

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
TOBIAS READ
SECRETARY OF STATE

MICHAEL KAPLAN
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



ARCHIVES DIVISION
STEPHANIE CLARK
DIRECTOR

800 SUMMER STREET NE
SALEM, OR 97310
503-373-0701

TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

DFW 26-2026

CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED

04/02/2026 12:52 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Lower Deschutes River Hatchery Spring Chinook Season

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/05/2026 THROUGH 09/28/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 04/02/2026

CONTACT: Linda Spansel

503-947-6233

linda.d.spansel@odfw.oregon.gov

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

Salem, OR 97302

Filed By:

Linda Spansel

Rules Coordinator

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

This rule is needed to open angling for spring Chinook salmon in the Lower Deschutes River. Preseason forecasts for hatchery spring Chinook returning to the Lower Deschutes River predict adequate returns to meet broodstock needs for Round Butte Hatchery and allow for limited harvest by sport anglers. The preseason forecast for adult Round Butte Hatchery stock returns to Round Butte is estimated to range from 1,790 to 2,151. Round Butte Hatchery needs 600 (300 pairs) adult spring Chinook to meet broodstock. Thus, sport harvest in the lower Deschutes River is unlikely to affect broodstock needs of Round Butte stock. Also, this limited mark-selective (i.e., hatchery fish only) fishery is not expected to have population impacts on wild spring Chinook. Encounter rates and associated catch and release mortality of wild spring Chinook are expected to be minimal. All wild spring Chinook captured must be released unharmed by anglers.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

There is not adequate time to go through the normal rulemaking proceedings to open this fishery by the desired start date, which is determined by when these fish will be present in the river.

Failure to adopt this rule would cause serious prejudice to the public interest in that it would prevent anglers the opportunity to harvest this valuable resource because the spring Chinook will no longer be available in the fishery. Adopting this rule will allow the opportunity during the time they are present.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact Linda Spansel at 503-947-6233 or linda.d.spansel@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

AMEND: 635-018-0090

RULE SUMMARY: This rule is needed to allow sport harvest opportunities for returning hatchery spring Chinook

salmon in the Lower Deschutes River for an approximate two-week period beginning May 5, 2026.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-018-0090

Inclusions and Modifications ¶

The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Central Zone. However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time and to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶

(1) The Deschutes River from the mouth at the I-84 Bridge upstream to Sherars Falls is open to angling for trout, hatchery steelhead, and hatchery Chinook salmon from May 5 through May 20, 2026. All wild Chinook salmon must be released unharmed. The daily catch limit is:¶

(a) One (1) adult hatchery Chinook salmon; and¶

(b) Five (5) hatchery jack salmon.¶

(2) It is unlawful to continue to angle in the area from Sherars Falls downstream to the upper railroad trestle after taking a daily bag limit of one (1) adult Chinook salmon.¶

(3) All other catch limits and restrictions remain unchanged from those listed for Deschutes River in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162