Human Dimensions Study of Wildlife Law Enforcement

Larry Gigliotti
USGS, S.D. Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

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A Study of Fishing and Hunting Behavior Related to Law Enforcement Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Scale Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unfair</td>
<td>-2  -1  0  +1  +2  Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unprofessional</td>
<td>-2  -1  0  +1  +2  Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfriendly</td>
<td>-2  -1  0  +1  +2  Friendly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rude</td>
<td>-2  -1  0  +1  +2  Courteous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>-2  -1  0  +1  +2  Positive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation of Treatment by Conservation Officers

- Fair - Unfair
- Profession - Unprofessional
- Friendly - Unfriendly
- Courteous - Rude
- Positive - Negative

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Treatment by COs / Unfair - Fair
Factors Related to Low Evaluations of CO Behavior

- CO Behavior
- Past Experiences
- Attitudes towards Law Enforcement/Regulations
- Outcome of the encounter - Citation?
- Evaluation of Citation - Justified?
Received Citation

- No
- Yes

- 2
- 1
- 0
- -1
- -2

Fair - Unfair
Profession - Unprofessional
Friendly - Unfriendly
Courteous - Rude
Positive - Negative

Received Citation

- 2
- 1
- 0
- -1
- -2

Fair - Unfair
Profession - Unprofessional
Friendly - Unfriendly
Courteous - Rude
Positive - Negative

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Evaluation of Citation

- Fishing
- Hunting
Evaluation of Treatment / Fairness

- Fishing
- Hunting

No Citation 1 2 3 4 5
Justified Unjustified
Evaluation of Treatment / Professionalism

- Fishing
- Hunting

No Citation

Justified

Unjustified
Evaluation of Treatment / Friendliness

Fishing  Hunting

No Citation 1  2  3  4  5

Justified  Unjustified

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Evaluation of Treatment / Rude - Courteous

- Fishing
- Hunting

No Citation | Justified | Unjustified
--- | --- | ---
-2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
-2.0 | -1.5 | -1.0 | -0.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0
Evaluation of Treatment / Negative - Positive

- Fishing
- Hunting

No Citation 1 2 3 4 5
Justified Unjustified
Reasons Citations Are Evaluated as Unjustified

• Evidence suggests that one reason is based on the intent involved in the violation.

• People apparently do not feel a citation is deserved if the violation was accidental or unintended.
## Types of Violators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violator</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Violator</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selective Violator</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunistic Violator</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game-Player Violator</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Likelihood of Violating / Violator Type

Likelihood Rating

Scenario 1  Scenario 2  Scenario 3  Scenario 4  Average

Non-Violator  Acidental  Selective  Opportunistic  Game-Player
Contact

• In your opinion, should the amount of **contact** between Conservation Officers and people in the field...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>Stay the Same</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visibility

• In your opinion, should the visibility of Conservation Officers in the field...
  Decrease  5%
  Stay the Same  47%
  Increase  48%
Satisfaction

• Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the current Wildlife Law Enforcement efforts in South Dakota?

- Dissatisfied: 16%
- Neutral: 32%
- Satisfied: 52%
## Satisfaction vs. Contact

### General Satisfaction Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of contact with COs should...</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DECREASE</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAY THE SAME</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCREASE</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Number                        | 264          | 439     | 821       |
Summary Conclusion

• All these factors point to an overall very positive attitude towards South Dakota Conservation Officers’ behaviors and tactics and towards wildlife regulations in general.