



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Tour:

Thursday August 13, 2026, 8:00 AM
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Classroom
4034 Fairview Industrial DR SE
Salem, OR 97302

Meeting:

Friday, August 14, 2026, 8:00 AM
Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Commission Room
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- virtual	Mike Gauvin, Acting West Region Manager
Hugh Morrison, Commissioner- virtual	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator
Dave Moldal, Commissioner	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

MEETING

On Friday, **August 14, 2026, at 8:00 AM**, Chair Wahl called the **Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission** (the Commission) meeting to order.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FIELD REPORTS – in written form only;

This report is available in the meeting materials and at [link to Field Report](#)

COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT

Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer

Ken reported that ODFW ended the month with \$206.2 million in total cash at the Oregon Treasury, including \$88.8 million in unrestricted funds-\$72.2 million excluding insurance proceeds, and \$117.4 million in restricted funds bolstered by bond revenue designated for hatchery and facility projects. Unrestricted cash increased largely due to substantial federal reimbursements, while restricted cash rose following the sale of general obligation bonds. Expenditures are on track at 38% halfway through the biennium, and hunting and fishing license revenues continue to exceed prior-year levels. The agency also submitted e-board requests for additional federal and other fund limitations to support hatchery improvements, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and projects funded by Monsanto settlement resources.

This report is available in the meeting materials and at [link to COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT](#)

1
2 **CLIMATE & OCEAN CHANGE POLICY REPORT**

3 Executive Order 25-26- Climate Resilience Attributes of Oregon Lands and Waters

4 Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator

5
6 This report is available in the meeting materials and at [Link to COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT](#)

7
8 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

9 Debbie Colbert, Director, requested the Commission to ratify the following temporary rules set forth on
10 the August 14, 2026, agenda. The twenty (20) temporary rules were previously adopted by the director
11 under her emergency action authority.

12
13 **1.) 635-016-0500**

14 **Angling and Harvest Regulations of Kokanee in the Umpqua District**

15 Adopted: 7/01/2026 Effective Dates: 7/01/2026 through 12/22/2026

16 This rule allows for angling and harvest of kokanee in Lemolo Reservoir and Hemlock Lake. Anglers may
17 retain up to 10 per day and there is no size limit.

18
19 **2.) 635-041-0076**

20 **Authorize Sales in Treaty Zone 6 Commercial Fisheries**

21 Adopted: 7/01/2026 Effective Dates: 7/01/2026 through 7/31/2026

22 This amended rule authorizes the sale of fish caught in the following treaty fisheries: Gillnet fishery in
23 Zone 6 (upstream of Bonneville Dam) from July 6 through July 8. Modifications are consistent with
24 actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a
25 Columbia River Compact hearing on July 1, 2026.

26
27 **3.) 635-011-0100**

28 **Refine definition of “Chumming” referenced in 2026 Oregon Sport Angling Regulations**

29 Adopted: 7/02/2026 Effective Dates: 7/02/2026 through 12/28/2026

30 This amended rule modifies the definition of “Chumming” in the 2026 Oregon Sport Angling
31 Regulation pamphlet

32
33 **4.) 635-016-0500**

34 **Angling and Harvest Regulations in the Umpqua District**

35 Adopted: 7/02/2026 Effective Dates: 7/02/2026 through 12/22/2026

36 This rule inserts “wild” into the regulatory language to clarify that bag limit regulations apply to wild
37 Chinook salmon in the Umpqua River basin locations specified

38
39 **5.) 635-004-0585**

40 **Adopt Federal Rule for Commercial Pacific Halibut Fisheries**

41 Adopted: 7/20/2026 Effective Dates: 7/21/2026 through 12/18/2026

42 The proposed rule amendment regulates the 2026 commercial Pacific halibut fishery by establishing
43 a third fishery period along with fishery period vessel limits for Oregon state-water fisheries,
44 ensuring and promoting consistency with federally adopted regulations. Through the first two
45 scheduled fishery periods (June 23-25 and July 7- 9), total catches are below initial projections,
46 estimated at 52 metric tons (mt). Of the 118 mt quota allocated to the directed commercial Pacific
47 halibut fishery, 66 mt of quota remain unharvested.

