



# **OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION**



**MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW**

**JANUARY 2024**



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*On the cover:  
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper overlooking  
Lake Billy Chinook*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## **Troopers Assist with Crab Gear Donations**

OSP Newport provided assistance with the Illwaco Landing Fires by releasing 40 commercial crab pots to the Newport Fisherman's Wives, a non-profit group that works to support commercial fishing communities coastwide. The pots had been forfeited through the courts from a previous commercial fish case. The Newport Fisherman's Wives are working with other entities and fisherman to provide gear to those involved in those fires. Captains and Crew from the FV Wynona J and FV Pacific assisted OSP in loading and transporting the gear for those efforts.

## **Sergeant Attends Community Meeting**

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant attended a Sunriver Community Meeting coordinated by county commissioners regarding elk hunting in the vicinity of the housing development. The meeting was attended by about 45 community members, ODFW, US Forest Service (USFS), and the media. The Sergeant provided information on past issues in the area, OSP response, and advice on reporting issues that citizens may observe. He also provided information regarding interfering with lawful hunting activity.

## **Trooper Attends PLAY Event - Klamath Falls**

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the PLAY (Promoting Lifelong Activities for Youth) event in Klamath Falls. There were several hundred youth that attended the event and many questions were answered.

## **OSP Staff Give Presentation at High School**

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper, along with a Patrol Sergeant and Criminal Detective, presented to students and faculty at the North Bend High School. Approximately 20 students attended each presentation. Several students showed interest in a future career in law enforcement.

## **Elementary School Career Day - Salem**

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper participated in a school career day at a Salem elementary school. Approximately 45 children were in attendance from grades K through 5 and were very excited to learn about the job of a Fish and Wildlife Trooper and see the various mounts, hides, and skulls brought for display.

## **Trooper Assists with Swift Water Rescue Class**

A North Plains Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) and Clackamas Fire with their annual Swift Water Rescue class. This course teaches the basics of swimming in swift water, learning to self-rescue, and learning various approaches to rescuing a victim in fast moving water. This year's course was held on various parts of the Clackamas River and included 22 students from Clackamas Fire as well as Marine Patrol Deputies from around the state of Oregon.

## **High School Career Day - Roseburg**

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended a high school career day event as part of the Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby. About 50 students from several local high schools were in attendance.

## **Meat Donated to Feed Raptors**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers cleaned out the evidence freezer at The Dalles Area Command. A large amount of fish, ducks, and red meat that was undeliverable to food banks were donated to the raptor center at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. The raptor center was very appreciative of the donation.

# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Northern Pygmy Owl Rescued

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of an injured owl near a residence in Shady Cove (Jackson County). The reported “baby” owl turned out to be a Northern Pygmy Owl – a small owl species not much larger than a baseball or about the size of a three-inch Oregon State Police patch. The rescued owl appeared to have an injury to its wing and was released to the care of a wildlife rehabilitation center for evaluation, treatment, and hopefully release back to where it was found. Although injured raptors are a common call for Fish and Wildlife Troopers, the responding Trooper said it was the first time he had encountered a Northern Pygmy Owl in person.

“We are thankful to have partnerships with nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation facilities that help save wildlife like this little Northern Pygmy Owl,” said Captain Kyle Kennedy. “We appreciate the commitment of their staff, volunteers, and donors who help us fulfill our mission of preserving and protecting Oregon’s natural resources.”



## Great Horned Owl Extracted from Truck Grill

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant responded to a residence in Sheridan, where a subject had reported he hit an owl on his way home from work and it was stuck in the grill of his truck. When the Lieutenant arrived, he found a Great Horned Owl very much alive with one leg stuck between the grill and bumper of the truck. With the help of the reporting parties’ mother, the Lieutenant was able to extract the owl from the grill and turn it over to an ODFW biologist for assessment.



## Fledgling Spotted Owl Helped to Safe Location

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to an injured owl in Rogue River. The Trooper arrived to a fledgling Spotted Owl. The owl was uninjured and in a dangerous area near Highway 99. The owl was moved to a safer location.

# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Mule Deer Bucks Separated

Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife and Patrol Troopers responded to a report of two mule deer bucks that were tangled together. The bucks were stuck together by baling twine wrapped around their antlers. One of the Troopers was able to use a pole pruner and cut the baling twine. The bucks were exhausted but unharmed.

