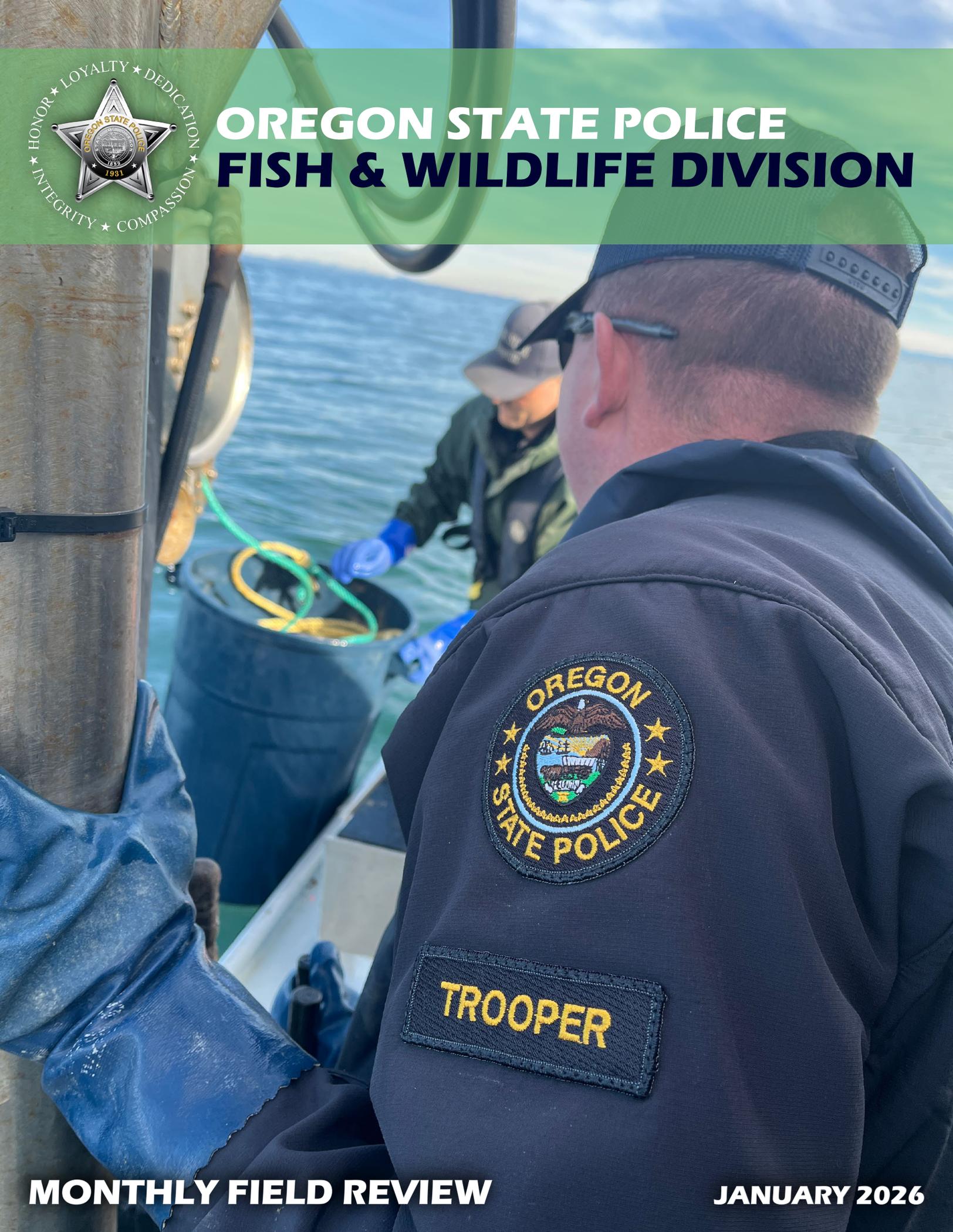




OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION





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*On the cover:
Marine Fisheries Team Troopers inspect
commercial crab gear*

OREGON'S COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY



The Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) focuses on enforcement of Oregon's commercial fisheries. This year was no different with enforcement of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery which started mid-December. With a series of weeks of favorable ocean conditions, the team conducted multiple ocean patrols throughout the coast.



Oregon has five marine reserves where commercial crabbing is prohibited. Gear was seized in both the Cape Perpetua and Cape Falcon Marine Reserves early in the season. Oregon also has various regulations on Dungeness crab gear. Troopers seized illegal gear being used by several vessels.

