

2025-2026 Sport Fishing Regulations, Ocean Endorsement, and Coquille River Hatchery Fall Chinook



**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**



Issue 1

Adopt administrative rules to set the 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations and the Ocean Endorsement



Regulations focus on stable fisheries, *not those* where populations fluctuate annually.



Regulation Change Categories

Simplification

Housekeeping

New Angling Opportunities

Conservation Need

Inadvertent Restrictions

Consideration of Climate Change Impact

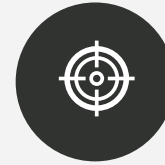


Public Involvement and Opportunities for Input



Direct Communication

- Local meetings with ODFW staff and partners



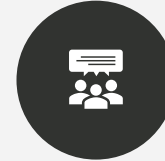
Targeted Outreach

- News Release
- Phone calls, E-mails



Tribal Coordination

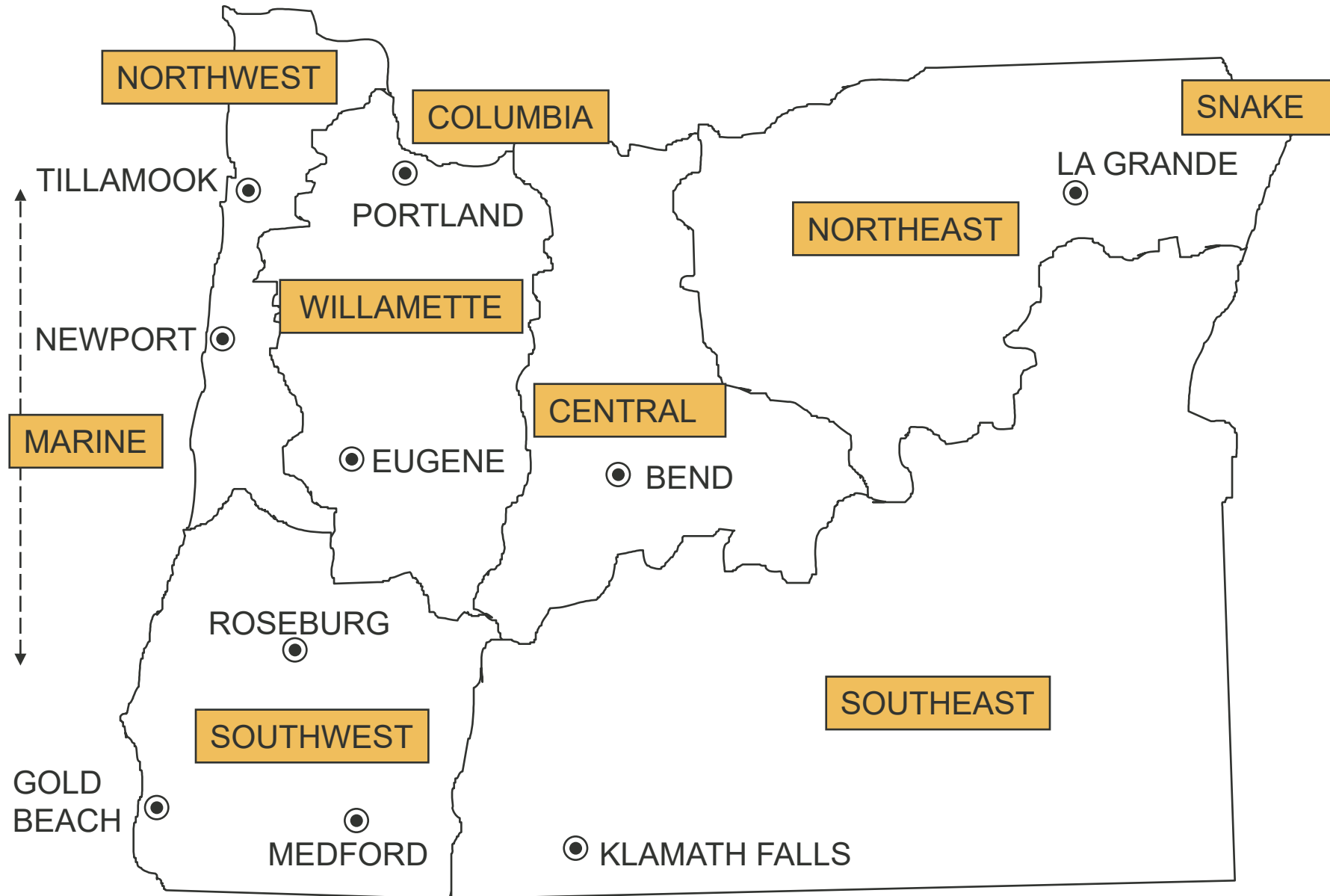
- Fish District Staff engagement with local Tribes.



Posted to Website

- <https://myodfw.com/2026-2027-draft-sportfishing-regulation-proposals>
- odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov

Oregon Angling Zones - Statewide



Statewide updates

Spearfishing

Proposed:

Spearfishing allowed for bass and walleye in water bodies where there are no size limits or bag limits for these species.



Statewide updates

Kokanee bag limit

Current:

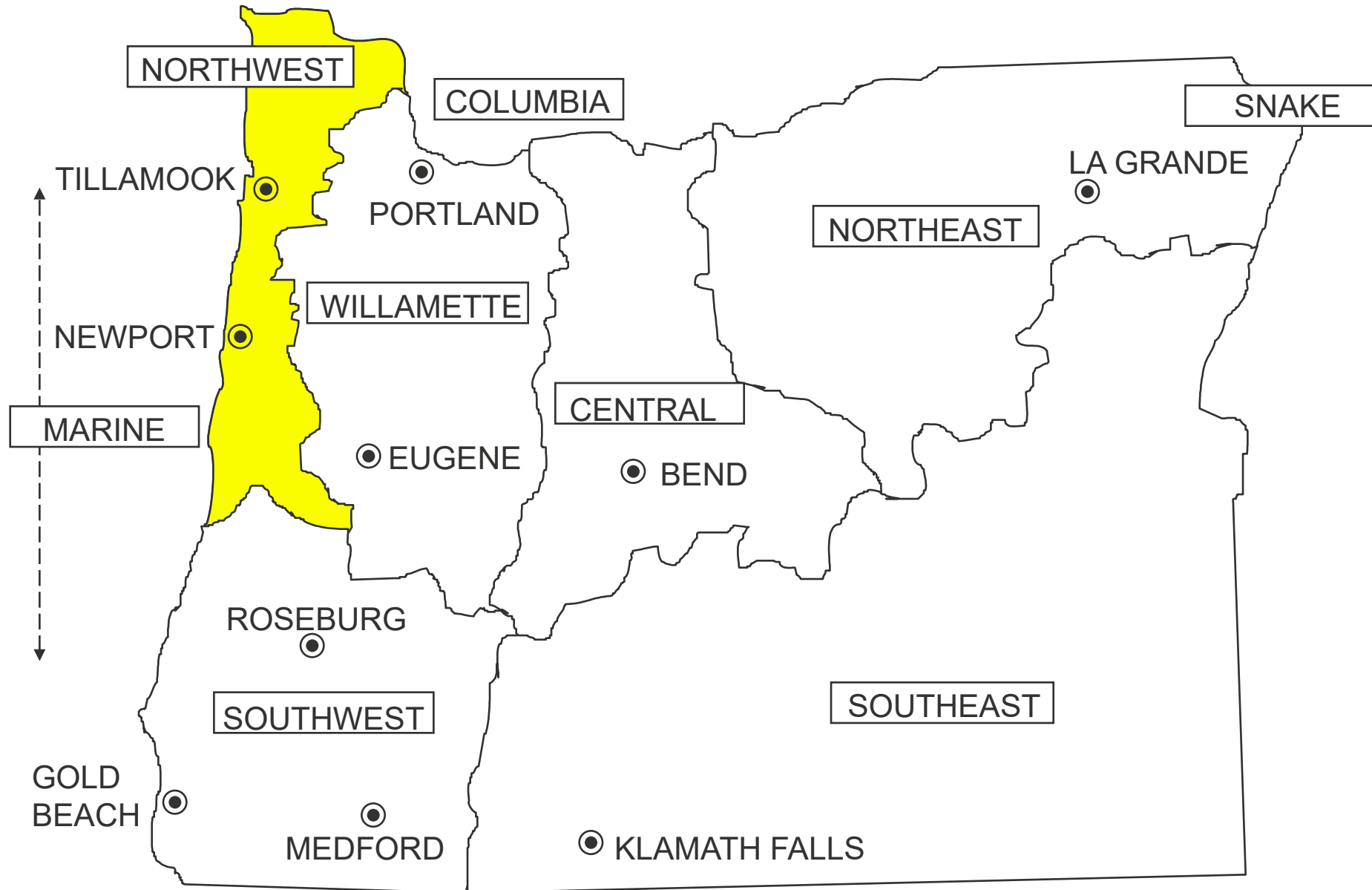
Kokanee are considered trout

Proposed:

