



# OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



**MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**





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*On the cover:*

*Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrol  
the Buoy 10 fishery on the Columbia River*



# BUOY 10 FISHERY



Oregon's lower Columbia River Buoy 10 recreational salmon fishery draws thousands of anglers from all over the Pacific Northwest, and even the nation. Opportunities abound for both Chinook and Coho salmon, but the fall Chinook run provides the most highly sought after fish for most early season anglers.

Like many of Oregon's recreational salmon fisheries, the fall Buoy 10 fishery is managed in season by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The 2025 salmon runs proved to be excellent and opportunity for retention of Chinook salmon was expanded mid-season to allow for continued harvest.

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers from the Astoria office regularly patrol the lower Columbia River during the late summer and early fall ensuring that the

recreational salmon fleet follows the rules to help preserve this important fishery for future generations. Among the most common offenses are using barbed hooks for salmon, fail to immediately validate the combined angling harvest card, and unlawful retention of wild Coho salmon. While the majority of anglers follow the rules, it's not uncommon to find wild Coho hidden away in boat compartments or filleted on the water to prevent identification of the fish.

Additionally, participation in the Buoy 10 fishery from the river beach at Fort Stevens State Park has increased dramatically in the last five years and most days over a hundred anglers can be seen standing in the shallows casting spinners in hopes of catching salmon. Many fish are caught off the beach, providing a good opportunity for anglers without a boat to enjoy the fishery.



# BUOY 10 FISHERY



## Astoria Troopers Patrol Buoy 10 Fishery

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks at Hammond Marina as boats returned to the dock from angling in the Columbia River during the popular Buoy 10 season. Angler effort was extremely high as the parking lot was overloaded with boat trailers. In one instance, a boat with a father and two juveniles onboard returned to the dock with three Chinook salmon. Upon conducting a check of angling tags, one of the juveniles had tagged two of the Chinook, one over the legal daily bag limit. The father stated he thought they were allowed to keep two salmon each regardless of the species. The father also admitted they were angling with three rods even though the other juvenile did not possess an angling license or tag. The father was issued a citation for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense** and the additional Chinook was seized. Additional citations during this patrol included **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon, Take/Possession of Undersized Chinook Salmon and No/Expired Certificate of Number**. In total, three salmon were seized and donated to the local food bank.

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the popular Buoy 10 fishery. In total, 30 boats with 42 anglers were contacted. Nine citations were written for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks** and six warnings were given for the same. One subject was warned for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card** as his MyODFW app wouldn't open, and one subject was warned for **No Resident Angling License in Possession** after he claimed he had dropped his phone in the river the previous day.

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the lower Columbia River near Buoy 10 during a busy weekend. In total, 12 boats with 38 anglers were contacted. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon/Steelhead, No Resident Angling License, No Combined Angling Harvest Card, and No Columbia River Basin Endorsement**.

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers used the Zodiac to patrol Columbia River Buoy 10 salmon anglers from Buoy 10 to Tongue Point during a busy day on the water. They contacted 36 boats with 89 anglers and issued nine citations for angling offenses that included **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, Angling Salmon in Closed Area (Young's Bay Control Zone), and Failure to Immediately Validate Angling Harvest Card**. Many warnings were also issued for the same offenses as well as for **No Angling License/Harvest Card in Possession and Taking Undersized Chinook Salmon** after an angler was found to have taken a 23 ½" Chinook (Minimum length is 24"). The salmon was seized and later donated to charity. In addition, there were also approximately 15 boats with multiple anglers on board that were observed angling in the Young's Bay Control Zone during the later stages of the flood tide. Those boats/anglers were verbally warned and directed to reel up their lines and get back over to the north side of the green buoy deadline.