Troopers also focused on ensuring recreational Dungeness crabbers were accurately marking their surface buoys with name or business and appropriate identification or contact information as this tends to be a common issue throughout the year. Multiple pots were seized that were out of compliance.

Marine Fisheries Troopers operate and crew the PV Guardian. This requires specialized knowledge and training to ensure safe and efficient enforcement of Oregon's marine resources. This requires the team to spend a lot of time training in boat operation and maintenance as well as regular safety drills.

OREGON'S COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY



Commercial vessels fishing for Dungeness Crab are required to have a valid limited entry permit, individual or crew licenses and a boat license for the current year in order to legally fish in Oregon. Numerous vessels were contacted up and down the coast for license related violations.

- Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial Dungeness crab vessel during an offload. During the inspection a crew member was found to have multiple court ordered commercial fishing lifetime suspensions. The subject was criminally cited and released for **Commercial Fishing with a Suspended License**.
- A vessel was observed fishing out of Newport on January 1st without any 2026 commercial crab licenses including their limited entry crab permit. On January 2nd prior to offloading, the captain went to ODFW and purchased all required licenses. Upon contact at the offload, the captain admitted he had been fishing through the holidays, forgot and then had to wait because ODFW was closed. Enforcement action was taken for **No Limited Entry Dungeness Crab Permit, No Boat License, and No Individual License**.
- Two vessels continued to fish out of Newport multiple days into the new year. One captain was contacted who admitted to having completely forgotten to renew all of their licenses. Another captain was denied offloading his catch by the wholesale dealer until the proper licenses were obtained. Enforcement action was taken for **No Limited Entry Dungeness Crab Permit, No Boat License, and No Individual License**.

Despite the commercial Dungeness crab season just starting, OSP discovered several vessels that were in possession of undersized crab.

- A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant discovered undersized crab in an offload of approximately 20,000 lbs. After measuring a portion of the load, the Sergeant discovered there were 3% undersized crab in the load. Four crew members and captain were cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Commercial Crab**. Restitution will be requested for the value of crab estimated to be \$2,100.
- Undersized Dungeness crab were discovered in an offload of approximately 21,000 pounds in Charleston. A portion of the load was measured and 170 pounds of undersized crab were located. One crewmember was hired to sort and measure crab for the season. The skipper and measuring crewmember were both issued citations for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. Restitution will be requested for the value of undersized crab.

Due to favorable ocean conditions, the PV Guardian made several ocean patrols focusing on commercial Dungeness Crab enforcement.

- A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted an ocean patrol on the PV Guardian for the commercial Dungeness crab season. They checked gear and marine reserves from Newport to Cape Falcon. One pot was seized that was fishing inside the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. Another pot was found in violation of surface gear rules by having two different buoy brand numbers on their gear. Enforcement action will be taken on both vessels for **Fishing Prohibited Area: Marine Reserve and Fishing Prohibited Method: Buoy Brand**.
- Newport MFT received a report of a string of commercial Dungeness crab pots that had multiple buoys missing the required 25-26 season buoy tags. This is a limited entry fishery and fisherman are only allowed to fish the number of pots listed on their permit. The Troopers responded to the area and found the string of gear. Troopers seized 18 pots without tags that were mixed in with pots that had the required tags. One additional pot was seized from the vessel that reported the issue. The boat captain was contacted and explained he had not run the gear since it was set at the start of the season due to mechanical issues with the boat. He had no explanation as to why some of the gear was untagged as he stated all the gear was tagged when they loaded it onto the boat to be set. Enforcement action was taken for **No Buoy Tag**.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

Captain Cited for Gear Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers continued with an investigation into the use of unlawful commercial fishing gear. The previous week Troopers located and seized part of a string of commercial fishing gear using well more than the allowed amount of surface gear and extra buoys. It was later determined the gear was also using illegal bios. Bios refer to a strand of cotton put into pots that after time rot away leaving an escape hole in the pot. This allows for crab to escape the pot if it gets lost at sea. Troopers located more gear on two additional trips with illegal surface line and pulled some of those pots. Of the pots they pulled, the bios in these pots were legal. The captain was contacted when returning to his boat 16 days after his last landing. When questioned, the captain explained they were unaware there was a limit to the length of end markers on gear. The captain also said they only add the extra bio to the pots when the original bio was about to fall off. Enforcement action was taken on the captain of the vessel for **Unlawful Use of Gear for Ocean Dungeness Crab: Surface Line, Unlawful Use of Gear for Ocean Dungeness Crab: Extra Buoy, Commercial Dungeness Crabbing with Inadequate Release Mechanism, and Let Gear Set Longer than 14 Days Without a Landing.**