6.) 635-041-0072

Allow Sale of Warmwater Species Caught in Columbia River Treaty Indian Research Fishery

Adopted: 7/23/2026 Effective Dates: 7/24/2026 through 12/31/2026

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

7.) 635-041-0075

Authorize Sales for Columbia River Treaty Fall Fisheries

Adopted: 7/27/2026 Effective Dates: 8/01/2026 through 12/31/2026

These amended rules authorize the sales of fish caught in Zone 6 treaty fisheries: Platform and hook-and-line fisheries in Zone 6 (upstream of Bonneville Dam) from August 1 through December 31.

Yakama Nation tributary fisheries from August 1 through December 31. 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 July 22, 2026.

8.) 635-042-0010, 635-042-0031

Set Mainstem Columbia River Fall-Season Commercial Fisheries

Adopted: 7/28/2026 Effective Dates: 8/03/2026 through 10/31/2026

These rules implement 2026 fall-season Columbia River mainstem (early-fall gillnet, pound net, and seine) commercial fisheries. The following fisheries are addressed by these rules: Columbia River Early Fall (Zones 4-5), beach and purse seine (Zones 1-3), and pound net (Zones 1-2). Fisheries using seine and pound net gear are associated with the on-going evaluation coordinated with co-managers in Washington via their formal Emerging Commercial Fishery process. 2026 is the third year of an approximately five-year process after which WA is expected to make a determination on legalization of these gear types.

9.) 635-023-0130

Columbia River Recreational Fall-Season Salmon/Steelhead Regulations

Adopted: 7/31/2026 Effective Dates: 8/01/2026 through 12/31/2026

This amended rule sets the Columbia River recreational salmon/steelhead fisheries from August 1 through December 31, 2026. This rule also closes angling in portions of the mainstem Columbia River adjacent to the mouths of Eagle Creek and the Deschutes River, and that portion of Herman Creek and Lagoon within the Columbia River Zone through September 15.

10.) 635-004-0275

Federal Actions Implemented for Commercial Groundfish Fisheries

Adopted: 7/31/2026 Effective Dates: 8/06/2026 through 11/06/2026

This amended rule adopts changes previously adopted by the federal government for Pacific Coast Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) commercial groundfish fishery, including, but not limited to adding flexibility to the federal LEFG permit gear endorsements by creating a single limited entry non-trawl permit that will permit vessels to use any legal non-trawl groundfish gear, except for set nets or other entangling nets, to harvest their LEFG sablefish tier limits and groundfish trip limits, and removing the start and end times (hours of the day) for the open dates of the primary tier season.

11.) 635-042-0145, 635-042-0160, 635-042-0170, 635-042-0180

Set Select Area Fall-Season Commercial Fisheries

Adopted: 7/31/2026 Effective Dates: 8/01/2026 through 12/31/2026

These rules implement the 2026 fall-season Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep River. 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 July 22, 2026.

12.) 635-017-0090

Allow Use of Two-Rod Validation Upstream of Willamette Falls in Certain Areas

Adopted: 7/28/2026 Effective Dates: 8/01/2026 through 12/31/2026

This amended rule will allow use of two rods while angling in specific areas of the Willamette Zone upstream of Willamette Falls that are open to the retention of coho salmon.

13.) 635-041-0045

Authorize Sales in Treaty Commercial Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville Dam

Adopted: 7/23/2026 Effective Dates: 8/01/2026 through 10/31/2026

This amended rule authorizes the sale of fish caught in Treaty Indian commercial platform and hook-and-line fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam in the Columbia River starting on August 1, 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 July 22, 2026

14.) 635-004-0355

Increase to Bi-Monthly Vessel Landing Limits in the Commercial Nearshore Fishery

Adopted: 8/04/2026 Effective Dates: 8/04/2026 through 12/31/2026

These amended rules will increase the bi-monthly vessel landing limit for black rockfish and cabezon in the commercial nearshore fishery for periods 4-6 (July-December 2026).

