

Internet Crimes and Resource Conservation:

How State and Federal Conservation Agencies are Investigating Internet Crimes

Major Camille Soverel

Abstract

The United States is believed to be the leader in the illegal trade of endangered and protected species. The internet has become a vast trading post for this criminal activity. Conservation agencies across the country and Canada were surveyed as to their involvement in investigating internet related crimes. The survey information that was returned was analyzed and depicted a snap shot of the allocation of conservation law enforcement officers assigned to a specialty unit to investigate internet related resource crimes. The information showed that only forty-three percent of the state and federal conservation agencies even have a specialty unit assigned to investigate internet crimes. The report details conservation efforts in detecting internet related crimes, methods, and types of crime being investigated.

Introduction

The internet has created a virtual storefront for the purchase and sale of protected species. Storefront dealers have begun operating out of their homes, making it harder to recognize and regularly inspect their facilities. Mail order shipments provide a wide range of deliverables, and the internet has provided a vast venue for illegal operations.

As technology changes, so will the methods of criminals. Criminals will continue to embrace high technology and its opportunities to hide from law enforcement. The internet has allowed criminals to become more efficient, productive and deceptive in the trade of illegal resource products. The ordinary buyer or collectors of protected species are in upper income levels who seem to be taken by the novelty of the items. Their desire is to simply possess something that nobody else can or should legally have. Wildlife crime is a huge growth industry, grown larger still by the internet. Most experts believe that the global illegal wildlife trade measures in the billions of dollars annually (Burton, 2007).

The internet also provides the opportunity for dealers to buy/sell without proper state and federal permits, as most of the illegal sales go unmonitored. In Law Enforcement terms, internet crime has traditionally been known for white collar crime and child pornography. The internet is providing an additional avenue for resource crimes. This research paper will attempt to take a snap shot of the current enforcement efforts by state and federal conservation agencies on internet crime nationwide.

Literature Review

The use of the internet has changed the way we communicate in our country and around the world. The use of personal cell phones has given us a computer with internet access in the palm of our hands. This dynamic has changed our social network. As communication has developed, criminals are utilizing the new technology to exploit our natural resources. In 2008, the International Fund for Animal Welfare

(IFAW) completed a comprehensive investigation into the potentially illegal trade in endangered species on the internet worldwide. They investigated 183 publicly accessible websites in eleven countries. In a six week period, they tracked 7,122 online auctions, advertisements, and communiqués offering trade in the sale of endangered species of wildlife both domestic and international. The article concludes that the internet is facilitating the illegal trade in wildlife, which is having a devastating effect on animals, ecosystems, and the communities that rely on them worldwide, making it one of the major wildlife conservation challenges of our generation. (Sobol 2008)

The results of the IFAW study showed that the United States was responsible for more than two-thirds of the illegal trade. This was ten times higher than the next two highest countries combined. The United States does not rely on its endangered species to bring in national revenue as some other countries do. Is the lack of enforcement and fear of getting caught allowing this free trade in illegal wildlife to continue in the U.S.?

Florida plays host to a large number of protected species. The Florida Everglades has a unique ecosystem found nowhere else in the world. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has indentified and established rules against harming, possessing and selling any species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Species of Special Concern. There are too many to list by name, but Florida has recognized 38 Endangered species, 25 Threatened species, and 50 Species of Special Concern (Lexus-Nexis 2009-2010). The FWC implemented an internet crimes unit at the end of 2009 that was designed to specifically target internet crimes.

Florida's warm climate allows breeders to buy, sell, and breed protected tropical species year round. The internet sales of non-native protected species have also had an impact on native protective species because often owners of unwanted non-native species release them into the wild. Their presence and ability to thrive in our ecosystem can throw off the natural balance of prey and predator. A recent example of this is the release of non native pythons into the everglades during Hurricane Andrew. The python has begun to reproduce and thrive in the Everglades. Hunting seasons have been established to allow hunters to kill and remove the harmful snakes.

The internet provides a meeting place for buyers and sellers to remain anonymous. The internet allows private chat rooms and harder to reach places for an investigator without enough probable cause for a warrant. Some of the best cyber cops are citizens reporting internet crime. If enough information is obtained to get a warrant, there is a substantial delay in issuing and receiving back information from the subpoenas. The evidence can become stale and/or disappear. An article from the Illinois Dailey Harold from 1996 stated that in Cyber space, the criminals seem to have the upper hand; people who use the internet to commit crimes continue to elude national, state, and local law enforcement officials. Technological advances coupled with too little investigative money to keep up with them leave many agencies in the criminal Cyber dust. (Harrington 1996). As far back as then, we have known that the internet has played an increasing role in certain types of crime.

