



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION





CONTENT

2024 OSP F&W Team of the Year	<u>3</u>
Community Outreach	<u>4-5</u>
General Law and Rescues	<u>6-8</u>
Wildlife and Environment.....	<u>9-10</u>
Marine Fisheries Team	<u>11-12</u>
Shellfish and Angling	<u>13-15</u>
Case Dispositions.....	<u>16</u>
Turn in Poachers (TIP) Program	<u>17</u>
F&W Recruitment.....	<u>18</u>



*On the cover:
2024 OSP Fish & Wildlife Team of the Year*

2024 F&W TEAM OF THE YEAR



(L to R) Senior Trooper Travis Paulsen, Senior Trooper Justin Frazier, Sergeant Craig Gunderson, Senior Trooper Matt Zistel, Senior Trooper Brent Ocheskey, Senior Trooper Jason Walters

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division is proud to announce our 2024 Fish and Wildlife Team of the Year award goes to the Mid-Columbia Team out of The Dalles. This team is currently comprised of Sergeant Craig Gunderson and Senior Troopers Justin Frazier, Brent Ocheskey, Matt Zistel, Jason Walters, and Travis Paulsen. The team delivers fish and wildlife enforcement services with the utmost professionalism, dedication, and teamwork.

Their activity level was consistently impressive throughout the past year posting high numbers of contacts, making criminal arrests, citing for violations, or warning for violations when prudent. In addition, they do an excellent job documenting their actions.

The Mid-Columbia team sets the standard for how community group and outside agency relationships are fostered and maintained. They enjoy a very robust relationship with ODFW and frequently work together. They also work extremely well with their local, county, and

federal law enforcement, landowners, district attorneys, tribes, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Police Department, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement, State Parks, State and County Agencies, Courts, DOJ, and hunting and angling organizations.

The team not only contributes to each other, but also the office and the agency overall by participating on multiple teams and instructing multiple disciplines.

These Troopers represent OSP, the Fish and Wildlife Division, The Dalles Office, and themselves well not only in their professional capacity, but in serving their communities in their off-duty time too. Several team members volunteer as coaches for high school or little league/youth football, baseball, basketball, and soccer.

We are proud of the work done by the Mid-Columbia Team. Please join us in congratulating them on a job well done!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Troopers Attend Youth Fishing Event

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles attended a youth fishing event in Parkdale sponsored by ODFW and CCA. Although the weather was chilly, the young anglers were catching fish. Lots of happy faces to go around.

Trooper Gives Hunter Education Presentation

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper provided a hunter education presentation in Burns and discussed hunting laws, hunting ethics in the field, ATV use, and common fish and wildlife violations with the students. The students asked a lot of questions about being a Fish and Wildlife Trooper, hunting, and wildlife in general. The lead hunter education instructor emailed the Trooper later and thanked OSP for the help and participation with the students. There were fifteen kids and two adults in the class.

K-9 Buck Attends Hunter Education Event

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper attended hunter education in Lane County where they answered questions and spoke with students and their parents about hunting regulations and firearms safety. K-9 buck was also in attendance and he and his handler demonstrated the effectiveness of working with a K-9.

Trooper Interviewed on Radio

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles did a live radio interview on a local country music station in The Dalles as well as a recorded interview on two additional local radio affiliates. The Trooper promoted OSP, boating and water safety, and their local upcoming boat safety inspection dates in The Dalles, Hood River, and Arlington.

Active Shooter Training - Wallowa County

An Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Trooper along with Enterprise Patrol Troopers participated in an active shooter training at the Joseph Charter School. The training included all available first responder entities in Wallowa County, including school administrators and students who were actors in the scenario. The training was beneficial to all who participated. Additionally, this training highlighted aspects that the participants did correctly as well as bringing attention to other aspects that could be improved upon.

Trooper Gives Presentation to Cub Scouts

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a shore patrol on McKay Reservoir. During the patrol a local cub scout group was located doing a fishing outing. The Trooper spoke with the 17 juveniles and parents and passed out stickers to the scouts.

