



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Meeting:

Friday, May 15, 2026 - 8:30

Salem- Virtual

Viewing Room- Classroom

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

Salem, OR 97302

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 of 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
Dallas Hall Defrees, Commissioner	Mike Gauvin, Acting West Region Manager
Hugh Morrison, Commissioner	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator
Dave Moldal, Commissioner	Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
	Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator
	Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant

MEETING

On Friday, **May 15, 2026, at 8:30 AM**, Chair Wahl called the **Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission** (the Commission) meeting to order.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Adopt Temporary Rules

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

1.) 635-017-0090

Modify Willamette Falls Lamprey Harvest Regulations

Adopted: 5/8/2026 Effective Dates: 6/1/2026 through 7/31/2026

This amended rule modifies the harvest regulations for the Pacific lamprey fishery at Willamette Falls.

2.) 635-019-0520

Open Hatchery Chinook Salmon Angling in Lookingglass Creek

Adopted: 5/11/2026 Effective Dates: 5/15/2026 through 6/14/2026

This amended rule allows recreational harvest of hatchery Chinook in Lookingglass Creek from May 15 through June 14, 2026.

3.) 635-004-0275

Federal Actions Implemented for Commercial Groundfish Fisheries

Adopted: 5/11/2026 Effective Dates: 5/11/2026 through 11/6/2026

This amended rule adopts in-season changes previously adopted by the federal government for 2026 Pacific Coast Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access commercial groundfish fisheries, including, but not limited to, catch limit increases for canary rockfish.

4.) 635-004-0085

2026 Pacific Halibut All-depth Seasons Federal References Corrections

Adopted: 5/11/2026 Effective Dates: 5/12/2026 through 10/31/2026

The proposed rule amendment regulates the 2026 recreational Pacific halibut fishery by establishing seasons and quotas for Oregon state-water fisheries, ensuring and promoting consistency with federally adopted regulations, and incorporating housekeeping and technical updates. This amendment incorporates federal regulations that were not available at the time of the original filing and corrects a clerical error in a federal reference.

5.) 635-041-0045

Authorize Sales in Yakama Nation Treaty Commercial Spring Tributary Fishery

Adopted: 5/12/2026 Effective Dates: 5/12/2026 through 6/15/2026

This amended rule authorizes the sale of fish caught in the Drano Lake permit fishery enacted by the Yakama Nation from May 12-13, 2026. Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Compact hearing on May 12, 2026.

6.) 635-023-0125

Set Days for the Recreational Spring Salmon Fishery in the Columbia River

Adopted: 5/14/2026 Effective Dates: 5/15/2026 through 6/15/2026

This amended rule adds open days for the Columbia River recreational spring salmon/steelhead fisheries downstream and upstream of Bonneville Dam and modifies the daily bag limit regulation for Select Area recreational salmon fisheries through June 15. Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington on May 12, 2026.

Action:

Chair Wahl moved to ratify the six (6) temporary rules set forth in the May 15, 2026, agenda. Commissioner Hall Defrees seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, seven (7) in favor. Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees, Moldal; Morrison

2027-29 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Commission was provided with an informational overview of the 2027-29 budget development process, followed by time for Commissioners to ask questions and discuss next steps.

Commission Action: Informational

1 *Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer*

2 *Shaun Clements, Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife Programs*

3
4 Ken and Shaun provided the Commission with a presentation outlining the 2027–29 budget
5 development process, guided by Governor and DAS instructions to maintain core
6 operations, keep proposals budget-neutral, and self-fund General and Lottery Fund
7 packages. It highlights major Policy Option Packages focused on species resiliency,
8 infrastructure improvements, wildlife connectivity, stewardship, and implementation of HB
9 4134 to support recovery of Oregon’s at-risk species. Key investments include habitat
10 restoration, wildlife monitoring, partner-driven connectivity projects, and expanded research
11 and data capacity across ecosystems, hatchery resiliency. The presentation also reviewed
12 projected HB 4134 revenues, partner feedback emphasizing the need for capacity and data
13 investments, and upcoming milestones for commission review, public comment, and final
14 submission of the agency request budget.

15
16 **OTHER BUSINESS**

17 **Winchester Water Control District-Request for Stay**

18 Action:

19 In response to a request received from the Winchester Water Control District on April 20th, 2026,
20 Commissioner Hall Defrees moved to issue an order to deny the Stay Request; Commissioner
21 Morrison seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde;
22 Labhart, Hall Defrees, Moldal, Morrison. One (1) Abstain; Spelbrink

23
24 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

25 An Executive Session will be held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or
26 records that are exempt by law from public inspection, as well as to consult with legal
27 counsel concerning legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current
28 litigation or litigation likely to be filed as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h). The executive
29 session is closed to the public. Members of the press should contact ODFW’s Director’s
30 Office for instructions on how to join the session.

31
32 Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.