Technology can assist law enforcement with larger more complex search engines and electronic data bases that can be shared nationwide to prevent crime. Some illegal suppliers are cautious using the internet for illicit crimes. In an undercover investigation made by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2002, the defendant had mailed a picture of a Rikbatsa Shaman's Crown to an undercover agent in Gainesville,

Florida. On the back of the photograph the defendant wrote: "This is a ceremonial crown with Harpy Eagle Feathers on Top, I prefer not to discuss it over the internet too much-I don't trust it completely, you can email me if you are interested." (Neme, 2009). This example shows that the defendant was using the internet to communicate, but was also leery of using it exclusively for fear of being monitored.

The laws governing internet crimes vary from state to state and even country to country. Some internet sites have tried to deny illegal posting or deals on their sites. The illegal dealers simply say that their items are legal or call them something similar to the item they are trying to sell. For example they may use creative spellings such as "ivorie, lv ory" or "material from an elephant" to describe their illegal product. The burden is on the enforcement agency to show that a transaction occurred and the transaction was prohibited. The speeds at which sales take place online present many problems for investigators to monitor and investigate. In a system that relies on user reporting and a sluggish review process, these speedy sales can go largely undetected and thereby circumvent regulations. (Sobol 2008)

Internet crime has been with us since the inception of the internet itself. Great strides have been taken to combat internet crimes against minors and monitor internet activity to detect terrorism. Is it possible for conservation agencies to use similar methods on combating internet crime that exploits our state federal resources and protected species? Are there similar investigative techniques that could cross over from traditional internet crimes investigations to conservation law enforcement? What steps would be needed to implement and share these methods amongst conservation agencies nationwide?

Method

The purpose of this research paper is to examine the current enforcement efforts of resource conservation agencies in regards to proactive law enforcement measures on internet related resource crime. A written survey was sent to both state and federal conservation agencies in North America. The agencies surveyed currently have or had designated investigations sections within their departments. The population size of the agencies varied considerably from state to state, but the survey was designed to capture the data as a percentage related to the size of their respective agencies. The data was collected by utilizing a written survey that was emailed to supervisors, section leaders, and directors of state and federal conservation agencies in the United States and Canada. The survey was formatted in a word document. It was sent and received electronically, attached to an email. The information surveyed in this study started with "How many conservation agencies have designated a specific unit to investigate internet crimes?" If they answered yes, then additional information was gauged in the survey:

- The size and manpower assigned to the internet crimes unit based as a percent of the total size of the agency, part time and fulltime
- Do the agencies have a specific policy, SOP, or guidelines for internet crimes investigation?
- Utilize specialized equipment for internet crime investigations
- Have the agencies been successful prosecuting internet crimes?
- What percentage of cases are commercial vs. recreational and Proactive vs. Reactive in nature?

- Do the agencies think they have enough staff assigned to investigate internet crimes?

The survey document used check boxes for answering for the majority of the questions. These boxes primarily could be checked with a yes or no response or a percentage response. There was only one narrative question at the end. Some of the boxes were not filled in so it was hard to determine if the person being surveyed meant to not answer the question or they were unable to check the box correctly.

A follow up phone interview to review the surveys were completed with Ed Newcomer of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Lt. George Wilson with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