15.) 635-016-0500

Angling and Harvest Regulations in the Umpqua District

Adopted: 8/05/2026 Effective Dates: 8/10/2026 through 12/22/2026

This amended rule will prohibit angling for steelhead in the North Umpqua River from the mouth upstream to the marker below Soda Springs Dam.

16.) 635-004-0585

Adopt federal rule for commercial Pacific halibut fisheries

Adopted: 8/06/2026 Effective Dates: 8/18/2026 through 12/18/2026

The proposed rule amendment regulates the 2026 commercial Pacific halibut fishery by establishing a fourth fishery period along with fishery period vessel limits for Oregon state-water fisheries, ensuring and promoting consistency with federally adopted regulations. Through the first three scheduled fishery periods (June 23-25, July 7-9, and July 21-23), total catches are below initial projections, estimated at 71 metric tons (mt). Of the 118 mt quota allocated to the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery, 47 mt of quota remain unharvested. Projected catches for the fourth fishing period are expected to remain within the overall season quota.

17.) 635-041-0075

Authorize Sales for Columbia River Treaty Commercial Fall Gillnet Fishery

Adopted: 8/06/2026 Effective Dates: 8/17/2026 through 12/31/2026

These amended rules authorize the sales of fish caught in the Zone 6 treaty commercial gillnet fishery. Open fishing periods are from August 17 through August 20, August 24 through August 29, and August 31 through September 5. 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 August 6, 2026.

18.) 635-053-0000

Amend rules to Modify Controlled Hunt Permit Numbers for 2026 Oregon Sage-grouse Hunting Season

Adopted: 08/06/2026 Effective Dates: August 7, 2026, through October 1, 2026

OAR 635-053-0000 states in part that restrictions for hunting upland game birds are described in the "2026-2027 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR Chapter 635, by reference. Sage-grouse are a species of upland game bird with the number of controlled hunt permits available for each sage-grouse hunt area adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) and printed in the "2026-27 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations." Recent sage-grouse survey results and a change in habitat conditions necessitate a modification of permits for five hunt areas.

19.) 635-039-0085

Modify Pacific Halibut All-Depth Fishing Days for the Columbia River Subarea

Adopted: 8/07/2026 Effective Dates: 8/08/2026 through 10/31/2026

This rule will authorize opening the Columbia River Subarea all-depth Pacific halibut fishery seven days per week August 8 through September 30. Although harvest during the season extension is expected to remain within the allowed quota, harvest will be monitored and if the quota is projected to be met prior to the season end date, this subarea may close early if other subareas are projected to reach or exceed their allocation.

20.) 635-018-0510

Steelhead Protections in Deschutes River Waters

Adopted: 8/10/2026 Effective Dates: 8/15/2026 through 12/31/2026

This amended rule increases protections for wild summer steelhead in the Columbia and Deschutes River Basin by closing angling in the Deschutes River.

Action:

Commissioner Moldal moved to ratify the twenty (20) temporary rules set forth on August 14, 2026. Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, seven (7) in favor. Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees; Moldal; Morrison

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Deschutes River & Steelhead

David Moskowitz, Wild Fish & River Advocates

EXHIBIT A: COMMISSION MINUTES

Action:

Commissioner Spelbrink moved to approve the June 26, 2026, meeting minutes with continued authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Commissioner Moldal seconded the motion, and the motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees; Moldal; Morrison

EXHIBIT B: COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY REGULATIONS

The Commission adopted new rules for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery including electronic vessel monitoring, criteria for experimental permits for testing pop-up gear, season opening criteria, and modifications specific to surface gear.

