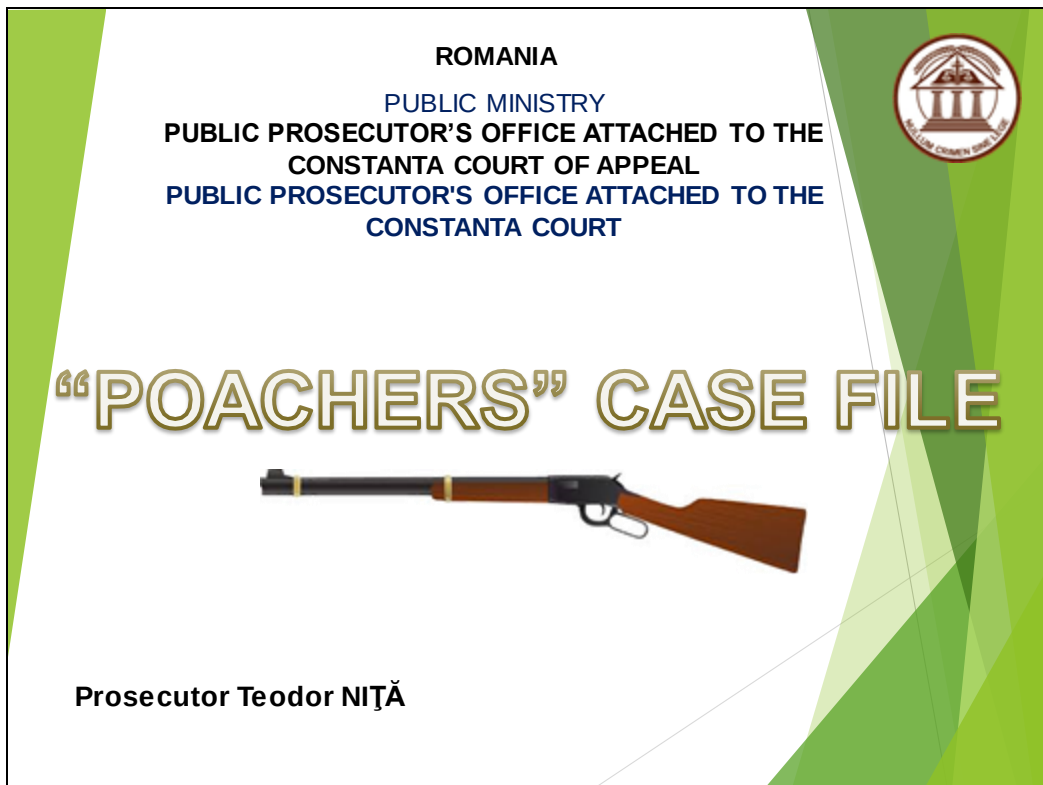




The second presentation is relative to a case of birds poaching, and the way it was conceived I thought it would be more useful to do it in writing and combined with images, which is why my verbal explanations will be shorter.



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

In Romania, we have one of the worst laws from the perspective of protecting the hunting and fisheries fund. Because of poaching, we have reached the situation in which we don't have any more fish in the Danube, which means the Romanian carp is bought from Italy, the Romanian wels comes from Greece and so on, making it hard to find local fish. The reason for this ecological disaster is that the poaching is done by electric current which means that the fish are neutered, both the uncaught ones and the ones caught for consumption, and in addition causing the destruction of the spawn around the area of the electric poaching devices. Unfortunately, the same thing can be said about hunting as well, because the Romanian law allows hunters to use very destructive devices.

Thus, the use of electronic calls is permitted, which mimics the mating signals of animals or birds, luring them in this trap and slaughtering them. This means that the hunter is in fact a butcher who sits on a chair, in the field, having hundreds of cartridges on him and who does nothing more but to shoot the poor creatures which are tricked by the use of the electronic signal.

On the other hand, it is clear that the poachers could not do anything without the involvement of the representatives of the Sport Fishermen and Game Hunters County Association, because a poacher needs weapons, ammunition and a free pass.



Basically, what happens is that the movement of the weapons and ammunition is not registered in the records of the S.F.G.H.C.A. and the hunting files are not filled in, so there is no form of control towards what the so-called hunters are doing. Furthermore, a real phenomenon of hunting tourism has been created, where Italian citizens, as it is in the cause I am about to share, in exchange for consistent amounts of money, bring their compatriots to hunting games in which they destroy the wildlife.

Animals and birds are shot and killed without limit, and then they are frozen and delivered to luxurious restaurants in Italy.

In the following cause, I will explain how, from the collaboration between S.F.G.H.C.A. Constanta and the leader of the group of hunting tourists it caused havoc upon some big hunting funds from Constanta County.



The police representatives informed the prosecutor, the fact that the named S.L. (italian citizen) organizes hunting games in the area of Constanta County, with the participation of some groups of Italian hunters, under conditions of criminal illicit.

