



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

JANUARY 2022



CONTENT

Columbia River Sturgeon Angling	<u>3</u>
Junior Troopers.....	<u>4</u>
Community Outreach & Service	<u>5</u>
General Law & Rescues	<u>6-7</u>
Administration & Enforcement of Wildlife Laws	<u>8-9</u>
Marine Fisheries Team	<u>10</u>
Shellfish and Angling	<u>11-12</u>
Case Dispositions.....	<u>13</u>
Turn in Poachers.....	<u>14</u>
F&W Recruitment.....	<u>15</u>



*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a
Siuslaw River patrol via pontoon boats*

COLUMBIA RIVER STURGEON ANGLING



WDFW Assists Troopers on The Dalles Pool Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles and Fossil worked a joint boat patrol on the Columbia River with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in The Dalles Pool checking anglers. The team conducted 19 marine board boat checks and contacted 59 anglers. Seven legal size sturgeon were checked and two marine board warnings were issued.

Opening Day Sturgeon Season Patrols

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a joint boat patrol on the Columbia for the 2022 opening day sturgeon fishery in The Dalles Pool. Even in the bitter cold winter conditions and ice frozen boat ramps they made just over 70 sport angler contacts, 27 boat contacts, two guide checks, and nine legal fish checked. Citations were issued for **Fail to Validate** and **Aiding in a Game Violation**. Warnings were issued for **Angling with Two Rods** and license related issues.

Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrolled the Columbia River near Rufus with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for opening day of sturgeon season. Due to the frigid temperatures many people were having boat issues. Over 100 contacts were made and citations/warnings were given for **Fail to Validate**, **Aiding/Counseling in Angling Offense**, **Angling with More Than One Rod**, and **No Angling License in Possession**.

Fish and Wildlife Troopers performed a boat patrol in The Bonneville pool from The Dalles to Hood River. During the patrol Troopers contacted 19 boats and several bank anglers. In total Troopers checked 48 anglers and two guides. Troopers checked five legal sturgeon and ten walleye, and gave out three written warnings to include two for **No Columbia River Basin Endorsement** (Purchased on location through the Myodfw website) and one for **Expired Boat Registration**.

JUNIOR TROOPERS

Winter Wildlife Word Find

A	S	C	R	A	B	Y	X
W	N	W	I	N	T	E	R
R	O	T	Y	H	W	N	R
J	W	D	E	L	A	O	R
L	E	A	G	L	E	W	J
S	B	M	P	F	O	L	K
Q	D	E	E	R	H	P	K
W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E

ANTELOPE
CRAB

DEER
EAGLE

ELK
HAWK

OWL
SNOW

WILDLIFE
WINTER

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SERVICE



Game Meat Donated to Charities

Eastern Oregon Fish and Wildlife Troopers transported approximately 900 pounds of game meat for donation. Once transferred, the Troopers donated the game meat to the Spray school, Fossil school, Fossil Haden House, and the Fossil food bank.



Meat Donated to Food Bank - The Dalles

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles made a substantial delivery and donation of court adjudicated/seized game meat to the FISH Food Bank in Hood River this week. In total 835 pounds of deer and elk meat was delivered to help feed families in need throughout the region. FISH Food Bank was very grateful for the donation.

Trooper Gives Presentation at Eugene Meeting

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper gave a presentation at the Eugene Steelheader's meeting. During the presentation, the Trooper discussed several past cases as well as answering questions regarding the new regulations for 2022.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Drift Boat Recovered from Umpqua River

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the Douglas County Sheriff's Office with a drift boat recovery on the South Umpqua River. The three boaters had been safely rescued from the pinned and swamped vessel, but the boat was sideways blocking a portion of the only navigational channel on the river. The next day Troopers along with a Douglas County Marine Deputy returned to recover the swamped boat. Working together, the Troopers were able to block the water from running into the boat and use a pump and bucket to bail the water out of the boat. Once the majority of the water was out of the boat it was pushed off the rocks and rowed through the remaining rapids. The boat was loaded back on the owner's trailer and he took it home after expressing his sincere gratitude.



