Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes



Meeting: Friday, August 15, 2025–8:00 AM Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Virtual Meeting

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

Salem, OR 97302

2 3 4

5

6

Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those attending part or all the meeting included:

Mary Wahl, Chair Debbie Colbert, Director Becky Hatfield-Hyde, Vice Chair Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer Bob Spelbrink, Commissioner Shaun Clements, Deputy Director of Fish & Wildlife Programs Mark Labhart, Commissioner Nick Myatt, East Region Manager Leslie King, Commissioner Mike Gauvin, Acting West Region Manager Dallas Hall Defrees, Commissioner -Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator virtual Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant Casey Thomas, Captain Oregon State Police Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General

7 8

MEETING

9 10

On Friday, August 15, 2025, at 8:00 AM, Chair Wahl called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) meeting to order.

111213

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1415

Field Reports – in written form only; this report is available in the meeting materials and at https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-08/Field%20Report%20Aug%202025.pdf

1617

18

19

COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT & 2025-27 LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED BUDGET UPDATE

Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer

20 21

Ken reported, as of June 30, 2025, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported a total

cash balance of \$162.3 million, with \$73.3 million unrestricted (including \$20.5 million in 2020

wildfire insurance funds) and \$89.0 million restricted, boosted by \$13.25 million in new lottery bond funds for fish and wildlife passage projects. Financial performance for the 2023–25

25 biennium is on track, with expenditures at about 72% of the budget and revenues meeting

1	forecasts. During the 2025 legislative session, several key bills passed and were signed into law,					
2	forming the agency's 2025–27 budget, including measures for license fees, Columbia Basin					
3	Endorsement, hatchery maintenance, and capital improvements. The budget allocates significan					
4	resources to fish (\$261.1M), wildlife (\$109.4M), and habitat (\$95.2M) programs, alongside					
5	administration, enforcement, debt service, and capital projects.					
6						
7	This report is available in the meeting materials and at					
8	https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-					
9	<u>08/Presentation Financial%20Report LAB%20Update%208-15-25.pdf</u>					
10						
11	SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY					
12	Mikal Cline, Upland Game Bird Coordinator					
13	Skyler Vold, Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator					
14	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
15	This report is available in the meeting materials and at					
16	https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-08/Directors%20Report %20Sage-					
17	grouse%20CAAS%20Update 8-15-25.pdf					
18						
19	Adopt Temporary Rules					
20	Debbie Colbert, Director, requested the Commission ratify the following temporary rules. The					
21	fourteen (14) temporary rules were previously adopted by the director under her emergency					
22	action authority.					
23						
24	1.) 635-041-0072					
25	Allow Sale of Warmwater Species Caught in Columbia River Treaty Indian Research					
26	Fishery					
27	Adopted: 7/17/2025 Effective Date: 7/21/2025 through 9/7/2025					
28	This amended rule provides state authorization of sales of yellow perch, bass, walleye,					
29	catfish, carp, and northern pikeminnow caught in a new Treaty Indian research fishery in					
30	several backwater areas and sloughs of the John Day Pool to reflect recent tribal action					
31	to open this fishery.					
32						
33	2.) 635-004-0275					
34	Federal Actions Implemented for Commercial Groundfish Fisheries					
35	Adopted: 7/21/2025 Effective Date: 7/21/2025 through 12/31/2025					
36	This amended rule adopts in-season actions previously adopted by the federal					
37	government for 2025 Pacific Coast Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access commercia					
38	groundfish fisheries, including, but not limited to, catch limit increases for sablefish.					
39						
40						
41	3.) 635-004-0585					
42	Adopt Federal Rule for Commercial Pacific Halibut Fisheries					
43	Adonted: 7/22/2025 Effective Date: 7/22/2025 through 7/24/2025					