## Trooper Helps Free Stuck Cows

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling between the North and Middle Forks of the John Day River, traveling on a freshly plowed county road, when he came across a rancher with two cows that had tried to cross a cattle guard that had been covered in snow by the plow. The rancher was about to leave the cows to go for help as the Trooper arrived and offered to help. Despite snow, mud, and manure, the two worked together for about 30 minutes and managed to free both cows which walked away without major injuries. The rancher was extremely thankful for the help saying several times, "You came along just in time!"

## Troopers Tow Out Vehicle - Ochoco Unit

Bend and Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers, along with K-9 Scout, were patrolling the Ochoco Unit past the Round Mountain trailhead and came across four young people waving their arms along the road. Their vehicle was high centered in the snow and stuck/buried. The Troopers used a tow strap and safely freed the Suburban 4x4.

## Trooper Rescues Stray Dogs

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded twice to reports of three loose dogs east of Prineville on Hwy 26 near the Keystone Ranch. The dogs were all adult German Shepherds. Two were located and transported to the Humane Society of the Ochoco; while one female remained on the loose. People attempted to capture the female dog concerned it may have had puppies, but it immediately ran off into the juniper and sage. The Trooper tracked the dog up into the hills and located where it has been sleeping under a juniper tree. There were no signs of puppies. One of the shepherds was placed for adoption.

## Driver Arrested for DUII and Reckless Driving

While driving North on Highway 101 at approximately milepost 139 in Newport, a Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a reckless driver traveling in the same direction. The Trooper observed the vehicle swerve over the fog line, then over the center line, then accelerate at a high rate of speed, approximately 80mph in a 45mph zone. The Trooper pulled over the vehicle and after an investigation determined the driver of the vehicle was under the influence of alcohol. The driver's blood alcohol content (BAC) was 0.19% two hours after the initial traffic stop. The driver was lodged at the Lincoln County Jail for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) and Reckless Driving.**

## K-9 Buck Located Stolen Gun

Troopers from the Springfield Patrol Office were conducting a criminal investigation involving a felon that was believed to be in possession of a firearm at the time of a motor vehicle crash. Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Buck, along with a Patrol Trooper, returned to the crash scene with K-9 Buck conducting a search. K-9 Buck searched the area, locating a black 9mm semi-automatic handgun. The handgun was reported stolen and believed to have been "tossed" by the convicted felon.

# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## **Troopers Recover Boat that Washed Down River**

Two Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers and a Sergeant recovered a small boat which had washed down river from Tyee to the mouth of the Smith River on the Umpqua River near Reedsport. The water was emptied from the boat, the boat was dragged off the island, and the boat was side towed to the dock. The owner of the boat had been unaware of it being missing and responded to recover it from the dock.

## **Trooper Assists Stranded Family with Flat Tire**

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling I-84 during a winter storm event when he encountered a disabled minivan on the shoulder between Arlington and Boardman. The van had a flat tire and was occupied by a family of six. The van was a rental and did not have a spare, jack or lugnut wrench. The driver stated they had been there for two hours, and the rental company roadside service had no ETA for a tow or a taxi to transport the family members. The Trooper was able to remove the tire and take it to a truck service station to re-seat the tire bead. He used his tire plug kit to repair the tread puncture and reinflated the tire. After the tire was mounted the roadside assistance advised it would have been an additional 90 minutes for a tow. Later, the Trooper pulled out a U-Haul truck and trailer that was stuck in the snow in the median because no tows were available.

## **Driving Complaint leads to DUII Arrest**

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a driving complaint regarding a driver unable to maintain his lane and stumbling into the Rainier Liquor Store. The Trooper located the driver at the Rainier Liquor Store visibly intoxicated and who fell over onto the ground at one point. The driver submitted to standard field sobriety tests (SFSTs) and was arrested. The driver's dog was released to the driver's friend. The driver was transported to the Columbia County Jail and provided a BAC of 0.20%.

## **Injured Eagle Taken to Rehabilitation Center**

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a call for a road struck eagle on Highway 22E in Mill City. The reporting party explained they found the injured eagle and put a blanket on it, placed it in a box and transported it to their residence. The Trooper went to the reporting party's residence and retrieved the juvenile bald eagle. He then transported the eagle to the Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Chintimini followed up with the Trooper later and informed him they believe the eagle suffered head trauma but had no broken bones. They also believe the eagle will be a candidate for release back into the wild before long.