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers used the Zodiac to patrol the Pacific Ocean and Columbia River Buoy 10 salmon anglers during the busy Labor Day weekend. They contacted 23 boats with 71 anglers, and issued 20 citations and 31 warnings for offenses that included **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, Angling Salmon in Closed Area (Young's Bay Control Zone and Columbia River Control Zone), Angling Prohibited Method: Treble Hooks, and Failure to Immediately Validate Angling Harvest Card**. On one contact a subject stated later in the interview that he kept a wild Coho because it died while being reeled in. The subject presented the fish to the Troopers which was dressed and gutted. The subject was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon**. The illegal fish was seized and later donated to charity. In addition, there were approximately 15 boats with multiple anglers on board that were observed angling in the Columbia River Control Zone. Those boats/anglers were verbally warned and directed to reel up their lines and move over back inside the legal zone east of Buoy 10.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## **Trooper Presents to Kindergarten Class**

An Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a “Community Helpers” presentation to the Enterprise Elementary School Kindergarten class. The children were given a brief description of what it’s like to be a Trooper within the Fish and Wildlife Division and they were able to see decoy antlers, as well as various tools used during Fish and Wildlife patrols.

## **Troopers Assist with Hunter Safety Field Day**

Klamath Falls and Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted several OHA volunteers with presenting two hunter safety field day courses at Miller Island Wildlife Area.

## **Sergeant Attends Oregon Judicial Conference**

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant from The Dalles presented at the Oregon Judicial Conference in Beaverton. Topics included importance of consistency in 3-year, 5-year, and lifetime hunting/angling license suspensions, properly filing the revocation orders to ODFW, having suspensions begin on dates of conviction, fine and restitution amounts, and how and why Fish and Wildlife Troopers do what they do. Judges were encouraged to reach out to OSP Fish and Wildlife supervisors for any questions or explanations.

## **Trooper Attends Coffee with a Cop Event**

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended a public relations “Coffee with a Cop” event hosted by Umatilla Police Department at Maple Moose Coffee Co. in Umatilla. The Trooper was able to answer hunting regulation/tag questions. The next event is scheduled just after rifle deer season and the Umatilla Police Chief offered to have the Trooper return for their next event.

## **Troopers Attend Hunters Ed Field Day**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles assisted with a hunters education field day at the Hood River Sportsman Gun Club. All 26 students that attended successfully completed the class. Students and parents were thankful for the time and effort provided by the Troopers.

## **E.E. Wilson Youth Pheasant Hunt**

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the youth pheasant hunt at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area. There were approximately 120 youth that participated and most of them harvested at least one bird. There was a hunters education class held in conjunction with the youth hunt and the Trooper gave a brief talk to the class about what OSP does and what to expect when being contacted by a Trooper in the field.

## **Pig Bowl Fundraiser - The Dalles**

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper from The Dalles participated in the annual Pig Bowl fundraiser. This charitable event brings together members of the community in support of someone who is struggling with a devastating medical condition. The Trooper had the honor of driving the individual and their family into the event and the Sergeant was a referee for the game.

## **Youth Pheasant Hunt - Prairie City**

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted with an ODFW youth pheasant hunt in Prairie City. The Trooper provided a safety briefing for the youth hunters before they proceeded with the hunt. The Trooper then assisted at the clay pigeon trailer where the young hunters could further hone their shooting skills.

## **Youth Pheasant Clinic - Wamic**

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles stopped by and spent some time with ODFW staff, parents, and youth at the ODFW-sponsored Youth Pheasant Clinic near Wamic. Attendance for the event was down but those that participated had many opportunities to harvest a bird or two.



# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## **Trooper Assists with Tractor Fire**

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Jefferson County Fire and EMS with an area evacuation of people near a tractor fire. A subject conducting a field burn utilizing a tractor pulling a large propane fueled burner caught fire. The tank eventually burned out and did not explode.

## **Trooper Relocates Injured Pelican**

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call of an injured pelican standing near the fog line in the area of milepost 151 on Highway 101. With the assistance of ODOT Incident Response, the pelican was captured and relocated to a quieter area to hopefully heal on its own.

## **DUI Driver Arrested - Lane County**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from the Springfield Area Command conducted a WED (Wildlife Enforcement Decoy) operation in eastern Lane County. During the operation, a subject was observed driving out of the wooded area. Troopers were standing near the edge of the roadway fixing the decoy when the subject was observed driving on the left half of the roadway, Troopers shined flashlights at the vehicle to ensure the subject saw them, but the subject narrowly passed by Troopers. The subject then drove off the roadway into a ditch for approximately 100 feet before scarcely avoiding a tree and bringing the vehicle back to the roadway. Troopers stopped the individual, who exhibited signs of impairment and was subsequently arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI)**. The subject was transported to the jail and provided a breath sample with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .15%. The subject was cited and released.