Duck Hunters Assist Trooper with Eagle Rescue

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from duck hunters near Talbot who observed an injured bald eagle that was unable to fly. The eagle was in an area which was not easily accessible. The Trooper responded and the duck hunters helped him catch the eagle. The eagle was taken to Chintimini wildlife rehab in Corvallis.

Drunk Driver Arrested - Springfield

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking anglers just before dark in the Fall Creek area. While patrolling back towards Springfield, the Trooper noticed a truck weaving badly and unable to maintain its lane. The Trooper stopped the vehicle and immediately noticed signs of impairment. The driver consented to Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) and was subsequently arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII). The driver was transported to the Springfield Municipal Jail and provided a breath sample of .33 blood alcohol content (BAC). The driver was cited for **DUII** and released.

Waterfowl Hunters Rescued

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a call in the afternoon regarding two men and a dog stuck on Marsh Island in the lower Columbia River while waterfowl hunting. The men maneuvered their 18-foot boat onto the island at high tide and walked away to hunt. Ninety minutes later they discovered they could not drag the boat off the island after the tide began to recede. High tide again would be 12 hours later and staying into the night in freezing weather was not an option. The men and dog were recovered before dark and delivered to the boat owner's float house approximately a mile away. The boat was left anchored and the men planned to paddle their kayaks to the boat the next day at high tide.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Barred Owl Rescued

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call about an injured owl in Bandon. The road-struck Barred Owl was located and captured. The owl was then transferred to Cascade Raptor Center staff.



John Day and Fossil Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a tracked ATV patrol in the North Fossil winter range.



ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Unlawful Take of Bull Elk by Non-Resident

John Day Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated a report of a bull elk killed during the first Bull Elk season in the Northside Unit where the non-resident hunter never purchased an elk tag. Investigation revealed the non-resident adult subject shot a 4x5 bull elk on October 30, 2021 and only possessed a non-resident hunting license and no non-resident elk tag. He then transported the bull back to Idaho and reported the incident to ODFW about two weeks later after taking the elk to a processor in Idaho. The subject claimed he thought he had purchased the elk tag but never verified before hunting and also admitted knowing he had no tag to validate after harvesting. He stated he didn't report not having a tag because he had other hunts to go on and was too busy. The subject returned the remaining processed meat and antlers which was seized and he was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Bull Elk** and warned for **Hunting without a Valid Big Game Tag**.

Waterfowl Hunting Violations

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a TIP from a citizen involving a subject posing on social media with a large number of ducks in the bed of a piece of farm equipment. A records check of the ODFW electronic licensing system revealed that the subject did not have a 2022 hunting license or any other validations, and for 2021 he had only purchased a 2021 Oregon Resident Hunting License with no other validations. Troopers initiated contact on a vehicle stopped on Woodbridge Road near the town of Adrian. Investigation revealed that the subject in question was the driver and he had been duck and bird hunting on private property with two other subjects. The other subjects were interviewed and told the Troopers the suspect had taken several shots with his shotgun at waterfowl that morning and he had been waterfowl hunting on December 31, 2021. The suspect was uncooperative for most of the investigation, he was detained pending the investigation and later cited and released at the scene for **No Resident Hunting License, No Waterfowl Validation x2** and **No Hip Validation** and warned for **No Federal Waterfowl Stamp**. A 12 gauge semi-auto shotgun was seized as evidence.

Unlawful Take/Possession of Cougar

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers received information from ODFW in South Beach regarding a cougar that had been checked in on January 4, 2022. The ODFW biologist observed the paper tag had been printed out two days after the date and time noted when the animal was taken. Further investigation indicated the harvest date and time noted on the tag were the exact same date and time the Electronic Licensing System showed that the tag and hunting license had been purchased. The subject admitted to printing the tag two days after shooting the animal but would not admit to purchasing the license and tag after shooting the animal. He was charged criminally with **Take/Possession of Cougar** and **No Valid Cougar Tag in Possession**.

