



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Fish and Wildlife Commission Tour:
Thursday, April 21, 2022, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Best Western Astoria Bayfront Hotel
555 Hamburg Ave.
Astoria, OR 97103

Meeting:
Friday April 22, 2022 – 8:00 AM
The Red Building Loft
20 Basin St, Suite F
Astoria, OR 97103

1 *Commission minutes are draft until approved by the Commission.*

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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	Curt Melcher, Director
Jill Zarnowitz, Vice- Chair	Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director
Mark Labhart, Commissioner	Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director
Bob Spelbrink, Commissioner	Nick Myatt, East Region Manager
Becky Hatfield-Hyde, Commissioner	Chris Kern, Acting West Region Manager
Kathayoon Khalil, Commissioner	Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General
Leslie King, Commissioner	Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General
	Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant
	Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator
	Casey Thomas, Captain Oregon State Police

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MEETING

On Friday, **April 22, 2022, 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 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/April%20Field%20Report.pdf*

Expenditure Report

Staff: Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Administration

Shannon provided the Commission with the expenditure report. Agency revenue and expenditure levels are on track with the prior biennium. Unrestricted cash finished at \$62.8 million while restricted cash came in at \$28.3 million.

1 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*
2 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/Commission%20Financial%20Report%20April%202022.pdf
3

5 **ADAPTING TO CLIMATE AND OCEAN CHANGE REPORT**

6 Overview of Wildlife Division’s Climate Change Efforts

7 Staff: Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator

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9 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
10 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/Presentation_Overview%20of%20Wildlife%20Division%20Climate%20Change%20Efforts.pdf
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13 **WILDLIFE RESPONSE WORK GROUP UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

14 Staff: Brian Wolfer, Game Program Manager

15 Bob Salinger, Director of Conservation, Portland Audubon

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17 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
18 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/Presentation_Wildlife%20Response%20Work%20Group.pdf
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21 **FISH AND WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP AWARD FOR FOREST LANDS**

22 Rod Krahmer, Forester Practices Program Coordinator

23 Mary Wahl, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Chair

24 Jim Kelly, Oregon Board of Forestry Chair

25
26 Northwest Oregon Region, 2019 Non-Industrial Forest Lands

27 David Bugni

28 Northwest Oregon Region, 2019 Industrial Forest Lands

29 Mark Morgans

30 Southwest Oregon Region, 2019 Industrial Forest Lands

31 Tom Hayes and Manulife Investment Management

32 Northwest Oregon Region, 2021 Non-Industrial Forest Lands

33 Reid and Regina Ligon

34 Northwest Oregon Region, 2021 Industrial Forest Lands

35 Port Blakely

37 **GRAY WOLF POPULATION ANNUAL UPDATE**

38 Roblyn Brown, Wolf Program Coordinator

39 Derek Broman, Carnivore-Furbearer Coordinator

40 [2021 Annual Wolf Report FINAL](#)

41
42 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
43 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/Presentation_Oregon%20Wolf%20Conservation%20and%20Management.pdf
44

1 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

2 Curt Melcher, Director, requested the Commission ratify the following temporary rules. The eight
3 (8) temporary rules were previously adopted by the director under his emergency action authority.
4

5 **1. 635-023-0095**

6 **Rescind White Sturgeon Retention Fishery in the Columbia River**

7 Adopted 03/22/2022: effective 03/22/2022 through 06/26/2022.

8 This amended rule rescinds the previously adopted retention fishing days after March 21 for
9 white sturgeon in The Dalles Pool, including adjacent tributaries, of the mainstem Columbia
10 River.

