



OREGON STATE POLICE **FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION**



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

DECEMBER 2021



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Photo courtesy of OSP volunteer Jason Hinkle

*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolling on
Criterion Ridge in Wasco County*

COMMERCIAL CRAB SEASON



North Coast Undersized Crab Case

An ODFW biologist was sampling commercially caught Dungeness crab at a seafood processing plant in Warrenton when she noticed numerous undersized crab from one boat. The boat had made a landing of 46,067 lbs of Dungeness crab, and the biologist's samples suggested that there was a large quantity of undersized crab in the load. Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to the processing plant, and with the assistance of 13 members of the US Coast Guard (USCG) Living Marine Resources program, measured 11,778 lbs worth of crab from the load. The Troopers found that 22% of the load was undersized. The captain of the crab boat was cited and released criminally for **Taking Undersized Commercial Dungeness Crab**.



Mid-Coast Undersized Crab Case

Newport Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Troopers responded to a complaint from an ODFW commercial sampler of a large number of Dungeness crab being offloaded from a fishing vessel. Troopers responded and measured the load and determined 16.5% of the load contained sub-legal crab. The deckhand was cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Commercial Dungeness Crab**.

South Coast Undersized Crab Case

A Gold Beach MFT Trooper patrolled commercial Dungeness crab. Numerous offloads were checked and compliance was high. Several warnings were issued for small amounts of undersized crab. During one nighttime check, the Trooper discovered approximately 350 lbs of undersized crab. The crab accounted for approximately 6% of the vessel's load. Another Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted in the measuring of the crab. The captain and responsible deckhands were issued citations for **Take/Possession of Undersized Crab**. The undersized crab were seized.



JUNIOR TROOPERS

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Youth Hunter Education Field Days



Hunters younger than 18 must take hunter education before they can hunt in Oregon. ODFW offers courses in a choice of two formats aimed at different learning styles.

Conventional classroom setting includes 14-16 hours of classroom instruction by a certified ODFW Volunteer Instructor. This option will include a field day with a live fire exercise and hands on evaluation of safe firearms handling. The course cost (including the field day) is \$10 per student.

Online through one of four ODFW approved courses. Each course takes about six hours and the cost varies depending on the course provider. Choose the course that's best for you. Upon completion, print the online completion voucher and get registered for a field day. Register for a field day at any time during the course of your study – seats fill up quickly. If at any time you lose your username and password, contact the online vendor directly – these are third party online companies approved by ODFW.

There is no minimum age to take a course, but children under age 11 often have a difficult time with the material. Younger students may also lack the upper body strength necessary to handle a firearm safely during a field day and control the muzzle during loading and unloading drills.

Student must complete the youth Hunter Education online course and bring proof of completion to the ODFW Field Day. There will be a multiple choice written exam. Do not bring your own firearm or ammunition - ODFW will provide all equipment. Be sure to have a valid email address in the youth account, reminders will be sent the week of the event.

Astoria

BKS Gun Club, south on Hwy 30 to 92411 Abbott Rd, Astoria, 97103. Instructor Trygve Klepp
02/05/22 - (9:00am - 5:00pm)

Eagle Creek

Douglas Ridge Rifle Club, 22787 SE Hwy 224, Eagle Creek, 97022. Instructor Bill Hendrix
02/16/22 and 02/17/22 -
(Must Attend both nights
6:00pm - 9:00pm)

Elmira

Cole Range, 88962 Falcon Dr, Elmira, 97437.
Instructor Ivan Hernandez
02/19/22 - (8:00am - 4:00pm)

Estacada

Feb 18 @ Estacada First Baptist Church, 29101 SE Eagle Creek Rd, Estacada, 97023.
Feb 19 @ Estacada Rod and Gun Club.
Instructor Clyde Shaver
02/18/22 (6:00pm - 9:00pm)
and 02/19/22 (9:00am - 1:00pm)
Must attend both sessions

Klamath Falls -

ODFW Klamath Wildlife Area, 1850 Miller Island Rd, Klamath Falls, 97603.
Instructor Tiffani Trout
03/26/22 - (1:00pm - 5:00pm)
03/26/22 - (8:00am - 12:00pm)

Redmond

Highland Baptist Church, 3100 SW Highland Ave, Redmond, 97756. Instructor Brian Ferry
02/11/22 (5:00pm - 9:00pm) and
02/12/22 (8:30am - 11:00pm)
Must attend both dates

