



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

MAY 2023



CONTENT

Community Outreach	<u>3-4</u>
Voluntary Vessel Safety Inspections	<u>5</u>
General Law & Rescues	<u>6-7</u>
Administration & Enforcement of Wildlife Laws	<u>8</u>
Marine Fisheries Team	<u>9-10</u>
Shellfish and Angling	<u>11-13</u>
Case Dispositions.....	<u>14</u>
Turn in Poachers.....	<u>15</u>
F&W Recruitment.....	<u>16</u>



On the cover:

*A Fish and Wildlife Trooper's truck on
Huckleberry Road, off Highway 62 in
northern Jackson County*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



OSU Fish and Wildlife Law Class

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant taught a five week long Fish and Wildlife Law class at Oregon State University. The course introduced the students to the history and basics of fish and wildlife law and Oregon's rules and regulations. After that the students did a full case study which involved a staged crime scene where the students had to take and process evidence, interview witnesses and suspects and write a police report. Then the students participated in a mock trial assisted by two Deputy District Attorneys from Benton County. A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted with the crime scene and evidence portion of the course. K-9 Buck and his handler also did a presentation during the class to demonstrate how Fish and Wildlife Conservation K-9s assist with investigations.



Oakridge Outdoor School

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Buck brought the "Trailer of Shame" to the Oakridge Outdoor School. The Troopers presented information to several groups of 6th grade students about OSP's Fish and Wildlife Division and the work Troopers do around the state.

OSP Donates Elk to Grant Union School District

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant met with a John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and relayed approximately 400 pounds of elk burger (salvaged from wildlife cases) to be donated to the Grant Union School District in John Day. The Grant Union nutritionist was very thankful to OSP for the donation!

Troopers Attend OHA Meeting - Roseburg

The Roseburg Area Command Fish and Wildlife Team attended a meeting with the local chapter of the Oregon Hunter's Association (OHA). After the recent adjudication, a several years long serial elk poaching case was briefed to the members by the case officers. Additionally, the SW Region Pilot gave a presentation about the OSP Aviation Unit, and a Douglas County Deputy District Attorney also spoke to the OHA members.

Rogue Valley Emergency Resources Fair

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Patrol Trooper attended the 7th annual Rogue Valley Emergency Resources Fair at the Rogue Valley Mall. OSP was one of many emergency service agencies who attended the event. Throughout the day approximately 300 members from the community attended the event and got to take pictures sitting inside an OSP patrol car and a fish and wildlife truck.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Sam's Valley Elementary School Carnival

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Sam's Valley Elementary School Carnival alongside Deputies from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and Firefighters from Jackson County Fire District 3. The Troopers' table seemed to be a big hit as the elk antlers and bearskin rug they brought drew in several crowds throughout the evening. Approximately 500 people throughout the Sam's Valley Community attended the event.

Troopers Talk Safety at Adel Elementary School

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper presented a Boat Safety and ATV Safety talk to the Adel Elementary School. The students learned about rules and regulations as well as a lab on buoyancy and practiced throwing rescue line.

Trooper Presents at Hunters Education Field Day

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper gave a presentation to the Sandy area hunters education group during their field day at the Estacada Rod and Gun Club. The presentation was about 45 minutes and the students and parents had multiple questions. The Trooper stayed after the presentation to watch the students and field additional questions from the parents.

