



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

JANUARY 2025



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*On the cover:
Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Members
on the Patrol Vessel Guardian in Newport*

OREGON'S COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY



The Ocean and Columbia River commercial crab fishery is considered the most valuable single species commercial fishery in Oregon, harvesting a long-term average (25 years) of 16 million pounds of crab per season. This is a limited entry fishery and an average of 315 permits commercially fish for Dungeness crab each year.

The commercial value of Oregon's Dungeness crab fishery varies each year, depending on the market conditions and the size of the harvest. In the 2023–2024 season, the ex-vessel value of Oregon's commercial Dungeness crab landings were \$93.6 million.

Oregon's laws surrounding this fishery are lengthy and complex. Regulations are set to ensure there is a safe and sustainable population of crab to harvest each year.

The Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) focuses efforts on Oregon's Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery for up to a nine month season each year. They enforce regulations starting with the fisherman catching the crab to the dealers buying the crab to the markets and restaurants selling the crab to the public.

The 2024-2025 commercial crab season has proved to be extremely busy for OSP as crab were smaller and less plentiful than previous years but with a considerably higher value due to a lower abundance of crab in the marketplace. This has caused an increased number of sub-legal crab to show up at offloads up and down the coast.

MFT members from the start of the 2024-2025 season on December 15th thru the end of January measured thousands of pounds of Dungeness crab. During this short timeframe, they recovered over 4000 pounds of sub-legal crab with an ex-vessel value of just over \$25,700.

Additionally, MFT Troopers conducted ocean patrols to focus on gear compliance. OSP conducted investigations on fisherman that were in violation of **Fishing Closed Area: Marine Reserves, No 2024-2025 Buoy Tag, No Buoy Brand, Violation Taut Line, and Fail to Register Buoy Colors**, as well as several licensing and permit issues.

MFT Troopers conducted market and dealer checks across the state to ensure crab caught were being bought and sold legally. Troopers also checked for the proper crab traceability records to ensure documentation of catch zones. Troopers found multiple violations for **No 2025 Wholesale Dealer License, No 2025 Buyers License, Fail to Maintain Proper Records, Failure to Maintain Crab Traceability Records, and Fail to Accurately Complete Fish Receiving Ticket.**



MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Dockside Commercial Crab Checks

Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Troopers conducted dockside checks and detected multiple issues with offloads in almost all of the major ports.

- A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper was called out in the middle of the night for a commercial crab vessel in Charleston that was landing crab that contained a significant number of undersized crab. The Trooper and a Sergeant responded and sorted through the entire load. They located 182 pounds of undersized Dungeness crab and one female crab. It was discovered that 4.9% of the load was undersized. The illegal crab were seized and released into the bay. All of the crew members stated they had measured and sorted the crab on the boat and no one would take responsibility for that being their main job. All three crew members and the skipper were cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.
- One fishing vessel captain was warned for a small amount of undersized crab during an offload. A week later the same boat was checked and more undersized crab were discovered. A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper measured four of the six totes and found approximately 2.4% of the load was illegal. The boat captain and one deckhand were cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. The other two deckhands were warned.
- Another fishing vessel was checked and the entire load was measured by Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers. 4,292 lbs were measured, of which 77 lbs were undersized. One deckhand was cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. The captain and other two deckhands were warned.

Commercial Crab Logbook Violations

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial crabber after making a landing and an administrative inspection was done verifying license, permits, and Dungeness crab logbook. The captain had made two landings so far for the season and had not completed any entries in the logbook. The captain was issued a violation citation for **Fail to Maintain/Submit Logbook: Dungeness Crab**.

Charleston Commercial Crab Violations

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacted by an ODFW commercial crab sampler who had located a couple short and a female crab during an offload that was occurring in Charleston. Troopers responded and, with the assistance of the ODFW crab sampler, went through the entire load of crab. It was found the vessel had 6,125 pounds of legal crab and 589 pounds of undersized crab and three female crab. The illegal crab were released back into the bay after being documented on a fish ticket. The skipper was cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. The crew member who was responsible for measuring the crab, who was on his first trip, was also cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and warned for **Take/Possession of Female Dungeness Crab**.