On these occasions, it was known that the above mentioned was giving the Italian hunters large amounts of ammunition, unregistered in the records, obtained without obeying the legal provisions, and he was hunting together with the Italians, a larger number of specimens than the one specified on the hunting authorizations, which were not even filled in.

In order to succeed and obtain important incomes from this type of *"hunting tourism"* the defendant needed the *"services"* of a cunning public servant from Romania; thus he co-opted defendant M.V.D. - head of S.F.G.H.C.A. Constanta.

Rarely, such a criminal act can be committed without the support of some representatives of the authorities, and in the case, we investigated the head of the Hunting Association, six guards of the hunting grounds, the leader of the group of poachers and four lieutenants - all the latter being Italian citizens.



It turned out later in the investigation that the defendant S.L. was supported by two compatriots, the named co-defendants Q.D. and P.G. , who joined the criminal association initiated by him, actually helping him, as it turned out.

The two acolytes coordinated the poaching activities in the field (*wildlife slaughter*), thus being the trusted men of their *boss*, distributing large quantities of illegally acquired ammunition in the hunting areas to the Italian hunters who came to the country believing a nonexistent legal reality presented to them by the acolytes, that *"in Romania you can hunt in any way and as much as you want without any restriction"*.

On the other hand, in order to give the appearance of such realities, the services of the head of S.F.G.H.C.A were needed who, in fact acted accordingly by making available huge amounts of illegally and freely munition to the defendant S.L. and those *"two lieutenants of his"*, with which to commit the mentioned slaughters; on this occasion the hunting guards subordinated to M.V.D. - head of S.F.G.H.C.A Constanta, were collaborating for the purposes of holding and handling of large quantities of ammunition, all these activities and acts being committed for the purpose of achieving the above described criminal aim.



PEOPLE INVESTIGATED

- Head of S.F.G.H.C.A. Constanta



- S.L.



- 4 Italian citizens – 2 lieutenants of S.L. and 2 ammunition suppliers



- 6 Romanian citizens – guards on the hunting funds





ACTION MODE

There were conducted operative surveillances in the field, the conversations and communications of the suspects were intercepted, observing the fact that S.L. was buying without any form of registering quantities of tens of thousands of cartridges which he was charging from the parking lots of some commercial centers in Bucharest or simply by direct transfer between two cars stopped on the DN.

In turn, the defendant M.V.D., head of S.F.G.H.C.A Constanta, gave the Italian citizen 37 hunting weapons, also unregistered, which the latter submitted to the hunting tourists.

Meanwhile, defendant M.V.D. was giving his subordinates from the territory ammunition crates which they maneuvered as if there were vegetables and not lethal munitions and weapons.

The subordinates were obliged not to fill in the field hunting files, so that at a so-called match, a hunter would fire 400-500 cartridges. As the game was shot down, it was immediately taken and transported without being recorded at certain hotel establishments where it was frozen after minimum processing, and then sent to Italy.



As I had suspected that one of the persons responsible for the management of the Directorate AESP was illegally communicating with one of the weapons suppliers, I brought forward the date of the search within 24 hours.

The idea was inspired, because the group of poachers was prepared and ready to leave knowing that a search would take place the next day, but we managed to surprise them with the weapons and the ammunition loaded in the cars and ready to leave the area.

Basically, to achieve his aim S.L. was supported not only by the head of S.F.G.H.C.A but also by a public servant with management position and access to information within the police structure specialized in combating poaching.

Thus, following this surprise move, we managed to obtain the material evidence to justify the charge that was to be presented to the Judge, meaning that under the disguise of tourists, on the county area were really acting a group of hunting tourists.



WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND OTHER GOODS

- 37 hunting weapons different brands and calibres
- 45000 pcs. cartridges different brands and calibres
- 18 batteries for charging the calls
- A wooden box with 3 larks (calls) and other components for additional calls
- 3 plastic larks (*calls*)
- 5 circular calls
- A stuffed lark (*call*)
- 4 electric calls

Only during the searches on the day of the red-handed detection were these instruments of slaughter discovered.



WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION



It includes an image of the type of ammunition and weapons used for the massacre committed by them.



POACHED BIRDS

- 1. Pheasant – 10 pcs.**
- 2. Partridge – 80 pcs.**
- 3. Unidentified wild birds - 280 pcs.**
- 4. Larks - 1574 pcs. eviscerated (frozen)
- 818 pcs. in feathers**
- 5. Quails - 85 pcs. eviscerated (frozen)
- 55 pcs. in feathers**
- 6. Ringdove - 10 pcs.**
- 7. Crow - 15 pcs.**
- 8. Harrier - 12 pcs.**

Short inventory of poached birds, as a result of such an episode of poaching tourism by members of the criminal group.

It is the result of a single day of birds slaughter



POACHED BIRDS



Images of the birds identified as poached on the spot

CONCLUSION in this case

Because I had the suspicion that we had "a mole" in the team, I proceeded to the searches a day earlier, on which occasion I noticed that the Italian poachers were preparing to leave the location, because they knew that we would come to the searches the next day and I surprised them just when they weren't expecting it.