Investigation Finds License Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant completed an investigation into an intertidal bay clam harvester. Throughout 2025, the individual had sold over \$9,200 worth of cockle clams, estimated to be over 2,000 pounds, to markets in the Portland area for human consumption. The individual was not licensed as an ODFW wholesale dealer and none of the clams were reported on fish tickets as required. The individual was cited for **No Wholesale Fish Dealer's License and Fail to Submit Logbooks.**

Bait Dealer and Commercial Clammer Cited

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted follow up with a commercial bait dealer who did not renew their 2026 bait dealer license but had made three purchases from a local commercial clammer. The bait dealer was cited for **No Wholesale Bait Dealer License.** During the investigation it was discovered while unlicensed the bait dealer had purchased non-dyed razor clams from a local commercial clammer. The Trooper followed up with the commercial clammer citing them for **Fail to Dye Commercial Bait Clams** and answered their questions about requirements for commercial clammers.

Recreational Crab Checks

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting checks of recreational crabbers at a popular crabbing dock in Garibaldi. The Trooper observed a vehicle drop off a subject with an empty white bucket who walked out to the crabbing dock. The Trooper further researched that the subject did not have a 2026 shellfish license. The Trooper contacted the subject and conducted an administrative check. The subject stated they had a 2026 shellfish license but was actively attempting to buy it on their cellphone during the conversation, ultimately admitting that they didn't have one. The subject was advised to remove their crab pots from the water and purchase their shellfish license before continuing to crab. The subject was cited for **No Resident Shellfish License.**

Subject Found Crabbing While Suspended

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant contacted an individual who was pulling crab pots on a pier in Garibaldi. The individual's ODFW licensing privileges were currently suspended for taking a deer closed season and they still owed ODFW restitution for the deer. The individual stated they were his pots and had his last name on the buoys but that a friend had put them out and left. The Lieutenant explained he was observed pulling the pots and needed a license. A consent search of the individual's cooler revealed no crab but the water in the bottom of the cooler was discolored and had a distinct smell of cooked crab. There were no other people with the crabber. A discussion with the port employees revealed the subject had been crabbing for several days. The individual was cited for **Crabbing While Suspended.**



An MFT Trooper pulling a crab pot on the PV Guardian

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

Fisherman Cited for Falsifying Report

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper completed an investigation into a commercial groundfish angler. The commercial fisherman had a nearshore groundfish permit in 2025. In order for the permit to be renewed in 2026, the vessel must have made a minimum of five commercial fish landings in Oregon during the calendar year prior to the request for renewal. The Trooper was contacted by ODFW in late December and advised the angler had requested his permit to be renewed for 2026, but he had not made the five required landings. On the last day of the year, four fish receiving tickets documenting four different landings were submitted. The Trooper interviewed the dealer to whom the landings were made and the fisherman. The investigation determined the commercial fisherman made false landings at the end of December in order to renew his permit. The commercial fisherman was cited for **Falsifying a Commercial Fish Report**.

Sport and Commercial License Violations

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper was following up on an unrelated commercial crab case when he determined crew onboard the vessel didn't have individual or crew licenses for 2026. Upon interviewing the crew, he determined they unlawfully combined a sport trip and fished for bait in the bay before leaving to fish commercially for crab. None of the crew members possessed 2026 sport licenses either. Enforcement action was taken for both the sport and commercial licensing offenses.

Unlawful Sale of Commercial Food Fish

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated the sale of commercially harvested Dungeness crab at a local restaurant. Through investigation it was found a commercial fisherman had sold 51 lbs of take home to a local restaurant for \$250 and then later sold 80 lbs to the same restaurant for \$400 prior to renewing his limited fish sellers permit. The commercial fisherman was contacted and was criminally cited and released for **No Limited Fish Seller Permit and Unlawful Sale of Commercial Food Fish**.

Dealer License Violations

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted three different fish dealers in the Newport area who purchased fish in 2026 without renewing their dealer licenses for the new year. Citations and warnings were issued for **No Wholesale Fish Dealer License, No Wholesale Bait Dealers License, and No Fish Buyer's License**.

