



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION





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*On the cover:
A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant
with a youth hunter and his first turkey,
harvested in the Northside unit*

EAST REGION SPRING TURKEY SEASON



A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant gives a Junior Trooper sticker to a youth hunter who legally harvested his first turkey in the Northside unit.

It may come as a surprise to many Oregonians, but wild turkeys are not native to our great state. In fact, it was not until the early 1960s that Merriam's subspecies were successfully introduced, with Rio Grande's arriving in 1975. Since then, the wild turkey population has expanded in population and scope throughout Oregon providing excellent hunting opportunity during both the spring and fall. Oregon also has a wonderful, liberal bag limit allowing for three gobblers to be taken during the spring and two birds during the fall. The spring season, beginning mid-April and extending through the end of May, allows for plenty of time to take part and the youth only spring hunt provides further, limited opportunity for youth only wild turkey hunting.

Across OSP's East Region, which encompasses parts of central and all eastern Oregon, turkey hunting has continued to gain in popularity. The landscape and spring weather draws hunters from around the state looking to bag a gobbler and with the increase in hunter effort comes an increase in violations. Though compliance with listed regulation remained quite high, OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers throughout East Region encountered numerous violations this April, with the most common being **Hunting from a Roadway, Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit, and Criminal Trespass II**. Despite contending with violations, Fish and Wildlife Troopers throughout East Region contacted plenty of successful hunters, including youth hunters, assisted with youth turkey clinics, and enjoyed positive interactions with folks enjoying their turkey hunting outing. The following are just a few summaries of OSP's activities within East Region during April:

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a self-report of an unlawful take of a hen turkey, during a youth hunt. The guardian was warned for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**, and the turkey was seized for charity donation.

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint from a resident in Hilgard regarding someone shooting a turkey from the road in front of her house. The resident described the suspect vehicle as a silver SUV but could provide nothing further. The Trooper responded and photographed the scene and collected one 12 gauge spent shotgun shell as evidence. A record check with ODFW of e-tags validated that morning led to a suspect in the La Grande area. The suspect was contacted and interviewed. He was the passenger in his friend's vehicle and admitted to shooting the turkey from the road near the house. The suspect was cited and released for **Taking Game Bird Prohibited Area** and warned for **Reckless Endangering**. The friend was contacted and warned for **Aiding/Counseling in a Game Violation**. The turkey was seized as evidence.

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of a subject shooting a turkey from a county road in the Mt. Emily Unit late in the evening. Utilizing the ODFW electronic licensing system (ELS) a possible suspect and his hunting party were developed. The group was from Mississippi and staying in the local area. The Trooper contacted the members of the group and one subject admitted to shooting a turkey from the county road after the birds had run across the road in front of them. The subject was cited and released for **Taking Turkey Prohibited Area: Road/Road Right of Way**.

EAST REGION SPRING TURKEY SEASON

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was informed that a youth turkey hunter harvested two birds on the opening day of youth turkey season. The Trooper was able to check the ODFW ELS and confirmed that the hunter (e-tagger) did indeed tag two birds. The first bird was tagged in the morning; a second tag was purchased and tagged within one minute after the first bird was tagged. A call was made to the parents to inquire about the two birds. The Trooper spoke to the father, and he stated he had called in two birds opening morning right at sunrise, then his son shot at one but ended up killing two with one shot. The subject stated once he realized a second bird was harvested, he immediately purchased a second tag. The subject stated he knew he was wrong by not having a second tag. The subject said that he knew that the yearly bag limit is three birds but didn't realize the daily bag limit was one bird per day. He realized looking back the right thing to do instead of purchasing the second tag was to self-report the incident. The Trooper explained the regulations for the youth and adult turkey season with the father. What was left of the second turkey was seized, and the father received a citation

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of a subject who shot a turkey with a .44 caliber black powder pistol and posted a picture on Facebook. The subject did not possess a hunting license or a turkey tag. Shortly after the Trooper started calling to make contact, the suspect went to Bi-Mart and purchased a license and tag. He was eventually contacted and stated he thought he was shooting at a skunk, then after he shot it, he saw feathers fly. He was cited for **Take/Possession of a Game Bird: Prohibited Method** and **No Turkey Tag**. He was warned for No hunting license, and the turkey was seized as evidence.

A Heppner Fish and Wildlife Trooper encountered a turkey hunter opening day of turkey season near Heppner. The subject was walking along a paved county road calling turkeys. When questioned, he advised he was trying to locate and hunt turkeys. He was informed he was surrounded by private property and could not hunt anywhere legally within a mile of where he was. The subject admitted to trespassing after being informed of game cameras in the area. Several landowners were contacted who owned property adjacent to the subject's location. In the end it was decided by the landowners that a warning would suffice. The subject was directed to the National Forest where he located and killed a turkey.



Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles attended the 2026 Youth Turkey clinic in Tygh Valley. The Troopers provided a group presentation on enforcement, rules/regulations, and general fish and wildlife topics. After the group talk, one of the Troopers ran a station on tactics and turkey hunting set-up and techniques. Throughout the day, Troopers were available to the attendees and answered many questions from children and adults about regulations, hunting, and the area. Many positive comments were made about OSP being present at the clinic. Approximately 50 youth and over 30 adults were in attendance, and the weather was fantastic.

OUTREACH & EVENTS



Sisters Elementary Career Day

An East Region Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant, along with a Bend area Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers attended the Sisters Elementary School career day. The Trailer of Shame was displayed and visited by all five grades. Many stickers and measuring tapes were provided along with an overview of OSP Fish and Wildlife work. Afterward, the Troopers visited the 2nd grade learning pod and presented on Fish and Wildlife work and answered plenty of questions.



Public Safety Event - South Umpqua High School

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended a special public safety event for children at South Umpqua High School. The Troopers showed off the local OSP jet boat and a newer Ford patrol truck, in addition to answering questions from parents. About 40 youth and parents stopped by to visit the Troopers during the two-hour event.

Hunter Education Field Day - Hood River

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles assisted with a hunter education field day class over the weekend in Hood River County. Troopers provided an OSP enforcement presentation describing what duties game troopers perform and went through some of the common violations they encounter. One of the Troopers led groups of students teaching action sets, gun carries, and safe zones of fire. The students enjoyed the day and had several questions along the way. There were 19 youth who took and passed the class. Several parents attended the field day as well. All were thankful for the presentation. One of The Dalles OSP volunteers assisted, and two Patrol Troopers helped run the range portion.

Hunter Safety Range Day - Milton-Freewater

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper presented at a hunter safety range day in Milton-Freewater with 30 kids and their parents in attendance. He covered common violations Troopers encounter, how to interact with Fish and Wildlife Troopers in the field, and benefits of self-reporting when mistakes are made.

OUTREACH & EVENTS



Troopers Attend Careers in Gears Event

The Rogue Valley Fish and Wildlife Team, Patrol and OSP Dispatch participated in the Jackson County Careers in Gear event. Approximately 1500 students participated in the event. There was a lot of interest in both law enforcement and dispatch. Students were able to sit in a patrol car or game truck. Students were allowed to try on body armor, the helmet and handle the ballistic shield.



Troopers Attend Career Day - Lincoln City

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in Ocean Lake Elementary School's Career Day. Troopers provided a display of equipment, an overview of what Marine Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife Troopers do on a daily basis and answered questions.



OSP and ODFW Present at Meeting

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the ODFW Protect Oregon's Wildlife - Turn In Poachers Campaign Coordinator with an anti-poaching/TIP (Turn-in-Poachers) presentation for the MidCoast Watersheds Council. A power point presentation was given covering topics like what poaching looks like and how to report it. The Trooper spoke on what makes a good TIP and answered questions from the audience.

Troopers Present at STEP Meeting

Florence and Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers presented at a Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) meeting. The program members meet at the Elks Lodge in Florence and requested the Troopers provide updates and how they can assist OSP. The members are very active in enhancing the steelhead population along Whittaker Creek hatchery and the Siuslaw River.



Hunter Education Field Day - Grants Pass

John Day Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted with a hunter education field day in Grant County. Multiple hunting scenarios were discussed on the hunter's walk and multiple questions about hunting laws and ethics were addressed in the class.

Troopers Participate in Fishing Pole Giveaway

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in the 2026 Fishing Poles for Kids giveaway at Englund Marine where Troopers assisted Newport Police and OCEAN (Oregon Coalition for Educating ANglers) with fitting free lifejackets to hundreds of kids.

RESCUES & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



Injured Duck Taken to Wildlife Hospital

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call for an injured duck in Redmond that the reporting party had caught and brought to his work to be picked up. The duck was hit by a vehicle and had a broken wing. The duck was taken to Think Wild Wildlife Hospital in Bend.

Trooper Provides First Aid to Injured Driver

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper drove upon a single vehicle roll over crash that had just occurred on a county road. The Trooper provided first aid to the driver to help control bleeding from their nose, mouth, and face. The driver was transported to the hospital for further evaluation. The Trooper assisted with traffic control until the vehicle could be removed from the roadway. Douglas County Sheriff's Office is the lead agency on the crash investigation.

Bobcat Relocated from Garage

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a bobcat in a garage. The Trooper arrived at the Sutherlin residence and found the large bobcat still inside the garage. The bobcat refused to leave the garage, so the Trooper contacted the ODFW for assistance. A District Wildlife Biologist and an Assistant District Wildlife Biologist responded to assist. The bobcat was safely captured and removed from the property.

