



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

FEBRUARY 2022



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*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper on patrol in
a remote area of Lake County*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SERVICE



Life Jackets Given to Kids at Sportsman's Show

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the 2022 Douglas County Sportsman's Show at the fairgrounds in which thousands of people attended. Fish and Wildlife Troopers hosted a kiosk that showcased our division, many of our recent adjudicated cases, and our other contributions to the outdoor recreation industry. They also gave out over 120 life jackets to children and handed out OSP items.

Clatsop County Hunter Education Field Day

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper, with the assistance of three other certified instructors, hosted a Clatsop County Hunter Education Field Day for 26 students at the BKS Gun Club in Knappa. All students passed their test after completing the eight hour course and were issued their temporary hunter safety cards. They will be issued permanent cards within 60 days from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Troopers and K-9 Buck Attend OHA Meeting

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Buck attended an Oregon Hunter's Association (OHA) meeting and provided an annual presentation to discuss some of the South Valley Team's bigger cases, and cases where OHA donated equipment was utilized to apprehend poachers.

Troopers Present at Dufur Schools

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles spoke with students in the Dufur School District. Presentations were given to the K-5th graders that included explaining the job of a Fish and Wildlife Trooper. Several animal pelts/hides were also brought and the students enjoyed handling them as well as asking questions about them and the profession.

Troopers Attend Job Fair and Field Training Event

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended a job fair and field training event related to outdoor career opportunities as part of the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby. The fair was held at a stream restoration site along Rock Creek, East of Glide. About 40 high school students from around Douglas County attended. Troopers discussed Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division's role in the outdoor recreation industry. Other agencies at the fair were ODFW, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Pacific Power.

Eugene Boat and Sportsman Show

South-Valley team members and K-9 Buck participated in the Eugene Boat and Sportsman Show. Attendance was estimated to be between 12,000-15,000. The Team contacted hundreds of participants and distributed several boxes of regulations and Oregon State Police items.

Sergeant Presents at OHA Meeting

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant attended a meeting of the local Rogue Valley Chapter of OHA. He gave an update of recent OSP cases to about 20 participants.

Kids Day at Umpqua Fisheries Derby

The Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team attended the Kids Day portion of the Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby at Cooper Creek Lake. About 30 fishing guides and 61 5th grade students attended the event. Troopers conducted about 20 boat safety inspections, assisted in safety talks, jet boat rides, and the distribution of free life jackets to all participating students. Additionally, ODFW conducted their annual release of several thousand trout into the lake and the students had the opportunity to fish with the guides for a portion of the day.

Jackson County Sportsman and Recreation show

The Central Point/Grants Pass Fish and Wildlife team, along with the SW region pilot, participated in the Jackson County Sportsman and Recreation show. The Fish and Wildlife "Trailer of Shame" was used for the display.

Lower Umpqua Flycaster's Expo - Reedsport

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Lower Umpqua Flycaster's Expo in Reedsport. A number of positive contacts were made and information was provided on hunting and fishing regulations.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Deer Rescued from Gate

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call regarding a deer stuck in a wrought iron gate. ODFW employees subdued the deer while the Trooper used a vehicle jack to spread the iron bars apart. The deer was then pulled through the gate and released unharmed.

Trooper Locates Burglary Suspect - Tillamook

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper was shown video footage by a citizen in Netarts who had his house burglarized with numerous items taken. The video clearly showed the male suspect taking items from the residence. The Trooper had seen the suspect in the area on foot and was able to locate him in Tillamook. The suspect was cited and released for **Burglary I**. The Trooper also assisted the victim in locating and recovering items that were hidden by the suspect in the brush line near the residence.

Hawk Rescued from Stairwell

Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to downtown Portland to a call of a hawk trapped in a stairwell. When they arrived they found a hawk that was at the top of a stairwell in a seven story building. There was no door or window at the top of the stairwell to open and let the bird out. The closest window was half a story down and was screwed shut with deck screws. They were able to get the screws out and opened the window and used a broom and large piece of cardboard to coax the hawk out the open window.

Subject Unlawfully Cuts Wood Inside TMA

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper had been monitoring a section of the Tumalo Travel Management Area (TMA) after observing ongoing wood cutting in the area. The Trooper was in the area when a cell camera captured an involved vehicle within the closure. The vehicle was later located and stopped for several violations. The driver had cut a large load of wood within the closure and was cited for **Driving while Suspended (DWS): Violation, Violation of the TMA, and Cut/Transport of Special Forest Products**.