Riddle

South Umpqua Rod & Gun Club, 845 Gun Club Rd, Riddle, 97469. Instructor David Miller
03/12/22 - (8:00am - 1:00pm)
03/13/22 - (8:00am - 12:00pm)

Shedd

Albany Rifle and Pistol Club, 29999 Saddle Butte Rd, Shedd, 97377. Instructor Gordon Brown
03/25/22 - (8:00am - 5:00pm)

Sherwood

Tri County Gun Club, 13050 SW Tonquin Rd, Sherwood, 97219. Instructor James August
03/12/22 - (8:00am - 12:30pm)
03/12/22 - (9:00am - 1:30pm)
03/13/22 - (8:00am - 12:30pm)
03/13/22 - (9:00am - 1:30pm)

Umatilla

Powerline Gravel Pit, 81119 Powerline Rd, Umatilla, 97882. Instructor Emmett Walker
03/12/22 - (8:00am - 1:00pm)
03/26/22 - (8:00am - 1:00pm)

For more information and to register, go to:
myodfw.com/articles/hunter-education-classes-field-days

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



UTV Patrol - John Day River

Fish and Wildlife Troopers worked a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) patrol on the John Day River around Cottonwood Park in Wasco, Oregon. The John Day River, at this location, divides Sherman and Gilliam Counties. ODFW recently closed the John Day River to steelhead angling due to extremely low fish return. This is a new and temporary closure that OSP has been working with ODFW to sign the main river access points advising of the closure, educating anglers of the closure, and taking enforcement action as needed. The area along this stretch of the John Day River is also popular for upland bird hunting so the Troopers also focused on making sure hunters had the required license and endorsements for hunting upland birds and to assure hunters did not exceed bag limits. Six bird hunters were contacted and one angler; warnings were issued for **Angling Closed Area** and ODFW's Electronic Licensing System (ELS) hunting license issues.

Waterfowl Hunters Stranded - Clatsop County

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a late afternoon call from dispatch regarding two waterfowl hunters and a dog stranded on Minaker Island (Columbia River) with a motor that would not start. With daylight soon disappearing and an extreme low tide due in a few hours, Troopers retrieved the department's 16-foot skiff and launched it at the John Day Boat Ramp east of Astoria. They found the men at nightfall and the water was just high enough to tow the boat in the dark to a personal dock near a residence on the inside of Svenson Island, where the boat was tied up for the night. One of the Troopers drove to the dock and provided a ride for all three back to their vehicle.



Troopers Provide Aid to Subjects Injured in Crash

Two McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Troopers and a North Plains Patrol Trooper were headed back from a Mobile Response Team (MRT) Operation in Medford, when a vehicle almost hit them head-on traveling the wrong way down Interstate 5. The Troopers took the next exit and started communicating with dispatch. The vehicle hit a car head-on just a few miles down the road. The Troopers quickly stopped and provided medical aid to both parties involved. The victim driver was badly injured and investigation revealed the suspect driver was intoxicated. Local Patrol Troopers, Deputies and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived and took over the investigation. As a result of their quick actions the Troopers were given OSP's Challenge Coin Award.



Troopers Pull CMV from Snow Drift

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded with a Lakeview Patrol Trooper to a very remote stretch of Highway 140 near the Nevada state line. Multiple vehicles had become stranded in large drifts of snow. Most vehicles were quickly extricated by ODOT plowing open a lane of the highway. One commercial motor vehicle (CMV) was totally buried in two feet of drifted snow. Troopers worked with the operator to dig the truck out. The Fish and Wildlife Trooper was eventually able to pull the CMV out of the drift. The CMV driver was very grateful, as the nearest tow was 4+ hours away.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Five Elk Wasted - Juniper Unit