1		This amended rule adopts the federal rules published in the federal register on July 22,
2		2025 for the 2025 Pacific halibut directed commercial fishery to add a fishing period, July
3		22 through July 24, 2025, with a fishing period catch limit of 5,000 pounds (2.3 metric
4		tons) dressed weight, per vessel. This action is intended to provide opportunity to
5		achieve the 2025 non-Tribal directed commercial fishery allocation.
6		
7	4.)	635-041-0076
8	·	Authorizing Sales in Treaty Commercial Summer Fisheries
9		Adopted: 7/23/2025 Effective Date: 7/24/2025 through 7/31/2025
10		This amended rule authorizes the sale of fish caught in the following treaty fisheries:
11		• Gillnet fishery in Zone 6 (upstream of Bonneville Dam) from July 24 through July 26,
12		and
13		• Gillnet fishery in Zone 6 (upstream of Bonneville Dam) from July 28 through July 31.
14		Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife
15		for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Compact hearing on July
16		23, 2025.
17		
18	5.)	635-041-0045, 635-041-0075
19		Authorize Sales for Columbia River Treaty Commercial Fall Fisheries
20		Adopted: 7/30/2025 Effective Date: 8/1/2025 through 12/31/2025
21		These amended rules authorize the sales of fish caught in treaty fisheries:
22		• Platform and hook-and-line fisheries in Zone 6 (upstream of Bonneville Dam) from
23		August 1 through December 31.
24		• Platform and hook-and-line fisheries downstream from Bonneville Dam from August 1
25		through October 31.
26		 Yakama Nation tributary fisheries from August 1 through December 31.
27		
28	6.)	635-023-0130
29		Columbia River Recreational Fall-Season Salmon/Steelhead Regulations
30		Adopted: 7/31/2025 Effective Date: 8/1/2025 through 12/31/2025
31		This amended rule sets the Columbia River recreational salmon/steelhead fisheries from
32		August 1 through December 31. This rule also closes angling in portions of the mainstem
33		Columbia River adjacent to the mouths of Eagle Creek and the Deschutes River, and that
34		portion of Herman Creek and Lagoon within the Columbia River Zone through September
35		15.
36		
37	7.)	635-017-0090
38		Allow Use of Two-Rod Validation Upstream of Willamette Falls in Certain Areas
39		Adopted: 7/31/2025 Effective Date: 8/1/2025 through 12/31/2025
40		This amended rule will allow use of two rods while angling in specific areas of the
41		Willamette Zone upstream of Willamette Falls that are open to the retention of coho
42		salmon.
43		
44	8.)	635-042-0145, 635-042-0160, 635-042-0170, 635-042-0180

1	Set Select Area Fall-Season Commercial Fisheries
2	Adopted: 7/31/2025 Effective Date: 8/1/2025 through 12/31/2025
3	These rules implement the 2025 fall-season Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs
4	Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep
5	River. Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and
6	Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Compact hearing
7	on July 23.
8	
9	9.) 635-021-0090
10	Modifications to the Thief Valley Reservoir in the Southeast Zone
11	Adopted: 7/31/2025 Effective Date: 8/1/2025 through 9/30/2025
12	Effective August 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, minimum and maximum size
13	limits, as well as the daily and possession bag limits for rainbow trout and bass are
14	suspended for the SE Zone water body known as Thief Valley Reservoir located in Unio
15	County, Oregon. Harvest will be allowed by hand, dip net, or angling. A person with a
16	valid Two-Rod Validation may use any number of rods.
17	
18	10.) 635-042-0010, 625-042-0031
19	Set Mainstem Columbia River Fall-Season Commercial Fisheries
20	Adopted: 7/31/2025 Effective Date: 8/4/2025 through 10/31/2025
21	These rules implement 2025 fall-season Columbia River mainstem (early-fall gillnet,
22	pound net, and seine) fisheries. The following fisheries are addressed by these rules:
23	Columbia River Early Fall (Zones 4-5), beach and purse seine (Zones 1-3), and pound ne
24	(Zones 1-2).
25	44)
26	11.) 635-039-0090
27	Inclusions and Modifications
28	Adopted: 8/7/2025 Effective Date: 8/8/2025 through 10/26/2025
29	This amended rule corrects the recreational bag limits and harvest limits for the bottom
30	fish fisheries, including the long-leader fishery. Modifications are consistent with action
31	taken by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on December 13, 2024.
32	12 \ 625 020 0005
33 34	12.) 635-039-0085 Halibut Seasons
35	Adopted: 8/11/2025 Effective Date: 8/11/2025 through 9/30/2025
36	This amended rule will authorize opening the Columbia River subarea all-depth fishery
37	·
38	Sundays through Fridays August 16 through September 30 only (closed on Saturdays). It the quota is attained prior to the season end date, that subarea may close early if othe
39	
40	subareas are projected to reach or exceed their allocation.
41	13.) 635-041-0075
42	Fall Salmon Seasons
43	Adopted: 8/13/2025 Effective Date: 8/18/2025 through 12/31/2025
	· · [· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

