

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) derives approximately 1/3 of its biennial budget from license and tag fees paid by sport and commercial users. ODFW has two sets of fees; one set of fees is established in statute by the legislature and one set is adopted in permanent rule by the ODFW Commission. Most of the administratively set fees have not increased since 2010.

Senate Bill 247 was approved by the 2015 Legislature to adjust the statutorily set fees by increasing, decreasing or establishing new fees. Most recreational fees are set to incrementally increase every two years throughout the next six-year fee cycle, instead of increasing in a single large increment at the beginning of the fee cycle. However, Commercial fishing fees will still increase once at the beginning of this six-year fee cycle.

Staff will ask the Commission to adopt Oregon Administrative Rules to adjust license and tag fees to be effective upon filing. The department will come back with another request in 2017 to adopt the fee schedules for 2018, and as needed 2020 license years.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In 2013, ODFW began a process to evaluate the potential for new license products and approaches, using an extensive survey of nearly 60,000 license buyers, internal staff surveys, and a series of eight focus groups capped by a full-day discussion with representatives from a wide variety of interests. The information from this effort was used by ODFW to develop several new license products, or new approaches to licensing processes for inclusion into discussions with the public and External Budget Advisory Committee.

ODFW started its public outreach process in January 2014 to discuss the potential of adjusting fees. Below is a summary of those outreach activities:

In March 2014, the department began meeting with its External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) to develop its six year budget strategies and refine the 2015-17 budget proposal. EBAC includes representatives from conservation groups, local government, sports groups, commercial fishing, and other interested parties. EBAC meetings were held on March 11, March 25, April 8, May 1, and June 10 of 2014.

A subgroup of EBAC met separately to focus on the strategies to balance the Commercial Fish Fund (CFF) over the next six years. The subgroup met with department staff on March 26 and April 11 of 2014.

Throughout May 2014, Town Hall meetings were hosted at eight locations across the state to gather public input on the budget proposal and fee adjustments. In total, about 300 members of the public attended these meetings and provided input.

In addition to public comments received during the Town Hall meetings, the department received more than 130 written comments. These written comments were received through June 5, 2014.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission took public testimony at their August 1, 2014 hearing where it adopted a revised Department recommended budget, new license products, and specific fee adjustments.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Joint Natural Resource Committee, co-chaired by Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield assigned a workgroup to review ODFW's proposed fee adjustments presented in Senate Bill 247. Representative Rayfield was appointed the chair of the work group and numerous stakeholder representatives were asked to participate. The group met several times to review the proposed fee adjustments. Modifications to some of the original fee proposals were made, consensus was achieved, and the fee bill was approved by the House and Senate.

ISSUE 1

FORMAL ADOPTION OF OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES THAT SETS NEW LICENSE FEES THAT ARE NOT SET IN STATUTE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016.

ANALYSIS

A summary of the recommended fee adjustments is presented in Attachment 4, 2016 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Administrative Fee Schedule.

OPTIONS

- Option 1. Approve ODFW staff recommended fee adjustments.
- Option 2. Reject any and all recommended fee adjustments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

DRAFT MOTION	I move to amend Chapter 635, Divisions 001, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 010, 043, 044, 047, 048, 049, 050, 051, 055, 060, 065, 066, 067, 075, 090 & 200 relating to increasing administratively set licenses and fees, as proposed by staff.
EFFECTIVE DATE	Upon Filing