



OREGON STATE POLICE **FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION**



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

AUGUST 2026



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On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife patrol truck at Coyote Hills near Plush

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE SEASON

It's early June, the Oregon controlled hunt draw results are in and after years of waiting, a select few draw a coveted pronghorn antelope tag. While many Oregonians look forward to the long summer months, vacations, and back yard barbecues, those lucky enough to draw a pronghorn tag are focused on August, when most of the controlled antelope hunts begin! As controlled hunt winners begin fine-tuning their plans, maybe purchasing a new rifle, or upgrading glass, many Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers begin their August planning as well!

Oregon's pronghorn antelope range throughout the Columbia Plateau and High Desert, with wide-open sage lands as their home. As can be imagined, hunting pronghorn can be a challenge and requires preparation and planning; enforcing rules and regulations as well as maintaining a presence in the vast terrains of Oregon can also be a challenge. Fish and Wildlife Troopers begin their enforcement efforts well in advance of the season, drawing up enforcement operations, ensuring equipment is prepared and functioning, and prepping for long days afield.

When August finally rolls around, Fish and Wildlife Troopers hit the field, using enforcement tools such as aircraft, all-terrain vehicles, and 4-wheel drive trucks, to access and patrol their areas of operation. These tools greatly assist Fish and Wildlife Troopers with increasing the frequency of contacts with pronghorn hunters to ensure regulations are adhered to, and rules followed.

This recent August was no different and Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted numerous pronghorn hunters and noted plenty of success. Fish and Wildlife Troopers provided tips regarding where to hunt and had plenty of positive interaction with hunters throughout. Hunters were glad to see Fish and Wildlife Troopers out in the field and overall, compliance with listed regulations was at a high level. The following highlights some of the interactions or incidents Fish and Wildlife Troopers encountered:



Some of the happy hunters and their legal harvests checked by Troopers this season

EAST REGION ANTELOPE SEASON



A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of an antelope shot and partially wasted near Brothers, that appeared to be taken outside of season. It was determined the hunt occurred on private property and the landowner was able to provide guide information. The guide provided his client's information showing they possessed a 2026 Backcountry Veterans Special Opportunity Pronghorn Antelope Tag which was validated that morning. The partial waste was due to non-recovery of tenderloins, which were spoiled due to the antelope having been gut shot.

Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers and the East Region Fish and Wildlife Pilot worked the opening weekend of the Whitehorse Antelope Season. A moderate amount of successful antelope harvests was had by hunters in the Whitehorse Unit. On the second day of the season a Trooper checked a harvest in the Trout Creek Mountains from a hunter who was gracious enough to pose for a photograph with his Antelope. The hunter was an ODFW Biologist out of The Dalles.

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint concerning a plane harassing antelope near Gerber Reservoir. With some excellent help from OSP Dispatch, the plane was identified and the owner located. The Trooper was able to contact the pilot and owner an hour after the incident. The pilot admitted making a low pass around Gerber Reservoir on a pleasure flight and had a GPS track to confirm his flight path. There was no evidence of harassment, and he was educated on the public perception of low-level flights during hunting season and the risks of further complaints.

Burns Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrolled the six antelope hunting units located within Harney County during the antelope rifle seasons. Numerous contacts were made with the Troopers giving advice on where to locate antelope within the different units. Several successful hunters were contacted and photos with their local Trooper were taken. One hunter who had been given advice from a Trooper as to where to look for antelope reached back out to the Trooper after her hunt to thank them for the advice, which resulted in her taking a nice buck.

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a message from an antelope hunter who wanted contact from a Trooper at the advice from ODFW. The subject explained he had drawn a Whitehorse Unit tag and thought he purchased it at Bi-Mart when buying his other tags for the 2026 season. The subject advised he went hunting and killed a buck the second day of the hunt and when he went to tag the buck, the tag was not available on his phone (ELS). The Trooper worked with the subject throughout the investigation and ultimately the antelope was seized, since the subject did not have a tag to possess the buck, which they had not verified prior to hunting. The subject called the Trooper several days after the incident and advised that even ODFW informed him that there was no way they could issue the tag since he had already hunted and harvested an animal. The subject was educated about the importance of checking his tags prior to hunting, issued a warning and the meat/horns were seized.