No 2026 Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial Dungeness crab skipper who had made a landing of crab into Charleston on January 2nd; however, he did not have a 2026 commercial Dungeness crab permit. The skipper had purchased the vessel and crew licenses but missed that he needed to renew his crab permit. The skipper was cited for **No 2026 Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit** and he made arrangements to renew his permit with ODFW before going back out crabbing.

Crab Vessel Captain and Crew Member Cited

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol near Garibaldi. Multiple recreational groundfish anglers and commercial Dungeness crab vessels were contacted. One commercial vessel was boarded and inspected. The same vessel's crab pot was seized after being found within the boundaries of the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve back in December. The boat was also currently in violation of the 14-day landing rule. One crew member was also found to be commercial fishing while suspended following a citation from a 2025 charge of fishing without an individual commercial fishing license. The operator of the vessel was cited for **Leave Gear Set More Than 14 Days Without a Landing and Commercial Fishing Closed Area**. The crew member was cited for **Commercial Fishing with a Suspended License**.



An MFT Trooper on the way to check a commercial crab vessel

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS



Trooper Assists in Birds of Prey School Event

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended a Birds of Prey Study Block event at Eddyville Elementary School. The Trooper brought various taxidermy mounts for the kids and assisted in the event.

Troopers Attend Eagle Watch Event

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles staffed a booth at the annual Eagle Watch event at The Dalles Discovery Center. This event draws hundreds of visitors to view the bald eagles that migrate into the area during the winter months. Patrons get to view the eagles as well as speak with several agencies, and numerous conservation organizations. While interacting with the public, numerous people took the time to thank the Troopers for the work they do and several youngsters took home OSP swag. Other agencies attending the event were Oregon State Parks, Washington State Parks, Army Corp of Engineer Park Rangers, along with several non-profit associations. It was estimated that over 1,000 people attended the event.

Trooper Presents to Hunter Education Class

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper gave a presentation to a Prineville hunters education class about what an OSP Fish and Wildlife Trooper does and the investigations they conduct. The group had just finished their field day and were very interactive. The questions from the group included topics such as how to remove problem raccoons, how do roadkill salvage permits work and the potential for misuse of the program, and many more.



Troopers Assist with Umpqua Fishing Derby

The Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team proudly supported the 2026 Annual Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby from January 28–31. The event began on Wednesday with a career event where Troopers assisted as students from four local high schools were introduced to careers in natural resources. On Thursday's "Kids Day," Troopers assisted, as fifth graders from local elementary schools watched the release of 1,200 trout into Cooper Creek Reservoir before enjoying guided fishing and jet boat rides. Throughout the weekend, our team provided safety checks, rules briefings for 40 guides, and support for the sold-out fundraising auction. All proceeds benefit critical steelhead habitat projects in the Umpqua Basin. Link for the Derby's Facebook video: www.facebook.com/reel/1397500971580911



GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Great Horned Owl Rescued

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a residence in Bend after the homeowner found an injured great horned owl. The owl appeared to have a broken wing and couldn't fly. The owl was captured and transported to Think Wild in Bend.

Missing Persons Located

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a remote forested area north of Keno with a Klamath County Sheriff's Office Forest Deputy. Two females had been reported missing in their Honda Civic overnight. They were last known to be near Clover Creek Road. The females were located, stuck in the snow well away from maintained roads. They were assisted out of the snowbank and escorted back to good roads without incident.



Beached Sea Turtle Rescued

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to Horsfall Beach outside of Coos Bay, after receiving a report of a sea turtle on the beach. After consulting with the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the small green sea turtle was removed from the beach and released to them for potential rehabilitation.