10 per day, no size limit, open all year, unless noted under Exceptions



Northwest Zone



Northwest Zone



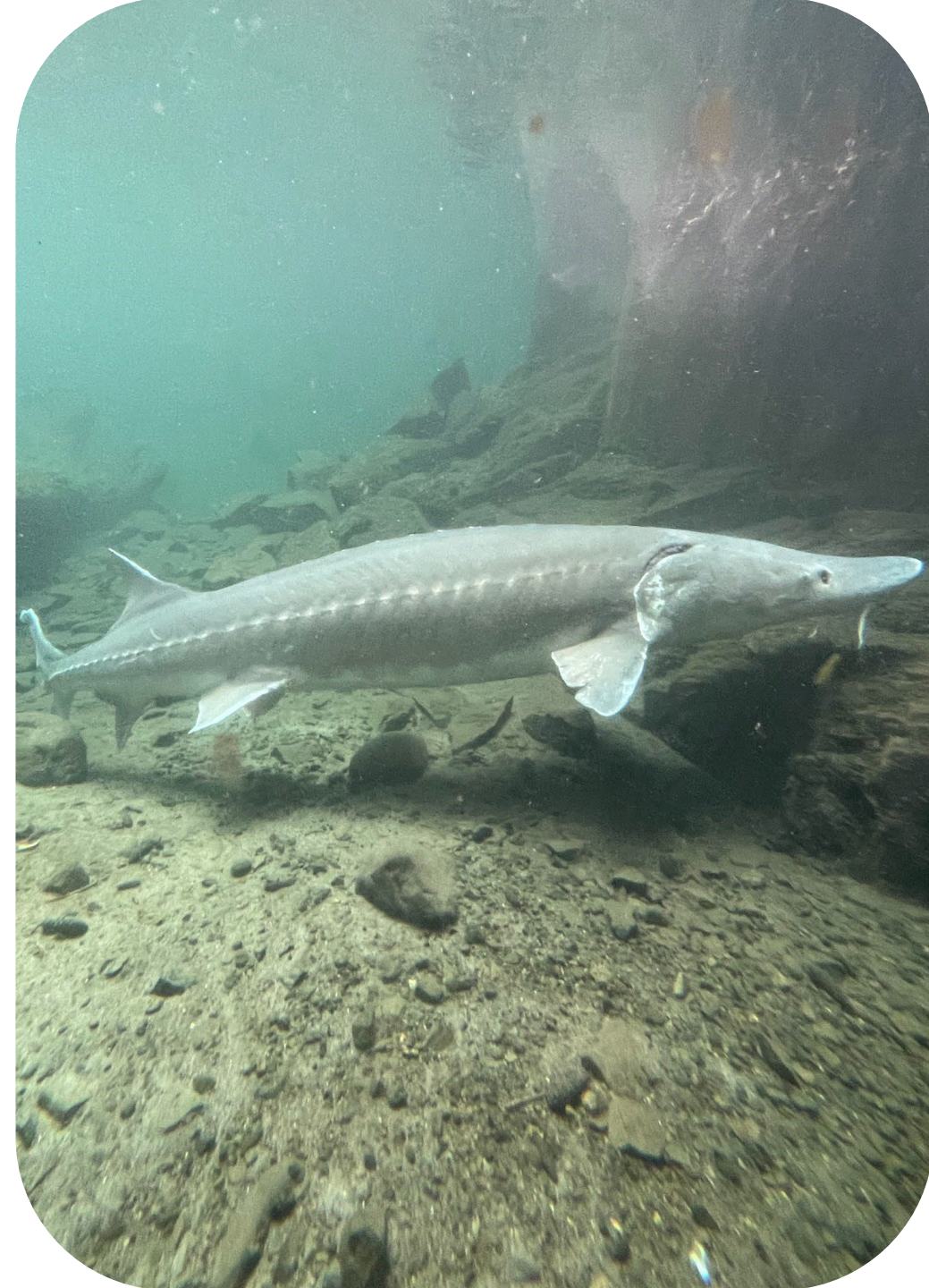
Tillamook Bay

Closed to angling for sturgeon upstream from the Hwy 131 bridge

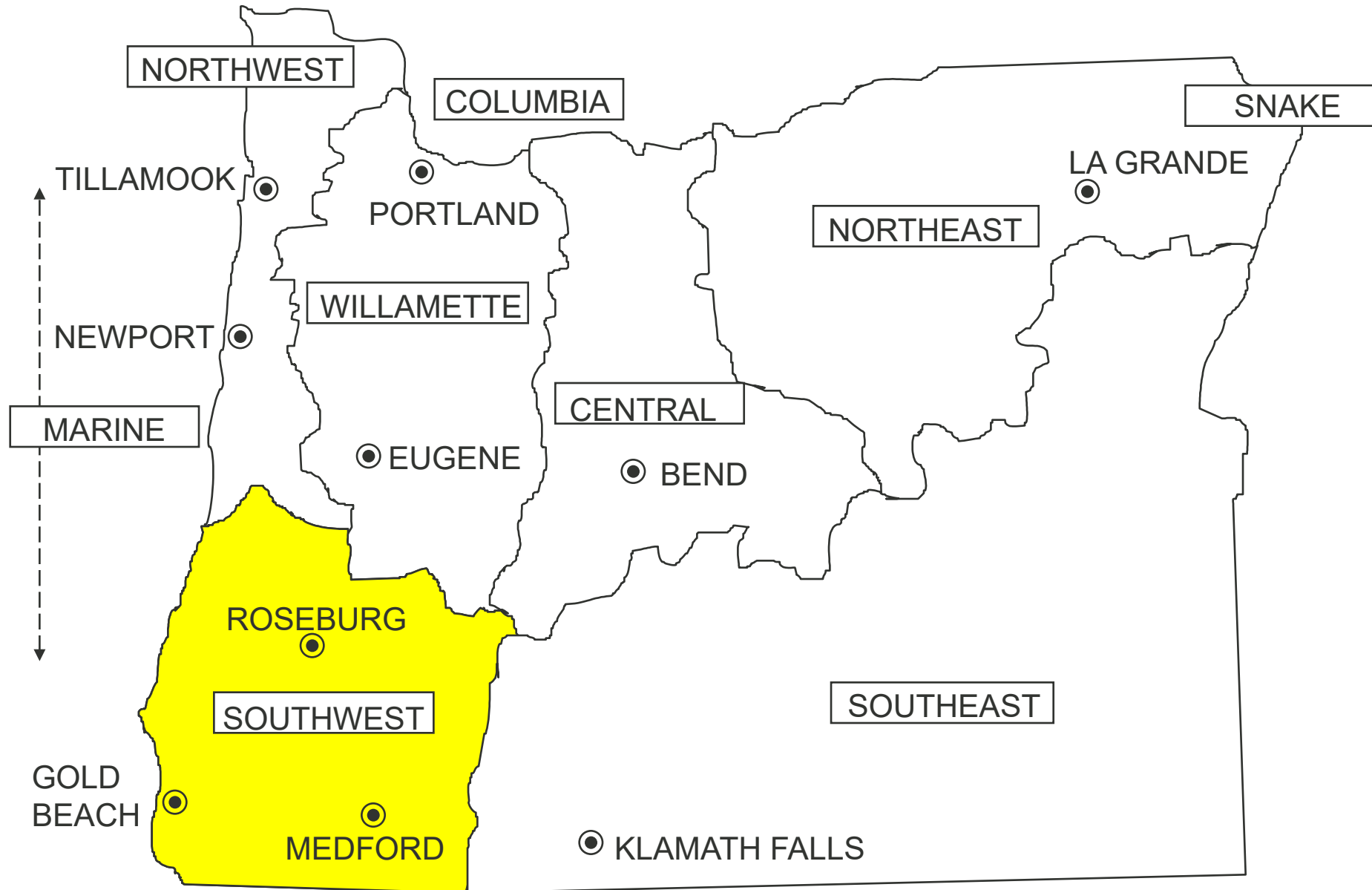


Tillamook River

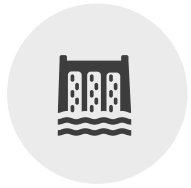
Closed to angling for sturgeon above Burton Bridge