Trooper Presents Water Safety Info

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper presented water safety and angling regulation information to about 35 fifth graders at Cascades Elementary School in Lebanon.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Life Jacket Loaner Stations Installed

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted patrols at Grant County area lakes and the John Day River. Two life jacket loaning stations were installed at Bull Prairie Reservoir and at the Magone Lake Campground. USFS personnel were appreciative to have the life jackets saying they consistently encounter boaters without them.

Trooper Attends Sam's Valley School Carnival

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the annual Sam's Valley Elementary School Carnival. Approximately 350 kids, families, and local residents attended the event. The Trooper enlisted the help of a local falconer who brought his Harris's Hawk to the carnival so that the attendees could see a raptor up close and have an opportunity to ask the falconer questions about his hawk and how they hunt together.

Trooper Attends Youth Skeet Shoot

An Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the Wallowa County youth team's skeet shoot. The event was a fundraiser to raise money to assist the team going to state and nationals. The fundraiser was a success with approximately 42 attendees, a lot participating in the skeet shoot. The Trooper was able to answer questions from the attendees regarding fish and wildlife.

Boat Safety Equipment Check Event - Rufus

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles put on a boat safety equipment check event in Rufus. Weather unfortunately didn't cooperate with high winds. However, several anglers still brought their boats down for a safety inspection and were happy for the outreach.



Troopers Assist with Boatnik Races

Over Memorial Day weekend, members of the Rogue Valley and Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Teams, and Grants Pass Patrol Troopers assisted Josephine County Sheriff's Office for Boatnik races. The events were well attended and resulted in very positive outreach opportunities along with inter-agency cooperation between several agency partners.



Hunter's Education Field Day - Grant County

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper assisted ODFW with a hunter's education field day held in Grant County. There were seven students and several parents in attendance. Troopers assisted with a hunter's trail walk where several shoot/no shoot scenarios were presented along with ethical and legal questions presented to the students concluding in a mock license check of the youth hunters. The activity was well received by the students with several questions from the students and parents.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Bear Cub Rescued from Live Trap

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to a report of a baby bear that had gotten stuck in a live box trap that was intended for a problem raccoon. A sow and second cub were also at the trap attempting to free the trapped cub. The Trooper enlisted help from two other Troopers who arrived a short time later. Two Troopers were able to distract the sow long enough for the third Trooper to release the cub from the trap. After a few mock charges and several tense moments, the bear family was reunited and disappeared back into the woods.

Juveniles Swim to Shore After Sinking Raft

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling La Pine State Park and located two juvenile males who sunk their inflatable raft and had to swim to shore. The two cold juvenile males were warned for not having personal flotation devices and transported back home. They were advised to return with their parents to recover the raft.

Angler Check Results in Drug Citations

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted an angler check at the 203 Pond. The subject quickly advised she didn't have an angling license. A male counterpart was observed in the driver's seat of a closely parked vehicle. The male was believed to be attempting to hide items, and a meth pipe was observed tucked away by his person. The male admitted to the possession of meth, and fentanyl, which he stated was on his person. A search of the male and the vehicle yielded the seizure of approximately 15g of meth, 15g of fentanyl and 80 user amounts of non-prescribed methadone. The female was cited for **No Resident Angling License** and the male was cited and released for **Possession of Meth, Possession of Fentanyl, and Possession of Methadone**.

Suspect Attempts to Hide in Wheel Well

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject on a logging road near Gilchrist who is a habitual road closure violator. The subject was known to have several outstanding felony and misdemeanor arrest warrants and to be misdemeanor driving while suspended. The subject exited his vehicle to flee on foot and appeared to vanish. The subject was located stuck in the wheel well above his passenger side tire where he was taken into custody and found to be in possession of methamphetamine. He was lodged in jail by a Patrol Trooper.

Driver Cited and Vehicle Impounded

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted a traffic stop after observing beverage cans falling out of a trailer. The driver was suspended misdemeanor and had failed to install an ignition interlock device (IID). He was cited and released and the vehicle was impounded.

Injured Bald Eagle Taken to Wildlife Rehab

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper located an injured bald eagle east of Klamath Falls. The Trooper transported the eagle to Badger Run Wildlife Rehab Center.