Arrow Dislodged, Deer Expected to Survive

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted ODFW with an injured deer outside Sandy. The doe had been seen walking around on private property with an arrow lodged between its shoulder blade and rib cage. The Trooper, ODFW biologists, and an ODFW veterinarian searched several properties and located the deer. The deer was tranquilized and the arrow was removed. The deer walked away and is expected to survive.

Subject Cited for Boating Violations

While checking crabbers on Netarts Bay, a Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a boater whose boat had no registration numbers displayed. The boat operator/owner told the Trooper they didn't think the boat needed to be registered. The subject was cited for not registering their boat, and warned for not having a whistle or throwable flotation device on board. The Trooper provided the subject an Oregon State Marine Board handbook for reference.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Diseased Bull Elk Found in Marion County

Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers were advised by a landowner in northwest Marion County of a bull elk with suspected Treponema Associated Elk Hoof Disease (TAHD). The five point bull elk was in poor condition and unable to move. The elk had a systemic infection with severely deformed hooves and was dispatched for humane reasons. The head/antlers and a severely deformed hoof was collected and delivered to ODFW's Wildlife Health and Population Laboratory in Corvallis for analysis.

More info on TAHD can be found at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/health_program/docs/elkhoofdiseasefactsheetfinal.pdf.



Deceased Cougar Recovered from Elk River

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper and an ODFW biologist were given information about a deceased cougar that was floating in the Elk River. The Trooper and biologist located and examined the water logged cougar and found no bullet holes or apparent trauma. An examination was performed on the cougar's front tooth which measured 12mm, this gave an approximate age of twelve years. This would be considered an old animal.

Subject Intentionally Ran Over Deer

Bend Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated a report of a deer that had been intentionally run over by a vehicle. The suspect had posted the incident to social media and the video had been saved and reported to OSP. The subject was cited/released for **Animal Abuse I** and **Unlawful Take Antlerless Deer**.

Failure to Immediately Validate Tag

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was on a foot patrol checking the South Fork of the Necanicum River, a river that has had recent illegal fishing activity. While surveying the area, the Trooper saw two subjects packing out a cow elk. This was a late season hunt with only 10 tags. The Trooper found that the subject who harvested the elk had not validated his elk tag and that the elk had been dead for almost eight hours. The subject was cited for **Failure to Immediately Validate Tag**.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Trooper Assists ODFW with Elk Collaring

Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted an ODFW biologist in collaring a bull elk in the Keno Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). The bull was successfully collared and released safely. This collar will help in a local elk study to track the herd dynamics in the Keno WMU.

Accidental Take of Spike Elk - Surf Pines

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject in Surf Pines who wanted to self-report an accidental spike elk was shot during a damage control antlerless elk hunt on leased property. The subject stated he organized a group of five people at the property and had two subjects take two shots at first, resulting in two cow elk being dropped. He then directed two more subjects to shoot and each fired one round, resulting in a third and fourth antlerless elk being dropped. The man then directed the fifth subject to fire and he then fired one round and dropped the fifth antlerless elk.

When the group drove out in the field to retrieve the five elk they realized a spike elk had also at some point been shot and was mortally wounded. Only five shots were fired and it was apparent one of the subject's rounds must have passed through a cow and struck the spike, although no one knew who's round it was. A warning was issued to the leader of the party for **Taking Spike Elk Closed Season**. The spike elk was salvaged and the meat donated to the Tillamook County Jail.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

Crab Pots Located in Marine Reserve

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a report of crab pots in the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. A flight with the US Coast Guard (USCG) confirmed over 50 crab pots within the boundary lines of the Marine Reserve. Based on the buoy markings the responsible vessel was located and contacted. The Captain was forthcoming and admitted to placing 60 crab pots inside the Marine Reserve. He stated that he was aware of the Marine Reserve but had incorrect coordinates. The boat landed crab from the Marine Reserve on two landings prior to being made aware that the gear was illegally located. The Captain was issued a criminal citation for **Commercial Fishing Closed Area: Marine Reserve**.

Undersized Commercial Crab Violations Continue

The retention of undersized Dungeness crab by the Oregon commercial fleet continues to be an issue. A Trooper was checking a commercial Dungeness crab offload at the Port of Brookings. Inspection of their catch revealed they had retained 76 lbs of undersized crab. This accounted for 6.6% of their landing. One crew member admitted to being “sloppy” in his measuring and took responsibility for the undersized crab. The subject was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Undersized Crab**.

Undersized Crab - Winchester Bay

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked recreational crabbers and anglers in Winchester Bay. He contacted one subject that retained seven undersized Dungeness crab. The crab were released to the bay and the subject was issued a citation for **Taking Undersized Dungeness Crab**.