Southwest Zone



Southwest Zone



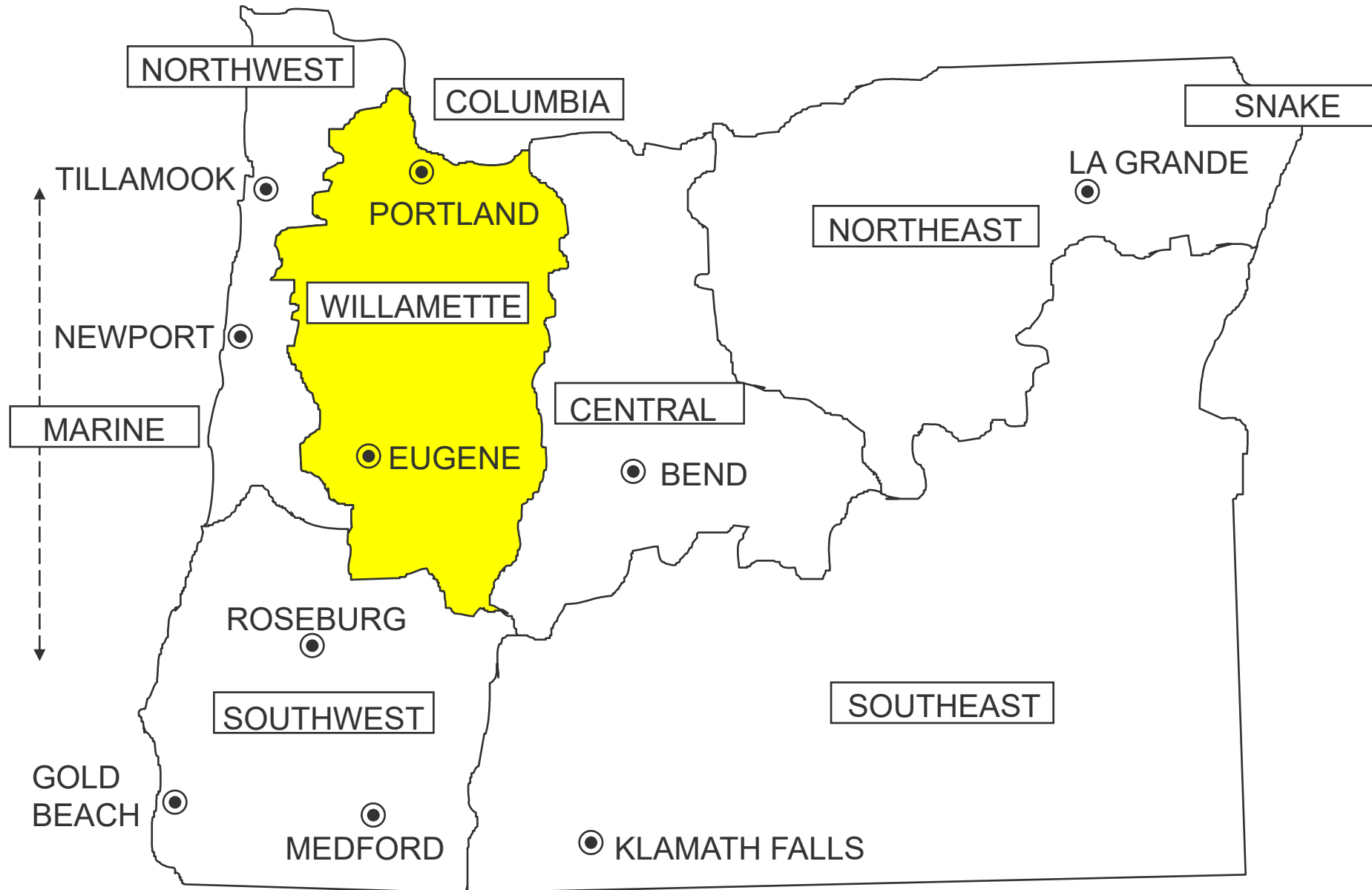
Former site of Pomeroy Dam

New location descriptions due to dam removal



Photo Credit: Crystal Nichols

Willamette Zone



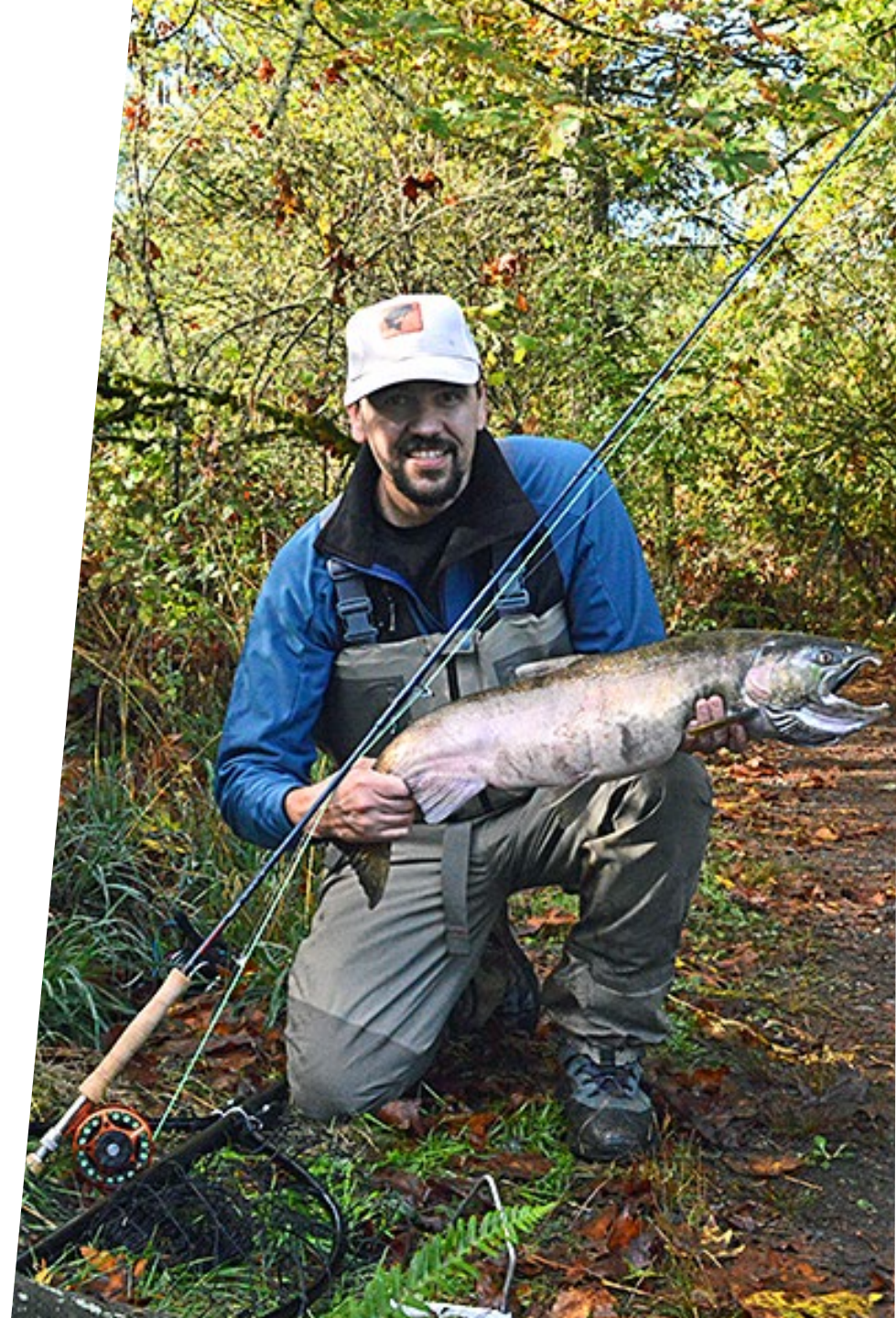
Willamette Zone



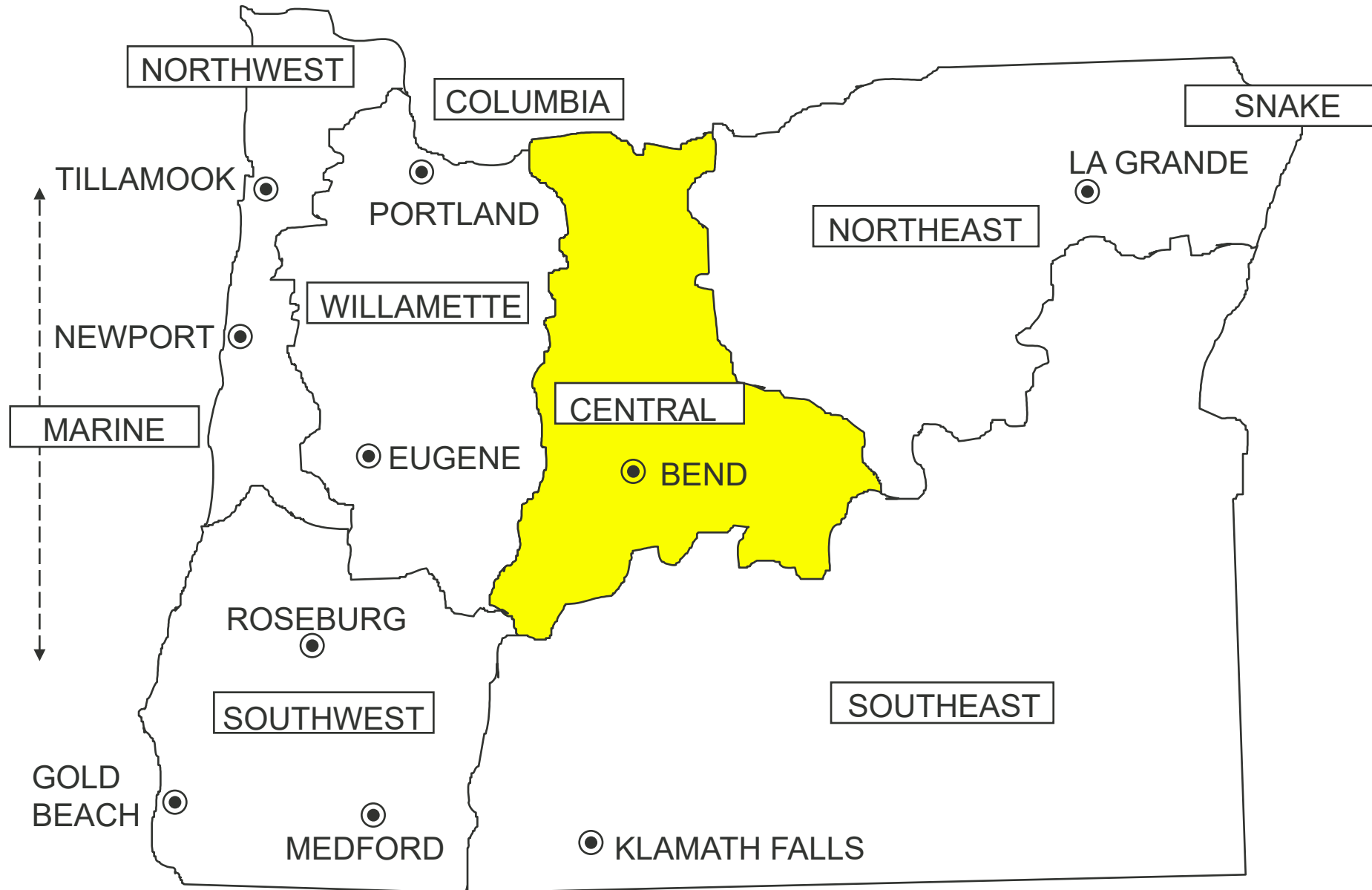
Coho Season

Open for coho Oct 1 – Dec 31.

- Santiam River, South Fork
- Willamette River, Mainstem
- Willamette River, Middle Fork
