preserve to stand as mitigation for impacts to wetlands and streams associated with bridge construction over Upper Three Runs Creek. This acquisition should take place in early 2016.
- In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, we continued to work toward DNR taking title to South Fenwick Island (approximately 400 acres) to secure the last significant unprotected tract in the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- Work has continued in partnership with the Department of Transportation to complete a conceptual plan to mitigate for the wetland and stream impacts associated with the construction of I-73 from Marlboro to Horry counties; the

conceptual plan includes the potential acquisition of 5,758 acres of land in the Little Pee Dee Watershed and incorporating and dedicating it into the Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve. In December, the DOT Commission voted unanimously that the Gunter's Island tract be acquired and donated to DNR as compensatory mitigation for the roadway impacts.

- Working with CSX Railroad and its agents we formulated the acquisition of the King Tract (100 acres), a strategic in-holding at Marsh Furniture WMA as mitigation for wetland impacts associated with rebuilding a rail trestle over the Pee Dee River between Florence and Marion counties. This acquisition should take place in early 2016.
- Working with DHEC staff and the Interim Trustee of the Pinewood Landfill we assisted in the formulation of a draft long-term site funding plan designed to protect source water quality in the Santee River Basin.
- Working with the Conservation Fund we continue to explore strategies to restore streams and wetlands on the Tall Pines Tract in Pickens County with the long-term objective of acquiring the tract (1,250 acres) and establishing public use.
- Working with Clemson University and its new James Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Center we participated in the successful conduct of a landowner/manager workshop that included over 100 participants focusing on wetlands management and restoration strategies.
- Coordinated with the Joint Venture Focus Area Task Forces to update existing plans, or write new conservation plans to be used in landscape level habitat planning, and worked to reinvigorate inactive Focus Area Task Forces.
- Three (3) new boating projects were completed in Charleston, Dorchester and Saluda counties.
- Sixteen (16) new boating access projects in fourteen (14) counties were initiated and are still under development.
- Two (2) existing boating access facilities in Dorchester and Horry counties were renovated.
- The design of a field shop /work center at the Bonneau Ferry WMA was completed and bids let for the construction in early 2016.
- The design for \$1.1 million in repairs/renovations to the Waddell Mariculture Center office and lab was completed and advertised for bids for the construction of the renovations.

- The temporary offices for the licensing group were designed and constructed at the SC State Farmer's Market.
- Four (4) Building Condition Assessments and Reports were completed for properties in Richland and Kershaw counties in support of land acquisitions by the Department.
- Topographic surveys were completed for the design of the Sassafras observation tower as well as an easement survey and plat for the relocation of power lines on the mountaintop. Design of the project is currently ongoing.
- A 25,000 acre boundary survey of the Woodbury WMA property in Marion County was conducted by Department personnel.
- 8 land boundary/easement surveys were conducted by Department personnel in various locations in support of department legal staff for various projects/cases.
- Engineering staff assisted in evaluation of damages to DNR infrastructure due to the historic October flood event, including buildings, boating access facilities, state fishing lakes and roads and dikes on Wildlife Management Areas.
- Continued to follow-up on accessibility needs at DNR facilities identified in the Self Evaluation and Transition Plan developed under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Continued to coordinate and guide the maturation of the SC Quail Council, and assist the WFF Division in the establishment of at least 2-4 Focal Areas for implementation of the quail habitat restoration plan (SC Bobwhite Initiative).
- A Contribution Agreement was negotiated with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to fill two (2) biologist positions to support the SC Bobwhite Initiative.
- The Special Assistant to the Director served the first year of a two-year term as Chair of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) Management Board. The ACJV is a habitat partnership in the 17 Atlantic states from Maine to Florida, and Puerto Rico.
- The biannual meeting of the ACJV Management Board was hosted in Charleston in March.
- A meeting of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Council was hosted in Charleston in December.

- Coordinated the initiation of a study with Clemson University to evaluate the economic impact of natural resource related activities to the South Carolina economy.

Office of Media and Outreach

- Sponsored hunting and fishing shows on television and radio to promote DNR programs, hunting and fishing opportunities, public lands and diversity outreach efforts.
- Implemented integrated marketing campaigns on Checkoff for Wildlife, Go Fishing, Certified Seafood, Litter Prevention and 100 Deadly Days.
- Partnered with B.A.S.S to promote fishing in the Upstate at the Bassmaster's Classic

South Carolina Wildlife Magazine

- Delivered six issues of South Carolina Wildlife to more than 40,000 subscribers in 2015.
- Increased photo contest participation from approximately 600 entries in 2014 to more 1,000 entries in 2015.
- Continued to refine digital database of more than 52,000 DNR photos.
- Won national award for a magazine feature story concerning Bear Island wetland management.