Commercial Crab Checks - Garibaldi

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant was checking commercial crab offloads in Garibaldi when he contacted a vessel who had not renewed their Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit. The vessel had already made one landing without the permit and was preparing to make another. The skipper was cited for **No Commercial Crab Permit**.

North Coast Guardian Ocean Patrol

MFT Troopers conducted a two-day ocean patrol aboard the patrol vessel Guardian. Troopers departed out of the port of Newport and patrolled north to Cape Falcon for the commercial Dungeness crab season which opened north of Cape Falcon on January 15th. A patrol emphasis was on enforcing the "fair start" rule which states that a vessel that has been fishing a previously open area must wait at least 30 days prior to fishing an area with a later opening date. Troopers also patrolled the Cape Falcon and Cascade Head Marine Reserves. One commercial crab pot was seized for being placed within the boundary of the Cape Falcon Reserve. Troopers also recovered one derelict crab pot on the patrol. Commercial crab gear was checked to ensure all surface gear had required buoy tags, buoy brand numbers and the buoy color registered with ODFW.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Concealed Crab and Lingcod Found

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled commercial Dungeness crab offloads. During one check after a large fishing vessel completed its offload, the crew stated there was nothing left in the hold. An inspection of the fish hold resulted in the discovery of several concealed shellfish and fish including lingcod, box crab and undersized Dungeness crab. One deckhand took responsibility and was issued a citation for **Unlawful Possession of Lingcod** and warned for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Crab** and **Fail to Sell to Wholesale Fish Dealer**.

Astoria Commercial Crab Checks

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted administrative checks of commercial Dungeness crab vessels as they returned to port to offload. The Trooper found a commercial fishing vessel that had not renewed their Oregon Dungeness Crab permit for 2025. The captain of the vessel was issued a violation citation for **No Limited Entry Dungeness Crab Permit**, and warned for **Fail to Maintain Logbook: Dungeness Crab** and **No Individual Commercial Fishing License**.

Wholesale Dealer Not Recording Dead Crab

While inspecting landed crab at a wholesale fish dealer a large amount of dead crab were observed sitting in a large tote along with another half tote and various piles of crab next to the weight shack of the processing facility. After asking the employee completing the weight dock slips it was discovered the dead crab was not being recorded for each vessel as they offloaded and the pile was a combination from multiple days and at least four vessels from that day. After speaking with the plant manager it was found he began correcting submitted fish tickets from previous landings to account for the dead loss. The total weight of the dead crab was 1,378 lbs. The wholesale dealer was ultimately cited for **Fail to Accurately Complete Fish Receiving Ticket**.

Undersized Crab Offloads

The 24-25 commercial Dungeness Crab season opened for the entire Oregon coast with the opening of grounds north of Cape Falcon. MFT Troopers continued to be busy with undersized crab offloads and licensing and permit issues.

- Troopers conducted inspections on commercial Dungeness crab vessels as they made landings into the port of Astoria. Multiple vessels were inspected for valid licenses and permits and their landed crab measured. Five violation citations were issued for **No Individual Commercial Fishing License** among both crew and captains. On one contact a Trooper contacted a small commercial vessel and found the captain and both crew had not purchased their 2025 individual commercial fishing licenses after making multiple landings since the start of the 24-25 Dungeness crab season.
- While observing commercial crab offloads on the Newport bayfront, a Trooper cited a fishing vessel captain for **No Individual Commercial Fishing License**. The boat had four crew members aboard but only three commercial fishing crew member licenses.
- Troopers received a complaint from an ODFW sampler in Newport, of a commercial crab offload with several undersized crab. The Troopers responded and measured the entire 935 lb load and found that 22 lbs of the load was undersized. The undersized crab was dumped into the bay. The Trooper followed up with the crew at a later date and cited two deck hands for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.
- A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked multiple commercial crabbing offloads and found two boats to have undersized Dungeness crab. Both offloads were measured entirely. The first offload was 936 lbs and 3.74% of the load was illegal. One of the deckhands was cited and the other two were warned. The second offload was 1,923 lbs and 7.3% was illegal crab. Two of the deckhands were cited and the other one was given a warning.
- A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to a complaint from an ODFW sampler in Newport of a commercial crab offload with several undersized crab. Half of the 10,000 lb load was measured and found to have an average of 1.9% undersized crab per tote. The captain and entire crew were cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.
- Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers were working the commercial docks in Brookings and found a boat with undersized crab. The entire load was checked and found to have 2.4% undersized crab. The captain and entire crew were cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Crab**.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Excessive Length Lines Located

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol out of Coos Bay to monitor commercial crab gear. One vessel's gear was found that had multiple buoys with excess line beyond the 36 feet allowed for surface line. In addition some pots were found that had over 50 feet of excess line floating between the main buoy and the crab pot. Some buoy tagging violations were also discovered with the same vessel. The following day the skipper was contacted and cited for **Excess Surface Gear** and **Excess Main Line**, and warned for the buoy tag violations.