DUII Crash - Hebo Highway

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped a Tesla on Hebo Highway after it nearly crashed into a bridge in front of him. The driver was highly intoxicated. A Patrol Trooper responded and arrested the driver who later was found to have a blood alcohol content of 0.29% despite claiming to not have had anything to drink in days. It was her third **DUII** and she was suspended from driving. The passenger was also highly intoxicated. The Tesla was impounded.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Multi-Agency Effort Addresses MIP Party

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers assisted in a multi-agency effort addressing a large minor in possession (MIP) party on Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC) lands near Keno. One of the Troopers had been assisting a local forest deputy for over a year in efforts to stop this particular group, whose parties had become increasingly dangerous and destructive. The parties had caused significant property damage, fights, vehicle crashes, illegal fires, and reports of firearms. The group moved around a lot, had scanners, and regularly used private land. An informant was developed by the deputy, allowing the planning of a large operation to address the issue. Officers from Klamath County Sheriff's Office, Klamath Falls Police Department, and OSP, with assistance from the local juvenile department and GDRC, planned and executed a successful operation. The group was contacted with a large active bonfire on GDRC land. Alcohol, firearms, and stolen property were readily observed. The operation resulted in three arrests (**Furnishing Alcohol** and **Theft**), 16 **MIP** citations, 29 subjects trespassed from GDRC lands for one year, and 19 written warnings for TMA violations. Alcohol and stolen property were seized. This was the largest known operation of this kind in recent history for Klamath County.



Troopers Assist with Boating Accident

During the sturgeon opener, a small open style fishing boat was anchored and equipped with navigation lights that were turned on. The two occupants were fighting/trying to land a keeper sturgeon. Another boat fishing nearby noticed a boat heading right for them and began shouting warnings to the anchored boat occupants. The two anglers turned around to see the boat running over their anchor buoy and jumped into the water to avoid the oncoming collision. The boat crashed into the bow of the anchored boat, drove completely over the top of the anchored boat, and landed back into the water. Neither occupant was wearing their life jacket, and the boat nearby rendered aid to the anglers in the water pulling them aboard and getting them to shore. Paramedics from Morrow County provided assistance to all who requested it. Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to the scene and took the initial report. Additional Troopers responded with OSP boats and assisted with retrieving the anchored boat which had broken free and was drifting down river. Through investigation it was learned that the at fault boat operator was not attentive to his surroundings and did not follow basic rules of water navigation. Charges of **Reckless Boat Operation** and **Recklessly Endangering Another Person x2** were forwarded to Morrow County District Attorney's Office.

Deer Freed From Cattle Panel

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to residence with a deer caught in a cattle panel. The Sergeant attempted to steady the caught leg to prevent a fracture while the resident cut the panel. The deer was freed and using both legs within a couple minutes.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Stolen Vehicle Suspect Found with 13 Ducks

Patrol Troopers stopped a stolen vehicle on I-5 and upon searching the vehicle they found 13 ducks and a shotgun. The suspect was interviewed, and it was discovered he had taken five of the ducks and the other eight had been given to him by his hunting partners, but the suspect did not have the required transfer paperwork. The suspect was issued a violation citation for **Take/Possession of Game Bird, No Waterfowl Validation, and No Written Record of Transfer.**

Multiple Citations After Search Warrant

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles completed a month's long investigation which involved the execution of a search warrant at a residence in Wasco County in October 2025. Seven criminal citations were issued to a subject which included **Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer Closed Season (Felony), Hunting While Suspended, Take/Possession of Buck Deer Prohibited Hours, Take/Possession of Buck Deer Prohibited Method: Air Rifle, Unlawful Possession of Game Parts (Deer Meat/Deer Skulls x3), Unlawful Possession of Game Parts (Turkey meat), Conspiracy to Take/Possess Buck Deer.** This case will likely result in a lifetime hunting suspension for the suspect as this is his third unlawful take/possession of game animals in five years.

Unlawful Take of Pheasant - Ladd Marsh

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from ODFW staff at Ladd Marsh who reported they had received a daily report sheet from an individual who reported harvesting a rooster pheasant after the season had closed. The Trooper contacted the individual who initially stated he had harvested a rooster quail and showed a photo of a quail. The Trooper pointed out how badly the individual's hand was shaking and that his story didn't make sense. He then apologized about being untruthful and admitted to harvesting a rooster pheasant. He stated he didn't check the dates for pheasant season but later that day learned the season was closed. He was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take Pheasant Closed Season.**

Multiple TMA Violators Located

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a follow up investigation regarding an individual who had been captured on cellular trail cameras driving an ATV on closed TMA roads. This individual had driven his ATV on closed Green Diamond TMA roads numerous times in 2025 and into the 2026 year. The camera owner told the Trooper who he believed it was. The Trooper contacted the individual at his residence and he admitted to operating his ATV on the closed roads. The individual received a citation for **Operating a Motor Vehicle in Violation of Cooperative Travel Management Areas.** In addition, the individual was trespassed for one consecutive year from all Green Diamond Property.