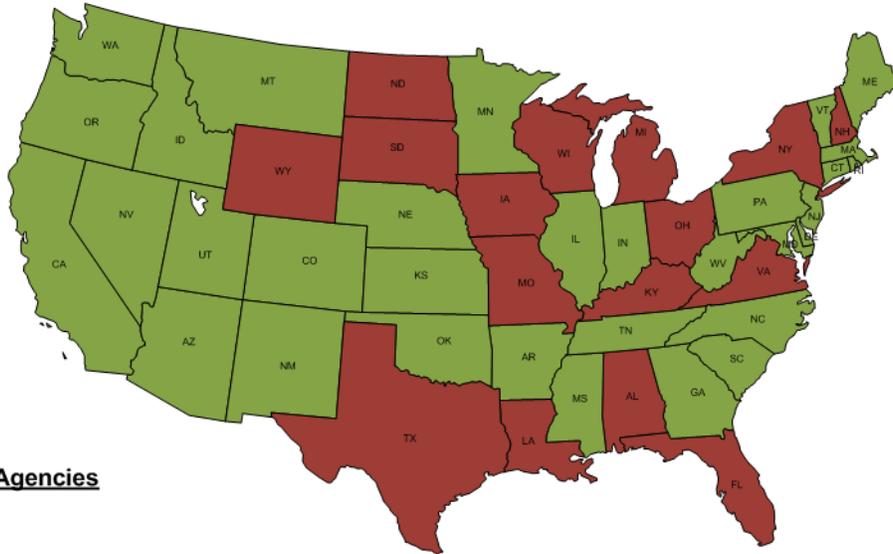
Results

Attached in Appendix B is a list of all of the agencies that responded to the written surveys. Surveys were sent to 66 representatives from state, federal, and Canadian agencies. Twenty-two surveys were returned. This represents a thirty-three percent participation ratio. Considering the great distance and diversity of the group surveyed, this was a successful return that allowed the data to be analyzed. The following is a list of conservation agencies that returned the surveys:

- Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept
- Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources
- Kentucky Dept of Fish & Wildlife
- Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
- Wildlife Enforcement Directorate Environment, Canada
- Ohio Dept of Natural Resources
- Ministere des Ressources, Quebec
- Virginia Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries
- Iowa Dept of Natural Resources
- Rhode Island Dept of Environmental Management
- Michigan Dept of Natural Resources & Environment
- Alberta Fish & Wildlife
- New York Dept of Environmental Conservation
- South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
- Louisiana Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, SE Division
- Wyoming Game & Fish
- Nunavut, Canada
- Florida Fish and Wildlife
- New Hampshire
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- North Dakota

Each department has or had an investigations section dedicated to conservation law enforcement. The state and federal agencies that responded span across the country including Canada. They are highlighted in red in the map below:

Participating States, Federal Agencies and Canadian Provinces / Agencies



United States Agencies

NOAA
USFWS

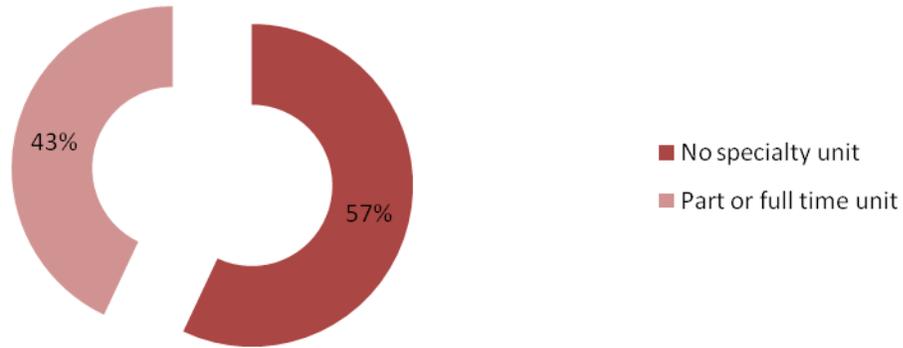
Canadian Provinces / Agencies

Alberta
Quebec
Nunavut
Environment

The agencies varied in size from 2 sworn personnel to 714. When asked if they had a specific unit assigned to investigate internet crimes only 9 out of 21 agencies said they had personnel assigned either on a part time or full time basis. This means that 57% of conservation agencies do **not** have specific personnel assigned in to investigate internet crimes.