- Willamette River, Coast Fork



Central Zone



Central Zone



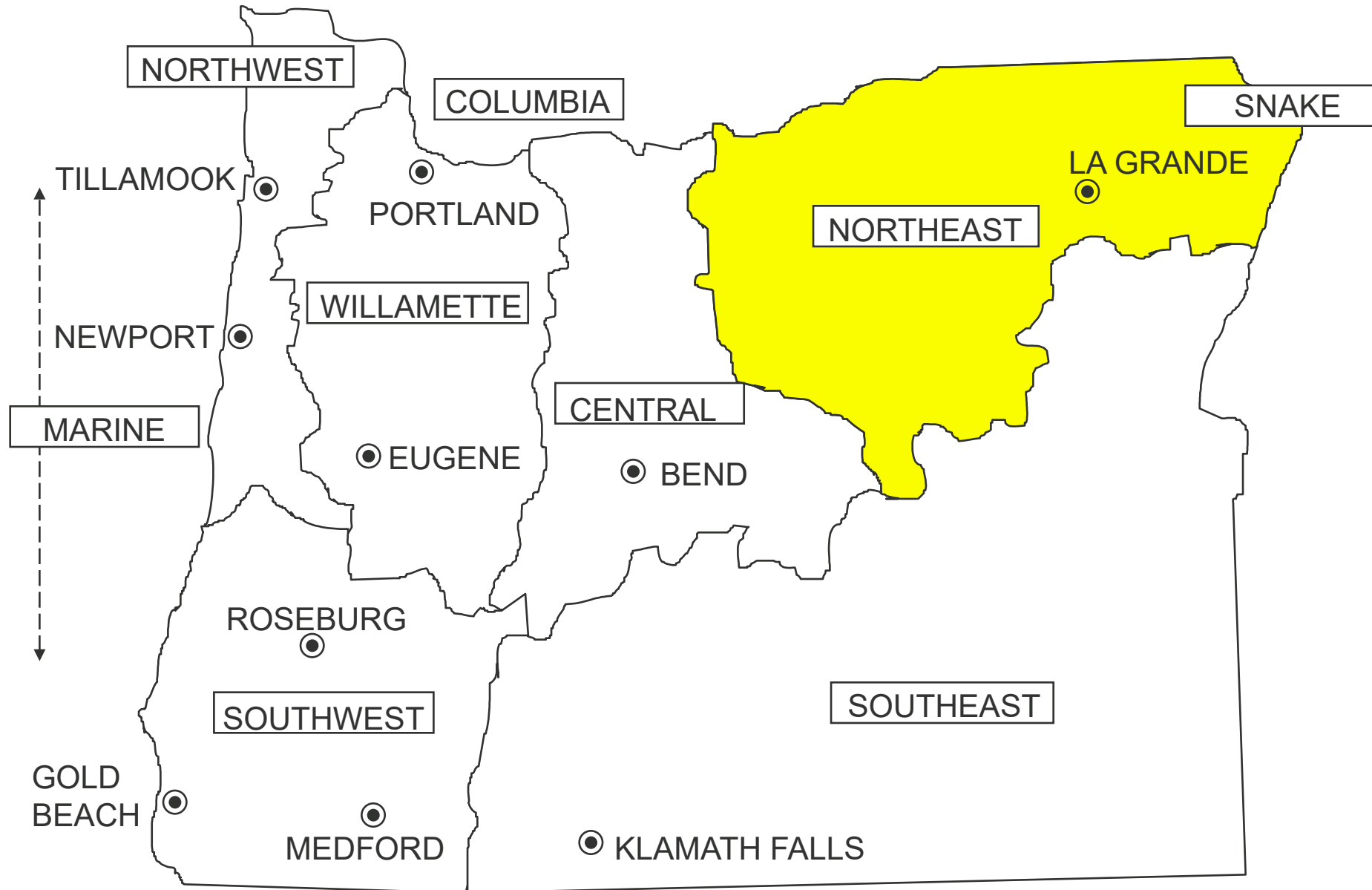
Kokanee bag limit

Proposed:

10 per day, no size limit, open all year,
unless noted under Exceptions



Northeast Zone



Northeast Zone



John Day River ('John Day Arm')

Current: Open for hatchery steelhead

Proposed: Closed to Salmon and steelhead angling from Sept 1 – Dec 31
from Mainline Railroad Bridge to ¼ mile below Tumwater Falls

