

Exhibit C

**Public Correspondence
Received as of August 29, 2025**

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: Drew Hansen <dandmhansen04@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:18 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Recind barbless hook law Columbia River

Categories: Fish

[You don't often get email from dandmhansen04@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello Commissioners<

My name is Drew Hansen and I've been fishing the Lower Columbia River for roughly 50 yrs. I am a professional Salmon and Steelhead fishing guide here on the Columbia River. I primarily fish from Bonneville Dam to Buoy 10 in Astoria.

I am writing to you today to ask the commission to RECIND the barbless hook law currently in place for salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River. Having anglers use barbless hooks makes no sense and is not needed. The ODFW has done enough hooking mortality studies in the Willamette and Columbia to show there is little to no difference between barbed and barbless hooks. IE (THE TOMAN STUDY) done at the willamette river falls.

ODFW has been working on getting more people involved in fishing for the last few years which is great! But the barbless hooks put NEW, YOUNG, and DISABLED anglers at a serious disadvantage. These people have a very hard time landing fish on barbless hooks! You must have experience and keep your line tight at all times which can be very difficult for these angler groups. In my countless days on the water I see these anglers loose many fish day in and day out even with my instruction to try and aid them.

As you can imagine loosing a fish you've waited for all day in some instances can have a very negative impact on some people not make their fishing trips a positive experience or outing. Letting anglers go back to using barbed hooks would greatly help these angler groups and countless others I am around every day.

Thank You for your Time,
DREW HANSEN

EMERSON Steven C * ODFW

From: Josh Reeves <jreeves@myfrontiermail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2024 9:44 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Small Mouth Bass Umpqua River

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[You don't often get email from jreeves@myfrontiermail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Sir or Madam:

As you may be aware that non-native species that have been accidentally or illegally introduced into waterbodies throughout the state have threatened the ecosystems and native species populations in those waterbodies. Small Mouth Bass are one of those non-native species.

Recently found in the Coquille River System they have been named by ODFW Biologists as a serious threat to Native Chinook and Coho Salmon populations. As you may be aware the Chinook Salmon population has taken a major hit in this system. In order to mitigate losses of juvenile Chinook from Small Mouth predation, new regulations to allow harvest of Small Mouth Bass by means of spear fishing has been allowed.

Another nearby river system that has seen decline in Chinook Salmon populations is the Umpqua River. The Umpqua River has an even more abundant population of non-native, invasive, Small Mouth Bass.

In order to help the suffering populations of Chinook Salmon in the Umpqua River System, I am asking you to follow suit, as you have with the Coquille River System, and change regulations allowing the use of spears and spearguns to harvest Small Mouth Bass in the Umpqua River.

Thank You for Your Consideration in this matter,

Josh Reeves
94708 Rhody Hill LN
North Bend, OR 97459

Sent from my iPhone

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: Justin <doddsjustin17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 5:06 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Lake Harriet, Willamette Zone

Categories: Fish

You don't often get email from doddsjustin17@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

I am someone who fishes lake Harriet at least 1x per week. This place is my second home. There is a robust population of wild-self sustaining, "invasive" brown trout here.

These fish are absolutely gorgeous and are a blast to target for us anglers. I simply want to know why there is no limit on retention of these fish.

Is there any possibility to change the regulation to limit or end the retention of brown trout, similar to the regulation of the owhyee river system?

I understand they are "invasive". But they are here, and every angler I encounter at Harriet absolutely loves to target them, most of whom catch and release.

Thanks for reading

Justin Dodds

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: SEABOURNE John D * ODFW
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 1:41 PM
To: GAUVIN Mike * ODFW
Cc: SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW
Subject: FW: Support for Freshwater Spearfishing opportunities
Attachments: NFSA Oregon Spearfishing Commision Letter 4-7-25.docx

From: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:37 PM
To: SEABOURNE John D * ODFW <John.D.SEABOURNE@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: FW: Support for Freshwater Spearfishing opportunities

Forwarding

Please send to appropriate staff

Roxie

From: Brett Leable <marketing@nationalfreshwaterspearfishing.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 1:10 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Support for Freshwater Spearfishing opportunities

You don't often get email from marketing@nationalfreshwaterspearfishing.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it concerns,

Please see the letter I have written on behalf of the National Freshwater Spearfishing Association attached to this email below in support of freshwater Spearfishing opportunities in Oregon.

Please do not hesitate to reach out for further discussion on this matter.



www.nationalfreshwaterspearfishing.org

@nationalfreshwaterspearfishing on Instagram or Facebook

Commissioners of Oregon,

On behalf of the National Freshwater Spearfishing Association (NFSA), a 501 (c)3 non-profit public organization whose mission is to expand freshwater spearfishing opportunities across the United States, I'm writing to request you to allow underwater spearfishing as a legal means of take in Oregon's Beautiful freshwater.

As an organization we have had the pleasure of working with several states recently to expand opportunities for spearfishing in fresh water. In Utah and Arkansas most recently, we have worked with their Fish and Game Divisions to bring Spear Fishing as a legal method of take on par with Hook and Line.

Craig Walker, one of Utah's Fisheries Biologists, views spearfishermen as "just another tool in the toolbox to regulate take" AS WELL AS "Provide another resource for understanding the health of lakes and reservoirs by giving underwater visual feedback". Craig has given us the go ahead to share his email and contact information for those of you who may like to hear his "science-based insider perspective" and I can share it if you would like.

One of the best things about spearfishing is there is no bycatch. It is sustainable, targeted, challenging, and rewarding. We can be effective at targeting size ranges of fish, or nuisance species of fish as needed to improve the health of waterways especially when minute "tweaks to management" are desired with no adverse impact.

Currently an angler needs a fishing license to spearfish in Oregon's freshwater, but they can only take nongame species. Other anglers who paid the same amount of money can take edible fish. Possibly you can add an endorsement to your current license system that allows spearfishing for game species, thereby increasing revenue?

Quite a few states allow freshwater spearfishing without negative impacts. It is a tool that can be used to target invasive species, to collect more accurate data on all species, mobilizes spearfisherman to become co-managers of the resource at less expense to the state, and

increases opportunities for recreation. Michigan averages over 4,000 spearfishing licenses sold annually and implements a MANDATORY MONTHLY SURVEY of ALL SPEARFISHING LICENCE HOLDERS to help their fisheries managers understand the fishery more completely. Utah is working on an APP that will do the same. I have and would love to share with you a PDF from Michigan's most recent Underwater Spearfishing Working Group Virtual Meeting that talks in depth about spearfishing observations, data harvesting, and real-world discussion on spearfishing's impacts (or lack thereof) vs. its revenues and rewards for interested anglers.

I view my role as a NFSA board member to be one of collaborator, and connector. I am not an expert on fisheries management, but I can certainly share information I have collected and help you to connect with those experts that are already harnessing the power of grass roots spearfishing efforts in Freshwater.