11 **2. 635-018-0090**

12 **Open Hood River Hatchery Chinook Fishery**

13 Adopted 03/30/2022: effective 04/15/2022 through 06/30/2022.

14 This amended rule authorizes recreational retention of one hatchery Chinook and five hatchery
15 jack salmon in portions of the Hood River from April 15 through June 30.
16

17 **3. 635-041-0020**

18 **Retention Period Extension for Treaty Subsistence Fishing in the Fifteen-mile Creek
19 Sanctuary**

20 Adopted 04/06/2022: effective 04/07/2022 through 06/15/2022.

21 Under permanent rule, the annual closure date for treaty tribal subsistence fishing around the
22 mouth of Fifteen-mile Creek extends from November 16 through June 15. This amended rule
23 allows subsistence fishing in this area to resume on April 7 to allow access to spring Chinook.
24

25 **4. 635-017-0090**

26 **Close Angling in Willamina Creek 200 feet below the Lower Falls**

27 Adopted 04/08/2022: effective 04/08/2022 through 08/15/2022.

28 This amended rule prohibits all angling in Willamina Creek approximately 200 feet below the
29 lower falls in response to illegal targeting of winter steelhead.
30

31 **5. 635-005-0290, 635-005-0387**

32 **Implement Tillamook Bay Intertidal Commercial Cockle Fishery Quota and Closed
33 Periods**

34 Adopted 04/14/2022: effective 04/18/2022 through 09/30/2022.

35 These amended rules will impose an annual harvest quota of 80,000 pounds on the Tillamook
36 Bay commercial intertidal cockle fishery. The amended rules also prohibit the commercial
37 harvest of intertidal cockles in Tillamook Bay during all weekends and holidays.
38

39 **6. 635-017-0090**

40 **Allow Temporary Use of Two Rod Validation in the Upper Willamette River**

41 Adopted 04/15/2022: 04/16/2022 through 08/15/2022.

42 This amended rule allows usage of the two-rod validation in the Willamette River and
43 tributaries upstream of Willamette Falls while fishing for all game and non-game fish species,
44 except sturgeon from April 16 through August 15, 2022.

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2 **7. 635-069-0000, 635-073-0000**

3 **Amend rules to reduce hunting opportunity for specified 2022 Oregon controlled deer**
4 **hunts**

5 Adopted: April 15, 2022 – Effective Dates: April 15, 2022, through October 11, 2022
6 Oregon Administrative Rules establishing tag numbers for 2022 controlled eastern Oregon deer
7 hunts and deer bow hunters adopted September 2021. Tag numbers adopted at that time did not
8 account for the full scale of impacts from wildfires in the Interstate Wildlife Management Unit
9 (WMU), reduction in the amount of land publicly accessible to hunters in the Heppner WMU,
10 and the scale of deer population reduction within the Starkey Experimental Forest.

11
12 **8. 635-042-0145**

13 **Rescind select area commercial fishing periods**

14 Adopted: April 20, 2022 - Effective Date: April 21, 2022, through July 31, 2022
15 These rules rescind and modify previously adopted spring Select Area commercial fishing
16 periods from April 21 through May 11. Fisheries addressed by these rules include
17 Blind/Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Youngs Bay.

18
19 **Action:**

20 Commissioner Labhart moved to ratify the eight (8) temporary rules set forth on April 22, 2022
21 agenda. Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, seven
22 (7) in favor.

23
24 **OTHER BUSINESS**

25 May Commission Meeting
26 Coquille Tribe Cooperative Agreement

27
28 **COMMISSION UPDATES**

29 Beaver Management Working Group
30 Trap Check Working Group

31
32 **PUBLIC FORUM**

33 This part of the agenda is for comments on topics not scheduled on the agenda. The Commission
34 will be unable to act on items brought to their attention in this forum.

35 *Wolf Pack in NE Oregon*
36 *Josh Marque*

37
38 *Columbia River Fishery Issues*

39
40 *Jim Coleman*
41 *Steve Fick*
42 *Jim Wells*
43 *Rachel Kuhn*
44 *Otis Hunsinger*

1 Patrick Kelly
2 Heath Heikkila
3 Bruce Buckmaster
4

5 Columbia River Steelhead and Disaster Relief for the Steelhead Fishing Small business
6 sector in 2021

7 David Moskowitz, TCA
8

9 Alternate Gear

10 Lance Gray
11

12 **Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES**

13 Action:

14 Commissioner Zarnowitz moved to approve the March 18, 2022, meeting minutes with continued
15 authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Commissioner Labhart seconded the motion, and
16 the motion carried seven (7) in favor.
17

18 **EXHIBIT B: AMEND BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE CEREMONIAL HARVEST
19 PERMIT HUNT AREA**

20 The Commission amended rules to allow limited hunting for mule deer in the Buena Vista Unit of
21 Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) and include the Buena Vista unit of MNWR in the
22 hunt area for Burns Paiute Tribe ceremonial harvest permit for mule deer hunting.