Trooper Locates Overdue Hiker

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Mount Hood National Forest near Lolo Pass when he stopped to talk with a hiker. When asked if the hiker was okay, she asked if she could get a ride back to her vehicle and the Trooper agreed. As the hiker was being driven back to her vehicle, they encountered a search and rescue command post. The Trooper asked the hiker if they may be looking for her and she replied, "I hope not." The Trooper learned that the search and rescue mission was in fact activated for the hiker he had located. She had been past due to return for over 24 hours. The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office assisted the hiker from there.



Troopers Assist with Repainting Deadlines

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers cleaned and repainted the yellow lines at Deadline Falls. The lines were faded and heavily covered in moss. There is a 700' closure to angling from the painted lines at Deadline Falls to the Fly Area Boundary. Having a highly visible line will make the boundary much more visible to the public prior to the busy spring salmon fishery.

GENERAL LAW & ENVIRONMENT



Trooper Clears Fallen Tree

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Upper Klamath Lake and located a down fir tree blocking the only access road to Malone Springs boat launch and day use area. He deployed his chainsaw and removed the obstruction. Recreationists were lined up waiting to access the water.



Subject Arrested for DUII

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a vehicle drift out of its lane, briefly leaving the roadway before swerving back on it multiple times. A traffic stop was conducted. Upon contacting the driver the Trooper observed indicators of impairment. A patrol Trooper was requested to the location to conduct a DUII investigation. The Patrol Trooper conducted standard field sobriety tests (SFTSs) ultimately arresting the driver for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)**. The driver was processed at the Clatsop County Jail. The driver provided a final blood alcohol content (BAC) result of .10%.

Subject Arrested on Felony Warrant

The Springfield Fish and Wildlife Team worked a trespass complaint in the Elmira area west of Eugene. During the investigation, one of the subjects had a felony warrant for his arrest. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Lane County Jail without incident.

Cutting Salal Without Proper Permits

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling for bear hunters when he located a subject walking. When the subject saw the vehicle coming, he stepped out of view. When contacted, the subject claimed he was just out for a walk. A quick search of the area revealed a bushel of salal that had been hidden from sight. The subject admitted to **Cutting Salal Without Proper Permits**. The salal was seized and the subject was cited.

Reckless Driver Arrested for DUII

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped a reckless driver on SR 126E near Vida. The driver showed signs of impairment and refused SFSTs. The driver was arrested for **DUII** and transported to Springfield jail. The driver provided a breath sample of .14% BAC. The driver was cited for **DUII, Reckless Driving, Reckless Endangering, Driving While Suspended, and Driving Uninsured**.

Subject Cited for Parking in Snowy Plover Area

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked several marine fish anglers on the Columbia River south jetty. While doing so he encountered a man who parked his vehicle in the closed Fort Stevens area on the Columbia River beach designated for snowy plovers. The man drove past four closure signs and was subsequently cited for the offense.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT



Search Warrant Served in Lane County

Members of the South Valley Fish and Wildlife team, in conjunction with Oregon State Police SWAT members, served a search warrant in rural southern Lane County. The search warrant included the search of two residences and one vehicle. The search warrant stemmed from a lengthy investigation involving a convicted felon and another individual violating weapons restrictions while unlawfully hunting and trespassing on Weyerhaeuser property. One suspect was lodged at the Lane County Jail on the following charges: **Felon in Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Trespass with a Firearm, No Annual Hunting License, No Big Game Tag, Unlawful Possession of Machine Gun, Unlawful Possession of Firearm Silencers (x6), Supplying Contraband, and Unlawful Possession of Schedule II Substance.** The second suspect was lodged at the Lane County Jail on the following charges: **Violation of Stalking Order, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, No Annual Hunting License, No Big Game Tag, Unlawful Possession of Buck Deer (x9), Unlawful Possession of Bobcat, and Unlawful Possession of Grouse.**