ODFW Sample Finds Undersized Crab

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to a report of undersized crab found in an ODFW commercial sample. The Sergeant responded and determined the 941 lb offload had 181 lbs of undersized crab which was equal to 19%. The entire crew was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Commercial Crab**. The undersized crab were released back into the bay.

Large Percent of Commercial Crab Load Undersized

While conducting inspections of Dungeness crab offloads an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper discovered a large amount of undersized Dungeness crab being landed in the port of Astoria. The total offload of 1,280 lbs was measured with 364 lbs discovered as undersized, equating to 28.4% of the total load. Due to the crab being sold to a live market the crab were seized and taken to another processing plant to be cooked, with the fair market value price being awarded to ODFW. Through investigation one of the three crew members was issued a violation citation **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. The captain of the boat, who was not present during the offload, was contacted later and criminally cited and released for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

Citations for Undersized Crab and License Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to a short crab complaint from an ODFW sampler on a commercial crab boat they had sampled. The Sergeant responded and measured the entire load of crab. It was determined the load consisted of 20% undersized crab. It was also determined that two crew members had not purchased their 2025 individual commercial fishing licenses. Based on the investigation, one crew member was found to be responsible for the majority of the undersized crab. That crew member was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Crab** and **No 2025 Individual Commercial Fish License**. A second crew member was also cited for **No 2025 Individual Commercial Fish License**.

Unlawful Sales to Restaurants

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a commercial fisherman using take home landed fish and shellfish to sell to local restaurants. The investigation revealed the boat captain was using small amounts of take home to sell and provide to a restaurant that his wife owns and manages, as well as another small boutique restaurant. The boat captain was issued a wholesale dealers license but only after multiple landings and failing to create a fish receiving ticket under his wholesale dealer license. Both the captain and the restaurant owner were contacted and interviewed. It was found that the boat captain thought the process he was doing was correct but that he knew he needed to complete more paperwork. The boat captain was issued a violation citation for **No Non-Reporting Wholesale Fish Dealer License**, and the restaurant owner was issued a violation citation for **Purchase/Receive Fish/Shellfish**. The small boutique restaurant was issued a warning. The fisherman was put into contact with ODFW to resolve the fish receiving tickets and to receive training on the necessary steps as wholesale fish dealer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Kids Fishing Day - Cooper Creek

The Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team participated in Kids Fishing Day at Cooper Creek where 63 Eastwood Elementary 5th graders fished with 30 guides after watching the trout being stocked into the lake by ODFW. The children then got a jet boat ride and had a picnic. Concluding the event, they were given backpacks, lifejackets, a towel, fishing pole and put back on the bus to go back to school. All the guide boats and jet boats were inspected prior to the event by OSP and the Douglas County Sheriff's Marine Team.

Joseph High School Law Week Presentation

An Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a law enforcement education class at Joseph High School with the Chief of Enterprise Police Department. An overview of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement, as well as general criminal and traffic laws, were provided to the group of sophomores and juniors as part of "Law Week." Students appreciated the opportunity to speak to officers in a classroom setting.

Troopers Attend Yamhill County OHA Meeting

McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Yamhill County Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) meeting. Troopers answered questions and discussed the 2024 season with the approximate 20 attendees. A thermal device was brought as demonstration and sparked a lot of questions and concerns moving forward. The Troopers attendance was greatly appreciated by the attendees.

Roseburg Team Attends Fishing Derby Events

Members of the Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team attended a fishing guide dinner as a kickoff for the Fishing Derby, and the Fish Derby Guide's Auction and dinner at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. There were over 700 community members in attendance.