In closing, I encourage you to consider allowing the expansion of recreation in Oregon's freshwater fisheries to include underwater spearfishing. I am going to forward this opportunity on to our membership and ask that they also reach out to advocate for advancing spearfishing opportunities in Oregon's Freshwater!

Please don't hesitate to reach out for any reason that I may be of assistance for, I live to spearfish with my family and thoroughly enjoy talking about our passion to others. I also am happy to pass along Utah Biologist Craig Walker's email, as well as the Working Group for underwater spearfishing PDF from January in Michigan. This is all public information, and as I said, I view my role as helping others to connect.

Best regards,

Brett Leable

NFSA Board Member

bleable@ttu.edu

970-401-3743

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: SEABOURNE John D * ODFW
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 1:37 PM
To: SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW
Subject: FW: Spearfishing

We will need to set up a channel for the Sport Fishing Regulations in August. This will need to be in a folder for public correspondence. I can help you with the process for setting up a Commission channel

-----Original Message-----

From: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:45 PM
To: SEABOURNE John D * ODFW <John.D.SEABOURNE@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: FW: Spearfishing

Please forward to appropriate staff to reply Roxie

-----Original Message-----

From: James Nash <6branchoutfitters@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 11:14 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Spearfishing

[You don't often get email from 6branchoutfitters@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Esteemed Commissioners,

I'm writing to request you to allow underwater spearfishing as a legal means of take in freshwater.

As a lifelong hunter and fisherman, many people are surprised to hear me say that I believe spearfishing is the ultimate pursuit. When I spearfish I wear a wetsuit, mask, fins and a snorkel. I swim on the surface and breathe in a way that saturates oxygen in my blood, take a deep breath and dive underwater to depths of up to 70'. I typically stay under for 45 seconds to 1:10. It takes me 3-4 minutes to recover between dives. I attended multiple schools and received certifications to make myself safe through this process. Under the best of circumstances I get a shot 1 out of 10 dives.

The speargun is powered by latex bands, which I have to stretch and attach to the spear shaft. In fresh water, I need to sneak within about 6' of a fish. Spearfishing allows me to select for not only the species I intend to harvest, but the individual. There is no bycatch. It is infinitely sustainable, challenging, and rewarding.

Currently I need a fishing license to spearfish in Oregon's freshwater, but I can only take non game species. Other anglers who paid the same amount of money can take edible fish.

Many states have allowed freshwater spearfishing without negative impacts. It is a tool that can be used to target invasive species, to collect more accurate data on all species, mobilizes spearfisherman to become co-managers of the resource at less expense to the state, and increases opportunities for recreation. Michigan has average over 4,000 spearfishing licenses sold annually.

I encourage you to consider allowing the expansion of recreation in Oregon's freshwater fisheries to include underwater spearfishing. If you have reasons why you wouldn't want to, I'd love to hear them so I can develop abatement solutions.

Kind regards,
James Nash

6 Ranch Outfitters

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: George Hierro <george.hierro@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 6:10 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Support for Legalizing Freedive Spearfishing for Game Fish

You don't often get email from george.hierro@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Oregon Wildlife Commission,

I respectfully urge you to consider legalizing recreational freedive spearfishing for game fish in Oregon. This method promotes sustainable, selective harvesting and offers a unique opportunity to engage conservation-minded divers in citizen science. Allowing spearfishing could expand valuable data collection efforts and strengthen community support for marine stewardship.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Oregon's natural resources.

Sincerely,

George Hierro

From: John Warren <john.warren414@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 2:15 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Proposal for Allowing Spearfishing of Game Fish Species in Oregon's Freshwater

You don't often get email from john.warren414@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear ODFW

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to respectfully propose a review of current regulations regarding spearfishing, specifically advocating for allowing spearfishing of game fish species in Oregon's freshwater bodies.

Spearfishing is recognized as an environmentally sustainable and selective harvesting method, significantly reducing bycatch compared to traditional angling. Anglers visually identify species and size before harvesting, minimizing unintended injuries or mortality to non-target species. States such as Florida, Texas, and Arkansas have demonstrated successful freshwater spearfishing programs, managing sustainable fish populations through regulated seasons, size limits, and daily catch restrictions.

Allowing spearfishing of freshwater game fish could also stimulate Oregon's local economies by attracting additional outdoor recreation tourism, increasing license and equipment sales, and encouraging engagement with Oregon's natural resources.

To ensure responsible implementation, I suggest adopting initial pilot programs with clearly defined seasonal and size restrictions, robust licensing and educational requirements, and careful monitoring for environmental impact and compliance.


I appreciate your consideration of this proposal and would welcome further discussion or opportunities to engage in dialogue on this matter. Thank you for your continued efforts in managing and preserving Oregon's fisheries.

V/R
John Warren

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: Calvary Straub <calstraub88@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2025 10:06 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Freshwater Spearfishing

Categories: Fish

 You don't often get email from calstraub88@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners of Oregon,

As a member of the National Freshwater Spearfishing Association (NFSA), a 501 (c)3 non-profit public organization whose mission is to expand freshwater spearfishing opportunities across the United States, I'm writing to request you to allow underwater spearfishing as a legal means of take in Oregon's Beautiful freshwater.

There is literally no "downside" to allowing underwater spearfishing in freshwater. One of the best things about spearfishing is there is no bycatch. It is sustainable, targeted, challenging, and rewarding. We can be effective at targeting size ranges of fish, or nuisance species of fish as needed to improve the health of waterways especially when minute "tweaks to management" are desired with no adverse impact.

Currently an angler needs a fishing license to spearfish in Oregon's freshwater, but they can only take nongame species. Other anglers who paid the same amount of money can take edible fish. Possibly you can add an endorsement to your current license system that allows spearfishing for game species, thereby increasing revenue? This was effective in Michigan and Utah, with an added benefit of sharing information gleaned from an underwater perspective.

Quite a few states allow freshwater spearfishing without negative impacts. It is a tool that can be used to target invasive species, to collect more accurate data on all species, mobilizes spearfisherman to become co-managers of the resource at less expense to the state, and increases opportunities for recreation. Michigan averages over 4,000 spearfishing licenses sold annually and implements a MANDATORY MONTHLY SURVEY of ALL SPEARFISHING LICENSE HOLDERS to help their fisheries managers understand the fishery more completely. Utah is working on an APP that will do the same.

In closing, I encourage you to consider allowing the expansion of recreation in Oregon's freshwater fisheries to include underwater spearfishing. I hope to be able to spearfish myself this summer and take in Oregon's underwater beauty for myself.