Commission Action: Rulemaking

Justin Ainsworth, Marine Resources Program Manager

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.

Justin provided the Commission with a presentation that outlined a five-year evaluation of measures designed to reduce whale entanglement risk in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, showing roughly a 25% reduction in late-season line-days with minimal impacts to fishery participation and landings. It highlights continued challenges with humpback whale entanglements, the importance of compliance, and the role of a proposed Conservation Plan using monitoring and adaptive management to stay within authorized take limits. The agency also proposed new rules requiring electronic vessel monitoring by 2027, establishing Experimental Fishing Gear Permits to test alternative gear such as longline and pop-up systems, and making minor housekeeping amendments to surface gear regulations. The presentation emphasizes public involvement, enforcement considerations, and steps toward safer, more accountable fishing practices.

This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at [link to COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY REGULATIONS presentation](#)

Public Testimony

Brian Posewitz, Humane Voters Oregon
Francine Kershaw, Natural Resources Defense Council
Michael Szumski
Rob Seitz, OCCA/F/V
Delores Porch
Melissa Edmonds, Animal Welfare Institute
Barbara Schafer
Kevin Campion, Save the North Pacific Right Whale
Karie Silva
Joy Promrose, American Cetacean Society- Oregon Chapter
Stuart Schuttplz, S&S fisheries
Hannah Williams, In Defense of Animals
Ben Enticknap, Oceana
Paul Fournier, Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

Josh Whaley, FV Miss Emily
Joel Purkey, Occa
Rex Leach, FV MS Julie
Ray Monroe, Pacific City Dormanns/Outlaw
Walter Chuck, Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
Ben Grundy, Center for Biological Diversity
Cari Brandberg, OCCA, Chelsea Rose Seafood
Eric Brickenstein, North Current Legal LLC
Stuart Sc, OCCA S&S Fisheries
Mark Kemmish, F/V Richard H
Gary Ripka, OCCA
Crystal Adams, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission ED
Barb Schafer
Jason Atkinson, OCCA
Carry Johnson

28

Action:

Commissioner Moldal moved to adopt the rule amendments set forth in Attachment 3 effective upon filing, except OAR 635-004-0446 which shall be effective February 1, 2027. Commissioner Spelbrink

1 seconded the motion, and the motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart,
2 Spelbrink, Hall Defrees; Moldal; Morrison
3