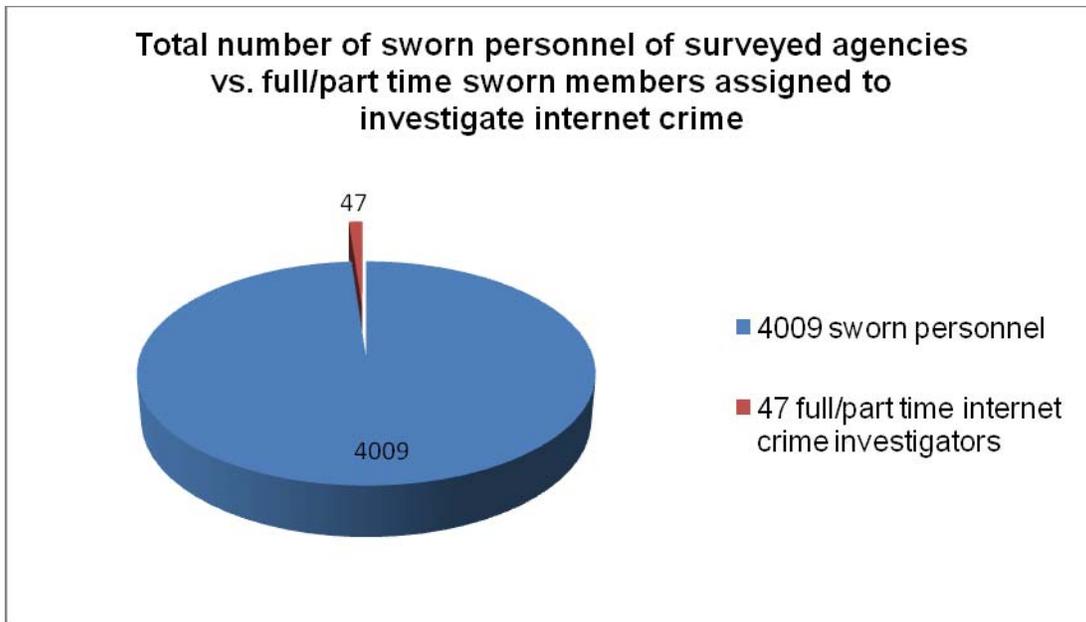
TABLE 1. Agencies with a specialty unit assigned to investigate internet crimes

Percent of agencies that have a specialty unit assigned to investigate internet crimes



The total number of personnel represented in the returned surveys was 4009 sworn officers. Of the 4009 officers, the surveys reported that currently, 12 are assigned to investigate internet crimes full time and 35 are assigned to investigate internet crimes at least part time. The total number of personnel specifically assigned to investigate internet crimes both part time and full time is 47. This total demonstrates that less than 1.2% of the conservation workforce is specifically assigned to work internet crimes. The chart below demonstrates the allocation of manpower specifically assigned to investigate internet crimes.

TABLE 2. Allocation of manpower specifically assigned to investigate internet crime



The surveyed agencies were asked if they had any type of written policy specific to internet crime investigation. This included any General Orders (GO) or Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Seventeen of the twenty-two agencies reported that they did not have any type of written policy. Seventy-seven percent of the agencies do not have any type of written policy.

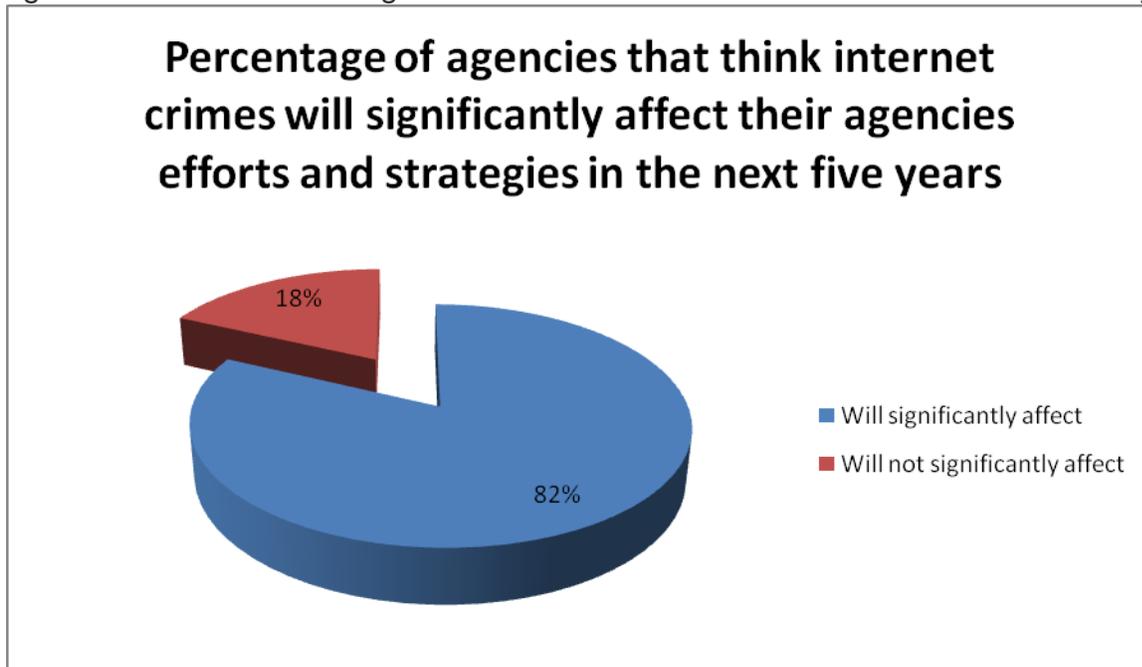
There are many types of computers, cell phones, air cards, software applications, and clean drop boxes and online accounts that must be utilized to attempt to investigate internet crimes. Seventeen of the twenty-two agencies replied that they have purchased specialized equipment to investigate internet crimes. Seventy-seven percent of the agencies have some type of specialty equipment to investigate internet crimes.

