



OREGON STATE POLICE

FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

JULY 2026



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*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper on a
Deschutes River drift boat patrol*

CENTRAL OREGON INTERAGENCY EFFORTS



Over the spring and summer, OSP's Fish and Wildlife Division partnered with Central Oregon law enforcement agencies in an effort to bolster interagency operations and cooperation centered around each agency's mission and jurisdictional authority. Training for officers was conducted to strengthen their boating, safety, and enforcement skills. The training culminated in joint operations on Lake Billy Chinook, the Deschutes River, and Prineville Reservoir.

In Central Oregon, multiple law enforcement agencies share responsibility for enforcing fish, wildlife, and boating laws on Lake Billy Chinook and the Deschutes River in Section #1 below Pelton Dam. Each agency contributes a specific mission, ranging from boater safety and enforcing tribal access permits to protecting natural resources.

Participating agencies included officers from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Branch of Natural Resources, Marine Deputies from Jefferson and Crook Counties, and members of OSP's Central Oregon Fish and Wildlife team, each bringing valuable skills and expertise.



In April, agencies completed a drift boat skills refresher float from Warm Springs to Trout Creek. Warm Springs then hosted training at Round Butte Dam in May. In June, Crook County Marine Deputies provided boating under the influence of intoxicants (BUII) and water rescue training.

These collaborative efforts led to numerous boat safety inspections, angler contacts, and the seizure of an unlawfully taken bull trout. Partnership efforts will continue into August, when OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers will host a Wildlife Enforcement Decoy training for tribal officers.



Partnerships like this occur across the state helping OSP to improve communications and enhance operational effectiveness, thus protecting Oregon's natural resources, residents, and visitors.

2025 F&W TEAM OF THE YEAR



(L to R) Senior Troopers Jason Stone, Aaron Baimbridge, Kyle Bachmeier, and Jacob Kercher

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division proudly announces the Roseburg Team as our Fish and Wildlife Division Team of the Year for 2025.

The Roseburg Team covers Fish and Wildlife enforcement in four wildlife management units in Douglas County, the fifth largest county in the state at over 5,000 square miles, while providing heavy assistance in Josephine County and Coos County. They are a crucial enforcement partner with US Fish and Wildlife in poaching cases in the Crater Lake National Park.

The Roseburg Team's dedication to the state of Oregon is demonstrated through their community service efforts. Whether they are on duty, or off duty, Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers are devoted to improving their community.

In 2025, the team presented at over 12 different public outreach events, representing OSP to the Oregon Hunter's Association, ODOT, Douglas County Search and Rescue, Umpqua Community College, and the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby.

The Roseburg Team excels at investigations, with 2025 being no exception. During 2025, they had 46 criminal charges

for Fish and Wildlife cases, issued 95 violation citations and 313 warnings for Fish and Wildlife cases. The small team was able to detect 27 illegal harvests events for a total of 34 illegally harvested animals.

The Roseburg Team represents OSP, the Fish and Wildlife Division, and the Roseburg Area Command Office with excellent, humble professionalism when working with outside agencies, as they demonstrated when they worked with US Fish and Wildlife to conclude several massive elk poaching cases out of the Crater Lake National Park that led to one suspect. The Roseburg Team had been working on these cases for nearly three years, pushing for assistance from US Fish and Wildlife. However, in December of 2025, with the combined efforts of the Roseburg Team, and US Fish and Wildlife, a search warrant was applied for and served at a residence in Douglas County, where 18 sets of elk antler/skulls, three compound bows, a thermal imaging device, several electronic devices, a cell phone, and illegal drugs were seized.

Please join us in congratulating the Roseburg Team for their outstanding work in 2025!

2025 F&W PARTNER OF THE YEAR



The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division proudly announces Dr. Ryan Scholz, Oregon Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian, as the recipient of the 2025 Fish and Wildlife Division Partner of the Year Award.

In 2025, the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division was tasked with the investigation into the West Coast Game Park Safari in Bandon, Oregon. This investigation culminated in a 4-day long search warrant execution, where 322 zoo animals were relocated to safety. The offenders were eventually indicted on several charges related to animal cruelty, drugs, and guns.

Dr. Scholz was able to provide initial background information to understand how the USDA operates, and the significance of the inspection reports.