Elk Herd Wrangled Out of Danger

St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a report of 75 elk in danger close to a busy road. With the assistance of ODFW, Scappoose Police Department, and Columbia County Sheriff's Office they were able to wrangle the elk herd to a safer location.

Photos courtesy of OHA member Ken Smith

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



OSP and Linn County Partner for Rescue

A Fish and Wildlife member encountered a vehicle on the shoulder of Highway 20 near milepost 68 and determined the person associated with the vehicle was lost and in distress. The 30-year-old female had left her vehicle for unknown reasons and walked up a nearby U.S. Forest Service road. Linn County Search and Rescue and an OSP Fish and Wildlife K-9 team responded to assist in the search. K-9 Scout tracked the individual and finally located her about a mile from the vehicle. Troopers remained with her, built a fire, and provided food and emergency blankets until search and rescue members arrived with a snowcat to transport her back to the highway. The female, who had been walking in the snow for over six hours with no shoes on, was transported to the hospital for medical evaluation.

Troopers Assist with Fire, Make Warrant Arrest

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers came across a burning motorhome on the Interstate 5. One of the Troopers attempted to put out the fire with an extinguisher without success. After fire units arrived, Troopers contacted the occupants of the motorhome. The male subject with the motorhome was recognized from a Central Point officer safety bulletin. The bulletin had advised the male had a felony warrant and the subject was detained and arrested on the warrant without incident.

Injured Crow Rescued - Salem

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a West Salem address to assist an elderly couple with an injured crow in their yard. The crow appeared to have a broken leg and was captured and taken to Chintimini Wildlife Center.



Mink Surrendered to Wildlife Images

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant followed up on an unlawful possession of a live mink. A Cave Junction resident hit the mink with her vehicle and took the animal into her residence to care for it. The resident contacted Wildlife Images who advised her to bring the animal in, but she did not. The Sergeant attempted contact at the residence and by phone, then left a business card on each vehicle. The following day the Sergeant received a phone call and was able to convince the subject to give up the animal. While initially reluctant, the subject agreed due to the rising agitation of the mink. The mink was delivered to Wildlife Images in Josephine County.

Sergeant Picks Up Runaway Juvenile

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was traveling on a county road outside of La Pine as it was getting light and it was only 12 degrees. A nine-year-old girl stepped into the roadway and flagged him down saying she was cold and needed a ride to a friend's house. The girl got into the truck before realizing the Sergeant was a police officer. The girl admitted she had left home some time earlier and was going to a friend's house. The girl would not provide a phone number for her mother or grandparents. She was turned over to Deschutes County Sheriff's Office as a runaway. Shortly thereafter, the girl's mother called 911 reporting her daughter as a runaway.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Deer Rescued from Fence - Clatskanie

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a deer stuck in a fence in Clatskanie. Upon arrival a doe was located stuck between a metal fence pole and a 4x4 post. With the assistance of the Clatskanie Fire Department the 4x4 was removed and the doe was able to get free. Due to the length of time the doe was stuck, its back legs needed to regain blood flow before it was able to walk away.



Woodland Snow Park UTV Patrol

Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a UTV patrol near Tollgate through the Woodland Snow Park utilizing the teams tracked UTV. Less than a half mile onto the trail, Troopers ran across two Snowmobilers who did not have valid registration stickers or valid licenses/permits. The pair of Snowmobilers were issued citations for **No Valid Driving Privileges while Operating a Snowmobile** and **Operating an Unregistered Snowmobile**. The driver who came to pick the pair up was found to be driving while suspended (DWS) and was issued a citation for **DWS Violation**. The owner of the snowmobiles drove by during the issuance of citations and his snowmobile was later found abandoned on the trail also without valid registration stickers. He was seen later loading the snow machine onto the trailer at the snow park nearby. Troopers issued the owner a citation later after disproving the owner's story that he was test driving the sled.



Injured Red-Tailed Hawk Rescued

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a call of an injured red-tailed hawk in Medford. Upon arrival, the Trooper located the animal and transported it to Wildlife Images for treatment and evaluation.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Jet Boat Patrol - McKenzie and Willamette Rivers

Members of the Springfield and Albany offices conducted a joint jet boat patrol on the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. The Troopers focused on duck and deer hunters, anglers, and trappers. The team met for lunch and a team meeting on the river and continued the patrol. Various contacts were made and compliance was high.