## **Mule Deer Fawn Pulled from Irrigation Canal**

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of a young mule deer fawn stuck in a concrete walled irrigation canal near Klamath Falls. The Trooper notified ODFW, but they were more than an hour out. The Trooper made a lasso out of throw rope and lassoed the deer around the neck. The deer was quickly pulled out of the canal and released unharmed.





# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Buck Deer Cut Free from Hammock

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the east side of Bend for a very exhausted buck that had been caught in a hammock for an unknown amount of time. The reporting party thought the buck was suffering and needed dispatched. After arriving on scene and evaluating the buck's condition, a majority of the hammock material was cut off the antlers. The buck bedded down and was left to recover. The homeowner was contacted the following day and the buck was gone. The reporting party later advised the buck had been up, moving around feeding, and seemed fine aside from the small amount of hammock material left in his antlers.



## Subject Charged After Vehicle Recovered

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant from The Dalles coordinated the recovery of a vehicle that had unlawfully been driven up the Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area Access Road. The operator had swung too wide to avoid a tree, sliding down an embankment and getting stuck. Ultimately, the owner of the vehicle, who was Misdemeanor Driving While Suspended (DWS), admitted to being in the area to look for petrified wood in Harris Canyon, 12 miles upriver like his grandfather had successfully done in the 1970s. The suspect had left his wallet behind in the vehicle, and a receipt was found that was corroborated with surveillance footage of the suspect. It was later learned that the suspect showed up to collect the vehicle from the tow company with his ex-wife (who has a restraining order out against him) and drove off in the vehicle. Charges of **DWS: Misdemeanor x2, Trespass II, Unlawful Entry into the Wildlife Area, Violating Restraining Order, and Initiating a False Report**. The ex-wife was cited for **Allowing the Unlawful Operation of a Motor Vehicle**.



## UTV Patrol - Crooked River National Grasslands

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a UTV patrol in the Crooked River National Grasslands. The operator of a dirt bike was stopped for not wearing a helmet. His riding partner on an ATV was also stopped. The ATV was found to have an expired ATV decal. During a routine LEDS/NCIC check, the dirt bike operator was found to have a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest for DUII. The operator was taken into custody and later transferred into the custody of Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputies. At the jail, staff located a user amount of cocaine on the male.



# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Subject Shoots Decoy - Grizzly Unit

Bend and Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a nighttime wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) in the Grizzly Unit. Well after legal hunting hours a truck entered the set, stopped and turned on bright lights. The driver quickly exited with a bow and shot from the paved roadway, hitting the buck decoy. The impact knocked it over. The driver, who was in the company of wife and child, was contacted. The suspect driver advised he had a tag and was compliant. He could not access his E-tag and licensing profile. A warning was issued for the E-license tag and he was advised on how to properly access his license and tags in the future. The suspect was criminally cited for **Hunting by Aid of Artificial Light, to wit: Buck Deer** and warned for **Hunting from Public Roadway**. The bow used was seized as evidence.

## Subject Cited for Littering

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was observing a subject at the Herman Creek Lagoon, whom he had previously received complaints from ODFW as a suspicious person. The subject was observed smoking a cigarette for several minutes while checking out salmon in the creek. The subject was then observed flicking his cigarette butt towards Herman Creek, just along the bank before driving off. A traffic stop was conducted, and the subject admitted to littering near the water. He agreed to return to the area where he threw his cigarette and to pick up his trash. He was unable to locate the cigarette butt and opted to clean up other trash to compensate for his actions. He was issued a violation citation for **Deposit Trash within 100 Yards of Waters**.



## Unlawfully Taken Elk Donated

Central Oregon Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to the 11 Road west of Sisters after receiving a shooting complaint and located father and son Metolius archery elk tag holders with two cow elk down. Investigation revealed the son shot both elk with a rifle and attempted to stick an arrow in one to cover up the crime. The elk and hunting equipment were seized. Citations were issued for **Unlawful Take of Antlerless Elk x2, Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag x2, and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The elk were transported to the Butcher Block in Prineville where Troopers assisted in processing the elk in preparation for them to be donated through local churches.