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call regarding a subject in the Juniper Unit who self-reported accidentally shooting a doe antelope while trying to get a second shot on his wounded buck. The Trooper contacted the subject at his camp the next morning and learned the subject had shot a buck antelope at around 350 yards and got a good hit on the buck. His spotter told him to shoot the buck again and that it was the antelope on the far right. The subject said by the time he got on the antelope on the far right his buck had moved up behind a small juniper tree, so when he shot the one on the far right, it turned out to be a doe. The subject was issued a warning for **Unlawful Take of Antelope**, and the meat was seized for local donation in the Burns area.

The South-Central Team conducted a coordinated patrol of Lake and Harney Counties for the antelope all legal weapon opener. The SW region aircraft was utilized as well as ATVs and side-by-sides. Dozens of contacts were made and overall compliance was low. Enforcement actions were taken for **No Paper Tag in Possession, No Electronic Tag in Possession, No ATV Permit, Violation of Regulated Use Restrictions, Youth ATV Rider with No Helmets, Unsigned Tag**, and other violations. Hunter success was also low with only a handful of animals checked.

2025 F&W PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR



OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers presented our 19th annual Fish and Wildlife Division Prosecutor of the Year award to Wallowa County District Attorney Rebecca Frolander. DA Frolander was recognized in front of her colleagues at the Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) Summer Conference in Seaside. The award consists of a wildlife print with an engraved plaque that is made in coordination with the Oregon Hunters Association.

Following are excerpts from the nominations submitted for her 2025 efforts:

"A common theme I hear from Troopers regarding Ms. Frolander is how passionate she is about prosecuting Fish and Wildlife offenses and how available she makes herself to investigating officers. I am impressed with the level of professionalism she brings to her position and the high regard she holds for Oregon's fish and wildlife resources in Wallowa County. Ms. Frolander realizes the importance of these resources and understands the importance of protecting and preserving them for future generations."

"Ms. Frolander holds fish and wildlife resources and the environment in high regard. This is evident in the court dispositions she receives. This past year she successfully prosecuted one of our F&W cases involving an outfitter guide and their illegal activity during a big horn sheep hunt with clients. Ms. Frolander took this investigation very seriously and conferred with investigating officers throughout. At the completion of the trial the suspect was

convicted of a Class C Felony, received a five-year hunting license suspension, 18 months of supervised probation, 10 days in jail and \$25,000 in fines. This outcome speaks for itself and demonstrates Ms. Frolander's dedication to protecting Oregon's fish and wildlife resources."

"She is dedicated in her commitment to the NE F&W Team, ensuring exceptional lines of communication and teamwork. Her level of tenacity to successfully prosecute fish & wildlife offenses is rarely equaled and I'm confident she will continue to play an integral role in protecting Oregon's fish and wildlife for years to come."

"Through various mediums, she is dedicated to protecting Oregon's natural resources and wildlife. Rebecca is an outdoor enthusiast and holds a genuine concern for wildlife and conservations throughout the state of Oregon. I have yet to see a F&W case that she is not willing to take head on, including everything from minor F&W criminal cases to large scale, multi-year poaching cases. She tirelessly combs over every nuance of a growing list of Oregon F&W regulations and puts more time into these cases than should be required, and she always performs her duties with perseverance, preparedness, and confidence."

We want to thank DA Frolander for her support of our Division, and for all of her work prosecuting those who violate fish and wildlife laws. Please join us in congratulating DA Frolander on a job well done!

OUTREACH & EVENTS



Shop with a Cop Event - Springfield

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper and several Patrol Troopers attended a Shop with a Cop Event in Springfield. Troopers shopped with kids from local schools for their school supplies. The event was a success with multiple agencies in attendance.

Trooper Attends OHA Trap Shooting Event

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended an Oregon Hunter Association (OHA) Trap Shooting event in Dundee. Approximately 40 kids were in attendance and the event went smoothly.



National Night Out Event - Eugene

Springfield Fish and Wildlife and Patrol Sergeants and Troopers, along with Fish and Wildlife K-9 Drake, attended National Night Out located at PK Park in Eugene. Several local agencies participated in the event. Troopers and K-9 Drake interacted with numerous members of the public. Troopers brought ATVs, patrol cars, patrol trucks, and a Mustang for people to check out. The annual event was a success!

K-9 Teams Attend OWF Event

K-9 Drake, K-9 Scout, and their handlers attended an Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF) event located in Beaverton. The event was a great success. Troopers along with their K-9 partners were able to interact with several people during the annual event.



Troopers Attend National Night Out Event - The Dalles

Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in The Dalles National Night Out event. The Dalles office's 28' North River patrol boat and a new patrol truck were put on display. Several positive interactions were made with local families.