During the planning phase of this operation Dr. Scholz was instrumental in the animal relocation planning, communicating with zoos, animal care facilities, and veterinary professionals. Dr. Scholz devised a plan to

relocate all the known animals present and coordinated with outside agencies and partners to obtain necessary tools and equipment to make the operation a success.

On scene, Dr. Scholz was an integral part of the operation in his role as the animal coordinator, providing needed expertise and keeping those on scene safe during dangerous animal movements. Dr. Scholz arrived early and stayed late each day to make sure things ran smoothly. Dr. Scholz was the first to jump in when a problem arose, and demonstrated exceptional problem solving skills ensuring the operation was a success and the animals were appropriately cared for.

This was the largest operation ever taken on by the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Oregon State Police, and the success of the operation was a direct result of Dr. Scholz's expertise and collaboration.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Ryan Scholz on a job well done!

OUTREACH & EVENTS



Devils Lake 4th of July Fireworks Show

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted the Lincoln County Sheriff office and Lincoln City Police Department by providing a boat patrol of Devils Lake in Lincoln City for the City's first firework show on the lake.



Gleneden Beach 4th of July Parade

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers lead the way in the annual Gleneden Beach 4th of July Parade. Over 4,000 people were estimated in attendance.



Douglas County Career and Water Safety Days

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper attended a Career Day at Brockway School (above), and Water Safety Day at Lookingglass Elementary School (below). The Trooper presented to multiple groups of grade schoolers from the Winston School District, about the waterways in Douglas County. The students received stickers and water safety tools to keep them safe this summer.



OUTREACH & EVENTS



Hunter Education Field Day - Grant County

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant assisted with a hunter education presentation and field day in Grant County. Approximately 20 attendees completed the course, and good questions were asked by students and parents about various wildlife laws and scenarios.



Troopers Attend Fish with an Inmate Event

Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the 4th annual Fish with an Inmate Event which was hosted by Oregon Department of Corrections officers from the Snake River Prison. The event is designed to reintegrate minimum security inmates with their families who are close to being released from prison. Fishing poles and tackle boxes are donated by the Oregon Department of Corrections staff and a lunch is provided to all who attended the event. This year seven adults in custody, ten children, and nine supporting family members attended the fishing event.

Albany OHA Meeting

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers presented at the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Albany monthly meeting. The Troopers answered questions and provided information on the legality of thermal imaging devices. The presentation was well received.

Trooper Appearances at Hood River County Fair

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles made several appearances at the Hood River County Fair throughout the week engaging with community members and supporting local youth participating in FFA and 4-H activities. During the visits, Senior Trooper Frazier interacted with exhibitors as they showcased their livestock. The Trooper also spent time interacting with families, handing out stickers to younger children and visiting with fair attendees. The interactions were very positive, with many community members expressing their appreciation for the OSP presence at the fair.

RESCUES & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



Common Murre Returned to Beach

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of an injured bird being rescued on the beach. The bird was later identified as a common murre, which is Oregon's most abundant nesting seabird. The common murre was rescued and returned to the beach. The rescuer was advised to observe and report injured animals in the future and that it is best to leave them alone.

Turkey Vulture Taken to Animal Hospital

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report regarding an injured bird in the area of Highway 30 near milepost 17 in Multnomah County. When he arrived on scene, a passerby stated that he and another person were able to move the bird out of the middle of the highway. The bird was located hiding in the brush and was identified as turkey vulture with a possible broken wing. The vulture was captured and transported to DoveLewis Animal Hospital for evaluation.

Injured Barn Owl Taken to Rehab Facility

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call about an injured barn owl found in Stanfield. The reporting party advised it was placed in a pet crate and had a towel over it keeping it in a dark space. The Trooper retrieved the owl and transported it to Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehab Center in Pendleton for further care.



Two Injured Bald Eagles Rescued

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from the park host at Prescott Beach County Park in Columbia County stating that two bald eagles had been seen fighting and were now both in the park with injured wings. With the help of a patrol Trooper, both eagles were captured and transported to Bird Alliance of Oregon in Portland for evaluation.

Injured Osprey Pulled from River

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking anglers along the Williamson River near Chiloquin. Two juveniles approached and advised they had just pulled a possibly injured osprey from the river. They showed the Trooper to the bird's location. It was examined and determined to be a very wet and very cold sub adult osprey with no obvious injuries. It likely got too wet to fly and would have drowned without the assistance from the juveniles. The osprey was left at the location to rest and recover.

