

# Newsletter

Summer 2025



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### All the info for those on the go...

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## Legislative Update

### Outfitter Guide Fee Restructure

After years of trying, we have successfully hurdled the Interstate Commerce laws that have kept us from making any changes to the Outfitter Guide program. The fee structure that had been in place since the 80's, of charging non-residents what their state would charge an Oregonian, had to go. Non-resident guides were paying fees of up to \$2575 a year. HB2558 successfully changed the Outfitter Guides fees to be equal across state residencies, more clearly defined Charter Guides, and created a new affordable Crew Member designation.

Beginning with the renewal period for 2026 (November 1st, 2025), Outfitter Guide fees will be \$350 per year for residents and non-residents. Those designated as Charter Guides (Outfitter Guides who hold a USCG Merchant Mariner Credential) will pay an additional \$150 for a total of \$500 per year.

Crew Members are defined as employees who assist with fishing activities, or with the operation of a boat used for fishing, under the direct supervision of a Outfitter Guide who is physically present and in direct communication with the Crew Member. Previously, these individuals had to pay the same fee as the Outfitter Guide, which could be cost prohibitive to youth coming into the guiding world, or family members wanting to help out. The annual fee for a Crew Member is \$50, requires the same first aid/CPR certification, and liability insurance coverage under their employer's policy.

The Marine Board is required to update their Administrative Rules to help implement these legislative changes. That entails making updates to (Con't on page 2)



## INFO

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### Email or Mail?

This edition of the newsletter has been distributed primarily via email. If we have your email address on file, you will receive only the email version. If not, you will be mailed a paper copy. Please notify us if you have a preference, or if your email address needs to be updated.

## Legislative Update (con't. from p.1)

our rules to incorporate the crew member and charter guide designations into the same administrative processes we currently use, such as application processes, background and enforcement procedures, requirements to carry proof of registration, etc. The legislature also approved increasing the current civil penalty amounts, and the OSMB Board previously approved updating the Outfitter Guide ethics and professional standards and the Non-Resident Hunt Tag Program certification policies.

The public comment period is currently open on these updates/changes. You can review the proposed rule changes on the OSMB website by going to the "New Rules and Notices" page or emailing [Jennifer.Cooper@boat.oregon.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Cooper@boat.oregon.gov). Public comment will be accepted up to October 1st, 2025 at 11:55pm. The OSMB Board will vote whether to accept the rules at their October 30th Board meeting.



**#TurnInPoachers**

**[ProtectOregonsWildlife.com](https://www.protectoregonswildlife.com)**

**1-800-452-7888 or \*677**

## ODFW Unveils New Daily License System

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is now onboarding fishing charters and guides to the newest Electronic Licensing System (ELS) offering - the Fishing Charter and Guides Organization Partner Agent Account, a streamlined solution designed to help your clients hit the water fully licensed and ready to fish. No delays. No missing paperwork. No missed revenue.

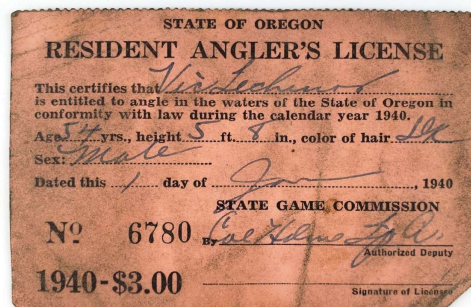
This ELS path gives your business the ability to sell and print fishing licenses directly from your account, 24/7. It expands your services and eliminates last-minute licensing issues for your customers. Whether you're a large-scale charter or a six-pack guide, this tool was built with your business in mind:

- Buy and print licenses ahead of trips
- Assign temporary licenses on the spot
- Streamlined order management and invoicing tools
- User-friendly interface built for quick, on-the-go access

This new account type was designed to support your workflow while keeping compliance and convenience front and center. Allowing you to offer a complete licensing solution for customers who arrive without the necessary documents. Apply as a partner organization at: [odfw.huntfishoregon.com](https://odfw.huntfishoregon.com) (Select "Apply for a Partner Organization Account" on the login screen.)

Why become an ODFW ELS Agent? Offering ODFW licenses and products adds value to your services by making trip preparation easier for customers. Whether they're heading out for fishing, shellfishing, or wildlife viewing, having licenses available on-site positions your business as a reliable and trusted resource.