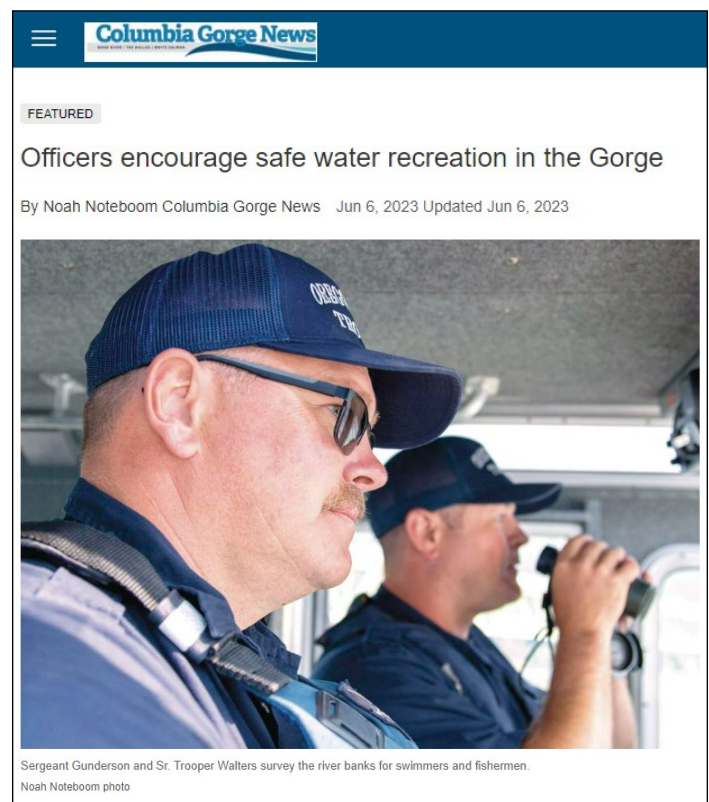
Alsea High School Presentation

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers visited Alsea High School and gave a presentation to 9th-12th graders in an elective class that focuses on outdoor activities. About 20 kids took part in the presentation that started in the classroom and finished outside with the Oregon State Police "Trailer of Shame" that displays seized wildlife and information from previous cases.



Summer Lake Outdoor School

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper participated in an outdoor school at the Summer Lake Wildlife Area. Over 80 students attended. Students were taught how to identify wildlife by tracks, furs/hides and bones.



Troopers Interviewed by Columbia Gorge News

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper from The Dalles coordinated with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger to take a newspaper reporter from Columbia Gorge News on a short boat patrol on the Columbia River near Hood River to highlight a story on boating safety heading into the Memorial Day weekend. After two recent drownings in the Columbia River in Hood River County, the campaign was very timely. The article can be read here: bit.ly/CGNswr2023

VOLUNTARY VESSEL SAFETY INSPECTIONS



In preparation for the boating season, OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted voluntary vessel inspections across the state. These inspections provided boat operators/owners the opportunity to ensure compliance before launching their vessels. Troopers and Marine Deputies answered questions and distributed handouts and other items from agency partners like Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB):



Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a courtesy boat inspection event on May 20th at the US 26 weigh scale in John Day. A total of seven boaters came to the event and received courtesy inspections and had boating related questions answered. The boaters were appreciative and several requested follow up inspections of their boats at a later time.

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper worked with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office offering OSMB boat inspections at two locations in Hermiston and Pendleton.

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted voluntary vessel safety inspections at The Dalles Marina in Wasco County. In total 12 boats were checked; 10 passed and two were failed for expired registration or no boater's education card. Also, from the public announcements made about the event a HIN inspection was conducted. Lots of questions were answered by the Troopers from people who did not want an inspection but had questions about required equipment.



A Fish and Wildlife Trooper coordinated a voluntary vessel safety inspection check station with the Hood River County Marine Deputy at the Hood River Marina. Fifteen boat checks were performed, and lots of people stopped by to see what was going on.

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper took part in a multi-agency preseason Boater Safety Saturation. He was stationed at the Cathedral Park boat ramp on the Willamette River. The Trooper conducted safety checks on eight boats. Six of the boats passed and were issued 2023 Law Enforcement Exam stickers.