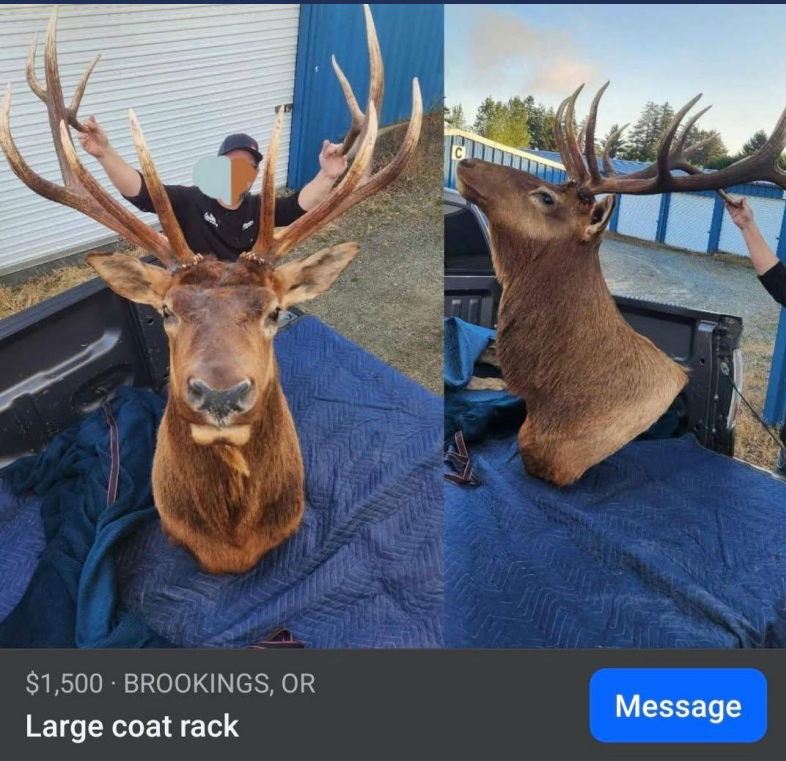
Hunting with Thermal Imaging Devices

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information that two individuals were using thermal imaging devices to hunt for spring bears, in the Tillamook area. The Trooper constructed a search warrant, which was then executed by members of the East Valley Team, North Coast Team, and the Marine Fisheries Team. Two thermal imaging devices and one pair of Sig Sauer stabilizing binoculars were seized. One of the individuals involved admitted to helping his friend hunt for bears, using the equipment. Charges were referred to the Tillamook County District Attorney's Office.

Reckless Endangering

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received a call from dispatch late on the evening of the last day of cow elk season regarding a hunter in Hebo firing at an elk with two houses directly behind where he was shooting. Three different reporting parties called the complaint in independently. The next day the Sergeant responded to the area and interviewed five witnesses who provided pictures, a video, and a license plate. A suspect was developed and a criminal history check showed him to be a twice convicted felon. The following day the subject was interviewed at his residence by the Sergeant and a Tillamook Patrol Trooper. He maintained that the shot was safe, claiming that he had a gap between buildings that he was shooting into. Additionally, he claimed he thought he could use someone else's gun as a felon, just not own one himself. He was ultimately cited and released for **Reckless Endangering** and **Felon in Possession of a Firearm.** The rifle used in the incident was seized.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT



Unpermitted Sales of Taxidermy Mounts

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of unpermitted sales of taxidermy mounts listed in multiple local Facebook groups with suspicious titles. Upon contacting and interviewing the seller and spouse, it was determined the mounts had been legally acquired through an estate. However, the attempted sales were not in compliance with ODFW regulations and required proper permitting. Prior to contact, the seller had already removed all listings after being informed of the legal concerns. The seller was educated and provided resources to legally sell the mounts. A warning was issued for two counts of **Unpermitted Sales of Taxidermy Mounts**.

Subject Investigated for License and Tag Violations

Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an investigation into a subject that had allegedly been falsely applying for Oregon licenses while living in Washington over the course of multiple years saving approximately \$2500. The reporting party was able to provide detailed documentation of this conduct. During the investigation, Troopers also determined that the subject harvested a bull elk near Vernonia in 2024 and had never electronically tagged the animal despite reporting the harvest on his outcome report. The subject was interviewed and given ample opportunity to provide documentation disproving the allegations, which he did not. The 2024 elk mount was seized and the case was referred to the Columbia County District Attorney's Office.

Trooper Observes Subject Shoot from Vehicle

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was patrolling the Mt. Hood National Forest west of The Dalles and came upon a slow-moving truck on a dirt/gravel road. The Trooper was surprised to see the truck suddenly stop in the road as he was only approximately 50 yards behind the vehicle. After stopping, the Trooper watched as the driver opened his door and stood up on his running board looking over the hood of his vehicle. After a short time, the male dropped back into his vehicle. The male driver then opened the door again and stepped up on his running board for a second time looking over his front windshield and hood. The Trooper watched as the man pointed a pistol over his hood and fired a shot at something in the brush. After shooting, the male got back in his truck and continued up the road. The Trooper initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver. The driver said he had been out just driving in the woods with his daughter for the day and admitted to shooting at a ground squirrel with his .22LR pistol but not hitting it. The Trooper determined that the man did not have a 2026 hunting license and had shot from his vehicle on a public roadway. The man was issued two violation citations for **No 2026 Resident Hunting License** and **Hunting Prohibited Area: Public Roadway/Vehicle**.



Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area Operation

East Region Fish and Wildlife Troopers teamed up with ODFW to work the annual Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area Operation. Pressure was light, but multiple contacts were made with shed hunters and turkey hunters. People expressed appreciation to Troopers working the area and assisting with answering questions on the local area.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT



Multiple Search Warrants Executed in Multnomah and Klamath Counties

Earlier this year, the East Valley Fish and Wildlife Team executed a search warrant on a residence in East Multnomah County related to several wildlife crimes. During that search warrant drugs, guns, and evidence of wildlife crimes were seized, along with two of the suspect's cell phones. Additional information from cell phone data revealed several other wildlife crimes. These crimes involved the poaching of salmon/steelhead, the unlawful sale of recreationally caught spring salmon, the baiting and killing of multiple bears, additional deer that were poached with archery equipment at night, and an elk that

was killed unlawfully. As a result, three additional search warrants were executed at residences in Multnomah and Klamath Counties. The East Valley Fish and Wildlife Team was assisted by the North Coast Team, Marine Fisheries Team, Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and the Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Team. During the search, the teams discovered an additional bear that had been killed over bait. Evidence seized included salmon fishing gear, guns, archery equipment, three bear skulls, two deer skulls, elk meat, and additional hunting gear.

Trooper Completes Bobcat Investigations

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper finished several investigations into the illegal trapping and taking of bobcats during the 25-26 furbearer season. One subject was contacted after surveillance showed that he was failing to check his bobcat traps within 48 hours; sometimes 7-12 days would pass without inspection. The investigation started when the traps were located set before the bobcat season started and both traps had trapped cougar. One cougar had broken free of the drag and left with a trap on its foot. The other was still on scene and was released from the trap. Several inconsistencies were found after the season was over and the bobcats were checked in. The subject was cited and released for **Fail to Inspect Traps/Snares Within 48 Hours**, and charges of **Fail to Comply with Special Bobcat Regulations** (before season start) was referred to the District Attorney's Office.

The Trooper completed further trapping investigations, where a separate subject was contacted after a trap with his brand was located 12 days after the bobcat season ended with a live bobcat in the trap. The bobcat was released, and surveillance was started on the set. The subject had checked in five bobcats (max allowed to take on his bobcat card) and he never returned to the site. When he was contacted, he said he must have forgotten one of his sets and was unclear how many traps he set out or how many he ended with at the close of the season. He was cited and released for **Take/Possession of Furbearers Closed Season** and charges of **Fail to Inspect Traps/Snares Within 48 Hours** and **Fail to Comply with Special Bobcat Regulations** (Exceeding five bobcat limit) will be referred to the District Attorney's Office.

MARINE FISHERIES



Cape Falcon Marine Reserve Area Boat Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol out of Garibaldi. The Troopers checked groundfish anglers, inspected commercial crab gear for summer tags and patrolled the north side of the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. Several boats were contacted with legal catches. All buoys observed had summer tags on them. No violations were observed on the patrol.



Crab Offload Checks - Astoria

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted multiple commercial crabbers during crab offloads at Pier 1 in Astoria. Three commercial fishermen were contacted who had violated the 14-day rule during the season which requires a landing within a 14-day window. Enforcement action was taken for **Leave Gear Set for More Than 14 Days Without a Landing**.

Troopers Locate Out-of-Compliance Gear

The late commercial Dungeness crab season started on April 1st due to whale entanglement mitigation measures. Troopers spent the first few weeks of April patrolling the ocean for compliance with late season tagging and the 40-fathom closure. Troopers also documented derelict pots to provide to ODFW and the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) to help with derelict gear retrieval programs. In addition to logging derelict gear, Troopers from Astoria to Gold Beach found various fishing gear that was out of compliance with regulations.

CDFW and OSP Cite Commercial Crab Captain

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Port of Brookings when he noticed a commercial Dungeness crab fishing vessel heading out to sea. The Trooper found this suspicious because he had contacted the vessel the previous week and the captain stated they were done crabbing for the season on that vessel. Utilizing shore patrol surveillance, the Trooper observed the vessel transit into California waters where it began pulling and stacking crab gear just over the border. Through previous knowledge, the Trooper knew this vessel did not have pots deployed in California waters. A California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Warden was contacted. After several hours the boat returned to Oregon with a stack of gear onboard and appeared to pull a single crab pot just inside of Oregon waters. The Trooper and CDFW Warden contacted the vessel when it returned to the Port of Brookings. The vessel was found to be in possession of approximately 50 commercial Dungeness crab pots that belonged to a different vessel of which the captain also owns (a significantly smaller vessel). When questioned by the officers, the captain and crew admitted to pulling the gear with the wrong vessel because “it was easier.” They also admitted to stacking all the gear (150 pots) with the wrong vessel. Initially they told the Trooper that they did not retain any crab. However, after further investigation, the captain admitted to pulling a pot in Oregon and stuffing the pot with at least 60 crab that were retained from the CA gear. That pot was found to belong to yet a different vessel that he also owns. The CDFW Warden issued citations to the crew and captain for illegal possession of gear. The Trooper issued a criminal citation to the captain for **Unlawful Possession of Dungeness Crab**. Additional charges are being referred to the District Attorney’s office. The crab were released.