Northeast Zone



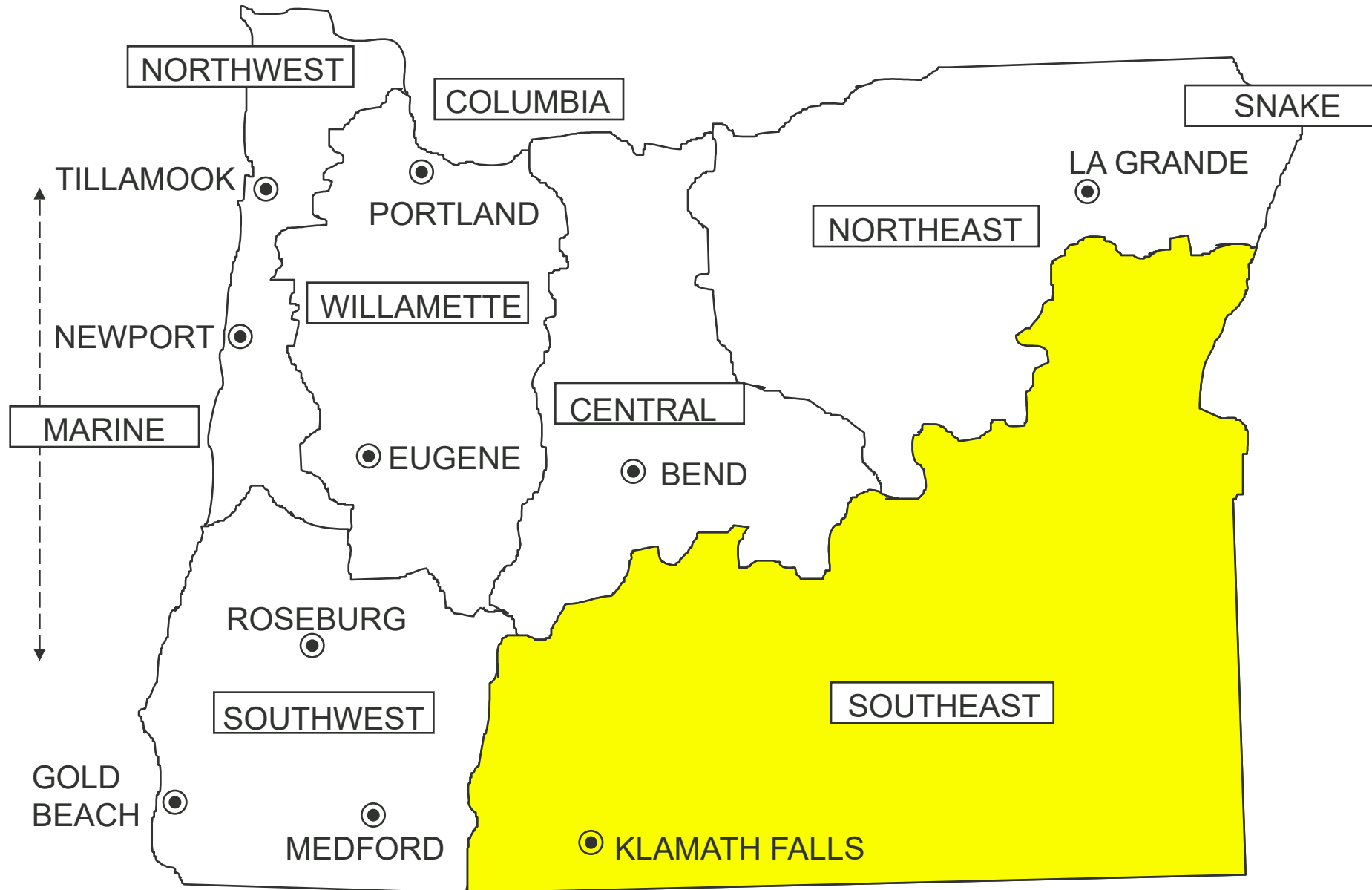
Wallowa Lake

Current: Zone Regulations, 5 per day, 1 fish over 20 inches

Proposed: No limit on size or number of Lake Trout.