RESCUES & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



Injured Osprey Rescued - Rockaway Beach

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted in rescuing an injured osprey in Rockaway Beach. The osprey was transported to a wildlife rehab center in Clatsop County.



Raccoon Released from Trap - Veneta

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a raccoon stuck in a foot hold trap in Veneta. The Trooper responded, placed the raccoon in a dog kennel and transported it to ODFW. ODFW sedated the raccoon and the Trooper removed the trap from its foot. The raccoon was then released.



Trooper Assists on Kayaker Rescue

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles responded to a kayaker in distress on the Columbia River that had tipped over and was separated from his kayak in high 30-40 mph winds. The kayaker was wearing a life jacket but was unable to make it to shore in the high winds and waves. The Trooper joined the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office on their boat to assist with the rescue. Sherman County Deputies utilized a spotting scope and a drone to locate the subject in the water and guide the Deputies and Trooper to the subject. The subject was then rescued after spending over one hour in the water. He was transported to awaiting medical personnel where he received medical treatment, and was reunited with his family.



Bear Released from Cougar Trap

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a licensed trapper that had trapped a bear in a cougar trap and needed help to release the bear. ODFW assisted and tranquilized the bear in order to release it. The bear was tagged and released without issue.

GENERAL LAW & ENVIRONMENT



Trooper Assists with Wildfire Efforts

On Wednesday, August 5, 2026, a human caused wildfire broke out north of Klamath Falls. Multiple agencies responded to contain the fire which was burning in steep, heavily timbered and very dry terrain. A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted Klamath County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and Forest Service by patrolling the fire perimeter and access roads. The fire rapidly spread throughout the next several days, growing to nearly 40,000 acres by Sunday evening. The Trooper assisted KCSO with evacuations throughout the Sprague River Valley. Multiple ranchers required assistance with moving cattle and equipment to safe zones. The Trooper helped coordinate structure protection efforts and wildland suppression efforts with Strike Team Commanders and Division Leads from outside the area. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded from Prospect on August 7th to assist as well. The fire continued to display erratic and aggressive behavior, making suppression efforts very difficult. The fire became a conflagration and was the highest priority fire in the nation. Resources continue to respond, including the National Guard, OSFM strike teams for structure protection and numerous wildland resources.



Stolen Vehicle Recovered from Malheur Reservoir

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling remote areas of Baker and Malheur Counties when he found a partially submerged vehicle in Malheur Reservoir. He called for assistance from Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers. They arrived with a kayak so they could get to the vehicle to confirm it was unoccupied and obtain a VIN number. A Trooper with his experience in kayak navigation was able to retrieve the VIN. The vehicle was confirmed reported stolen in 2025. The registered owner was notified, and the vehicle was towed out of the lake.

GENERAL LAW & ENVIRONMENT



Trooper Assists with Prineville Area Wildfires

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted Crook County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the US Forest Service with the Brewer Fire, Box Springs Fire, and Green Mountain Fires north of Prineville, which merged over the week to become the Rowe Creek Complex: West area. Throughout the week the Trooper assisted on level 2 and 3 evacuation notices, assisted CCSO with local calls, covered crashes on state highways, coordinated between fire crews and landowners, assisted cattle and sheep grazers on the forest, cleared campers and contractors from the forest, assisted in posting, monitoring, and enforcing road closures, cleared several roads of fallen trees with the department issued chain saw, and acted as a scout providing real time fire updates to the county emergency manager and the CCSO Lieutenant and Undersheriff. The Trooper also responded to assist on the Bench Fire and Round Butte Fire in Jefferson County.



Trooper Assists Locating Eluding Suspect

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper pursued a reckless driver who had previously eluded Reedsport Police. The driver continued to drive recklessly through Florence, northbound towards Yachats. The driver passed on double yellow centerlines and through the median. After a short pursuit the driver turned off Highway 101 and rolled his truck over a cliff edge onto the beach. After a two-hour search, another Fish and Wildlife Trooper, a Patrol Trooper with his K-9 partner, and Lane County Deputies located the subject hiding in heavy brush and placed the subject into custody.