## Subject Self-Reports Unlawful Take of Turkey

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject who self-reported harvesting a turkey out of season. The subject believed the season had begun and while deer hunting, observed several turkeys. He harvested a hen and validated his tag. When speaking with his father about the turkey, the subject discovered the season had not yet begun and he contacted OSP to report himself. The breasted-out meat was seized, and the subject was warned for **Unlawful Take of Game Bird: Closed Season**. The meat will be donated to the High Desert Museum.



# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers were notified of a single high powered rifle shot heard near the Arch Cape Water District that the reporting party believed to be suspicious. Upon arrival in the area, Troopers were able to utilize a spotting scope to locate a male subject skinning out a bear across the clearcut. The subject was observed to be well within the boundaries of the Arch Cape Water District which is specifically open to elk and deer hunting only, while hunting for any other species is not allowed. One of the Troopers maintained watch over the subject while the other Troopers made their way through a maze of blackberry and huckleberry bushes to contact the subject. Upon contacting the subject, he was honest and admitted to killing the bear within the Water District boundary despite knowing it was not allowed. The bear hide and meat were seized and the subject was cited and released for **Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass**.

## Matching Arrow Proves Suspect Shot Elk

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper responded to a complaint on Weston Mountain in the Walla Walla Unit that an archery hunter had shot at a bull, was not able to locate it for two days and when found, did not tag it. They located the bull, removed the antlers, and recovered a partial arrow from the carcass. While researching the suspect they learned he had drawn the Walla Walla Unit big bull archery tag but had purchased a general season archery elk tag. When interviewed, the subject, knowing he did not have the appropriate tag in hand, initially denied elk hunting and stated he had shot at a deer and accidentally hit an elk. Eventually the subject admitted to shooting at the elk and stated he did not tag and claim the elk that was found because he didn't believe it was his, stating he thought he had shot at a bigger bull. The recovered arrow was matched with his broken arrow and fletching (which they had found when trying to recover the elk) and confirmed it was the elk he had shot at. The subject was cited for **Taking Elk Without Valid Tag**.

## Band-Tailed Pigeons Shot from Pickup

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted an individual at their home in Medford after receiving information that two subjects had been observed shooting game birds from the bed of a pickup truck in the area of Buck Prairie Rd. Upon further investigation, a Trooper determined that the subject and his unlicensed cousin had been shooting band-tailed pigeons. In addition to the subject's cousin not having a valid hunting license, neither subject had a Harvest Information Program (HIP) Validation or a band-tailed pigeon permit, and one of the subjects had exceeded his daily bag limit. The subject was criminally cited, and his firearm was seized as evidence while his juvenile cousin was warned and provided with the necessary information to get signed up for a hunter's safety course.

## Subject Harvests Elk Outside Unit Boundary

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Coquille area, after receiving a report from ODFW that a subject who was issued an elk damage tag had purchased the General Antlerless Elk Damage Tag, which is not valid in the Tioga Unit, and had harvested a cow elk. The elk was seized and donated. The subject was warned for **Hunting Prohibited Area: Outside of Unit Boundaries**.



# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Elk Killed with Rifle in Bow Season

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Springfield Weyerhaeuser permit area on the last day of the archery elk season. The Trooper located a vehicle moving after hours and contacted the driver. During the contact, the driver told the Trooper he was on his way to help his brother who had killed a bull elk just before dark. The Trooper followed the vehicle to where the subject was waiting with the 6x5 bull elk. During the investigation, K-9 Buck and his handler arrived to assist. While examining the bull elk, the Trooper located a bullet hole and bone fragments. The Trooper confronted the subject who admitted to shooting the bull elk with a rifle. The subject said he had made a bad shot with his bow and then grabbed his friend's rifle. The subject stalked within 120 yards and shot the bull elk with a 270 rifle. The bull elk was seized, and the subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take of Bull Elk**. The elk was processed at the Springfield Patrol Office and donated to local families. K-9 Buck was deployed in the area for further evidence. Nothing was located, corroborating the suspect's statement of not ejecting the round after he shot the elk.