Kindest Regards,

Cal Straub

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: L & E Winge <thewinges82@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 11:51 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Re: Underwater freediving Spearfishing

You don't often get email from thewinges82@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Linda,

Thanks for bringing the oversight to my attention. I created the letter for both Idaho and Oregon but did not edit the final draft that was attached and sent. Idaho just had approved changes that will go into effect on July 1st, 2025. This will expand spearfishing opportunities and with Oregon having talks of expanding the opportunities as well I wanted to reach out and express my support for such expansions.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Luke Winge

On Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 3:33 PM ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov> wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to submit such an informative message regarding the expansion of underwater freedive spearfishing opportunities. After reviewing your email, it appears that your primary focus is on waters located within Idaho. However, your message was sent to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

If your inquiry was also intended to include the Snake River, please note that current ODFW regulations permit anglers with either an Oregon or Idaho license to harvest fish when angling from a floating device. However, this provision does not extend to underwater spearfishing.

To ensure your feedback reaches the appropriate agency, we encourage you to contact Idaho Fish and Game directly using the following link: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/contact>.

We appreciate your interest and engagement in fisheries management and thank you again for reaching out.

Linda Spansel, AAFB

Fish Division Rules Coordinator (Rotation)

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

Salem, OR 97302

O: 503-947-6233 | C: 503-509-6188

linda.d.spansel@odfw.oregon.gov



From: L & E Winge <thewinges82@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 11:40 AM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <Odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Underwater freediving Spearfishing

You don't often get email from thewinges82@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my advocacy for expanding the underwater freedive spearfishing opportunities in Idaho. I am a member of the National Freshwater Spearfishing Association and an avid spearfisherman who is passionate about expanding the sport for future generations.

Expanding underwater freedive spearfishing opportunities will have a nominal effect on total fish harvested in Idaho. There are several reasons for this:

- the total number of spearfishermen in comparison to rod and reel anglers is insignificant
- underwater spearfishing is only possible for a limited number of days throughout the year (water temperatures and clarity being the biggest influence)
- the training required is an arduous process (breath holds, hunting technique, finding fish, freediving deep enough, etc.) so most spear fisherman will not have high harvest rates
- when a spearfisherman shoots a fish, it causes a disturbance that alarms nearby fish so to harvest another fish they must find a new school of fish versus a rod and reel angler being able to harvest numerous fish from the same school of fish

There are also numerous benefits underwater spear fisherman can provide to a fishery:

- targeting specific species or sizes
- there is little to no by catch or discard mortality involved in underwater spearfishing
- having underwater spear fisherman being able to report what they are seeing will give local fisheries biologists with real time feedback and data

The same fishing license is required for both rod and reel fishing and spearfishing, however, only one of those constituent groups are allowed to harvest the more desirable game fish for consumption. I believe all fishing regulations should be the same between both user groups. By expanding the opportunities of underwater spearfishing in Idaho it will provide more opportunities for people to engage in outdoors activities, bring in more revenue for fish management, bring in more revenue to local communities, and allow more people to harvest fish for consumption. Please reach out with any questions you may have: thewinges82@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Luke Winge

Underwater freediving Spearfishing

Reply Reply All Forward



Mon 4/21/2025 11:40 AM



L & E Winge <thewinges82@gmail.com>

To ODFW Commission * ODFW

Fish

This sender thewinges82@gmail.com is from outside your organization.

You replied to this message on 4/22/2025 1:33 PM.

You don't often get email from thewinges82@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my advocacy for expanding the underwater freedive spearfishing opportunities in Idaho. I am a member of the National Freshwater Spearfishing Association and an avid spearfisherman who is passionate about expanding the sport for future generations.

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Sincerely,
Luke Winge

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: Justin <doddsjustin17@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 4:08 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Lake Harriet-Timothy lake Drainage

Categories: Fish

You don't often get email from doddsjustin17@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

1. Why is the Oak grove fork clackamas river closed for 7 months of the year between Timothy lake and lake Harriet?

No harm is being done by keeping this open year round. No anadromous fish as the lake Harriet impoundment prevents them traveling to this upper reach.

2. Why is ODFW allowing a regulation of no limit on brown/brook trout at lake Harriet? Just because a fish is not native does not mean you should allow for the outright genocide of these species.

Your cutthroats and rainbows will be fine. Please stop allowing people to harvest the brown trout.

This regulation is ruining a rare catch and release opportunity which many enjoy.

That is the Brown trout fishery at Lake Harriet.

Last time I inquired about these issues, I received no response. I need to know what I can do to have these regulations changed and what council I need to speak in front of.

Thank you

Justin Dodds

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: Dennis <dennisbrusier@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:37 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tuna Limits

You don't often get email from dennisbrusier@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I respectfully submit this comment in opposition to the proposed seasonal cap of 75 albacore tuna for recreational fishermen.

I am a lifelong, law-abiding sport fisherman, and for me, this is not just a hobby — it's how I feed my family. I retain about 20 albacore each year, depending on availability and size. With the average Oregon albacore weighing around 14 pounds and yielding approximately 7 pounds of clean meat, that equates to roughly 140 pounds of boneless, high-quality tuna per year. We can it and use 100% in our home and with extended fam

This isn't recreational excess. It's sustainable, responsible, and essential to my family's food supply. Tuna is a clean, healthy protein rich in omega-3s and lower in saturated fats than red meat. It's not only about feeding my family — it's about feeding them well.

Like many recreational anglers, I often fish with friends and family. We share fuel costs, but I have never been paid to take people fishing, and I have never sold a fish. Everyone on board fishes under their own license, catches their own legal limit, and takes fish home to feed their families. I enjoy sharing time on the water and sharing in the ocean's bounty — that's the heart of Oregon's sport fishing tradition.

In my experience, I have never meet someone illegally selling fish. Some individuals do obtain proper licenses to sell their catch off the boat — and that is fully legal under current regulations. If that undercuts commercial profits, that's a market issue — not a justification to limit public access to the resource.

The motivation behind this proposal also deserves scrutiny. It comes from a commercial fleet owner who stands to profit if fewer Oregonians are allowed to catch their own tuna. While the rule change is framed as a conservation measure, it fits a pattern we've seen elsewhere: conservation rhetoric masking financial interests. As noted in the Stanford Environmental Law Journal, "Conservation initiatives are frequently used as a smokescreen for restricting access and consolidating control in the hands of commercial stakeholders."¹ This appears to be one of those cases.

If there are violations — such as illegal sales or unlicensed chartering — then enforce the existing laws. Don't punish the law-abiding public.

Oregon's outdoor heritage is built on shared, sustainable use of our natural resources. Recreational fishermen are not the problem. We are part of the solution — helping monitor fish stocks, support the local economy, and feed our families without burdening food systems or government assistance. I respectfully ask the Commission to reject this proposal and protect public access to this important fishery.