## **Duck Hunter and Dog Rescued from Water**

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper was at Scappoose Bay checking duck hunters when she was notified a 69-year-old duck hunter had overturned his canoe and had been in the water about 30 minutes. The hunter had been helped up to the dock by a private citizen. Columbia County Fire and Rescue responded for possible hypothermia. The Trooper assisted the hunter's dog out of the water, that was paddling around and dragging a long lead. An employee from Scappoose Bay paddled out to the area where the Trooper observed the canoe partially submerged. Most of the hunter's belongings were recovered along with his shotgun that was tied off to the canoe. The hunter was warmed-up, grateful for the assistance and his recovered belongings were returned to him.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## K-9 Scout Locates Unlawfully Taken Elk

Bend and La Pine Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a report of a subject potentially taking a cow elk on public property in the Metolius Wildlife Management Unit under a private antlerless elk damage tag. The suspect was known to have prior wildlife offenses. The Troopers arrived at the scene and K-9 Scout was deployed to locate shell casings and/or other evidence. The Troopers discovered the elk died approximately 350 yards onto public property but were able to follow a blood trail back close to the private property fence line. The suspect had recovered the elk with a dozer, operating on the Metolius winter range closure. While the Troopers were looking for the blood trail, K-9 Scout located and alerted on a different deceased cow elk approximately 100 yards away. The Troopers had no reason to believe there was another dead elk in the area and would not have located it without the K-9. The second dead elk was found to have been shot in the guts and was still fresh. The meat was able to be salvaged. The suspect stated he shot twice at what he thought was only one elk while on the property and did not think he hit two different elk. The suspect was criminally cited and released for **Fail to Validate Big Game Tag** and **Violation of Travel Management Agreement**. Charges will be referred to the District Attorney for **Exceeding Bag Limit: Cow Elk**.

## Unlawful Take of Spike Buck Deer

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper issued a criminal citation to a suspect who illegally trespassed onto Weyerhaeuser land and shot a spike buck during the general western deer season. A witness had observed the suspect on the Weyerhaeuser land shoot the buck and drag it to his motorcycle. The suspect then wheeled the buck away on his motorcycle. When the Trooper interviewed the suspect, he admitted to seeing the no trespassing sign but believed he was allowed to trespass since he owned stock in Weyerhaeuser. The suspect's rifle and the spike antlers were both seized. He was given a criminal citation for **Criminal Trespass, Take/ Possession of Buck Deer**, and **Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass**.

## Unlawful Use of Thermal/IR Scope for Hunting

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers cited two subjects in connection with a lengthy investigation into Unlawful Use of Thermal/IR Scope for Hunting Deer in October of 2023. Both men were observed and videoed by the reporting party/witness scanning a large burned area for deer with a thermal/infrared scope during daylight hours. Based on the clarity of the witness's video, investigators were able to identify the make and model of the thermal device. One of the subjects was cited and released for **Hunting Prohibited Method: Thermal/IR scope**, and the other subject was also cited for **Hunting Prohibited Method: Thermal/IR scope** with the additional charges of **Failure to Display Hunting Equipment** and **Tampering with Evidence**.

## WA Resident Purchased OR Resident License

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was forwarded information from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about a subject purchasing a resident license in Oregon and Washington. WDFW spoke with the subject who was living in Washington, and it was discovered he had been purchasing Oregon resident licenses since he moved to Washington in 2020/2021. The Trooper met with the subject who admitted to living in Washington for three years and had purchased Oregon resident licenses. The subject said he purchases licenses through the online system, and it has never asked him to change his address and when he purchased stuff in stores, he was never asked to change addresses. The regulations were shown and explained to the subject, and he admitted to messing up. The subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Application for Hunting/Angling Licenses and Tags**.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Unlawfully Taken Deer Found on Traffic Stop

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was summoned to a Douglas County Deputy's traffic stop near Rice Hill on Interstate 5. A Patrol Division Lieutenant observed what was likely an illegal deer skull cap with large 4-point antlers attached while backing up the deputy on a traffic stop. Following further investigation, the subject confessed to illegally killing the buck with No License or Tag in November 2023 and using an illegal short-barrel rifle. The antlers, 8 packages of deer meat and some rifle components were seized and placed into evidence. The subject was cited criminally for **Unlawful Take/Possession Buck Deer: No Tag;** with additional charges forwarded to the Douglas County District Attorney's Office.