Captain Cited for Tampering with Another Vessel

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper was provided information that the Captain of a commercial boat had intentionally cut the lines of another fisherman's crab pot that was set near his gear. At the conclusion of the investigation the Captain of the vessel was issued criminal citations for **Tampering with a Pot Tag/Buoy** and **Criminal Mischief II**.

Columbia River Boat Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River from Astoria to Clatskanie. Three boats were contacted angling for spring salmon and sturgeon. Two citations were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon (and Sturgeon)**, one citation was issued for **No Harvest Card**, and one citation was issued for **No Certificate of Boat Number**.

Quillback Rockfish Retained

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol out of Newport for sport and commercial groundfish enforcement. Multiple boats were checked. One subject was found in possession of a Quillback rockfish which is prohibited to retain. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Marine Fish**. The fish was seized and donated to charity.

Upper Nehalem River Float Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a float patrol on the upper Nehalem River. Multiple wild steelhead anglers were contacted and multiple non-motorized boating inspections were conducted. One citation was issued for **No Non Resident Angling License**.

Razor Clam Patrol - Seaside Beach

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a plain clothes foot patrol observing recreational and commercial razor clam harvesters on Seaside Beach during a low tide. Three citations were issued for **Exceed the Daily Limit of Razor Clams**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



John Day River Closure Float Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a float patrol on the John Day River from Service Creek to Twickenham. Several reports were received of anglers violating the temporary closure on the John Day River but no anglers were located during the float.

Known Subject Found Angling While Suspended

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was patrolling the Siuslaw River for steelhead anglers when he saw a subject known to him for having suspended angling privileges. The subject was not actively angling and left the area. The Sergeant talked with an off-duty Deputy from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and learned the subject had plans to fish "The Horseshoe" on Lake Creek. The subject was located and observed through a spotting scope angling for steelhead with three different fishing rods at different times. The subject was contacted and issued a criminal citation in lieu of custody for **Angling While Suspended**. Three fishing rods/reels were seized as evidence.

Boat Patrol - Tenmile Lake

Coos bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on Tenmile Lake. A rental boat was contacted with a male and female on board. The male was observed angling and he admitted to not having a valid license. The subject stated he would go buy his license right away, and asked for a warning. After further questioning, the subject admitted that he was warned for the same violation last year. A records check of the male showed that he was the respondent on a protection order, and it was determined that the protected party was the female on the boat with him. The pair was escorted back to the marina where the female returned to her vehicle and left. The male was criminally cited and released for **Violation of a Restraining Order**, and was issued a violation citation for **No Resident Angling License**.

Netarts Bay Night Patrol

On consecutive evenings, Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted evening shore patrols on Netarts Bay and Tillamook Bay on the ebb tides. In the cover of darkness the Troopers were able to observe four shellfish violations. Citations written included **No Non-Resident Shellfish License**, **No Resident Shellfish License**, and **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. Warnings included **Take/Possession of Oysters** and **Exceeding Bag Limit of Marine Invertebrates**. Six Dungeness crab, twenty-eight snails, and three oysters were seized and released back into the bays.

Portland Area Fish Dealers Warned

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked with an ODFW port biologist out of Port Orford regarding several wholesale fish dealers in the Portland area who weren't completing their fish tickets correctly. The biologist found that several Portland fish dealers were omitting fish, mainly dead fish, from their fish tickets while buying fish in Port Orford. The biologist e-mailed the list of concerns to the fish dealers and the Trooper also hand delivered copies of the letter to the businesses to ensure that they understood the issues. The fish dealers stated that they would make the proper corrections and the Trooper issued warnings to the fish dealers.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING

Black Rockfish Seized - Cape Kiwanda Beach

Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a shore patrol on Cape Kiwanda beach. Multiple boats were inspected and fishermen were checked for angling licenses and daily bag limits of rockfish after landing on the beach. Two kayakers were checked and it was found the anglers were not aware of the five fish daily bag limit for Rockfish and thought the daily limit currently was seven each. The subjects were both cited for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Marine Fish**. Four black rockfish were seized and donated to the Tillamook County Correctional Facility.

Subjects Over Limit of Snails and Shore Crab

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted two subjects while they were gathering shore crab and snails in Tillamook Bay. One subject was carrying a clear plastic bag with over 40 snails and a couple of shore crab. The Trooper explained to the subject the limit for snails and shore crab is 10. The subject was cited for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Snails/Shore Crabs**. The Trooper contacted the second subject gathering snails. The subject could not provide a shellfish license and admitted they did not buy a shellfish license this year. That subject was cited for **No Resident Shellfish License**.