The same day, the Trooper stopped two ATVs that had been riding on a road closed to motor vehicles. The road on which the riders had been operating ATVs was owned by Green Diamond Resource Company and is part of Oregon's cooperative travel management agreement. One rider received a citation for **Operating a Motor Vehicle in Violation of Cooperative Travel Management Areas** and was issued a notice of trespass from Green Diamond property for one consecutive year. The other rider, a youth, was warned.

Geese Unlawfully Taken

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of a waterfowl hunter who had shot two cackler geese at the east side unit of Sauvie Island Wildlife Area. The Trooper contacted the individual and determined the geese were taken in an area where hunting dark geese is prohibited. The individual was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Game Bird.** The geese were seized and later donated to the Scappoose Senior Center.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Subject Admits to Using Motorized Decoys

As part of a three-day enforcement effort known as Operation Federal Quackdown, Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers partnered with a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Special Agent to focus on duck hunting compliance. During the operation, Troopers contacted an individual using illegal motorized duck decoys. He was cooperative and admitted he knew the devices were prohibited in Oregon. The decoys were seized as evidence, and he was cited for Use of Motorized or Battery-Powered Decoys. Aside from this incident, overall compliance was high. Dozens of hunters were contacted over the three days, with only one additional warning issued.



Motorized Duck Decoy - SIWA

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a duck hunter with a motorized flapper decoy in the Mud Hen unit of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA). The ODFW staff at the Eastside check station were able to confirm that it was in fact a motorized decoy. The subject was contacted and stated he had not read the regulations and did not realize motorized decoys were illegal, which explained why he had placed "Spoonzilla" out in front of his blind for everyone in the unit to see. The subject was issued a violation citation and advised to read the regulations prior to hunting in the future.



ATV Damages Habitat - Schneider Wildlife Area

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was patrolling the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area when he saw two vehicles coming off of a closed skid trail. The Sergeant later contacted the subjects at a nearby camp and found they had been unlawfully cutting firewood on the wildlife area and had committed extensive damage on the soft, muddy ground as they drove off road through a section of the wildlife area. The Sergeant learned a Trooper was investigating the same suspects for violating the 14-day camping rule on the wildlife area. They were cited for **Unlawful Motorized Travel** and **Committing Habitat Damage with ATV**. They were warned for multiple other traffic offenses and the Trooper is following up on other wildlife area offenses. One suspect agreed to meet with ODFW staff to voluntarily work on repairing the damage caused.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

Taxidermy Checks - West Valley

Administrative inspections were conducted by the West Valley Fish and Wildlife Team on all known currently licensed taxidermists in Washington, Columbia, and Yamhill counties. Knock and talks were conducted on taxidermists who had purchased previous years licenses.

In all, approximately 30 taxidermists and several hunters were checked and educated on statutes regarding taxidermy and the importation and possession of cervid parts from out of state in hopes of curbing the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Oregon.

Enforcement Actions:

- Six citations and three warnings for **Unlawfully Importing or Possessing Prohibited Cervid Parts**
- Three citations and six warnings for **Failing to Properly Maintain Taxidermy Records**
- Four skulls with antlers attached and two capes were seized

A taxidermist was checked in Yamhill County who voluntarily collects CWD samples for ODFW. Troopers located two prohibited deer skulls that were killed in Missouri by Washington residents, who unlawfully transported them to Oregon with the cape still attached. The taxidermist admitted to capping both deer and discarding the unlawful parts (including the brains) in his trash. The taxidermist admitted that he had explained to the hunters that it was unlawful but did it anyway because they were good customers. He was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Prohibited Cervid Parts** and warned for **Failing to Maintain Taxidermy Records**. All of the remaining deer parts were seized and will be incinerated upon final disposition.

A Yamhill County taxidermist was contacted during a routine inspection. He maintained impeccable records and had kept Troopers' business cards from previous visits. At his request, Troopers paused for a photo, which the taxidermist later shared on social media.

A taxidermist checked in Columbia County had unlawful cervid parts (heads with brains) soaking in buckets, that had been harvested in Texas. It was found that two additional deer had been imported but were already completed as European mounts. The taxidermist and four hunters were cited for **Unlawful Importing or Possessing Cervid Parts**. The two heads with tissue attached were seized and will be incinerated upon final disposition. The remaining parts in the bucket were seized by ODFW and incinerated.