## Fort Rock/Silver Lake TMA Violations

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked Fort Rock/Silver Lake Travel Management Area (TMA) cameras and found a vehicle that was in a nearby campsite had violated the TMA the day prior. The vehicle and its owner were located, and a citation was issued for **Operation of Motor Vehicle in a Cooperative TMA.** Later, the Trooper located a vehicle parked outside the TMA that he recalled from photos violating the TMA the prior winter. He located the photos in question, verified it was the same vehicle and waited for the owner to return. The registered owner returned and admitted to the violation of the TMA the winter prior to "check trail cameras" and "shed hunt." The subject was cited for **Violation of TMA.**

## Hunter Self-Reports Mistake

St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers and a Sergeant were dispatched to a report of a bull elk shot near Cox Road in the Trask unit. The hunter self-reported and admitted he had taken some unethical shots into the back end of a herd of elk. He then followed the herd into a patch of trees and shot an antlerless elk to fill his tag. A neighbor saw the herd come out of the trees and saw that a spike elk was limping and thought it appeared to have been shot in the leg. Troopers were able to locate a blood trail after tracking the herd for about a mile through corn fields. Troopers continued to follow the trail across multiple acres of farmland, across several creeks and onto some timber company property. After about five miles and six hours of tracking, Troopers were able to locate the injured bull. Because of the severity of the injuries, Troopers had to put the spike elk down. The hunter was issued a violation citation for **Illegal Take of a Bull Elk, Hunting Without a 2024 Hunting License,** and warned for **Failure to Immediately Validate Tag.** The hunter was educated on taking ethical shots and how to avoid repeating this type of behavior in the future. The spike was taken to the Meating Place to be processed and later donated.

## Troopers Solve Cold Case from November

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers followed up on a cold case of two cow elk being killed unlawfully in Azalea. This incident occurred in November of 2023. A subject with a Cascade Elk tag tried to shoot a bull on private property and hit a cow. The landowner called another person who had a tag. The second person was unable to come so the landowner took the first person's shotgun and shot at another bull for the second subject. The landowner hit a cow as well. The second subject arrived and all three worked together to get the cows taken care of. After investigation, it was determined the first subject, although he thought he shot an illegal animal, has a disability with ODFW and therefore the take of the cow was lawful. The shotgun was seized though because of the unlawful take of the second cow by the landowner. The first subject was issued a citation for **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense.** The property owner was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take of Antlerless Elk.** The second subject was issued a citation for **Unlawful Possession of Game Parts** and the elk meat was seized as evidence from the second subject.



# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Coquille Valley Wildlife Area Boat Patrol

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol in the very flooded Coquille Valley Wildlife Area. During the boat patrol, several homeowners were checked on as the access to their homes had been limited to boat only for over a week. All of the homeowners were accounted for and did not need additional resources or assistance at that time. Additionally, several waterfowl hunters were contacted in a remote section of the wildlife area. No violations were observed, and harvest rates were low in part due to the conditions.

## Hunting in Closed Area - Warehouse Beach

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper received several complaints that someone was hunting in the swimming area of Warehouse Beach recreation area which the Army Corps of Engineers has closed to hunting. Upon arriving at the beach the Trooper saw several decoys on the beach and in the water but could not locate any hunters. The Trooper began picking up the decoys as found property when subjects appeared from both edges of the swimming area. The subjects claimed to have placed the decoys on the beach to give geese “something to look at” but weren’t hunting in the swimming area. One of the subjects did not have his federal waterfowl stamp and was cited for **No Federal Waterfowl Stamp**, and the rest were given warnings for **Hunting in a Closed Swimming Area**.

## Subject Admits to Shooting Bobcat

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant from The Dalles received a call from a member with the Wasco County Sheriff’s Department explaining they had a subject in their office who had admitted to shooting a bobcat. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed up with the subject after he was encouraged to turn himself in by a citizen who lives nearby where the incident occurred. The subject explained his in-laws had some chickens go missing a few years back and they thought it was a bobcat that was the culprit. He further explained his in-laws had some pet ducks go missing and thought it could have been a bobcat again. Approximately a day or two after the ducks went missing, the subject was driving and spotted a bobcat near his in-laws’ residence. The bobcat ran in front of him and into a tree in a neighboring property. The subject proceeded to trespass, walk below the tree, and shoot the bobcat. The subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take of a Bobcat** and the bobcat and firearm were seized. The property owners were happy with the outcome and didn’t wish to pursue trespass charges. In addition to the trespass, the subject had neither a hunting license for furbearers nor a bobcat harvest card.