Sincerely,

Dennis A Miller, SR. ODFW #453744

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: Sean Thomas <seanthomas@canby.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 3:49 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Response to Albacore Tuna Commission Letter
Attachments: Albacore Tuna Commission Response Letter.pdf

You don't often get email from seanthomas@canby.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mrs. Wahl,
Please find my letter, attached.

Thanks,
Sean Thomas
Canby, Oregon

Mary Wahl
Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Sean Thomas
Recreational Albacore Tuna Fisherman, Oregon Coast
417 SW 9th Ave
Canby, OR 97013
541-218-8880

May 4, 2025

Dear Mrs. Wahl,

It came to my attention that the Oregon Albacore Commission recently requested the 25 Albacore Tuna limit currently set by Oregon Law be revisited. There were multiple 'facts' asserted by the Commission which I would like to address. Please read on.

The Commission has expressed concern over the 25 tuna per person per day limit, and has framed their concerns as follows:

“The OAC has, for many years, had concerns regarding two main issues.

- 1. The increasing capitalization of recreational vessels.*
- 2. The illegal sale of recreationally caught albacore.*

The 25 fish bag limit was originally intended to allow for a single recreational fisherman to catch a limit from a small boat on those rare occasions when albacore tuna came near enough to shore for the typical recreational vessel to get enough to feed their extended family. The 25 fish bag limit has attracted “recreation” that looks nothing like that as intended.”

The Commission claims the sport fleet is capitalizing on the current bag limit, which has been in place for as long as I can remember. However, the only proof the Commission provided was that the sport fleet is 'capitalizing' on the catch limit is a 9% increase in 2023. However, as one of the sport boats who fished the 2023 season, it was a banner year that generated a great deal of excitement within the community and brought new fishermen to the hobby, and allowed people who would not normally fish for albacore tuna to try their hand at the sport.

These myopic statistics do not equate to 'capitalization'. There is far more at play in whether recreational boats take part in fishing in any particular season. I suspect if an actual examination of the statistics were made you would find the participation in the recreational sport of Albacore Tuna fishing ebbs and flows with things such as the proximity of tuna to land, the condition of the economy, and the great deal of disposable income it takes to participate in the sport.

The Commission has asserted they have a concern about illegal sale of recreationally caught albacore, but yet have provided zero proof of this, except to say the alleged problem has triggered a response from the Oregon State Police. What response would that be? We don't know because they did not say. Frankly, this is an allegation in search of facts. I have no doubt if the Commission had any facts in

regards to this we would have heard about it, but they did not express any facts and thus don't have them to share.

“There is now a sizable fleet of dedicated, custom built recreational vessels, each costing up to hundreds-of-thousands-of-dollars with the ability to travel, at speed, 50 plus miles offshore, carrying up to 6 passengers and having the capacity to pack up to 200 fish at a time. These boats are trailered anywhere in the state overnight enabling them to quickly access “bites” and weather conditions that allow them to “limit out” over and over during the course of the summer. This is clearly not the “feed one’s family” model as intended.”

Again, the Commission is stating things as fact with no data to back their claims up, here. I'm not aware of any sport fishing vessel that is capable of carrying 200 Albacore Tuna. I would venture to guess your average vessel that fishes for Albacore Tuna is in the size range of 22 to 25 feet in length, and far fewer exceeding 25 feet in length. I happen to have a 28 foot long Hewescraft Alaskan 270 that was purpose build for Albacore Tuna fishing. The most fish I can carry in a 450 quart 'half tote' and two saddle boxes in about 60 tuna, give or take, depending on size. A 22 to 25 foot boat will only be able to carry 20 to 40 tuna. I had a 22 foot Thunderjet and the most tuna I was able to carry was about 30. You must factor in weight of fish, weight of ice, weight of equipment and weight of people.

If your average Albacore tuna weighs 14 pounds, as the Commission claims, that comes out to 2800 pounds of tuna alone, not to mention the ice to keep that amount of tuna cold and fresh. From my personal experience it takes approximately 500 pounds of ice to service 55 fish, which was the best catch we have made on my boat thus far. So if I were to extrapolate their claim of 200 tuna at 14 pounds average that would amount approximately 1,500 pounds of ice and 2,800 pounds of tuna, for a total of 4,300 pounds. I can assure you that kind of weight would exceed all but the largest of boats in the 35 foot to 50 foot LOA boats. These kinds of boats are so large, and so costly they are out of reach by almost all recreational fishermen in the State of Oregon. If you have the kind of money it takes to purchase and run a boat of this size, you do not need to chase commercial tuna and claim it as recreational.

As for trailering a 35-50 foot long vessel, I had to laugh at that one. My 28 foot long boat is difficult to trailer, costs a lot of money to do so, and is the largest boat you can trailer legally without over-sized permits required to move the vessel due to the Over-Dimension length, width and height requirements in the State of Oregon.

The Commission is asserting things as fact that are, on their face false, and they have completely failed to take into account real world numbers. In short, the Commission's claims are ridiculous on their face.

We've known for decades that the 25 fish per day bag limit has been problematic. I believe that such a high bag limit with no annual cap in large part contributed to the over-capitalization of the recreational fleet. For years it was common knowledge that recreational fish were being canned, both at home and at licensed canners, and were being sold to snow-bird markets in the southwest. During the same period as that was happening commercial fishing businesses, with the support of the Oregon Albacore Commission, were trying to develop private label markets to mitigate for the loss of interest in our fishery by the "big three" tuna canners who went overseas in the late nineties.

Recently specialty buyers have sprung up that buy specifically from the "sport commercial"

boats who, in my opinion, are cosplaying as commercial fishermen, so they don't have to follow the recreational bag limit rules. The buyers of those fish then corrupt the market with cheap fish therefore souring the market for commercial fishermen who are trying to earn a living out of the local marketplace.

Again, these are opinions stated without facts to back them up. In all my years of recreational ocean fishing I have never heard of, seen, or caught a glimpse of cans of Albacore Tuna fish mysteriously appearing in the Southwest, as the Commission has claimed. I suspect if it were true the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and like entities in whatever state our tuna supposedly appeared in, would have conducted an interstate investigation and would have put an end to the practice. But no evidence of this was provided by the commission.

Having recently looked into the Highly Migratory Species Permit, which the State of Oregon sells to recreational vessels, I did not have one of these small fish buyers return a call to me. I contacted many restaurants, fish markets, and other end consumers of tuna to determine if there was enough of a market there that I could make enough cash to pay for the boat, the operating costs and a small amount of profit to cover the short migratory season for Albacore Tuna. The answer to my question, through my research, was no. There was no market for recreationally caught Albacore Tuna.

Second of all, the large fish purchasing companies such as Pacific Seafood and Wild Planet Seafood out of Sacramento, CA no longer buy Albacore Tuna unless it's brine flash frozen. This fact alone would preclude every recreational fisherman and recreational boat that I'm aware of from participating in catching and selling to the large markets.