Buck Deer Untangled from Swing Set

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the report of a buck deer tangled in a swing set in the SW hills of Portland. The Trooper arrived and determined the deer was too large to attempt to free without further assistance. ODFW biologists were contacted and responded with tranquilizers. After being subdued, ODFW staff and the reporting party were able to hold the deer down while the Trooper untangled the straps from around the antlers and neck. A few moments later, the deer stood up on his own and walked away with no apparent injuries.

RESCUES & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



Trooper Assists with Fire Evacuations

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper, along with other Harney County law enforcement agencies, evacuated numerous houses in the Willow Flat area just north of Burns because of the Second Flat Fire and how rapidly it was moving. Numerous residents were contacted and were able to leave safely. The Trooper along with Patrol Troopers also assisted numerous cattle ranchers in the area with moving their cattle across Highway 20 to a safer location free from the fire. In total around 200 cows were moved to safety and the ranchers were grateful to OSP for the help.



Trooper Conducts Water Rescue Training

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a training exercise with Klamath County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), Klamath County Fire Department (KCFD) #1 and the US Coast Guard on Klamath Lake. First responders were able to practice basket rescues on the water as well as other maneuvers. The training proved to be excellent and highly valuable, allowing multiple agencies to streamline communications and highly technical operations. Additional training is anticipated.



Trooper Assists with Medical Evacuation

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Metolius River, checking anglers, and received a report of a woman coughing to the point she couldn't breathe. The reporting party advised they were near a gravel pit on the Santiam Pass. The Trooper located the pit and advised the ground and air ambulance of the location then rendered aid to calm the person till she could breathe better. The person was taken to St. Charles Bend via Air Link for evaluation.

GENERAL LAW & ENVIRONMENT



Trooper Clears Tree from Road

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted with locating and giving evacuation notices to dispersed campers near the Akawa Butte fire. During the patrol a tree was found that recently fell across a major roadway leaving the area. The tree was cut and removed using the department chainsaw.



Trooper Assists with Wildfire Evacuations

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was the first unit on scene for a rapidly growing wildfire threatening structures. The fire was spotting and torching. The Trooper conducted multiple residential checks for evacuations and coordinated responding resources. All attempts to contain spot fires were unsuccessful. The fire rapidly expanded to several hundred acres and damaged or destroyed multiple structures. The timely arrival of air support finally stopped the fire and saved numerous residences.

Driver Arrested for DUII

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper located and stopped a vehicle after receiving several driving complaints as it traveled west on Highway 126E near Vida. During the contact, the Trooper noticed signs of impairment. The driver consented to standard field sobriety tests and was subsequently arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)**. The driver was transported to the Springfield jail where he provided a breath sample of .27% blood alcohol content.

Troopers Assist on DUII Crash

Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers were patrolling private timber land in Marion County when they overheard Salem Patrol Troopers dispatched to a crash near Silver Falls State Park involving a highly intoxicated male who hit a tree and was then picked up and driven away in a separate vehicle. The Troopers were nearby and responded to the crash scene to help with traffic control and collect evidence while Patrol Troopers contacted the getaway vehicle which was stopped by Silverton Police Department. The driver of the original crashed vehicle was identified and arrested for **DUII** with a blood alcohol content of .18%.

GENERAL LAW & ENVIRONMENT



Subjects Cited for Damming Creek to Catch Fish

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a complaint on private property near the Big Creek Fish Hatchery where a group of subjects had reportedly built a dam across the creek using rocks and were actively snagging salmon. This landowner allows members of the public to access and fish the creek through their property. Upon arrival there was a large group of adults and kids actively angling for salmon with two Chinook salmon and a steelhead laying nearby, none of which displayed any obvious snag marks. The anglers on scene stated two subjects had harvested the fish but had walked up the creek to continue fishing. A few minutes later the two subjects returned and had not tagged two of the fish. One of the subjects initially denied catching any fish until further investigation revealed his juvenile son (who did not have a combined angling tag) had helped him reel it in. When questioned about the rock dam, the same male subject who initially denied catching any fish, admitted to building the dam the previous day. The subject who built the dam was criminally cited and released for **Unlawful Fill/Removal of Material From Bed or Banks of Waters** and **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. The other subject was issued a violation citation for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. The subjects were both told not to return to the property in the future at the landowner's request. An ODFW Big Creek Hatchery employee stated they would remove the dam from the creek.