This is also a great opportunity to increase foot traffic, especially during peak recreation seasons, and boost add-on sales such as gear, snacks, or other supplies. As a Charter Organization Agent, you'll enhance the customer experience, build visibility in your community, and help more people get out on the water, ready to fish. Apply for a Partner Organization Account today. [odfw.huntfishoregon.com](https://odfw.huntfishoregon.com).



## Specialized Information for the Outfitter Guide Community

The Outfitter Guide newsletter is a bi-annual publication which is the cornerstone of the Outfitter Guide communications program. Its purpose is to cut through the clutter and provide important communications between the OG community and the Marine Board. If you have comments, feel free to submit them at: [outfitter.guide@boat.oregon.gov](mailto:outfitter.guide@boat.oregon.gov).

### Guide Advisory Committee Members

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Recent Disciplinary Actions			
Name	Date	Action	Reason
William Gaither	1/13/25	Conditional Pending Case Disposition	Failure to Disclose Violations
Mahaley Rogers	3/5/25	3-Year Suspension/Revocation	Ethical & Prof Stnd Violations
Branden Trager	4/14/25	Conditional Pending Case Disposition	Lacey Act Violations
Casey Kelly	6/23/25	Conditional	F& W Violations
Lawrence Newell	7/15/25	Conditional	Failure to Disclose Violations

# Law Enforcement Update

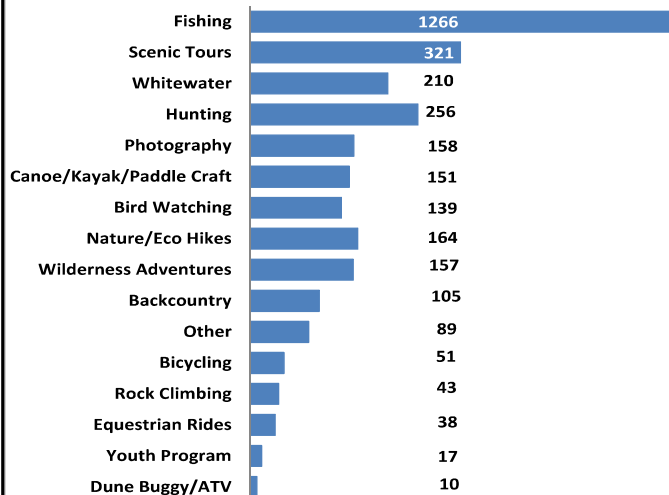


- In December of 2023, the SIU received a detailed complaint about a guide in Southern Oregon who was guiding without a license and intimidating and obstructing other hunters hunting on public land. The SIU and Roseburg Fish & Wildlife Troopers conducted an investigation and found numerous violations the guide had committed. Charges were submitted to the Jackson County District Attorney’s Office for Guiding without a license, Obstructing the taking of wildlife, Harassing wildlife, Unlawful take of wildlife-blacktail deer, and Unlawful Possession of wildlife-blacktail deer.
- The SIU conducted a large-scale investigation into thermal imaging devices that were used for hunting, in the Clackamas County area. During the investigation a local guide was filmed, along with a co-conspirator, using a thermal imaging device to hunt deer. A search warrant was executed on the guide’s residence. A follow-up interview was conducted with the co-conspirator. In all, 3 deer and two thermal imaging devices were seized as evidence. Charges were forwarded to the Clackamas County District Attorney’s Office.
- In April 2025, the SIU received information from the Oregon State Marine Board that a fishing guide in Southern Oregon had submitted a forged insurance card in an attempt to gain guide stickers for a new drift boat. The SIU conducted a follow-up and found that the guide used computer software to forge an insurance card from his home. The guide was cited and released for Forgery in the second degree.
- In September 2024, the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division received information about a subject who was guiding for salmon on the Alsea River. The subject had not been a licensed guide in Oregon since 2021 and still had a sign for his guide business posted on a local boat dock.

