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# Commission to announce big game tags, coho seasons today

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted 137,015 controlled hunt big game tags for this fall's hunting season earlier this month during a meeting in Salem. Draw results will be available today.

The commission also considered changes to the 2016 big game hunting regulations.

While it won't make a final decision until the October meeting, the commission indicated support for most staff proposals including:

• A new Special Opportunity and Premium Hunt series that would offer an opportunity to draw an additional deer, elk or pronghorn tag with a longer season. These tags would be very limited but available in most areas. Tags would be allocated through the regular controlled hunt draw process but would not use preference points.

 Changing renewal period for hunters with a disability permit from every two years to every five years.

• Conducting new and continued cougar target areas to reduce cougar damage to livestock, limit human safety problems and reduce impacts on ungulate populations. Units still under consideration are: Melrose, SW McKenzie/NW Indigo, South Paulina/N Steens Wagontire, Warner, and Interstate.

• Increasing Wenaha anybull rifle and archer tags to 40 (from 35), a reduction from original staff proposal to allow 45 tags. (Hunts #256Y1 and

The commission heard public testimony in favor of lighted nocks for archery hunters and indicated support for the concept, and has asked staff to ensure the concept is consistent with existing statutory authori-

The commission also set wild coho salmon seasons for Siuslaw, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Umpqua, Coos and Coquille basins, Beaver and Floras creeks and Tenmile

lakes (Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes remain open under permanent regulations).

Due to low projected returns, the Nehalem River will be closed to wild coho harvest in 2015, though anglers will be able to harvest hatchery coho thanks to an existing hatchery coho program on the river.

Daily and seasonal bag limits in open areas will be similar to recent years. However, because fewer Endangered Species Act impacts are available in 2015, seasons in some basins will be shorter than in 2013 and 2014.

All proposed coho fisheries must be reviewed and approved by NOAA.

The 2015 Coastal Coho Fishing Regulations will be posted on the ODFW website by late June.

For the first time in several years, there will be no emergency regulations for coastal fall Chinook. Anglers should refer to the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet for those seasons.

In other business, the commission:

• Allocated 2016 tags to the big game auction and raffle program.

 Approved funding for access and habitat projects that provide hunting access or improve wildlife habitat.

• Set the July 2015 - June 2016 commercial seasons for coastal pelagic species. Under federal regulations for the 2015-16 season, there will not be a directed sardine fishery off

the West Coast due to very low numbers in the latest stock assessment.

• Approved \$1,328,936 in funding for 17 fish enhancement and restoration projects recommended by the Fish Restoration and Enhancement

The Commission is the policy-making body for fish and wildlife issues in the state.

It usually meets monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27 in Salem.

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# ODFW SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT TO SIMPLIFY NEW STATE FISHING REGULATIONS

SALEM — For new anglers, Oregon's complex fishing regulations can be daunting. Even seasoned anglers claim they frequently need a law degree to help them understand what's allowed and what's not.

Over the years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has heard an earful from the fishing community about how its regulations make fishing less fun, and pose a barrier to new anglers getting started. Beginning earlier this year, the agency embarked on a process to try to simplify the state's trout and warmwater fishing regulations in time for the 2016 seasons.

"We've looked at every water body across the state, trying to develop common regulations, consistent language, and increased fishing opportunities," said Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fisheries program manager.

Because of their popularity and appeal to beginning anglers, the simplification process is beginning with trout and warmwater fisheries, Gauvin added.

Anglers will have a chance to hear about the results of this effort in a series of eight public meetings to be held throughout

the state in June and July.

Gauvin points out that these meetings are not part of the agency's traditional public process for soliciting new regulations.

"We're excited to share with the public the progress we've made simplifying fishing regulations," he said. "There will time during the meetings for questions about some of the changes we've made, but we will not be accepting new regulation proposals."

The meeting closest to Florence will be in Newport, July 6, at Hallmark Resort, 744 SE Elizabeth, from 6 to 7:30

Working with local district fish biologists and Oregon State Police officers, the simplification process took aim at the many "special regulations" that applied to individual water bodies across the state.

The goal was to reduce the number of special regulations to those with a clearly identified biological or management purpose, and to streamline the remaining regulations into fewer, more consistent categories, Gauvin said.

Examples of some of the

changes include: • Eliminating the April trout

opener and (with a few exceptions) opening those areas to year-round fishing.

- Standardizing catch limits
- Maintaining consistency in the how the regulations are list-

"There still will be a few exceptions to the general rules," Gauvin said, "but they will be far fewer and easier to understand."

Beginning in 2016, regulations will be adopted, and new regulation booklets will be printed, every two years instead of every year.



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#### **ODFW** from 1B

The videos are being released just as Oregonians are

making their outdoor travel

"Summer vacation and fishing just naturally go together," Willard said. Whether you're planning a week-long getaway to a remote location, or a one-

day staycation close to home,

there will be an opportunity to add fishing to the agenda," he

The new video series is part of ODFW's on-going efforts to introduce newcomers and others to the fun of fishing.

Links to the video series, and other resources about how and where to fish in Oregon, can be found at www.dfw. state.or.us/resources/fishing /learn\_to\_fish.asp.

# View

from 1B

of the other groups out there with noble causes, spending their money on precious advertising time.

The networks thank them, too. And so do the ad firms and all the people that are in the industry.

But I gotta tell ya, it's getting to the point where you're praying for the players to play in perpetuity because you know if they stop for any reason — a pitching change, a technical foul, multiple penalties to sort out — it means you're going to have to watch the guy pop out his eyeball, tear off his legs and rip out his jaw again during the station break.

As a fan, you should not

have to hope that Don Mattingly blows Clayton Kershaw's arm out because you're afraid that if he stops pitching for even a second, it means you have to be subjected to a colonic camera view and thrust on another journey through the fat layers sur-

rounding the liver of the guy

who wanted to have a Fanta. Watching a full seven-game series or a Stanley Cup win on home ice should be exciting, but there's a difference between the exhilaration of having witnessed a nail biter for the ages as opposed to being left a complete neurotic with borderline PTSD because the public service announcements.

Whatever happened to frying an egg and just saying no? #I'mJustSayin.