Madras Fish and Wildlife Troopers, along with Jefferson County Deputies, conducted a marine board boat inspection day at Three Rivers on Lake Billy Chinook. In all, 48 boat inspections were conducted on various types of watercraft, with 33 watercraft passing the inspection and receiving a 2023 Law Enforcement Exam sticker.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Baby Beaver Rescued - John Day

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was notified of a baby beaver that was picked up by a citizen in John Day and subsequently turned over to ODFW. It appeared that the flooding level of the John Day River had likely washed the beaver away from its home site. ODFW and OSP worked together to find placement as the beaver was too young to have a probability of survival on its own. The High Desert Museum in Central Oregon agreed to take care and possession of the baby beaver. The beaver was successfully transported to staff at the High Desert Museum for evaluation and care. The Sergeant got an update that "Miss Bucky" is eating better and doing well.



Injured Eagle Taken to Animal Hospital

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacted by a rancher in the Mist area of Columbia County regarding an injured bald eagle he had found in a field while checking on his cattle. When the Trooper arrived on scene, he discovered one of the eagle's wings was badly broken, therefore it could not fly. With help from the rancher and his son, the eagle was captured and transported to Dove Lewis in Portland for examination.

Klamath River Search and Rescue

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was called out to conduct a search and rescue operation on the Klamath River. Three individuals were stranded on the river when their boat broke down. They tried for several hours to paddle upstream in the dark before calling 911. At approximately 3:00 AM, the subjects were located. Dense ground fog on the river made visibility very limited and a lack of boat lighting complicated the rescue. The subjects and their dog were secured on the law enforcement vessel and transported to their vehicle at Miller Island boat launch. They were very cold and tired, but not injured. Conditions were too hazardous to attempt to tow the boat, so it was left on location and was recovered by the owner in the daylight.

Swainson's Hawk Rescued

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a complaint of an injured Swainson's hawk. The hawk was transported to a rehab facility in Pendleton. The hawk was found to have shotgun pellets in it, but is expected to survive.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Trooper Removes Fallen Tree

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Pelican Guard Station located off Highway 140 West and West Side Road. A tree had fallen across the guard station's exit road, trapping multiple people inside of the day use area. The Trooper used his department issued chain saw to remove all obstructions, freeing the trapped individuals.

Paddle Boarders Rescued - Columbia River

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper from The Dalles were advised of two paddle boarders that were in distress in the Columbia River due to high winds and approaching evening darkness. The Sergeant was able call one of the subjects and advise them to stay at a safe location on an island they had taken refuge on. The Sergeant and Trooper located the subjects via cell phone light in the darkness. The subjects were retrieved from the island and instructed how to properly wear a life jacket for the ride back to the ramp. Both subjects were safely returned to their vehicle and were very thankful.

Memorial Day SIWA Patrol

On Memorial Day afternoon, St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrolled the Sauvie Island beaches focusing on unlawful possession of alcohol. There is an alcohol ban on the beaches and wildlife area that runs from May 1st-September 30th. Within a couple hours, 25 citations were written for possession/consumption of alcohol.

Injured Hawk taken to Animal Hospital

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of an injured hawk in a backyard in NE Portland. The Trooper responded and found that the hawk could not fly due to an injured wing. The Trooper captured the bird and transported it to the Dove Lewis Veterinary Emergency Hospital for evaluation.

Illegal Dumping/Littering - The Dalles

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of illegal dumping/littering on a county road near The Dalles. Photos of garbage and yard debris as well as possible suspect info was provided by the reporting party. The Trooper was able to locate the subject and interview him. The subject was cited and released for **Offensive Littering**.



Bald Eagle Chick Taken to Cascade Raptor Center

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Myrtle Point area on a report that a landowner had located a bald eagle chick, which had been blown out of its nest. The chick appeared uninjured and was released to Cascade Raptor Center personnel.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Timber Theft - Daniel's Creek Ridge

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper responded to a timber theft in progress on Daniel's Creek Ridge. Two subjects were located at the scene actively cutting and removing sections from an approximately 150' tall Douglas Fir tree they had just cut down on Coos County Forest property. Earlier investigation showed that one of the suspects stole approximately \$8,000 worth of standing timber. One of the subjects was cited and released at the scene for an outstanding warrant. Both subjects were cited for **Theft** and **Unlawful Cutting Special Forest Products**. Both subject's chainsaws were seized as evidence.