Southeast Zone



Southeast Zone



Crystal Creek

Current: Artificial flies and lures only

Proposed: Use of bait allowed below confluence with Recreation Creek



Photo Credit: Ryan Collins

Southeast Zone



North Fork Sprague River

Current: 2 brown trout per day

Proposed: No limit on brown trout



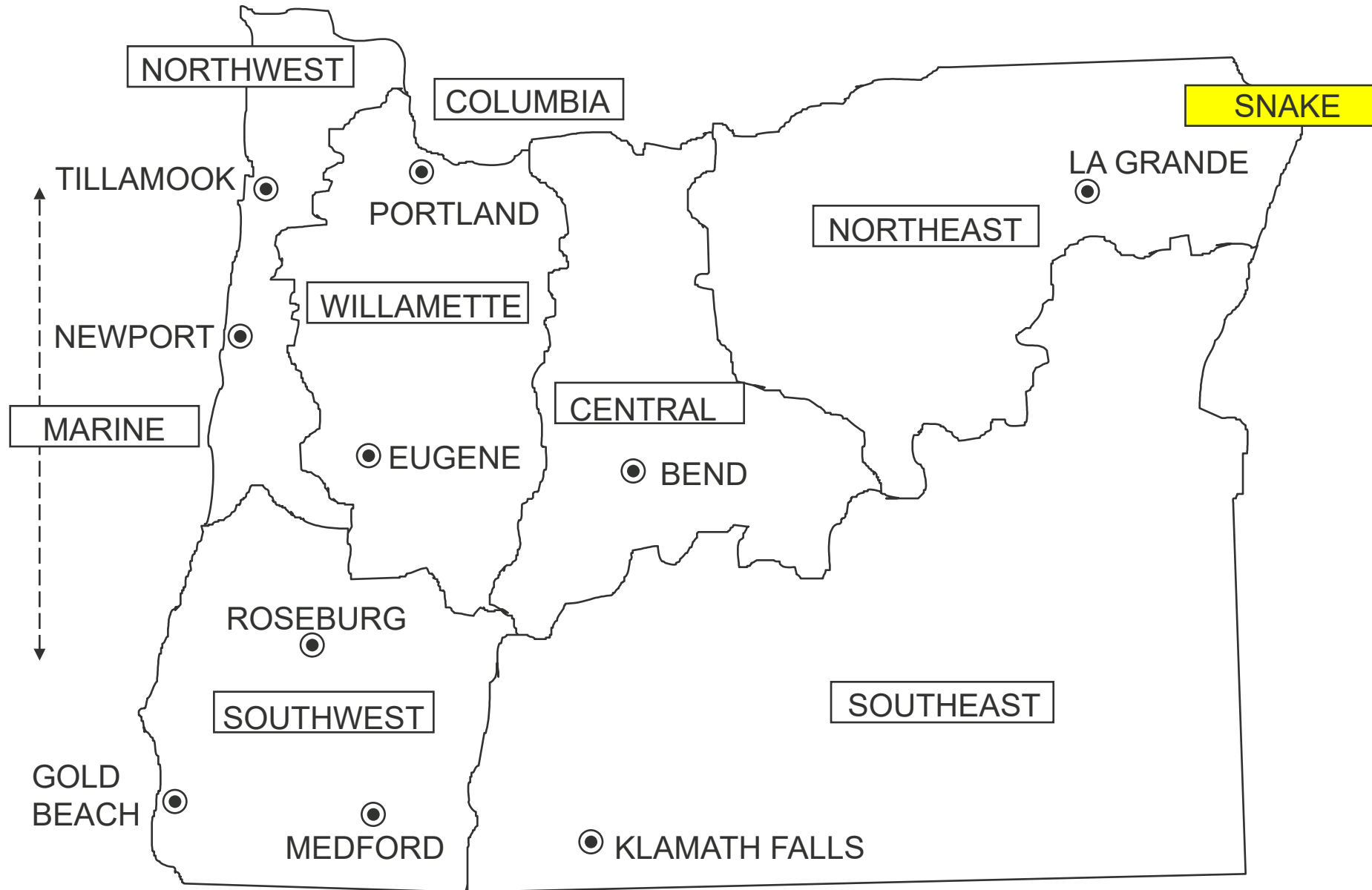
Spencer Creek

Current: Open May 22 – Oct 31

Proposed: Open May 22 – Sept 30



Snake Zone



Snake Zone



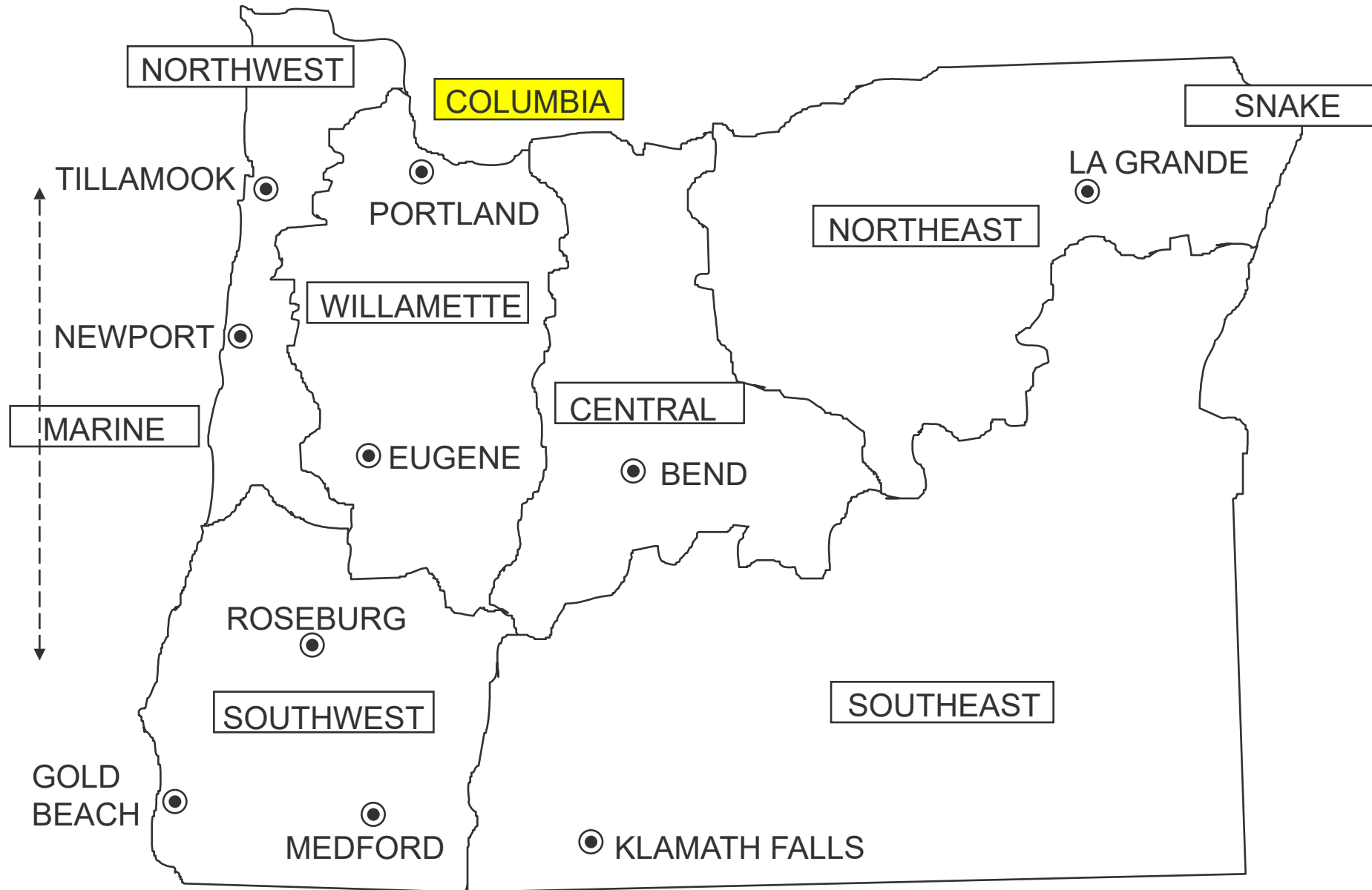
Hells Canyon Reservoir

Current: 6 bass per day, 12 inch minimum length

Proposed: 6 bass per day, no size limit



Columbia Zone



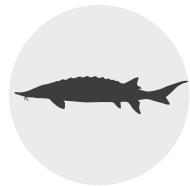
Columbia Zone



Columbia River

Current: Salmon seasons defined

Proposed: visit myodfw.com for current regulations



Columbia River

Current: Sturgeon seasons defined

Proposed: visit myodfw.com for current regulations



Columbia Zone



Columbia River Tributaries

Current: points to a broad geographic scope for rules

Proposed: points to a location directly adjacent to the tributary mouth for rules

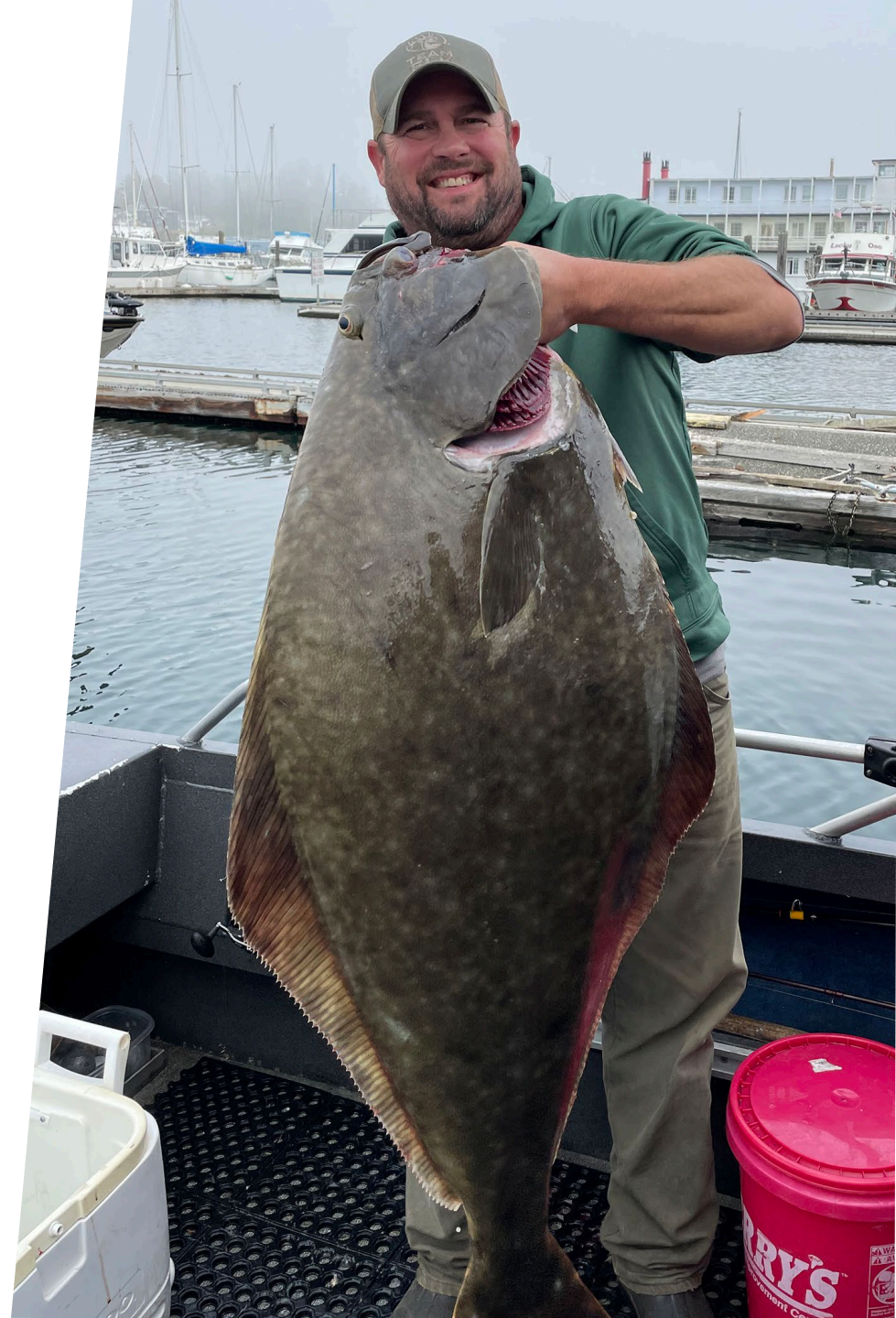


Ocean Endorsement



HB 2342 – passed in 2025

- Required for any species (except shellfish, salmon, and steelhead).
- Annual Fee \$9, Daily Fee \$4.
- Funds marine fish research and survey work.