Taxidermy Checks - East Valley

The East Valley Fish and Wildlife Team visited 37 taxidermists in one week, as part of a statewide saturation. Ten warnings were issued for missing or improper taxidermy records. Two taxidermists were warned for failing to display licensing and two were warned for failing to renew their taxidermy license. The following activities were also documented.

One taxidermist was found to have inadequate records and had several capes and bear skulls that he could not provide a record for. The taxidermist worked over the next few days to account for several capes. Three bear skulls were seized (photo below), and the taxidermist was cited for **Failing to Properly Maintain Taxidermy Records** and **No Written Records of Transfer** for the bear skulls.



A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a follow-up investigation of a taxidermist operating in northeast Portland. During the investigation, it was determined that the taxidermist was conducting taxidermy activities without a valid taxidermy license and failed to maintain proper taxidermy and fur dealer records, including required documentation of game transfers. The taxidermist was issued a citation for **Operating a Taxidermist Without a License**, and warnings for **Failure to Maintain Proper Fur Dealer Records** and **No Written Records of Transfer**.

Taxidermy Checks - North Coast Team

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers traveled to the Columbia County area and conducted eight taxidermy checks. All license dealers were found in compliance with the exception of one individual who had one deer skull without the required information in his record book. He was warned.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING

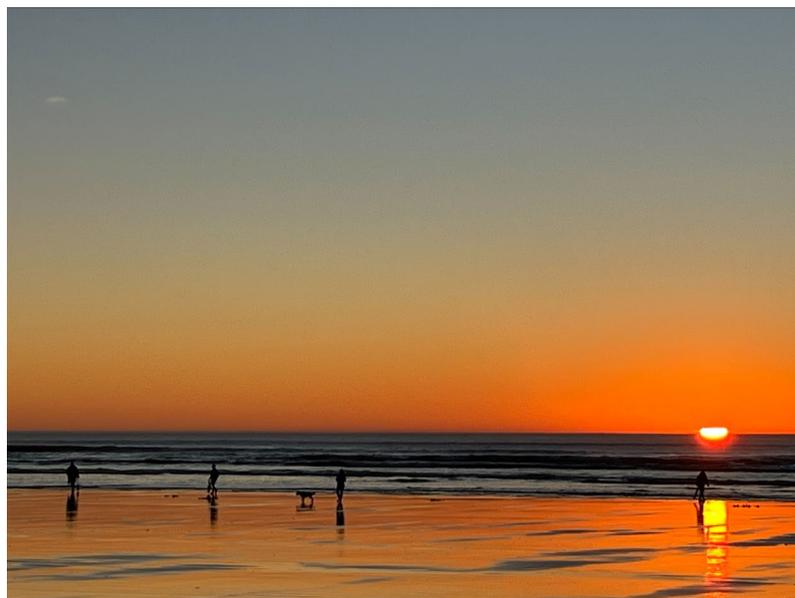


Steelhead Seized - Trask River

Astoria and St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Sergeants observed a subject fighting a steelhead on the Trask River for a lengthy period of time. The subject got the fish close to the bank and then kept it in the water a few feet out from his rod tip for approximately ten minutes while making a phone call. Eventually the subject pulled the fish up on the bank and retained it. He immediately packed his angling gear to leave. The Sergeants contacted him at the top of the bank where his four wheeler was parked and found that he had left the fish at the bottom of the hill, but had just come up to “start his quad” and intended to return down the bank to get the fish. Upon inspection the fish was found to be a large wild steelhead and the subject had not validated it on his harvest card. He was cited for **Unlawful Take of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Steelhead and Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. The fish was seized and donated to charity.

Sturgeon Saturation Patrols

The Columbia Basin Team conducted a saturation patrol on the Columbia River, below the McNary Dam, for the first four days of the 2026 Sturgeon Season. Increased angling effort was expected since the weather was relatively mild and both the Bonneville and The Dalles pools were going to be closed for the holiday weekend. Throughout the four days the team contacted 122 boats on the river and 351 anglers in those boats. An additional 90 contacts were made on the shore and at boat ramps. Troopers issued 19 warnings for various Marine Board issues and another 19 warnings for Fish and Wildlife violations (largely involving electronic tag issues). Seven citations were issued including one for **Possession of Oversized Sturgeon** (the seized sturgeon was donated to a local charity). Several anglers contacted were from central and western Oregon and Washington and stated they had come to fish the John Day pool since the lower pools were closed. Another example of the changing effort is the Mid-Columbia Basin team conducted a boat patrol on New Years Day as part of the saturation around the mouth of the John Day River, at the western end of the pool, and contacted nine boats and 28 anglers in an area where sturgeon angling is typically not seen. Again, those contacted stated they were simply trying the area since the lower pools were closed.