23 Staff: Lee Foster, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist

24 Brian Wolfer, Game Program Manager

25 *Presentation:* Lee provided the Commission with a presentation on the background of the
26 Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), approved 2021 changes to the Mule Deer hunt, and the
27 Burns Paiute Tribe Ceremonial Harvest Permit Hunt Area.
28

29 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*

30 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/B/Ex%20B_Presentation_Burns%20Paiute_Malheur%20NWR%20Mule%20Deer%20Hunt.pdf
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33 No Public Testimony

34 Rulemaking

35 Action:

36 Commissioner Labhart moved to approve the amendments to OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 043
37 and 065 as proposed by staff and shown in Attachment 3. Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde seconded
38 the motion, and the motion carried seven (7) in favor.
39

40 **EXHIBIT C: 2022-2023 OREGON GAME BIRD REGULATIONS**

41 The Commission adopted the game bird season regulations for 2022-23.

42 Staff: Brandon Reishus, Migratory Game Bird Coordinator

43 Mikal Cline, Upland Game Bird Coordinator

44 Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator

1 Presentations: Mikal provided the Commission with a presentation on the 2022-23 Upland
2 Game Bird hunting seasons and regulation proposals. The presentation included information on
3 population status, 5-year regulation framework, special hunt opportunities, controlled Sage-grouse
4 season, and climate change and game bird management.

5 Brandon provided a presentation on the 2022-23 migratory gamebird hunting season and
6 regulation proposals. The presentation included in information on regulation setting, habitat
7 conditions, proposed seasons and bag limits, wildlife area hunt programs, and department lands.
8

9 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
10 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/C/Ex%20C_Presentation-](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/C/Ex%20C_Presentation-2022%20Game%20Bird%20Regulations.pdf)
11 [2022%20Game%20Bird%20Regulations.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/C/Ex%20C_Presentation-2022%20Game%20Bird%20Regulations.pdf)
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13 Public Testimony

Tyler Dungannon, Central Point	Oregon Hunters Association
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14 Rulemaking

15 Action:

16 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 045, 051, 052, 053,
17 054, and 060 as proposed by staff in Attachment 4. Commissioner Zarnowitz seconded the motion,
18 and the motion carried seven (7) in favor.
19

20 **EXHIBIT D: 2022 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES REGULATIONS**

21 The Commission adopted the 2022 regulations for recreational and commercial Pacific
22 halibut fisheries.

23 Staff: Christian Heath, Assistant Project Leader; Groundfish and Pacific Halibut

24 Dr. Caren Braby, Marine Resources Program Manager

25 Presentation: Christian provided the Commission with a presentation on 2022 Pacific
26 Halibut Fishery regulations. The presentation included background on management, biology, stock
27 status, catch sharing plan and on the 2022 Oregon sport and commercial fisheries.
28

29 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
30 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/D/Exhibit%20D_Presentation](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/D/Exhibit%20D_Presentation.pdf)
31 [.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/D/Exhibit%20D_Presentation.pdf)
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33 No Public Testimony

34 Rulemaking

35 Action:

36 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to adopt the staff recommendations for the 2022 sport and
37 commercial Pacific halibut fisheries as shown in Attachment 3. Commissioner Zarnowitz seconded
38 the motion, and the motion carried seven (7) in favor.