## Pilot Cited for Harassing Wildlife

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper concluded a month's long investigation into numerous complaints of low flying aircraft over several major landowner's properties in Crook and Jefferson counties. Complaints began in May of 2025, but landowners were unable to get a tail number, and the plane was not using a transponder. Eventually a tail number was identified on a different plane flying the same route with the same behaviors. Investigation determined the same pilot owns and was flying both planes. During the investigation OSP received four complaints from hunters of the aircraft blowing out elk herds they were actively hunting. The Trooper also investigated a rancher's complaint that the pilot had made his cattle stampede through his fence multiple times costing him thousands of dollars and potentially more than one hundred hours of labor. The Trooper also identified three Redmond Airport employees and two ranch owners who wanted to be victims of **ORS 837.080 Prohibited Operation of Aircraft (Reckless Endangering with a Plane)**. The Trooper and an OSP Pilot interviewed the suspect pilot and ultimately cited the pilot into Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties for six counts of **Harassing Wildlife** and five counts of **Prohibited Operation of Aircraft**. An FAA investigator was consulted on the case as well.



# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



*PV Guardian*

## Multi-Day Ocean Guardian Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from Newport/Florence joined Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) members on a multi-day ocean Guardian patrol focusing on the non-select Coho fishery. While the ocean conditions were favorable, catch rates were low. Troopers contacted anglers out of Newport, Florence (Siuslaw River) and Winchester Bay (Umpqua River). Citations were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks and Treble Hooks**, and **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**.

## Commercial Crabbing Violations - Port Orford

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed up with a Port Orford commercial skipper who had been bringing in his crab gear after the close of the Dungeness crab season. The skipper was issued a citation for **Commercial Crabbing Closed Season**. He was additionally warned for **Failure to Maintain and Submit Dungeness Crab and Nearshore Rockfish Logbooks** and **Leaving Gear Set for More Than 14 Days Without Making a Crab Landing**.

## Fisherman Violates 14-day Crab Landing Rule

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial fisherman who had violated the 14-day landing rule during the commercial Dungeness crab fishing season. Commercial fisherman pursuing Dungeness crab in the Pacific Ocean are required to make a landing of crab every 14 days. The commercial fisherman was cited for the offense.

## Undersized Commercial Chinook Salmon

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from ODFW regarding an undersized commercial Chinook that was delivered to a wholesale fish dealer in Charleston. The fish did not have spots on the tail and had a very slender body similar to a Coho. The skipper, deckhand and two dock workers thought it was a Coho based on these features and did not verify by looking at the mouth or for crosshatching on the tail. The skipper was warned for the offense and the fish was seized and donated to charity.

## Skipper Cited for No Crew Member License

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial tuna boat as it returned to port in Charleston. In checking licenses only one crew member license was located for the vessel/crew. The skipper stated the owner thought he had purchased all the licenses and told the crew that they had all they needed. The skipper and crew thought that the owner had purchased a tuna landing license but had purchased a boat license, salmon permit, and crew member license. The skipper took responsibility for the two crew members not having licenses and was issued a citation for **Aiding in a Commercial Fishing Offense: No License**.

## Undersized Chinook Donated to Charity

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed up with two subjects who brought in undersized Chinook from the ocean that ODFW had seized. One of the subjects thought the fish was a wild Coho and the other individual thought he could keep jack Chinook in the ocean (he almost exclusively fishes the rivers). The subjects were instructed on the correct regulations and warned for the offenses. The fish was donated to charity.

## Angling Closed Season - Klaskanine River

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers were returning from a TMA Forest Patrol at dusk when they observed a subject walking away from the North Fork Klaskanine River with a fishing pole in one hand and a Chinook salmon in the other. The subject was cited for **Angling Closed Season** and warned for **Take/Possession of Chinook Salmon**. The Chinook was seized.



# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Siletz River Boat Patrol

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a boat patrol on the Siletz River for the fall salmon fishery. Multiple warnings were issued relating to anglers who were unable to open their ODFW electronic licensing app. Anglers with these issues were instructed to stop fishing until they could get an internet connection that would allow them to log into the app and be ready to tag a fish. Other warnings were issued for various boating offenses including sound producing devices and AIS permits. The Troopers received comments from many anglers saying they were happy to see enforcement on the water and thanked OSP for what they do. Troopers wanted to recognize their appreciation for the support from the anglers!

## Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a pair of subjects recreationally crabbing from the docks at Bullard's Beach State Park. A check of their catch revealed they had retained three undersized Dungeness crab and two legal sized Dungeness crab. One subject took responsibility for measuring the crab. He was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and the three crab were released back into the bay.

## Angler Checks - Salmon River

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks during multiple days on the Salmon River in North Lincoln County. During the patrols, multiple citations were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Number of Hooks**. Many anglers were observed using treble hooks which are prohibited on the Salmon River above Knight Park Boat Launch, beginning on September 1st.

## Subjects Warned for Female Crab

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted recreational crabbers at a popular crabbing location on 12th Ave in Seaside. On one contact two subjects had one legal sized Dungeness crab. Further inspection revealed the crab was female. The Trooper educated the subjects about the regulations and how to tell the difference between male/female. The Dungeness crab was returned to the water, and they were given a warning.

## Angler and Crab Checks - Siletz River

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler and crab checks on the Siletz River from the mouth of the river to Ojalla bridge. Many anglers were contacted during the patrol. Citations and warnings were issued for **No Resident Angling License, No Combined Angling Tag, and Take/Possession Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

## Coquille River Boat Patrol

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a boat patrol on the Coquille River to address the newly opened fishery. The river had just opened to the take of wild and hatchery Coho and hatchery Chinook. This is the first time in four years that the river has been open to the take of Chinook due to the low return numbers. Two wild Chinook were seized during the boat patrol and donated to the Coquille Indian Tribe. Citations were issued for **Aiding in an Angling Offense: Take Wild Chinook**, and **Take of Wild Chinook**. The following day the Sergeant and Trooper conducted another boat patrol on the Coquille River. A boat was contacted that was trolling with three lines in the water and two anglers. One subject took responsibility for the action and a citation was issued for **Angling with More Than One Line/Rod**.

## Columbia River Boat Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a Zodiac boat patrol on the Columbia River from Warrenton to Clatskanie for the fall tangle net commercial fishery. One warning was given for **Fail to Properly Operate Recovery Box** and one citation was issued for **Take/Possession of Non-adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon**. Several commercial and recreational fishermen were contacted during the boat patrol. One wild jack Coho was seized and donated to Loaves and Fishes in Astoria.



# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Unlawful Take of Female and Undersized Crab

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper contacted a large group of crabbers at the Alsea Bay Port Dock in Waldport, late on a Saturday night. Initially, the group was evasive and uncooperative in answering questions and providing identification or licenses. The initial group of four who were contacted began signaling to another group on a lower dock. Subjects on the lower dock began throwing crab from a cooler back into Alsea Bay. The subjects were advised to stop all activity. They initially said they were keeping large male crab only. A large garbage bag containing approximately 40 undersized and female Dungeness crab was located on the upper dock. On the lower dock, a cooler containing approximately another 35 crab was also located. During this time, members of the group were observed moving between the docks and various vehicles in the parking lot. After a consent search of three vehicles, four additional coolers containing approximately 243 female and undersized Dungeness crab were located. In total, over 300 illegal crab were seized and returned to the bay. Five subjects found to be in possession of the illegal crab were issued citations for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Female and Undersized Dungeness Crab**.



## Three Salmon Seized - Siuslaw River

While off-duty, an Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper watched a YouTube video depicting two adults and two kids angling for salmon on the Siuslaw River. In the video, one of the adults clearly lands three Chinook salmon. The subjects were identified, and an ELS check showed each person tagged a Chinook within a 10 minute period. Troopers interviewed the two adults and they admitted that one of them actually landed all four of the Chinook Salmon and then each person recorded one fish on their harvest card. The main suspect was issued citations for **Take Chinook Salmon, Lend/Borrow Harvest Card, and Exceeding Annual Catch Limit of Fish**. The other male subject was issued citations for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense and Lend/Borrow Harvest Card**. Three Salmon were seized as evidence.