Fawn Reunited with Mother

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of fawn being held in captivity by a local transient male subject. Later that day the reporting party called again once the subject was located still having the fawn. Troopers responded and seized the fawn, issuing a written warning to the subject who unlawfully took the animal even though its mother was present. The Troopers located the doe and reunited the fawn with her.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Goslings Returned to Parents

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the south jetty of the Coquille River in Bandon after receiving a report that a female subject took three Canada goose goslings away from their parents, put them in her car and drove away. The subject was contacted via phone and she denied taking the goslings, saying she only moved them a short distance out of the surf. After she denied having the goslings, they could be heard chirping in the background. The subject then admitted to taking them and agreed to meet with the Trooper. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Possession of a Game Bird** and was warned for **Chasing or Harassing Wildlife**. The three goslings were seized and successfully reunited with their parents.



Eagle Rescued After Being Struck by Vehicle

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a motor vehicle crash near Chiloquin involving a bald eagle. The injured eagle was located and captured. It was transported to Badger Run Wildlife Raptor Rescue for rehab. While en route, the bird became carsick and vomited road struck venison in the Trooper's truck.

DUI Driver Crashes into Dayville Post Office

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was completing a patrol of Magone Lake when he received a report of an SUV that had crashed into the Post Office in Dayville. Multiple callers reported the driver appeared intoxicated and was trying to drive out of the wreckage. The Sergeant along with a Patrol Trooper responded and contacted the adult male driver. Initial investigation revealed the driver had left US 26, driven over a sidewalk, then crashed into the Post Office and became stuck in the wooden deck entrance. Multiple indicators of impairment were observed, and the driver subsequently refused field sobriety tests. He was arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI)**, **Reckless Driving**, and **Criminal Mischief II**. A search warrant was granted which revealed his blood alcohol content (BAC) to be .11% over 3 hours after the crash. The driver was lodged at the Grant County Jail.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Rafter and Dog Rescued from Owyhee River

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from Burns and The Dalles patrolled a 51 mile stretch of the Owyhee River from Rome to Birch Creek. During the patrol 110 people were contacted on 40 rafts, 10 catarafts, one drift boat, and 13 kayaks. One outfitter group was contacted that had a group of 20 people. The river patrol resulted in four warnings being issued by the Troopers. Everyone contacted was pleased to see OSP patrolling the river. During the float on one of the final technical class four rapids called “Nuisance” the Troopers witnessed a male subject and his dog in a large raft get caught in the rapid sideways. The male subject then got pinned up against a large boulder in the swift current and his raft flipped over. One of the Troopers quickly went to the aid of the rafter and his dog, and another Trooper was able to row over to secure the man’s raft as it was floating away downstream. The Troopers along with some other rafters were able to get the man’s raft flipped back over and get him and his dog back in his raft safely. Troopers escorted the subject and his dog to a nearby camp spot and verified he and his dog were okay after the traumatic incident. The man was visibly shaken but otherwise was in good health along with his dog. The subject advised that he was going to stay safe at the camp overnight, change out of his wet clothes and relax the rest of the day. The Troopers gave the male subject their spare oar to be able to row out the next day because he broke both of his oars when his raft flipped. The man was very grateful for the rescue of himself and his dog.



Baby Opossums Seized from High School Student

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper responded to a TIP of a male student at Pleasant Hill High School that had baby opossums in his possession during class. The student was contacted and three baby opossums were seized from the student’s sweatshirt pocket. The opossums were transported to ODFW in Springfield.

Sergeant Helps Hunter Find His Dad

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was stopped in freshly acquired cell service catching up on emails in the South Warners when a bear hunter appeared on foot. The hunter was frantic and was trying to locate his elderly dad. The hunter had been called by his dad several times by the handheld radios they had but would not answer when the hunter returned his call. The hunter, fearing something was wrong, jumped in the truck with the Sergeant and they went to look for his dad. After about 30 minutes, the dad was located safe and enjoying his hunt. The dad had his radio turned down and was unable to hear it.

