TATE Michelle L * ODFW

From: Sean Nygaard <seannygaard@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 6:12 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Barbless hook requirement for salmon needs to be removed

Categories: Dir Off

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Dear Commissioners,

I'm concerned that the current requirement for using barbless hooks is counterproductive and should be removed. Studies that have shown similar salmon retention rates between the two hook types were flawed, as they only counted fish that were brought in close enough to identify the species. In practice, barbless hooks result in far more lost fish than barbed hooks, and all of those lost fish have hook injuries which could be harmful. Thus, the barbless hook rule may be harming more fish than it helps because it results in more fish hooked and more hook injuries.

Thank you for your service, and for considering my concerns.

Sean Nygaard
11850 SW 12th St, Beaverton, OR 97005
503-201-8862

TATE Michelle L * ODFW

From: Reimagine Resiliency <rr2portland@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 1:21 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Barbless hooks ONLY

Categories: Dir Off

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Greetings Commission.
Please continue the policy of outlawing barbed hooks for fishing, any species in Oregon.

Barbed hooks are the easy way for fisherman to catch fish, but causes havoc for ANY species unlucky enough to be or get hooked by a barbed hook, including protected, endangered and critically endangered species in Oregon (see bull trout, smelt, steelhead, and sea birds like the brown pelican and short tailed albatross).

Oregon is the MODEL for environmental stewardship--if you give bad fishermen/actors an inch, they will take the mile, species protection be damned.

With federal protections hanging by a thread, we must tow the line for sustainable fishing practices and invasive species management. Rip rioting via boat or hooks through our waters is the NOT the answer.

Commercial fishermen must come about before there is nothing left to catch.

Thank you.

Barb Payne, CEM, MPA, SAS
Reimagine Resiliency

TATE Michelle L * ODFW

From: Michelle.L.TATE@odfw.oregon.gov
Subject: FW: moxleys (my) take on barbless

From: Bob <northriverscout139@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 12:03 PM
To: NORTH John A * ODFW <John.A.North@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Subject: moxleys (my) take on barbless

I'm writing to the Commission today in support of barbed hooks. As a 5th generation Oregonian living in the NW part of the state, I along with my family have enjoyed the vast fishing opportunities that our amazing state has to offer. My family continues to be very active within the recreational fisheries the pacific northwest has to offer. With five generations of avid angling experience under my belt I can honestly say, Ive seen it all play out over and over again. Without bias and based on my angling experience I know that hook placement determines release mortality and not the fact that the hook is barbless. Think about it for a moment. If a barbed hook is in a non lethal spot, I just remove the hook and send the fish on its way, really no different from barbless. landing rates is where I see the number one difference between barbs and barbless. Landing rates among new recruitment, kids in general, Bank anglers, and disabled anglers tend to be very low when using barbless hooks within our salmon fisheries. This trend is very concerning to many, myself included. Personally I fish with several anglers who are disabled. My Dad has three purple hearts from the war in Vietnam. His leg is mostly metal with some plastic. My Dad isn't able to stand up in the boat when fishing or fighting a fish due to his war related combat disability. He tends to lose most of the fish that he is desperately trying to land. My wife of 27 years has Multiple-Sclerosis. She too needs to remain seated at all times as she has little to no use of her legs. Her very low barbless landing rate has led to her no longer wanting to fish barbless only fisheries. I do my best to introduce kids/new anglers to Salmon fishing, all of which lose countless salmon due to barbless hooks. The issue is obvious when we angle for salmon within waters that allow barbed hooks. When using barbed hooks the aforesaid angles without a doubt land most of their fish and want to come back so as to do it again. The experience tends to be so much more enjoyable for all when the team's landing mission is accomplished. Allowing barbs does not prevent any anglers from making the choice to use barbless, It just gives disadvantaged anglers the equitable chance at landing Salmon. Please, Please consider reinstating barbed hooks. No one likes hooking fish all day just to lose them to barbless hooks. If we hook and lose ten or more fish a day due to barbless, who's to say we are not killing more than we are retaining. I Can't guarantee non terminal hook placement when using barbless hooks. I can guarantee anglers will adversely impact/lose much more fish when using barbless. This is just another See no evil hear no evil speak no evil fish management concept in the name of days on the water. This has adversely affected our E.S.A. Salmon recovery goals and will continue to do so if not addressed.
Best Regards
Robert Moxley
17 year O.D.F.W. recreational advisory group volunteer

TATE Michelle L * ODFW

From: Bill Smith <b.smith21@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 7, 2025 6:26 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Barbless Hooks in the Columbia river

Categories: Dir Off

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Public Forum

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I have been a local salmon and steelhea ther to use barbless hooks or not would result in a positive e unate to have lived in this region my entire life. There are p participate in our local fishery. The reality is, and especia may fish for days without a single opportunity to hook a fi hery issue to contend with, why not allow sports anglers to ha es of at least landing a fish once it's hooked, especially if the tunity ? That provides another positive aspect of pro on angler such as myself is typically overshadowed by so the economic impact of our group as a whole is massive ,an make a common sense choice of rather to use barbed o but I am also a firm believer if the sports angler was able to tag salmon species rather hatchery or non clipped there would be considerably less mortality on the sports side of the fishery. I've witnessed anglers far better then my self bring double digit numbers of salmon to the boat that cannot be retained because of an adipose fin being present. The fact of a barbless hook being a friendlier approach does not reduce the stress of the overage of non fin clipped fish hooked in pursuit of a hatchery only . It's difficult to believe if the first one or two could not be retained that it would not result in less stress on the fishery over all. Years ago we had a day plunking below Bonneville where a single individual hooked 17 spring chinook in a single day before a hatchery was able to be retained and tagged . This was an exception, but based on my 60 years of involvement in the fishery it would make sense not impact the salmon fishery greater then need be as a whole.

Regards,
William Smith : age 71
Clackamas, Oregon

TATE Michelle L * ODFW

From: palexanderfish@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, December 6, 2025 9:18 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Barbed verses barbless hooks on a catch and release sports' fishery.

Categories: Dir Off

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Dear ODFW Commissioners,

As far as the discussion in regards to barbed verses barbless hooks, the survival of salmon being caught and released is the issue. Nothing else matters. These are wild native fish being released, and we as fishermen must try at all costs to give them the best chance of survival after releasing them from our hooks. It is imperative for the survival of wild salmon that barbed hooks should be OUTLAWED in a marked select, catch and release fishery. We know that there will be second hooking and maybe third and fourth hookings of wild fish, if they survive earlier releases. To add a barb in a hook is merciless. Most salmon will not survive. The barb is meant to hold a fish on the hook, by not backing out. As the fish is fighting to free itself, the barb rips the flesh around the hook. Then when fishermen try to release that fish, even more damage is done by the barb, especially when there is a double mooching setup. More often than not, the fish is left exhausted and bleeding. When sport fishing, I have seen many salmon just float away bleeding after being released. Perfect sea lion prey, these defenseless wild fish are doomed. Our fish have enough to overcome. Adding a barbed hook just doesn't make sense. We might as well just have fishermen take their first fish and eliminate the marked-select fishery altogether, if we start using barbed hooks. Barbs are that deadly.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul Alexander--Columbia River and Pacific Ocean fisherman for over sixty years.

Sent from AOL on Android

From: Ryan Sturgeon
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: December 12th meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 6:40:07 AM

[You don't often get email from sturgeonryan5@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Hello,

I wanted to share my opinion on barbless hook requirements on the Columbia River.
I am in favor of this rule being appealed. As an avid fisherman, I can attest that barbless hooks cause more damage to fish than barbed hooks. Some days I lose multiple fish due to barbless hooks. With that being the case, I end up hooking more fish that I otherwise would have.
I believe that allowing recreational fisherman to use barbed hooks again will be in the best interest of the salmon and steelhead populations.

Best regards,
Ryan Sturgeon