Internet crimes can be investigated proactively or reactively. Technology has increased the amount of calls for service for agencies. Citizens encounter and observe violations online then are reporting these violations. This is beneficial to the agency, but in turn, can cause additional work assignments for agencies that have lost funding. Some agencies have lost positions and put others on furloughs. When asked what percentage of their time is spent investigating internet crimes proactively vs. reactively, only thirty-three percent of the agencies were proactively investigating internet crimes. That leaves 67% of the agencies investigating internet crimes reactively. The survey also showed that eighty percent of the investigations were commercial in nature and 100% of the agencies replied that they had successful prosecution of these cases.

The agencies were asked if they thought they had enough officers assigned to investigate internet crimes. Five of the twenty-two agencies felt they did. The other seventeen agencies replied that they did not. Therefore, seventy-seven percent of conservation agencies currently feel they do not have enough officers assigned to

investigate internet crimes. Looking ahead to the future, the agencies were asked if they thought resource internet crimes would significantly affect their agencies efforts and strategies for conservation law enforcement in the next five years. Eighteen of the twenty-two, or 82% of the agencies felt internet crimes would extensively affect efforts and strategies.

TABLE 3. Percent of agencies that think internet crimes will significantly affect their agencies efforts and strategies for conservation law enforcement in the next five years



Appendix C lists all of the survey results and is attached at the end of the paper.

Discussion

The results from the survey shed an interesting light on the quantity of manpower efforts that are currently being directed towards a formalized internet crime unit designed to investigate conservation violations. The most alarming numbers are indicated in the numbers of officers per agency that are assigned to work either full time or part time to an internet crimes specialty unit. The agencies that replied to the survey currently have only one percent of their workforce assigned to a specialty unit either full and or part time to investigate internet crimes. This is a small number of manpower considering the multibillion dollar illegal trade in protected species.

An oral interview with Special Agent Ed Newcomer was utilized to follow up with the survey that was sent out. He is a special agent with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and has spent many years investigating internet crimes. He has been instrumental in setting up an informal group, nationwide, of conservation law enforcement officers that investigate internet crimes. His agency does not have a specific unit designated to investigate internet crimes. He stated they do it as part of their regular case assignments. He leads the nation in conservation internet crimes. On his own initiative, he has built this informal group to 90 state and federal officers that

share intelligence and conservation crime fighting techniques specific to the internet crime violations. Agent Newcomer stated that the internet cases are successfully prosecuted mainly due to the amount of evidence that can be collected electronically. One of his recent cases included 800 pages of evidence collected from email correspondence with a defendant. He stressed the importance of having officers properly trained and staffed. Their agency prioritizes investigations by type of species (Endangered and Threatened), quantity, and the commercialization aspect. (Newcomer, personal communications, May 18, 2010).

The survey revealed that seventeen of the twenty-two agencies had purchased some type of specialty equipment. This is interesting because only nine agencies reported having a specialty unit assigned to work internet crimes. Interpretation of this data leads to the conclusion that some agencies are purchasing equipment to investigate internet crimes, but not assigning the personnel to a specialty unit. Imagine if an agency purchased and issued SWAT equipment, but did not assign officers to a SWAT team. In addition, imagine if they did not provide any training or written policy of what the SWAT team was expected to follow. The survey showed that seventy-seven percent of the agencies did not have any type of written policy for internet crime investigation.

