



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

AUGUST 2024



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*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper's patrol truck
at Timothy and Harriet Lakes in the
Mount Hood National Forest*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Trooper Attends Hermiston Watermelon Festival

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the Hermiston Watermelon Festival and brought the team's Columbia River boat to display. The Trooper spoke with 50 or more adults on the uses of the boat and the role of Fish and Wildlife Troopers. Over 200 kids of various ages got to tour the boat.

Hunter Education Class - Creswell

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper were invited to speak at a hunter education class in Creswell. During the classes the Troopers went over hunter regulations, hunter safety, and answered questions from both students and parents. The classes had approximately 80 attendees.

Troopers Attend Redmond OHA Meeting

Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Redmond OHA meeting and gave a talk on current issues and answered questions. The talk was well received by the 30+ people in attendance.

National Night Out - Redmond

Central and East Region Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the National Night Out event in Redmond and displayed the Trailer of Shame. The trailer and Troopers were well received and the event was attended by over 1000 people.

OHA Gerber Unit Youth Barbeque

Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Gerber Unit Youth Barbeque. This event is put on annually to provide those with the Gerber Unit youth antelope tag an opportunity to obtain helpful tips and tactics for hunting the antelope in this area. Presentations from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), OSP, and a retired guide and outfitter covered antelope habitat, food sources, best locations to find them, common legal issues, best ethical practice, and ways the youth could reach out with any questions once the season started. There were approximately 30 attendees.

Bend OHA Chapter Donates Equipment

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and La Pine Trooper attended the Bend Oregon Hunters Association meeting to discuss current poaching and wildlife issues in the areas. The Bend OHA Chapter donated trail cameras and other equipment to the local Troopers, which was greatly appreciated.



Troopers Display Trailer of Shame at State Fair

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from around the state displayed the Trailer of Shame at the Oregon State Fair. Thousands of people observed the trailer, asked questions, and applauded the hard work put in by the Fish and Wildlife Division.

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE SEASONS



Troopers Patrol Lake and Harney Counties

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted the Klamath County Fish and Wildlife Team working the opening weekend of the 2024 Antelope season in Lake and Harney Counties. Troopers contacted numerous hunters, checked several antelope, and warned two subjects for minor tag-related violations.

Antelope WED Operation - Malheur River Unit

Burns Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an antelope wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) in the Warm Springs area in the Malheur River Unit. Within 10 minutes of putting the WED out a male subject stopped and shot at the antelope WED from just outside of the vehicle near the driver's door. The male subject was issued a violation citation for **Shoot Antelope Within 50 Yards of a Motor Vehicle**. This has been a constant problem during antelope seasons in Harney County. A Trooper responded to a call regarding a subject who self-reported shooting a doe antelope unlawfully after he missed the buck he was shooting at. The Trooper met with the subject who had salvaged the doe antelope meat. The subject explained that he did not know what happened or how he missed the buck and shot the doe. The subject was issued a warning and was reminded to make sure of his shot and beyond. The meat from the doe was seized and taken for processing then donation in the Burns area. During the Antelope season numerous other warnings were issued.

Owyhee Antelope Season

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles and Ontario worked the opening weekend of Owyhee Antelope Season. During the three-day patrol the Troopers conducted approximately 30 hunter checks and issued several warnings for minor game/ATV related violations. The Troopers contacted a subject at a camp off Jordan Craters Road. The subject had killed an antelope several hours earlier and subsequent investigation revealed that he had not validated his E-tag or made any attempts to duplicate any information on a piece of flagging. The subject was issued a citation for **Failure to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag**. There was a fair amount of success with four antelope checked by the Troopers.



Opening Weekend of Whitehorse Antelope Season

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked the opening weekend of the Whitehorse Antelope Season. A fair amount of success was had by hunters. In the first three days of the season the Trooper checked 17 antelope bucks that were successfully harvested. The Trooper was able to assist a hunter on the grade of Trout Creek Road. The Trooper observed the hunter put a stalk on the buck then shoot the buck at 200 yards. The hunter was grateful and posed for a photograph (above).