Unlawful Possession of Bighorn Sheep

La Grande Fish and Wildlife Troopers finished investigating a case that started in December involving a bighorn sheep which was taken from an area near the Oregon/Washington border in Wallowa County along Highway 3. It is believed the sheep had either been road struck or possibly fell off an embankment. The subjects involved, one of which had warrants, failed to cooperate. With assistance from Union County Sheriff's Deputies the head of the sheep was found at a transient camp outside of La Grande and the carcass was found at a transient camp in Elgin. Charges were referred to the Union County District Attorney's office for one subject for **Unlawful Possession of Bighorn Sheep**, as the subject had recently been sent to prison. Another subject was referred for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. It is believed the head of the sheep was taken with the intention of attempting to sell it.



Trooper Clears Fallen Tree from Road

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the area of Highway 62 near Fort Klamath for the report of a tree down in the highway. The tree was impacting the westbound lane of travel toward Crater Lake. The Trooper deployed his chainsaw and cut the tree back from the westbound lane and removed the debris from the highway.

Fern Ridge Arson

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area when he located a Honey Bucket porta-potty on fire. The Trooper battled the blaze and extinguished the fire. He found some napkins inside as well as lying on the ground next to the unit. A short time later the Trooper located a female subject walking less than a mile from the fire. He stopped the subject with reasonable suspicion the pedestrian was the arsonist. As the Trooper talked with the subject, he detected the smell of smoke and melted plastic emitting from her clothes. She was detained and searched which revealed three lighters in her pants pocket. She displayed signs of mental instability but denied starting the fire. She was ultimately arrested for **Arson II** and **Criminal Mischief II**. While being transported to the jail, the subject admitted she started the fire intentionally because she was cold. When asked why she chose the porta-potty instead of sticks, she said the porta-potty was easier to ignite. She was lodged in jail without incident.

Hunter Self-Reports Take of Spike Elk

St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers received a report from an elk hunter in Vernonia stating he had accidentally shot and killed a spike elk thinking it was a cow. The hunter was very upset over his mistake and immediately reported the incident. The hunter was issued a warning for **Take/Possession of Spike Elk**. The elk was seized and transported to The Meating Place in Hillsboro for donation.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Take of Spike Elk - Saddle Mountain Unit

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a subject who self-reported shooting a spike elk during a cow only season in the Saddle Mountain Unit. The subject stated this was his first elk and didn't realize his mistake until he walked up on the animal. Ultimately the subject was issued a violation citation for **Take/Possession of Spike Elk**. The elk was seized and donated to charity.

Waterfowl Hunting Violation - Blackberry Beach

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles contacted two waterfowl hunters near Blackberry Beach, within the Cascade Locks city limits. Neither subject knew they were within the city limits as the map they were using showed the area as a small section of Mount Hood National Forest. One shotgun was not properly plugged and had five shells loaded. One subject was issued a violation citation for **Hunting Prohibited Method: Shotgun Hold More Than Three Shells**. Both were issued warnings for hunting within city limits.

Subject Caught Using Daughter's Tag

Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers received a tip about a subject who had shot and killed a cow elk using his daughter's tag. The investigation revealed several elk were hanging in a barn at a subject's house in Unity. Multiple persons of interest were interviewed which revealed the daughter's cow tag had been filled by her father. A cow elk and a 4x4 mule deer dead head were seized from the barn. The suspect was interviewed and admitted to filling his daughter's elk tag. The daughter had no knowledge that her father had bought her hunting license and her tag. The suspect was cited and released at the scene for **Unlawful Take/Possession Cow Elk and Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag**. Two other subjects were warned for numerous other violations. The elk meat was seized to be donated.

Cascade Elk Season Tag Violations

Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a follow up investigation on a case regarding a bull elk that was harvested during the 2024 Cascade elk season. It was reported that a subject had shot and killed an elk and called a friend to help field dress and pack it out of an area within the Santiam Unit. Ultimately, the subject left the friend alone to field dress the elk, and left the area, as it was said he had to work that night. The subject failed to immediately validate his tag and failed to provide his friend with the required wildlife transfer document. The reporting party assisted the friend in field dressing the elk and packed it out. OSP was notified several weeks later, and a Trooper checked the subject's ODFW profile and found he had not yet validated his tag. A Trooper met the subject at his residence and found he mistakenly validated his mandatory harvest report, thinking it was his elk tag. The Trooper educated the subject on the difference between the tag and harvest report and issued a citation as a result for **Failing To Immediately Validate Elk Tag**. The subject was educated on the proper way to validate his tag and how to complete a wildlife transfer form.