Issue 2: Coquille River Hatchery Fall Chinook Salmon Opportunity

Mike Gauvin

Acting West Region Manager

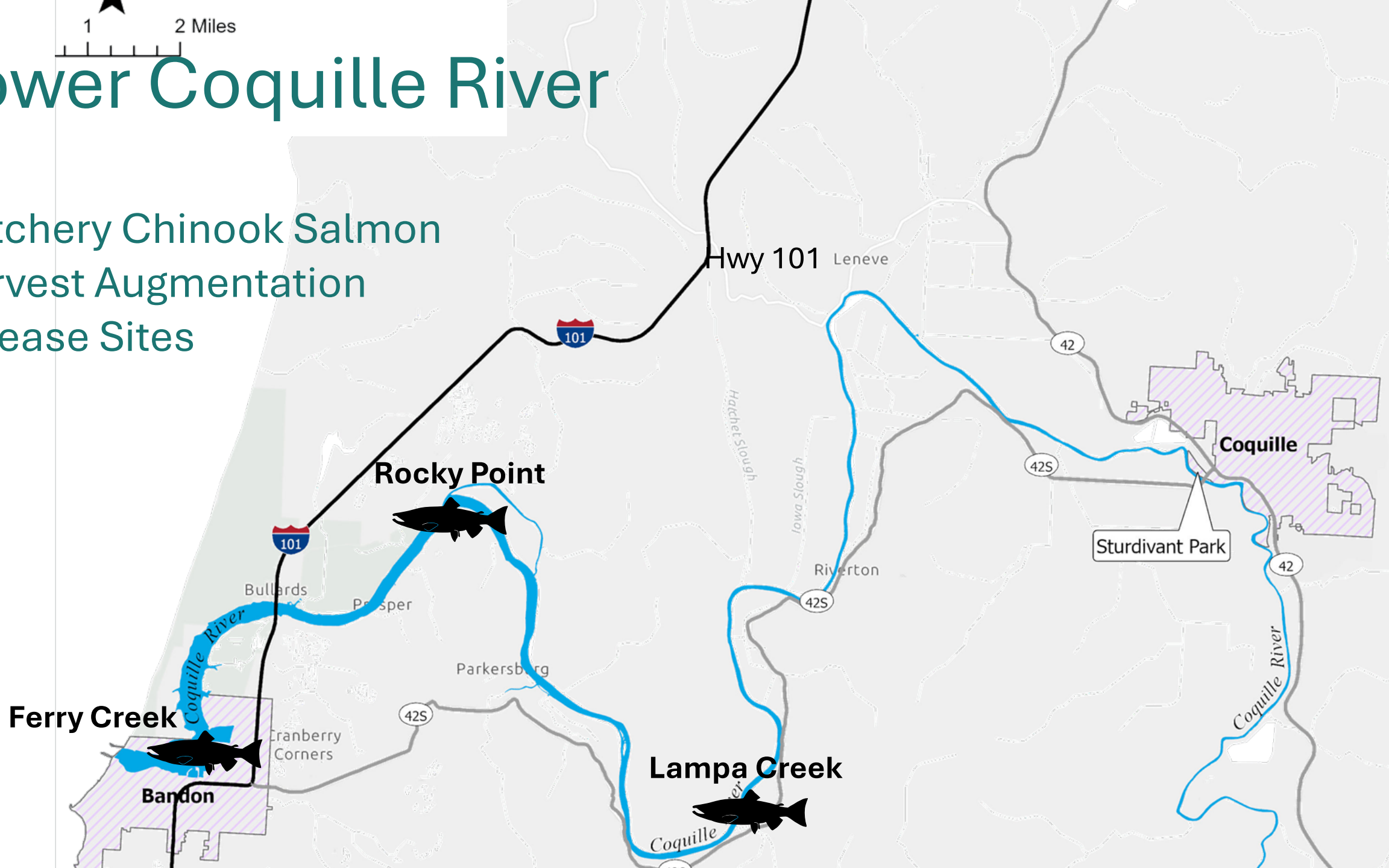
September 12, 2025



**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**

Lower Coquille River

Hatchery Chinook Salmon
Harvest Augmentation
Release Sites

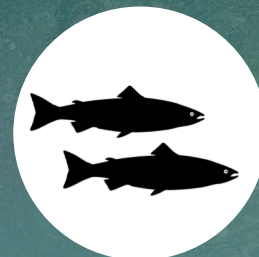


Two Hatchery Programs in the Coquille Basin



Harvest Program

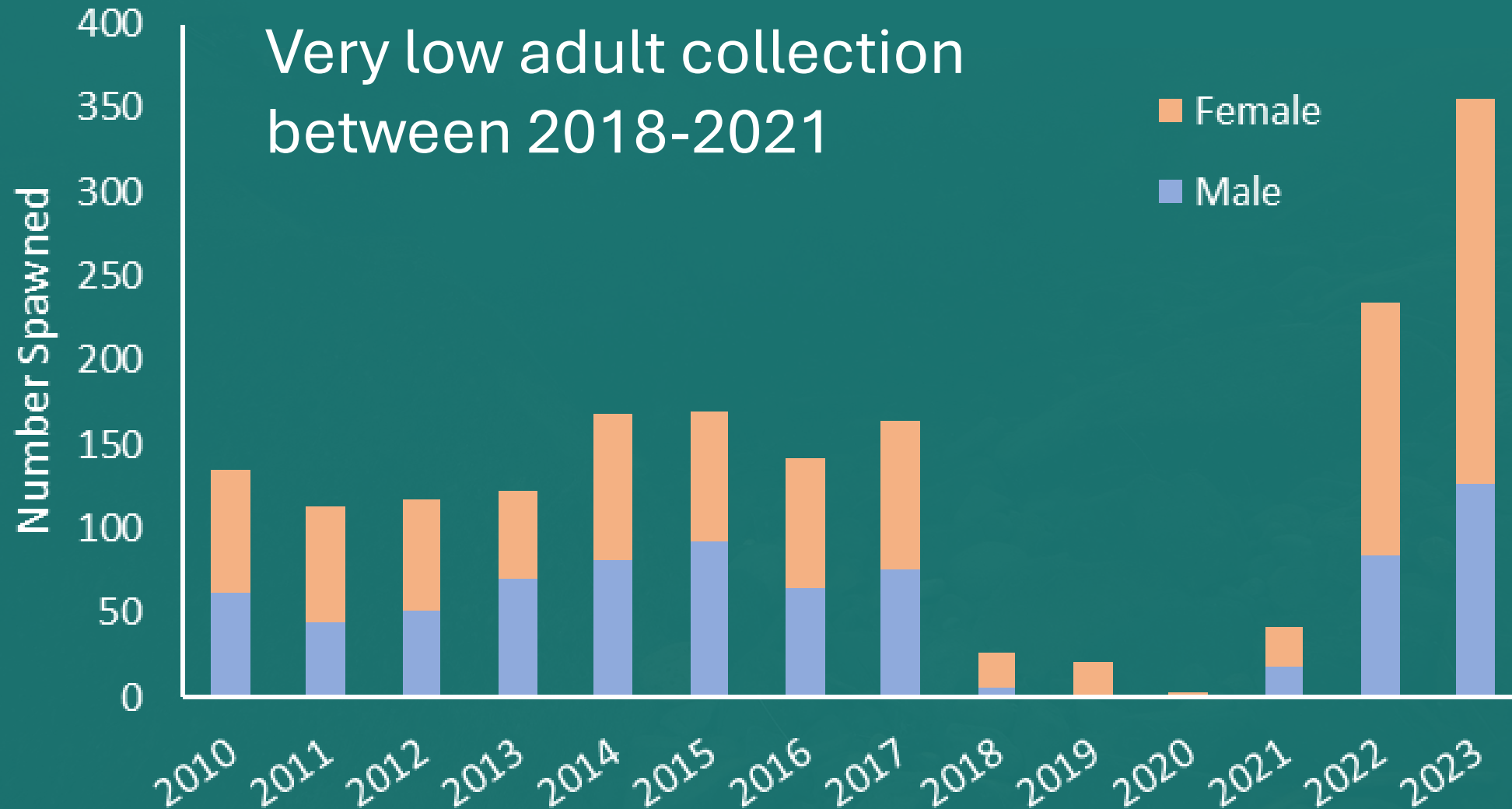
- Started in 1983 to provide angler opportunity
- CMP allows for 175K smolt release
- Proposed to reopen fishery