Litter Prevention Program

- Established a marketing and branding concept about litter which correlates with DNR's mission of wildlife and environmental conservation: *Litter...It's Not Natural*
- Created multi-use slogan: **UP2U** (legal steps to establish trademark for **UP2U**): to dispose of litter responsibly; to take pride where you live; to make a difference, etc.
- Created and maintained website: www.dnr.sc.gov/up2u
- Anti-Litter Campaign: Help-A-Critter and Help-A-Sea Critter (Turtle)
- Statewide media campaign including PSA, billboards and digital

Hispanic Outreach Program

- Created and maintained a DNR Spanish website containing more than 200 pages of information and educational materials.

- Translated licensing forms, kiosks signs, surveys, informational and educational materials, and advertisements. More than 50 printed or published resources.
- Attended Hispanic Festivals and outreach events, reaching more than 4,000 participants in 2015.
- Supported 3 DNR events offering bilingual capabilities: Socastee Fishing Rodeo, Ft Johnson Open house and Ridgeville Hunter Education class.
- Created Spanish YouTube channel with 4 YouTube videos and launched Spanish Facebook page.
- Partnered with National and International agencies, to include the Mexican Consulate, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, National Shooting Sports Foundation and Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund.

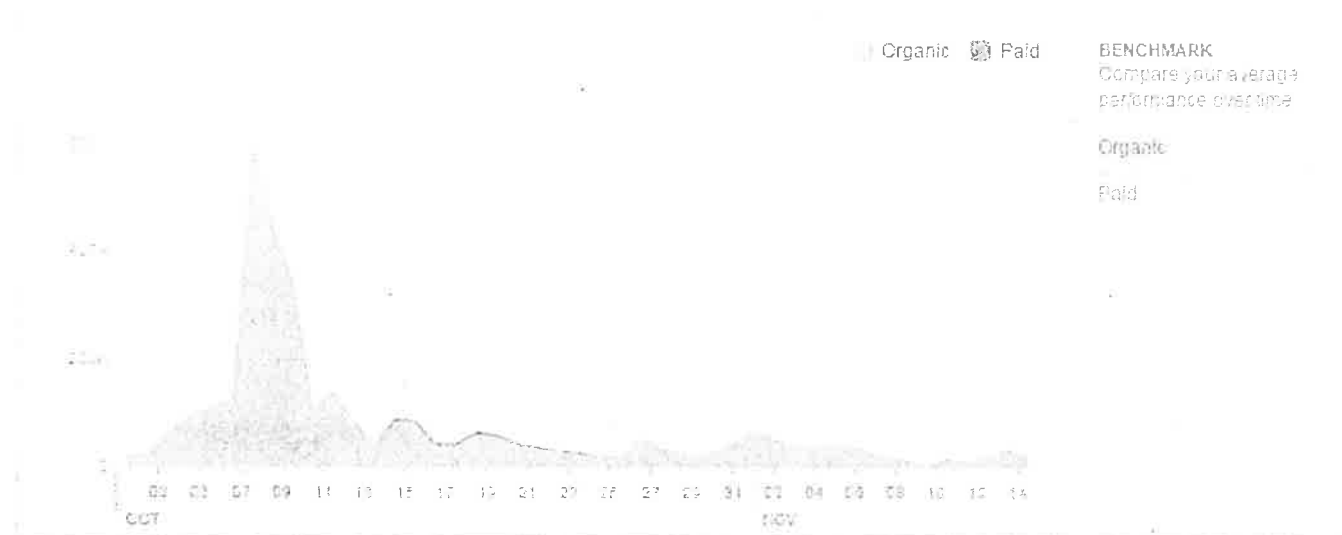
Social media

- Maintain multiple social media platforms to promote continuous dialogue with 67,000 Facebook, 11,400 Twitter and just under 7,000 Instagram followers
- Attached is a graph showing the enormous FB spike we saw during and immediately following the flood.

SCDNR

Post Reach

The number of people your post was served to.



Graphics

- Completely 494 publications to include Rules and Regulations, educational and promotional materials.

SCDNR Video Section Primary Accomplishments 2015

- Produced two TV spots promoting safety for the summer boating season. One featured Major Jamie Landrum and Lt Ken Simmons, and the other featured ACC Coach of the Year Dabo Swinney.
- Produced four DNR general information videos in Spanish with Hispanic Outreach Coordinator Alix Pedraza. Also set up Alix to begin captioning existing DNR videos in Spanish.
- Produced a TV spot promoting *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine.
- Produced a long-form video to promote the 75th anniversary of protecting public lands in South Carolina.
- Completed a volunteer training video that will increase the number of aquatic education fishing instructors while decreasing the amount of staff time needed for classroom training.
- Shot and edited a long version and short version small mammal trapping video with DNR biologist Jay Butfiloski. It is being used in our license lobbies, on YouTube and through the WFF Web pages.
- Produced a public service announcement and two additional support videos for the DNR's anti-litter campaign, coordinated through our Office of Litter Prevention.
- Wrote and supervised the creation of a Check for Wildlife PSA that utilized whiteboard animation to explain how to contribute to the DNR while doing your tax returns.
- Provided sound, photo and video support to Barnwell Hatchery reopening event that was attended by several local legislators.
- Updated, produced and delivered Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic radio and TV spots for 2015 to media outlets statewide. Also provided A/V, emceed the fishing tournament and made PA announcements during the Classic.
- Continued to maintain and update the informational videos being shown in all of the DNR local offices in our license sales areas.
- Hired a new employee, Danielle Kent, to edit DNR videos and assist with field productions and projects.