MARINE FISHERIES

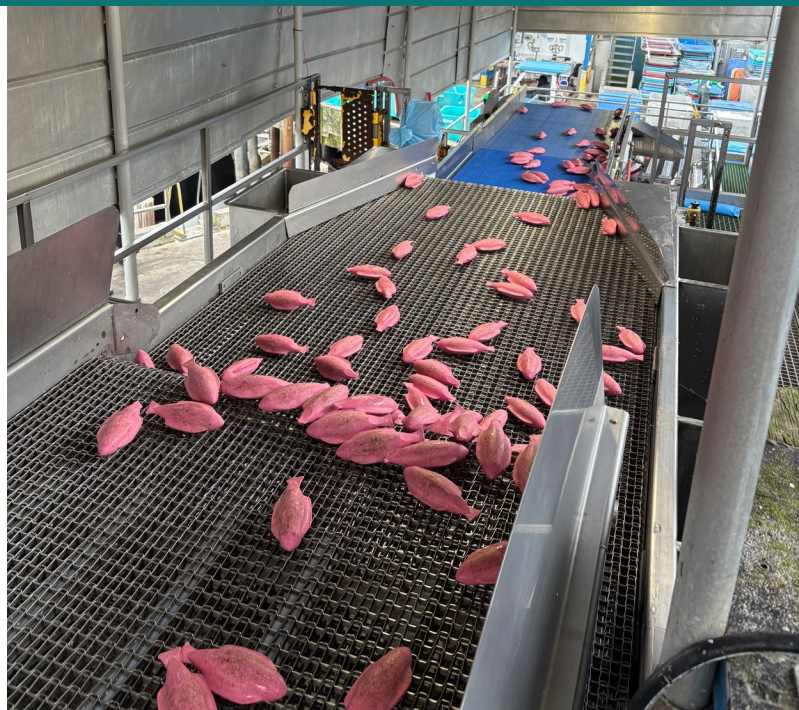


Clam Diggers Cited for Exceeding Limit

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted surveillance of the popular bay clam fishery in Garibaldi during a morning minus tide. Multiple groups were contacted, and enforcement action was taken for **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bay Clams**. During one contact, a Trooper observed a clam digger carry a netted bag of bay clams to their vehicle and drive away. The same person was then observed back on the mudflats continuing to dig. The digger and clamming partner were contacted at their vehicle after finishing clamming for the day. The investigation revealed they had already transported 42 bay clams to their nearby campsite. Both individuals were criminally cited for **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bay Clams**. All bay clams were returned to the bay.

Commercial Crab Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant and Newport Trooper received information of commercial bay crab that had been landed in October 2025 and sold to a market in Eugene. The value of the crab was approximately \$3,400. Neither the crabber nor the market were licensed as wholesale fish dealers and there was no ODFW fish ticket completed for the landing. Both claimed they thought the other entity was licensed as a dealer. The market was cited for **No Wholesale Fish Dealers License** and the fisherman was cited for **Fail to Sell to a Wholesale Fish Dealer**. Additionally, the market was warned for unrelated violations of **No ODA Shellfish Sanitation Certificate** and **Retail Fish Dealer Without Required Records**.



Sergeant Observes Scale Recertification Process

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was contacted by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Catch Monitor Program manager regarding a report of faulty scales at a Newport processor. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) had been on site recertifying scales when they found an error. The processor was in the middle of a large groundfish offload and there was question about how to continue with the offload. When the Sergeant arrived, the processor had found new scales without interruption to the offload. ODA was still on-site working on recertifying the processor's flow scale. The Sergeant had never been present for scale certification and was surprised to see dozens of pink rubber "fish" flowing down the belts, into the scales and into fish totes. ODA had previously used fresh fish to recalibrate scales which was a messy and lengthy process. Since the development of the pink test fish, the department is able to more accurately and quickly certify scales coastwide.

Skipper Violates the 14 Day Landing Regulation

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial fishing vessel which had gone over 20 days on multiple landings. Skipper of the vessel had no justifiable reason other than not wanting to go out because it was not worth the trips cost. Skipper was cited for violating the 14 day landing regulation.

MARINE FISHERIES

Recreational Razor Clam Enforcement Operation

With the assistance of several out of area Troopers, the Astoria Fish and Wildlife and Marine Teams, conducted an early morning weekend (2-day) spring recreational razor clam enforcement operation on Clatsop Beach. The operation was a tremendous success, with Troopers working the beach in two-person teams from Seaside to the Columbia River south jetty. The operation resulted in 209 digger contacts. In total 43 citations and 40 warnings were issued for multiple razor clam violations (including 3 criminal cites). In addition, 413 razor clams were seized and later donated to local charities in Astoria. The list of offenses included: **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit, Failure to Retain First 15 Clams, Failure to Use Own Container, Digging Clams for Another, No Shellfish License, Failure to Allow Clams for Inspection, and Illegal Possession of Mutilated Clams While in the Digging Area.**



A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Newport Trooper participated in an Astoria clam saturation patrol. Clamming was very good in Clatsop County due to negative tides. Thousands of clambers lined the beaches and clamming was easy. Citations were issued for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and **Fail to Retain Clams as Required**. Warnings were issued for **Exceeding Daily Bag limits of Clams, Dig Another's Clams, and Fail to Use Own Container for Clams**. A total of 77 Clams were seized and donated to a local charity.