Metolius TMA Violations

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper located an unoccupied vehicle parked down a closed road located within the Metolius Travel Management Area (TMA). The road was clearly posted as closed with two signs as you turned onto the road. After waiting, two subjects emerged from the woods. They were staying nearby at a residence and wanted to find a spot to go coyote hunting. Both claimed they never saw the signs indicating the road was closed. The driver opened his OnX and the Trooper showed the driver how to turn the map layer on for this TMA. The driver was cited for **Operating a Vehicle in Violation of TMA**.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Unlawful Take Buck Deer - Murders Creek

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of a 4x4 mule deer buck unlawfully killed in the Murderers Creek unit during the 2024 archery season. The Trooper and a Sergeant conducted further investigation and multiple interviews which led to solving the case. Investigation revealed that a young adult female had a Malheur River Unit archery deer tag and hunted several times unlawfully in the Murderers Creek Unit with assistance from an adult male who turned out to be a convicted felon. In September of 2024, the female suspect and adult male suspect were driving down a gravel road at dusk, returning from a hunt, when the 4x4 buck was seen standing along the roadway in the headlights. The male suspect shot the buck with a rifle from the passenger side of the vehicle. The suspects then stuck an arrow in the buck and posed for pictures. Both suspects initially lied about the incident, but subsequently confessed to the unlawful take of the buck. Troopers seized the European mount of the buck and meat. A handgun possessed by the felon was later seized and the rifle used in the killing of the deer was in the possession of the rifle's owner who was not involved in the incident. The female suspect was cited and released for **Hunting Outside Unit Boundary** and **Aiding in Wildlife Offense: Unlawful Take Buck Deer**. The male suspect was cited and released for **Felon in Possession of Firearm (x2)** and **Unlawful Take Buck Deer**. Numerous other wildlife offenses were forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for consideration.

Waterfowl Hunting Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles contacted four waterfowl hunters as they returned by boat to the Giles French Park boat ramp in Rufus. Two of the subjects had purchased juvenile Sports Pacs but had failed to redeem their vouchers for current waterfowl and HIP validations. Both were educated and assisted with redeeming their vouchers. Warnings were issued to both for **No Waterfowl or HIP Validation**. The third subject did not have a 2025 Oregon hunting license and presented a 2025 Washington State hunting license. He mistakenly believed he could hunt from a boat anywhere on the Columbia River with his Washington license (was hunting within Oregon). He also did not have a current 2024/2025 federal stamp and provided a 2023/2024 federal stamp when asked. He was issued a violation citation for **No Federal Stamp** and warned for **No Hunting License**. A fourth subject was issued a violation citation for **Hunting Prohibited Method: Shotgun Held More Than Three Shells** and was warned for **Fail to Sign Federal Waterfowl Stamp**.

Unlawful Take Cow Elk - Tioga

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper investigated a report from ODFW that a subject had killed an elk but was unable to tag it as he hadn't actually purchased an elk tag. The investigation revealed the subject drew a Tioga private landowner preference (LOP) tag, but never purchased it. The subject admitted he hadn't looked through the regulations and was unaware that tags needed to be immediately validated, so he hadn't tried to tag the animal until a couple days after he shot it. He also admitted to wasting some of the meat. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Take Cow Elk**, warned for **Waste of Elk**, and he agreed to read through the regulations before his next hunting excursion. The remaining meat from the animal was donated to charity.