Lt. George Wilson with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the statewide internet crimes coordinator. An oral interview to review the survey was conducted and he explained that prior to starting a statewide unit, they, on occasion, had multiple officers investigating the same internet crime violation. In one case he recalled, two different investigators were investigating each other, one as the potential buyer and the other as the potential seller. These problematic situations led FWC to form a part time internet crimes unit that is comprised of six sworn investigators and one supervisor/coordinator. The unit was issued clean equipment, provided training, and built a network to link and post investigations to be sure they were not duplicating efforts. The supervisor was tasked to keep the network active, organize, triage, and assign cases across the state. Lt. Wilson advised that this part time internet crimes specialty unit has made 151 resource related arrests and issued 51 warnings in its first six months of inception. (Wilson, personal communications, March 22, 2010).

Further discussion on developing a specialty unit includes the costs and financial commitments needed to start up and maintain the specialty unit. The unit requires clean computers, cell phones, air cards, software applications, drop boxes, online accounts and extensive training. The internet provides many electronic trails or links that can associate internet crime investigators as law enforcement officers as opposed to interested violators. Specialty training and developing technology must constantly be updated to keep ahead of the targets. If these steps are ever compromised it can put the covert agent at great risk. It is expensive and time consuming for both the training and upkeep of the equipment.

In addition to the internet crimes specialty investigators, there also needs to be a team of covert investigators that would actually conduct the sales and purchases in person, if needed. Covert training and work hours can be expensive for the agency to manage and steps need to be taken to insure gross employee misconduct does not happen while personnel are assigned to these covert investigations.

Developing standards that can be used to prioritize what types of internet crimes to investigate can be challenging. Florida's part time internet crimes unit has already investigated 113 potential violations in the last six months with only six part time investigators working those crimes. According to Lt. George Wilson, "It is wide open on internet crimes. We face so many violations that we have to triage and investigate based on type of species, public safety, and commercialized activity."

Agency standards received back from the survey in regards to prioritizing internet crime varied from, "first come-first serve" to "we farm out investigations to our field officers". The overreaching tone was that most agencies use the type of species and the commercial aspect of the illegal trade to dictate their enforcement efforts.

The results mentioned in the literature review about the IFAW investigation, as cited by Sobol in 2008, that the internet is facilitating the illegal trade in wildlife and demonstrated that the United States was responsible for more than two-thirds of the illegal trade. According to Burton's article in 2007, the global illegal wildlife trade is believed to be measured in the billions of dollars annually. The survey utilized in this research paper clearly indicates that of the forty-three percent of state and federal agencies that even have an assigned unit, are only dedicating one percent of their workforce to the specialty unit. Further research could be done to examine start up costs for initiating an internet crimes unit. There are federal grants available that may offset some of the hardware and software purchases. For example, Florida recently applied for a federal grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance-Emerging Issues section. The \$400,000 request provides funding for salaries, equipment, and training designed to target internet crimes.

The relevance of this study is indicated in the survey results that paint a very clear picture of current enforcement efforts by resource conservation agencies in regards to proactive law enforcement measures investigating internet related resource crime. The majority (57%) of the agencies survey said they did not even have a specialty unit assigned to investigate internet crimes. It is 2010, and it is believed that the United States is the world leader in illegal trade of protected species. The internet is ever increasingly utilized to support these illegal activities. What steps need to be taken for conservations agencies to combat these growing concerns?

Recommendations

Each agency must examine if they can afford to make the financial commitment to support an internet crimes unit. In difficult economic times, it is hard to take these initial steps. Clearly there is a growing need to investigate internet crimes and evaluate the impact this illegal activity is having on each state and federal agency. If each agency could commit to dedicating a minimum of five percent of their workforce on a full time basis to investigate internet crimes and network together on a national level, the resources we protect would be in a far better place five years from now.

Major Camille Soverel graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics. After working in the corporate world as a financial consultant and district manager for a large Broker/Dealer, she followed her dreams to Florida to become a conservation officer. She began her career in 1998 as an officer in Palm Beach County patrolling the Everglades. In 2001 she promoted to Investigator in Indian River County primarily working boating fatalities and covert operations. Next promotion was to Staff Lieutenant overseeing the K-9 officers and recruiters back in the South Region. In 2009, she was promoted to Captain at Headquarters overseeing all statewide long term covert operations. In 2010 she was promoted to Major as Division Chief of Staff overseeing the division's budget as well as the policies and planning programs.