39 **EXHIBIT E: 2022 OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES AND OCEAN TERMINAL**
40 **FISHERIES RULEMAKING**

1 The Commission was provided with an update on 2022 ocean salmon fishery planning leading
2 up to the March 15, 2022, salmon season start date. The Commission adopted ocean salmon
3 rules at the April meeting.

4 Staff: Christine Mallette, Ocean Salmon Technical Services Manager
5 John North, Interim Fish Division Deputy Administrator

6 Presentation: Christian provided the Commission with a presentation on the Annual Pacific
7 Fishery Management Council (PFMC) process for salmon fisheries management. The
8 presentation included 2022 projected Chinook and coho stocks and 2022 ocean commercial
9 and recreational salmon seasons.

10
11 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
12 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/E/Exhibit%20E_Presentation.](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/E/Exhibit%20E_Presentation.pdf)
13 [pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/E/Exhibit%20E_Presentation.pdf)

14 No Public Testimony
15 Rulemaking
16 Action:

17 Commissioner Khalil moved to amend OAR 635 Divisions 003 and 013 as proposed by staff in
18 Attachment 3. Commissioner Labhart seconded the motion, and the motion carried seven (7) in
19 favor.

20 21 **EXHIBIT F: NORTH UMPQUA SUMMER STEELHEAD HATCHERY** 22 **PROGRAM**

23 The Commission directed the Department to not release summer steelhead smolts in 2022
24 and to eliminate the Rock Creek summer steelhead hatchery program.

25 Staff: Sara Gregory, Umpqua Watershed District Manager
26 Dr. Shaun Clements, Fish Division Deputy Administrator

27
28 Presentation: Sara and Shaun provided the Commission with a presentation on the Rock
29 Creek summer steelhead hatchery program. The presentation included data on trends in hatchery
30 returns, freshwater and ocean conditions, and other factors impacting steelhead returns.
31 Information from a recently completed assessment was presented. The presentation concluded with
32 a summary of public input from online surveys and an in-person workshop.

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35 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
36 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/F/Exhibit F Presentation FI](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/F/Exhibit_F_Presentation_FI_NAL.pdf)
37 [NAL.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/22/04_Apr/F/Exhibit_F_Presentation_FI_NAL.pdf)

38 Panel Testimony

North Umpqua Coalition

Kirk Blaine, NSF
John McMillan, TCA
Dean Finnerty, WSU
Jennifer Fairbrother, NFS
Rob Kirschner, TCA
*Jeff Dose, Steamboaters
*Gary Marsten, WSU

Oregon Anglers Association

Oregon Anglers Alliance Science Team
*Lyle Curtis
*Joe Watkins
*Dr. Richard Stroud
*James Pex
Tom Rumreich
*Leonard Krug

*Zoom testimony

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Public Testimony

Representative David Brock Smith	House Dist. 01
Representative Boomer Wright	Oregon State Representative District 9
Gary Johnson	Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe
John Ogan, Sisters	Coquille Indian Tribe
Aaron Duncan, Gold Beach	CAF Indian Creek Fish Hatchery
Bill Bakke, Portland	
Scott Worsley, Roseburg	
Dave Johnson	
Logan DeGree, Roseburg	
Douglas Buck, Reedsport	GRWB Step, OAA, OCA Florence Step, Coquille STEP
Jason Meisner, Oakland	
Tom Kress, Roseburg	Douglas County Commissioner
Dominic Carollo, Roseburg	Carollo Law Group, Attorneys for Douglas County, UFED, and OAA
Ian Courter, Sandy	Mount Hood Environmental
Nicholas Richardson, Myrtle Creek	

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Approval

Commissioner Labhart [STATEMENT](#)

Action:

Commissioner Zarnowitz moved to direct the Department to not release summer steelhead hatchery smolts in 2022, and consistent with OAR 635-500-6775(6)[b], to direct the Department to eliminate the Rock Creek summer steelhead hatchery program. Commissioner Khalil seconded the motion, and the motion carried four (4) in favor- Khalil, King, Zarnowitz, Wahl; three (3) opposed- Labhart, Spelbrink, Hatfield-Hyde.

Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.