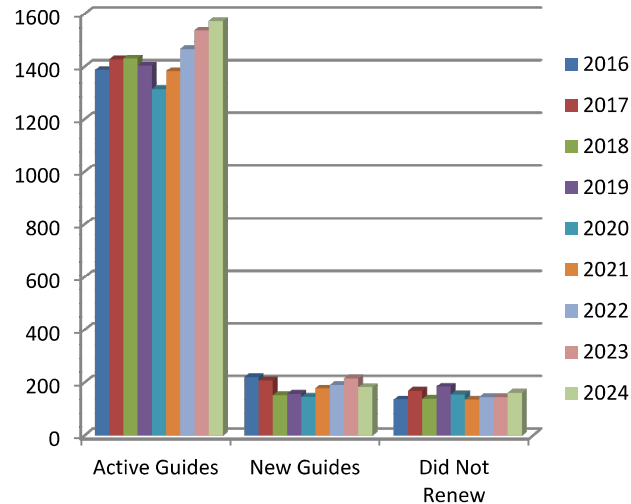
- At the beginning of October, the guide was contacted as he was preparing to leave with clients. It was determined the unlicensed guide was paid \$300 for the fishing trip. The guide was cited for No Guide/Outfitter License. The guide plead guilty in Lincoln County and was fined \$1000.
- In 2024, the SIU received a complaint that a Southern Oregon hunting and fishing guide was guiding bear hunts over bait. Through investigation, detectives developed probable cause for search warrants. In August of 2024, search warrants were executed on the guide’s bait site and his residence. The guide and one of his employees were also found to be in possession of bear skulls that had not been checked in with ODFW, unlawfully imported deer parts (CWD concern), and unlawfully possessed deer parts. Follow up interviews revealed another unlawfully taken bear that was ultimately seized from a hunter in Pennsylvania, and additional charges were forwarded to the prosecutor’s office for illegally hunting bears over bait. The court case has yet to be heard.
  - In many of the above cases, OOGA tip rewards were issued to the original reporting party. The SIU has successfully partnered on several investigations with the United States Coast Guard.
  - The SIU investigated 8 individuals that falsely applied for guide outfitters licenses for the 2025 season. The majority of the individuals were not truthful about previous fish and wildlife convictions. So far 3 of these cases have been reduced to violations by the Marion County Disitrect Attorney’s Office. The subjects were fined \$440 apiece. The remaining cases are still in the court system.

# Outfitter Guide Newsletter

## Outfitter Guides By Service Type



## Guide Population Growth



## Upcoming Events

September 1st: OSMB Office Close -Labor Day

October 1st: Rule Public Comment Closes

October 30th: OSMB Board Meeting, Bend

November 1st: Renewals begins for 2026

November 6-8th: Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit

November 11th: OSMB Office Closed-Veterans Day

## Launch & Dock Access - Revisited

We've talked before about launch and dock access getting more expensive and exclusive. This year, the city of Gold Hill voted to institute an annual commercial ramp access fee of \$1000, which hopefully will be reduced. Ports and facility management are wrestling with increased use, increased maintenance, and increased expenses. It's more important than ever to show them responsible, considerate behavior when using these facilities.

The Marine Board has set a strategic plan item to study and collaborate with facility operators to learn about Outfitter Guide use and impacts, and to develop solutions to mitigate challenges. The Guide Advisory Committee will be tasked with aiding in developing best management practices for Outfitter Guides using public facilities. If you'd like to participate or comment with suggestions or solutions, please contact Cyndi at the Outfitter Guide desk.

**Waterway Access Permits:** Fees for the permits will be increasing effective 1/1/26. One year permits will be \$20, and 2-year permits will be \$35. The discounted permit tiers will be: 6-10 boats - \$100, 11-20 boats - \$185, and 21+ boats will be \$340 per year. Permits are digital only, and can be purchased at the Boat Oregon Store at [boat.oregon.gov/store](https://boat.oregon.gov/store).

## Reminders:

**Illegal Guiding?** The Marine Board licenses over 1500 Outfitter Guides – from the more numerous fishing and hunting guides, to guides that can help customers experience white water rafting, rock climbing, biking, hiking Oregon's backcountry, or even SUP yoga, foraging for mushrooms, or climbing an old-growth tree. The OSMB website includes an Outfitter Guide dashboard to quickly look for registered guides providing any service in any area, and also to check if someone you see is legally registered.

OSMB continues to see a growing trend of those unintentionally guiding illegally. **Outfitter Guide registration is required in Oregon, for all those providing a paid outdoor experience on land or water other than their own. This includes non-profits, local government programs, or summer camps.** Let us know if you see someone who may need some education on the Outfitter Guide requirements.

**Guide Complaints:** We've received numerous complaints regarding fishing guides on the southern coast not following F&W regulations - namely continuing to leave all fishing rods out even after a client has caught their limit, and continuing to fish past the jetty and into the ocean (which is closed for Chinook and must be barbless hooks for any other salmon). Law enforcement wanted us to remind you that it's your job to be compliant and share current fish and wildlife regulations.

**Got Questions? Check out our website: [Boat.Oregon.gov/guides](https://Boat.Oregon.gov/guides)**