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Sergeant Assists Stranded Firefighter

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was patrolling the Northside Unit and came upon a young female adult pushing a motorcycle along the gravel roadway. The female firefighter was on her first day off and came to get her motorcycle that had broken down the week before. At this point she had single handedly pushed her motorcycle for six miles. The Sergeant assisted her in pushing her motorcycle the remaining two miles to the junction of the highway. Both got their workouts in for the day, and she was very appreciative of the assistance.

Search and Rescue - Metolius River

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper, along with Black Butte Ranch Police Department, assisted Sisters Fire and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office with a search and rescue call on the Metolius River. The request for assistance was due to an elderly hiker who had fallen and badly injured her leg along a narrow rough section of the trail. Assistance was rendered and the patient was evacuated and returned to the Canyon Creek trailhead.

Subject Arrested on Warrant - Sauvie Island

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped a vehicle on Sauvie Island for having tags that expired in 2019. The driver was identified and found to have an active warrant for his arrest out of Douglas County. The man was subsequently arrested on the warrant and transported to and lodged in the Columbia County Jail. The man was also issued violation citations for **No Driver License, Expired Tags and Open Container.**

DUII Driver Crashes into Ditch

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was returning from training when he responded to a reported vehicle in a ditch off Highway 26 west of Mount Vernon, as Patrol Troopers were tied up on calls. Upon arrival, the Sergeant's investigation found that a pickup truck had been traveling on a county road at a significant speed, ran a stop sign, and almost struck a truck/trailer that was westbound on Highway 26. The pickup then crossed over both lanes of the highway, struck a fog marker, and came to rest in a ditch off of the eastbound shoulder. Neither the driver or passenger of the truck were injured. The adult female driver displayed indicators of impairment and consented to standard field sobriety tests (SFSTs) which revealed further impairment. A Patrol Trooper arrived on scene to assist, and the driver was taken into custody for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII), Reckless Driving, and Reckless Endangering (x3).** She was transported to the Grant County Jail where she refused a breath test. A search warrant was executed revealing her blood alcohol content (BAC) of .13% several hours after the crash. She was cited for **Refusing a Breath Test** and additional violations.

Troopers Locate Stolen Pickup

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper located a stolen pickup truck on I-84 at the 273 exit that had eluded troopers in Baker City and La Grande. When the driver saw the Trooper, he fled onto private ranch land, trespassing through three landowners' properties, before hitting a large rock and disabling the stolen truck above Hot Lakes. The driver and female passenger fled on foot downhill towards Hot Lake Lane. The Trooper tracked the subjects, locating the empty pickup. Another Trooper arrived on Hot Lake Lane and observed the suspects on the hillside below the first Trooper's location. From the first Trooper's elevated position, he coordinated with the second Trooper to lead other Troopers and Deputies towards the suspects, and they were taken into custody. The male suspect had warrants out of Idaho and was wanted for several other crimes. The Troopers then assisted with removing the disabled stolen truck from the mountain side.

Trooper Assists on Medical Call

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a medical call in rural eastern Klamath County near Bly. A 4-year-old had fallen in a creek, resulting in a significant arm injury and appeared to be going into shock. The ambulance crew requested additional assistance. The Trooper rode with the ambulance until they could meet with a crew from Klamath Falls. The child was expected to make a full recovery.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Subjects Caught Hunting Bear with Use of Bait

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper patrolled the Metolius Unit over the weekend. Two subjects were contacted in a vehicle. The operator was very nervous as he talked to the Trooper. Only one of the two subjects had a bear tag and apples were observed in the bed of the pickup. In the evening the truck was located parked at a location known to have a good population of bear. The following day, the Sergeant was able to locate a ladder stand overlooking a trail camera. Apples were present in front of the trail camera. Later in the evening, a side-by-side was located parked in the area and a predator call was being actively used. The Sergeant followed the sound to the ladder stand found earlier in the day. The two subjects from the prior day were located in the tree stand with two rifles. Both subjects were cited/released for **Hunting Bear with Use of Bait**. One subject was additionally cited/released for **No Bear Tag**. Another Trooper arrived to assist and help dismantle and pack out the ladder stand.