Trooper Assists with Semi-Trucks Crash - Gold Beach

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the report of a commercial semi-truck crash near Patterson Bridge in Gold Beach. Initial reports indicated the truck had rolled over and was possibly in the water. Upon arrival, it was determined the semi-truck had overturned onto its side and collided into the bridge, spilling its cargo. Due to the potential risk of hazardous fluids entering the river, a hazardous materials response was requested. The driver sustained only minor injuries, and no other vehicles were involved in the crash. A Patrol Trooper later assumed responsibility for the crash investigation. The incident was a multi-agency response involving Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Curry County Sheriff's Office, Gold Beach Fire, and Coos Bay Fire HazMat.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT



Alligator Removed from Gresham Apartment

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from an apartment complex in Gresham. Management reported that a maintenance worker discovered an alligator living in an aquarium inside one of the apartments. The Trooper worked with two Oregon Department of Agriculture veterinarians to contact the suspect at their apartment. The suspect initially communicated through the ring doorbell and by text, but refused to allow them in, or surrender the alligator. Eventually the suspect allowed them into the apartment and surrendered the alligator. The suspect's previous boyfriend had left the alligator at the apartment and the suspect was concerned she was going to be evicted for holding it. The suspect was not aware of the illegality of holding an alligator without a permit. With her eventual cooperation, the suspect was educated on the laws and given a warning for unlawfully keeping an alligator. The ODA veterinarians safely secured the alligator and planned for the alligator to live at an approved reptile sanctuary in Corvallis.

Subject Kills Cougar Before Purchasing Tag

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to ODFW in Charleston after a subject attempted to check in a cougar, which the biologists believed had been killed before the subject purchased a tag. It was determined that the subject purchased his cougar tag on August 10th, printed it on August 11th, and validated it for the evening of the 11th. When the subject was interviewed, he was initially dishonest about the sequence of events, but eventually admitted that he killed the cougar first, then purchased the tag. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Cougar**. The head, hide and meat were seized as evidence.



Subject Kills Deer in Yard - Sisters

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report that a person in Sisters witnessed their neighbor shoot a deer in their yard and begin to process it. The Trooper and a Patrol Trooper responded. It was determined the subject was attempting to haze the deer away, and after many failed attempts, used a break open .177 pellet rifle, which unintentionally killed the deer. The subject was criminally cited and the deer and air rifle were seized. The deer was donated that night to charity. After further investigation, the subject was recommended violation treatment, and two parties were submitted for TIP Rewards.

Subject Cited for Not Tagging Bear

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Sergeant contacted a subject at the ODFW office in Baker City who was checking in a bear. It was discovered the subject had not validated their bear tag for the harvest. The subject was cited for **Failure to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag: Bear**.

Subject Cited for Shooting Turkey Vulture

Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a call of a witness who had seen his neighbor shoot a raptor unlawfully. The suspect was contacted and after his initial dishonesty he eventually admitted to killing a turkey vulture and burying it in his garden. Troopers then seized the turkey vulture and the .22 rifle used to kill it. The suspect was issued a criminal citation for **Take/Possession of Non-Game Bird**.

Subject Cited for Taking/Harassing Birds

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant handled a call about a subject that had been illegally taking ducks and harassing geese at a local park. The reporting party provided videos of the subject grabbing geese by the neck and pinning them to the ground. Other photos and videos showed the subject with ducks in his kitchen sink. The subject was interviewed and criminally cited for **Harassing Wildlife** and **Unlawful Take of Game Birds**.

MARINE FISHERIES



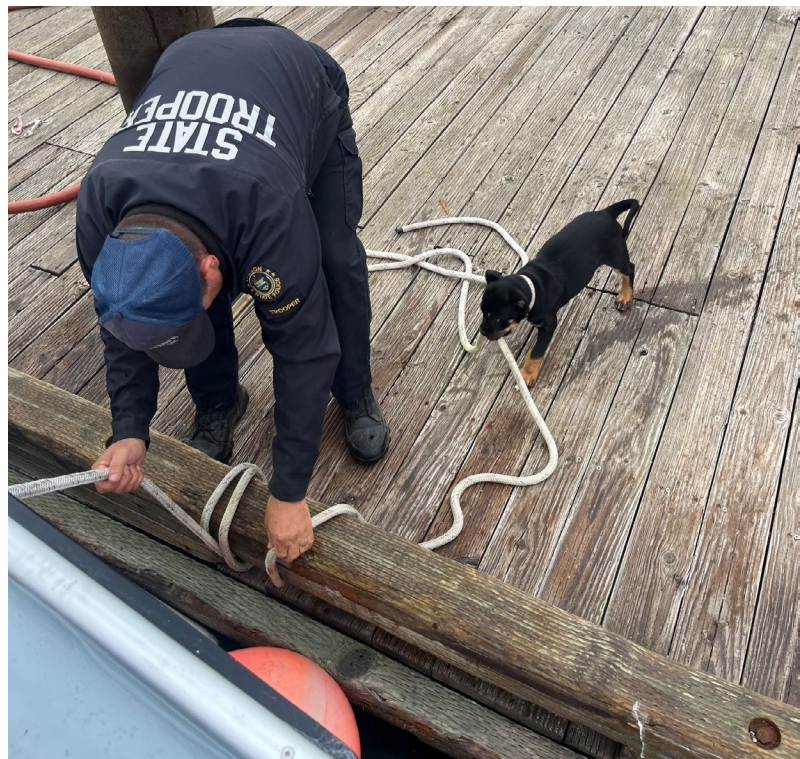
Mid to South Coast Guardian Ocean Patrol

Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) members and a Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a four-day Guardian patrol from Newport to the California border. The focus was on commercial and sport marine fisheries.

- The team started the trip to monitor the last day of the fourth commercial halibut open period. Contact was made with several vessels. Two vessels were found with either none or illegible identification marks on surface gear.
- Various sport salmon, halibut and groundfish anglers were contacted out of Winchester Bay, Coos Bay, Bandon, Port Orford, Gold Beach and Brookings. Violations detected included: **Failure to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag, No Non-Resident Angling License, Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, No Harvest Tag, Angling more than One Rod, No Ocean Endorsement, and No Aquatic Invasive Species Permit.**
- Eight sport crab pots were located just north of Winchester Bay without any identification marks as required by law. The gear was seized. The next day a fishing guide contacted OSP after hearing gear was seized by OSP. The guide explained the gear was initially marked but eventually wore off as it was left out in the ocean during the fishing season. It was explained that ID marks need to be maintained and legible at all times. Enforcement action was taken for **No ID on Recreational Crab Buoys** and the gear was returned.
- The team logged 17 derelict pots, two of which were in the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. They also encountered a commercial fishing vessel out trying to locate any gear that had been diving since the close of the season. The team worked to locate some of that gear and provide location information to the captain.



- The team also contacted an active trawl and market squid vessel with no violations.
- One string of commercial crab gear was located still in the ocean after the close of the commercial ocean crab fishery. The captain was contacted and said he took over the boat only the last few offloads and thought he had all the gear accounted for. He was cited for **Crabbing Closed Season.**
- While fueling up in Charleston, the team was assisted at the fuel dock by “Major” the puppy. He helped welcome the Troopers and helped to tie dock lines.



MARINE FISHERIES



Central Coast Saturation Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers from Springfield, Albany, and Newport conducted a saturation on the central coast. They contacted anglers and crabbers by boat and land from Depoe Bay to Winchester Bay. During the operation five fish were seized, 30 citations were issued, and various warnings were given. A Recruit Trooper also joined in and responded to the port of Siuslaw to assist the ODFW after a subject brought in a wild coho during the closed season. The Recruit Trooper seized the fish and issued the subject a citation.



Bay Clam Patrol - Garibaldi

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a bay clam surveillance operation in Garibaldi. Three groups were contacted with various violations including **Dig Another's Clam**, **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bay Clam**, and **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. On one contact the Trooper observed a clammer put a bucket of clams into their vehicle and return to the mudflats to continue digging. Upon finishing clamming and being contacted the clammer did not reveal the hidden clams. Investigation revealed an additional limit of clams in their cooler. Violation citations were issued for **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Clams** and **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. A total of 41 bay clams were seized and returned to the bay.



MFT Receives ODFW Award

MFT members attended the August ODFW Commission meeting and received an ODFW 2025 Team Pride Award for outstanding dedication, problem solving, and team accomplishments for their collaboration with various ODFW staff, and enforcement work in marine fisheries across the state.