Possession of Female Crab - Coos Bay

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol of Coos Bay. During the patrol a boat was contacted with six retained female Dungeness crab. The crab were returned to the bay. A citation for **Possession of Female Crab** was issued as well as two warnings for **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation** and one for **No Valid License in Possession**.

Falsifying a Commercial Fish Report

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a Commercial Dungeness Crab fisherman who made an unusually small landing of crab. The fisherman was contacted and stated he sold a few crab that he had previously caught and had stored onboard his boat to be in compliance with the 14-day landing rule. Commercial Dungeness crab fisherman are required to make a landing of crab at least once every 14 days. The Trooper reviewed port footage from the day the fisherman said he went to sea and caught the crab. The Trooper did not observe the boat leave port. The Trooper then recontacted the fisherman who admitted to obtaining crab from somewhere else and selling them to be in compliance with the 14-day landing rule. The fisherman was criminally cited for **Falsifying a Commercial Fish Report**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT

Columbia and Willamette Rivers Saturation

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper coordinated a multi-agency boat patrol saturation on April 10-11 which included Troopers from The Dalles, East Valley, and West Valley Fish and Wildlife teams. Boats from Clackamas and Washington County Sheriff's Offices also joined the effort. The patrol focused on Spring Chinook anglers on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Teams worked up and down the entire lower Willamette River and parts of the Columbia River. In total over two days 194 anglers were contacted, and 88 boat inspections were completed, 10 violation citations and 15 warnings were issued. Citations were issued for **Angling with Two Rods, Angling with Barbed Hooks** (on the Columbia), **No Angling License**, and **No Life Jacket**. Warnings included **Barbed Hooks, No Angling License/Tag in Possession, Angling with Two Rods, No Columbia River Basin Endorsement, and No Combined Angling Tag**. One angler contact resulted in a felony assault warrant arrest, a felony charge for **Possession of Methamphetamine**, and a citation for **No Angling License**.



Fishing in a Closed Area - Deschutes River

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper located and cited a subject for **Fishing in a Closed Area** on the Deschutes River. As seen in the above photo, there was clear signage with the open dates.

Columbia River Boat Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River in Clatsop and Columbia Counties during a one-day recreational spring salmon opener. Fishing pressure was extremely high, and catch rates were moderate. Numerous boats were contacted, and multiple Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) inspections were conducted. Citations and warnings were issued for **Fail To Properly Validate Harvest Card, Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon, Aid in a Wildlife Offense**, and OSMB offenses.

Sauvie Island Area Boat Patrol

McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the rivers surrounding Sauvie Island. Multiple anglers were contacted with the catch rate being low. Numerous warnings were issued for **Angling Closed Waters, Using Bait on the Gilbert River, and No Combined Angling Tag**. One gentleman, who claimed he was fishing using his constitutional rights as a sovereign citizen, was issued a citation for **No Resident Angling License**. Another gentleman was cited for **Angling with More than One Line and Unattended Rods** after he was contacted plunking while sleeping in his truck 40 yards away.

Umpqua River Boat Patrol

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Douglas County Marine Patrol Deputy teamed up to patrol the lower Umpqua River by boat. The patrol resulted in 39 angler checks and 13 boat safety inspections. Two citations were issued for **No 2026 Angling License**, and three marine board warnings were issued.

Retaining Foul-Hooked Fish - Rogue River

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting angling checks near Hayes Falls on the Rogue River, when he noticed subjects on the other side of the river attempting to land a fish. The subjects netted the fish which was clearly hooked near the gills of the Chinook. The subjects ripped the hook out and blood was observed running down the body of the fish. The subjects then high-fived and retained the fish. The Trooper contacted the subjects who admitted to retaining the foul-hooked salmon and admitted to retaining another foul-hooked salmon that was caught with the same method. Both salmon were seized, and the main subject was criminally cited for **Retaining Foul-Hooked Fish x2**, the other subject was violation cited for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



McKenzie River Boat Patrol

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Sergeant floated the McKenzie River checking anglers. During the float, six anglers were checked. One angler was cited for **No 2026 Angling License**.

Subject Cited for Barbed Hooks - Columbia River

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a solo boat patrol of the Columbia River during Spring Chinook season. Nearly 60 anglers were contacted with only five Chinook and one steelhead successfully harvested. On one contact a subject admitted that all three fishing lines were rigged with barbed hooks. The subject was issued a violation citation for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**. The subject also failed a boating safety examination.