In short, there is NO MARKET for recreational Albacore Tuna fisherman to catch and sell in Oregon. I suspect if we asked ODFW to provide to us the number of these permits they actually sell each year it is a deminimis number.

“• Each 25 fish bag limit of 14-pound average weight fish yields between 350 and 450 cans/jars of meat.

• Recreational boats often offer “seats” in exchange for “gas money”, which skirts the legal bounds of a charter operation, negatively impacting the legally licensed chart industry.

• Illegal Albacore sales are now significant enough to have triggered a response from Oregon State Police (OSP).

• Recreational catch in 2023 showed a 9% INCREASE (Source ODFW)

• Commercial landings in 2023 saw a 63% DECREASE (Source ODFW)

• The average number of recreational fish landed per person per recreational day in 2023 was 3.8 (Source ODFW)

After considerable discussion the OAC concluded that 75 fish per season is their recommended limit for recreational fishermen.”

The Commission stated that recreational boats offer seats in exchange for gas money as though this is illegal. There is no 'skirting' anything, either the practice is legal or it is not legal. The practice is perfectly legal in the State of Oregon, and I find it absolutely shameful and ridiculous the Commission is somehow attempting to claim that recreational boats looking for a few fishing buddies to take out fishing is somehow going to impact the the commercial fishing industry, or the charter boat industry in this state.

I am one of those boats that occasionally posts up on Facebook groups that I'm looking to add a new

crew member or two. When running an expensive sport boat such as mine, it's important to cost share for fuel only, to help spread the load. On average I take three people, and myself on a trip, if I can. At times it's only two or three people. However, sometimes friends move away, buy their own boat, or life circumstances change for them, and I then look for a new person who fits the dynamic of my boat, to add into the mix. There is nothing wrong with adding a few people to my boat to share fuel, friendship and an opportunity to fish the Oregon coast. These aren't people who would charter a boat, and this certainly doesn't effect the charter boats at all. There are very few people who want to fish as I do, and are available when I am, so it's nice to be able to call on a few of my friends to put a crew together in order to splash the boat. This practice doesn't effect the commercial fishing industry at all, and the Commission's claim in this regard is silly.

The Commission also stated that commercial Albacore Tuna fishing landings decreased by 63 percent. I proffer up that if the commercial fish buyers are paying such a low rate per pound for Albacore Tuna the fishermen couldn't afford to put their boat to sea. My direct knowledge of that situation in 2023 was that Pacific Seafood was paying \$2.00 per pound at one point in the season, and it may have even become worse. I spoke with several commercial fishermen would stated specifically they couldn't fish at that rate and their boats were remaining in port. There is no factual way that commercial fishing could be impacted to such a significant degree as it is presented by the commission in their letter to you, according to the alleged evidence they have put forward. While I don't understand the dynamics of the commercial fishing industry, I can safely say that the recreational fleet isn't impacting the commercial fleet. If the buys will pay a better rate, the fishermen will fish. Period. End of story. It's Economics 101, and a case of supply and demand. Either way, this is not a recreational fisherman's problem. It's a problem between commercial fishermen and buyers.

The Commission stated above, "*The average number of recreational fish landed per person per recreational day in 2023 was 3.8*". While I question all of the Commission's facts, and their honesty at this point, they have admitted themselves the recreational impact to the commercial fishing industry is minimal at best, with the above number.

Some things to consider are:

1. There are a very small number of recreational vessels which are capable of going 50 miles offshore. We're a small subset of the folks that fish on the ocean. Most saltwater recreational fisherman won't fish offshore for Albacore Tuna because it's too far out for them, and they are not geared properly, their boat is too small, or they don't have the seamanship required to make such trips.
2. There are very few days in which most recreational fishermen can fish, even during the summer. Limitations are created by bad weather, people's job requirements (most people work 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday), and if a bad weather event occurs on a weekend, the opportunity is lost.
3. Most recreational fisherman can only go fishing for Albacore Tuna a couple of times a year due to work requirements, family requirements, and prohibitive costs involved.
4. The vast majority of recreational fishing boats can carry no more than 20-40 tuna. There are rare exceptions such as my boat, that can carry 60 tuna. The alleged facts presented by the Commission in this regard are highly inflated at best.
5. There is no market in Oregon for recreational fishermen to sell sport caught tuna. The marketplace is saturated with fish caught and sold by commercial fishermen, and small buyers aren't buying.

Unfortunately the Commission has decided there is a problem within the commercial fishing fleet, and the recreational fisherman is to blame. It's also unfortunate that they have produced such a letter, which can only be described as a bunch of lies, and put them forth as fact. I hope that for whatever reason, or whatever motivated their letter, they are able fix their perceived problems. However, they won't fix anything by contributing to the restrictions proposed on the recreational tuna fishermen in the State of Oregon.

I hope you will consider what I've presented. You're welcome to contact me with any followup questions you may have. Thank you very much for your time.

Sean Thomas
Canby, Oregon

SPANSEL Linda D * ODFW

From: North Miller-Root <nmlerroot7331@student.pps.net>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 8:52 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Fishing License Cheaper For Youth

Categories: Fish, Licensing

You don't often get email from nmlerroot7331@student.pps.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

North Miller-Root
4345 SE 35th AVE
Portland 97202

2 June 2025

ODFW Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear ODFW Commission,

I am an angler who lives in Portland, Oregon. One of the biggest problems among kids and teens today is screen time. As a teenager myself, I often find myself stuck inside just mindlessly scrolling or doing nothing productive. My friends and I have recently discovered our love for fishing and being able to connect with different species of fish. Despite fishing licenses being 10 dollars for anyone under 18, it is still challenging for teenagers to pay that price because of no job, expenses spent on other things, or other factors. I believe we should make fishing licenses for kids free and get people outdoors for once.

As a teenager myself, I often feel stuck inside or staring at a screen. Fishing is my way of disconnecting and enjoying time out in the wilderness. As I have picked up fishing, I have been able to pass it along to my friends, and we often fish every weekend. The one problem that stands in the way is fishing licenses. I have tried to get my other friends into fishing, but they often complain about buying a license. Along with having to pay for gear and gas, fishing can be very pricey. The cost of a license tips it over for most kids who tend not to have much money to spend on hobbies such as fishing.

Teens already have to spend lots of money on a rod, lure/bait, gas, and anything else they may need to have a fun and successful day. Everyone I have talked to who wants to fish says they enjoy being out in the open and getting outside. Typically, these teens aren't coming out to catch fish to eat, and they usually just do it to connect with wildlife and have a fun time in the outdoors. However, creating a price to fish restricts these kids from getting out and tends to keep them inside instead.