Cooper's Hawk Shot and Killed - Lane County

An Oakridge Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from Cascades Raptor Center reporting an injured Cooper's hawk had been brought to them by a Cottage Grove resident. It was determined that the hawk had been shot and it died at Cascades Raptor Center. Interviews were conducted and a subject was identified and admitted shooting the hawk and complained that the hawk had been killing quail that live in the area. The subject was cited criminally for **Unlawful Take of Protected Wildlife: Raptor**.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Unlawful Use of Battery Powered Duck Decoys

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper overheard shooting originating from private property along the Pudding River in Marion County. The Trooper contacted the landowner who gave permission to check the property. A subject was observed using a battery powered duck decoy and observed for over an hour killing ducks with the aid of the battery powered decoy, which is prohibited. The subject was contacted and admitted to knowingly using the prohibited decoy. The subject's shotgun, battery powered decoy and three ducks were seized as evidence. The subject was cited and released for **Use of Motorized or Battery Powered Decoy and Take/Possession of Game Birds**.

Unlawful Take of Hermit Crabs - Lane County

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of a subject selling hermit crabs on Craigslist. The Trooper contacted the reporting party who had taken possession of the hermit crabs from the individual selling them. The Trooper took approximately 100 dead hermit crabs and placed them into evidence, then followed up by contacting two individuals responsible for unlawfully taking the hermit crabs. Ultimately, one subject was issued citations to include **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit** and **No Shellfish License**. The subject was educated on the laws pertaining to the sale of wildlife.

Subject Fails to Check in Black Bears

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information about a subject in Eagle Creek that killed a black bear during the 2020 hunting season without a tag. In addition, the subject did not check-in the bear to ODFW as required. Troopers contacted the subject at the Carver Boat Ramp and interviewed him. The subject stated that he bought a 2020 Sports Pac, but he never redeemed his Fall Black Bear Tag. He admitted to killing a black bear and not checking it in and admitted he knew he was supposed to check it in. The subject admitted to killing a bear in 2019 (with a valid tag) and not checking in that bear to ODFW. The remaining bear meat was seized. The subject was issued a criminal citation for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Black Bear and Fail to Check in Black Bear with ODFW**.

Spotlighter Saturation Patrol

Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in a weekend saturation patrol of Harney and Lake Counties for spotlighters. The OSP Southwest Region Pilot identified a vehicle actively casting light at the north end of Warner Valley. The vehicle was located by the ground team who was also able to observe casting while they approached. The vehicle was stopped and both occupants were determined to be actively hunting for bobcat from the moving vehicle. Citations were issued to both. A second vehicle, located by the Pilot, was observed casting and was stopped by a Lake County Sheriff Deputy and a Patrol Trooper. The group was observed on an unmaintained public road passing through their private land holding. The subjects were warned for **Hunting from Roadway and Casting Light While Armed**.

Hunter Self-Reports Accidental Take

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles received a call from a hunter who self-reported killing a spike elk thinking he was shooting a cow elk. After a brief conversation, a plan was put in place to recover the animal so it would not go to waste. The hunter had been with a friend who had harvested a cow elk at the same time. With two elk down and miles in on rough terrain, the recovery time was extensive. The Trooper and an OSP volunteer were able to utilize a UTV and travel to the approximate two mile mark and meet the hunters after exchanging OnX map pin drops. The subject was warned for the **Unlawful Take**. Multiple trips hauling meat, gear, and the subjects by foot and UTV were completed as darkness and very cold temperatures set in. The meat from the spike elk was donated to a charity food bank.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

Pervasive Undersized Commercial Crab Violations

The Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) continued to have issues with undersized commercial Dungeness crab coming into ports. With the high price of crab and the low catch rates, the temptation to retain sub-legal crab is high.

- A commercial fishing vessel was contacted in Newport after an ODFW sampler found some undersized crab in their sample. It was determined the boat had 1.9% undersized crab within their 5,600 pound offload. The illegal crab were released back into the bay. The crew was cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.
- A Sergeant was checking a tote of crab that was just offloaded at a processor in Charleston and noticed a female crab in the tote. A closer look revealed several undersized crab as well. The entire 1,550 offload was measured and it was determined 9.9% of the load was undersized and there were two female crab within the load. The illegal crab were released back into the bay. The crew was cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.
- A Trooper was checking a commercial Dungeness crab offload. Investigation revealed that 25% of the vessel's load was comprised of undersized crab. Additionally, the captain had not purchased the respective 2022 Commercial licenses. The captain of the boat was criminally cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and **No Commercial Boat License**.
- A commercial fishing vessel was contacted in Brookings. A check of the vessel's catch resulted in the discovery of 201 pounds of undersized crab. This accounted for 14% of the vessel's catch. The value of the undersized crab was \$1200. The captain and crew were cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.
- A Trooper responded to a report from ODFW commercial crab samplers of undersized commercial crab that were found in an offload. The Trooper responded and measured the crab and found that undersized crab accounted for 5% of the load. The captain was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Commercial Crab**.
- A Trooper was observing a commercial Dungeness crab offload at the Port of Brookings. Investigation revealed the fishing vessel landed 437 pounds of undersized crab. This accounted for approximately 18.6% of the vessel's landing. The undersized crab was valued at \$2622. Additionally, the captain of the boat had not completed his logbook entries for the previous 11 landings. The captain was cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and **Fail to Maintain Logbook**. The crew were also cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