## Wild Coho Taken with Barbed Hook

While observing anglers on the Columbia River Beach in Fort Stevens, an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper witnessed a man through his binoculars land and retain a salmon. After seeing him knock the salmon he drove toward the man and made contact. The subsequent check revealed the man had taken a wild Coho. He also used a spinner with a barbed hook. The man stated he didn't have any idea about what a barbless hook was and failed to check if there was an adipose fin. His brother, who was angling beside him and helped land the fish (and had previously limited out on Coho himself while using barbless hooks) apparently didn't inform his brother of the angling regulations. The offending brother was cited for **Taking Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon** and warned for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**. Immediately after this contact, the Trooper witnessed a salmon being landed down the beach by another angler. After contact, that subject was found to be using a barbed hook and was cited.



# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Take of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the report of a subject angling for salmon along the Columbia River Beach who had caught and retained a Chinook salmon which is currently closed for harvest. Upon arriving, the reporting party stated the subject in question had left but pointed the Trooper in the direction of another subject who he deemed suspicious. The Trooper contacted the individual who was actively casting a spinner. Through the investigation, the subject was found to be using barbed hooks, and to have already retained two Coho salmon, one of which had an adipose fin. The subject believed the fish was legal due to it being a 'mis-clip'. Ultimately the subject was cited for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon/Steelhead** and **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon**, and warned for **Continuing to Angle After Retaining Daily Limit**. The non-adipose fin-clipped Coho salmon was seized and donated to the local food bank.



## Snaggers Caught - Bonnie Lure State Park

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled Eagle Creek area at Bonnie Lure State Park after dark. Using night vision to hike into a popular snagging location, the Trooper observed two groups of anglers leaving on the trail towards him while carrying two Coho salmon. Upon contact, through a significant language barrier, the two groups of anglers stated they had caught the salmon earlier in the evening. Two subjects within the group had each retained a salmon and neither had a required combined angling tag. A third subject was discovered to have used a net to scoop a hatchery trout from the river. One salmon had a visible open gash on the belly indicating it was foul hooked. One subject was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Coho Salmon** and **No Combined Angling Tag**. The second subject was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Foul Hooked Coho Salmon**, **Take/Possession of Coho Salmon**, and **No Combined Angling Tag**. The third subject was issued a citation for **Angling Prohibited Method: Netting**. Two adult Coho salmon, a trout, and a large palm size single point hook were seized as evidence. The fish were donated to the Union Gospel Mission in Salem.





# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Three Cited for Angling Violations

A SW Region Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant, Sergeant, and Trooper responded to the Rogue River, at the confluence with the Applegate River for reported snagging. Three subjects were contacted, and an investigation was performed. Two subjects were cited for **No Angling License** and one subject was cited for **Fail to Immediately Tag Salmon**. The salmon was seized and donated.

## Angling Closed Area/Stream - Eagle Creek

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles located an angler in the closed area of Eagle Creek. The subject stated he wasn't aware it was closed. He also stated he didn't check the regulations before fishing. It was determined the subject was warned for angling in closed area at the same location approximately two months prior. The subject was cited for **Angling Closed Area/Stream**.

## Subjects Cited for Taking Crappie without License

Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers observed a male subject and a female subject angling on the bank of Pole Creek Reservoir. Upon contact with the subject, the male subject came walking back to the truck with a stringer of 18 crappie. The investigation revealed that neither of them had an angling license. Both subjects were issued citations for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Game Fish**. The crappie were released back into the reservoir.

## Non-Resident Cited for Angling Violations

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject angling for salmon on Pony Slough in North Bend. The subject was observed angling with two rods, one set up for salmon, the other an ultralight rod to catch bait fish. The subject provided a resident angling license and tag, and it was determined he was not actually a resident of Oregon. The subject was warned for **Angling with More Than One Rod/Line** and was cited for **Possession of Falsely Applied for License or Tag**.



*While patrolling the ocean recreational wild Coho season off of Manzanita, Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted anglers from the Seattle area who posed for a photo with their legally caught salmon.*

## Recreational Wild Coho Fishery Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol of the South of Falcon recreational wild Coho fishery, and in Nehalem Bay. Numerous boats and salmon anglers were contacted. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon, Angling Prohibited Method: Treble Hooks for Salmon, No Harvest Card, No Angling License, and Fail to Allow Inspection of Catch**.