Troopers Assist with DUI Crash

Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a rollover crash with entrapment on Hwy 164. Upon arrival, they assisted with the crash scene and getting the vehicle towed while a Salem Patrol Trooper investigated the driver for **DUII**. The driver was found to have a BAC of .304%.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

Christmas Valley Sand Dune Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers from Springfield and Bend conducted an ATV patrol within the Christmas Valley Sand Dune Recreation Area. During the patrol, approximately 152 people were contacted and four warnings were given for various violations. Troopers also assisted with righting a UTV that had rolled over.



Subject Self-Reports Exceeding Daily Limit

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to a complaint involving a hunter who self-reported he and his juvenile son had each killed two turkeys that morning. The hunter was contacted and he was unaware the daily bag limit is one turkey with visible beard per day and believed the daily bag limit was three. The hunter was issued a warning for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Game Bird: Turkey** and **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. Two turkeys were seized as evidence and later donated to Union Gospel Mission in Salem.

Dog Owner Cited for Deer Killing

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to the Crossroads community outside of Sisters regarding a dog killing a doe. The dog owner was contacted and investigation revealed the dogs have gotten out in the past, chased deer, and on one instance causing a deer to run into a fence and killing it. The owner was issued a citation for **Chase or Harass Wildlife**.

Subject Bought Extra Tag After Taking Turkey

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted rapid harvest tag checks for turkeys in the Metolius Unit. One subject was identified to have killed two turkeys on the same day and the second tag was bought and validated within a minute. The subject was contacted and stated he had shot two turkeys in one shot and had bought the second tag not knowing what else to do. The subject was educated on self-reporting to OSP. Remaining parts of the second turkey was seized and subject was cited for **No Turkey Tag**.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

Waste of Black Bear - Wagontire Unit

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from a rancher in the Wagontire Unit regarding a black bear carcass he located that was dumped with all the meat still intact. The rancher advised he located the bear while checking cows and the hide and head of the bear were taken but none of the meat. The Trooper responded to the location the next day and found the scavenged carcass. The Trooper contacted ODFW and a local taxidermist shop, and a suspect was identified. The Trooper met the suspect in person for an interview and the suspect admitted to dumping the bear immediately. The suspect advised he thought that bears were like cougars and the meat was not required to be taken. The Trooper went over the regulations with the subject and issued him a criminal citation for **Waste of Game Mammal**.

Unlicensed Subject Violates TMA

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information about a subject using an e-bike to access the Aspen Lake travel management area (TMA) road closure. The subject was located in the TMA well after dark, still operating his e-bike. He was in possession of a shotgun, turkey decoy, turkey vest, and full camo. He was stopped for the TMA violation. He admitted to hunting turkey but was unable to access his “recently purchased” spring turkey tag. Further investigation revealed the subject did not have a valid 2025 spring turkey tag. He admitted his error and was cited for **No Turkey Tag** and warned for the TMA violation.

Unlawful Take of Canada Goose: Closed Season

While patrolling Clear Lake, a Fish and Wildlife Sergeant from The Dalles came upon a man in the process of butchering a Canada goose. The goose was fresh, and the man was in possession of a pellet rifle. The man was very uncooperative in the investigation and was ultimately cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Canada Goose: Closed Season**. The goose was seized as evidence.

Subject Neglects to Get Roadkill Permit

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from the McMinnville Police Department that a local resident was feeding deer carcasses to her dogs. The investigation revealed that the subject had salvaged the deer as roadkill but had failed to fill out a roadkill salvage permit or turn in the head to ODFW. The subject was cited and released for **Unlawful Possession of Antlerless Deer** and educated on the roadkill permit process.



Trooper Removes Fallen Tree from Road

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Interstate Unit for spring bear hunters when he located a large pine tree completely blocking a main Forest Service road. He deployed his chainsaw and removed the tree. The road surface had been damaged by people attempting to pull the large tree out of the road.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Undersized Commercial Pink Shrimp

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a local fish plant on the report that a commercial pink shrimp delivery was well over the limit of 160 per pound. Twenty samples were taken throughout the three day offload and sample counts were obtained with the help of the Marine Fisheries Team, as well as an ODFW shrimp biologist. The average for the offload was 173 per pound. The captain of the vessel was issued a citation for **Exceeding Count Per Pound Rule: Commercial Pink Shrimp**.

