

When an Oregon Scientific Take Permit or Rescue/Salvage Authorization is needed?

Fish.Research@odfw.oregon.gov – goes to both permitting staff- best for fastest response

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A Scientific Take Permit (STP) is required for any person desiring to take marine fish, shellfish or invertebrates, freshwater fish, mussels/clams, or crayfish from waters of this state for scientific or educational purposes (OAR 635-007-0900). A Rescue/Salvage Authorization (RSA) is required if the take is for rescue/salvage purposes. If you are targeting any other aquatic organism, but may capture fish with the sampling methods used, you will also need a Scientific Take Permit. “Take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, control, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. All species must be listed on the permit – including native, non-native, ESA-listed, and non-listed species. You may need either an STP or Rescue/Salvage authorization (or both) depending on your project activities and we can issue them as one joint permit or separately to fit your project needs.

- An OR-STP is required if your activities include scientific research, monitoring and inventory, student research projects, and educational displays.
- An OR-RSA is required if your activities include rescue/salvage of fish associated with construction type projects involving in-water work.

It is best to **contact us directly with questions** as there are many other criteria and/or permits involved that affects being properly covered for handling fish in Oregon.

FAQ's:

- Can I get an exemption?
 - ODFW does not have the legal authority under the current statute to waive the requirement of a Scientific Take Permit if the activity is for scientific research or education.
- Are tribes exempt?
 - Because of treaty rights or tribal case law, tribal members working on reservation lands do not apply for permits. A Scientific Take Permit or Rescue Salvage Authorization is required to take fish on all lands outside of the reservation boundary and by all non-enrolled tribal members or any member of the general public working on reservation land.
- I am taking fish in a way already legal by Oregon fishing regulations; do I still need a permit/authorization?
 - If the purpose of your take is scientific or education you are required to have a Scientific Take Permit.

- Is there a fee?
 - A fee of \$121.50 for projects during 2020-23 is required for agencies, corporations, associations, colleges, or other entities to issue a Scientific Take Permit (OAR 635-007-0910). There is no fee for K-12 educational institutions.
 - There is no fee if your project is rescue/salvage only (if permit is rescue salvage AND scientific take- you will need to pay the fee)
- Can I get the fee waived?
 - The OAR language is specific to the fee amount, the statute (496.146 (10)) references ODFW's ability to implement a fee in the rule. The rules and statutes do not exempt any entity from these requirements.
- How long does it take to get a permit/authorization?
 - The typical timeline from submitting your application to receiving the issued permit/authorization is 4-6 weeks.
- I already have federal permit/coverage for listed species and won't be handling other species; do I still need a permit/authorization?
 - Anytime you take a fish from the waters of Oregon a Permit or Authorization is required. If the fish you take are ESA listed, then in addition to the ODFW coverage you will also need the appropriate federal permits/coverage.
- I have a 4(d) permit; do I need an Oregon Scientific Take Permit?
 - The 4(d) authorization comes from NOAA and it applies to all the projects that are approved to be part of the package. The application you submit to be part of that package is a combination 4(d) and Oregon Scientific Take permit – both permits are included with one application. ODFW and NOAA work together to approve the package.
- Are there any research activities that are not considered 'take'?
 - Snorkel surveys and spawning ground surveys are not considered 'take' and therefore a STP is not required. If snorkel or spawning ground surveys are part of a project that includes other sampling methods that will take fish, we encourage you to include all the sampling methods in your STP and report the results for all methods in your report (including the snorkel and spawning ground surveys).
- I am only sampling non-native fish, is a permit/authorization needed?
 - ODFW issues Scientific Take Permits and Rescue/Salvage Authorizations for all fish taken from the waters of Oregon, regardless of the status or classification of the species.
- Can my permit/authorization application be denied?
 - ODFW may refuse to issue a permit/authorization if the proposed take lacks scientific or educational merit, would adversely affect the fish populations of the state, or if the applicant/project violated any term of any license or permit/authorization issued by ODFW (OAR 635-007-0900).