Crab Violations - Florence and Winchester Bay

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers checked crabbers in Florence and Winchester Bay. Approximately 50 crabbers were contacted and violation citations were issued to three subjects for **Unlawful Take Undersized Dungeness Crab**. The undersized Dungeness crab were released.

Clatsop County Razor Clam Patrols

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers worked a low razor clam tide. Early in the patrol a subject was observed sorting his clams after digging for a few minutes. The subject grabbed a large handful of clams and walked out into the surf where he dropped them after looking around to make sure he was not being observed. The subject then continued to dig larger clams and add them to his bag. He was contacted and cited for **Failure to Retain the First 15 Clams as Required**. Later on the patrol a suspended known violator was observed digging a limit of clams. He was contacted when he returned to his vehicle and told the Troopers that he knew about but didn't care about the suspension. He was cited criminally for **Digging Clams while Suspended** and 15 clams were seized and donated to charity.

Mid-Coast Shellfish Saturation Patrol

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in a shellfish saturation patrol to ensure compliance of sex and size restrictions related to Dungeness crab during a Free Fishing Weekend. The patrol started at approximately 10:00 AM and continued until approximately 11:00 PM and encompassed coastal ports in Lincoln, Lane, and Douglas Counties. Over 200 anglers were contacted with multiple warnings issued. Additionally, several citations were issued for **Unlawful Take of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and **Unlawful Take of Female Dungeness Crab**. The seized crab were all successfully released.

Landowner Angling with Bait - Sevenmile Creek

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to an angling complaint from ODFW staff. The complaint concerned a landowner angling on Sevenmile Creek while using bait. The witness advised that they had also retained a Redband trout. Three subjects were contacted angling from a public roadway near the landowner's property. The landowner admitted using bait, the other two individuals were using lures. The landowner took responsibility for the violations and was cited. They had one Redband in their possession, which was released without harm. While conducting additional area patrols, the Trooper located two juveniles preparing to fish the Williamson River near Chiloquin. They were advised of the regulations (clearly posted behind them). Their caretaker was contacted and responded to the scene to pick them up.

Nehalem Bay Ocean Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol focusing on rockfish anglers, and recreational crabbers on Nehalem Bay. Numerous crabbers, rockfish anglers, and commercial nearshore rockfish fisherman were contacted, and multiple warnings were given. Four citations were issued for **Unlawful Taking Undersized Dungeness Crab**, and one citation was issued for **Possession of Mutilated Marine Fish**. One boat was contacted in the ocean with one person on board that said he had not caught any fish, but had caught one crab. A consent search revealed that he had three more crab (one of which was undersized), and four rockfish fillets that he said that he had caught the day before. The subject was cited for **Possession of Mutilated Marine Fish** and warned for **Unlawful Taking Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

CASE DISPOSITIONS



Subject Guilty in Silvies Unit Elk Case

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper received the final court judgment regarding a male subject that was caught elk hunting in the Silvies Unit during the 2021 First Bull Elk Season without a valid tag. The Trooper contacted the subject in hunting clothes as he was coming out of the woods back to his vehicle. The subject eventually admitted that he hid his rifle in the woods so he would not get caught with it. The Trooper did not seize the suspect's rifle because it had belonged to his grandfather. The subject pleaded no contest and was found guilty of **Hunting No Big Game Tag** by the Circuit Court Judge. The subject received:

- Three year hunting license suspension
- \$2000 fine/restitution for the value of the firearm

Two Subjects Plead Guilty in Bear Bait Case

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted an investigation involving a reported bear bait case from September to November of 2021. Investigation resulted in two adult hunters from Vale being charged with **Unlawful Hunting Bear with Use of Bait** and **Offensive Littering**. Both pleaded guilty to **Hunting Bear with Use of Bait** and each received the following sentence:

- Five year hunting license suspensions
- 20 Hours Community Service
- \$1400 fines/compensation including \$1,000 to TIP Fund

Subject Receives Lifetime Hunting Suspension

In November of 2021 Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers were conducting a Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) outside Estacada when a subject shot the decoy. The subject was charged with multiple wildlife crimes and later found guilty in the Clackamas County Circuit Court. The subject received:

- Lifetime hunting suspension
- Loss of all preference points accrued
- Three days in jail
- 60 months probation
- \$500 in restitution to the WED fund

The subject has also had a lifetime angling suspension since 2015.

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?

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