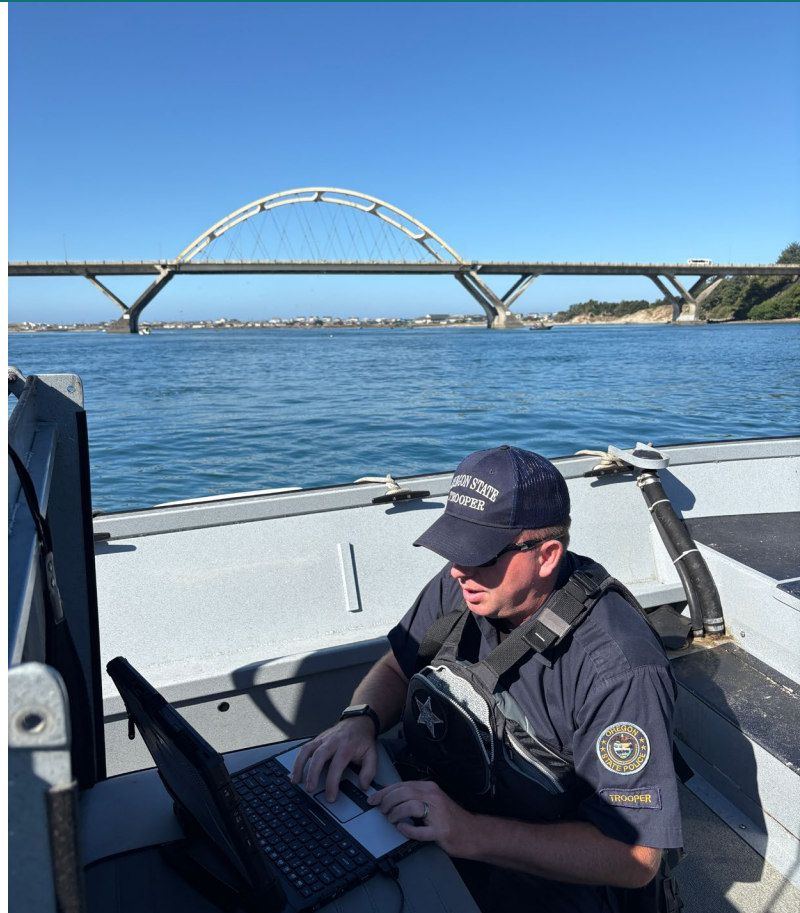
L to R: ODFW Commission Chair Mary Wahl, Lt. Ryan Howell, Sgt. Heather Van Meter, Trooper Ryan Cross, Trooper Christine Brandtner, Sr. Trooper Dylan Roberts, Sr. Trooper Ryan Keeler, ODFW Director Debbie Colbert. Not pictured: Trooper Ben Cordes and Trooper Andrew Luse.

MARINE FISHERIES

MFT Investigates Fish Dealer Records

Oregon doesn't issue out of state wholesale dealer licenses, and dealers must have an actual Oregon business address where all fish records are to be kept. MFT regularly investigates out of state businesses who obtain wholesale licenses under fictitious address or fail to maintain their records at the listed location.

- A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received information regarding a landing of albacore tuna between two dealers without having a required memorandum of understanding (MOU) in place. The dealers had signed the MOU weeks prior but it was never approved and issued by ODFW until the day after the initial landing. The buying or secondary dealer had a California mailing address listed on the dealer application. A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper did a records check of the address listed in Coos Bay where they claimed to have records and found that none of the records for any of the 2026 albacore landings were located at the address. Additionally, information was provided to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) enforcement as the dealer possibly imported the Oregon albacore into California without the proper import licenses. Both dealers requiring the MOU were warned for No MOU and the California dealer was cited for **Failure to Maintain Records**. CDFW is continuing the investigation.
- A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted a records check of a California company claiming to have records at a Lincoln County address. Upon arrival, it was found the address belonged to a local commercial fisherman. The fisherman was contacted and admitted to selling crab to the company but had no knowledge their address was provided as the Oregon location for the company and its records. The fisherman said they had no records for the company, nor had they been asked or agreed to do that. The Sergeant contacted the company and spoke to a representative who claimed they had made an agreement with the fisherman to use the address. Despite saying they knew they needed records there, they were unable to explain why there were no records nor why the fisherman would have denied agreeing to be the dealer's Oregon business address. Additionally, information was provided to CDFW enforcement as the dealer possibly imported the Oregon crab into California without the proper import licenses. OSP is working with CDFW to issue citations for **Fail to Retain Records** and **Fail to Retain Crab Traceability Records** as this dealer has no employees or business in Oregon and is based out of San Francisco.



Boat Patrol - Alsea and Yaquina Bays

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a boat patrol of the Alsea and Yaquina Bays. Several anglers and crabbers were contacted with one citation and five warnings issued for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. A total of 19 undersized male Dungeness crab were seized and returned to the bay.

Late Night Crab Checks at Alsea Bay

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted late night crab checks at Alsea Bay in Waldport. Five adults were located with a cooler containing 32 female crab and 10 undersized male crab. Three subjects were issued citations for **Taking Female Crab** and **Undersized Crab**. All crab were seized and returned to the bay.