4 **ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS**

5 Award Presentation begins at 11:00 AM

6 Debbie Colbert, Director

7 Mary Wahl, Commission Chair

8

9 **Individual Awards**

10 Anton Burt

11 Julia Burco Speten

12 Joe Stack

13 Jacob Peterson

14 Nadine Hurtado

15 April Brenden-Locke

16 Matt Wyatt

17 Jeremy Romer

18 Karen Woolbright

19 Keith DeHart

20

21 **Director's Choice Individual Award**

22 Amanda Solla

23

24 **Team Award: State Wildlife Action Plan**

25 **Update**

26 Carolyn Eckrich

27 Emily VanWyk

28 Justin Ainsworth

29 Greg Kruztsikowsky

30 Jessica Watson

31 Michele Weaver

32 Adam Baylor

33 Eszter Collier

34 Rachel Wheat

35 Marianne Ross

36 Joy Lovett

37

38 **Team Award: OSP Marine Fisheries Team**

39 Lt. Ryan Howell

40 Sergeant Heather Van Meter

41 Trooper Ryan Cross

42 Trooper Christine Brandtner

43 Trooper Andrew Luse

80

81

82 **EXHIBIT C: BEAR AND COUGAR TRAP CHECK TIMES**

83 The commission was asked to approve rules related to trap check times for bear and cougar taken on
84 damage.

44 Senior Trooper Ben Cordes

45 Senior Trooper Ryan Keeler

46 Senior Trooper Dylan Roberts

47

48 **Directors Choice TEAM: Tactical**

49 **Communications**

50 Chris Kern

51 Kevin Drake

52 Keith DeHart

53 Gway Rogers-Kirchner

54 Francisco Pickens

55 Martyne Reeseman

56 Zac Kendall

57 Jon Nott

58 Briana Sounhein

59 Trinity Sylvester

60 Caroline Resch

61 Tawny Slaven

62 Colton Beisley

63 Christopher Traill

64 Mike Lance

65 Louisa Hooten

66 Dixie Smith

67

68 **Manager Mentor**

69 Justine Kenyon-Benson

70

71 **Dave Liscia: (for our Volunteer)**

72 Norm Holliday and Gary Chandler

73

74 **DEI Award (Diversity Equity and Inclusion)**

75 Kaly Adkins

76

77 **Landowner Steward**

78 Lionel Sauvage and the Sauvage Family

79 "The Bear Creek Access Area"

Commission Action: Rulemaking

Brian Wolfer, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator

Presentation: Brian provided the Commission with a presentation on the proposed rule establishing trap-check requirements for bear and cougar when taken for damage, nuisance, or safety reasons. While trapping for recreational hunting is already prohibited, current rules did not require trap checks for these species when traps are used for conflict situations. The proposal aimed to improve animal welfare, ensure timely removal of trapped animals, maintain landowner authority, and align with carcass disposal and salvage requirements. The proposed rule requires inspections at least every other calendar day, not exceeding 56 hours, with responsibility placed on the person who set the trap, though others may conduct the check.

This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at [link to BEAR AND COUGAR TRAP CHECK TIMES presenation](#)

Public Testimony

Dana Robinson, Oregon Wild

Brian Posewitz, Humane Voters

Kelly Peterson, The Humane Society of the United States

Cierra Buer, Lake Ranch

Andrea Kozil

John Vandenberg

Debra Merskin

Georgia Wie, 2022 MC

Sally Compton, Think Wild

Austin James

Gary Lauder, Think Wild

Story Warren

Tyler Dungannon, Oregon Hunters Association

Stan Steele, Oregon Trappers Assoc./ Sportsmen for Oregon

Action:

Commissioner Spelbrink moved to adopt the administrative rule establishing trap check requirements for bear and cougar trapping as proposed by staff and shown in Attachment 3. Commissioner Labhart seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor: Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees; Moldal, Morrison; one (1) opposed; Wahl.

EXHIBIT D: OREGON CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUND WILDLIFE CROSSING PROJECT APPROVAL

The Commission approved the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) Advisory Committee's recommendations for wildlife passage project funding.

Commission Action: Approval

Rachel Wheat, Connectivity Coordinator

Reva Gillman, Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund Coordinator

Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator

Reva and Rachel provided the Commission with a presentation outlining the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund's (OCRF) proposal to support the Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project, funded through wildlife connectivity allocations including \$5 million received in 2025. Coos County

1 manages the site, a major collector road with increasing freight traffic and high marten mortality. The
2 project seeks \$3.9 million to build three small wildlife crossings, replace an existing culvert with a larger
3 structure featuring dry-passage benches, and install directional barrier walls along up to one mile of
4 roadway. The effort aligns with multiple conservation priorities, including Species of Greatest
5 Conservation Need and key wildlife connectivity areas. The timeline anticipates contract initiation in late
6 2026, design and permitting through 2027, and construction extending into 2028 if needed, with staff
7 recommending approval of the funding request.

8
9 This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at [link to OREGON](#)
10 [CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUND WILDLIFE CROSSING PROJECT APPROVAL presentation](#)
11

12 No Public Testimony

13
14 Action:

15 Commissioner Moldal moved to approve expenditure from the Oregon Conservation and
16 Recreation Fund of up to \$3,900,000 for the “Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project.
17 Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde seconded the motion, and the motion was carried seven (7) in favor; Wahl,
18 Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, Hall Defrees; Moldal; Morrison

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20
21 Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.