- Installed and received training on the DNR's first new digital editing system in several years.
- Provided A/V and photo support to WFF for dedication of the Sam Stokes Sr. Jocassee Gorges Field Office.
- Continued the time-consuming process of converting 16 mm films and analog tapes to digital. Several of these conversions were used in productions in 2015.
- Provided logistical assistance at each of the regional offices for the creation of a new Law Enforcement Directory.
- Inter-agency and outside organization video support efforts:
Shot and edited videos for Sheriff of the Year and Deputy of the Year for the **SC Sheriff's Association**.
- Provided **SLED** with requested DNR-produced safety videos for their use.
- Provided video to **DHEC** to support a video they produced on state hydrology.
- Provided video to TV news stations to support natural resource news stories, including **WPDE and WSPA**.

Law Enforcement Division

Accomplishments

- All officers are now on the same career path throughout the division. In addition, we have added step increases at the 15 and 20 year service time mark for Majors and below.
- The Law Enforcement Division awarded over 160 salary increases to sworn and non-sworn personnel.
- Promoted two Captains, these Captains will replace Captain Mike Sabaka's position who was promoted to Legislative Director and Captain Tim Baxley's position who is retired on December 30th.
- Promoted Cary Robinson to 1st Sgt. in Region 3.
- Continued with exemplary employee service to the Executive Protection Detail.
- With almost 27,000 Law Enforcement contacts (summons/warnings), complaints against officers have been extremely minimal.
- Officers issued 7,734 summons from January 1, 2015 thru November 31, 2015.
- Officers issued 19,189 warnings.
- Officers cleared 286 Warrants.
- Officers spent 50,358.50 hours on boating patrols resulting in 92,311 boats being inspected.
- 7,337.50 hours conducting Search and Rescue Missions.
- Three week security detail at the Statehouse for the removal of the confederate flag over 60 officers were assigned to work this detail.
- Memorial Day Bike Week – Ninety Two (92) officers were deployed to this detail which involved assisting four (4) agencies; Horry County PD, Myrtle Beach PD, SLED and Surfside PD.
- October Flood Event – Assisted in a nine (9) days flood event involving 158 officers in 11 counties.
- Over Nine Hundred Thirty (930) rescues were completed during the flood event.

- Coordinated security at DSNAP registration centers for flood victims with SLED. Detail required assignment of One Hundred Twenty Two (122) officers to provide security for these locations. Twenty Four (24) counties were serviced over Twenty Five (25) days.
- Darlington Bike Rally – Thirty officers (30) were deployed for this five (5) day detail.
- Region Officers conducted 3,360 public presentations to schools, churches, civic groups.
- Region officers conducted 112 media events (TV, Radio, print interviews).
- Regions hosted 19 Fish Rodeos with 3,871 kids attending. Rodeos were held in the following counties: McCormick, Union, Edgefield, Oconee, Greenwood, Greenville, Chesterfield, Darlington, York, Lancaster, Barnwell, Lexington, Charleston, Berkeley, Jasper, Horry, and Dorchester.
- Conducted 56 Courtesy Boat Inspections statewide, 343 boats inspected, 71 violations prevented, 32 BUI's during the boating season
- Answered 13,238 calls for service.
- Law Enforcement Division attended 8 Deer Forums.
- Law Enforcement Division coordinated six (6) Boating Forums across the state for public input.
- Continued in the switching the LE files from CAT to Oracle.
- Hosted Jack Enter to come give a two (2) day leadership class. All Captains and below attended the training.
- 6 supervisors attended the FBI Command College held in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 3 supervisors were enrolled in the CPM training: Captain Swink, Lt. Thomas, and Lt. Corbett.
- Majors Poole and Landrum completed the final week of NACLEC 3 week long Leadership Training in Shepardstown, WV.
- Investigator Greg Brown was named IAMI Investigator of the Year.
- Investigator Tony Spires received an award for Top Investigator out of 56 investigators for his abilities at the IHEA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy.