Stonewall Bank YRCA Patrol

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted an ocean boat patrol of the Stonewall Bank Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). During the patrol the Trooper contacted a subject who was actively halibut fishing, but did not have his paper combined angling tag on him. When the Trooper asked what his plan was if he caught a halibut, the subject stated he was going to have one of the other subjects on board his boat tag the fish. The subject stated he left his tag at home and was going to fish anyways as he “traveled all this way to fish.” The subject was cited. The Trooper then observed a boat well inside the boundary of Stonewall Bank. The Trooper observed individuals moving around the boat when approaching the vessel. As the Trooper pulled next to the boat two male subjects on board were slumped over in their chair. Both males “woke up” and stated they must have fallen asleep. The Trooper addressed the two halibut which were visible on the boat. One subject had not tagged his halibut as he stated the ODFW ELS app was not working. The Trooper had the subject validate his tag at that point. The app worked perfectly. The other subject had all info on his paper tag other than the length of the fish. During this conversation one of the males looked at the GPS in their boat and stated, “oh man we are inside Stonewall. We must have drifted in when we fell asleep.” The two subjects showed the Trooper two timestamped waypoints on their GPS outside of the YRCA where they stated they had caught the halibut. The two were cited for **Fishing Inside the YRCA** and warned for **Failure to Immediately Validate Combined Angling Tag**.



North Coast Ocean Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol from Manzanita to Cannon Beach. Numerous rockfish, halibut, and salmon anglers were contacted. Multiple commercial lingcod fisherman were also contacted, as well as multiple commercial summer crab gear inspections. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Take Quillback Rockfish Closed Season, Fail To Validate Harvest Card: Halibut, No Angling License, No Harvest Card, Taking Halibut: No Harvest Card in Possession, and Fail To Apply For Boat Registration**. Five quillback rockfish were seized, and follow up is being conducted on commercial crab gear without summer tags. A Trooper was on board a recreational halibut boat inspecting licenses when one of the anglers caught his first halibut. All were in compliance and they posed for a photo with the Trooper.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Couple Found with 70 Razor Clams Over Limit

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted checks of razor clam diggers on Clatsop Beach during a low tide. Multiple recreational clam diggers were contacted. During an observation of a pair of diggers it was apparent that only the male half was digging the clams, while the female half held the container. Then the Trooper observed the female placing multiple clams in her backpack from the container while the male continued to dig for more clams. Upon contact the couple stated they only had two limits (15 razor clams each). Through questioning the contents of the backpack were revealed and another 55 razor clams were discovered. The husband was criminally cited and released for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and **Dig Another's Clams**. The spouse was also criminally cited and released for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. Seventy Razor clams were seized and donated to a local food bank.

Late Crab Landing Results in Citation

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacted by ODFW regarding a vessel that made a landing of commercial crab May 1 without purchasing summer season tags. The vessel had come in on April 29 with the last of the gear but had waited until May 1 to land the crab. The value of the load was seized (\$10,378) and a check will be made out to ODFW. The skipper was cited for **Take/Possession Crab Closed Season** and warned for multiple **14 Day without Crab Landing** violations.



Late Commercial Crab Season Patrols

The late commercial crab season started on May 1. Marine Fisheries Team Troopers conducted ocean patrols in Coos Bay, Newport, and Garibaldi for compliance with late season tagging. All gear fishing starting May 1 is required to have a second late season tag attached to the surface gear and no gear is allowed to be outside of 40 fathoms.

- Coos Bay Troopers located five vessels out of compliance and cited for a variety of offenses including **No Late Season Tags**, **No Regular Season Tags**, **Exceeding 14 day landing Requirement**, and **Excess Floating Line (Taut Line Rule)**.
- Newport Troopers located seven vessels out of compliance and cited for **No Late Season Tags** and **No Regular Season Tags**.
- Garibaldi Troopers located three vessels out of compliance and cited for **No Late Season Tags**.