Illegal Dumping on GDRC Property

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded with a local County Deputy to an illegal dump site on main line road owned by Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC). The Deputy recognized the name on a piece of mail left in the dump. The property from where the trash came from had a structure fire and the material that was dumped clearly came from the location. The subject who had dumped the trash was contacted and issued a criminal citation for **Offensive Littering**. The subject was also trespassed from all Green Diamond property for the following 90 days.

Fail to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted an elk camp in the Ukiah Unit on the afternoon of the opening day of archery season. Upon entering the camp, he noticed an elk head with forked horns leaning up against a tree with no tag on it. He asked the four members of the camp who had harvested the animal and one member raised his hand and said it was him. The rest of the elk was already in a cooler in the camp. The Trooper asked to see the tag for the animal and the subject first went through a backpack looking for the tag and then went to his pickup where he got a pen and began validating the tag. The subject asked the Trooper what day it was so he could complete the validation process. When asked why the tag hadn't been validated sooner the subject stated they had just gotten back to camp. The subject was issued a citation for **Fail to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag**.

CA Resident Hunting Without License/Tag

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a parked, unoccupied truck in the Keno Unit. The Trooper suspected the owner of the truck was hunting and followed his boot prints to a tree stand where the subject was sitting with a bow and arrow. The Trooper suspected the subject was not a resident of Oregon, but hunting the Keno Unit with a resident deer, elk, bear and cougar tag. The Trooper followed up the next morning with the subject's listed Oregon residence and the current owner of the home did not recognize the subject's name and stated the subject did not live at the location. The Trooper contacted a California Fish and Game Warden and was able to build probable cause that the subject was a California resident. The Trooper recontacted the subject at his hunting camp and interviewed him. The subject was criminally cited and released for **Hunting with No Non-Resident License/Tag**.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

Unlawful Take of Red-Tailed Hawk

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a call of a red-tailed hawk that had been unlawfully shot with a .22 rifle in Gold Hill. Upon arrival, Troopers located the suspect and the deceased bird. The suspect was charged for **Unlawful Take of Red-Tailed Hawk**. The hawk and the rifle were both seized as evidence.

Subjects Hunting From Road

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was patrolling the Northside Unit when he observed a truck road hunting on several US Forest Service (USFS) roads. This is one of the primary complaints received in this area. Two adult subjects were seated in lawn chairs in the bed of the truck dressed in shorts and t-shirts with archery equipment. Both hunters in the bed were also consuming alcohol and had open containers. The vehicle stopped in the roadway when deer were spotted from the road and no attempt was made to get out of the vehicle. The Sergeant subsequently conducted a traffic stop and interviewed the driver and passengers. SFSTs were conducted on the driver, and he was found not to be impaired to the point of arrest for DUII. The subjects admitted to road hunting and the two hunters in the bed were cited for **Hunting Prohibited Area: Public Roadway**. The driver was cited for **Open Container of Alcohol** and warned for **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. Several other warnings were issued, and the hunters were counseled on the safety and ethics of hunting from a vehicle, handling weapons, and being impaired.

Subject Fails to Check-In Black Bear on Time

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from an ODFW Biologist about a hunter who was late checking in their black bear. When the hunter eventually did bring in the bear to be sampled the head was still frozen and the biologist could not obtain what they needed. The Trooper contacted the hunter and explained the importance of checking in his bear within the 10-day period. The hunter received a violation citation for **Failure to Check-In Black Bear to ODFW Within 10 Days (General Season)**.