## Subject Takes Elk on Private Property

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper was notified of a poached elk in Eagle Point. The reporting party had reported that a hunter had shot a damage tag elk on their property without permission. The Trooper confirmed the location and that the hunter was given permission to hunt bears on the property but not elk. The hunter confirmed where he had shot the elk and confirmed it was on the reporting party’s property. The elk was seized and the hunter was cited for **Hunting the Enclosed Lands of Another** and **Unlawful Take of a Cow Elk**.

## Unlawful Take of Scaup - Summer Lake

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted two subjects who were associated with a parked vehicle that did not have a Wildlife Area Parking Permit visible on the Summer Lake Wildlife Area. One subject was found to have not purchased his 2024 Hunting License and had an unsigned Federal Stamp. Both had failed to fill out and possess the Daily Area Hunting Permit. The second subject was found to have taken a Scaup and was not in possession of a Federal Stamp. The Scaup season ended three days prior. The first subject bought his hunting license on site after realizing his error. The second subject purchased a Federal Stamp online. He was violation cited for **Taking Game Bird Closed Season: Scaup**.

# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Trooper Seizes 192 Bay Clams

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed two subjects digging clams up the South Slough of Coos Bay on a 1.2 foot low tide. The subjects had paddled up the slough on kayaks and appeared to be commercial clam harvesters as they possessed multiple buckets and bags. Upon contact with the first subject he stated he was only recreationally harvesting clams for himself and his family. He initially stated he had a recreational license but did not have it in his possession. After more questioning he admitted that he did not purchase a recreational license for 2024. An inspection of his clams located 107 bay clams. The second subject admitted to recreationally harvesting and that he also did not have a recreational shellfish license. An inspection of his clams located 85 bay clams. Both subjects were issued citations for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Clams** and warned for **No Shellfish Licenses**. The clams were returned to the bay.

## Wholesale Fish Dealers Cited

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper issued citations and warnings to two separate wholesale fish dealers that had made landings of commercial crab at the beginning of 2024 without purchasing a 2024 wholesale license.

## Commercial Fisherman Cited

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial fisherman who made a landing without renewing his commercial fishing license. He was issued a citation for the violation and multiple warnings.

## Commercial Crabber Failed to Submit Logbooks

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a commercial crabber that failed to submit any commercial crab logbooks from the 2022-2023 season as required by ODFW. The subject agreed to submit his logbooks in the coming weeks and was issued a citation for **Fail to Maintain/Submit Logbook: Dungeness Crab**.

## Commercial Crab Vessel Gear Violation

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper made contact with a commercial crab fishing vessel whose gear was set with a surface gear trailer approximately 50 feet in length. The skipper told OSP he was not aware they had changed the regulation to 36 feet, but that he would correct the issue.

## Multiple Crab Violations Found - Garibaldi

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant was in Garibaldi when he observed a boat operating with an expired boat registration who appeared to be coming back to the docks from recreational crabbing with two people on board. When the Lieutenant made contact with the operators, who had pulled their boat into the parking lot, he observed an undersized Dungeness crab in the bottom of the boat. An inspection of their crab revealed they were in possession of a total of 35 crab. In addition, one of the subjects did not have a current shellfish license. The subject who did not have a shellfish license was cited for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit** and warned for **No Shellfish License** and **Expired Boat Registration**. The other subject was warned for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit**. The 23 crab that were unlawfully possessed were seized and returned to the bay.

## Commercial Crab MOU Violated

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted inspections of the first returning commercial crab landings in the Astoria area. Upon inspection of one crab offload it was discovered that the facility was acting under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a California based company in which the facility was to be used only to offload before the live crab were loaded onto trucks bound for California. Both the facility and the accepting company were not following the outlined state approved MOU. The Trooper worked with both companies and ODFW to resolve the issue and a warning was issued to the receiving company for **No Fish Buyer's License**. Future offloads will continue to be observed for compliance.

## Deckhand Cited for No Individual License

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant was in Garibaldi checking commercial crab offloads when he contacted a deckhand who had not received a 2024 Individual Commercial License. The deckhand admitted to working the rail on the current trip as well as the prior trip. The deckhand was cited for **No Individual Commercial License**. The rest of the commercial checks were in compliance with licensing, permits, and logbooks.

# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Striped Dolphin Returned to Ocean

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a stranded marine mammal on Clatsop Beach near Fort Stevens. When the Trooper arrived he found a gentleman trying to drag a striped dolphin back into the water. The Trooper tried to assist but with a strong outgoing tide they were unable to get the large dolphin back into deep enough water by hand. The Trooper contacted the [Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#), and a representative from the Seaside Aquarium responded with a stretcher. With the help of the Trooper and a few beachgoers, the dolphin was returned to the ocean uninjured. A great ending to a sandy situation.



## Commercial Crab Skipper Cited - Charleston

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial crab skipper to check licensing and logbook data following an offload of Dungeness crab in Charleston. It was determined that there were four individuals who were on the boat. The skipper and one of the crew had their own individual licenses and there was one crew member license issued to the boat. The skipper took responsibility for the unlicensed crew member. It was also determined that the skipper had not turned in his filled out logbooks from December. The skipper was cited for **Aiding in a Commercial Fish Offense: No License**, and warned for **Failure to Submit Crab Logbook as Required**.

## Coos Bay Restaurant Inspections

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted restaurant inspections in Coos Bay. Two restaurants were contacted that had some of their records in Chinese and not English as required. Both managers were warned for the offense.

## Commercial Crab Offloads - Winchester Bay

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked commercial crab offloads in Winchester Bay. The Trooper contacted one boat that had a crew member who had not purchased an individual license for 2023 or 2024. The subject had been working on the boat all crab season starting in December of 2023. The subject was issued a citation for **No 2024 Individual Commercial Fishing License**.

## Commercial Crab Boat Violates Washington Law

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the port of Astoria regarding concerns that a commercial crab boat was planning to set more pots than they were permitted to set (500). The boat had hired another boat to barge or set gear for them. The Trooper responded and observed well over the Oregon permitted amount of gear onboard the barging vessel. During casual conversations with the barging vessel, he determined the boat had 640 pots onboard. He was told 500 were for Oregon and the remaining 140 that were not visible from the dock, were for WA. The Trooper then drove to another port in the Astoria area and observed the actual permitted vessel moored up with a deck full of pots with only a few displaying WA tags and the rest untagged. Conversations with WDFW determined what the permitted and barging boat had planned to do would have been illegal in WA and wardens from WA contacted the permit owner to work through legalities of barging gear into WA. No citations were issued in Oregon.

# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Redband Trout Taken - Wood River

The Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Team received a photo that was taken near a problem area on the Wood River. The photo showed subjects walking near the river with fishing poles. The river is closed to all angling during this time of year to protect sensitive spawning areas of native redband trout. The area was on private property where subjects had recently vandalized the property to get to a large fishing hole on the Wood River. ODFW biologists have identified the particular deep river bend as a main staging area for large numbers of spawning native redband trout of Klamath Lake. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the area and caught three subjects near the river. One subject was standing next to several fishing poles and a recently killed large redband trout. The subject admitted to catching the fish. The subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Fish Closed Season** and **No Angling License**.

## Sturgeon Opener - The Dalles Pool

Fish and Wildlife Troopers, a WDFW Officer, and an OSP volunteer worked a joint boat patrol for the 2024 sturgeon opener on New Year's Day in The Dalles Pool on the Columbia River. The highly popular fishery draws hundreds of boats and anglers to get opportunities to retain sturgeon during the limited quota season. This year the weather conditions were ideal with milder weather, low wind, and higher water temperatures which resulted in many fish retained on the opening day. During the patrol, the team conducted 35 on the water marine board safety checks, contacted 82 anglers, and checked 36 fish. One citation was issued for **Fail to Validate**, and one marine board warning was issued.

## Sturgeon Opener - Bonneville Pool

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Sergeant from The Dalles conducted a boat patrol for the 2024 sturgeon opener on New Year's Day with WDFW Law Enforcement on the Columbia River (Bonneville Pool). In all, 71 anglers were checked, 28 boats checked, and five citations were issued for either **No Angling License** or **No Combined Angling Harvest Card**. In addition, a subject was issued a warning for the unlawful retention of a short sturgeon (37.5"). The fish was seized and returned to the river alive.

