



Region 5 Continued

Running Ducks

By Sr. Agent Wendel Vaughn

On Dec. 28, 2006, Sr. Agent Steve Vidrine, and I were called to a complaint on the Calcasieu River in an area called the Shallow Hole in Oakdale, which is located in Allen Parish. The complaint was in reference to somebody jumping ducks with a vessel and shooting them while the vessel was still in motion. Upon arrival we launched our boat at the Shallow Hole boat launch and proceeded north. We drove north

approximately 1 to 1.5 miles and located a vessel at what appeared to be a camp along the Calcasieu River. I placed my hand on the 40 horsepower Yamaha that propelled the vessel and it was still warm to the touch. We looked inside the vessel and observed spent shotgun shells all along the bottom of the boat. The empty hulls that we looked at were all lead shot. We also observed fresh blood and feathers under the front seat of the

vessel. We could see two shot shell boxes underneath the front deck of the vessel and both of them said lead shot on the box. We then left the vessel, returned to our unit and ran the vessel registration number.

On Dec. 29, 2006, at approximately 7:00 a.m., Sgt. Scott Fontenot, Sr.

south of him, and Jason and I were approximately 1/2 mile south of them.

At approximately 9:15 a.m., Steve contacted us and said that two subjects just drove up to the camp by ATV and were getting into the vessel with two shotguns; he then said they were heading north, the opposite




Agent Steve Vidrine, Senior Agent Jason Staggs, and I, Senior Agent Wendel Vaughn returned to the Shallow Hole on the Calcasieu River. We launched two vessels. Scott and Steve went north, until they were approximately 200 yards south of the camp. Jason and I positioned ourselves just north of the Shallow Hole boat Launch. Steve made his way by foot to where he could observe the camp and vessel, Scott was approximately 200 yards

direction of us. Approximately 2 minutes after they pulled away from the bank, we heard a shot from a shotgun north of the camp. They were gone for approximately 1 hour, in that time period; we heard several more shots north of the Camp. Jason and I proceeded north and set up approximately 100 yards south of the camp.

At approximately 10:30 a.m., we could hear the vessel maneuvering

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Running Ducks

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back down the river. The two men in the vessel drove by the camp at a high rate of speed then passed Jason and me. When they passed us, I saw the passenger sitting on the front deck of the vessel holding his shot-

gun in a ready gun position. The vessel stayed south of us for approximately 15 minutes, and then passed us again proceeding north. When they



passed us the second time, the passenger was still sitting on the deck holding his shotgun in ready gun position. They then drove to the camp, where Steve observed them unload their guns. There were two Wood

Ducks under the passenger's legs.

When the operator of the vessel unloaded his gun, he unloaded five shells. Steve then

approached them, identified himself, and called all of us to assist. When Jason and I approached, Scott was already there. We separated each subject. Steve and I took the passenger and read him his Miranda Rights, and we asked him what they were doing. He stated, "We were hunting squirrel." We then asked him why they were in possession of ducks rather than squirrel. He shrugged his shoulders, and said, "Ya'll could see what we were

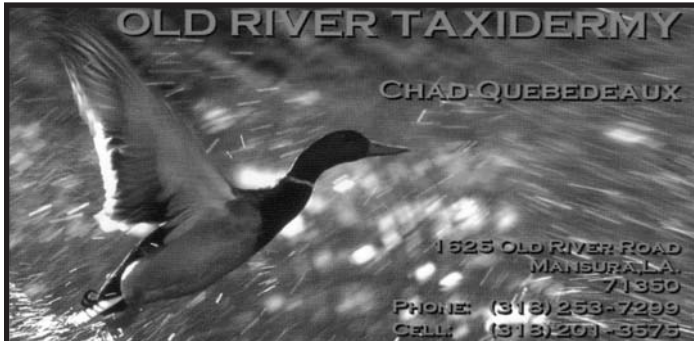
doing." Steve then asked, "Were you duck hunting?" He said, "Yes."


Steve asked if they were running ducks and shooting them while the vessel was still in motion. He said, "Yes." I then walked over to Scott and asked if the operator was advised of his rights. After he said that he was, we asked him if they were hunting duck from a moving vessel. He said, "Yes, but I never shot, I


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gun in a ready gun position. The vessel stayed south of us for approximately 15 minutes, and then passed us again proceeding north. When they

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 was just driving the boat." We then checked their guns and found the operators to be capable of holding more than three shells. We then looked in their vessel and found a total of 137 unused 12 gauge shot shells. Only 13 shells were steel, the rest were lead. The shot shells that were ejected from their guns were also lead. The passenger did not have a valid Federal Duck Stamp, or a state migratory license. Also, there were not enough personal flotation devices in the vessel.

The operator was

issued Federal citations for: hunting MGB with an unplugged gun, hunting MGB from a moving motorboat, and violate non-toxic shot requirements. He was also issued a state charge for: R.S. 34: 851.24 F(1), failure to comply with PFD requirements. The passenger was issued Federal citations for: hunting MGB from a moving motorboat, hunt duck without Federal Duck Stamp, violate non-toxic shot requirements, and hunt MGB without state migratory license. They were in possession of two Wood Ducks; they were seized jointly and donated.



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Region 5 Continued



Agents dumping undersize oysters back into Calcasieu Lake.



Lt. Remy Broussard attending a seminar on operation of GOHSEP's new communications equipment.

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Sgt. Aaron Herpin citing oyster fisherman for taking undersize oysters in Calcasieu Lake.



Sr. Agent Steve Vidrine and Sr. Agent Ray Thomas with snipe seized for closed season violation.

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Lt. Remy Broussard uses a bobcat to instruct a group of youngsters at Hackberry Rod and Gun Greenwing Day.



Sgts. Keith Aucoin, David Liles, Lt. Jesse Savoie and Sr. Agent Steve Vidrine with fish seized from a NMFS patrol.

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Sr. Agents Steve Vidrine and Ray Thomas with ducks seized in baiting cage.



Sr. Agent Steve Vidrine and Sgt. Scott Fontenot with over the limit of ducks seized.

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