Skipper Warned for Broken Equipment

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper warned a commercial pink shrimp skipper in Charleston for unlawful groundfish excluding device. During the offload and inspection of gear it was discovered that multiple bars on the bycatch reduction devices were broken or missing. No bycatch was located in the catch and the skipper agreed to have the devices repaired prior to going back out after shrimp.

Undersized Crab in Commercial Offload

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to Winchester Bay to inspect a commercial crab offload they were notified about by ODFW regarding short crab. In the 285 pound load, 22 pounds (7.7% of the load) of undersized Dungeness crab were located. The skipper was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and the undersized crab were released into the bay.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



McKenzie River Drift Boat Patrol

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Lieutenant patrolled the McKenzie River by drift boat. During the patrol, they checked 12 anglers and issued two warnings. Troopers checked several nice legal spring Chinook caught by some lucky anglers (see below).



Subjects Observed Angling with Beverage Cans

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the Clarno area on the John Day River. During the patrol, several anglers were observed through binoculars. Two subjects were observed standing and holding cans. Every now and then, the individuals would twirl the can. The Trooper contacted the subjects and observed them with no cans in their possession. Located nearby though, two cans were observed with fishing line tied around them. The subjects admitted they did not possess a valid resident angling license. Two more individuals in the group also did not have valid resident licenses. Three of the men were cited for **No Resident Angling License** and the fourth, a 13 year-old was warned for **No Resident Angling License**. His father was warned for **Aiding/Counseling In A Wildlife Offense**.

Diamond Lake Boat Patrol

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a joint boat patrol with a Douglas County Marine Deputy at Diamond Lake. The patrol resulted in about 20 boat safety checks and 50 angler checks. The duo issued five marine board warnings, three angling warnings, two citations for **Expired Boat Registration**, and one citation with a terminated voyage for **No Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) On Board**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Unlawfully Taken Sturgeon Released

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant observed two individuals angling from the bank on the Gilbert River on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA). He monitored the subjects for some time before observing one run to a pole in a nearby holder. As the subject reeled in an obviously large fish, the other ran back to a nearby car and retrieved a net. After the fish was landed, both subjects went about quickly putting away their gear before popping the trunk of a second vehicle parked nearby. The Sergeant observed them place a sturgeon in the trunk. As he contacted the subjects, one was attempting to hide the sturgeon in a shade shelter bag inside the trunk. The subject seemed to realize he was out of time and the fish was too big to fit in the bag, so he abandoned efforts of concealing and moved to quickly remove the sturgeon from the bag and trunk and throw it back into the river. Again, the fish was too big and he eventually gave up and placed the fish on the ground as instructed. One of the subjects was cited and released for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Sturgeon** and the second subject was cited and released for **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. The sturgeon was returned to the river.

High Lakes and Upper Deschutes River Saturation

Members of the Central Region Fish and Wildlife Team conducted a High Lakes and Upper Deschutes River saturation. Boats were deployed on Odell Lake, Crane Prairie Reservoir, and Wickiup Reservoir. Vehicle patrols were conducted on the closed waters of the upper Deschutes River. Weather conditions were not favorable most of the weekend, but several contacts were made, and anglers were appreciative of the enforcement efforts. One 79-year-old angler contacted advised he'd been fishing his entire life, and this was the first time he'd been checked by a Trooper. In total, Troopers contacted 23 boats, inspecting 22 of them, and checked 123 anglers. Multiple warnings were issued for **No Angling License in Possession, No Two Rod Validation, Fail to Attend Rod, and Marine Board Equipment Violation**. One arrest was made for **Failure to Appear: Misdemeanor Warrant**.

Joint OR/ID Snake River Saturation Patrol

Members of the NE and SE Fish and Wildlife Teams saturated the impoundments of the Snake River over Memorial Weekend conducting joint boat patrols with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Officers. Troopers issued a total of 36 citations for **No Two-Rod Endorsement, No Non-Resident Angling License, Possession of Mutilated Game Fish, Possession of Undersized Bass, Angling With More Than One Rod, Failing to Attend Rod, Aiding in Game Violation, and No Certificate of Number on a Boat**. Additionally, 23 warnings were issued for various angling and marine board violations, 21 boat inspections were completed, and one subject was arrested on a warrant. Idaho Officers issued an additional 12 citations and inspected 22 boats. A total of 527 subjects were contacted during the operation.