References

- Burton, K. (2007, August 9). Internet crime: An anonymity that cuts both ways. Retrieved February 11, 2010 from: *MongaBay.com*
<http://news.mongabay.com/2007/0809-fws.html>
- Harrington, Erica. "Authorities playing catch up in race against cyber-crime." *Illinois Dailey Harold* 15 December 1996: Section 1 page 13. Print
- LexisNexis. *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Statutes, Rules, and Laws*. 2009-2010 Edition. Matthew Bender & Company, Inc., 2009. 443-45 Print
- Neme, Laurel. *Animal Investigators*. 1st edition. New York: Simon & Shuster, Inc., 2009. 150-51 Print.
- Sobol, R. (2008). An Investigation of the Illegal Wildlife Trade on the Worldwide Web: Killing with Keystrokes. Retrieved February 24, 2010 from *IFAW Website*:
http://www.ifaw.org/Publications/Program_Publications/Wildlife_Trade/Campaign_Scientific_Publications/asset_upload_file848_49629.pdf

APPENDIX A
HOW FEDERAL AND STATE CONSERVATION AGENCIES ARE INVESTIGATING
INTERNET RELATED RESOURCE CRIMES
RESEARCH SURVEY

Name of Agency:

Number of Sworn Personnel:

1. Does your agency investigate internet crimes as they relate to resource protection?
YES NO
2. Does your agency have a **specialty unit assigned** to investigate internet crimes?
YES NO
3. How many of your sworn personnel are assigned to investigate internet related crimes?
Full Time: Part Time:
4. Does your agency have written policy, general order (GO), or standard operating procedure (SOP) specific to internet crimes? YES NO
Type of written policy:
5. Has your agency purchased specialized equipment such as: computers, cell phones, air cards, software, or drop boxes for investigating internet crimes? YES NO .
6. What percentage of the internet investigations are proactive vs. reactive?
% Proactive VS. % Reactive
7. What percentage of your internet investigations are commercial vs. recreational?
%____Commercial %____Recreational
8. Has your agency had success prosecuting the majority of your internet crimes resource cases? YES NO
9. Do you think resource Internet crimes will significantly affect your agencies strategies and efforts in conservation law enforcement for the next five years? YES NO
10. Do you think your agency currently have enough officers assigned to investigate internet crimes? YES NO
11. What type of standards does your agency use to help prioritize internet crime investigations?

APPENDIX B

EMAIL ADDRESS

greg.williford@tpwd.state.tx.us
john.welke@wisconsin.gov
robert.milligan@ky.gov
michael.bloxom@dcnr.alabama.gov
belinda.knockwood@ec.gc.ca
ron.ollis@dnr.state.oh.us
nicolas.desjardins@mrnf.gouv.qc.ca
so2@dgif.virginia.gov
jason.sandholt@dnr.iowa.gov
hamiltonw2@michigan.gov
greg.hitchings@mdc.mo.gov
matt.mccorquodale@gov.ab.ca
mlvandur@gw.dec.state.ny.us
andy.alban@state.sd.us
cjcomeaux@wlf.la.gov
jeff.radonski@noaa.gov
mike.ehlebracht@wgf.state.wy.us
spinksen@gov.nu.ca
George.wilson@myfwc.com
martin.s.garabedian@wildlife.nh.gov
Ed_newcomer@fws.gov
Bburkett@nd.gov

AGENCY

Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept
Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources
Kentucky Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
Wildlife Enforcement Directorate Environment, Canada
Ohio Dept of Natural Resources
Ministere des Ressources, Quebec
Virginia Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries
Iowa Dept of Natural Resources
Michigan Dept of Natural Resources & Environment
Missouri Dept of Conservation
Alberta Fish & Wildlife
New York Dept of Environmental Conservation
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
Louisiana Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, SE Division
Wyoming Game & Fish
Nunavut, Canada
Florida Fish and Wildlife
New Hampshire
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Dakota

CONTACT

Greg Williford
John Welke
Robert Milligan
Michael Bloxom
Belinda Knockwood
Ron Ollis
Nicolas Desjardins
John (no last name)
Jason Sandholt
Wade Hamilton
Gregg Hitchings
Matt McCorquodale
Michael Van Durme
Andy Alban
Cliff Comeaux
Jeff Radonski
Mike Ehlebracht
Steve Pinksen
George Wilson
martin garabedian
Ed Newcomer
Bruce Burkett

Appendix C

1. Does your agency investigate internet crimes as they relate to resource protection? **95% Yes**

Response Total: 22
 Yes: 21 No: 1
 (Skipped this question: 0)