- 4 divers completed 13 month Dive Instructor training which will enable them to train all of our new divers in house.
- Provided new laptop computers for all field Lieutenants.
- Finished getting all major cell-phone service providers to implement #DNR on cell phones.
- The LE division sent 40 officers to train in Riot control with the SCHP, PPP, and SLED.
- The LE division sent 40 plus officers to train with SCHP in Active Shooter Training.
- 13 Officers completed Radiation Detection training in Anniston, AL.
- Issued Personal RAD Detection Devices to 25 officers in Region 4.
- Region One received \$9,916.00 in Grant money from Palmetto Pride for the purchase of Night Vision and Plot Watcher surveillance cameras.
- Completed 7 Officer Memorials across the State.
- Held the Retirees Luncheon at Styx compound where we provided meal, fellowship, and new ID's and weapon qualifications to 70 retirees.
- Captain Downer did a presentation on Shooting Sports and Lt. Thomas presented the raptor case at SEAFWA. Lt. Thomas was selected for the best paper award.
- Continued process of buying Lake Wateree House from Duke Power to assist in Law Enforcement Operations.
- Recognized 8 officers and supervisors with the Colonel's On the Spot Award for exemplary work in the field.
- Established a new Aluminum Boat Contract.
- Replaced 13 boats of various sizes, 27 outboard motors, and 3 ATV's
- Updated new forms used by LE and posted on intranet for instant access and availability to all field personnel.
- Class of 20 officers completed all training June 17th with a class of 19 beginning their training on same day.

- Completed the new LE Officer directory.

LE Impact:

- LE Outreach efforts are estimated to have impacted over 180,000 South Carolinians in 2015.

Hunter & Boater Ed-18,713 TOMO-77,126 Archery-44,000
Shooting Sports-1,674 *Public Presentations-33,600 Fishing Rodeo-3,871
*Courtesy Boat Inspections-1,372
*Estimated Number
(Interesting comparison only 26,193 students are recorded participating in high and middle school football in SC.)

Capital Improvements:

- Replaced the Roof and well pump unit at the Laurens boathouse.
- Extended boat ramp and repaired boat dock at Lake Greenwood.
- Completed major repairs to York Office (windows, doors, roof and ceiling).
- Completed getting water service to York office changed over from well to city service.
- Bundrick Island boat shed has been put out for bid.

Field Operations Regions 1-4 Major William Poole & Major Jamie Landrum

Significant Events/Cases

- After more than a year of surveillance on two different plantations in Jasper and Orangeburg Counties, Officers from Regions 2, 3, and 4, with USFW agents, served federal search warrants on both plantations concerning the illegal trapping and taking of Raptors. The case in Jasper Co. has been adjudicated with the LLC paying \$250,000.00 in community restitution fines, and 3 subjects received fines ranging from \$1000.00 to \$1,500.00. The case in Orangeburg County netted 10 counts and \$15,000.00 fines for each count.
- Lexington County officers investigated hawk pole trap violations which concluded with 8 state charges for illegal traps, \$4,950.00 in fines and restitution.
- 1st Sgt. Robinson, CO Baxley, and PFC Douglas performed a water rescue on October 4 during the floods in Clarendon County. These three officers saved two lives out of swift water while risking their own life.

- During the flood CO JB Smith and SGT Travis Dudley received a report that the "lower income" neighborhoods in the lower Richland area seemed to be neglected. While patrolling these areas, many residents came out to them begging for water. They had 10 cases of water with them and quickly passed it out. They quickly got word to SGT Britt who obtained an additional 30 gallons and 20 cases of bottled water from the military which was distributed. CO Rodney Paulk, SGT Pat Rivers, and SGT Robbie Barnes graciously volunteer to help with this mission to reach the area of the county that have not seen any LE or assistance. Sgt's Rivers and Barnes delivered a pallet of bottled water and CO Paulk handed out 275 gallons of water to those in need. The people were extremely grateful of our officers and very glad to see them. SGT Rivers visited 36 homes she knew of with elderly ranging from 85-95 year olds who could not get out of their homes for any assistance.
- Orangeburg County officer Justin Whetstone made a large drug and money seizure while checking fishermen in Orangeburg County. Officer Whetstone seized a handgun, 81 Oxycodone pills and \$34,000.00 in cash. The subject plead guilty in court to possession of a controlled substance and the department is currently working with legal staff to seize the money.
- Pfc. Wes Stewart was chosen as the State Officer of the Year.
- Congratulations to Region Officers of the Year: Region 1 L/Cpl. Erik Martin, Region 2 Pfc. Wes Stewart, Region 3 L/Cpl. Steven Johnson, Region 4 Sgt. Freddie Earhart, Education Sgt. Ken Cope.
- L/Cpl. Mark Jervey was chosen as the SC NASBLA Officer of the Year.

Region 1 Accomplishments Captain Mike Isaacs

- Received a New Deer Decoy from QDMA Foothills Chapter for Greenville and Spartanburg Counties

Region 2 Accomplishments Captain Sandy Young

- Hired Administrative Assistant at York Office bringing York office staff to two. This insures that York office will be able to maintain state office hours.
- Hired Administrative Assistant for the Florence Office.