WED Operation - Ochoco Unit

Bend and Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a nighttime buck mule deer wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) in the Ochoco Wildlife Management Unit. A vehicle stopped with the WED illuminated in the headlights. A passenger then exited the vehicle with a bow. While retrieving an arrow from his quiver, the subject noticed the deer had not moved and became aware it was a decoy. A traffic stop was initiated and the subject was identified as a night time WED shooter from last year on the same road system. The subject claimed he thought the WED was a cougar or coyote and did not have an archery deer tag. The subject was issued a citation for **Hunting with Aid of Artificial Light**.



Search Warrant Served in Bear Bait Case

Members of the Bend area Fish and Wildlife team served a search warrant on a residence in Bend. The case involved the baiting of black bears from the 2023 season and Troopers seized numerous forms of related evidence. The suspect was issued citations for **Hunting Black Bears with Bait** and **Failing to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag**. Suspect was also given a warning for **Possession of Raptor Parts**.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



North Coast and Columbia River Patrols

OSP conducted a multi-day north coast Guardian trip targeting sport and commercial fisheries. Troopers from the Marine Fisheries Team along with Troopers from the NW and Central Regions made contacts out of all ports from Newport to the Columbia River. The Troopers also spent a few days in Astoria on the Columbia River patrolling the Buoy 10 fishery.

- Troopers boarded a commercial pink shrimp boat at sea. The nets were inspected to ensure the bycatch reduction device and required net lights were in compliance with state law. They also checked all crew and boat licenses and logbooks. No violations were observed.
- Ocean anglers were contacted out of Pacific City, Garibaldi and Nehalem. Citations were issued for **Angling Unlawful Method: Barbed Hooks** and **Take/Possess Coho Salmon: Closed Season**. Two Coho were seized and donated to charity.
- The Buoy 10 fishery was in full swing and well over a hundred boats were contacted. Citations were issued for **Angling Unlawful Method: Barbed Hooks, Angling with Two Rods, Fail to Validate Harvest Card, Unlawful Possession of Wild Chinook Salmon, Unlawful Possession of Undersized Chinook Salmon, No Combined Angling Tag, and Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. Two Chinook were seized and donated to charity.
- Troopers patrolled the Otter Crest, Cascade Head, and Cape Falcon Marine Reserves. They responded to a complaint in the Otter Crest Marine Reserve that was eventually determined to be a permitted research vessel. Troopers also documented one commercial crab pot inside of Cape Falcon that appeared to be a derelict pot.
- Troopers also kept watch for any illegal commercial crab gear left fishing in the ocean after the August 14th closure. No strings were found, but numerous derelict pots were located and recorded to be later provided to ODFW for the post season derelict gear recovery program.
- Several limited fish sellers and wholesale dealers were checked buying and selling tuna in Garibaldi and Astoria. No violations were found.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Multi-Day South Coast Guardian Patrol

The Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) conducted a 3-day south coast Guardian patrol. During that patrol, Troopers targeted sport halibut, salmon, and groundfish, and commercial crab and groundfish. The team also conducted a patrol in Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. During that patrol Troopers made the following enforcement contacts out of the ports of Winchester Bay, Charleston, Bandon, and Port Orford. Citations and warnings were issued for **Angling Unlawful Method: Barbed Hooks, Unlawful Use of Two Rods, Aiding in Wildlife Offense: Unlawful Method Barbed Hooks to Licensed Guide, Fail to Immediately Validate, No Valid License in Possession: ELS Login Issues, False Application, and Possession of Undersized Chinook**. Troopers also contacted a commercial fishing vessel that possessed commercial fishing pots that did not belong to the vessel. Upon contact, it was determined the owner of the pots was onboard the vessel and stated he had issues with his boat and instead of fixing it, he decided to contact another fisherman and have him and his boat go get the gear because it was near the end of the crab season. No crab were onboard the vessel as the fisherman said they decided that would be too risky. The owner of the gear was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Another Vessel's Gear**.

Columbia River Salmon Patrol

During a two-day period, Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers used the department's Zodiac to check Columbia River salmon anglers near Buoy 10 to Tongue Point. In total, they contacted 39 boats (90 anglers) and issued 10 citations for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**. Numerous warnings were also issued for **Angling within the Young's Bay and Columbia River Control Zones**. All the offending boat operators appeared to know of both control areas and were operating close to the boundary markers. Angling success on both days was very slow and no illegal salmon were encountered.

Mid-Coast Guardian Patrol

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper, and McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a Guardian patrol in Lincoln County. During the patrol, Troopers contacted sport halibut and salmon anglers. Citations were issued for **Angling Barbed Hooks and Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. One charter vessel was contacted with several anglers fishing with barbed hooks. The captain was cited for **Aiding in a Fish/Wildlife Offense: Angling Prohibited Method**.

Commercial Crab Violations

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial crab skipper after some of his gear was located in the ocean during a recent patrol. The fishing vessel had made no commercial crab landings since June. The skipper stated he still had 120 crab pots in the ocean, and claimed his boat had been broken down for a month and then he sold the boat. The skipper was cited for **Leaving Gear Set for More Than 14 Days Without Making a Crab Landing** and warned for **Commercial Crabbing Closed Season**. The skipper stated he would work on getting the crab gear out of the water as soon as possible to avoid it being taken during the derelict crab gear season.

Subjects Caught Selling Sport Caught Tuna

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a TIP about a vessel selling albacore tuna at a local marina. Surveillance was conducted and a commercial style vessel on a trailer in the parking lot of the marina was observed offloading tuna to various vehicles. The Trooper was able to contact one of the receiving vehicles and found that 23 albacore tuna were purchased for \$500 in cash. A record check of the vessel found it was licensed to land albacore tuna in 2017 by the same owner, but did not hold a current Oregon commercial fishing license, limited fish sellers license, or tuna landing license. The owners of the vessel were contacted at their residence and declined to comment. Both subjects were criminally cited and released for **Sale/Barter of Sport Caught Fish**.

ODFW Fish Checkers Catch Misidentified Fish

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was notified on two separate occasions by ODFW fish checkers at a local marina of unlawfully taken salmon. A non-adipose fin-clipped Coho was misidentified after being caught in the ocean (thought it was a Chinook) and a misidentified hatchery steelhead (thought it was a Coho) that was caught in the Columbia River. Citations were issued to each individual and the salmon were seized and donated.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Subject Caught with Homemade Snagging Rig

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles responded to the cold-water thermal sanctuary of Eagle Creek, when they were alerted that a subject was entering the closed area well after sunset. The subject was located and actively attempting to snag salmon within the thermal closure in the dark. The subject's gear was inspected and determined to be a homemade snagging rig, as three large 1-inch barbed hooks were forged together. He admitted that he was attempting to unlawfully take a salmon and did not have any proper licenses to fish. The subject was issued three criminal citations for **Angling Closed Area**, **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**, and **Angling Prohibited Method: Snagging**. Additional charges are being forwarded to the District Attorney's office. His fishing rod was seized as evidence.

South Coast Ocean Patrol

South Valley Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an Ocean patrol out of Florence. During the patrol, 28 salmon anglers were contacted, and 44 shellfish enthusiasts were contacted. During the patrol, Troopers cited two individuals for **Using Barbed Hooks while Angling for Salmon in the Ocean** and cited two subjects for shellfish violations. Troopers gave warnings for various minor violations and educated those individuals to ensure proper compliance.

Troopers and K-9 Scout Conduct Boat Patrol

Bend area Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Scout conducted a boat patrol on Prineville Reservoir. The following activities were recorded: 52 contacts, 48 angler checks, 11 warnings, and one citation.

Brownlee Reservoir Patrol

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Sergeant contacted four subjects on Brownlee Reservoir with seven rods out actively fishing. The Sergeant discovered the subjects were unlicensed non-residents and had retained 12 catfish amongst them. The catfish were on stringers in the water and were released. The subjects were cited for **Take/Possession of Game Fish** and warned for **No Non-Resident Angling License**.

Quillback Rockfish Retained

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant contacted a subject who retained quillback rockfish while fishing in Newport. During the contact the subject stated he was the captain of the boat and looked at the laminated sheet he had for fish identification from ODFW. He did not see quillback on the sheet for no retention and retained three during the fishing trip. When he and his party returned to South Beach Marina he learned he could not keep quillback and the fish were confiscated by ODFW. The subject claimed responsibility as the captain and he was issued a violation citation for **Taking Marine Fish Closed Season**.

Siuslaw River Angler Checks

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a Lane County Deputy conducted angler checks on the Siuslaw River. Of the 147 subjects contacted, three were successful in catching a wild Chinook. One subject was in possession of an untagged wild Chinook and was issued a citation for **Failure to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. He was then assisted by his fishing partner in tagging the Chinook. Five subjects were also warned for creating a wake in a no-wake zone. The Trooper received a phone call from an ODFW fish sampler. The partner of the individual with the untagged Chinook was now in possession of a wild coho with a bleeding wound where the adipose fin was removed. The subject was contacted at a residence where the two were processing the previously caught Chinook. He was issued citations for **Take Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho** and **Possession of Mutilated Fish** and warned for **Fail to Properly Validate Harvest Card** and **Take Possession of Fish: Closed Area Stream**.

Ocean Coho Salmon Patrol

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers and a Recruit Trooper conducted an ocean patrol for the opener of non-select ocean coho salmon. Numerous boats and anglers were contacted during the patrol and anglers were found to have a very low compliance rate. Overall, 15 citations were issued for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card** and **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Six Trout Seized - Owyhee River

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a tip from a fly fisherman on the Owyhee River that two subjects had caught and retained several brown trout. The reporting party confronted the subjects, obtained digital photographs of their vehicle, the fish, and their faces and told them it was unlawful to retain brown trout on the Owyhee River. The Trooper and a Patrol Trooper developed a suspect based on the photographs that the reporting party had taken and the DMV return on the license plate. A suspect was located at a residence in Ontario. The suspect was interviewed by the Troopers and confessed to catching and cleaning six brown trout. A consent to search was obtained which revealed the six fish in his refrigerator. The fish were seized, and the suspect was issued a criminal citation for six counts of **Unlawful Take/Possession of Trout**.

30 Pounds of Freshwater Clams Seized

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report stating there were two men and a woman harvesting freshwater clams on Laurelwood Beach along the Columbia River. The trio was contacted and found to have harvested around 30 pounds of clams. The subjects were subsequently issued citations for **Take/Possession of Freshwater Clams**.

Winchester Bay Patrol

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked salmon anglers and crabbers in Winchester Bay. The following enforcement actions were taken:

- A guide boat was contacted when it returned to port, and a consent search revealed a headless coho salmon, and a bag of salmon fillets in an ice chest. The one customer on board admitted to catching the headless salmon. The guide explained he cut the head off to use as crab bait, and the fillets were from salmon caught the day before. During the investigation, it was also determined that the guide and customer caught four hatchery coho the day before, none of which got tagged. The client advised he looked to the guide for help with following the regulations and the guide normally tagged his fish for him. The guide was cited for **Possession of Mutilated Fish**, and **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**, and was warned for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The client was warned for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**.
- A boat with four anglers on board was contacted and had retained eight hatchery coho salmon. It was determined that only one of the four anglers had tagged his fish correctly. One subject determined he didn't have his paper tag after catching his first salmon, and chose to continue to fish anyway. Another subject only tagged one of the fish, and blamed the untagged fish on an error with the app. The final subject tagged both his salmon within a minute of each other, blaming the violation on bad cell service. The paper tagger was cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**, and the two e-tagers were warned for the same.