1	This amended rule will authorize opening the Columbia River subarea all-depth fishery
2	Sundays through Fridays August 16 through September 30 only (closed on Saturdays). If
3	the quota is attained prior to the season end date, that subarea may close early if other
4 5	subareas are projected to reach or exceed their allocation.
6	14.) 635-039-0090
7	Inclusions and Modifications
8	Adopted: 8/13/2025 Effective Date: 8/18/2025 through 10/26/2025
9	This rule reduces the recreational bag limit from five fish per angler to four fish per
10	angler for the traditional bottom fish fishery, as harvest limits for both black rockfish
11	and canary rockfish are projected to be exceeded if the bag limit remains at five fish. A
12	bag limit reduction from five to four during the month of August decreases the risk of
13	(1) an early season closure or (2) a three-fish bag limit. During the Oregon Fish and
14	Wildlife Commission on December 13, 2024, staff cautioned that an in-season bag limit
15	reduction could be necessary based on pre-season models and lower harvest limits for
16 17	both black rockfish and canary rockfish.
18	Action:
19	Commissioner Spelbrink moved to ratify the fourteen (14) temporary rules set forth in the August
20	15, 2025, agenda. Commissioner King seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously,
21	six (6) in favor. Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, King, Hall Defees
22	c (c) g,
23	
24	COMMISSION UPDATES
25	No Commission Action: Informational Only
26	Commissioner Labhart
27	OTHER BUSINESS
28	
29	PUBLIC FORUM
30	This part of the agenda was for comments on topics not scheduled on the agenda. The
31	Commission will be unable to take action on items brought to their attention in this forum.
32	
33	Changing Oregon's classification of Opossum to remove them from the invasive species list.
34	Jany Gonzalez
35	Jeanine Comstock
36	Loren Kelley
37	EVILIDIT A. COMMUNICCIONI MAINILITEC
38 39	EXHIBIT A: COMMISSION MINUTES
39 40	Action: Approval Commissioner Labhart moved to approve the Amended June 13 and July 11, 2025.
41	meeting minutes with continued authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Commissioner
42	King seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde,
43	Labhart, Spelbrink, King, Hall Defees
	, op =,,,,

1	mystery snails, oyster drills, and sea turtles from Noncontrolled to Prohibited status.				
2	Additionally, it proposes revisions for Controlled species: removing the neutering requirement				
3 4	for mute swans (while requiring nest destruction) and eliminating the "return-to-water" and				
5	commercial sale prohibitions for green crabs. In response to public comments, ODFW opted not				
6	to prohibit octopus due to insufficient ecological risk data and existing aquaculture reviews but did agree to correct the scientific name of the Asian small-clawed otter to align with current				
7	taxonomy.	iic Asic	an sman clawed offer to angh with current		
8	taxonomy.				
9	This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at				
10	https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-08/Ex%20C Presentation.pdf				
11	neepsily my our wroom, onees, acroams, mes, 2020	00, 27	Tobal Tresentation par		
12	Action:				
13		d OAR	Chapter 635, Division 56 as proposed by staff		
14	and shown in attachment 3. Commissioner S				
15	carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, L	•			
16	, ,				
17	ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS				
18	Award Presentation begins at a	11:00 A	AM		
19					
20	Debbie Colbert, Director				
21	Mary Wahl, Commission Chair				
22					
23	<u>Individual Awards</u>	44	Team Award: Mule Deer Management Plan		
24	Andrew Meyers	45	revision TEAM		
25	Claresa Roberson	46	Josh Smith		
	Luis Escobar	47	Don Whittaker		
27	Jorden Smith	48	Darren Clark		
28	Jacob Dittel	49	Colin Gillin		
29	Eric Hammonds	50	Jeremy Thompson		
30	Darrell Griffiths		Philip Milburn		
31	Beth Quillian	52	Derek Broman		
32	Lynn Mattes	53	Joy Lovett		
33	Discussion de Charles to divide al America	54	Camilla Kennedy		
34	Director's Choice Individual Award	55	Michelle Dennehy		
35 36	Aubree Perrenoud	56 57	Adam Baylor		
37	Managay Mantay	58	Bob Swingle Yvonne Shaw		
38	Manager Mentor	59	YVOTTTE Straw		
39	Cameron Sharpe	60			
40	DEI Award (Diversity Equity and Inclusion)	61			
41	Gway Rogers-Kirchner	62			
42	Gway Nogers Kirchiner	63			
43		64			
		01			