Subject Exceeds Limit of Razor Clams

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was working a razor clam patrol on Clatsop Beach when he observed a subject walk to his vehicle with a bag of clams and disappear out of sight before returning to the beach with an empty bag and a new jacket. The subject was observed digging 15 more razor clams and was contacted at his vehicle. He denied multiple times having placed any clams in the vehicle and consented to a search. The Sergeant found a plastic bag containing nine clams hidden in the spare tire well under the floorboard of the subject's SUV, at which point he admitted to digging the extra clams and stated he shouldn't have lied about it. He was cited criminally for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and nine clams were seized and donated to charity.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING

Spring Salmon Season Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks at multiple local creeks during the spring salmon season. Numerous fish were checked with nearly every angler having at least one Chinook. On one occasion, the Trooper observed two subjects angling for salmon just beyond a No Trespassing sign, which has been a known problem area in recent years. Upon interviewing the subjects, they stated they indeed had seen the sign but had seen people fishing there previously and assumed it was okay. Each of the subjects was issued a citation for **Angling on Private Land Without Permission**. After the subjects were issued citations, the landowner appeared and thanked the Trooper for his efforts.

Willamette River Angler Checks

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks at the Willamette River, along Highway 43, south of the Sellwood Bridge. One subject was actively angling with four rods. The subject provided a Washington State angling license. Upon checking ODFW ELS, the subject did not have a valid Oregon angling license, combined harvest tag, or Columbia Basin endorsement. Upon checking the license and gear, the subject used a sturgeon setup with barbed hooks. The subject was issued a citation for **No Non-Resident Angling License, No Combined Harvest Tag, Columbia Basin Endorsement, and Angling Prohibited Method**.

Clear Lake Boat Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted a day-long boat patrol on Clear Lake in Wasco County. During the patrol Troopers contacted 17 boats, 70 anglers and five ATV operators resulting in a total of 20 combined warnings and three citations. Warnings were issued for minor boat violations, ATV violations and angling violations mostly related to failing to have licensing documents present. Of the three citations, one was issued for **No Resident Angling License** and two for **Angling With Two Rods Without A Two-Rod Endorsement**. Campers, anglers and boaters were very pleased to see OSP patrolling the area.

Salmon Opener Patrol - Columbia River

St. Helens and Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River from the I-5 bridge to the Bonneville Dam on the first day of a 12-day salmon opener which brought out a large quantity of bank and boat anglers hoping to fill their tags. A Total of 102 anglers were contacted and eight boat inspections were conducted. Compliance was high with most anglers in compliance with no violations. Four citations were issued for barbed hooks. Multiple warnings were given for **Fail to Validate Harvest Tag, No Angling License, No Angling Tag, Expired Fire Extinguisher, Failing to Have Type 4 Throwable, and Expired Boat Registration**.

Port of Garibaldi and Barview Jetty Angler Checks

Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Troopers performed angler and marine board checks at the port of Garibaldi and Barview Jetty. Multiple citations were issued for **Possession of Prohibited Species: Quillback, Possession of Female Dungeness Crab, Angling for Halibut Without a Harvest Card, and Fail to Properly Validate Harvest Card**. Multiple undersized Dungeness crab were seized and released, and one quillback and one female crab were seized. Multiple warnings were also issued for game violations.

Juveniles Educated on Oregon Angling Laws

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles contacted two 15-year-old juvenile anglers at the Hood River Marina. Both were from California and were in the area with their parents on vacation. The two juveniles were very excited to talk to a game warden and showed several photos of the big bass they had been catching. When asked the juveniles stated they did not have angling licenses because they were under 16 and were catch and releasing. Both were educated on the angling laws in Oregon and quickly apologized. The Trooper helped them set up angler profiles and the ODFW app on their phones so that they were legal anglers.

Seized Salmon Donated

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was patrolling Tanner Creek on the Columbia River when he checked a subject who had taken two Chinook salmon. Both Tanner Creek and the Columbia River at this location are closed for salmon angling. The Sergeant seized the fish and issued a citation for **Unlawful Take of Chinook Salmon**. The salmon were donated to Blanchet House.