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from the East Central Team, with assistance from a Lakeview Trooper, responded to a poaching complaint south of Riley in the Juniper Unit. An antlerless elk season was open in the area with a limited number of tags. The reporting witness said that the previous day he witnessed subjects chase after a herd of 100+ elk in their Suburban and then shoot 30-40 times into the herd of elk. The subjects killed two cow elk and wounded other elk. The witness said the subjects just left the area and didn't attempt to go after the wounded elk. Troopers responded to the area and located the scene. Troopers located a total of five elk shot (including one small bull) and wasted near the remains of the two elk that had been killed. Further investigation identified the suspects and suspect vehicle. Later that day the suspect's vehicle was located on Hwy 20 west of Burns and stopped. The subjects agreed to return to the location where the incident took place and walked through what had happened. Troopers discussed in summary the recklessness of shooting so many times into a large herd of elk and the unlawful method of hunting with the use of a motor vehicle. An OSP aircraft flew the area the following day but could not locate any further dead elk near the scene. The male driver was charged with **Committing Habitat Damage, Hunting/Harassing animals, Hunting Wildlife from Motor Vehicle, Exceeding Bag Limit of Elk (x4), Unlawful Take Bull Elk, and Waste of Game Mammal (x5)**. The female passenger was charged with **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The three rifles involved were seized as evidence.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Unlawful Take Buck Deer - Benton County

In October 2021, a deer hunter called OSP dispatch about an individual who shot a deer from a vehicle on private property in north Benton County. On December 5, 2021, Albany Fish and Wildlife Troopers were able to locate and interview the suspect at a residence in Salem. The suspect admitted to shooting a buck deer on private property. The suspect was cited for **Criminal Trespass II** and **Unlawful Take Buck Deer**. The 2x2 buck deer antlers, two bags of deer meat, and a rifle were seized.

Subject Shoots at WED from Vehicle

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers were running an early morning black-tailed deer Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) in the Siuslaw hunt unit. Before legal shooting light a vehicle approached the location of the WED and stopped close to it. After a short moment, the driver fired a single shot from a pistol out of the driver's window in the direction of the WED. Before a Trooper could get to the location, the driver drove away. One of the Troopers caught up to him approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile up the road and the vehicle yielded. The vehicle was occupied by four male subjects who claimed to be going mushroom hunting. The driver told the Trooper he was not actually shooting at the decoy, but was just shooting in order to scare the deer. He later told the Troopers he had recently fixed the gun and wanted to test it out and saw the deer as an opportunity to shoot off a few rounds. No new holes were located in the body of the decoy. The driver was issued a criminal citation for **Chase/Harass Wildlife** and was also issued a violation citation for **Shooting on or Across a Highway**. The pistol was seized and lodged into evidence.

Multiple Charges for Trespassers

Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers received a call about a suspicious shooting that occurred on Metro Regional Government property outside Wilsonville. Troopers conducted an investigation with the help of a Metro Park Ranger. Two trail cameras were seized and a search warrant was written to search the cameras. The search warrant was signed and the cameras were searched. Troopers developed probable cause to believe that two subjects committed several hunting related crimes on the property from late October to early November, including at least one deer being illegally harvested. One of the suspects was identified through a witness. A press release was put out asking for the public's help in identifying the second suspect. With the public's assistance Troopers were able to identify the second suspect. One of the subjects was issued a criminal citation for **Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass, Take/Possession of Buck Deer, and Hunting Prohibited Hours**. The other subject was issued a criminal citation for **Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass, Hunting Prohibited Hours, and No Resident Hunting License**. Additional charges were referred to the Clackamas County District Attorney including **Hunting Prohibited Method: Magazine Capacity**.

WA Subject Admits to Hunting Without License

Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted waterfowl hunters along the Columbia River. Multiple warnings were given for people that had a Federal Waterfowl Stamp, but did not have it in their possession. One subject said he left his wallet in the vehicle so Troopers followed him back to the truck. Once they got back to the truck the subject admitted that he was from Washington and did not have an Oregon hunting license, waterfowl stamp, or federal waterfowl stamp. That subject was issued a citation for **No Hunting License** and given warnings for **No Waterfowl Stamp** and **No Federal Waterfowl Stamp**.

Father and Son Caught Hunting in Closed Area

A Trooper from The Dalles was checking duck hunters on the Columbia when he located a father and son hunting within the closed area of the Memaloose State Park boundary. The Trooper advised them they were in an area closed for hunting. Neither subject had a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and they were hunting with unplugged shotguns. The father was cited for **Hunt Closed Area (State Park)** and **Hunting with an Unplugged Shotgun** and warned for **No Federal Waterfowl Stamp**. The juvenile was warned on all the violations. The ducks were seized and given to the Discovery Center for the raptors program.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS

Unlawful Use of Battery Powered Duck Decoys

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted hunter checks on Brownlee Reservoir and observed a subject using two battery powered duck decoys. The decoys were examined and the subject admitted to having a copy of the regulations at home and stated he was unaware that he could not use motorized decoys in Oregon. The subject was cited for **Use of Motorized or Battery Powered Decoys**.