North Lake Dunes ATV Patrol

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the North Lake Dunes via Department UTV. It was a joint patrol effort with Lake County Sheriff's Office and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The dunes were not as busy as in past years, and no major incidents were reported.

Memorial Day Patrol - Ochoco National Forest

Troopers patrolled the Ochoco National Forest as part of the Memorial Day Motor Vehicle Use Operation Plan. Troopers from Prineville, Bend, Madras, and John Day were in the area from Thursday to Monday. The focus of the operation was to enforce ATV safety and prevent natural resource damage. In total, Troopers made 190 contacts over the five days. Multiple warnings and citations were written for violating ATV regulations and laws. Those included:

- **No ATV Decal/Permit** (26)
- **Loaded Firearm on ATV**
- **ATV Operation on Highway** (14)
- **Passenger Safety Violations** (15 for seatbelts/helmets)
- **Operate ATV Closed Area/Posted Restrictions** (26)
- **Allow Dangerous Operation of ATV/juvenile**

November Antlerless Elk Case Wrapped Up

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper concluded an investigation into the poaching of an antlerless elk from November. In substance, a male subject was contacted in the field as he brought out an elk that had been killed. The subject claimed his wife had shot the elk the previous day. Conflicting information was provided by the subject through the contact. The meat was seized as there was no written record of transfer present. Subsequent investigation led to search warrants for the suspects phone data being served to the phone carrier. The multiple forms of data were analyzed and confirmed the suspect had shot an antlerless elk and had his wife tag it. The suspects were both criminally cited. The husband was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk**, **No Big Game Tag**, and **Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The wife was criminally cited for **Lending a Big Game Tag** and **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. Several other charges were referred to the district attorney for consideration.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Groundfish Boat Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant and Sergeant conducted an ocean patrol out of Newport. They contacted numerous recreational and commercial groundfish anglers, including the in compliance anglers in above photo. One boat was contacted and was found to be in possession of a cabazon that they thought was a lingcod. The season for cabazon was closed at the time. The fish was seized and the subject who caught it was cited for **Possession of Marine Fish Closed Season**. A commercial boat was contacted fishing for lingcod. One of the fisherman did not possess his individual commercial fishing license and was cited for **No Individual Commercial Fishing License**.

Joint OSP/ODFW Commercial Crab Patrol

Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Troopers, assisted by ODFW Commercial Crab staff, conducted a Guardian patrol out of Newport to focus on compliance in the late commercial crab season. Numerous strings of gear were located. The team located five strings of gear from five different boats that did not have the required summer tags affixed to the buoys. The captains of the vessels will be contacted and cited for **No Buoy Tags: Late Season**.

Ocean Boat Patrol - Gold Beach

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper performed a boat patrol in the ocean near Gold Beach. The patrol focused on recreational marine fish and commercial Dungeness Crab. During one contact, a subject was found to be in possession of a halibut. The subject had not purchased a combined angling tag for 2023. Another subject also had retained a halibut but failed to tag the fish until he saw the Trooper coming. Citations were issued for **No Combined Angling Tag** and **Fail to Immediately Validate Combined Angling Harvest Tag**. One halibut was seized.

MFT Focuses on Whale Entanglements

The Marine Fisheries Team continued enforcement efforts focusing on the ODFW whale entanglement regulations for both the commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fisheries.

- A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper performed an ocean boat patrol in Curry County. Commercial dungeness crab gear was discovered that did not have late season buoy tags. The skipper was issued a citation for **No Buoy Tag**. One of the pots was seized.
- A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant discovered three different sets of recreational pots fishing in Yaquina Bay without the required identification information on the buoys. While seizing the third set, the subjects returned to pull their pots. They were unaware of the law requiring all sport gear to be marked. They were warned and the gear was returned to them.