I think the ODFW should let everyone under 18 fish for free because it will create opportunities for everyone to enjoy Oregon's beauty without having to charge kids to fish. Creating a license that is completely free but still has teens agree to catch no more than the limit for each species of fish, and keeping the areas clean, is the best option. This can allow kids to get out and enjoy all of Oregon's amazing fishing options and get off their screens.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective. I truly believe that making youth fishing licenses free in Oregon would encourage more kids like me to connect with nature, build healthier habits, and enjoy Oregon's incredible natural resources.

Sincerely,

North Miller-Root

From: Alex Woolen
E-mail: Awoolen42@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder Recreational spearfisher and ODFW Fish biologist
Sent on: Tuesday, 7/29/2025 11:52:31 AM
Subject: 2026-2027 Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement
Comment:

I am highly in favor of opening bass, walleye, and all other non-native fish species to spearfishing. These species are often responsible for significant ecological damage, and often have very lax hook-and-line restrictions (see smallmouth in the John Day) that acknowledge this reality. Restricting spearfishing as an acceptable harvest method has been a decision based on keeping a small but vocal subset of the population happy. This has limited recreation opportunities for people who would like to engage with the resource via spearfishing, which is less traditional but ethically and environmentally sound. This will bring in more license sales dollars!

From: Alan Bergen
E-mail: tryalan@alumni.usc.edu
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder General Public
Sent on: Tuesday, 7/29/2025 1:30:32 PM
Subject: 2026-2027 Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement
Comment:

My comment is in regards to the cost of an angling license for seniors. I am eighty-six years old and I have been an Oregon resident for forty-one years. My primary source of income is social security. As a senior, I pay \$29.00 for an annual angling license. In order to qualify for a \$6.00 pioneer license, I have to have been an Oregon resident for fifty years, which means I have to wait till I'm ninety-five years old. Although \$23.00 might not seem like much, it is for people on a fixed income. The fifty year requirement is an arbitrary number. In my opinion, the age limit can be held at sixty-five, and the residence requirement reduced to twenty or twenty-five years, giving more senior residents a twenty-three dollar break. The monetary loss of \$23.00/license will easily be made up by the increase in the number of seniors who would qualify for a pioneer license. We would still have to pay for salmon tags, shellfish endorsements and other add ons. If this request is not being read by someone who decides on license fees, please forward it to someone who does. I would also like to receive a response, telling me what has become of my comment. Alan Bergen, Lake Oswego resident

From: Bryce Falk
E-mail: Brycefalk8@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder Public
Sent on: Tuesday, 7/29/2025 2:46:23 PM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement
Comment:

I like the proposed changes. I have found myself confused by the kokanee regulations. I like having more coho opportunities around. I also like reducing non native fish in a way that provides new opportunities. Thanks

From: Jim Muck
E-mail: Jim.B.Muck@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder Oregon Angler Association, Ex-ODFW, Ex-NOAA Fisheries
Sent on: Tuesday, 7/29/2025 5:42:57 PM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement
Comment:

Open Smallmouth Bass fishing in the South Umpqua River from May 1 to November 30. This would open the South Umpqua to fishing of smallmouth bass year around. Use of bait allowed. The South Umpqua is currently closed to snagging of adult fall Chinook. Winter Steelhead and coho salmon is allowed January 1 to April 30. The additional catch of smolts during the month of May is acceptable. We need to rid all smallmouth in the Umpqua River.

Dear ODFW Commission:

I'm commenting to the 2026-2027 sport fish new regulation's proposal.

Part: Tillamook Bay sturgeon fishing amendment. OSP and their lack of being on the water to regulate poachers from breaking the law should never determine the fishery of any fish species. It is evidential that OSP has identified a specific location of high poaching area. Then they can concentrate their efforts on managing and enforcing the ODFW'S regulations, while not taking the rights away from law abiding citizens. No excuses made. Furthermore, sturgeon needs to be managed on the Tillamook Bay/ River in a way that there is a catch limit.

Part: McKenzie River and Tributaries. Coho are an ESA listed fish species, and because Coho are listed, it causes a substantial landslide of governmental control from the top down with how landowners can utilize river front property, agriculture, residential, commercial, creeks, and streams. Along with countless flood zoning and wetland Laws/regulations. This

overreach of governed regulations is costing communities exuberant expenses, time, and effort that is not freely accessible. Since coho fish are listed, there should be no fishery for Coho until that species is delisted. It's a slap in the face to be controlled by ESA listed coho and allow any catch of coho. ODFW makes money on sales of license and tags, while landowners pay money to manage or denied the use of coho inhabited water ways and zones. No excuses.

Michael Blankenship, Conservationist
7/30/2025

From: Jeffrey Busch
E-mail: busch@teleport.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder Outdoor recreational stakeholder
Sent on: Friday, 8/1/2025 9:42:09 AM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement
Comment:

The higher number of coho up the Willamette may be a short blip. I'd prefer to check the runs from year to year so a change back to temporary is not needed in two years

From: Robin Pritchett
E-mail: Rpritchett246@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder General public, fisherman
Sent on: Friday, 8/1/2025 9:46:07 AM
Subject: Regulations for the 2025 Salmon Season & Bag Limits in the Coquille River

Comment:
Thank you for being so proactive in restoring this fishery! We are very excited about this proposal and look forward to be able to fish for salmon in the Coquille River this year.

From: Jeffrey Busch
E-mail: busch@teleport.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder Outdoor recreational stakeholder
Sent on: Friday, 8/1/2025 9:52:54 AM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations Authorization and
Comment: Ocean Endorsement
I like the proposed changes to the John Day River steelhead changes and the changes to Plympton creek for wild coho

From: Dave Jones
E-mail: cougardave57@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder General Public
Sent on: Friday, 8/1/2025 12:40:30 PM
Subject: Regulations for the 2025 Salmon Season & Bag Limits in the Coquille River
Comment:
We raised our kids fishing the Coquille River. We are proud of the work being done by the Tribe and ODFW to restore the river and look forward fishing the "Home Water" again.

From: R and T
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: salmon sport fishing request
Date: Sunday, August 3, 2025 12:14:17 PM

Good afternoon,

I would like to make a request/proposal to those that regulate the rules of the sport salmon fishing. Instead of throwing back natives, it would make sense to keep the first fish you catch and be done. One of my friends today had to throw back 7 natives before catching the fish that are allowed for the sport salmon fishery. They were fishing out of Newport Oregon. As you know, depending on the depth of the hook, most likely more fish died in the process of throwing them back, than if they were allowed to just keep the first fish that are caught and be done.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Theresa Capri, Newport, OR

From: Adam Piasky
E-mail: apiasky@msn.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder General Public
Sent on: Thursday, 8/14/2025 8:07:33 AM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulation and Ocean Endorsement

Comment:

The sturgeon fishery in Bonneville pool should be changed to slot limit of 42"-54". I read to where research states not many fish is this slot size but there are a lot of fish kept in this range. Give the fishery a chance to last a couple weeks and spread out the effort. A 38" fish does not have much meat compared to a 42" fish.

From: Mason Murphy
E-mail: Masonkmurphy@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder Public
Sent on: Saturday, 8/16/2025 1:06:29 PM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement

Comment:

Please pass the spear fishing regulations for bass and walleye. It is sorely needed for conservation and it's an excellent way to fish.

From: Tyler Stormo <stormot Tyler@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2025 9:14 PM
To: ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations * ODFW
<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Statewide Spearfishing For Bass and Walleye

Hello,

As a lifelong Oregon resident, and avid fisherman, I would like to voice my support for the expansion of spear fishing for bass and walleye. I believe that the proposed expansion of spear fishing opportunities for invasive species would be an ecological, and economic, win for Oregon.

Best regards, Tyler Stormo

From: Joshua Crooke
E-mail: Jkcrooke@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder General Public
Sent on: Saturday, 8/16/2025 9:50:45 PM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulation and Ocean Endorsement
Comment:

Allowing spearfishing for sport fish such as bass/walleye will keep me buying licenses in Oregon. Our natural resource in native Salmon is far more important than preserving competitive fishing for destructive invasive species.

From: Jim Myron <myurons@canby.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2025 2:25 PM
To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW
<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Spear Fishing for Bass and Walleye

ODFW has known for decades that introduced exotic fish like bass and walleye are predating on migrating salmon and steelhead smolts. But little has been done by the state of Oregon to try and address this problem. So its gratifying to see that this issue is finally being brought before the commission.

But relying on spear fishers to try and solve the problem is not the problem is not the solution. The effect that spear fishing would have on bass and walleye populations may not even be measurable. Much more must be done.

One sure method that has the potential to be effective is to remove introduced exotic fish like bass and walleye from the list of Oregon's game fish. This action would eliminate the need for a person to purchase an angling license and would allow almost any method for harvesting the fish.

And it would not require the payment of a bounty to encourage anglers to fish. – Jim Myron, Canby

From: Mason Hinchcliff <mason.hinchcliff@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 9:28 PM

To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW

<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: In support of expanded spearfishing opportunities

I would be in support of expanding freshwater spearfishing opportunities. This method of fishing is selective, helpful in targeting unwanted species, and has limited by catch. The relative proportion of spearfishermen to conventional anglers should engender little concern of any significant effect on statewide or regional populations of bass and walleye species. I would look forward to the opportunity to expanded recreational opportunities in the state's waters with this proposed change. -Mason Hinchcliff

From: Bill Aney <aneykblj@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 11:56 AM

To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW

<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Bass and walleye spearfishing

I am in full support of any means of reducing the numbers of non native fish species in our salmon streams, including spear fishing.

Frankly, I would prefer that ODFW not manage hunting and fishing opportunities for non-native fish and wildlife - bass, walleye, eastern brook trout, turkeys, etc., but would instead encourage the hunting and fishing pressure on these species by the most liberal means possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Bill Aney, Pendleton OR

From: William Richmond
E-mail: piperwillrichmond@gmail.com
Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder General Public
Sent on: Monday, 8/18/2025 8:26:31 AM
Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement
Comment:

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed regulation change regarding spearfishing for bass and walleye in Oregon's rivers and streams, as outlined in Proposal Number 1, Page 19 of the Statewide Game Fish Harvest Methods section. I, I believe this proposal represents a positive step forward for both anglers and conservation in Oregon. The spearfishing community is committed to ethical and responsible practices, which are a perfect complement to traditional angling methods. On a personal note, I frequently spearfish the Willamette River near Corvallis and have seen firsthand how this method can be used to responsibly target invasive species such as carp and pike minnow. This proposal would allow us to contribute to the management of bass and walleye populations, which in turn can help reduce pressure on native Oregon species. Spearfishing is an inherently selective and ethical harvest method. It allows the diver to make a precise identification of the species and size of the fish before taking a shot, virtually eliminating the issue of bycatch. Furthermore, the practice promotes a deep sense of stewardship for our waterways and the aquatic life within them. Spearfishers spend countless hours in the water, gaining an intimate understanding of the ecosystem and its health. Allowing spearfishing for these specific species will provide a new and valuable opportunity for responsible sportsmen. This will not only expand a popular alternative fishing method but will also empower a community that is already dedicated to the conservation of Oregon's natural resources. Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. As a committed spearfisherman and conservationist, I am in full support of this change, and I am confident it will lead to a more balanced approach to fishery management and a healthier future for Oregon's rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

William Richmond, Philomath, OR

From: Will Richmond <piperwillrichmond@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 8:41 AM
To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW
<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Comment in Favor of Proposal Number 1, Page 19. New Angling Opportunity

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed regulation change regarding spearfishing for bass and walleye in Oregon's rivers and streams, as outlined in Proposal Number 1, Page 19 of the Statewide Game Fish Harvest Methods section. I, I believe this proposal represents a positive step forward for both anglers and conservation in Oregon. The spearfishing community is committed to ethical and responsible practices, which are a perfect complement to traditional angling methods. On a personal note, I frequently spearfish the Willamette River near Corvallis and have seen firsthand how this method can be used to responsibly target invasive species such as carp and pike minnow. This

proposal would allow us to contribute to the management of bass and walleye populations, which in turn can help reduce pressure on native Oregon species.

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Allowing spearfishing for these specific species will provide a new and valuable opportunity for responsible sportsmen. This will not only expand a popular alternative fishing method but will also empower a community that is already dedicated to the conservation of Oregon's natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. As a committed spearfisherman and conservationist, I am in full support of this change, and I am confident it will lead to a more balanced approach to fishery management and a healthier future for Oregon's rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

William Richmond, Philomath, OR

From: Archer Mayo <beholdthemayo@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:36 AM

To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW
<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: bass spear fishing support

thank you for this proposal. I have worked as a professional Search and recovery Diver in the Columbia and adjacent Waters for more than a decade. It is very upsetting to me to see the amount of very mature bass in the depths of the Columbia and the lack of Salmon and steelhead fish.

I think allowing spearfishing of these species not only helps to control the species but helps people to feel empowered to dive in the river and see the conditions that the river is in from underneath, which, I have found to be very disturbing. The amount of waste, and garbage On the bottom of these local rivers is upsetting and I feel that more people being invited to free dive in the rivers will help increase understanding of our role and protecting these waterways. Also, allowing the spearing of northern Pikeminnow would not be misplaced.

Archer Mayo, white Salmon Washington.

From: Sky Walker <astrobug101@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 2:28 PM
To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW
<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Spearfishing Columbia river

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed regulation change regarding spearfishing for bass and walleye in Oregon's rivers and streams, as outlined in Proposal Number 1, Page 19 of the Statewide Game Fish Harvest Methods section.