OR/CA Joint Boat Patrol

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper performed a joint boat patrol with California Fish and Game Wardens. During the patrol an OSP boat was utilized to patrol commercial and recreational crabbers along the Oregon/California border. The following enforcement actions were taken by California Wardens: **Recreational Crabbing Prohibited Area: Marine Reserve x2, Commercial Crabbing Prohibited Area: Marine Reserve x2, No Non-Resident Commercial License, No Commercial License in Possession x2, and No Buoy Tag**.

Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Violation

A Trooper conducted a flight with US Coast Guard (USCG) Newport and located multiple commercial crab pots inside of the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. Additional information on the gear was found and the vessel the gear belonged to was identified. The captain of the vessel was contacted and admitted to setting at least 60 pots inside of the reserve claiming he was mistaken as to where exactly the closure lines were. The captain was cited criminally for **Fishing Closed Area: Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve**. The vessel was instructed to remove the gear and to rail dump all of the crab in those pots.



SHELLFISH & ANGLING

K-9 Buck Joins Jet Boat Patrol

Springfield area Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Buck worked a five hour jet boat patrol of the lower McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. Troopers patrolled the rivers from Armitage Park to the “meat hole” (south of Peoria ramp) in two jet boats. This patrol was organized after doing a similar patrol last January on this section of river and encountering multiple violators and hunters.



Undersized Dungeness Crab - Coos Bay

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on Coos Bay from Charleston to Bunker Hill and back. Conditions were good and several boats were contacted with high compliance for angling and crabbing. During the patrol, one male subject was located crabbing on the end of the docks on Troller Lane in Charleston. That subject was found to have ten Dungeness crab in his possession, eight of which were undersized. The subject was cited for **Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. The undersized crab were released back into Coos Bay.

Couple Caught with Excess Clams

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was working clam diggers when a pickup pulled up and parked next to him. A male and female exited the vehicle and walked down the beach to dig clams with wet and sandy clam guns, clam bags, boots, and shoulder length gloves, but no clams. The Sergeant watched them dig clams for approximately a half hour, during which the male was observed throwing several small clams directly to seagulls. The female dug nine clams and returned to the pickup, where she looked around suspiciously, dumped the clams in a bucket, and returned to the beach to dig more. When contacted both subjects claimed the clamming hadn't been very good and denied having any more in the truck. When confronted with the Sergeant's observations and detailed notes the female admitted that they had more clams in the truck and that they came out with the intent to dig extra clams. They were found to be in possession of 49 clams between the two of them. Each was cited for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and 19 clams were seized and donated to charity.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Fourteen Fish Seized and Donated

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted two subjects as they returned to port in Charleston from fishing for rockfish on the ocean. One subject was unable to produce his 2022 Angling License and stated he thought he had purchased it a few days earlier, but ODFW's Electronic Licensing System (ELS) showed he did not have one. The second subject provided his 2022 Angling License, which showed it was purchased that day. A check of ELS showed that he had purchased it approximately one minute earlier. The subject was initially dishonest and stated he bought it that morning. When advised that ELS showed the exact time of purchase, the subject admitted to buying it while getting the truck and trailer. Both subjects were cited for **No Resident Angling License**. Four lingcod and ten rockfish were seized and donated to charity.