Commercial Crab Seized After Deadline

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted the captain of a commercial crab vessel that did not have the appropriate tags to participate in the summer commercial crab fishery. The captain had pulled all of his crab pots and kept the crab that were in them on April 30th (the last day of the crab season), and then attempted to land the crab on May 1st. The captain admitted that he should have dumped the crab, and was cited for **Land Commercial Dungeness Crab After Deadline Without Secondary Buoy Tags**. The crab landing was seized.

Subjects Take Halibut Without License/Tags

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Sergeant conducted a Guardian Patrol from Newport to Astoria. Multiple groundfish and halibut anglers were contacted. One boat was contacted with two halibut and neither were tagged. One of the subjects had not purchased their 2023 angling license or tag. The halibut was seized.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

Subject Exceeds Limit of Bay Clams

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a plain clothes surveillance patrol in Garibaldi during a low tide. A subject was observed returning from the clam digging area with a bucket half full and placed it in his back seat before grabbing another grocery bag and returning to the clam digging area. The subject returned with numerous clams and was contacted. The subject was in possession of 108 bay clams and was criminally cited for **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bay Clams**.

Subjects Cited for Failure to Submit Logbooks

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant contacted bait sand shrimp harvesters in Alsea Bay who had repeatedly submitted incorrect and late logbooks. Upon contact, unsubmitted log entries over two months old were found in their logbooks. Two of the harvesters were cited for **Failure to Submit Logbooks**. One of the harvesters had an outstanding warrant for a probation violation and was arrested and lodged at the jail.

Commercial Clamming in Closed Season

Astoria and Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a complaint of two subjects commercially raking cockle clams in Garibaldi on a weekend (closed season). After taking a large amount of clams, the subjects were told by another person that commercial clamming was closed on weekends in Tillamook Bay. The subjects then discarded the clams in the bay. The Troopers contacted the subjects as they returned to the dock. Both subjects were cited for **Taking Commercial Clams Closed Season**.

Subjects Cited for 101 Razor Clams Over Limit

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a plain clothes surveillance patrol near Seaside during a negative tide. A subject was observed digging clams for another person, and placing clams back into holes that were dug. The subject was contacted and found to have extra clams inside of a bait container along his waist. The subject was cited for **Exceeding the Daily Limit** and warned for **Failing to Retain First 15 Clams Dug**. One razor clam was seized. On the same surveillance patrol near Seaside a group was observed continuing to dig clams after reaching their daily limit. The group was contacted and found to have 101 razor clams over their daily limit. Four subjects were cited for **Exceeding the Daily limit of Razor Clams** and one was cited for **Aid in a Wildlife Offense**. The extra 101 razor clams were seized.

Gnat Creek Angler Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted plain clothes surveillance of spring salmon anglers on Gnat Creek. The Trooper observed a group of five subjects snag and hide multiple salmon in the brush. The Trooper observed the subjects retain salmon that were foul hooked, and then take a fish hook and put in the salmon's mouth after landing them. The Trooper contacted the subjects, and subsequent citations and warnings were issued for **Taking Snagged Salmon, Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, and False Application for a Resident Angling License**. Multiple salmon were seized.

