



Friday, February 20, 2026
Lane County Armed Forces Reediness Center
3106 Pierce Parkway
Springfield, OR 97477

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Friday, February 20, 2026

Commission minutes are considered draft until approved by the Commission.

Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those attending part or all the meetings 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	Mike Gauvin, West Region Manager
Dallas Hall Defrees, Commissioner	Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
Hugh Morrison, Commissioner	Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant
Dave Moldal, Commissioner	Doug Shugart, Captain Oregon State Police
	Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General

MEETING

On Friday, **February 20, 2026, at 8:00 AM, Chair Wahl called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission** (the Commission) meeting to order.

Commissioner Spelbrink declared a potential conflict of interest in issues affecting, and relating to, the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. "I was a commercial Dungeness crab fisherman for 40 years, retiring in 2015. My business, Allied Marine Inc, owns an Oregon Dungeness crab permit and retains a small, shrinking, partial ownership of a 56-foot fishing vessel. The Alliance. "

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CLIMATE & OCEAN CHANGE POLICY REPORT

Governor's Natural Resources Team Update- Brief Overview of Recent Executive Orders

Geoff Huntington, Governors Natural Resources Advisor
Chandra Ferrari, Natural Resource Policy Advisor

This report is available in the meeting materials and at
https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-02/EO%20NR%20Team%20Presentation_ODFW%20Presentation%20%5B02-18%5D%20For%20ODFW%202-20-2026.pdf

1 **Everyone Belongs Outdoors: Portland Pilot Project**

2 The Commission received an informational update on an ongoing project, “Relevant and
3 Authentic Engagement for ODFW with Urban populations.” The Commission engaged in a
4 discussion with Mauricio Valadrian, an expert consultant, about the results of his
5 interviews with ODFW staff and residents of Portland that measure current awareness of
6 ODFW’s mission and the degree of ODFW’s personal and community impact.

7 Commission Action: Informational

8 Mauricio Valadrian, Valadrian Creative & Consulting

9 Davia Palmeri, Strategic Advisor & Federal Policy Director

10
11 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*

12 <https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-02/ODFW%20EBO%20FWC.pdf>

13
14 *Field Reports – in written form only; this report is available in the meeting materials and at*

15 <https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-02/Field%20Report%20Feb%2020%20FINAL.pdf>

16
17 **Expenditure Report**

18 Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer

19 Ken provided the Commission with a report that as of December 31, 2025, ODFW held \$158.3
20 million in cash at the state treasury, of which \$68.0 million was unrestricted (including \$17 million
21 in wildfire-related insurance proceeds) and \$90.3 million was restricted. Agency revenues and
22 expenditures for the 2025–27 biennium are tracking as projected—we are 25% of the way through
23 the biennium and have spent 18% of the approved expenditure limit. The Legislative Fiscal Office
24 has requested 5% reduction options across funding sources due to statewide shortfalls, with
25 decisions pending in the 2026 Legislative Session, and development of the 2027–29 budget is
26 underway with policy option packages being drafted for submission this spring and presentation
27 to the Commission in June 2026.

28
29 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*

30 [https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-](https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-02/Commission%20Financial%20Report%20February%202026.pdf)
31 [02/Commission%20Financial%20Report%20February%202026.pdf](https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-02/Commission%20Financial%20Report%20February%202026.pdf)

32
33 **EXHIBIT A: WINCHESTER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT**

34 The Commission approved the proposed order relating to, among other determinations, a
35 requirement to install Department approved fish passage at Winchester dam prepared by the
36 Office of Administrative Hearings, Administrative Law Judge. No new evidence was considered by
37 the Commission. No public testimony was taken.

38 Commission Action: Approval

39 Greg Apke, Fish Screening and Passage Program Manager

40
41 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

42 An Executive Session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or
43 records that are exempt by law from public inspection, as well as to consult with legal
44 counsel concerning legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current

1 litigation or litigation likely to be filed as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h). The executive
2 session was closed to the public.

3
4 Commissioner Labhart moved to adopt the Department’s Draft Final Order, which was
5 provided as Attachment 2. In addition, included in this motion is the Commission’s endorsement
6 of the interpretation and application of our rules as presented in that Final Order; and especially,
7 OAR 635-412-0005(b)(A)(ii), including the meaning of the phrase “measured above the natural
8 ground grade line that is used to impound water” within that rule and its application to the facts
9 of this case as set forth in the order. Commissioner Moldal seconded the motion, and the motion
10 carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Hall Defrees, Morrison, Moldal. One (1)
11 opposed Spelbrink

12
13 **ADOPT TEMPORARY RULES**

14 The Commission ratified the following temporary rules. The eight (8) temporary rules were
15 previously adopted by the director under her emergency action authority.

16
17 **1) 635-005-0405, 0460, 0480 Commercial Crab Late-Season Whale Entanglement Risk
18 Reduction Measures Implementation Date**

19 Adopted 1/23/2026: effective 2/16/2026 through 8/14/2026

20 These amended rules will implement commercial crab late-season whale entanglement
21 risk reduction measures including a 20% pot limit reduction, requirement for late-season
22 buoy tags, and prohibition on fishing deeper than 40 fathoms on April 1 instead of May 1
23 to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled in commercial crab fishing gear earlier in
24 the season.

25
26 **2) 635-016-0500 Modify Wild Spring Chinook Regulations in Umpqua District**

27 Adopted: 12/19/2025 Effective Dates: 2/1/2026 through 6/30/2026

28 This amended rule will prohibit retention of all wild Chinook on the Mainstem Umpqua
29 River. It will restrict harvest to one wild adult Chinook per day and ten wild adults per
30 season on the North Umpqua River from February 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, in
31 accordance with the sliding scale established pursuant to the State’s Coastal Multi-Species
32 Conservation and Management Plan (CMP).

33
34 **3) 635-041-0063 Allow Sales of Sturgeon Caught in The Dalles Pool Columbia River Treaty
35 Setline Fishery**

36 Adopted: 1/29/2026 Effective Dates: 2/2/2026 through 2/28/2026

37 This amended rule provides state authorization of sales of white sturgeon
38 caught in the winter Treaty setline fishery in The Dalles Pool to reflect recent tribal action
39 to adopt this fishery.

40
41 **4) 635-041-0063 Allow Sales of Sturgeon Caught in The Dalles Pool Columbia River Treaty
42 Setline Fishery**

43 Adopted: 2/11/2026 Effective Dates: 2/12/2026 through 3/31/2026

1 This amended rule provides state authorization of sales of white sturgeon caught in the
2 winter Treaty setline fisheries in Bonneville Pool, The Dalles Pool, and John Day Pool to
3 reflect recent tribal action to adopt these fisheries.
4

5 **5) 635-041-0072 Allow Sales of Warmwater Species Caught in the Columbia River Treaty**
6 **Indian Research Fishery**

7 Adopted: 2/11/2026 Effective Dates: 2/13/2026 through 3/31/2026

8 This amended rule provides state authorization of sales of yellow perch, bass, walleye,
9 catfish, carp, and northern pikeminnow caught in a Treaty Indian research fishery in
10 several backwater areas and sloughs of the John Day Pool to reflect recent tribal action to
11 open this fishery.
12

13 **6) 635-042-0145, 635-042-0160, 635-042-0170, 635-042-0180 Adopt Select Area**
14 **Commercial Fisheries**

15 Adopted: 2/12/2026 Effective Dates: 2/15/2026 through 7/31/2026

16 These rules implement the 2026 winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial
17 fisheries from February 15 through July 30. The following fisheries are addressed by these
18 rules:

- 19 • Blind/Knappa sloughs,
- 20 • Tongue Point/South Channel,
- 21 • Youngs Bay, and
- 22 • Deep River

23 Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife
24 for the States of Oregon and Washington at the Columbia River Compact hearing on
25 2/11/26.
26

27 **7) 635-023-0101 Set Recreational Retention Fisheries for Sturgeon in Bonneville and The**
28 **Dalles Pools and Adjacent Tributaries**

29 Adopted: 2/12/2026 Effective Dates: 2/16/2026 through 4/30/2026

30 This amended rule modifies the recreational retention fishery regulations for white
31 sturgeon on the mainstem Columbia River in the Bonneville Pool (Bonneville Dam
32 upstream to The Dalles Dam) and The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to the John
33 Day Dam) and all adjacent tributaries. Retention will be allowed only on Monday,
34 February 16, 2026, in these areas. Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the
35 Departments of Fish & Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia
36 River Joint State hearing on February 11, 2026.
37

38 **8) 635-023-0101 Set Recreational Retention Fishery for Sturgeon in The Dalles Pool and**
39 **Adjacent Tributaries**

40 Adopted: 2/19/2026 Effective Dates: 2/22/2026 through 4/30/2026

41 This amended rule establishes two retention days for the recreational white sturgeon
42 fishery on the mainstem Columbia River in The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to
43 the John Day Dam) and all adjacent tributaries. Retention will be allowed on Sunday,
44 February 22, 2026, and on Thursday, February 26, 2026, in these areas. Modifications are

1 consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish & Wildlife for the States of
2 Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Joint State hearing on February 19, 2026.
3

4 **Action:**

5 Commissioner Moldal moved to ratify the seven (7) temporary rules set forth on February 20,
6 2026, agenda, and temporary rule 635-023-0101 to Set a Recreational Retention Fishery for
7 Sturgeon in The Dalles Pool and Adjacent Tributaries Adopted: 2/19/2026. Commissioner
8 Morrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Labhart, Spelbrink,
9 Hall Defrees, Morrison, Moldal; one (1) opposed, Hatfield-Hyde
10

11 **COMMISSION UPDATES**

12
13 **OTHER BUSINESS**

14
15 **EXHIBIT B: COMMISSION MINUTES**

16 **Action: Approval**

17 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to approve January 16, 2026, meeting minutes with
18 continued authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Commissioner Morrison seconded the
19 motion, and the motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink,
20 Hall Defrees, Morrison, Moldal
21

22 **EXHIBIT C: REVIEW OF PETITION RELATED TO COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY RULES**

23 The Commission considered an Administrative Procedure Act (APA) petition requesting
24 modification to commercial Dungeness crab fishery rules. The Commission denied the petition.
25

26 Commission Action: Accept Petition and Initiate Rulemaking/Deny Petition

27 Justin Ainsworth, Marine Resources Manager

28 Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
29

30 *Presentation:* Justin provided the Commission with a presentation outlining Oregon
31 Department of Fish and Wildlife's ongoing efforts to reduce whale entanglements in the
32 commercial Dungeness crab fishery, driven by increasing interactions with threatened and
33 endangered humpback whale populations. It summarizes past and current risk-reduction
34 measures, the development of a Conservation Plan and application for a federal Incidental Take
35 Permit under the Endangered Species Act, and the planned 2026 rulemaking process. It also
36 reviewed an Administrative Procedures Act petition submitted by several organizations
37 requesting additional rule changes, including pop-up gear requirements and late-season
38 restrictions, along with public comments reflecting a mix of support and concern about
39 economic impacts and gear feasibility. Staff ultimately recommend accepting the petition to
40 allow rulemaking to proceed within ODFW's existing planned processes, in coordination with
41 NOAA Fisheries.
42

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

44 https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-02/Crab_Petition_Presentation_Final.02.19.26.pdf

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Public Testimony

Court Boice	Oregon House of Representatives
Chris Boice	Douglas County Board of Commissioners
Mary Faith Bell	Tillamook County Commissioner
Robert Browning	Port of Garibaldi Commissioner
Courtney Bangs	Clatsop Commissioner
Drew Farmer	Coos County Commissioner
Rex Leach	F/V Ms. Julie
Nick Edwards	Shrimp Producer
Crystal Adams	Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission
Stuart Schuttpelz	Oregon Coast Crab Association
Ben Enticknap	Oceana
Taunette Dixon	Newport Fishermen's Wives
Crystal Adams	
Karie Silva	
Alex Bowley	F/V Alysanne
Kevin Campion	Save the North Pacific Right Whale
Lori Steele	West Coast Seafood Processors Association
Chelsae Radell	Pacific Seafood
Julian Seth	Kysa Lynn Crab Company
Jared Margolis	Center for Biological Diversity
Ken Sund	River Sea Rangers

Tara Brock	Oceana
Jehan Segal	Oceana
Francine Kershaw	Natural Resources Council
Shawn Monson	
Georgia Haight	F/V Mystic Isle
Emily Dunn	F/V Pacific Rebel
Rob Seitz	F/V South Bay
Eric Hooper	F/V Aloha
Cari Badberg	Cari Oregon Coast. Com
Gary Ripka	f/v Tabby
Eric Brickenstein	OCCA Counsel
Laura Anderson	
Jarred Reeves	Fisherman
Geoffrey M Molfino	Living Pacific Seafood, LLC
Kurt Englund	Englund Marine Supply
Paterick M Sullivan	F/V
Kyle D Aubin	F/V Elis Tide
Kirt Cochran	Charlston Fishing Family
Frank Moulton	F/V AL-W
Shane Chambers	F/V Cape Sebastian
Collin Roberts	F/V Aurora Mail
Tommie Hockema	F/V Rambler

Eric Hooper	F/V Aloha
Elizabeth Hooper	F/V Aloha
Shon Landon	F/V
Josh Whaley	F/V Miss Emily, Miss Sarah,
Ashton Retherford	F/V Winona J
Dean Lumdin	
Cody Chase	F/V Monde Uni
Kelley Retherford	F/V Coat Pride Winona J; Excalibur Mandy J
Amy Sharp	F/V Spring Persuader Fisher, CPCA
Mike Pettis	F/V Patriot
Tony Pettis	F/V Heidi Sue
Clair Lynn	
Jay Trost	Cury County Board of Commission
Bob Kemp	F/V My Lee
Maurice Knott	F/V Lylie Lynn
Elizabeth Hooper	Fisherman
Dylan Ford	Crab Permit Owner/Operator
Chad Leifermor	F/V Kylie Lynn
Bruce McHenry	F/V Little J
Harlan Matthews	F/V Alliance
Corey rock	F/V Kylie Lynn
Kyle Rock	F/V Erin Nicole

Aaron Ashdown	Port Orford Port Commission
Bill Hagerup	Bob's Seafood Market, Astoria
Orion Ashdown	Ashdown Fleet
Heather Mann	Midwater Trawler Coop
Cary Johnson	F/V Great Northern
Wilson Thompson	F/V Fantasy Craber
Scott Fosmain	F/V Yaznak; Queen
Bob Eder	F/V Timmy Boy
T Aenon	F/V Kylie Lynn
Jim Long	F/V Longshot; Chinook WA
Brett Sherman	Card dale HD 32
Jeff Mulkey	F/V Pearls; Pacific Marit
Seth Whitsett	Crab Fisherman
Joe Mukley	Crab Fisherman
Natasha Novikova	Sea Solutions
Brian Hoehn	
Brett Hurn	

1
2 Action:

3 Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde moved to deny the petition and urge the department to
4 continue its planned rulemaking processes and engage with NOAA fisheries to obtain coverage, in
5 an urgent manner. Commissioner Labhart seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six
6 (6) in favor; Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees, Morrison, Moldal; one (1) opposed;
7 Wahl

8
9
10 Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.