Ocean Patrol - Tillamook County

Astoria and Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol out of Tillamook County. Numerous salmon and rockfish anglers were contacted, and multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, Angling Prohibited Method, No Harvest Card, Fail to Properly Validate Harvest Card, and Aid in a Wildlife Offense**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Buoy 10 Salmon Fishery Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on opening day of the Buoy 10 salmon fishery. Approximately 20 boats were contacted, with 18 citations and four warnings issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, Angling Closed Area, No Combined Angling Harvest Tag, and No Resident Angling License.**

Subject Conducts Unlicensed Guided Fishing Trip

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted a boat at the dock in Astoria as it was returning from salmon angling on the Columbia River. Subsequent investigation revealed the owner of the boat was conducting an unlicensed guided fishing trip. The boat owner did not have an outfitter/guide license in Oregon or a US Coast Guard captain's license. Additionally, he was using his parent's address in Oregon to purchase resident angling licenses, but had lived in Idaho for the past two years. The boat owner was cited and released criminally for multiple offenses.



Salmon Snagging at Eagle Creek

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was alerted just after midnight that three subjects were snagging salmon at Eagle Creek, just below the hatchery. Similar subjects were reported one year earlier at this location but never located. While awaiting backup, all three subjects were recorded attempting to snag salmon, and one was recorded unlawfully taking a snagged salmon. Two Patrol Troopers arrived on scene to assist. Upon contact, all three subjects fled on foot across the creek. Two of the subjects were captured a short distance away and were completely soaked after running through a deep portion of the creek. The third subject decided to return to the scene after being cold and being advised the Troopers knew his identity (his vehicle was parked nearby). It was also learned the group was in possession of another wild Coho. All three subjects were criminally cited for **Take/Possession of Fish Closed Area/Stream** and violation cited for **Minor in Possession of Alcohol**. Angling gear setup with snagging rigs, large treble hooks, a net, multiple trash bags and two wild Coho salmon were seized as evidence.

Subjects Cited for Casting Over the Deadline

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper cited two people for casting over the deadline on the South Santiam River. One individual was heavily counseled on the deadline and was told if he continued to fish unlawfully, he would get a criminal citation. Two days later another Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed the same individual casting way over the deadline. That Trooper seized the individual's fishing pole and criminally cited him for **Casting Over the Deadline.**

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Four Salmon Seized and Donated

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed five subjects fishing in a closed area via surveillance camera. Four wild Chinook salmon were found to have been illegally retained, with three subjects admitting to snagging the fish. Three subjects were criminally cited for **Snagging, Unlawful Take of Wild Chinook Salmon, and Angling in a Closed Stream**. The remaining two subjects were cited for **Angling in a Closed Stream**. Four salmon and three fishing rods were seized as evidence. The salmon were subsequently donated to the Estacada Community Center.

Subjects Cited for Trespass and License Violations

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a report of two subjects trespassing and angling on private property. One of the Troopers observed a male subject angling in a large private pond, and as the other Trooper was turning his vehicle around, the male disappeared into nearby brush. K-9 Drake was deployed and located two bicycles near the pond. The Trooper gave admonishments and K-9 Drake gave barking admonishments. Two subjects then exited the brush. Both subjects were ultimately issued citations for **Trespass and No Resident Angling License**.

Kayaker Keeps Wild Steelhead in Closed Area

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles received a report of a subject in a kayak keeping a wild steelhead on the Deschutes River in a closed area. The Trooper located the subject as they were packing up to leave. The subject advised he wasn't fishing and he hadn't caught anything. He was asked if he was in possession of any fish and he stated he was. He showed the Trooper a wild steelhead that was tied off to his kayak. The subject stated he saw the fish floating so he went and looked at it. He thought it still looked good even though it was dead, so he gutted it and tied it to his kayak to take home. The subject was unaware of any steelhead regulations. The fish was seized, and the subject was violation cited for **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Steelhead**. The steelhead could not be salvaged and was disposed of.

Subjects Cited - Trask Hatchery

An ODFW fish biologist called a Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper and advised him two male subjects were fishing at the Trask Hatchery. The Trooper and the biologist watched the subjects casting large blue fox spinners into a ball of Chinook. The subjects both foul hooked multiple Chinook. One of the subjects spotted the Trooper and attempted to walk up the riverbank. The Trooper called the other subject over. One of the subjects was trying to argue with the Trooper that he was only trout fishing and that both of them didn't know this section of river was closed. The Trooper held up the fishing rod that he was using and explained that using heavy braided line, large rod, and a large treble hooked spinner was for salmon not trout. One time the subject even said that a Chinook actually bit that one and he hooked one in the mouth. The others were foul hooked. One subject was cited for **Snagging and Angling Closed Area**. The other subject was cited for **Snagging, Angling Closed Area, and No Harvest Card**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



North Umpqua River Boat Patrol

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a boat patrol of the North Umpqua River near Roseburg. The patrol resulted in five boat safety contacts with no violations observed.