## Coos River Boat Patrols

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the upper Coos River and South Fork Coos River. Angler pressure was high and catch rates were decent. One subject was warned for **No Paper License/Tag in Possession**. Another subject was warned for **Inadequate Number of PFDs** and his voyage was terminated. Near the head-of-tide on the South Fork Coos River, a boat was contacted with three subjects on board, two of which were in violation. One of the subjects had retained one wild Chinook and one hatchery Chinook, neither of which were tagged; he was cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**. Another subject also retained a wild Chinook, and he had not tagged it; he was also cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**.



# CASE DISPOSITIONS

## Sturgeon Poacher Found Guilty

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a tip of an oversized sturgeon being poached. The complainant provided a video from Snapchat showing the suspect lifting a 6-foot plus sturgeon up off the ground by pushing his fist through the gills and out the mouth. The sturgeon's gills were bleeding heavily before the suspect threw the fish back in the water. The suspect was identified after the video was published in a press release. The suspect was charged with **Unlawful Take of Oversized Sturgeon** (felony), **Animal Abuse I** (misdemeanor), and **Unlawful Removal of Oversized Sturgeon from the Water** (misdemeanor). The suspect went to trial and was found guilty on all three charges after he refused multiple plea offers. The suspect was sentenced to formal felony probation and a \$5,000 fine. The Trooper was assisted by an ODFW Sturgeon Project Manager who testified as an expert witness.

## F&W Suspect Sentenced in DUI Crash

Several Coos Bay Patrol Division Troopers, a Patrol Lieutenant, and a Fish and Wildlife Sergeant attended the sentencing hearing for a drunk driver who killed a coach and a player of the Umpqua Community College softball team, and seriously injured several other team members. The suspect was well known to local Fish and Wildlife Division Troopers. He pleaded guilty to felony elk poaching charges on 4/17/25, then crashed into the Umpqua Community College school bus on 4/18/25 near Myrtle Point on Highway 42. Two courtrooms were filled up for the sentencing hearing, with several parents and team members giving very emotional statements. The suspect was sentenced to 20.5 years in prison for **Manslaughter**, **Assault**, and **DUI** charges. A lifetime felony driving license suspension was also imposed.







Oregon's fish and wildlife  
populations depend on us.



# Turn in poachers.

## Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Cash Rewards

\$2,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat & Moose  
\$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope  
\$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf  
\$400 Game Fish & Shellfish\*  
\$400 Snagging/Attempt to Snag\*  
\$300 Habitat Destruction  
\$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags  
\$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)  
\$200 Game Birds or Furbearers  
\$200 Spotlighting

\*Rewards for Game, Fish & Shellfish and Snagging/Attempting to Snag are sponsored, in part, by Northwest Steelheaders Association and Coastal Conservation Association.

## Oregon Wildlife Coalition (OWC) Cash Rewards

### Birds

\$500 Hawk, Falcon, Eagle, Owl, Osprey  
All other protected avian species: see category below for listed species

### Mammals

\$500 Cougar, Bobcat, Beaver, Black bears, Bighorn Sheep, Marten, Fisher, Sierra Nevada Red Fox  
\$10,000 for Wolves east of Highway 395  
\$11,500 for Wolves east of Highway 395 and north of Highway 20

\$1,000 Species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under state or federal Endangered Species Act (excludes fish)  
(e.g. wolverine, kit fox, red tree vole, Canada lynx, sea otter, Columbian white-tailed deer, California brown pelican, western snowy plover, California least tern, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, short-tailed albatross, streaked horned lark, yellow billed cuckoo, leatherback sea turtle, olive ridley sea turtle, Oregon spotted frog, green sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle)

## ODFW Preference Points Rewards

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

## Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association Cash Rewards

\$200 Acting as an Outfitter Guide for the Illegal Killing of Wildlife, Illegally Obtaining Oregon Hunting or Angling Licenses or Tags, or Illegally Offering to Act as an Outfitter Guide as defined in ORS 704.010 and 704.020.



**Any tip helps and can be anonymous!**  
**Dial \*OSP (\*677) on mobile devices**  
**or call 1-800-452-7888 to report poaching.**  
Visit [ProtectOregonsWildlife.com](http://ProtectOregonsWildlife.com) to learn more.





# 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:  
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