



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

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Workshop:
Thursday, December 11, 2025, 1:00 PM
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

Meeting:
Friday, December 12, 2025– 8:00 AM
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Commission Room
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

2 *Commission minutes are considered draft until approved by the Commission.*

3
4 Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those
5 attending part or all of the meeting included:
6

Mary Wahl, Chair	Debbie Colbert, Director
Becky Hatfield-Hyde, Vice Chair	Ken Loffink, Deputy Director of Administration
Bob Spelbrink, Commissioner	Shaun Clements, Deputy Director of Fish & Wildlife Programs
Mark Labhart, Commissioner	Nick Myatt, East Region Manager
Dallas Hall Defrees, Commissioner	Mike Gauvin, Acting West Region Manager
Hugh Morrison, Commissioner	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator
Dave Moldal, Commissioners	Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
	Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator
	Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant
	Doug Shugart, Captain Oregon State Police
	Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General
	Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General

7
8 **MEETING**
9
10 On Friday, December 12, 2025, at 8:00 AM, Chair Wahl called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife
11 Commission (the Commission) meeting to order.
12

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

13 Field Reports – in written form only; *this report is available in the meeting materials and at*
14 <https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-11/Field%20Report.pdf>

15 Expenditure Report
16 Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer

17 Ken provided the Commission with an overview of the agency's financial status for the period
18 ending October 31, 2025, marking the start of the 2025 - 2027 biennium. The report highlights a
19 total cash balance of \$163.78 million, including \$72.87 million in unrestricted funds and \$90.91
20 million in restricted funds. The unrestricted cash total includes \$19 million from wildfire
21 insurance proceeds that will be used for damages incurred in the 2020 wildfires. Expenditures
22 thus far in the 25-27 biennium total 12.05% of the agency's legislatively approved budget
23 limitation. In response to a Legislative Fiscal Office request for all agencies to provide 5% budget

1 reduction options due to projected general and lottery fund shortfalls, ODFW provided options
2 utilizing a multi-faceted strategy involving vacancy savings, service reductions, and adjustments
3 to its 10% reduction list used in 25-27 biennium budget development. The agency will also begin
4 preparations for developing the 2027- 2029 agency request budget soon.

5
6 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*
7 <https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Commission%20Financial%20Report%20December%202025.pdf>
8
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10 **CLIMATE & OCEAN CHANGE POLICY REPORT**

11 **Reconnecting Rivers: Landscape-Scale Salmon Restoration in the Klamath Basin**

12 Phil Milburn, Klamath/Malheur Watershed Manager
13 Mark Hereford, Klamath Fisheries Reintroduction Project Leader

14
15 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*

16 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Climate%20and%20Ocean%20Change%20Policy%20Report_Klamath%20Basin.pdf
17
18

19 **COMMISSION 2026 PROPOSED WORKPLAN**

20 Shaun Clements, Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife Programs
21

22 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*

23 <https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/2026%20commission%20workplan.pdf>
24

25 **ADOPT TEMPORARY RULES**

26 The Commission ratify the following temporary rules. The six (6) temporary rules were previously
27 adopted by the director under her emergency action authority.

28
29 **1.) 635-019-0090**

30 **Umatilla River Fall Adult Chinook Salmon Closed to Retention**

31 Adopted: 10/17/2025 Effective Date: 10/18/2025 through 12/31/2025
32 This amended rule closes the recreational harvest of Chinook salmon in the Umatilla
33 River from the Hwy 730 bridge to Threemile Dam.

34
35 **2.) 635-041-0075**

36 **Authorize Sales for Columbia River Treaty Commercial Fall Gillnet Fishery**

37 Adopted: 10/21/2025 Effective Date: 10/22/2025 through 12/31/2025
38 These amended rules authorize the sales of fish caught in the Zone 6 treaty commercial
39 gillnet fishery. The open fishing period is from 6 a.m. October 22 through 6 p.m. October
40 25.

1
2 **3.) 635-041-0072**

3 **Authorize Sale of Warmwater Species Caught in Columbia River Treaty Indian**
4 **Research Fishery**

5 Adopted: 10/23/2025 Effective Date: 10/27/2025 through 12/31/2025

6 This amended rule provides state authorization of sales of yellow perch, bass, walleye,
7 catfish, carp, and northern pikeminnow caught in a new Treaty Indian research fishery in
8 several backwater areas and sloughs of the John Day Pool to reflect recent tribal action
9 to open this fishery.

10 **4.) 635-039-0090**

11 **Extending End Date of Previous Rule for Inseason Recreational General Marine**
12 **Species Bag Limit Reduction**

13 Adopted: 10/24/2025 Effective Date: 10/27/2025 through 12/31/2025

14 This rule maintains the three-fish bag limit to keep harvest rates from increasing to
15 reduce the risk of

16 exceeding catch limits for multiple rockfish species. During the Oregon Fish and Wildlife
17 Commission meeting on December 13, 2024, staff cautioned that an in-season bag limit
18 reduction could be necessary based on pre-season models and lower harvest limits for
19 both black rockfish and canary rockfish.

20 **5.) 635-005-0465**

21 **Delay Oregon Commercial Dungeness Crab Season Opening**

22 Adopted: 11/20/2025 Effective Date: 11/27/2025 through 03/31/2026

23 This amended rule delays the opening date for the Oregon 2025-2026 ocean
24 commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

25 **6.) 635-005-0465**

26 **Commercial Dungeness Crab Season Partial Opening**

27 Adopted: 12/05/2025 Effective Date: 12/05/2025 through 03/31/2026

28 This amended rule opens the ocean commercial Dungeness crab fishery on December
29 16 from Cape Falcon to the Oregon-California border and continues to delay the season
30 north of Cape Falcon.

31 Action:

32 Commissioner Labhart moved to ratify the six (6) temporary rules set forth in today's agenda.
33 Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, seven (7) in
34 favor. Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defees, Morrison, Moldal

35 **PUBLIC FORUM**

36 This part of the agenda was for comments on topics not scheduled on the agenda. The
37 Commission did not act on items brought to their attention in this forum.

1
2 *Barbless Hooks on the Columbia*
3 *Bill Monroe Jr*
4 *Bruce Hanson*
5 *Andrew Hanson*
6 *Bob Rees*
7 *Jim Muck, Recreational Angler*
8 *Dave Schamp, Costal Conservation Association (CCA)*
9

10 *12-year assessment of the Lower Columbia River Conservation and*
11 *Recovery Plan*

12 *Jim Muck, Oregon Anglers Alliance*
13 *James Fraser, Trout Unlimited*

14 *Whale entanglements in the Oregon Dungeness crab fishery*

15 *Ben Enticknap, Oceana*
16 *Delores Porch, Oregon Chapter American Cetacean Society*
17 *Francine Kershaw, Natural Resources Defense Council*

18 *Price Per Pound of Fish*

19 *Desert Springs Trout Farm*

20 *Sandy River Sanctuary Boundary*

21 *Heath Heikkila*
22 *Evan Burck*

23 *Sauvie Island Cove Market*

24 *Kristen Cook, business owner*

25 **EXHIBIT A: COMMISSION MINUTES**

26 Action:

27 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to approve September 12 and October 10, 2025, meeting
28 minutes with continued authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Commissioner Hatfield-
29 Hyde seconded the motion, and the motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde;
30 Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defees, Morrison, Moldal

31 **INFORMATION: 12-YEAR ASSESSMENT OF THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER CONSERVATION
32 AND RECOVERY PLAN**

33 Staff presented the 12-year Assessment of the Lower Columbia River Conservation and
34 Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead to the Commission.

35 *No Commission Action: Informational only*

36 *Jim Brick, Implementation Coordinator*

37 *Chris Lorion, Conservation Planning Coordinator*

1 This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at
2 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/12-Yr%20CR%20Assessment_Presentation.pdf

3

4 **INFORMATIONAL: HOOK REGULATIONS FOR COLUMBIA RIVER RECREATIONAL SALMON**
5 **AND STEELHEAD FISHERIES**

6 The Commissioners were provided background on hook regulations in Columbia River
7 recreational salmon and steelhead fisheries, and other considerations related to the current
8 barbless hook requirement.

9 *No Commission Action: Informational only*

10 John North - Fish Division Deputy Administrator

11 Tucker Jones - OSCRP Manager (Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Program
12 Manager)

13

14 This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at
15 <https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/CR%20Hook%20Regs%20Presentation.pdf>

16

17 **EXHIBIT B: 2026 GROUNDFISH FISHERY REGULATIONS AND NEARSHORE LOGBOOK REPORT**

18 The Commission adopted regulations for the 2026 recreational and commercial groundfish
19 fisheries. The Commission was provided with a copy of the 2023 commercial nearshore logbook
20 report.

21 *Commission Action: Rulemaking*

22 Lynn Mattes - Marine Fisheries Management Section Manager

23

24 Lynn provided the Commission with a presentation outlining proposed changes to
25 commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries management in response to reduced federal
26 catch limits for key species like black and canary rockfish. The presentation detailed the public
27 input process, federal and state harvest guidelines, and management measures aimed at
28 balancing conservation with fishing opportunities. For commercial fisheries, strategies include
29 trip limits, gear restrictions, and the proposed permanent suspension of Black Rockfish
30 Management Area trip limits. Recreational measures focus on maintaining year-round access
31 while adjusting bag limits and season structures to stay within harvest guidelines. The
32 presentation also covers updates on permit lotteries, survey efforts to support stock
33 assessments, and projected impacts for 2026, recommending adoption of staff proposals to
34 ensure sustainable fisheries management.

35

36 This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at
37 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Exhibit%20B_Presentation.pdf

38

39 Public Testimony
40 Ray Monroe, Pacific City Dorymen's Association

1 Action:
2 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to amend OAR Chapter 635 Divisions 004 and 039 as proposed by
3 staff in Attachment 3. Commissioner Moldal seconded the motion, and the motion was carried
4 seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defees, Morrison, Moldal
5

6 **EXHIBIT C: COMMERCIAL LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES**

7 The Commission amended Oregon Administrative Rules to reflect changes in commercial license
8 and permit fees approved by the Oregon Legislature in HB 2342.

9 *Commission Action: Rulemaking*

10 Gway Rogers-Kirchner – Technology and Data Services Manager

12 Gway provided the Commission with a presentation outlining changes to Oregon's
13 commercial fishery fee structure following legislative action via House Bill 2342. The Oregon
14 Legislature approved increases to most commercial licenses, permit, and ad valorem fees to
15 support fishery management, research, and monitoring, while eliminating the Albacore Landing
16 License. The presentation details the new fee structure, exceptions, and specific rule changes,
17 including repeals and revisions to Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs). It emphasizes the
18 extensive public engagement process, including advisory groups, public hearings, and
19 stakeholder outreach, especially in light of reduced black rockfish catch limits.

21 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
22 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Exhibit%20C_Presentation.pdf

24 Action:
25 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to adopt the staff proposal in Attachment 3 and amend OARs in
26 Chapter 635, Divisions 004, 005, and 006 as proposed by staff. Commissioner Labhart seconded
27 the motion, and the motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart,
28 Spelbrink, Hall Defrees, Morrison, Moldal
29

30 **EXHIBIT D: MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FISH TICKET REPORTING AND CATCHER/PROCESSOR
31 LANDING RULES**

32 The Commission adopted rules to make reporting commercial landings on electronic fish tickets
33 mandatory and to allow the landing of commercial catch by catcher processors into Oregon

34 *Commission Action: Rulemaking*

35 John Seabourne - Fish Division Operations Manager

36 Nadine Hurtado - Fisheries Information Systems Program Leader

38 John and Nadine provided the Commission with a presentation on proposed rule
39 amendments that require all commercial fish landing reports be submitted electronically through
40 the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) e-ticket system, replacing paper tickets
41 to improve timeliness, data accuracy, and management efficiency; clarify limited fish seller
42 reporting; remove redundant ad valorem rate language; add definitions (such as "dock receipt");
43 and establish regulations allowing catcher/processor vessels to land fish in Oregon with
44 appropriate electronic reporting and weighing provisions. They reviewed the history of electronic

1 reporting, outreach to dealers, current submission levels, and details on how the rule changes
2 would standardize reporting across fisheries, facilitate modernized submission methods
3 (including via mobile devices), and support consistent regulatory compliance for commercial
4 fisheries and catcher/processors operating in Oregon waters.

5
6 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
7 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Exhibit%20D_Presentation.pdf

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9 Action:

10 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to amend OAR Chapter 635 Divisions 004, 005, and 006 as
11 proposed by staff in Attachment 3. Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde seconded the motion, and the
12 motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees,
13 Morrison, Moldal

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15 **EXHIBIT E: ACCESS & HABITAT PROJECT FUNDING**

16 The Commission approved the Access and Habitat Board recommendations for project funding.

17 *Commission Action: Approval*

18 Travis Schultz, Access & Habitat Coordinator

19
20 Travis provided the Commission with a presentation outlining the Access & Habitat
21 Board's recommended projects and the project review and approval process. He explained how
22 projects are developed locally, reviewed by regional councils, recommended by the state board,
23 and then brought them to the Commission for approval. The slides highlight specific
24 recommended projects in different regions, such as the Columbia Plateau Habitat Initiative, long-
25 standing public access at the Heppner Regulated Hunt Area, expansion of access at Manulife
26 Access Area NE, and habitat and hunt access improvements in the Southwest region including the
27 Crestmont Habitat and Hunt.

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29 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
30 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Exhibit%20E_Presentation.pdf

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32 Action:

33 Commissioner Labhart moved to approve the four projects recommended for funding by the
34 Access & Habitat Board. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion, and the motion was
35 carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees, Morrison, Moldal

36
37 **EXHIBIT F: R&E BOARD APPOINTMENT AND PROGRAM UPDATE**

38 The Commission approved funds for six (6) new projects that were recommended for R&E
39 funding. The Commission appointed two new members to the R&E Board, one member to
40 represent Ocean and Inland Recreational Fisheries, and one member to represent the
41 Commercial Salmon Industry.

42 *Commission Action: Approval & Appointments*

43 Martin Olson, R&E/STEP Coordinator

1 Martin provided the Commission with a presentation focused on two main actions for the
2 Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Board: first, seeking approval of \$882,002 in R&E funding for
3 six recommended restoration and enhancement projects, and second, proposing the
4 appointment of two new R&E Board members - Steve Janego as the Sport Fishing Representative
5 and Tim VonSeggern as the Commercial Salmon Industry Representative - each for a four-year
6 term.

7
8 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
9 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Exhibit%20F_Presentation.pdf

10 Action:

11 Commissioner Moldal moved to approve the six projects recommended by the R&E Board
12 as set forth in Attachment 2. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion, and the
13 motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall
14 Defrees, Morrison, Moldal

15 Commissioner Moldal moved to appoint Steve Janego to a four-year term as a Sport Fishing
16 Representative on the R&E Board, and Tim VonSeggern to a four-year term as a Commercial
17 Salmon Industry Representative on the R&E Board. Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the
18 motion, and the motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink,
19 Hall Defrees, Morrison, Moldal

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25 Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.