## Trooper Seizes Four Fish and Two Fishing Rods

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a male subject walking out of a known fishing location on private property. The Trooper observed three male subjects at a vehicle, and one was carrying large black garbage bag, which appeared to have fish in it. One subject began to remove steelhead from the bag and fillet them on the tailgate of his vehicle. The Trooper retrieved his spotting scope and was able to identify an adipose fin on the third fish the subject removed from the bag. The Trooper made contact with the three subjects and located six fillets and one wild fish at the vehicle. Three carcasses had been thrown back into the river and could not be identified as wild fish. None of the three subjects were able to login to the ODFW App and they had not tagged any of the fish in possession. Two subjects claimed they each caught two of the fish and stated the third had not caught any. One subject was warned for **Angling with No Electronic Harvest Card in Possession** and the other two were criminally cited for **Take of Wild Steelhead** and **Fail to Immediately Validate**. All four fish were seized along with two fishing rods.

## Angler Checks - Dibblee Beach

St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers were conducting angler checks along the Columbia River at Dibblee Beach in Rainier. One subject was observed immediately reeling in his rod when he saw the Troopers. The subject was contacted and found to be using a barbed hooked. After further investigation, the man was found to have moved to Oregon about a month ago from Longview, WA and purchased a resident angling tag and license this year. The man has also been purchasing Oregon resident angling tags and licenses and resident hunting tags and licenses since 2020. The man was subsequently issued two criminal citations for **Falsely Applied for License/Tag** for 2023 and 2024 and issued a violation citation for **Angling with Barbed Hooks**.

# SHELLFISH & ANGLING

## Coquille River Patrol

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted steelhead anglers on the South and North Fork Coquille Rivers. Compliance and catch rates were high. One subject was contacted on the North Fork Coquille River and found to be in possession of two untagged hatchery Steelhead which he reported catching hours earlier. The subject admitted to retaining another steelhead the day before which he had also not recorded on his tag. He was subsequently issued a citation for the tagging violation.

## Subjects Found Without Combined Angling Tags

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted steelhead angler checks on multiple local rivers and creeks. Numerous anglers were contacted with catch rate being high. One family of three was contacted while actively angling for steelhead. Upon conducting an administrative check, it was found the subjects were from British Columbia and all possessed non-resident angling licenses, but no combined angling tags. When asked why they did not have a combined angling tag, the group stated that when they bought their licenses from Fred Meyer, the clerk told them they did not need a tag if they were not planning on keeping anything. The subjects were educated on the rules and provided a copy of the 2024 ODFW Fishing Regulations. One citation and two warnings were issued to the group for **No Combined Angling Tag**. An additional warning was issued to another subject for **Fail To Properly Validate Harvest Card**.

## Multiple Violations - Alsea River Patrol

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers checked steelhead anglers on the main stem and N. Fork Alsea River. Over the course of two days approximately 40 anglers were contacted and numerous ELS warnings were issued, primarily due to people angling out of service and not being able to access their combined angling tag. Four citations were issued for **No Resident Angling License**, and one citation each for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Steelhead** and **No Valid Angling License in Possession**. Two citations were also issued for **Angling on Private Land Without Permission** to two subjects that snuck onto a private Weyerhaeuser Lease without permits.

## Troopers Seize 52 Crab - Hammond Marina

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting surveillance at Hammond Marina. A large boat pulled in and tied up near the ramp. A small truck then backed down the ramp and two male subjects lifted a large white cooler out of the boat and placed it into the bed of the truck. The truck then drove out of the marina and the boat began to head back out into the river. The Trooper followed the truck to a nearby store where the truck parked and a single male occupant exited the vehicle. An administrative check was conducted and the male subject consented to a search of the cooler in his truck. The search revealed the male subject to be in possession of 64 Dungeness crab. The subject stated he was on the boat with four other male occupants and that he was just going to the store to get some ice for the crab and that the other occupants on the boat were heading back out to do some sightseeing on the river. Another Trooper and a Sergeant arrived shortly after to assist with the investigation. Ultimately the subject was cited for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit: Dungeness Crab** and **No Written Record of Transfer**. Troopers seized 52 male Dungeness crab were and returned them to the marina.

## Lifetime Suspended Subject Caught Angling

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted a known subject in Lincoln County that is lifetime suspended from angling and hunting while he was angling for steelhead on the Big Elk River. He was criminally cited and released for **Angling While Suspended** and two Fishing Rods that he was in possession of were seized.

## Subject Angling Without License

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking local anglers and located a subject without an angling license. The subject told the Trooper that his girlfriend had not “made him” buy a license yet and that he had fished multiple times already this year without a license. The subject was cited for **No 2024 Angling License**.