2. Does your agency have a specialty unit assigned to investigate internet crimes? **43% Yes**

Response Total: 21
 Yes: 9 No: 12
 (Skipped this question: 1)

3. How many of your sworn personnel are assigned to investigate internet related crimes?

Response Total: 21
 (Skipped this question: 1)

Full time	23%
Part Time	45%

4. Does your agency have written policy, general order (GO), or standard operating procedure (SOP) specific to internet crimes? **23% Yes**

Response Total: 22
 Yes: 5 No: 17
 (Skipped this question: 0)

5. Has your agency purchased specialized equipment such as: computers, cell phones, air cards, software, or drop boxes for investigating internet crimes? **77% Yes**

Response Total: 22
 Yes: 17 No: 5
 (Skipped this question: 0)

6. What percentage of the internet investigations are proactive vs. reactive?

Response Total: 19
 (Skipped this question: 3)

Proactive	33%
Reactive	67%

7. What percentage of your internet investigations are commercial vs. recreational?

Response Total: 21
 (Skipped this question: 1)

Commercial	33%
Recreational	67%

8. Has your agency had success prosecuting the majority of your internet crime resource cases? **100% Yes**

Response Total: 21
Yes: 21 No: 0
(Skipped this question: 1)

9. Do you think resource internet crimes will significantly affect your agency's efforts and strategies for conservation law enforcement in the next five years?
82% Yes

Response Total: 22
Yes: 18 No: 4
(Skipped this question: 0)

10. Do you think your agency currently has enough officers assigned to investigate internet crimes? **23% Yes**

Response Total: 22
Yes: 5 No: 17
(Skipped this question: 0)

Appendix D

Question 11: What type of standards does your agency use to help prioritize internet crimes?

Alabama	Internet crimes are currently not high priority due to available manpower and resources. Commercial activities are generally monitored and worked in conjunction with other ongoing investigations.
Alberta, Canada	The highest priority is assigned to commercial activities that target priority species and/or represent a significant risk to the effective management of Alberta's fish & wildlife resources. The difficulty arises when the complaint(s) are public driven and the department is accountable for the appropriate enforcement response. The usual competing priorities are at issue. The volume of internet related crime in Alberta appears to be increasing which will present some logistical challenges in attempting to provide an effective and consistent enforcement response to each occurrence.
Environment, Canada	Priorities for the National program focuses on commercial volume, live species, Appendix I species targeted for trade. Meeting those criteria in monitoring the Internet has resulted in successful convictions.
Nunavut, Canada	n/a
Quebec, Canada	We analyze each complaint we receive and investigate those are priority for our mission and protect species also we not investigate those older than two years because prosecuting delay is past.
FWC	Investigations are prioritized by the impact to the resource and public (endangered, threatened or species of a high concern), public safety and commercialized activity. Complaints from the public are given a high priority because of our high commitment to public service.
Iowa	We mainly focus on Commercial violations, but occasionally receive info on private parties.
Kentucky	We "farm" out investigations to our field officers and in that way we do not have to prioritize our responses. Our investigators also supply lead information to investigators in other states.
Louisiana	First come , first serve
Michigan	Whether or not its involving Threatened & Endangered species, Species of Special concern or Commercialization of any kind.
Missouri	Wildlife commercialization is the priority.
New Hampshire	These Crimes are worked when they are discovered by the Officers. The Officers take the initiative to investigate them.
New York	None at this time, officers find leads and follow up as directed by supervisors
NOAA	limited [Internet crime investigations are incorporated into overall agency priorities and are generally incorporated into active investigations.]
North Dakota	Commercial activity is the priority.. field officers also monitor web activity and have made interstate cases of illegally taken game.
Ohio	Currently only cases involving commercialization are investigated.
South Dakota	Severity of each case

Texas	<i>Commercial First; we are trying to use some of our field wardens that have been trained in covert ops to work on internet crimes as a temporary duty assignment</i>
USFWS	<i>Type of species: endangered, threatened, commercial and quality.</i>
Virginia	<i>We look for true commercialization as opposed to a one time person who is selling a legally killed mount for some extra money</i>
Wisconsin	<i>Internet crimes are given a priority based on where the specific violation falls within our overarching natural resource protection priorities. Commercial violations and public safety issues are higher priorities than recreational violations.</i>
Wyoming	<i>None/Supervision Only</i>