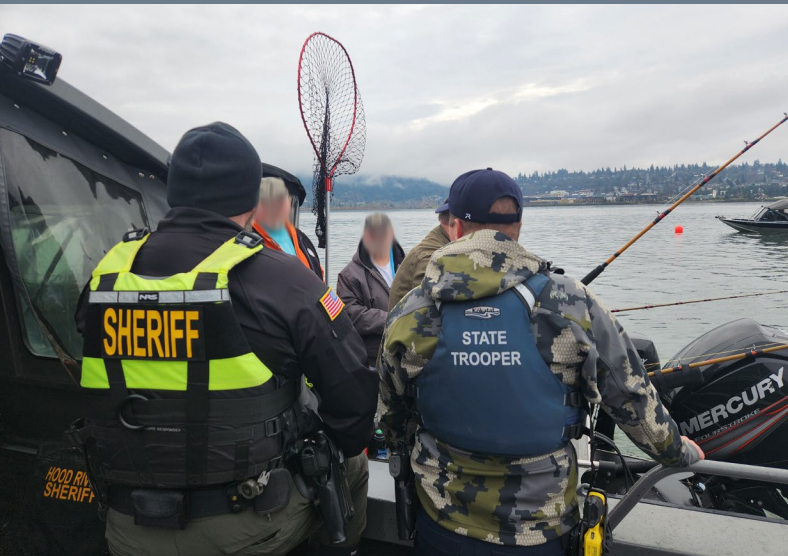
OSP Pilot Assists Ground Patrol

A Pendleton Area Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers utilized the East Region OSP Pilot and plane to cover parts of Starkey and Ukiah Units to check the wildlife area closure as well as ATV and Furbearers/Trappers for a saturation patrol. Troopers made 13 contacts in total between two days.

Hunting Closed Area - Denman Wildlife Area

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper responded to Denman Wildlife Area for a report of three subjects utilizing the area on a closed day. All three were contacted and cited for **Hunting Closed Area**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Joint Columbia River Boat Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted a joint boat patrol on the Columbia River with the Hood River County Sheriff's Office Marine Deputy checking sturgeon anglers and performing boat safety inspections. The Columbia River was extremely busy with boaters and sturgeon anglers. The boat basins and popular fishing locations were packed to capacity and beyond in some locations. During the patrol only a small section of river was covered in order to sift through the crowds of boats and perform checks mainly just west and east of the Hood River bridge. In total 21 boats and 69 anglers were checked. The sturgeon catch rate was high with 28 legal sturgeon being checked on the 21 boats. Two citations were issued to two anglers for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. Later in the day one of the Troopers contacted 10 additional bank anglers with five legal sturgeon.



Opening Day of Sturgeon Season - Columbia River

A Pendleton Area Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted boat patrols on the opening day of sturgeon season on the Columbia River. A total of 68 boats were contacted, 64 boat inspections were conducted, and 181 anglers were contacted. One citation was issued for **No Angling License**. Warnings were issued for **Fail to Properly Validate Harvest Card**, **No Angling License/Tag in Possession**, **No Fire Extinguisher**, and **Improper Number of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)**.

Sturgeon Angling Patrol - The Dalles Pool

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles, with the assistance of a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officer, performed a boat patrol for the Columbia River Sturgeon fishery. The patrol took place in The Dalles Pool, which is the stretch of river from The Dalles Dam to the John Day Dam. There was very high pressure due to this fishery usually being open for a short duration due to sturgeon quotas being met quickly. During the patrol, the Troopers checked over 100 anglers and 20 keeper sturgeon. One citation was issued for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. A few warnings were issued for minor violations for licensing and boating issues.

Sturgeon Angling Patrol - Columbia River

Pendleton and Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River for sturgeon anglers. Seven boats and 14 anglers were contacted with no violations found during administrative checks and boater safety inspections. Many guides and anglers were happy to see the OSP presence.

Multi-Agency Sturgeon Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper from The Dalles conducted a joint boat patrol with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Police Department officers on New Year's Day for the sturgeon opener. In all 44 anglers were checked, 13 boats, and 18 keeper sturgeon. A total of six citations were issued for **Fail To Validate**, **No Combined Angling Harvest Card**, **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hook**, and **Unlawful Take/Possession of Undersized Sturgeon**. The undersized fish was seized and donated to charity as its gills had been cut. A record number of anglers were out, conditions were very favorable, and success was very good. The Sergeant posed for a photo with a happy angler and his legal catch.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



K-9s Assist on Alsea River Boat Patrol

Central Region Fish and Wildlife Troopers, including K-9 Scout (above) and K-9 Buck (below), came together to check steelhead anglers on the Alsea River. Troopers utilized pontoon boats, drift boats, and conducted bank patrols. Overall, 175 anglers were contacted resulting in 15 warnings and five citations. Citations and warnings issued included **No Tag in Possession**, **Fail to Immediately Validate**, **Angling Closed Area**, and **No Waterway Access Permit**.