Region 3 Accomplishments Captain Harvin Brock

- CO. JB Smith won the State Officer Survival Competition.
- Officers Gilmore and Smith saved a suicidal man's life on Lake Murray Meth seizure.

Region 4 Accomplishments Captain Gentry Thames

- Completed all elements of the JEA 2014/2015 JEA Contract with NOAA.
- Awarded 2015/2016 JEA valued at \$536,610.75
- 4 officers completed four week FLETC Marine Law Enforcement Training Program in Brunswick, GA.
- 2 officers completed FLETC night navigation course in FLETC, Charleston, SC.
- Conducted Mass Rescues Exercises Charleston Harbor with USCG and local
- Region 4 officers participated in 8 "Hammerhead" events along SC Coast. These are State and Local Agency Homeland Security Water Enforcement events headed up by SLED.

Overt / Covert Investigations Captain Gary Sullivan

- Investigated 21 boating incidents fatalities (19 reportable).
- 1 of the above investigations resulting in one count of homicide by boat.
- Investigated 3 hunting incident fatalities.
- 1 of the above investigations resulted in one count of felony criminal negligent use of a firearm.
- 1 Investigator attended Post Critical Incident Training.
- 1 Investigator attended the SSI Science of Diving Training.
- 1 Investigator attended Survival Swim School.
- 4 Investigators attended the Specific Skills Instructor Class.
- 2 Investigators attended open water instructor school.
- 1 Investigator attended MRN training forum.
- 2 Investigators attended the IHEA Hunting Incident Training in Georgia.
- 4 Investigators attended Cultural Professionalism Training.
- 2 Investigators attended Reid Interviewing and Interrogation training.
- 1 Investigator attended Master Diver Training.
- 1 Investigator attended Nitrox Training.

- 1 Investigator attended Basic Environmental Crime Training.
- 3 Investigators attended the 25th Annual IAMI Training Seminar.
- 1 Investigator attended the 41st Annual IAATI Training Seminar.

Marine Theft Investigations Operations

- 909 marine theft investigations
- Recovered equipment valued at \$120,400.00

Wake Zone Investigations

- 66 NO WAKE zone investigations
- 3 NO WAKE ZONES approved

B-SAF Team

- Conducted 9 B-SAF patrols inspecting 1,320 boats resulting in 108 summonses, 442 warnings and 15 BUI's

Covert Operations

- A total of 192 requests for covert investigations/request for Intel/assist.
- Covert operations, also lead to over 100 non wildlife crimes (i.e. larceny, stolen property, alcohol violations, and internal investigations).
- Conducted 11 Intel/background checks for SCDNR reptile permit applicants.
- Assisted with paperwork and implementation of 3 GPS tracker warrants for SCDNR Law Enforcement cases.
- Hosted Tri state (SC, NC, and GA) covert meeting in Columbia discussing cases and mutual areas of concern.
- Conducted Presentation for University of South Carolina School of Law on animal crimes and wildlife law violations.
- Closed an 11 month internal investigation resulting in a successful conclusion.
- Assisted USFWS, USDA, and 5 additional states with Investigations and Intel resulting in 10 cases being made and 12 pending violations. Some of the violations included the illegal importation of live coyotes into NC and fraudulent licenses cases.

- Added GPS tracker apps to covert phones for covert officer safety.
- Worked internet/social media cases / investigations resulting in 7 cases being made including the sale of deer and bear parts.
- Conducted operations in 3 regions of the state targeting the commercial buy/sale of game fish in restaurants. In total 28 cases and 5 warnings were made at 32 locations across the state.
- Conducted operations at flea markets in the upstate of SC targeting the sale of wildlife, fish, reptiles, and seafood.

Diving Operations

- Total Dive Assignments 71 with Total Dive Hours 2840
- 14 body recovery assignments resulting in 9 recoveries.
- Made evidence recovery on 8 of 14 dives assisting state, local, and federal agencies.
- 4 applicants completed the 13 month SSI Dive Control Specialist Course and went on to receive their SSI Instructor Rating.
- DNR Instructors trained a new class for the AIR Team.
- Divers recovered parts from Cessna/F16 crash in Berkeley County along with pilot and passenger remains.
- Divers recovered plane and pilot in Bob Russell crash in Columbia.
- Divers recovered Fuel Cells from Air Force jet in Orangeburg following an emergency landing.
- Divers recovered the body of a 5 month old victim of homicide in Horry County.

ATON Operations

- Surveyed 1,900 aids to navigation buoys and replaced 279 missing or damaged buoys/signs.
- Completed marking and removal of 173 illegal buoys on Lakes Keowee, Murray and Wylie.

Marine Events

- Approved 649 Marine Events for the year.
- Streamlined the approval return documentation for Marine Events to requestor and Regions.

Staff Operations Accomplishments - Major Mark Carey **Law Enforcement Education & Outreach – Captain Billy Downer**

Administration

- Hired an hourly Administrative Specialist to assist with Take One Make One administration.