Boat Operator Found to be Intoxicated

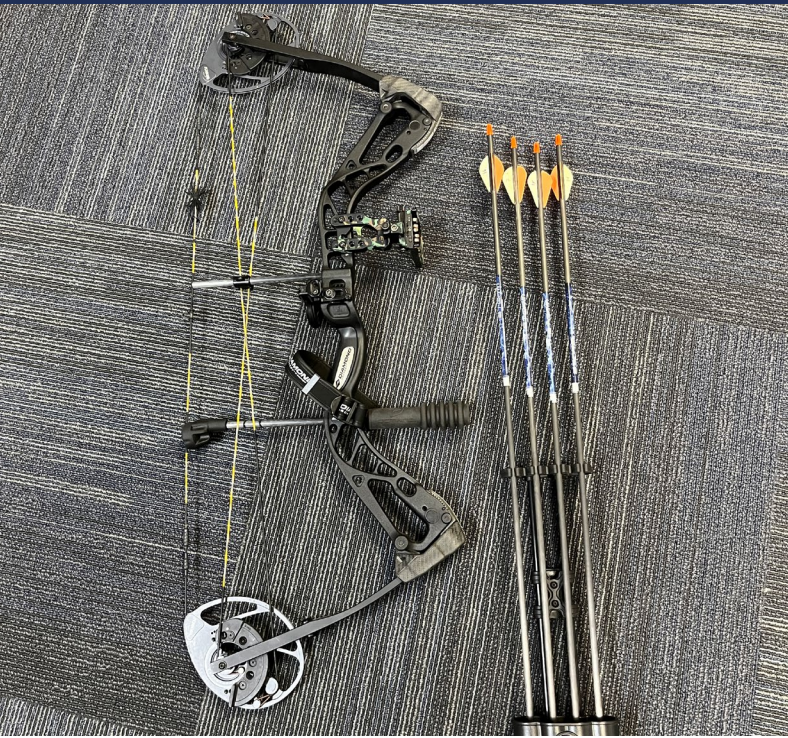
A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a joint boat patrol with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on the Columbia River. A total of 20 contacts were made. Multiple boater safety inspections were made. Five subjects were cited for **No Angling License, Angling with No Combined Angling Tag, Expired Boat Registration, and Operating without a Boater's Education card**. One boat was seen with expired registration and was slow to yield. The Trooper observed the operator of the boat pass an alcoholic beverage to their passenger. The boat stopped and signs of impairment were observed on the operator. The passenger drove the boat to a nearby dock on the Washington side where a Washington Patrol Trooper finished the **Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants (BUII)** investigation. The operator's blood alcohol content was .17%.



Troopers Conduct Night Flight Operation

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a night flight operation with the OSP SW Region Pilot. The flight was to deter illegal campfire activity on Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC) lands and adjoining BLM. The Klamath County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Forest Deputy assisted with the operation. Only one illegal campfire was located on public land on the Klamath River. The campers extinguished the fire. In total, the Trooper on the ground had 13 travel management area (TMA) contacts and one angler check, resulting in eight enforcement actions. In addition, two traffic stops were conducted by officers on vehicles for traffic violations as they were leaving the patrol area. The pilot was able to capture an exceptional photograph of the aurora borealis.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT



Deer Shot with Arrow in Brookings City Limits

Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Troopers completed an investigation involving a subject who shot a deer with an arrow inside the City of Brookings. The initial report was received in early March. A deer was reported several times in a neighborhood, with the arrow still in its neck. With the assistance of ODFW, several unsuccessful attempts were made to tranquilize the deer and remove the arrow. Through extensive investigation, over four months, Troopers developed a suspect. The suspect admitted to shooting the deer. He claimed he was target practicing and the deer walked into the yard "So he aimed his bow at it and accidentally shot it." The suspect was criminally cited for **Hunting Prohibited Area: City Limits** and **Hunting Closed Season**. The bow and arrows were seized.