Failure to Allow Inspection of Catch

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received a call from an ODFW port sampler reporting a guide who denied a data gathering interview. When directly asked if he had any fish the guide said he did not. He then proceeded to pull his boat out of the water and take two Coho to the fish cleaning station where he filleted them. The Sergeant called him by phone and told him to wait on scene until his arrival. The guide stated that he thought he didn't need to do an interview because he had dropped his clients off earlier and admitted to telling the port sampler that he didn't have any fish. He was issued a citation for **Failure to Allow Inspection of Catch**.



Subject Cited, Coho Seized and Donated

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received an angling complaint regarding two bank anglers that were allegedly catching, not tagging their salmon and then placing them in the rear toolbox of their truck. The Trooper responded to the Columbia River beach and interviewed both subjects. All four salmon were available for inspection but one of the retained Coho had an adipose fin. The subject was cited for **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho**. The Coho was seized and donated to a local food bank.

Three-Day Deschutes River Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted a three-day, two-night river patrol on the Deschutes River, covering approximately 39 river miles from Pine Tree to Heritage Landing. During the patrol, Troopers contacted 58 anglers, conducted 36 boat and boater pass checks, and completed 11 fishing guide checks. Troopers issued seven warnings for fish and wildlife violations, one citation each for **Aiding in a Game Violation** and **No Boater Pass**. Throughout the patrol, Troopers spent time speaking with fishing guides regarding concerns surrounding the upcoming steelhead closure. Several guides expressed concern that some anglers may continue targeting steelhead after the closure while claiming to be fishing for trout. The guides provided Troopers with valuable information regarding common fly-fishing techniques used to target steelhead, including examples of fly-rod setups and the types of flies commonly used. This information will assist Troopers with identifying potential violations and effectively enforcing the upcoming closure.

Unlawfully Retained Hatchery Chinook Salmon

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject at Hatchery Hole on the upper section of the Rogue River who had unlawfully retained an adult hatchery Chinook salmon. The subject was subsequently cited, and the salmon was seized and donated.

CASE DISPOSITIONS



Subject Pleads Guilty in Wallowa County

An Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a disposition on a case in Wallowa County that involved the unlawful taking of a 7x7 bull elk and subsequent trespass during the 2025 big game season. The subject pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take** and the **Trespass** charge was dismissed. The subject was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 24 months bench probation
- 40 hours of community service
- Forfeit the elk and firearm used
- \$10,000 in restitution to ODFW and \$639.80 to OSP

Subject Pleads Guilty in Murderers Creek Case

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant investigated the unlawful take of a 6-point bull elk shot with a rifle the day after archery season closed in September of 2024 in the Murderers Creek unit. With assistance from a Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper, the adult male suspect was located and interviewed. The European mount of the bull was seized, and the suspect was charged with several criminal charges. In August of 2026, the suspect pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take of Bull Elk** and was sentenced to:

- 5-year hunting license suspension
- 80 hours community service
- \$6,250 in restitution/fines

Subjects Plead Guilty in Grant County

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a case disposition in Grant County. While living in Oregon, a male subject had maintained Idaho residency and his wife had purchased resident tags in Oregon which the husband used. The Trooper charged the pair for a 2024 hunt that occurred in Grant County involving the taking of a bull elk.

The male subject pleaded guilty to **Borrowing a Big Game Tag** and **Taking a Bull Elk without Valid Tag** and was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 18 months bench probation including
- 120 hours of community service
- \$8,000 in fines

The female subject pleaded guilty to **Loaning a Big Game Tag** and was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 18 months bench probation including
- 40 hours of community service
- \$500 fine

The pair were also charged with archery hunting for elk in 2025 in Baker County, and taking a mule deer in 2025 in Wallowa County. The cases in Baker and Wallowa Counties are still pending.

Subjects Plead Guilty in Tillamook County

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a notice of final judgment on a Tillamook County exceeding bag limit of bay clams case. Both subjects pleaded guilty to **Taking, Angling, Hunting or Trapping in Violation of Wildlife Law or Rule**. The Misdemeanor charge was reduced to a Class A Violation by the District Attorney resulting in fines of \$869 for one defendant, and \$654 for the second defendant.



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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Questions? Please call 503-378-4474
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