Hunter Education

- Taught 14,556 students in Hunter Education for 2015.
- Launched an Internet Only Hunter Education Course which allows students to complete their hunter education requirement totally online. 6,406 students completed the new online course in 2015.
- The section offered 8 Hunting Clinics across the state in an effort to teach specific hunting skills to Take One Make One students as well as the public.
- Held the first College Hunting Clinic in partnership with Clemson University. 17 students attended this class and 1 was taken on their first deer hunt afterwards.
- Launched a new radio initiative in partnership with the weekly “Sports Talk” with Phil Kornblut on every other Wednesday evening from 7:30-8:00PM,

Boater Education

- Taught 4,157 students in Boater Education.
- Developed a Virtual Boating Simulator Trailer which is the first of its kind in the country. The Boating Simulator visited 33 events in 2015 with 40,939 people participating.
- Continued successful partnership with US Coast Guard Auxiliary for teaching boater education and distributing over 12,000 SC Boater Handbooks to local landings and marinas across the state.
- Continued to foster partnership with Wendy’s for the “I Got Caught Wearing My Lifejacket” tickets for a free Frosty.
- Boating Safety Radio commercials aired at all Carolina & Clemson Baseball games March through April.

- Coordinated Boating Safety displays at Clemson and Carolina baseball games using the wrapped Pioneer boat.

Archery in the Schools

- 1765 students participated in four Regional Archery Tournaments across the state in an effort to allow more schools to participate in a tournament experience.
- 685 students participated in the 10th annual South Carolina Archery in the School 2 day archery tournament. There are 44,000 students actively shooting archery in 296 schools across SC.
- To date, 1065 teachers have been trained as Basic Archery Instructors.
- 25 additional archery kits delivered to schools across the state.

Take One Make One

- Take One Make One coordinated 71 hunts in 2015 with 326 participants.
- TOMO Trailers visited 96 events with 44,143 people participating in 2015.

Youth Clay Target Sports

- SCDNR sponsored the first annual SCDNR Sporting Clay Open at the NWTF Palmetto Shooting Complex. 440 students and 1400 people total were in attendance at this inaugural event.
 - Ten new school teams were formed thanks to this event.
 - SCDNR and other sponsors presented a total of \$24,500 in college scholarships to graduating seniors. Hampton Wildlife Fund gave \$9,000 of these scholarships.
- Held the first annual SCDNR Youth Skeet Open at the Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield, SC in December 2015. 274 youth shooters participated in this event making it the largest youth skeet event ever held in South Carolina.

Ranges

- Completed the Palmetto Hunting Heritage Shooting Center in Edgefield, SC with the NWTF. - \$2,000,000
- Continue to work with the US Forest Service to expand the Twin Ponds Rifle Range to include a pistol range and man the range five days a week to improve the conditions at this site.
- Started purchase of Indigo Gun Club in Richland County.
- Worked with Laurens County to build Archery Range with an elevated tower.

Honor Guard

- Conducted 11 details including:
 - 1 flag presentation for a DOT worker who was killed during the October flood in Richland County.
 - Memorial services for fallen Wildlife Officers across the state where memorial stones were placed at graveside.
 - 3 Color Guard assignments.

EMD/Supply/Dispatch/Radio Communications/Aviation – Captain Karen Swink EMD/HOMELAND SECURITY

- Promoted FSGT Cary Davis as an Intelligence Analyst assigned to Seahawk in Charleston
- Fifteen (15) Personal Radiation Detector's purchased from the Port Security Grant were issued to Region 4 officers.
- Rhodium Incident Management Software was procured to assist in event management.
- Coordinated two (2) lake clearing events for VC Summer and HB Robinson nuclear facilities. Both exercises were graded by FEMA and DNR received high praises for knowledge and professionalism.
- Acquired additional 800 radios for officers in York County for Catawba response.
- Participated in a successful SChP full scale exercise. Twenty-seven (27) and sixteen (16) Department DLEO's participated.
- Participated in a successful winter storm exercise.

SEAHAWK – 1st Sgt. Cary Davis

- FSGT Davis worked on three high profile cases in the Charleston area:
 - North Charleston PD officer involved shooting.
 - The Emmanuel Church AME church shooting in Charleston.
 - The Berkeley County SO officer shooting, Lt. Will Rodgers.
- FSGT Davis participated in twenty-one (21) MASFO's (Multi Agency Strike Force Operations).
- FSGT Davis participated in four (4) Hammerhead (Heightened Activity Maritime Response Harbor Enforcement and Deterrence) Operations.

Aviation

- Conducted 190 Flights for a total of 638 flight hours.
- Conducted 420 Law Enforcement flight hours.