I, I believe this proposal represents a positive step forward for both anglers and conservation in Oregon. The spearfishing community is committed to ethical and responsible practices, which are a perfect complement to traditional angling methods. On a personal note, I frequently spearfish the Willamette River near Corvallis and have seen firsthand how this method can be used to responsibly target invasive species such as carp and pike minnow. This proposal would allow us to contribute to the management of bass and walleye populations, which in turn can help reduce pressure on native Oregon species.

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Allowing spearfishing for these specific species will provide a new and valuable opportunity for responsible sportsmen. This will not only expand a popular alternative fishing method but will also empower a community that is already dedicated to the conservation of Oregon's natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. As a committed spearfisherman and conservationist, I am in full support of this change, and I am confident it will lead to a more balanced approach to fishery management and a healthier future for Oregon's rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Jo Cruz, The Dalles OR

From: Trevor Main <t.mainproperties@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:30 AM
To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW
<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Spear fishing

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed regulation change regarding spearfishing for bass and walleye in Oregon's rivers and streams, as outlined in Proposal Number 1, Page 19 of the Statewide Game Fish Harvest Methods section.

I, I believe this proposal represents a positive step forward for both anglers and conservation in Oregon. The spearfishing community is committed to ethical and responsible practices, which are a perfect complement to traditional angling methods. On a personal note, I frequently spearfish the Willamette River near Corvallis and have seen firsthand how this method can be used to responsibly target invasive species such as carp and pike minnow. This proposal would allow us to contribute to the management of bass and walleye populations, which in turn can help reduce pressure on native Oregon species.

Spearfishing is an inherently selective and ethical harvest method. It allows the diver to make a precise identification of the species and size of the fish before taking a shot, virtually eliminating the issue of bycatch. Furthermore, the practice promotes a deep sense of stewardship for our waterways and the aquatic life within them. Spearfishers spend countless hours in the water, gaining an intimate understanding of the ecosystem and its health.

Allowing spearfishing for these specific species will provide a new and valuable opportunity for responsible sportsmen. This will not only expand a popular alternative fishing method but will also empower a community that is already dedicated to the conservation of Oregon's natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. As a committed spearfisherman and conservationist, I am in full support of this change, and I am confident it will lead to a more balanced approach to fishery management and a healthier future for Oregon's rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Trevor Main, Bend, OR

From: Josh Humbert <joshhumbertofficial@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 2:08 PM

To: ODFW SportFishingRegulations * ODFW
<odfw.sportfishingregulations@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Spearfishing to save salmon

Hello,

I wanted to voice my opinion regarding the proposed regulation change that would allow free dive spearfishermen to target smallmouth and walleye in Oregon. I think this is an excellent idea for anyone who cares for the anadromous fish of our state.

I would also like to see it include striped bass that are present in the states southern most rivers. It's no secret how many smolt they are able to eat as well.

Thank you and I look forward to this great progress for our salmon and steelhead fisheries.
Best regards,

Josh Humbert (503)896-4459

From: Stephen w Voth

E-mail: Stevevoth52@gmail.com

Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder General public

Sent on: Wednesday, 8/20/2025 3:51:52 PM

Subject: Regulations for the 2025 Salmon Season & Bag Limits in the Coquille River

Comment:

Would like to take my sister salmon fishing in the Coquille river

From: Philip Tracy

E-mail: Phil_t83@outlook.com

Affiliation or Type of Stakeholder general public

Sent on: Monday, 8/25/2025 9:34:59 PM

Subject: 2026-27 Recreational Sport Fishing Regulations and Ocean Endorsement

Comment:

Change baker county to be included in the Northeast section, it makes zero sense to include it with rivers around found around Klamath falls. For example, Thief Valley Reservoir, 20 miles east of La Grande, is in the southeast zone. .



August 29, 2025

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov

Re: Input on 2026-2027 Sportfishing Regulation Changes (September 12, 2025 Meeting)

Dear Chair Wahl, Vice-Chair Hatfield-Hyde, and Members of the Commission,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a non-profit dedicated to conserving cold-water fish (such as trout, salmon, and steelhead) and their habitats. Our organization has more than 350,000 members and supporters nationwide, including many members in Oregon.

Over the past several months, TU staff have met with ODFW biologists regarding the proposed 2026-27 angling regulation changes. We've provided recommendations to the Department for the 2026-2027 sportfishing regulation book, and in many instances, TU's suggestions overlapped with ODFW's staff proposals.

Trout Unlimited supports many of the proposed 2026-2027 angling regulation proposals, especially including adjustments in the Southeast region related to conserving unique populations of wild trout and salmon.

We have reviewed the "2026-2027 Draft Sportfishing Regulation Proposals" circulated for public review,¹ and provide the following additional input for the Commission's consideration:

Southeast Region

- Burnt River (mouth to BLM property line): TU *supports* the proposal to change the daily bag limit from 5 rainbow trout per day to 2 rainbows per day. The existing bag limit—which is higher than the standard zone regulation—dates to a period when ODFW planted the Burnt River with hatchery trout. ODFW no longer releases hatchery trout in the Burnt River, and applying the zone regulation will help conserve the wild, self-reproducing population while still allowing modest harvest opportunities.
- Eagle Creek (including East and West Forks): TU *supports* the proposal to change the daily bag limit from 5 rainbow trout per day to 2 rainbows per day. Like the Burnt

¹ Available at: <https://myodfw.com/articles/2026-2027-draft-sportfishing-regulation-proposals>

River, ODFW no longer releases hatchery rainbows in Eagler Creek. Reducing the bag limit will help conserve the wild, self-reproducing population while still allowing modest harvest opportunities.

- North Fork Sprague River and Tributaries: TU *supports* the proposal to remove the daily bag limit on brown trout. This watershed is one of several in the upper Klamath basin where non-native trout overlap with the distribution of native redbands (and other endemic fish species). Brown trout are piscivorous, and large fish in particular predate upon other fish including wild redbands. Allowing increased harvest of brown trout could reduce the pressure on native trout in the North Fork Sprague.
- Spencer Creek: TU *supports* the proposal to shorten trout season in Spencer Creek. This small stream is where many of the Chinook salmon returned after Klamath Dams removal. The current permanent regulation for Spencer Creek allows trout fishing until October 31st, which could result in anglers overlapping on the stream with repopulating salmon. Shortening trout season to end on September 30th will continue to allow trout fishing on the stream, but helps returning ensure Chinook salmon aren't disturbed.

Statewide

- Spearfishing for Bass in All Streams: TU *supports* the proposal to allow spearfishing for bass and walleye in all streams.

Thank you for considering these comments, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Fraser
Oregon Policy Director
Trout Unlimited
james.fraser@tu.org