Unity Lake Ice Fishing Patrol

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted several patrols at Unity Lake checking ice fisherman. Approximately 20 anglers were checked and most found success on catching nice rainbow trout. The anglers expressed gratitude of OSP's presence on the lake and one fisherman (photo above) posed with his morning's legal catch with the Sergeant. Two warnings were issued to two subjects for **No Two-Rod Endorsement**. The regulation was explained and they then purchased the endorsement using their phone.

Five Trout Seized - Ochoco Reservoir

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked a subject at Ochoco Reservoir who has retained five trout and was still angling with two rods. The subject knew he did not have a 2025 angling license or two-rod endorsement, but had purchased both for 2024. The subject was violation cited for **No Resident Angling License**, and warned for **No Two-Rod Validation** and **Continuing to Angle**. The five trout were seized and donated.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Necanicum River Float Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a float patrol on the Necanicum River. Multiple steelhead angler checks and non-motorized boat inspections were conducted. One citation was issued for **No Combined Angling Harvest Card**. The photo above is one example of the Fish and Wildlife Division's ability to contact individuals angling on Oregon's waterways utilizing Department watercraft. It should be noted the gentleman photographed was in compliance and appreciated OSP's presence on the river.

North Fork Coquille River Patrol

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted anglers fishing for steelhead on the North Fork Coquille River. Of the 16 subjects contacted five were unable to provide angling licenses or tags in the ODFW app. All five of the subjects had purchased their licenses and tags in the previous couple days, but had failed to update their app after their purchases so their app only showed licenses and tags for 2024. The Trooper was able to use his ODFW app and verify that they all had in fact purchased the documents. All of the subjects were warned and informed they needed to update their apps before they could continue angling.

Excess Razor Clams Seized - Clatsop County

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the Clatsop Beaches during an evening low tide checking razor clammers. A family of three was observed with only one bucket and one clam gun for the group. The male subject in the group proceeded to dig over 30 razor clams with minimal help from his juvenile daughter or wife. The wife and daughter were contacted as they returned to their vehicle while the male subject continued to dig for clams. The females were found to be in possession of 36 razor clams. Upon further inspection the father was the only one who possessed a shellfish license (the daughter was 11). The father was cited for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and warned for **Dig Another's Clams**. Six razor clams were seized and donated to charity.

Anglers Get Bad Advice and Citations

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant patrolled the Lower Smith River. One subject was contacted who was using two rods. The subject stated that somebody in town had told him he could use two rods when bass fishing. The subject was cited for **Angling Prohibited Method: Two Lines**. Further up the river, a couple who were angling admitted they didn't have angling licenses. The male subject said someone in town told him it was free fishing weekend. When advised it was only Friday and that the upcoming weekend was not a free fishing weekend, the subject just shrugged his shoulders. He was cited for **No Angling License** and his companion was warned for the same. It is unknown if the violators got their bad info from the same somebody in town or different somebodies as they were unsure who the somebodies were who gave them the angling regulation tips.

Low Tide Recreational Razor Clam Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a low tide recreational razor clam patrol. Multiple razor clammers were contacted and on one contact a subject was found with a limit of razor clams and no valid shellfish license. The subject was cited for **No Resident Shellfish License** and his razor clams were seized and donated.

Subject Buys Angling License After Fishing

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked anglers at the Port of Gold Beach. One group of four subjects was contacted after they returned to port with their limit of rockfish for the day. One of the subjects left before being contacted, under the pretense that he left to get ice for the fish. When the subject returned, the subject provided his angling license, which showed it was purchased the same day. Using the ODFW licensing system it was determined that the subject purchased his license about five minutes prior to providing it to the Trooper. When questioned about this, the subject stated he tried to buy his license that morning, but couldn't, then decided to go fishing anyway. The subject was cited for **No Resident Angling License** and four rockfish were seized and donated to charity.

Crabber Uses More Than Three Pots

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a tip that a crabber in the Siletz Bay was using more than three crab pots. The subject was contacted and found to be using five crab pots and had undersized crab in his possession. The subject was issued a citation for **Take Crab with More Than Three Pots/Rings/Lines** and a warning for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.



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 (public lands only), 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.



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Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division



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