Subject Cited for Wildlife and Firearm Charges

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to an agency assist where a Linn County Deputy had probable cause on a subject for **Possession of Firearm by Felon**. The subject was a convicted felon and a neighbor reported that he shot a buck deer last November with a firearm and his mother tagged the buck. The Deputy handled the Possession of Firearm by Felon charge which included seizure of a rifle, and the Trooper handled the wildlife crimes. The Trooper issued citations to the subject for **Take/Possession of Buck Deer** and **Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag**. The mother was cited for **Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag**. The deer head, meat, and big game tag were seized as evidence.



Subject Kills Cougar Before Buying Tag

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from ODFW on a suspicious cougar check in. The Trooper contacted the subject and determined he did not have a cougar tag or hunting license at the time he killed the cougar. The subject later admitted to purchasing all required documents after the kill and was issued a criminal citation for **Take/Possession of Cougar**, **No Big Game Tag**, and **No Resident Hunting License**. The cougar skull, hide, and the subject's rifle were all seized as evidence.



Multi-Day Patrols in Trout Creek Mountains

Burns Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted multi-day patrols in the Trout Creek Mountains. Multiple contacts were made with ATVs and hunters scouting for upcoming seasons. Several individuals commented they were both surprised and pleased to have OSP Troopers patrolling the remote area.

MARINE FISHERIES



Subject Retains Wild Coho

An ODFW Port Sampler reported the retention of a wild Coho, while she was inspecting the fish the subject became agitated and left the scene. A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a Patrol Sergeant responded. He later returned to the scene and admitted to retaining the fish to the Troopers. When asked where the fish was, he stated he went to his house approximately 14 miles away to fillet them and had returned to pick up his boat. The fish was seized from his house and donated locally. The subject was cited for **Illegal Take and Possession of a Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon**.

Subjects Over Limit on Razor Clams

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting razor clam surveillance and checks on Clatsop beaches and contacted a group of three clammers. Investigation revealed each clammer had dug and retained over the limit of 15 clams per person. Eleven razor clams were seized and all parties were issued a citation for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Clams**. The seized razor clams were donated to a local charity in Astoria.

Commercial Dungeness Crab Violations

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted follow up on a 14-day rule commercial Dungeness crab violation at the Port of Garibaldi. Investigation revealed a commercial Dungeness crab vessel came into port with their last Dungeness crab load of the season. The captain of the vessel was interviewed and stated he was advised by the permit holder not to land the crab as required. Citations were issued for **Leave Gear Set More Than 14 days Without a Landing** and **Aiding in Commercial Fishing Violation: Commercial Shellfish**.



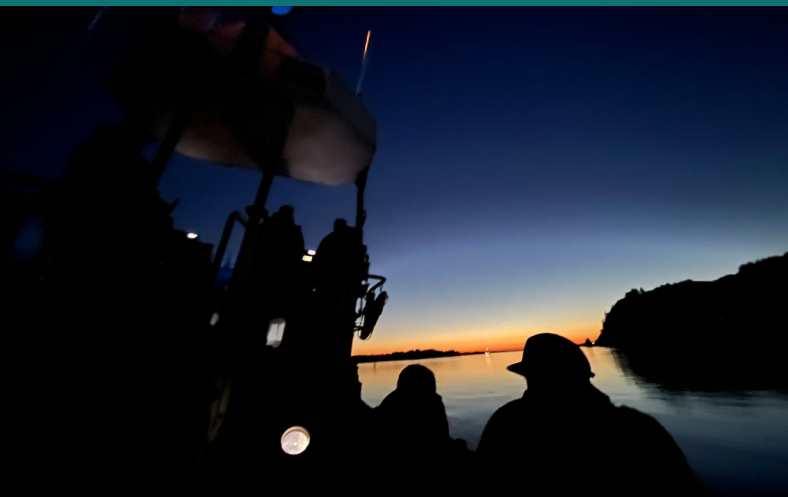
Subjects Dig Razor Clams During Closure

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a low tide beach patrol along Clatsop County Beaches. The Trooper observed two subjects digging razor clams which closed on July 15th for the annual conservation closure. As the Trooper contacted the subjects they attempted to conceal their clam guns in their fish bags. At first the subjects denied digging but one subject's clam gun was sticking out of his fish bag. Both subjects admitted to digging for fresh bait for surf perch fishing. One subject's clam gun was cut to half the length for better concealment in his fish bag. Both subjects were criminally cited and released for **Take/Possession of Razor Clams: Closed Season**, and 16 razor clams and both clam guns were seized as evidence.