This "mole" turned out to be a head of the central police structure, who had informed the poachers that he had learned about some actions of the prosecutor, in which situation, joining the investigation of the

poachers, I sent the corresponding information to the anti-corruption prosecutor's office.

STURGEON POACHING



PROSECUTOR – NIȚĂ TEODOR

It is very difficult to catch poachers in the Danube Delta, trough by traditional means, as it is a vast territory, the communities are very closed, and any foreigner appearing in the area causes the alarm to be raised.

Overview

- Fish poaching is a serious offence because poachers are only trying to make a substantial illegal income by breaking the law, but this illegal activity often damages the ecosystem irreparably.



Sturgeons: Moray eel, Russian sturgeon, Starry sturgeon, Sterlet

- Sturgeon is a very valuable fish and that's why poachers are keen to pursue it and have adapted techniques to avoid being caught in flagrante delicto by the police.



CAVIAR

- Especially worrying is the fact that poachers hunt mainly female sturgeon during the breeding season for caviar which is very valuable on the black market, the fish itself being less valuable.
- Poaching of female sturgeon irreparably affects reproduction and therefore the sturgeon population.



- The sturgeon female is only fertile after several years from maturity and with widespread pollution of the rivers this breeding period is significantly reduced.



- It is very difficult to catch poachers in flagrante delicto and that is why in this case we approached a different investigative technique in the sense that we surveyed the black market for caviar and thus going backwards from the final buyer we detected the intermediaries and poachers.
- Basically it is reverse engineering from a legal point of view.



- The investigation was very effective and both the poachers and the final beneficiaries were caught.
- The domino effect of the investigation has been to affect the black market for caviar by decreasing the "demand" and therefore the "supply" of poachers..



Investigation techniques

- Drone surveillance, house searches, interviews of individuals, laboratory analysis, analysis of the environmental impact on the ecosystem by specialised institutions, collection and analysis of documents, maintenance of a network of informants without whom no investigation can operate.





In this last presentation, you will see a case of poaching and how it was necessary to use the weapon, to catch the poachers.

the solution was radical.

Although the Government has the possibility to solve the problem.

That is, to purchase and equip some patrols with PEM (electromagnetic pulse) - and thus stop the engines without firing the gun.

I say this because there are technologies that allow you to solve problems in this way much more effectively than the machine gun.

it is certain that you will also see what misery the trawling methods used do to the ecosystem on the bottom of the sea and in the waters.

if such a problem is not solved, it will be particularly very serious in the future.

In Romania, the coast has a special characteristic, as there are reproduction areas of marine flora, which is not found in Bulgaria or Turkey, and in Ukraine there is already a war and it is difficult to comment on the ecosystem in their area.

A special and essential support can be given to the prosecutor by the Coast Guard

and the Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The moving image in the first Slide shows a patrol ship in action-

OVERVIEW

- Romania's Black Sea coast is a favourable area where vulnerable fish species such as the turbot, the Black Sea shark and dolphins naturally breed.



POACHING - THE MAIN THREAT

- The biggest threat to the ecosystem is not necessarily pollution or global warming but poachers.
- They are using means of fishing that are extremely destructive to all marine life.



TRAWLING - A DESTRUCTIVE FISHING METHOD

- The use of bottom trawling involves scraping the seabed and effectively ripping up the vegetation on the seabed, catching fish but also all the living organisms in the ecosystem, effectively destroying the entire trawled area.



TURKISH POACHERS

- This destructive bottom trawling technique is used mainly by Turkish poachers, which requires measures to protect the exclusive economic zone.

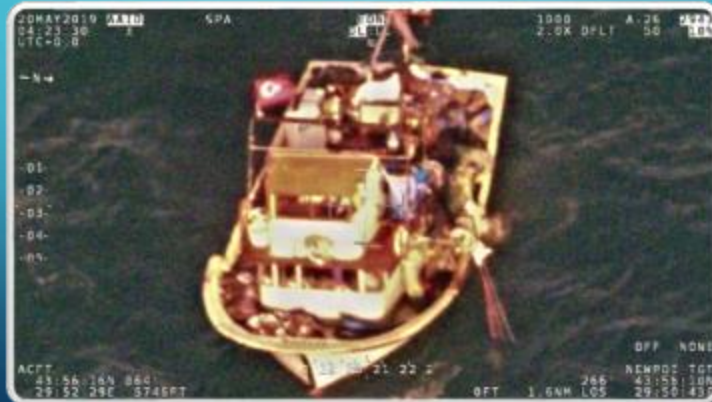


- In Romania, the institutions responsible for combating fish poaching in the territorial sea and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) are the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (ANPA) and the Coast Guard.



INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES

- aerial and radar surveillance, interception of poachers by law enforcement vessels, flagrant detection, on-the-spot interviews and investigations, underwater drones



- In order to thwart the investigation, the poachers throw the fish and nets into the water when they are caught in flagrante delicto, a tactic that creates a lethal barrier to other forms of marine life such as dolphins that get caught and drown in these nets.