- Conducted 111 Search and Rescue flight hours.
- Conducted 102 Biological flight hours.
- Conducted 5 Aeronautics Commission flight hours
- Hired Pilot Don Garbade to replace retired Pilot Bucky Harris.
- The 206 was put back in service after repairing a significant corrosion issue and receiving new paint.
- The P68's Dual GPS units were upgraded to WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System) capability allowing for safer approaches.
- Maintained response levels and responsibilities with only one pilot for nine (9) months. No flight request were turned down and all scheduled flights were completed.

Supply/Equipment

- Processed new equipment to include: 81 vehicles, 33 Outboard Motors, 19 Vessels, and 15 Trailers. In addition, hundreds of non-asset items were processed.
- Re-bid contracts for both the OD T-shirts, polos and oxfords as they are expiring.
- Updated and organized data within SCEIS to minimize paperwork and increase efficiency.
- Successfully completed June audit.
- New Agency contracts were created for boating shoes, boating shirts, PFD's, flashlights and safety glasses.
- Received 322 new Glock pistols to be issued at Spring In-Service.

Communications Center

- Top 3 calls: Injured Animals:1260, General Information:966, Trespass to hunt/fish:1418
- Answered 1425 Palmetto Pride Calls (Litter busters)
- Registered 819 Night Hunting Properties Permits

- Entered 275 Warrants into NCIC
- Acquired 8 new computers and a VPM router.

Radio Communications

- Maintained all radios in agency vehicles and handheld units, twenty-one (21) repeaters and seven (7) Master Dispatch sites with forty-five (45) control stations, consoles and telephones. Upgraded and reprogrammed all DNR radios with a new flash and updates.
- Relocated Anderson Repeater to a new tower site in Starr.
- Replaced antenna's, coax, and microwave units on three repeater tower sites.
- Supported many events to include: Governor's Inauguration, MLK Rally, Bike Week, Winter Storm, PSC, KKK Rally, Presidential visit, Nuclear Shipments and the October Flood Event.
- Replaced the air conditioner at one tower site.
- Replaced seven (7) of the twelve (12) UPS batteries around the state.
- Assisted SLED and SCDPS in upgrading and reprogramming all of their radios across the state as well as Myrtle Beach PD, USC PD, Sumter PD and DHEC as part of the Strike Force Team and programmed all Game and Fish radios.

Legislation, Operation Game Thief, Confiscation Sales, Grants, Records & Technology Section – Captain Lee Ellis

- Developed new procedures for public auctions of confiscated equipment to electronically document sales.
- This section continues the process of converting to the new Oracle systems. Greg Miley and the records admin staff continue working with the new Oracle law enforcement records system to ensure the data integrity is maintained at the highest level possible, as well as working with IT to locate and correct any duplication of data or data entry issues that present during records entry.
- The section worked with DSS, Legal Staff, and OSS to implement internal procedures for revocation of privileges due to unpaid child support to become compliant with state and federal requirements.
- Continued to work to get other state's signed into the Inter-state boating violator compact. Recently assistance has been provided to Senator Simonaire of Maryland with his preparation to introduce a bill to include MD in the IBVC.

Training Accomplishments - Lt. Russell Monnet

- Conducted Wildlife Basic for 19 students.
- Training Staff and L/Cpl. Martin attended Cultural Professionalism Instructor Training at DPS Headquarters conducted by Department of Justice.
- Conducted Cultural Professionalism Training for all FTE's in each Region prior to deployment for Myrtle Beach Bike Week.
- Training Staff downloaded all training files to Quartermaster Training software in each Region and Staff Operations.
- Conducted 2 day Officer Water Survival Course for 40 officers.
- Conducted 5 day Officer Survival School in Clinton for 10 officers. (2 FTE's per Region and 2 SLED Agents)
- SSGT. McClellan and L/Cpl. Martin attended NASBLA Marine Live Fire Firearms and Tactical Boating Course in Wichita, KS.
- Coordinated Active Shooter Training with DPS for DNR Personnel for Spring 2016.
- Conducted Spring In-Service training for all FTE's and Departmental DLEO's.
- Training Staff conducted testing and evaluations on old duty gear for reasons of wear on weapons and tested new holsters for replacement.

Law Enforcement Business/Finance Section – Jessica Clements

- Completed payroll increase related to 15 years of service @ 5%; 20 years of service.
- Compiled expense reports for all flood related expenses in an extremely timely manner for submission to FEMA/DHS.
- Setup timelines quarterly establishing trends in spending for purchases and to allow for a more accurate planning of major expenditures including grants.
- Establish specific account funds for sections within the Division and supply weekly reports to said sections for budgetary information; Created Business Objects reports to display Functional area spending/budgetary.
- Continually update Law Enforcement Facilities Management booklet. Including pictures, insurance, utility information.

- Created plan and timeline to set up training for Regional Access to SAP/Citrix for Asset, PO and Payment lookup. Completed Working on Manual for the specific transaction.