Subjects Retains Undersized and Female Crab

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Waldport Alsea Port Docks on a report of a family retaining undersized and female crab. The family was contacted and two adults were issued citations for **Retaining Female Dungeness Crab** and warned for **Retaining Undersized Crab**. Thirty female crab and 18 undersized male crab were seized and returned to the water.

MARINE FISHERIES



Nighttime Contact of Commercial Salmon Vessel

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant and Newport Trooper conducted a nighttime contact of a commercial salmon vessel as it was returning to port. The captain of the vessel was known to have an active warrant out of Clatsop County and had previously violated the salmon landing call-in requirement. The US Coast Guard (USCG) was contacted to coordinate a teamed contact and boarding of the vessel. As the vessel approached the pier the subjects observed the USCG personnel on the pier and quickly began backing out of the port. Multiple attempts were made to get the vessel to stop but the captain continued to leave the port. Troopers and USCG personnel scrambled to the USCG station close by and utilized the USCG patrol boat to contact the vessel in the bay. The vessel was boarded by both the Troopers and the USCG team and the captain was taken into custody without incident. The vessel was escorted back to the pier by the USCG and both the captain and the deck hand were cited for **No Individual Commercial Fishing License** and the captain was cited for **Failing to Notify Prior to Landing Salmon**. The captain was taken to Clatsop County Jail and lodged.

Commercial Crab Pot Violations

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial crab fisherman about his fishing gear which was located actively fishing on a PV Guardian patrol. Several of the fisherman's crab pots were missing a required secondary buoy tag which is required on all crab pot buoys to indicate the fisherman had reduced his gear by 20% as is required from the start of the late season commercial Dungeness crab fishery. The fisherman was cited for **No Buoy Tag**. When inspecting some of the fisherman's crab gear it was observed some of the pots had pot tags belonging to a different vessel. Investigation revealed they were from a vessel the fisherman previously owned. He was warned for **No Pot Tag**.

Subjects Mistake Chinook for Coho

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks at Hammond Marina as boats returned from salmon angling in the Pacific Ocean. Effort and success rates were both very high with nearly every boat coming back with limits. In one instance, a boat came back with three subjects on board and stated they had retained six salmon, one Chinook and one Coho each. Further inspection of the salmon revealed all six salmon were Chinook. The subjects were educated on how to tell the differences and were each issued a citation for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Chinook**. Three Chinook salmon were seized and donated. Additional enforcement actions on the patrol included **Take/Possession of Undersized Chinook Salmon** and **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**.

Ocean Salmon Angler Patrols - Brookings

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled ocean salmon anglers near Brookings by boat and shore over two days. Angler pressure and catch rates were high, and over 30 anglers were contacted. Citations were issued for **No Resident Angling License, Angling with Barbed Hooks, Fail to Immediately Validate Combined Angling Tag, and Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. Warnings were issued for **Angling Barbed Hooks, Angling Prohibited Number of Hooks, and No Valid Tag in Possession**.

Wholesale Fish Dealer Not Reporting Bycatch

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper concluded an investigation on a wholesale fish dealer that was not reporting bycatch on the fish tickets of market squid offloads. During the investigation it was found the manager had instructed the dock workers to toss out the bycatch prior to weighing and reporting it. Enforcement action was taken against the manager of the wholesaler's dock who is ultimately responsible for **Failing to Accurately Complete a Fish Receiving Ticket**.

Wholesale Dealer Cited for Lack of Records

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Astoria Trooper conducted an administrative check at a wholesale fish dealer in downtown Astoria. The investigation revealed multiple issues involving shellfish non-compliance with ODA requirements and a lack of required records for halibut and sturgeon. The wholesale dealer was issued a citation for **Retail Fish Dealer Without Required Records**, and 28.95 pounds of sturgeon were seized. The wholesale dealer eventually provided receipts for the fish which were ultimately returned to the dealer.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



High Lakes Classic Patrol

The Mid-Columbia Team conducted its annual “High Lakes Classic” patrol. In addition to the entire team, a volunteer retiree and a Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper participated. Lakes and forestland in the north central Cascades were patrolled resulting in the following activities:

- Two citations for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Trout** (12 trout seized)
- One citation each for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Violation**, **No Juvenile Angling License**, **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit Trout** (one trout seized and released alive), **Take/Possession of Foul-Hooked Fish** (trout seized and released alive), and **No Non-Resident Angling License**.
- Four citations for **No Resident Angling License**
- Four citations and three warnings for **Child Under 12 Not Wearing Personal Flotation Device (PFD)**

Additional warnings were given for **Continuing to Angle After Retaining Daily Bag Limit**, **Fail to Register Motorboat**, **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Violation**, **No Juvenile Angling License**, **No Angling License on Person**, **No Sound Producing Device**, and **No Waterway Access Permit**. Multiple boat inspections were completed.



Subject Angling with Bait in Closed Area

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject fishing with bait on the Crooked River. The Trooper watched the subject then walk upstream and sit below a sign that stated angling was prohibited upriver in the Bowman Dam spillway. The subject continuously cast the bobber and worm upstream into the closure. The subject was contacted and ultimately admitted knowing he could not fish the spillway or use bait. The subject was cited for **Angling Closed Area/Stream** and **Angling Prohibited Method: Bait**.

Coquille River Boat Patrol

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Coquille River near Coquille. A bank angler was contacted who could not provide his angling license upon request, and it was determined that the subject did not have a valid angling license because he was suspended for failing to child support. The subject was cited for **No Resident Angling License** and was warned for **Angling While Suspended**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Deschutes River Shore Patrol

Bend and Madras Fish and Wildlife Troopers and Sergeant conducted shore patrol along the Deschutes River contacting anglers and boaters (including the in-compliance anglers above). Maupin to Locked Gate above Harpham Flat as well as Sherar's Falls to Macks Canyon were patrolled. First aid was rendered to a child with torn fingernail at Macks Canyon Campground and stickers were handed out as well.

Subject Caught Snagging - McIver State Park

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject at the Clackamas River near Dog Creek at McIver State Park unlawfully snag and retain a Chinook salmon. During the investigation, the subject admitted the salmon was hooked in the tail and that he intentionally retained it despite knowing it had been foul hooked, stating he was "being greedy." The subject was cited for **Taking/Possession of Chinook Salmon** and **Angling Prohibited Method: Snagging**. The Chinook salmon was donated, and the subject's fishing equipment was seized as evidence.



Unlawful Take of Sturgeon - Clackamette Park

A Portland Patrol Trooper received a report of a subject retaining a sturgeon at Clackamette Park, inside the sturgeon sanctuary. The Trooper responded and questioned the subject who eventually admitted to putting the 44-inch white sturgeon in his truck. The subject then claimed that he had not been targeting sturgeon despite the very large rod and use of sand shrimp as bait. The sturgeon and the subject's angling gear were seized, and he was issued a criminal citation for **Unlawful Take of Sturgeon**. A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded and assisted with the processing and donation of the sturgeon.

Subjects Cited for Sturgeon Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was patrolling the Columbia River when he observed a boat anchored near the Oregon shore fishing for sturgeon. Three adults and one child were angling and taking turns reeling in a sturgeon. The subjects were observed catching several legal and undersized fish. While handling the sturgeon, they were seen lifting the sturgeon from the gill covers into the boat and at one point even dropping one in the boat. The subjects then hooked an oversized sturgeon. When they got it to the boat, two of the adults lifted the fish into the boat again using the gill covers. Contact was made with the subject and they stated it was their first time angling for sturgeon. They were not aware of the regulation regarding not removing oversized sturgeon from the water. Two of the adults, who handled most of the fish, were issued violation citations for **Failing to Immediately Release Fish Unharmful** and **Removing Oversized Sturgeon from the Water**. The third adult was issued a citation for **No Angling License**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Overnight Boat Patrol - Umpqua River

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted an overnight boat patrol on the Umpqua River near Elkton. Numerous contacts were made with the following enforcement actions: one citation for **Guiding Without a License**, one citation for **No Angling License**, and seven warnings for **No Angling License**.