Subject Purchases Angling License After Catch

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles followed up on information regarding a Hood River resident who purchased a 2022 e-license and within one minute of the purchased time and date e-tagged a steelhead on their harvest card. The Trooper made contact with the individual for an interview who admitted he was angling without a license and retained one steelhead. The subject stated he then purchased a license and tag to record the fish. The Trooper cited him for **Taking Steelhead: No Valid Tag**.

Multiple Angling Violations - Alsea River

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject standing at the hatchery deadline on the North Fork of the Alsea River. The subject was casting upstream into the closed area above the deadline, which is prohibited. Upon contact, the subject stated he had a 2022 Oregon Resident Angling License and Harvest Card, but he was unable to show it to the Trooper on his phone. The Trooper was able to check the ELS database and did not locate any entries on the subject's purchase history for 2022. The subject agreed to follow the Trooper to an area with cell service to complete his investigation into the license/tag issue. When they arrived at an area with better cell service, the subject showed the Trooper that he had a 2022 Angling License, Harvest Card and Hatchery Harvest Card. Further investigation revealed that the subject had purchased the license and tags three minutes earlier, while they were both driving to the area with better service. The subject insisted he purchased the license and tags the previous evening. He was cited criminally for **Angling Closed Area, No Resident Angling License, and No Combined Angling Harvest Card**.

Subjects Fail to Properly Valid Harvest Cards

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked Steelhead anglers on the West Fork Millicoma River. One subject was contacted and a check of his tag revealed he had not filled out the "day" portion of his tag for a fish he caught over an hour earlier. The subject stated he did not do so because he was not sure of the date, and that he left his phone in his truck, which was parked about 100 yards away. The subject admitted it was out of laziness that he had not walked the short distance back to his truck to complete his tag. The subject was cited for **Failing to Properly Valid Harvest Card**. A short while later, another subject was contacted who had not tagged his Steelhead. This subject presented a tag that was soaked through with water and he advised he had not tagged his fish because his tag was too wet to write on. Similar to the previous subject, this subject was parked nearby, and admitted to not returning to his truck to dry out his tag because the fish were biting. The subject stated he caught the fish six hours before being contacted. The subject was instructed to dry his tag, which he accomplished after a matter of minutes using his vehicle's defroster. The subject was cited for **Failing to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**.

CASE DISPOSITIONS



Three Sentenced in Linn County Case

During the 2021 Cascade Bull Elk Season, Albany Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to private property near Brownsville where the property owner showed them an elk that had been drug from his property to an adjacent private property. A subject approached from the adjacent property and began talking with the Troopers. During the interview, the subject eventually admitted that his step-father had shot two bull elk and one of them jumped the fence and died on the reporting owner's property. The subject also admitted his step-grandfather arrived later and tagged one of the elk. The step-father was contacted and issued criminal citations for **Exceeding Bag Limit of Game Mammal, Lend Borrow or Sell Big Game Tag**, and **Criminal Trespass II**. The step-grandfather was contacted and issued a criminal citation for **Lend Borrow or Sell Big Game Tag**. The step-son was issued a criminal citation for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The 5-pt bull elk was seized as evidence and the meat was donated to charity. The rifle and borrowed game tag were seized as evidence.

All three subjects were sentenced in Linn County Justice court and received the following:

The subject that shot the two bull elk received:

- \$7965 in fines and restitution
- Three year hunting suspension

The subject's father, who lent his tag, received:

- \$605 in fines
- Three year hunting suspension

The subject's stepson, who aided, received:

- \$440 in fines
- Three year hunting suspension

The rifle, bull elk antlers, and elk tag were forfeited.

WED Shooter Sentenced - Clackamas County

In October of 2021 Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers were conducting a Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) in Clackamas County when a suspect shot the decoy. The defendant was found guilty of one count of **Unlawful Take of Wildlife** in the Clackamas County Circuit Court and received the following:

- Oregon hunting privileges were suspended for three years
- \$500 in restitution to the WED Fund
- 12 month probation
- 48 hours of community service
- Rifle used was forfeited

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.

Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division



We are the Guardians of Oregon's Fish and Wildlife

"Assuring compliance with the laws which protect and enhance the long-term health and equitable utilization of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources."



Interested in becoming an Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Trooper?

For information, please visit our website at:

www.osptrooper.com

Questions? Please call 503-378-4474
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