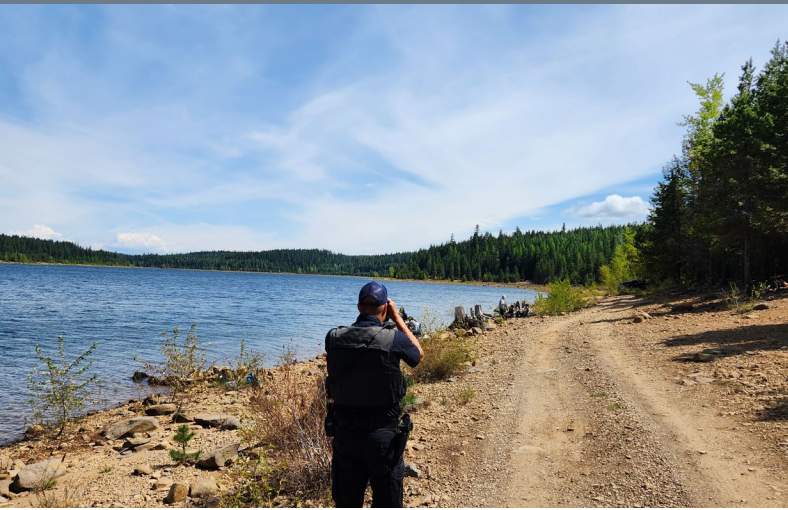
More Angling Violations at Gnat Creek

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper were dispatched to Gnat Creek after reports of subjects snagging at Gnat Creek Hatchery. A group was observed angling for some time before being contacted. One subject was contacted with no license or tag in possession after taking two hatchery Chinook. The subject was found to have a valid license and tags. The subject was cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**, and warned for **Continue to Angle after Retaining Daily Limit, and No Valid License/Tag in Possession**.



Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducting surveillance on Gnat Creek

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Mt. Hood National Forest/Clear Lake Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted a full day patrol on Clear Lake in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The lake was very busy. In total Troopers contacted 78 anglers, performed 11 boat checks, checked two motorcycles confirming they were street legal, and checked two woodcutters. Six warnings and three citations were issued. Anglers were happy to see the Troopers, and some complained about people taking over limits of trout. As the Troopers were leaving the area for the day, they discovered a campfire that had been left smoldering with occasional flames showing. Troopers retrieved a shovel and smothered the fire so it would not escape the rock fire ring to the nearby forest.

Unity Reservoir Angler Checks

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting angler checks at Unity Reservoir when he observed two subjects seated on the ground actively angling from the bank of the reservoir. After contacting other anglers, the Trooper went to contact the two subjects that had been seated on the ground earlier. One of the subjects was now standing near a vehicle in the parking lot and no fishing pole was in sight. Subsequent investigation revealed that the subject cut his line, disassembled the rod and reel and walked away from it. The subject admitted to fishing without a license and was cited for **No Non-Resident Angling License**.

Unity Lake Boat Patrol

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted a pack-raft boat patrol at Unity Lake. Seven boats and multiple anglers were contacted. One raft with two adult female occupants and their dog had just left the dock. Upon contact it was determined that they had no personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board. They were warned for **No PFDs** and sent back to the dock to obtain them.

Snake River Boat Patrol

Baker City and Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a joint boat patrol of the Brownlee impoundments of the Snake River. Multiple boat inspections were performed and 19 anglers in total were contacted. Six of the 19 anglers were found to be in non-compliance and issued citations for **No Two-Rod Validation** and **Fail to Attend Rod/Line While Angling**.

Memorial Day Weekend Saturation Patrols

The Southeast Fish and Wildlife Team saturated the impoundments of the Snake River over Memorial Day Weekend, Friday through Monday. Idaho Conservation Officers joined them in the saturation. During the saturation the Southeast Fish and Wildlife Team issued a total of 46 citations for the following:

- **No Non-Resident Angling License**
- **No Resident Angling License**
- **No Two Pole Validation**
- **Fail to Attend Rod/Line While Angling**
- **Aiding Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**
- **Unlawful Take/Possession of Game Fish**
- **Undersized Bass**
- **Inadequate Number of PFDs**
- **Minor in Possession (MIP): Alcohol**
- **MIP: Marijuana**
- **Possession of Controlled Substances (PCS): LSD**
- **PCS: Psilocybin Mushrooms**
- **Warrant for Theft**

Subject Cited for Taking Wild Chinook

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from an ODFW fish checker that a subject had retained a wild Chinook salmon from the Willamette River near Oregon City. Upon contact the subject told the Trooper that he hooked and landed the fish and told his friend to check the fish. The friend told him it was good and placed it in the fish box. The subject said he was shocked when he pulled it from the box for the fish checker and it was a wild fish. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Possession: Wild Chinook Salmon**, the fish was seized and donated to charity.



SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Trooper Assists Cole Rivers Hatchery Staff

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery staff with their collection of Spring Chinook. More than 1,000 salmon were collected, sorted, and marked. Numerous fish were found to have hooks embedded in them. Others had their fins and bodies torn up due to snaggers along the Rogue River.



Lookout Point Reservoir Boat Patrol

Springfield and Florence Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol at Lookout Point Reservoir. A bass fishing derby was underway and hosted approximately 10 boats in the competition. Approximately 47 contacts were made, and nine warnings were issued. Multiple boat safety inspections were completed with many safety concerns addressed. A vessel also became stranded with no way to get back to the boat ramp. Troopers towed the vessel to safety after an hour-long tow against an aggressive head wind. The thankful boater was a competitor in the derby and made it to the ramp in time to submit his fish.

Subjects Cited for Retaining Sturgeon

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper was observing anglers on the Gilbert River (Sauvie Island Wildlife Area). The Trooper watched as a man reeled in a sturgeon and then another man netted it and brought it up onto the bank. The hook was removed from its mouth, but it was never placed back into the water. Another man picked up a blue nylon camp chair bag and was standing around the sturgeon and was acting like he was going to put the fish inside of it, but after a few minutes appeared to lay the bag on top of the sturgeon. The Trooper made contact with the group, and when questioned about the sturgeon, the man who was holding the camp chair bag stated he placed it in a garbage bag. When asked why the sturgeon had been placed into a black plastic garbage bag, the man stated he was going to throw it away. The man who caught the sturgeon and did not release it, along with the man who placed it in the garbage bag were both criminally cited for **Take/Possession of White Sturgeon**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Subject Keeps 19 Extra Razor Clams

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a clam patrol on Clatsop County beaches and observed a subject with a large bag of clams returning to his truck. The subject placed a portion of the clams into a small cooler and placed the cooler in the backseat of his pickup, then placed the remaining clams into a milk jug in the bed of his truck. Upon contact, the subject stated he got “14 or 15” clams. The subject dumped the clams out of the milk jug and counted out 10 clams. The subject stated he must have “dropped a few” when he was rinsing the clams. The subject denied having any other clams in the vehicle and a consent search was performed. The Trooper was able to locate the small cooler in the backseat of the truck on the floorboard underneath some blankets/clothing. The subject admitted he had more clams in the cooler. In total, the subject had 34 clams and stated he doesn’t go out clamming very often and wanted to make it worth his while. The subject was ultimately issued a criminal citation for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit: Razor Clams** and 19 razor clams were seized and donated to the local food bank.

Seaside Clam Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted several groups of people recreationally clam digging in Seaside. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Exceeding The Daily Bag Limit: Razor Clams** and **Failure to Possess Individual Container**. One subject dug 45 clams for himself, his wife, and his son (who failed to make the trip to the coast and was still at home). The man stated he had his son’s license with him, so he thought he could dig his limit for him.

Multnomah Channel Boat Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Captain, Sergeant, and Trooper conducted a boat patrol on the Willamette River and Multnomah Channel. Despite the pouring rain, 40 contacts were made and three boat inspections were conducted. Four warnings were issued for **No Combined Harvest Card and Unlawful Possession of Chinook Salmon, No Resident License/Tag, Fail to Immediately Validate, and Fail to Closely Attend Rod**. One Marine Board warning was issued for **No Registration Numbers Displayed**.

