

## **SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS**

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### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy and these operating guidelines is to make certain that the Special Investigation Unit (S.I.U.) of the Wildlife Crime Investigations Division (W.C.I.D.) conducts only appropriate and approved undercover and overt fish and wildlife investigations in an organized, safe, lawful and efficient manner.

### **B. Preface**

Pursuant to Administrative Policy I1.1: Administrative Policy Regarding Enforcement Operations of the Bureau of Warden Service, it is the law enforcement priority of the Bureau of Warden Service to protect fish and wildlife; and to focus intensive investigation and law enforcement efforts on intentional violators and repeat offenders. Often, intentional fish and wildlife violators and repeat offenders are knowledgeable about conventional fish and wildlife law enforcement techniques, thereby avoiding detection and apprehension. In certain instances, specialized law enforcement investigative techniques may be necessary to apprehend and successfully prosecute those individuals and groups who, due to their caution, skill at avoiding apprehension, and criminal intent are not likely to be apprehended by uniformed game wardens using conventional patrol procedures and methods. In Maine, and nationwide, special investigation techniques have proven to be the most the effective methods to apprehend serious, intentional fish and wildlife violators who repeatedly abuse, and subsequently threaten the abundance and well being of the fish and wildlife resources of this State and Nation.

Special and undercover investigations conducted by the Bureau of Warden Service will be carried out in accordance with this policy, other relevant Warden Service policy and applicable work regulations and law. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action and progressive discipline as outlined in the appropriate employee contract(s).

### **C. Organization of Wildlife Crime Investigations Division (WCID)**

1. Wildlife Crime Investigations Division (WCID): It shall be the responsibility of the WCID personnel, or other persons authorized by the Game Warden Colonel or designee to conduct specialized investigations of fish and wildlife crimes for the Maine Warden Service. A Game Warden Captain promoted to that position will supervise the law enforcement operations of the Wildlife Crimes Investigations Division under the direction of the Game Warden Major or as otherwise assigned by the Colonel.
2. Special Investigations Unit: The Special Investigations Unit is the team of personnel comprised of sworn law enforcement officers appointed

by the Major, who are assigned to conduct special investigations. The Captain is responsible for the supervision of the Special Investigation Unit. Warden Service personnel are assigned to the unit upon approval of the Game Warden Major. The Game Warden Major may remove officers from the unit for just cause.

**D. Authority to Utilize Special Investigation Techniques**

MRSA Title 12, Section 10353 –subsection 2I, permits wardens to do anything otherwise prohibited by MRSA Title 12, Chapters 811-939, if necessary to carry out their powers and duties.



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**F. Definitions**

1. A.D.A.: Assistant District Attorney
2. A.G.: Attorney General
3. A.A.G.: Assistant Attorney General

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 8. D.A.: District Attorney
- 9. Department: means the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

[REDACTED]

- 11. Game Warden Investigator: a game warden promoted to the rank of Investigator.
- 12. Game Warden Captain: a game warden promoted to the rank of Captain.

[REDACTED]

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16. Special Investigation Unit (SIU) – a team of law enforcement personnel authorized and assigned to conduct undercover investigations of suspected violations of Maine’s Inland Fish and Wildlife laws and regulations. Approval of the Game Warden Major is required before becoming a member of the SIU.
17. Special Agent (SA) – refers to a Special Agent of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
18. SOI – Subject of Investigation. The primary target of a special investigation.
19. Special Investigation – means undercover investigation.

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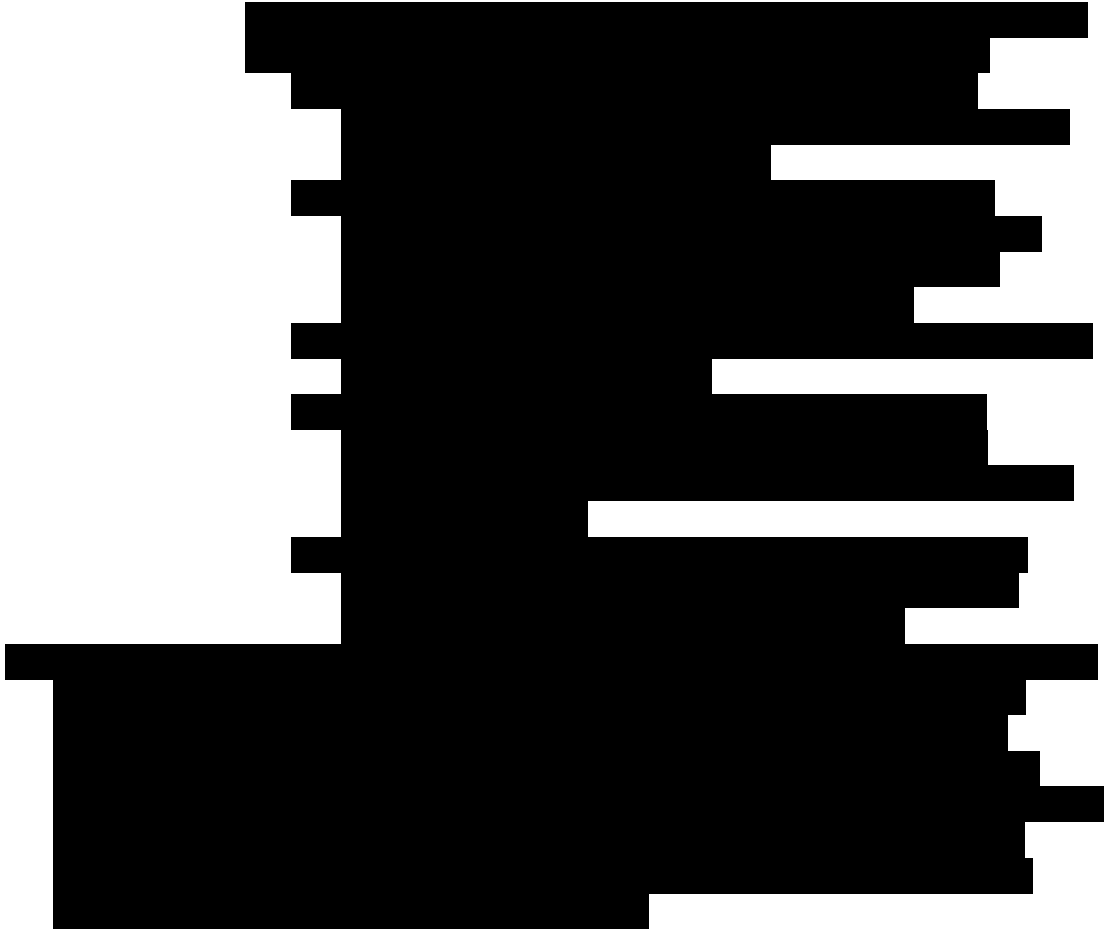
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15. News, Media and Press: inquiries from the press, news media and other public information outlets will be forwarded to the Augusta office for response by the Colonel, Major or as otherwise directed by the Colonel or Major.

Approved by Colonel: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised