



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

OCTOBER 2024



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*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant on patrol
with the OSP retro truck in the North
Warner Mountains in Lake County.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Oregon Hunters Association Youth Chukar Hunting Event

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted Oregon Hunters Association volunteers with hosting the Youth Chukar Hunting Event at the Klamath Hills. Sixty youth showed up for the event over the two days, with 200 chukars and 10 pheasants released on the property. The majority of kids filled their two chukar limit each day.

OCA Presentation

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant gave a year in review presentation to the Oregon Coast Anglers (OCA) club. Approximately 30 members were present and good discussions were had.

Astoria Coffee with a Cop

Astoria Fish and Wildlife and Patrol Troopers participated in “Coffee with a Cop” at a local private school. Each grade (1st through 8th) got an opportunity to sit with a police officer from various agencies in Clatsop County and have a doughnut and coffee (juice/milk for the kiddos).

State Rep Ride-Along

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles provided citizen ride-alongs for State Representative Ken Helm and his chief of staff. Troopers patrolled the White River/Hood Units and provided insight on their areas and job duties.

Idaho Recruiting Event

An Ontraio Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a Patrol Sergeant attended a recruiting event at the Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho. The slideshow presentation was well received and the students who attended asked the Troopers a lot of questions.

ODFW Ride-Along

ODFW Commissioner Mark Labhart conducted a ride-along with an East Region Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant. They discussed several aspects of fish and wildlife enforcement and made a few contacts with anglers and hunters. The Commissioner was very thankful for the ride-along and discussion.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Deer Rescued from Fence Post Hole - Lafayette

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant responded to a report of a deer stuck in a fence post hole in Lafayette. Construction workers had arrived at the residence that morning, where they were installing a fence, and found the doe stuck in the hole. They had attempted to get the deer out for several hours before determining they needed assistance. The Lieutenant responded to their location and, with their assistance, pulled the deer from the hole. The deer was very weak and stressed but did not have any visible injuries. The deer was allowed several hours to recover and eventually left the premises under its own power.



Subject Cited for Offensive Littering

Prineville and Madras Fish and Wildlife Troopers and the OSP Bend Pilot conducted a nighttime wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) operation and enforcement flight in the Grizzly Unit after receiving multiple poaching complaints. While scouting a side road a Trooper investigated a trash dump at a camp site. Multiple receipts and a piece of mail were recovered. During the night flight the Pilot observed a vehicle casting light with the use of its headlights and a light bar. Troopers contacted two occupants from the vehicle at their campsite but located no weapons or other evidence of poaching related offenses. The male driver was identified, and his last name matched the mail found at the nearby camp full of trash. The subject admitted the mail was his mother's, and the camp is where they had stayed the previous month. The male was cited for **Offensive Littering** and directed to clean up both camp sites.

Troopers Investigate DUII Crash

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a traffic crash on US Highway 20 about 10 miles east of Toledo in Lincoln County. The involved adult driver showed numerous indicators of impairment at the scene, and there were four juvenile passengers in the vehicle at the time of the crash. A Patrol Sergeant responded and conducted a DUII investigation, which resulted in the driver being arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)** and **Recklessly Endangering Another Person**. A search warrant was completed by the Patrol Sergeant and the driver submitted to a breath test revealing a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.11% seven hours after the crash occurred.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Spotted Owl Taken to Oregon Bird Alliance

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a residence in St. Helens to rescue a spotted owl with a broken wing. The owl struck an 8-foot antenna on a pickup and fell into the bed of the truck. The reporting party didn't realize the owl was in his truck until he got home. The owl was recovered and transported to Bird Alliance of Oregon in Portland for treatment.

Swimmer Rescued - Ecola State Park

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to a welfare check at Ecola State Park following a report of a swimmer stranded on a rock with heavy surf. The Trooper responded and assisted Cannon Beach Fire Department (CBFD) and Cannon Beach Police Department (CBPD). CBFD utilized jet skis to comb the area as CBPD used a drone to locate the surfer on the rock. Ultimately the US Coast Guard (USCG) was called and a helicopter was used to retrieve the surfer with minor injuries.



Deer Rescued from Fence - Fern Ridge Dam

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received information that a deer was stuck in a fence near Fern Ridge Dam. The Sergeant responded and the deer was successfully removed from the fence by the homeowner and neighbors. The Sergeant examined the young buck, cleaned its wounds and determined it did not have life threatening injuries. The deer was released and laid in the grass for awhile after its exhausting evening.

Driver Jumps into Siuslaw River to Elude Arrest

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Central Region Lieutenant contacted subjects sitting in a vehicle near a fishing hole on the Siuslaw River. While walking up to the vehicle, illicit substances were observed in plain view being used. The driver decided he did not want to speak and rapidly drove away after being told to stop. Later that same day Troopers and Deputies located the vehicle involved. It was learned the vehicle was stolen from Eugene. While waiting for the vehicle owners to arrive and recover the vehicle, a homeowner called about two individuals knocking on their door. A Deputy and Trooper arrived and detained the female subject who was the passenger in the fleeing vehicle. The male subject fled prior to their arrival. Throughout the night, local residents contacted emergency services advising a suspicious subject was in the area. The next day, Troopers and Deputies located the driver in Mapleton. Prior to being taken into custody, the male jumped into the Siuslaw River, nearly drowning, attempting to avoid arrest. An angler operating a boat nearby assisted by grabbing the subject and delivered him to Troopers and Deputies on shore. The subject was lodged at the Lane County Jail for **Attempt to Elude, Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle (UUMV), Possession (PCS): Meth, and PCS: Fentanyl.**

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Subject Shoots Second 6x6 Bull Elk

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to a report of an archery hunter who reportedly shot his second 6x6 bull elk of the archery season. The Trooper met with the reporting party who stated he knew the suspect had shot a nice bull opening morning and was almost positive the suspect had shot another bull. Troopers responded to the suspect's camp and found the suspect's vehicle but nobody in camp. The Troopers checked the area and came back to find two hunters in camp who reported that the suspect's friend had shot the bull, but they lost it and could not find it. The Troopers advised the hunters because of the time delay and them not finding the bull, they would go help them look for it. The bull was located, and Troopers immediately helped the hunters field dress and get the meat off the bone to salvage it. The Trooper followed up with the reporting party later that night and learned more information prompting a second interview with the suspect. During the second interview the suspect eventually admitted to shooting his second large bull elk of the year and having his friend tag it. The suspect was issued criminal citations for **Exceeding Bag Limit: Big Game Animal**, and **Lend, Borrow, or sell Big Game tag**. The Trooper seized the elk head/antlers, meat, and the suspect's bow and hunting gear used in the unlawful taking of the elk. The second suspect who tagged the bull was issued criminal citations for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense** and **Lend, Borrow, or Sell Big Game Tag**.

Duck Season Opener - Summer Lake

A Klamath Falls Area Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted routine hunter compliance checks at Summer Lake Wildlife Refuge for the statewide duck season opener. Over the course of the weekend, over 100 hunters were checked. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **No Valid Electronic Hunting/Angling License/Tag/Permit in Possession**, **Hunting Prohibited Method: Shotgun Hold More than Three Shells**, and **Exceeding Bag Limit of Game Birds** (pintail duck and white front goose).

Subjects Shoots Two Bucks without Tags

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Hermiston Trooper responded to an anonymous TIP complaint of two bucks that were shot by subjects without tags. The subjects were contacted, and interviews were conducted. Both subjects admitted to recognizing they couldn't tag their deer several days after harvest while they were butchering the meat but forgot to call to find out why they couldn't tag their deer. Both subjects were cited criminally for **Unlawful Take/Possession Buck Deer: No Big Game Tag**. The meat was seized to be donated to charity and the rifle used for both hunts was also seized.



Dead Head Found During Traffic Stop

A Heppner Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a pickup with a canopy, and antlers from a large bull elk were visible through the canopy windows. The driver admitted he located the dead bull and took the skull with antlers attached. He provided pictures and the location of the carcass. The dead head was seized, and the subject was issued a warning for **Unlawful Possession of Big Game Animal Parts**.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



WED Operation - Butte Falls

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted a wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) operation in Butte Falls on lands owned by a private timber company that has been experiencing ongoing issues with hunting-related trespassing. Two subjects were criminally charged as a result of the operation. One subject attempted to take the WED but realized that it was a decoy before shooting and was charged for **Hunting on the Cultivated/Enclosed Lands of Another**. A second subject attempted to take the decoy and fired a single shot at it, striking the decoy in the chest. That subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take, Shooting from a Roadway, and Hunting on the Cultivated/Enclosed Lands of Another**, and his rifle was seized as evidence.

Later that day, Troopers conducted a night enforcement operation with the assistance of the Southwest Region OSP Pilot. A Trooper contacted two subjects between Butte Falls and Eagle Point who were casting light from their vehicle. These subjects were found to be in possession of numerous loaded firearms, several spotlights, and a pair of handheld night vision goggles. The subjects were criminally cited for **Hunting with Artificial Light**. Four firearms, two spotlights, and one set of night vision goggles were seized as evidence. Troopers contacted two more subjects in Butte Falls who were casting light from their vehicle. The subjects were found to be in possession of numerous firearms and a high-powered flashlight. Six firearms and one high-powered flashlight were seized as evidence. Additionally, the driver of the vehicle was observed displaying signs of impairment. The driver and passenger were criminally cited with **Hunting with Artificial Light** and **Hunting Prohibited Hours**; the driver was charged with **Hunting Without Valid Tags** and arrested for **DUII**.



North Coast TMA Violation

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Recruit contacted multiple deer hunters that were driving vehicles on a privately owned logging road that is owned by a North Coast Travel Management Agreement (TMA) Cooperator. The gate had been open due to commercial logging activity, and the vehicles drove into the road past signs stating that it was closed to motor vehicles. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Violation of the TMA**.

Couple Cited for Shooting Deer on Golf Course

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a call for service at the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club. The manager reported that a neighbor had shot a buck adjacent to the golf course, but was shooting towards a greenskeeper. The greenskeeper notified management who located the man on the course carrying an AR-15 looking for the wounded deer. Management located the deer and the suspect shot the deer and drug it to his house. Contact was made with the elderly husband and wife duo who admitted to shooting the deer, from their elevated porch, toward one of the greens. The deer was not tagged and the wife said she made the first shot on the deer and had not printed her tag. The rifle had a 10-round magazine. The husband was cited for **Hunting the Cultivated Land of Another** and **Hunting with Unauthorized Weapon**. The wife was cited for **No Big Game Tag** and, after a complete investigation, was warned for **Reckless Endangerment**. The 3x4 deer and rifle were seized.

Subject Hunting in West Linn City Limits

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper received an anonymous tip involving a subject unlawfully taking a buck deer inside the incorporated city of West Linn. The subject completed a mandatory report through ODFW claiming he killed the buck in the Saddle Mountain area. The suspect posted several photos on social media of the buck and where he killed it. Using the photos, they were able to locate the remains and kill site on the suspect's neighbor's property. Upon contact, the suspect said he killed the buck in the Saddle Mountain area and thought he tagged it but had only completed the mandatory report. The suspect eventually admitted he had killed it in his backyard. The suspect's bow, the arrow he used to kill the buck, the meat, and the head and antlers were seized as evidence. The suspect brought his kids outside and used the situation to show them what happens when you break the law. The suspect was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer In City Limits, Hunting in City Limits, and Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass**.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

Subjects Caught Using Thermal Imaging Device

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a tip regarding a hunter in the McKenzie Unit possibly using a thermal imaging device to locate deer. Later that day, the Trooper located the suspect vehicle parked next to a clear cut. The Trooper went down a steep ridge and positioned himself above the suspect vehicle. Minutes later, the driver of the vehicle stepped out and began looking up and down the road. Once certain there was nobody around, the subject began scanning the clear cut with a small handheld monocular. The subject located three bedded deer and then handed the monocular to his wife who also was able to see the deer. The Trooper contacted the two subjects who ultimately admitted the monocular was thermal. Both subjects were criminally cited for **Hunting Prohibited Method: Thermal Imaging Device** and released. The thermal imaging device was seized as evidence.

WED Operation - Ochoco Unit

Bend and Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted day time and night time Buck Mule Deer WED operations in the Ochoco Unit during any legal weapon deer season. Three minutes before the end of legal shooting hours, the operator of a side-by-side observed the WED in the headlights. The passenger attempted to get his rifle out, but was unable to do so. The driver then fired his rifle out of the window of the side by side at the WED. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle and the driver presented an already validated Ochoco electronic deer tag. The operator was cited criminally for **Hunting with the Aid of Artificial Light**, and **Exceeding Bag Limit of Game Mammal**. Other criminal charges were referred to the District Attorney's office. The passenger was warned for **Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag**. The firearm was seized as evidence.

Hunting Closed Season- Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information that there were several duck hunters in the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area and several shots were heard. Waterfowl season in this zone had closed approximately three days prior. The Trooper walked the wildlife area and located five subjects, three of which were unaware the season had closed and were currently hunting. The other two subjects were contacted in the parking lot and advised the season was closed. Three subjects were issued violation citations for **Hunting Closed Season**, two subjects were given warnings for **Failure to Sign Federal Waterfowl Stamp**, and two ducks were seized.

Elk Shot with Rifle During Archery Season

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles received a call from a local hunter wanting to report an elk that they believed to have been shot with a rifle during the last week of archery season and upon private property. The reporting hunter stated that they also had access to hunt the property and during the season placed a few trail cameras out. They stated their trail cameras captured the suspect access the property with a rifle in their hands. They were able to find out who the suspect was and reported the name to the Trooper, who searched the suspect through the ODFW licensing system and found they tagged an animal with their general season archery tag. The Trooper obtained permission and responded to the scene with the assistance of other Troopers and K-9 Scout. K-9 Scout was able to locate the carcass and other parts of the elk that had been discarded into the wooded area around the scene. Troopers inspected the carcass which appeared to have wounds consistent to a bullet entry/exit. Other evidence through trail camera photos were also obtained. Troopers interviewed the suspects involved and after presenting the evidence obtained, the suspect stated an elk was killed with a rifle and an archery tag was used to tag it. The person involved stated they knew it wasn't the right thing and stated they would take full responsibility for their actions. Citations were issued for **Unlawful Take of a Spike Elk** and **Aiding in a Game Violation**.

Multiple Violations Found at Hunting Camp

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a Recruit patrolled the Ochoco Unit for rifle deer season. During the patrol a camp was checked with a deer hanging with no tag having been left with the carcass. The successful subject was out with another tag holder. The Troopers also noted multiple turkey carcasses and a deer dead-head in the back of a truck at the camp. Troopers returned later for follow-up. The subject had validated his e-tag and was warned for **Fail to Attach Tag in Plain Sight**. The same subject was also warned for **Possession of Unlawfully Taken Big Game Parts** and the dead-head was seized. A subject who claimed one of the turkeys possessed a Western Oregon Turkey Tag that had not been validated from the previous day. The turkey was seized, and that hunter cited for **Take/Possession of Game Bird**. The group also possessed a 3rd set of turkey wings they claimed to have been given by other hunters but did not have a transfer slip. The wings were seized, and one subject was warned for **No Transfer Slip**.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Subject Shoots into Herd Killing Buck, Wounding Doe

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of three subjects who shot several times into a herd of deer, killing a buck and striking a doe. The witnesses advised they confronted the subjects about the doe being gut shot next to them. One of the subjects denied striking the doe. The subjects additionally drove their pickup off the road to get the buck they harvested. The witnesses contacted ODFW to dispatch the severely injured doe. The Trooper arrived, field dressed and skinned the doe, as well as collecting multiple pieces of evidence at the scene. The doe was taken to Eastern Oregon Mobile for donation. Troopers located the subjects the following day and conducted interviews and evidence analysis determining the subject that struck the doe. He was cited for **Unlawful Take of Antlerless Deer** and warned for **Shooting from the Roadway**. The other subjects were cited for **Violation of Travel Management Agreement** and warned for **Shooting from the Roadway**.

Patrol Sergeant Assists on Poaching Case

Oregon State Police received a call of an active deer poaching in Crawfordsville. The only Fish and Wildlife Trooper was over 90 minutes away. A Patrol Division Sergeant responded to the area, and the suspect was still on scene. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper communicated via cell phone and the Patrol Sergeant was able to conduct an interview, seize the appropriate evidence and criminally cite the subject for **Unlawful Take of Buck Deer** and **Hunting from a Highway**. The buck deer was later donated to a local charity. The Patrol Sergeant's efforts were much appreciated, and he was later recognized for his efforts.

Elk Head from Idaho Found at CWD Checkpoint

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was called by an ODFW biologist who was at a chronic wasting disease (CWD) roadway check point on I-84. The ODFW employee stated that a subject had come into the check point with an intact bull elk head from Idaho. The Trooper responded and contacted the subject who said he had not thought about the importing of prohibited cervid parts issue even though he knew about CWD. He said as he waited for the Trooper's arrival, he read the regulations and understood what he had mistakenly done. The Trooper presented the options to the hunter regarding the bull with the subject electing to cut off the 6x6 bull elk's antlers at the pedicle, without cutting into the skull/brain, while under the supervision of ODFW. After removing the antlers, the head was bagged and ODFW took possession of the head to be destroyed. The subject was issued a citation for **Import of Restricted Cervid Parts**.

K-9 Buck Locates Shell Casings and Dead Deer

Albany Fish and Wildlife Troopers were conducting a wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) operation in Linn County when a Trooper in the brush heard distant successive gunshots before legal shooting light. The decoy operation was terminated and the Troopers went to look for the source of the gunshots. Approximately 1.5 miles away (straight line distance), on another road system, Troopers found a vehicle parked canted sideways in the road with the passenger side door open. The driver was still in the vehicle and he told Troopers his two passengers had shot at a deer and were in the woods trying to locate it. After an extended period of time, the two came back out of the woods and one of them admitted to shooting at a spike deer before legal shooting light. The individual said he did not think he hit the deer when he shot. The driver and one passenger were issued criminal citations for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The person who shot at the deer was issued criminal citations for **Hunting Prohibited Hours**, and **Take/Possession of Spike Deer**. The rifle and pistol of the shooter were seized as evidence. After the subjects were cited and released, a Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper and K-9 Buck responded to the scene to see if the deer or other evidence could be located. K-9 Buck quickly found additional shell casings and then started tracking a blood trail which led to a dead spike deer. The deer was donated to local charity.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Fall Coastal Salmon Season

Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Troopers worked the fall coastal salmon season on many of the coastal rivers. A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted a boat patrol on the Yaquina River. One subject had purchased his license and tag online electing to be a paper tagger. They said they did not have a printer so they asked for the tag to be mailed to them. They had not received the paper tag in the mail yet but still went fishing and caught and retained a fish. The subject was cited for **Fail to Validate Harvest Card**. Another subject on the boat had retained his daily limit of salmon but was still fishing. That subject was cited for **Continuing to Angle After Daily Limit**. An ODFW river sampler contacted the Sergeant about contacting a boat with some salmon filleted out. They were unable to determine the fish were legal so contacted OSP. The angler was contacted and admitted he filleted out his fish upriver from the boat ramp thinking it was OK to do so. The subject was cited for **Possession of Mutilated Fish** and the fish were seized and donated to the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Closed Stream Patrols

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted multiple angler checks with emphasis on a local stream that was currently closed to angling. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Angling Closed Stream, Take/Possession of Fish Closed Area/Stream, Angling on Private Land Without Permission, No Non-Resident Angling License, No Combined Angling Harvest Tag, and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. Multiple hatchery Coho were seized and donated to a local food bank.

Multiple Complaints Investigated - Salmon River

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper received multiple complaints on the Salmon River. One complaint was of two subjects snagging Chinook salmon. Upon arrival, information was received that the individuals had snagged two salmon and had them in their possession. The Trooper observed a third salmon snagged on the side near its tail. Three subjects on the river witnessed the individuals attempting to snag. The fish had marks consistent with being snagged. Both subjects were criminally cited for **Angling Prohibited Method: Snagging**. Two Chinook salmon and two fishing rods and reels were seized as evidence. While checking subjects on the Salmon River with an ODFW fish checker, the Trooper observed a subject catch a salmon. Upon inspection, it was determined the fish was a Coho which is prohibited for take on the Salmon River. The subject was cited and the fish was seized.

Undersized Crab - Newport Fishing Pier

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint at the Newport fishing pier of two individuals taking and possessing undersized crab. Investigation revealed the subjects were in possession of three undersized Dungeness crab. One subject was cited for **Take/Possession Undersized Crab** and the other was warned for **No Valid Shellfish License**.

Suspended Angler Arrested on Warrant

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant was checking anglers on the Nestucca River at the mouth of Three Rivers when he contacted an individual actively angling with a bobber and eggs whose angling privileges were suspended for life due to previous fish and wildlife violations. In addition to the suspended angling license, the subject also had a felony warrant. The suspect was transported by a Patrol Trooper to the Tillamook County Jail where he was lodged on the warrant and cited and released for **Angling While Suspended**. The suspect's fishing pole and associated gear were seized.

Angler Checks - Salmon and Siletz Rivers

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted angler checks on the Salmon and Siletz Rivers. While on the Salmon River, a Trooper contacted a subject who was in possession of two paper combined angling tags. The subject was cited for **Possession of More Than One Angling Tag** and one of his tags was seized.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

Future Trooper Assists Sergeant in Bandon

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted commercial bay crab and recreational shellfish checks in multiple ports on the south coast from Newport to Brookings. In Newport, one commercial bay crabber who was new to the fishery was checked and was provided guidance on the rules and regulations on commercial bay crabbing. In Florence, one recreational crabber was found with seven Dungeness crab, four of which were undersized. It was also determined they did not possess a 2024 Oregon shellfish license. The crab were released back into the river and the individual was cited for **No 2024 Shellfish License** and warned for **Possession of Undersized Crab**. In Bandon, the Sergeant contacted a young boy who was crabbing with his mother. After the Sergeant went over all the rules with them and how to handle crab without getting pinched, the boy assisted with checking the rest of the crabbers on the dock explaining to everyone how to identify male crab and how to measure correctly. They did find one crabber with one short crab who was warned for the offense and the boy released it back into the bay. In 20 years he may end up being a Fish and Wildlife Trooper!

Angling Violator Arrested on Warrant

While conducting angler checks on the Salmon River, a Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed two subjects bobber fishing for salmon. Upon request to inspect their tags, catch, and gear, it was observed that the subjects were fishing with leaders greater than 36 inches as set forth by the steelhead/salmon bobber fishing rule. Both subjects were identified and cited for **Angling Prohibited Method**. One of the subjects was found to have a misdemeanor warrant out of Washington County and was taken into custody and lodged at the Lincoln County Jail.

Boat Patrol - Nehalem River

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Nehalem River on the last day of the seasonal wild Coho retention day. Multiple boaters were contacted and multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Exceeding Annual Catch Limit of Fish: Wild Coho, No/Expired Certificate of Number, No Combined Angling Tag, and Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. One wild Coho was seized.

Coho Mistaken for Chinook

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks on the Salmon River. While checking boats coming into the Knight Park boat ramp, one subject stated he had caught his first Chinook of the year and voluntarily provided his angling tag. Upon inspection of the fish, it was determined to be a Coho. The fish was seized and the subject was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Fish Closed Season: Coho**.

Dungeness Crab Seized, Multiple Cited

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a tip at a local marina that a large group of people were taking multiple trips and transferring multiple coolers full of crab up to the parking area where numerous people were waiting. The Trooper conducted surveillance of the area and found the group consisted of 20-30 people with three boats. Each boat would take 8-9 people out and return with limits of Dungeness crab. The boat would then return to the river with a new group for another limit. No apparent violations were observed but it was difficult to keep track of everyone involved and whether or not anyone had taken multiple trips. The Trooper checked all three boats and found one boat with two female Dungeness crab, one undersized Dungeness crab, and within the eight person limit had exceeded by four crab. Another boat was checked and a juvenile over 12 years of age was found without a valid 2024 shellfish license after harvesting a daily limit. Citations were ultimately issued for **Take/Possession of Female Dungeness Crab, Exceeding Daily Bag Limit, Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab, and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. A total of 15 Dungeness crab were seized and returned, including two female and one undersized Dungeness crab.

Angler Checks - Big Creek

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks at Big Creek which recently reopened after a summer closure. Multiple citations and warnings were issued to salmon anglers for **Continue to Angler After Retaining Daily Limit, No Written Record of Transfer, Aiding in a Wildlife Offense, and No Combined Angling Harvest Tag** (minors angling with adults).

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Chinook Salmon Foul Hooked

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject foul hook a Chinook salmon on the Salmon River. The subject lost the first salmon but soon foul hooked a second Chinook in the dorsal fin which he retained. The Trooper recorded all of this with his cell phone. Upon contact the Trooper asked the angler what he had caught the Chinook salmon with and where on the fish he had hooked it. The subject stated he had caught the fish on a bobber and egg setup (pointing to another rod with the setup) and had hooked the salmon in the mouth. The Trooper showed the subject the cell phone video and the subject admitted to foul hooking the fish. The subject was cited for **Take/Possession of Foul Hooked (Snagged) Fish**, and the subject's fishing rod, lure, fishing net, and Chinook salmon were seized.



Subjects Snagging After Dark

Portland and St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an evening salmon enforcement operation at the Cedar Creek Hatchery on the Sandy River. Two calls were received that day reporting several subjects snagging fish after dark in that area. A Trooper observed a group of six individuals continue to fish well past legal hours and observed some subjects that were possibly attempting to snag fish. When the final group left the beach just before 9:00 pm, Troopers contacted them at the trailhead to check licenses and inspect their catch. Five of the subjects were cited for **Angling Prohibited Hours**. One of the subjects was found to be in possession of a Coho that was foul hooked in the face. That subject was issued a criminal citation for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Coho Salmon**.

Columbia and Umatilla River Patrols

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked salmon anglers on the Columbia River and Umatilla River. He contacted a total of 16 anglers. One subject on the Umatilla River showed the Trooper his portfolio via the MyODFW website; Trooper learned that he was a paper tagger. The subject did not have his paper combined angling harvest tag in his possession. The Trooper was able to help the subject, at his request, switch to e-tagging to remedy the issue. Upon inspecting the subject's gear, the Trooper learned the subject was using a barbed hook. The subject stated he never looked at the regulations and did not know barbless hooks were required. The subject was warned for **No Paper Combined Angling Tag in Possession** and cited for **Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**. The Trooper pinched the anglers barb, showed him how to check for a barb, educated him on the upcoming changes to the fishery, and how to find the updates on ODFW's website.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Snagger Caught on Big Creek

While conducting surveillance of salmon anglers on Big Creek, an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper watched a group of subjects as they attempted to snag salmon. One of the subjects was eventually able to snag and retain two Coho. The subject continued to angle, even after validating the two snagged coho on his tag. The Trooper contacted the group and found the subject had been previously cited by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officers for snagging. Citations and warnings were issued for **Taking Snagged Salmon, Continue to Angle, and No Harvest Card**. Two salmon were seized.

Crab Checks - Hammond Marina

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting crab checks at Hammond Marina. As the Trooper was measuring crab from one boat, he observed another boat pull up to the dock with a single male occupant. As an ODFW fish checker made their way down the dock to contact the subject, he proceeded to begin throwing crab over the side of the boat into the water. The Trooper counted as the man threw six crab overboard into the water. The subject was contacted and a consent search of the remainder of the boat revealed a bucket with 12 legal Dungeness crab. The subject stated he was, "waiting to get back to the dock to sort the crab." The subject was issued a citation for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit: Dungeness Crab**.

Boat Patrol - John Day Arm

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted a boat patrol on the John Day Arm for steelhead anglers. The John Day Arm had just opened after several years of being closed to protect the steelhead due to low numbers. As Troopers covertly patrolled the area, they observed two boats upstream and from a distance. Troopers observed one of the boats with two subjects net a fish, bonk it on the head and retain it. Troopers stood by and observed their activity as the subjects were unaware of the Trooper's presence. After about ten minutes it appeared the subjects were done for the day and started to head back towards the boat ramp. Troopers contacted the boat and conducted a license and tag check. During the check the Troopers found the subjects were in possession of four native steelhead, which are unlawful to possess. The subjects admitted that they knew they were in the wrong and they just got greedy. After checking the tags, it was discovered they had also retained steelhead and salmon the weekend prior. Troopers asked if they could see photos of the fish from the weekend prior which they showed them. Troopers seized the four steelhead they currently were in possession of and made arrangement to seize the fish from the prior week. Both subjects received criminal citations for two counts each of **Unlawful Take of Non-Adipose Fin Clipped Steelhead**. Charges were forwarded to the District Attorney for consideration for the fish from the week prior. All the steelhead seized were donated to the local Salvation Army.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Nehalem Bay Boat Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Astoria Patrol Recruit conducted a boat patrol on Nehalem Bay. The Nehalem Bay has a short wild Coho season, and limits are extremely restrictive. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Exceed the Period Limit of Wild Coho, Fail to Allow Inspection of Catch, Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card: Wild Coho, Fail to Properly Validate Harvest Card: Wild Coho, Taking Undersized Dungeness Crab**, and boating offenses. During the patrol, the Troopers contacted two retired police officers that were angling near downtown Nehalem. The officers said earlier that morning they watched a subject catch two Coho, take one of them back inside a waterfront house, then return to fishing with two other subjects. Later in the day, the Troopers observed three subjects matching the description angling from a dock of the waterfront home. The Troopers contacted the subjects who all said that they had been there for three days and had not caught or kept any salmon. After subsequent questioning, the subjects admitted to catching and keeping six wild Coho. They retrieved multiple packages of filleted salmon, as well as two whole wild Coho, from the house. The subjects also had three undersized crab. The subjects were cited for multiple offenses and the salmon/crab were seized.

Out-of-State Subject Caught Without License

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a pair of salmon anglers at Winchester Bay. The pair were observed from a distance for several minutes, with both subjects angling at the end of a jetty. As the Trooper walked down the jetty to contact them, one of the subjects stopped angling and sat down. When contacted, the subject who stopped fishing admitted that his three-day angling license was expired. The subject stated he was flying back to Illinois the next day, and took his chances getting caught. The subject was cited for **No Combined Angling Tag** and was warned for **No Non-Resident Angling License**.

Netarts Bay Crab Patrol

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked crabbers after dark on Netarts bay. The Trooper observed a large group of people illegally possessing female Dungeness crab. The Trooper observed the catch being put into the back of a minivan and contacted the group who initially tried to hide the crab and denied having any. The Trooper told the group he had already seen the crab being put in a cooler in the van. The subjects then cooperated and brought the cooler out of the van. Four citations were written for **Possession of Female Dungeness Crab** and two additional citations were written for **No Non-Resident Shellfish License**. The subjects were warned for failure to show catch when the Trooper asked the first time. Numerous female crab were released back into the bay.

Subject Hides Salmon, Exceeds Yearly Limit

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed-up on reports of subjects snagging salmon in an area surrounded by private property. The Trooper was granted permission by several property owners to observe individuals fishing. One subject successfully caught a salmon and left. Contact was attempted at riverside, but the subject did not turn around. The subject was contacted on the other side of the river at his vehicle without the salmon. During the interview, the subject admitted to hiding the fish. The Chinook salmon was located in the bushes nearby. Upon further review of his tag, the subject had caught his yearly limit. The subject received a citation for **Exceeding the Yearly Limit: Chinook**, and **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag**. The salmon was seized and donated to a local church.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Suspect Pleads Guilty in Unlawful Take Case

During the 2023 rifle elk season, a John Day Sergeant and Trooper, along with assistance from The Dalles Fish and Wildlife Troopers, investigated an unlawful take of a bull elk in the East Northside Unit while in violation of criminal trespass. Further investigation revealed the subject shot from the roadway and also did not have an East Northside Unit elk tag. The adult male suspect recently pleaded guilty in the Grant County Circuit Court to **Unlawful Take Bull Elk, Hunting Outside Unit Boundaries, and Criminal Trespass**. He received:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 80 hours community service
- \$1500 fine/restitution
- \$1,000 to OHA TIP fund
- Forfeiture of his .308 Rifle
- Must complete a hunter education course

Guide Pleads No Contest in Archery Elk Case

During the 2023 Season, a John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant investigated a criminal trespass that took place during the archery season. Investigation revealed an adult male guide from an area outfitter had unlawfully taken two archery elk hunting clients onto private property. The male suspect recently pleaded no contest to two counts of **Aiding/Counseling in Wildlife Offense and Criminal Trespass II**. He received:

- 4-day jail sentence
- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 80 hours community service
- \$500 to OHA TIP Fund
- \$500 to victim landowner
- \$1,100 Fine
- Must complete a hunter education course





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

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)

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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"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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