Drift Boat Patrol - Touvelle State Park

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a drift boat patrol on the Rogue River from Touvelle State Park down to Fishers Ferry boat ramp. Three boats, three duck hunters, and eight anglers were contacted. Compliance was very low. There was one citation issued for **Hunting Prohibited Method: Shotgun Capable of Holding More Than Three Shells**; two warnings each for **No Life Jackets and Angling Prohibited Method-Bait**; and one warning each for **Angling Prohibited Method: More Than One Line and No Angling license**.

Elk Seized After Subject Shoots from Road

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report that a subject shot from a public road outside Coos Bay and killed a cow elk. It was determined that a man and his adult son had killed one cow elk each on their property, which is adjacent to the road. The son initially was dishonest about what had happened, but eventually admitted to shooting from the roadway, over the hood of his truck. Both subjects provided 2021 General Season Antlerless Elk tags, which are not valid in the Tioga Unit. Further investigation showed that the son had completed the Land Owner Preference paperwork, but neither subject applied for the controlled hunt, causing them to purchase the wrong tag by mistake. Both cow elk were seized and donated to charity. The son was criminally cited and released for **Hunting Prohibited Area: Public Road**, and was warned for **Hunting Prohibited Area: Outside Unit Boundaries and Unlawful Take/Possession Antlerless Elk**. The father was warned for the same.



Troopers Find Compliance High Among Waterfowl Hunters at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Florence Fish and Wildlife Troopers checked nine waterfowl hunters in several locations around Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, including the hunters above, who were in compliance and happy to pose for a photo.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Undersized Crab Found in Newport Offload

A Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Trooper was sampling crab being offloaded in Newport when she noticed numerous undersized crab. With assistance from another MFT Trooper, 8,000 lbs of crab were measured with 133 lbs that were undersized for 1.6% of the load being illegal. The crew of the vessel were cited for **Unlawful Take Undersized Commercial Crab**.

MFT Troopers Attend Hunter Education Class

Newport MFT Troopers attended a hunter education course at Newport High school. The Troopers spoke about OSP's role in Oregon's fish and wildlife enforcement as well as important laws and ethics surrounding hunting. Over the course of several weeks, the students will complete the hunter education program and obtain their ODFW certification.

Multiple Subjects Cited for Undersized Crab

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted multiple subjects crabbing off of the Tillamook Bay south jetty. Three citations and three warnings were given for **Unlawful Taking Undersized Dungeness Crab**. One subject contacted said that he had not caught any crab, and that he did not have any crab in his car. A consent search of his trunk found that he had one undersized Dungeness crab in a cooler. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Taking Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

Charleston Dealer Fails to Keep/Submit Records

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a wholesale dealer out of Charleston that had not reported any fish tickets to ODFW for the last two years. The dealer admitted to purchasing several thousand pounds of Albacore and not recording the fish on fish tickets. Further investigation revealed the subject was not keeping any records at the registered wholesale address. The subject was issued a citation for **Fail to Submit Fish Receiving Ticket** and warned for **Fail to Maintain Proper Fish Dealer Records**.

MFT Trooper Assists Capsized Angler

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking Steelhead anglers on the Siuslaw River when he learned of a boat that had capsized upriver. He drove to the location and found an angler crawling up the bank to the road. The angler was cold and wet so the Trooper put him in the passenger seat of his truck with the heater on. He also assisted the angler with removing one of two treble hooks from his hand. The angler told the Trooper he was attempting to land a steelhead when his anchor slipped. That caused the boat to dip to the side he was leaning on and when it did the boat filled with water and rolled. He then said if it wasn't for his life jacket he would've been a goner because he was under the boat for a moment with a small pocket of air. Lane County medical personnel arrived and ensured the angler's vitals were okay. Once he was cleared the angler wished to drive himself to the hospital to have the other treble hook removed from his thumb.

Subjects Unlawfully Angle on Private Land

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper watched as a group of subjects were steelhead angling on a piece of private property on the North Fork Nehalem River. The Trooper contacted the subjects who said that they knew that it was private property, but there were too many other anglers on the adjacent public land. The subjects were cited for **Angle on Private Land Without Permission**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Over Limit Clams Seized, Donated to Charity

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrolled the Clatsop Beach from Gearhart to the Sunset Beach access during an evening minus tide. They observed numerous razor clam diggers as daylight turned to dark. Approximately 25 contacts were made. One of those contacts resulted in both Troopers issuing citations for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Razor Clams** after they contacted a group of four men as they returned to their vehicle. Two of the men were each in possession of 18 clams and the daily bag limit is 15. Six clams were seized and later donated to Loaves & Fishes in Astoria.

Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the five-mile arm of Tahkenitch Lake when he observed two subjects in a boat near the shoreline. The Trooper contacted the pair and observed a wild Coho salmon in the boat. One of the subjects stated he had just caught the Coho and had not had a chance to tag it. Subsequent investigation revealed more than a half hour had passed since the Coho had been caught. The subject was issued a citation for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**.

Subjects Unlawfully Angle from Disabled Area

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper watched two subjects steelhead angling from the disabled angler platform on the North Fork Nehalem River. The subjects had caught and kept two steelhead, and when they saw the Trooper walking over to contact them, the subjects packed up and started to leave. The Trooper contacted the subjects and found that neither of them had a disabled angler permit. Both subjects were cited for **Taking Steelhead Closed Area**, and the steelhead were seized.

Subject with Suspended License Caught Angling

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking steelhead anglers on Big Creek when a subject was observed angling that was known to be suspended from multiple previous hunting and angling crimes. The subject was contacted and admitted to being suspended. There was significant evidence indicating a steelhead had been killed by the subject, but had been discarded into the creek upon him seeing the Trooper. The subject was cited criminally for **Angling While Suspended** and his rod/reel combo were seized as evidence.

Nehalem and Necanicum River Patrols

While checking steelhead anglers on the Necanicum River and the North Fork Nehalem River, an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper issued numerous citations and warnings for **Continue to Angle After Retaining Bag Limit, No Non Resident Angling License, No Resident Angling License, No Harvest Card, Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, False Application for Resident Angling License, and Angle on Private Land Without Permission**.

Multiple Violations on Chetco River Patrol

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked steelhead anglers on the Chetco River. During a contact with two subjects on board a drift boat, one subject had tagged two steelhead but appeared nervous. Investigation revealed the second subject had actually caught one of the fish but he had only taken screen shots of his ELS license and tag so he was unable to tag the fish. The subject was issued a citation for **No Valid License/Tag in Possession** and was warned for **Borrowing Angling Harvest Card**.

TURN IN POACHERS

PREFERENCE POINTS -OR- CASH REWARDS

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

\$1,000 Bighorn Sheep
\$1,000 Rocky Mountain Goat
\$1,000 Moose
\$500 Elk, Deer & Antelope
\$300 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
\$300 Habitat Destruction
\$200 Illegally Obtaining License/Tags
\$200 Unlawful Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag(s)
\$100 Game Fish & Shellfish
\$100 Upland Birds, Waterfowl & Fur Bearers

The TIP program offers preference point rewards or cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or issuance of a citation for the unlawful take/possession or waste of big game mammals.

WHAT SHOULD I REPORT?

- Nature of violation or activity observed or advised about
- Location of activity (Road, Milepost, GPS, etc.)
- Date and time of violation/activity
- Description of any vehicle involved
- Name and/or description of violator

[Click here to access the TIP form](#)



1-800-452-7888 or *OSP(677)

TIP@OSP.oregon.gov

Oregon State Police work hand-in-hand with the Oregon Hunters Association and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure the preservation of wildlife resources.

A collage of 20 photographs showing various law enforcement activities, including hunting, fishing, boating, and vehicle stops, with a black silhouette border. The images depict officers in different settings: on a boat, in a field, near a river, and in a desert landscape. Some photos show officers interacting with wildlife, such as a large fish, a bird of prey, and a dead animal. Other photos show officers in action, such as driving a truck, riding an ATV, and standing next to a car. The collage is set against a light green background.

The seal of the Oregon State Police is a five-pointed star. The points of the star are silver with black outlines. The center of the star is a black circle containing a silver seal of the State of Oregon. The seal of the State of Oregon features a landscape with a ship, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat, surrounded by the words "SEAL OF THE STATE OF OREGON" and the year "1859". The words "OREGON STATE POLICE" are written in gold around the top half of the black circle, and the year "1931" is written in gold at the bottom. The star is set against a light green background. A circular banner with the words "HONOR", "LOYALTY", "DEDICATION", "INTEGRITY", and "COMPASSION" in black capital letters, separated by black stars, surrounds the star.

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