# COMMENDATION AWARDS GIVEN



Senior Troopers Geoff Smith and Dean Trent received commendation awards from Superintendent Codding for their actions that went above and beyond the call of duty.

On January 6, 2024, Senior Trooper Smith and Senior Trooper Trent were off duty with their families returning from John Day to Burns after going to an OSP holiday party. The weather was extremely bad with heavy snow and icy conditions on the roadways. At around 09:30pm, the Troopers stopped because they noticed a vehicle in a steep ditch that had slid off the highway. The vehicle was barely visible with the snowy and dark conditions. A young female came out of the car crying and advised that she thought she was going to die out there because there was no traffic or anyone to help her. The young girl said she tried to flag down one car about a half hour prior but the car kept going. The young girl advised that she was moving from Washington to Nevada and did not even know where she was. The Troopers and their families gave the young girl a ride into Burns and got her dinner and a voucher for a hotel room for the night. The Troopers helped the young girl secure a tow for her vehicle and took care of the bill for her since she did not have much money to her name. The young girl was immensely grateful to the Troopers, their families, and OSP for all their help. The young girl stated, "I'm so grateful and not sure how I could ever repay you for your kindness, I've never been helped like this in my life ever, so it really warmed my heart and showed me how incredible people can be."

Several days later Trooper Trent was finishing up a call in Burns when a man on the sidewalk tapped on Trooper Trent's patrol truck window and advised he was from Romania, and could not speak English. The Romanian man and Trooper Trent spoke to each other through the man's cell phone language app that could interpret what each other was saying. The man advised that he, his wife, and young boy were at a hotel and about to be kicked out at 11am, and they did not know where to go. The man said his vehicle was broke down with a flat tire and damaged wheel somewhere out on the highway, but he did not know where. The man advised that he had no money to fix the tire and wheel, and no money for food or the hotel. Trooper Trent met the man at the hotel and was able to extend some time with the hotel management because of the cold weather. Trooper Trent found where that their vehicle was at because a Patrol Sergeant had given the man a ride to Burns the day before after he broke down. Trooper Trent was able to get a wheel and tire from Les Schwab for the vehicle, and bought the family some groceries and dinner since they had no money or food. Troopers drove the family to their vehicle at MP-60 and changed the rear tire to the front, and placed the new tire on the back so the vehicle would run properly. The family was extremely grateful to OSP for all their help. The man wished many blessings on Trooper Trent and his family, and said he believed God sent Trooper Trent to help him and his family.



Oregon's fish and wildlife populations depend on us.



# Turn in poachers.

## Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Cash Rewards

- \$2,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat & Moose
- \$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope
- \$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
- \$300 Habitat Destruction
- \$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
- \$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
- \$200 Game Fish & Shellfish
- \$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
- \$200 Spotlighting
- \$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag

## Oregon Wildlife Coalition (OWC) Cash Rewards

### Birds

- \$500 Hawk, Falcon, Eagle, Owl, Osprey
- All other protected avian species: see category below for listed species

### Mammals

- \$500 Cougar, Bobcat, Beaver (public lands only), Black bears, Bighorn Sheep, Marten, Fisher, Sierra Nevada Red Fox

- \$1,000 Species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under state or federal Endangered Species Act (excludes fish) (e.g. wolf, wolverine, kit fox, red tree vole, Canada lynx, sea otter, Columbian white-tailed deer, California brown pelican, western snowy plover, California least tern, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, short-tailed albatross, streaked horned lark, yellow billed cuckoo, leatherback sea turtle, olive ridley sea turtle, Oregon spotted frog, green sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle)

## ODFW Preference Points Rewards

- 5 Points Bighorn Sheep
- 5 Points Rocky Mountain Goat
- 5 Points Moose
- 5 Points Wolf
- 4 Points Elk
- 4 Points Deer
- 4 Points Pronghorn Antelope
- 4 Points Bear
- 4 Points Cougar

## Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association Cash Rewards

- \$200 Acting as an Outfitter Guide for the Illegal Killing of Wildlife, Illegally Obtaining Oregon Hunting or Angling Licenses or Tags, or Illegally Offering to Act as an Outfitter Guide as defined in ORS 704.010 and 704.020.



**Any tip helps and can be anonymous!**  
**Dial \*OSP (\*677) on mobile devices**  
**or call 1-800-452-7888 to report poaching.**  
 Visit [ProtectOregonsWildlife.com](http://ProtectOregonsWildlife.com) to learn more.



