



DIVISION 007

Fish Management and Hatchery Operation

635-007-0512

Purpose of the Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy

This policy provides direction on the management of non-native game fish to ensure the Department's actions to establish, maintain, enhance, or constrain non-native game species are consistent both with the conservation of native fish and wildlife and with providing quality recreational fisheries. It clarifies the Department's management of a diverse suite of non-native game fish species found across the landscape and provides direction on where and when to focus efforts to optimize their recreational use.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138,

Statutes/Other Implemented: 496.146, 496.162

635-007-0514

Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy Goal

The goal of the Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy is to frame how and where to manage non- native game fish to provide recreational angling opportunity, while limiting the expansion of non-native game fish populations as necessary to reduce or avoid risk to native fish and wildlife populations. Implementation of this policy will likely be specific to individual sites, locations, or environments based upon native and non-native game fish distributions, the availability and quality of suitable habitat, and the importance of that habitat to native and non- native game fish species.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138,

Statutes/Other Implemented: 496.146, 496.162

635-007-0516

Key Elements of Non-Native Game Fish Management

(1) The Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy applies to all geographic regions and the diversity of aquatic habitats found across Oregon.

(2) Non-native game fish provide important and valued recreational angling opportunities in Oregon. Recreational use of these fisheries has social and economic importance throughout the state.



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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

38 (3) As outlined in the Department’s Climate and Ocean Change Policy, the changing climate will
39 result in conditions that favor many non-native fish, including some non-native game fish. As a
40 result, it is anticipated some species of non-native game fish may expand their distribution.

41 (4) Although non-native game fish provide significant recreational angling opportunity in Oregon
42 and some may have increasing importance due to a changing climate, non-native game fish may
43 also pose risk to Oregon’s native fish and wildlife and must be managed to ensure this risk is
44 within acceptable limits.

45 (5) The Department shall manage non-native game fish to meet the following objectives:

46 (a) Optimize recreational use to benefit the public consistent with conservation of native fish
47 species.

48 (b) Provide a variety of recreational angling opportunities reflecting the diverse resource and
49 public interest. These can range from catch-and-release and trophy fisheries to high-yield fisheries
50 that optimize surpluses and harvest opportunities.

51 (c) Prevent or minimize potential adverse impacts to native fish and wildlife, ecosystem functions,
52 or other recreational fisheries. Adverse impacts may occur through range expansion, competition,
53 predation, introduction or transmission of pathogens, interbreeding and hybridization. The
54 presence or relative importance of one or more of these factors may vary significantly across
55 species or locations.

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57 Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138,

58 Statutes/Other Implemented: 496.146, 496.162

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60 635-007-0518

61 Directives of the Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy

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63 (1) Non-native game fish occur in many aquatic systems throughout the state. Management of
64 these species may differ depending on type of water body (i.e., river, stream, lake or reservoir),
65 how established a population has become, how altered the water body is, and the spatial and
66 temporal overlap with native species. Accordingly, the Department will take the following
67 approach to managing non-native game fish.

68 (a) In rivers, streams, and natural lakes where non-native game fish are not present, the
69 Department will actively manage against the establishment of non-native game fish.

70 (b) In rivers, streams, and natural lakes where non-native game fish are present and pose a risk to
71 the conservation or recovery of native fish or wildlife, or would be detrimental to the



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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

72 reestablishment of extirpated native fish or wildlife populations, the Department will actively
73 manage against the expansion of non-native game fish populations. At some specific locations,
74 this may include efforts to reduce or remove non-native game fish depending on the degree of
75 conservation risk, management options and resources available, and likelihood of success.

76 (c) In rivers, streams, and natural lakes where the impact of non-native game fish on native fish or
77 wildlife is negligible or native fish or wildlife have been extirpated and the natural ecosystem
78 functions have been altered such that reestablishment of native fish populations is unlikely, the
79 Department will manage for recreational opportunity of non-native game fish.

80 (d) In man-made ponds, lakes or reservoirs, if populations of non-native and native game fish
81 combine to provide a recreational fishery (mixed stock fishery), and the associated fishery does
82 not pose a conservation risk to native species the Department may continue to manage for the full
83 suite of species.

84 (e) In man-made ponds, lakes or reservoirs, if a population of non-native game fish is present and
85 the population is detrimental to the quality of the fishery, the Department may actively manage by
86 removing or reducing the non-native population causing the problem to reestablish the desired
87 recreational fishery.

88 (f) In waterbodies with significantly altered habitat, the Department will continue to establish,
89 maintain or enhance a desired recreational fishery for non-native game fish as long as the non-
90 native game fish population and associated fishery do not pose a conservation risk to native
91 species.

92 (2) In response to an illegal introduction of a non-native game fish species into a river, stream,
93 lake, or reservoir where that non-native species does not currently exist, the Department, as best
94 possible within available resources, shall, as applicable:

95 (a) Attempt to eradicate the species if it is feasible and practical to do so;

96 (b) If the species cannot be eradicated and presents a conservation risk, the Department shall
97 actively manage to reduce its presence or influence;

98 (c) If the species cannot be eradicated and presents minimal conservation risk, the Department
99 shall manage to prevent or minimize its population growth and range expansion but may also
100 manage the non-native game fish to provide recreational opportunity at that location.

101 Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138,
102 Statutes/Other Implemented: 496.146, 496.162
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