Razor Clam Patrol - Clatsop Beaches

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked razor clammers on Clatsop beaches during several minus tides. Multiple people were contacted with their limits of razor clams. In addition, commercial clammers were contacted during shellfish sanitation patrols.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Lake Billy Chinook Boat Patrol

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a boat patrol on Lake Billy Chinook. Numerous anglers were contacted and two individuals were warned for **Angling in Closed Area** of the Metolius Arm of the lake.

Subjects Over Limit of Razor Clams

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was checking recreational clam diggers near Sunset Beach when he observed a subject walking back to his vehicle with a very heavy looking grocery bag of clams. Upon contact the man said that the bag contained clams from his entire family of five, and his wife and three children were still down on the beach digging. The bag contained 50 razor clams. The Sergeant contacted the rest of the family and found that they had a second bag that contained 31 razor clams, six above their collective limit, and they were still actively digging clams. The father stated that he knew they were getting close to their limit and had returned to the vehicle to get an accurate count. He was cited for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and warned for **Failure to Use Own Container**. Six clams were seized.

Sixes River Drift Boat Patrol

South Coast Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a drift boat patrol along the Sixes River in Curry County. Several warnings were issued for anglers without the Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation. One subject was cited for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **No Combined Angling Tag** and **No Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation**.



Angling Closed Stream - Deschutes River

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted two subjects angling within a closed section of the Deschutes River at Mecca Flats Campground. Both subjects were issued citations for **Angling Closed Stream**. The following day two more subjects were observed with the use of a spotting scope angling downstream of Mecca Flat Campground using spey rods targeting steelhead. The subjects were issued citations for **Angling Closed Stream**.

Subject Throws Back Fish After Seeing Trooper

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting angler checks at the Klaskanine Hatchery and observed a subject fight a steelhead for an extended time ultimately landing it on the bank. As the subject retained the fish, he looked around, saw the Trooper, and threw the steelhead back in the river. Investigation revealed the subject panicked when he saw the Trooper because the steelhead had allegedly foul-hooked itself and he'd previously been cited for take of a foul-hooked fish. The subject was cited for **Fail to Allow Inspection of Catch** and **Waste of Game Fish**.

Subjects Take Undersized and Female Crab

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked a boat of four crabbers as they returned to port in Winchester Bay. The first crab that was checked was undersized. A search of the remainder of their catch revealed they were in possession of a total of 37 Dungeness crab, 18 of which were undersized and five of which were female. One of the subjects took responsibility for the violations and was cited for **Take/Possession Undersized Dungeness Crab** and **Take/Possession Female Dungeness Crab**. The illegal crab were returned to the bay.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Subject Pleads Guilty in WED Case

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) operation during the 2025 any legal weapon deer season in rural Columbia County. Prior to legal shooting time, a vehicle approached the WED and illuminated it with its headlights, the driver proceeded to shoot at the decoy seven times from inside his truck and the roadway. The subject recently pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to:

- 12 months probation
- \$300 fine to be paid to the OHA decoy fund
- Three-year hunting license suspension

Subject Found Guilty in Multnomah County Case

A recreational angler was charged in 2025 in Multnomah County for **Sale of Sport Caught Wildlife** stemming from an investigation in 2025. The case recently went to trial in Multnomah County Circuit Court where the individual eventually pleaded guilty but asked judge for leniency and no angling license suspension which was being requested by OSP in lieu of fines. The judge not only upheld OSP's request for three-year license suspension but also imposed the \$440 fine commenting to the defendant that this offense was considered a theft of resources from all Oregon citizens.

Subject Pleads Guilty to Multiple Charges

A subject previously cited by a Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles after stealing an Oregon State Police cellular camera and committing multiple angling crimes pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor crimes including **Criminal Mischief II**, a wildlife offense and general license and tag offense. The subject was sentenced to:

- 12 months bench probation
- Restitution and compensatory fine totaling \$545
- Three-year angling license suspension
- 72 hours of community service

The subject is additionally prohibited from accessing the Eagle Creek area along the Columbia River.





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 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."

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