Willamette River Deadline Patrols

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers worked the Willamette River deadline collectively. One vessel was observed landing a Chinook in the Columbia River and contact was made. Ultimately the fish was seized, and one subject was cited for the **Unlawful Take**, while his fishing partner was cited for **Use of Barbed Hooks** and **More Than One Rod in the Columbia River**. Another vessel was observed operating multiple rods in the Columbia River and was contacted. The owner of that vessel turned out to be someone that Fish and Wildlife Detectives had observed in May, retaining a salmon in the Willamette River, without Oregon licenses or tags. The subject was interviewed about the May incident, and it became clear the subject was completely unaware of the law. The subject openly admitted to catching multiple fish in the Willamette River, on his Washington Harvest card. The subject had even validated multiple fish with the lower Willamette River code on his card. The subject claimed he had asked the licensing agent for a combo license, which he was told was good for Washington and Oregon. The subject was cited violation level for **No Non-Resident Angling License** and **Unlawful Take of Chinook**. The subject's fishing partner was warned for **No Non-Resident Angling License**. During another approach for contact, a young child was observed hurriedly putting on a life jacket. The father admitted he forgot to ensure the child was wearing a life jacket. The father was issued a citation and some education on regulations.



Subjects Cited at Klaskanine Hatchery

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Klaskanine Hatchery on a report of a large group of people keeping about a dozen salmon. Some members of the party had left, and the last vehicle was just pulling out upon the Trooper's arrival. Subsequent investigation revealed that 11 adult salmon and one jack had been retained. One of the adult fish was unclipped and a suspect that returned to the hatchery once he was called, took responsibility for the fish. Citations and warnings were given for **Fail to Immediately Validate**, **Retention of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Chinook Salmon**, and **No Transport Ticket**. This was the same group that had been cited the previous week at Big Creek for failing to validate and building a dam across the river.

Snagging Violations Observed - Wilson River

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was set up in a concealed location on the upper Wilson River where he had previously observed a school of steelhead showing signs consistent with attempted snagging activity. The Trooper watched as two subjects attempted to snag steelhead but were unsuccessful. Later, additional subjects showed up and were able to snag and land one steelhead that was hooked in the belly. Additionally, two of the subjects did not have licenses or tags. When contacted, the subject said that it was hooked in the mouth, before eventually admitting to snagging the steelhead. Four subjects were cited, with multiple citations and warnings issued for **Taking Snagged Steelhead**, **Angling Prohibited Method: Snagging**, **Aid in a Wildlife Offense**, **No Angling License**, and **No Harvest Card**.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Three Suspects in Wildlife Case Plead Guilty

After a lengthy investigation and the service of a search warrant in the fall of 2025, a Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles learned that the last of three suspects in a wildlife case had been adjudicated.

The main suspect in the case pleaded guilty to three counts of **Take/Possession of Deer** and one count of **Hunting While Suspended**. Through a plea agreement he was convicted on misdemeanor counts avoiding a felony charge and was sentenced to:

- 36 months probation
- \$3000 in fines to ODFW
- a no contact order with the other two defendants
- Forfeited all evidence
- The subject received a lifetime hunting suspension as this was his 3rd take/possession case in the last 5 years.

A second subject pleaded guilty to **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Turkey** (A violation) and **Take/Possession of Deer** (A violation). This subject was sentenced to:

- \$1000 fine for the take of deer
- 3-year hunting license suspension

A third subject pleaded guilty to **Take/Possession of Deer** (A violation). The defendant deferred a fine and was sentenced to:

- Forfeit all evidence
- 3-year hunting license suspension

Subject Pleads Guilty in Tampering Case

In late 2024 and early 2025, a Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant investigated and referred charges on a subject for **Tampering with Public Records, Obstructing Governmental/Judicial Administration, Criminal Mischief** and **Obstructing the Taking of Wildlife**. ODFW personnel received multiple complaints regarding hostile and suspicious interactions on Denman Wildlife Area. ODFW personnel deployed multiple game cameras at critical access points. The suspect was retrieving locked hunter information cards, destroying and changing information. At least once he utilized that information to track down and contact another hunter. It was also believed that he was tampering with flood gates to engineer his own hunting grounds which hindered germination and crop success. The suspect was ultimately trespassed for life from the Denman Wildlife area by ODFW which was reinforced in his plea deal by the court. The subject pleaded guilty to **Tampering with Public Records** and **Criminal Mischief II**. Other charges were dismissed. The subject was sentenced to:

- 10 days in jail
- 18 months probation
- Restitution on all counts including those dismissed





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



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