1	Team Award: WHART - Oregon Wildlife	16	Directors Choice TEAM: Hatchery Resiliency		
2	Human Attack Response Team	17	<u>Team</u>		
3	Jennifer Ringo	18 19	Scott Patterson		
4	Stova Niomala		Chris Lorion		
5	Paul Atwood	20	Shaun Clements		
6	Phillip Perrine	21	De all'ada (face aval alas à		
	·	22	Dave Liscia: (for our Volunteer)		
7	Mathew Vargas	23	Suzanne Linford and Bend Chapter Oregon		
8	Jamie Bowles	2425	Hunters Association (OHA) - Protect Animal		
9	Colin Gillin	26	Migration Project, Rex Parks Chapter President		
10	Brian Wolfer	27	rresident		
11	Sgt Ryan Tague (OSP)	28	<u>Landowner Steward</u>		
12	Lt Tim Schwartz (OSP)				
13	Dana Drenner	29	Dry Fly Management Co / Redside Restoration		
14	Adam Baylor	30	Project Ryder Redfield		
15					
31	EXHIBIT D STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN APPR	OVA	AL .		
32	The Commission approved revisions to Or	egor	n's State Wildlife Action Plan.		
33	Commission Action: Approval				
34	Dr. Carolyn Eckrich, State Wildlife				
35	Emily VanWyk, Wildlife Diversity I	_			
36	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wild	dlife	Division Administrator		
37					
38	Presentation: Staff provided the Commission w				
39	State Wildlife Action Plan; a science-based road				
40	proactive, voluntary measures. It highlights the	-			
41	populations, preventing further declines in at-		-		
42 43	possible. Emphasizing efficiency, SWAP uses do		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
44	Areas (COAs) and the "Compass" mapping platform to focus conservation actions, direct funding, and inform stakeholders. It integrates eight required elements, including species and				
45	habitat assessments, threats, conservation acti				
46					
47	and plan reviews mandated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Notable enhancements in this revision include adding pollution as a key conservation issue, restructuring the Conservation				
48	Toolbox to better empower public and partner engagement, integrating prior nearshore and				
49		_			
50	conservation strategies (OCS and ONS), updating species lists, and refining COA boundaries using richer data—all grounded in sound science and robust public and technical engagement.				
51	moner acta an grounded in sound solence and		ast pasie and tesimisal engagement		
52	This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at				
53	https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-0				
54					
55	Public Testimony				
	Sristi Kamal, Western Environmental Law Cent	er			
	Bob Bailey, Elakha Alliance				
	Thomas O'Neil, The Habitat Institute				

1 2 Action: 3 Commissioner Hatfield- Hyde moved to approve the department's approach to 4 addressing the eight (8) required elements of the Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan as 5 described in Attachments 1, 3 and 4 for submission to the US Fish and Wildlife Service 6 with the understanding that department staff will finalize the content and make any 7 changes necessary to transition to a web-based format. Commissioner King seconded the 8 motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, 9 Spelbrink, King, Hall Defrees 10 11 EXHIBIT E: SOUTHERN RESIDENT ORCA ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS 12 The Commission adopted Endangered Species Management Plans for Southern Resident 13 Orcas. 14 Commission Action: Approval 15 Howard Takata, Southern Resident Orca Conservation Coordinator 16 John North, Fish Division Deputy Administrator 17 Mike Brown, Marine Mammal Program Leader 18 19 20 Presentation: Staff provided the Commission with a presentation on The Oregon Department of 21 Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and Department of State 22 Lands (DSL) and the development of the Endangered Species Management Plans (ESMPs) for 23 Southern Resident Orcas, of which there are currently 73 individuals in J, K, and L pods. The 24 ESMPs covering state-managed lands outline agency roles, required management actions, 25 monitoring, public input, development process, and an 18-24-month timeline depending on 26 funding. Key threats identified include prey scarcity, vessel and noise disturbance, and 27 contaminants. ODFW's actions focus on salmon habitat restoration, hatchery enhancement, 28 contaminant reduction, noise mitigation, spill response, education, and coordination. OPRD 29 emphasizes impact avoidance and outreach during beach and territorial sea projects, while DSL 30 oversees authorizations and leads inter-agency project reviews. Other agencies such as DEQ, 31 DLCD, Marine Board, State Police (Fish and Wildlife), and DSL (non-proprietary side) have 32 supportive roles through water quality protection, policy coordination, enforcement, outreach, 33 permitting, and emergency response. The staff recommends approval of the ESMPs as submitted, 34 with possible modifications considered. 35 36 This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at 37 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-08/Ex%20E Presentation.pdf 38 39 Public Testimony Teri Wright Emma Halverson Nick Gateski Tim Ragen