Subjects Dump Crab as Trooper Nears

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking shoreline anglers on Netart’s Bay when he attempted to check a couple crabbing along the bay with traps. When the two subjects turned around and saw the Trooper they immediately dumped all of their crab into the bay from a bucket and a bag. The Trooper walked down the rocky bank and asked the subjects why they had dumped all of their crab when they saw him. The male subject stated in substance, “You cant check them now.” The Trooper could see at least two big female dungeness crab and one smaller crab retreating away towards deeper water. The Trooper asked the male subject if he had planned on taking those home until he had shown up. The subject stated that they probably would have. The two subjects were surprised when the Trooper issued two citations for **Failure to Allow Inspection of Catch**.

Angling Violations - Gnat Creek

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was advised of a complaint of illegal salmon fishing at Gnat Creek, near the hatchery. The Trooper contacted the complainant and was able to get enough information, along with surveillance, to cite three individuals for **Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Chinook Salmon, No Harvest Card, No Angling License**, and two for **Attempt to Take Prohibited Method**. All three were warned for **No Columbia River Endorsement**. One Chinook salmon was seized and donated to the food bank.

While at Gnat Creek, the Trooper watched a subject snag, kill, and retain a large Chinook salmon. Originally the subject said he caught the fish in the mouth, then later acquiesced to the violation, implying it was too big to let go. The salmon was seized and the subject was criminally cited for **Taking a Foul Hooked Salmon**. The Trooper also cited another subject at Gnat Creek for two untagged Chinook salmon.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Two Plead No Contest in Elk Case

During the 2022 rifle elk season, a St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a phone call from an acquaintance stating he believed people he knew had just shot a bull elk outside of Vernonia in the Saddle Mountain Unit and did not have the proper tag. The Trooper contacted another Trooper who happened to be in the area and gave him the info. That Trooper went to the residence where the elk was reported to have been taken and found a spike elk in a barn. A female subject stated she had shot the elk in the Scappoose Unit, which is on the other side of the road where the elk was taken and where she had a tag. The side of the road where the barn is was in the Saddle Mountain Unit and is a 3-point or better unit. After investigation was complete, the subject, her boyfriend and his dad admitted the spike elk was shot in the Saddle Mountain Unit on a relative's property. The subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take of Spike Elk** and **Hunting Outside Unit Boundary**. The subject's boyfriend and his dad were both charged with **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation**. The subject and her boyfriend recently pleaded no contest to the charges and were sentenced to the following:

Subject:

- 3-year hunting suspension
- \$5,000 fine

Boyfriend:

- 3-year hunting suspension
- \$300 fine

Guilty Plea in Hunting While Trespassing Case

In November 2022, a McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of a subject who shot a spike elk on private property the day prior. The elk was killed on the afternoon of the final day of the season. The field the elk was killed in was an unfenced grass seed field that was not posted, but was clearly "cultivated." The allegation stated the subject did not even know whose property it was, which was later confirmed. Ultimately the landowner wished to press charges for **Hunting While Trespassing**, and the elk and rifle used were seized as evidence. The subject pleaded guilty on May 30, 2023 and was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- Loss of 2 preference points
- 18 months probation
- Forfeiture of rifle
- \$5,500 in fines

Subject Found Guilty in Jury Trial

In 2019, a St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper cited a subject for **Waste of a Game Mammal** and **Hunting From a Public Road** after he shot a small buck in a yard. The woman who enjoyed feeding the deer and witnessed it was very disgruntled. The case was tried in front of a jury and the subject was found guilty of **Hunting From a Public Road** but acquitted of the **Waste** charge, presumably because after he shot the buck he had asked for the woman's permission to retrieve it, but was denied.

In 2020, the Trooper cited the same man for a TMA violation because he was caught on a trail camera in his truck, in a walk in TMA area during the 2020 firestorm. The District Attorney also charged him with **Trespassing with a Firearm** and violating his pre-trial release. He was tried in front of a jury the next day and found guilty of **Trespassing II**. He was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting suspension
- \$500 to the TIP fund
- \$1,000 to ODFW
- \$335 in attorney fees



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
or email osptrooper@osp.oregon.gov

Follow us on Twitter: @OSP_Fish