Unlicensed Subject Attempts to Hide Angling

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles observed an angler at Rock Creek Reservoir who walked off into the woods with his fishing pole, after being observed angling for a few minutes. It was discovered that the registered owner of the only vehicle parked nearby did not have a valid 2026 angling license, but in previous years had always purchased an angling license. After about 30 minutes, the subject returned to his vehicle via the road and was carrying a stick. The subject was asked how fishing was and it was explained he had been observed angling before he walked off. The subject denied angling and advised he had been holding a stick, not a fishing pole. After a brief conversation, the subject opted to be honest and admitted that he was in fact angling and had left his fishing pole in the woods. He was issued a violation citation for **No Resident Angling License**.



Lake Billy Chinook Boat and Shore Patrols

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted a shore patrol at Trout Creek Campground and a boat patrol on Lake Billy Chinook. One subject was cited for **Unlawful Take of Bull Trout: Undersized** and the fish was seized and donated. Three subjects were cited for **No Angling License**. Warnings were issued for **No Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)**, **No Waterway Access Permit**, and **No Angling License**.

Subject Surprised to be Cited on Easter

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject angling at Morgan Lake. When the subject was contacted, he immediately asked if he was getting a ticket. When asked why he thought he was getting a ticket, the subject stated because the season for fishing on the lake was closed. The subject was found to have retained four trout and stated one more trout and he would have been out of there. The subject was extremely surprised to see a Trooper on patrol since the lake was closed and it was Easter. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Take of Trout: Closed Season**. The trout were seized and donated to charity.

Angling Violations - Salmon River

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted two individuals angling on the Salmon River in North Lincoln County. Both individuals stated they were fishing for anything they could catch, to include trout (which was not open at the time). In addition, both individuals stated they did not have valid angling licenses. Both individuals were cited for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **Angling Closed Season**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT

Unlawful Take of Steelhead - John Day River

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant, who was off duty and out of the area, was contacted by a citizen who was angling for steelhead on the John Day River. The citizen witnessed a subject catch a wild steelhead and throw it on the rocks, then put a willow branch through its gill plate. This same citizen had spoken to the Sergeant a couple weeks prior about unlawful steelhead angling activity and was given contact numbers for the Sergeant and OSP Dispatch. John Day Fish and Wildlife Troopers were out of area for training, so a Patrol Trooper responded to the location and contacted the adult male suspect who admitted to catching the wild steelhead. Further investigation revealed the subject did not have a combined angling harvest card or Columbia River endorsement and was on felony probation for Assault. The suspect was cited and released for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Wild Steelhead, No Combined Angling Card, and No Columbia River Endorsement**. He also faced probation violation charges. The steelhead was seized for donation.

Subject Uses RC Boat for Angling

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking spring salmon bank anglers on the Columbia River when he saw a radio-controlled (RC) boat heading out into the river from the bank. The Trooper saw that the RC boat was carrying the sinker and lure from a bank angler's fishing pole, and watched as the boat dumped the sinker and lure into the water once it got out deep. The Trooper contacted the subject with the remote, who said he did not know it was prohibited. He said that he just bought the RC boat that week, and it was specifically designed for fishing. The subject was warned, and educated on the prohibitions on drone and RC boat use while angling.



Young Anglers Excited to Show Off Their Legally Caught Fish

A Central Region Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant contacted 12 trout fishermen at Dexter Reservoir. A father and his son had success, and agreed to take a photo.

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled Haystack Reservoir and contacted several anglers. A family was contacted with a small child who caught his first fish ever using a spider man fishing rod.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Suspect Pleads Guilty in 2024 Poaching Case

Madras Fish and Wildlife Troopers received a judgment for a subject who pleaded guilty to several wildlife crimes committed back in 2024 when he and a friend shot four deer and an elk out of season. The subject pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawfully hunting/taking wildlife and was sentenced to:

- Two days jail
- 3-year bench probation
- 5-year hunting license suspension
- \$2,000 restitution

Suspect Pleads No Contest - Tillamook County

Marine Fisheries Team Trooper conducted an investigation into the poaching of a calf elk in November 2025. The defendant plead no contest and was charged with a Class A Misdemeanor for **Removal/Parts of a Wildlife Carcass/Wasting Wildlife**. The defendant was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 40 hours of community service
- Forfeiture of firearm
- \$5,000 fine



Trooper Receives OHA TIP Award

Senior Trooper Fough recently received the 2024 Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) TIP award. Morgan Olsen, the President of the Union-Wallowa OHA Chapter, presented the award to Senior Trooper Fough at a recent meeting in La Grande. The award was for the Trooper's dedication to a TIP notification he received in 2024 regarding an elk poaching incident in Wallowa County. The Trooper conducted a thorough investigation, and the violators were successfully prosecuted and held accountable for their actions.





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.