Misty MacDuffee

Colin Reynolds, Defenders of Wildlife Ari Cady Ben Enticknap, Oceana David Bain, Orca Conservancy

Action:

Commissioner Labhart moved to approve the endangered species management plans submitted by the three land-owning and managing state agencies to achieve the role defined by each agency for the conservation of Southern Resident orcas; with additional direction to the department to review the ODFW plan every five years. Commissioner Hatfield Hyde seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, I, King, Hall Defrees

EXHIBIT F: 2025 REGULATIONS FOR WILD COHO SALMON IN OREGON COASTAL STREAMS

The Commission adopted rules establishing 2025 wild coho retention fisheries in Oregon coastal streams.

Commission Action: Rulemaking

Cassandra Leeman, Salmon Fisheries Analyst John North, Fish Division Deputy Administrator

Presentation: Cassandra provided the Commission with a presentation outlining continuing conservation efforts for Oregon's coastal coho salmon under the Oregon Plan and multiple state-federal regulatory frameworks, noting that recent NOAA review finds populations biologically viable. Harvest is managed under the Amendment 13 process which allows a combined ocean-and-freshwater impact of 30% for 2025 and requires NMFS approval. Compared to 2024, regulations include increased bag limits (from 2 to 3 fish in some basins), with an anticipated 33% rise in harvest opportunity. Specific season dates and daily/season limits (1 fish daily, 3 per season) are proposed for basins including Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Beaver Creek, Alsea, Siuslaw, Coos, Coquille, and Floras/New River. No season was proposed for the Umpqua basin in 2025 because of conservation concerns. The presentation concluded with a draft motion to adopt these staff recommendations for the 2025 wild coho salmon seasons.

This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-08/Ex%20F Presentation.pdf

Public Testimony

Sara Potter, Salmon Harbor Tackle & For the Love of the Tug Scott Amerman, SAA-OAA Jim Muck, OAA-OCA Conrad Gowell, Wild Fish Conservancy

Action:

Commissioner Spelbrink moved to adopt the staff recommendations for the 2025 wild coho salmon seasons in Oregon Coastal streams as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.

1 2	Commissioner King seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, I, King, Hall Defees
3	EXHIBIT G: PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD RULE REVISION
5	The Commission approved the Department Staff recommendation for amending the PFA
6	Grant Program Administrative Rules.
7	Commission Action: Rulemaking
8	Andrew Spyrka. Private Forest Accord Grant Coordinator
9	
10	Presentation: Andy provided the Commission with a presentation outlining the proposed
11	amendments to the Private Forest Accord (PFA) Grant Program rules. It highlights the program's
12	original 2021 compromise transitioning from a Habitat Conservation Plan into a grant-based
13	conservation initiative under several legislative acts and details the revision process, which
14	included public and tribal engagement throughout early to mid-2025. The proposed updates aim
15 16	to simplify and unify the grant pathway, align rule language with statute, allow pre-award work authorization, increase project flexibility, and incorporate best practices for community water
17	engagement, all designed to enhance conservation benefits for covered aquatic species.
18	engagement, an designed to enhance conservation benefits for covered aquatic species.
19	This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at
20	https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-08/Exhibit%20G Presentation.pdf
21	
22	<u>Public Testimony</u>
23	Karsyn Kendrick, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
24	Action:
25	Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde moved to approve amendments to the Private Forest Accord
26	Grant Program Oregon Administrative Rules as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.
27	Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion was carried five (5) in
28	favor; Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, King, Hall Defrees; one (1) abstained Wahl
29	
30	
31	Chair Wahladiaurnad the meeting at F.FO n m
32 33	Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.
33	
$\mathcal{I}^{\mathbf{T}}$	