Father and Daughter Cited - Columbia River

Pendleton, Hermiston, and Heppner Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a nighttime boat patrol on the Columbia River below McNary Dam contacting numerous boats. One of the boats they contacted had a father and daughter pair. Upon asking to check their licenses the father immediately stated the daughter was 15 and didn't need a license in Washington. The Troopers corrected the father and told him that youth 15 years and older in Washington needed licenses. When asking for identification the daughter stated, "I don't even have a permit yet." Upon further attempts to identify the daughter the father finally stated, "Just give me a citation, she's 19." The father did indeed receive a citation for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Violation** and the daughter also received a citation for **No Resident Angling License**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Troopers Tow Boat - Coos River

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Coos River checking salmon anglers. Angler participation was high, but catch rates were low. One subject was cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**, after it was determined he retained a wild Chinook salmon approximately 30 minutes prior, and did not attempt to tag it until he was contacted. Additionally, a vessel was contacted on the South Fork Coos River which was having engine trouble. The elderly couple broke down as the Troopers approached them, and were grateful for a tow back to the boat ramp.

Excess Perch Seized - Columbia River South Jetty

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a man angling for perch on the Columbia River South Jetty who was actively angling while in possession of 21 red-tailed perch. The man claimed he did not know the daily bag limit (15). He was cited for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Fish** and warned for **Continuing to Angle After Achieving Daily Bag Limit**. Six perch were seized.

Angling Violations - Tanner Creek

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles contacted two subjects angling at Tanner Creek using prohibited gear (barbed hooks) for salmon/steelhead. During the contact it was discovered that one of the subjects did not have an angling license or tag on his person. It was further learned that the same subject had retained a Chinook salmon and had not tagged it. The subject told the Trooper the salmon was in his vehicle along with his license in the parking lot. The Trooper along with an ODFW employee inspected the man's catch and immediately observed that it was actually a steelhead which were currently prohibited and unlawful to retain. The subjects were polite and appeared to not fully understand the regulations regarding angling for salmon/steelhead. Several citations were issued to include **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks** and **Unlawful Take/Possession of Steelhead**. The steelhead was seized and donated to a charity food bank.

Subject Using Too Many Crab Traps

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint regarding subjects using too many crab traps off a pier in Garibaldi. The Trooper arrived and observed one subject pull six crab traps. The Trooper contacted the subject and found three undersized male Dungeness crab in the subject's bucket. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Crab** and **Using More Than Three Pots/Traps**.

No Non-Resident Angling License

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was called to a report of a subject refusing to show catch and answer questions from an ODFW employee at the Garibaldi Marina on Tillamook Bay. The Trooper searched a local RV park and located the suspect. The subject stated that he was already grouchy because he hadn't caught any fish. The subject claimed he answered one question and that was "no" he hadn't caught any fish. The subject showed his angling license and cooler and confirmed he didn't have any fish. The Trooper noticed a date of birth on the resident angling license that appeared incorrect as this appeared to be an older individual. Assisted by his Sergeant, the Trooper was able to search listed information on this individual. It was found that the subject had an adult daughter with that date of birth and a similar first name. Ultimately the subject claimed he accidentally used his daughter's account. The daughter is a resident in Portland, but the suspect in this case had a California driver's license. The subject was cited for **No Non-Resident Angling License**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Subject Cited for Angling/Crab Violations

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a boat with four subjects on board as it returned to port in Winchester Bay. One subject was contacted as he was walking up the ramp to get their vehicle, and when asked how the trip went, he stated they only caught a few crab. The boat owner was subsequently contacted on the boat, and when asked, also stated they only caught a few crab. When asked about a full fish bag, the boat owner then stated they had caught some fish, all Chinook. A consent search of the bag revealed two hatchery coho, one wild Chinook, and one large wild coho. A consent search of their crab also revealed one female Dungeness crab. One of the subjects took responsibility for the wild coho and was cited for **Take/Possession Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon**. The same subject was also warned for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**, after it was determined he tagged both the fish he caught within one minute of each other, which coincided with him catching his second fish. A separate subject took responsibility for sorting and measuring the crab and was warned for **Take/Possession Female Dungeness Crab**. The crab was returned to the bay, and the fish was donated to charity.