Conservation Program

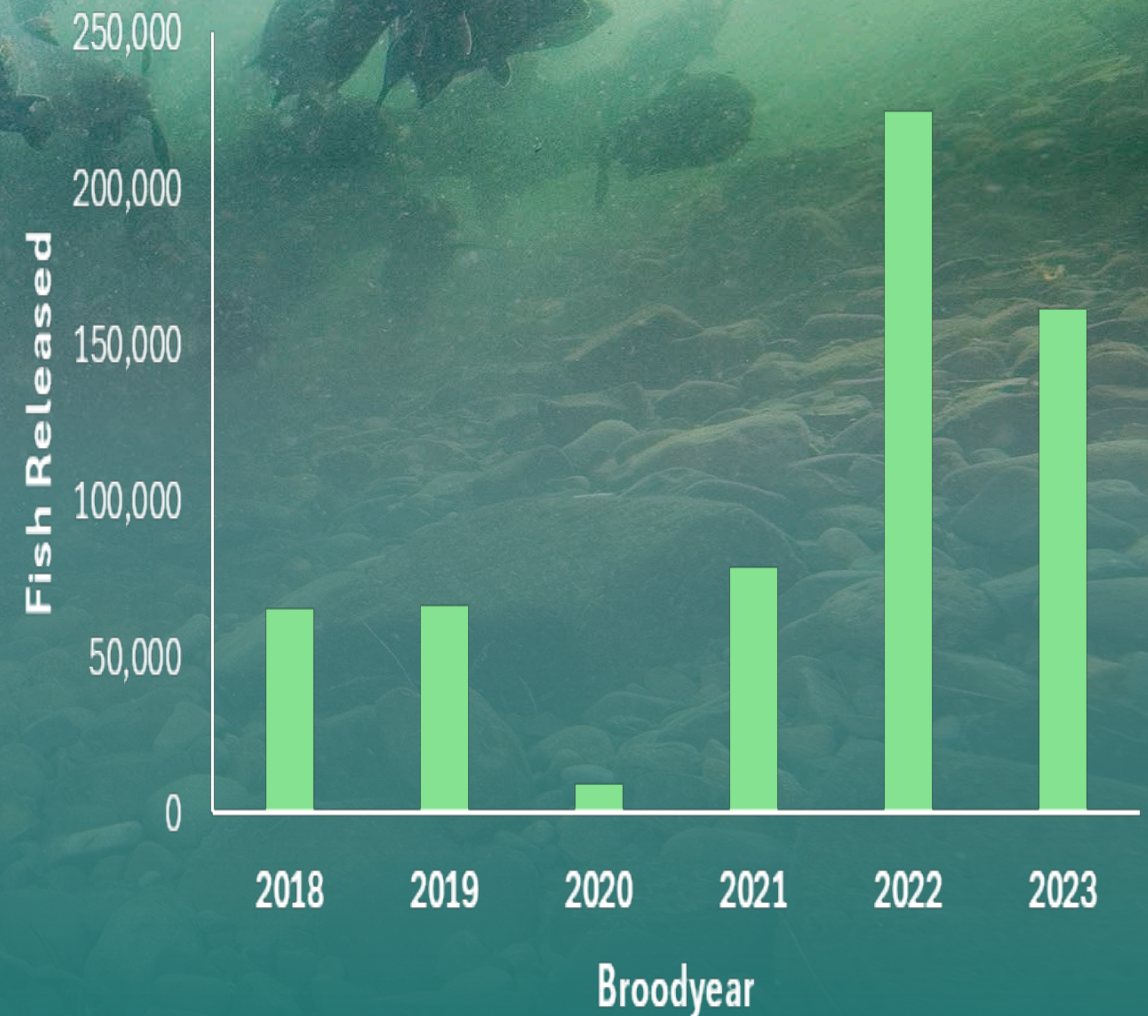
- Started in 2022 to supplement wild population
- One element of response to wild fish decline
- *Can not* be harvested
- Commission review in 26/27

the Harvest Program



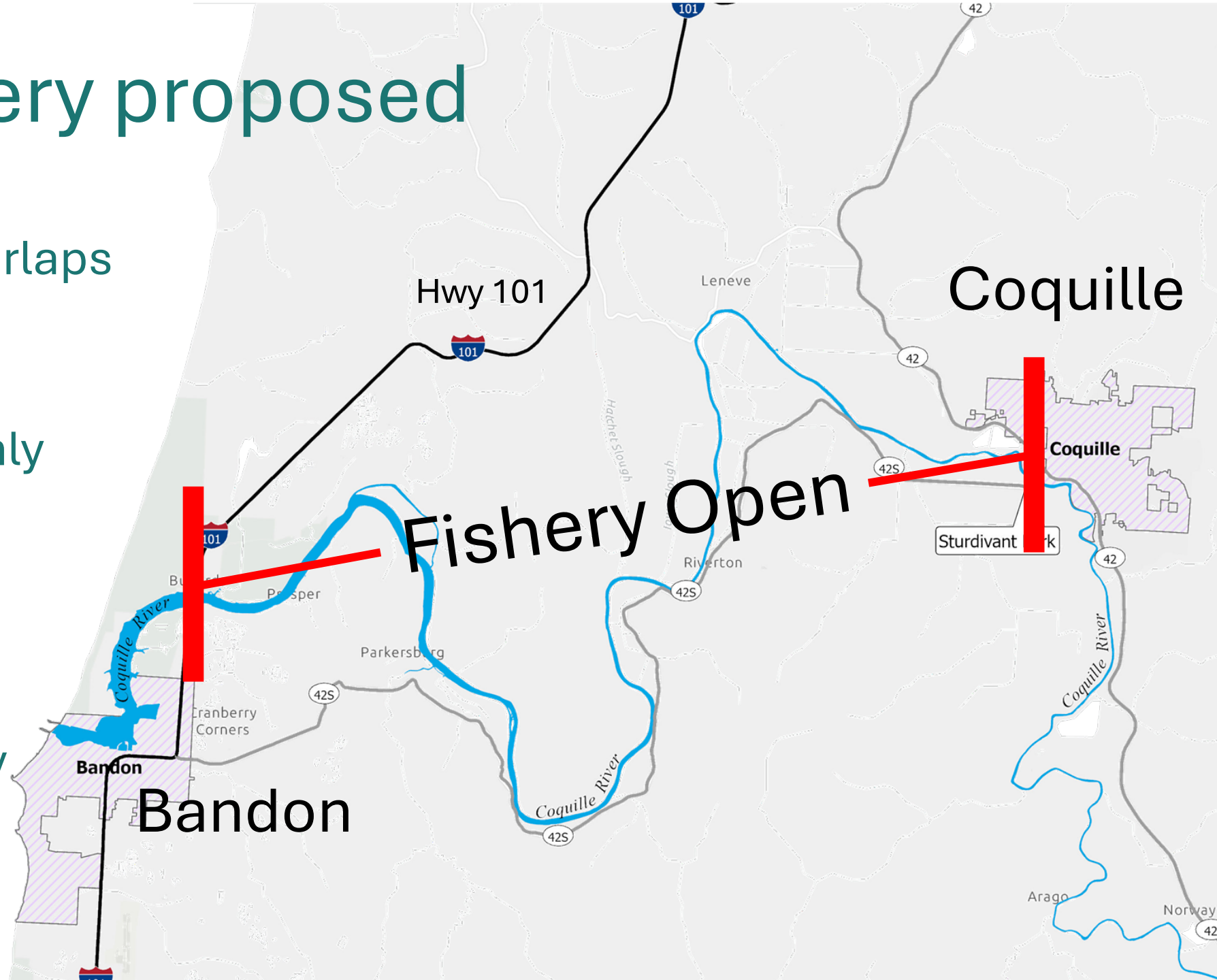
Recent significant improvement in releases

- Enhanced brood collection in Ferry Creek
- Progress addressing infrastructure at Cole Rivers



Limited fishery proposed

- Sept 13-Oct 15 (overlaps with coho season)
- Two salmon/day (only one can be a coho)
- Open area targets fish that have passed the hatchery to reduce straying



Draft Motions

Issue 1: I move to amend OAR Chapter 635 Divisions 011, 013, 014, 016, 017, 018, 019, 021, 023, 024, and 039 as proposed by staff in Attachment 3a, and I move to adopt modifications to regulations proposed by staff as described in Attachment 4. I also authorize staff to update necessary calendar dates and make formatting changes, to correct spelling or grammar errors, and to address inadvertent inconsistencies to improve readability.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

Issue 2: I move to adopt the staff recommendations to allow for harvest opportunity for hatchery Chinook salmon in the Coquille River as proposed by staff in Attachment 3b.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon filing (September 13, 2025)



Thank you!



**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**