Legal Section Accomplishments

- Resolved 37 cases formally in the legal office.
- Assisted in several internal investigations working with covert and investigations.
- Assisted investigators with advice and arrest and search warrant preparation.
- Held BUI training class with assistance of the Richland and Lexington County Solicitors Office and local defense attorney.
- Completed our introductory meeting with all State Solicitors.
- Guest presented at Attorney Generals CLE and Solicitors Conference.
- Legal & Courtroom training of new officer class.
- Assisted Georgetown Solicitors Office in prosecution of Night Hunting case
- Assisted Investigations with several evidentiary and seized property issues.
- Field calls at all hours from officers in the field.
- Assisted in deer poisoning investigation advising on and executing search warrants.
- Assisted in flood assistance riding with officers doing welfare checks.

2015 Cases Adjudicated*

- Hernandez: Trespassing – Guilty Plea
- Edwards: Trespassing – Dismiss per Hernandez pleading guilty (officers recomment)
- Scott Hudson: BUI- Guilty Plea to BUI
- Gardner: Fail to Prop Tag Oysters- Jury Trial- Guilty verdict at trial
- Lucas: Baiting Dove Field- Jury Trial- Not guilty at trial
- Markey: BUI- PTI

- Burris: BUI- Dismiss (w officer) witness/victims lack prosecution
- Reeves: BUI- Pled Guilty to Reckless, served Admin 6mth susp (prob with test and asthma)
- Blatchley: Illegal purch shrimp- Bench Trial- Not Guilty (3 co-defendants found guilty)
- Clifton: Check Traps of Another- Guilty Plea at pretrial
- Moore: Check Traps of Another- Guilty Plea at pretrial
- Hampton: BUI- Pled Guilty to BUI - Fine and 6 mo susp
- Gardner: Harvest Closed Area- Dismiss at trial (Buyer/witness lost evid log)
- Ryal: Obtain Watercraft by Fraud- Jury Trial- Guilty- 30 days active jail and \$55 court cost
- Lewis N: Trespassing- PTI- successfully completed
- Ventura: No PFD Paddleboard- Jury Trial- Found guilty by jury- \$350 Fine
- Ivey: Renegade- Pled guilty at Pretrial- 1 year susp and fine
- Jahn: Hunt Turkey Over Bait- Guilty- pled at prior to trial date
- White: BUI- Pled Guilty to BUI
- Shymanski: BUI- Dismissed- Officer no longer with Dept
- Davis: Simp Poss Marij & Littering- PTI (per Offagreement. Getting Va treatment for PTSD)
- Matson: Hunt Turk Over Bait- Guilty Plea prior to trial
- Springs: Pled Guilty to Illeg Take Gamefish \$475 and Alcohol Educ class for Minor poss alcohol
- Pettus: BUI- Pled to Reckless \$470 and No PFD \$160 & 6mo susp BAC refus (per Off agreement)
- Tedder: Pled Guilty to No PFD \$110 and Illegal Take Gamefish \$475

- McCutcheon: Night Hunt GSC Prosec for Gtown Solic- Pled prior to trial \$1097, susp hunt priv, forfeitures
- Cook: BUI- Pled to Neg Oper w/comm service (worked out by Off)
- Strickland: Shellfish Viol- Pled Guilty at pretrial
- Sanders: BUI- Pled to Reck \$470 and No Nav Light \$50 6mos refus susp and boat ed (pr Off)
- Hill: Dove Baiting- Pled Guilty at Trial \$500 fine
- Spence: 5 Title related charges- Pled to four, dismissed Fail to Cooperate
- Wynn: Pled to 12 of 19 charges 45 days jail and \$2196.74 in restitution and susp
- Mycelya: Hunt Dove over Bait- Pled Guilty fine \$262
- Smith: Hunt Dove over Bait- Pled Guilty \$262
- Caskey: BUI- Pled to Reckless \$470, serve 6mo susp, alcprog and boat ed (3 tour Navy Seal Off agreement)
- Chavis: Trespass to hunt- Guilty \$300
- Wells: Trespass to hunt- Guilty \$300
- **SCDNR and SCLEAP in 2015**
- SCDNR assisted SCLEAP in hosting two Post Critical Incident Seminars providing support to 81 state and local officers involved in serious critical incidents and 22 spouses/significant others.
- SCDNR loaned SCLEAP staff to the Georgia DNR in order to receive overview of Peer Support Program.
- SCDNR joins in partnership with the Office of the Adjutant General, SLED, SCDPS and SCDPPPS.
- SCDNR Dive Team receives debriefing for recovery operation involving F-16 crash in Berkeley County.
- SCDNR Chaplains Shugart and Skidmore responded to the residence of Capt. Mike Isaacs.

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- SCLEAP coordinated the annual Out of the Darkness Walk for employees who have lost a family member to suicide.
 - SCDNR Dive Team received debriefing for recovery operation involving a child homicide and subsequent recovery operation in Horry County.
 - SCLEAP offered debrief to all state and local agencies involved in the child recovery in Horry County.