Father and Son Cited for Snagging Salmon

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a foot patrol on Big Creek through two private properties that have complained of trespassers and snagging. On one property he encountered a father and two sons angling over a pool of salmon. He was able to observe these individuals as the adult son continually tried to snag the fish by spotting fish and casting right into them and then jerking every cast. Ultimately, the father hooked into a fish near the tail and through the course of fighting the fish it got caught on some discarded line in the hole. The adult son then intentionally snagged the fish in the side to help pull it in. The fish was then killed and retained. Contact was made and all subjects checked for angling licenses and tags. The adult son admitted to trying to snag fish and helping get the fish in by intentionally snagging it. He said the father's fish had been snagged near the tail and pointed to a bleeding wound on the bottom of the tail. When the father was separately asked where the fish had been hooked, he said near the mouth. When asked directly if it was hooked where the fish was bleeding near the tail he admitted it was. The adult son was cited for **Attempting to Snag Salmon** and the father was cited for **Retaining a Snagged Salmon**. They were warned for **Angling on Another's Property without Permission**. The fish was seized and donated to the local food bank.

Lost Lake Boat Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles conducted a kayak patrol with a Hood River County Marine Deputy at Lost Lake. Numerous contacts were made to include anglers and boaters. Total stats included 15 angler checks, 20 boat checks, nine angler warnings and 20 boater warnings. Two citations were issued for **No Resident Angling License**.

Freshwater Clams Seized - Diblee Beach

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was checking salmon anglers on Diblee Beach when he observed four individuals harvesting freshwater clams. The Sergeant contacted the group and one subject attempted to hide the clams in the river and walk away. The subject eventually returned to the water and retrieved the bag of clams they had harvested. All four ended up being in possession of clams and were issued citation for **Unlawful Possession/Take of Freshwater Clams**. The clams were returned to the river.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Suspect Receives Lifetime Suspension in Elk Case

The North Valley Team investigated the unlawful take of four elk on private property in Eagle Creek. Neighbors in the area were witnesses to the conduct. One neighbor located an elk that had been wasted on their property. The private property owner and suspect admitted to the conduct during a brief phone interview but refused to come home to meet with the Troopers. A Trooper authored and was granted a search warrant for the property the same day. Several other Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted in executing the warrant that night. In addition to the one elk found wasted, three additional elk were found buried on the property, as well as one unborn bull elk. The suspect pleaded guilty to three of the six charges brought against him. The case was adjudicated in the Clackamas County Circuit Court and the sentencing is as follows:

- Taking, Angling, Hunting, or Trapping in Violation of Wildlife Law or Rule (Misdemeanor Class A): 36-month license suspension, 36 months bench probation, 24 hours jail, and \$4,000 fine
- Violation of Wildlife Law with Culpable Mental State (Felony Class C): 36-month bench probation, 60-month license suspension
- Removal/Parts of a Wildlife Carcass/Wasting Wildlife: Lifetime license suspension, 36 months bench probation, 24 hours jail

Suspect Found Guilty in Lincoln County Case

In March 2024, in Lincoln County, a subject offered for sale and sold at retail live fish (lingcod, rockfish and Dungeness crab) while knowingly and intentionally failing to keep, maintain, and complete the records required of a retail fish dealer. The defendant was found guilty of the offense and received the following sentence:

- 488.05lbs of commercial bottom fish and 93lbs of Dungeness crab were seized and forfeited. The proceeds of the fish, totaling \$3,309, to be paid to the ODFW Commercial Fish Fund.
- 24 months of bench probation

Suspect Sentenced in Clatsop County Case

A man who was cited by an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper in May for Taking/Illegal Possession of 30 Female Dungeness Crab at the Necanicum estuary was sentenced by the Clatsop County District Court to:

- 3-year shellfish license suspension
- \$500 fine





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
- \$300 Habitat Destruction
- \$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
- \$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
- \$200 Game Fish & Shellfish
- \$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
- \$200 Spotlighting
- \$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag

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 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 (public lands only), Black bears, Bighorn Sheep, Marten, Fisher, Sierra Nevada Red Fox

- \$1,000 Species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under state or federal Endangered Species Act (excludes fish) (e.g. wolf, 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)

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.