CASE DISPOSITIONS

Subject Pleads Guilty in Bear Baiting Case

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a disposition on a bear baiting case investigated last summer. Troopers reviewed information from another state implicating a Bend area resident involved in baiting bears. Further investigation led to a search warrant being served on the subjects residence. Evidence was gathered and a confession was obtained. Ultimately the subject pleaded guilty to **Taking Black Bear with Bait** and was sentenced to the following:

- 3-year hunting license suspension.
- \$1,100 fine
- 12 months of probation during which he is unable to hunt or trap or assist other in doing so
- Forfeited seized contraband/firearms: bear hide, bear skull, bear meat, Mathews Compound Bow, tree stand, and SD cards.

Third Subject Sentenced in Coos County Elk Case

In August 2023, two subjects were found to be in possession of several unlawfully taken elk. The investigation revealed a total of four elk were taken unlawfully that season. One of the elk was wasted. In total three subjects were issued criminal citations or arrested for various violations of wildlife law. Two of the three involved subjects have already pleaded guilty to the crimes. The third subject was sentenced on 05/21/2025 in Coos County Circuit Court. He accepted a plea deal for two counts of **Unlawful Take of Cow Elk** (one misdemeanor and one felony), and was sentenced to the following:

- 3-year hunting and fishing license suspension
- \$6,000 restitution
- Forfeited the rifle and bow used in the unlawful takes





Oregon's fish and wildlife
populations depend on us.

Turn in poachers.



Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Cash Rewards

\$2,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat & Moose
\$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope
\$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
\$400 Game Fish & Shellfish*
\$400 Snagging/Attempt to Snag*
\$300 Habitat Destruction
\$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
\$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
\$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
\$200 Spotlighting

*Rewards for Game, Fish & Shellfish and Snagging/Attempting to Snag are sponsored, in part, by Northwest Steelheaders Association and Coastal Conservation Association.

Oregon Wildlife Coalition (OWC) Cash Rewards

Birds

\$500 Hawk, Falcon, Eagle, Owl, Osprey
All other protected avian species: see category below for listed species

Mammals

\$500 Cougar, Bobcat, Beaver, Black bears, Bighorn Sheep, Marten, Fisher, Sierra Nevada Red Fox
\$10,000 for Wolves east of Highway 395
\$11,500 for Wolves east of Highway 395 and north of Highway 20

\$1,000 Species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under state or federal Endangered Species Act (excludes fish)
(e.g. wolverine, kit fox, red tree vole, Canada lynx, sea otter, Columbian white-tailed deer, California brown pelican, western snowy plover, California least tern, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, short-tailed albatross, streaked horned lark, yellow billed cuckoo, leatherback sea turtle, olive ridley sea turtle, Oregon spotted frog, green sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle)

ODFW Preference Points Rewards

5 Points Bighorn Sheep
5 Points Rocky Mountain Goat
5 Points Moose
5 Points Wolf
4 Points Elk
4 Points Deer
4 Points Pronghorn Antelope
4 Points Bear
4 Points Cougar

Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association Cash Rewards

\$200 Acting as an Outfitter Guide for the Illegal Killing of Wildlife, Illegally Obtaining Oregon Hunting or Angling Licenses or Tags, or Illegally Offering to Act as an Outfitter Guide as defined in ORS 704.010 and 704.020.



Any tip helps and can be anonymous!
Dial *OSP (*677) on mobile devices
or call 1-800-452-7888 to report poaching.
Visit ProtectOregonsWildlife.com to learn more.



Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division



We are the Guardians of Oregon's Fish and Wildlife

"Assuring compliance with the laws which protect and enhance the long-term health and equitable utilization of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources."

Interested in becoming an Oregon State Police
Fish and Wildlife Trooper?

For information, please visit our website at:
www.osptrooper.com

Questions? Please call 503-378-4474
or email osptrooper@osp.oregon.gov

Follow us on Twitter: [@OSP_Fish](https://twitter.com/OSP_Fish)

