

OFWC approves sportfishing regulations for 2016

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has approved the 2016 Oregon sport fishing regulations.

Under the regulations adopted today, anglers should find it easier to navigate the rules for trout and warmwater fishing, thanks to fewer special regulations creating different seasons, gear restrictions and bag limits for different waters.

These changes are the result

of an almost year-long effort by ODFW staff to streamline and simplify the fishing rules. Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fisheries manager, told the Commission that overly complex regulations is one of the most common complaints among anglers.

Some of the changes for 2016 include:

- Eliminating of the April trout opener — most of these

waters will now be open year-round.

- Setting the May trout opener at May 22 each year, ensuring that trout fishing statewide would always be open Memorial Day weekend.

- Removing the bag limit on nonnative brown and brook trout in streams statewide, though some exceptions will still apply.

- Simplifying language,

including replacing the terms “adipose fin-clipped” and “nonadipose fin-clipped” with “hatchery” and “wild.”

- Removing bag limits for warmwater fish in the Columbia, John Day and Umpqua rivers.

In addition to the regulation changes, there also will be a new format for the regulations booklet that will make it easier to read. The 2016 Oregon Sport

Fishing Regulations will be available in early December 2015.

The Commission approved the 10-year update of the Oregon Conservation Strategy (Strategy), including the Oregon Nearshore Strategy component.

These documents are broad, overarching strategies for voluntary conservation of Oregon’s native fish, wildlife

and marine resources. Both documents were updated with new scientific technology and information, and had extensive technical and public review and input over the last year.

Species lists and habitats were modified and estuaries were included in the nearshore strategy.

The Commission also approved funding for three access and habitat projects.

Siuslaw from 1B

entering the second quarter.

Though North Bend was able score twice in the less than four minutes — on a 31-yard field goal and 12-yard carry — Siuslaw was able to hold a slim three-point lead, 20-17, entering the half on a five-yard reception by Reese Siegel just 23 seconds before the break.

The third quarter belonged to the Bulldogs, who only scored six points but managed a rare occurrence by holding the Vikings scoreless in the period to take a three-point, 23-20, lead heading into the fourth quarter.

North Bend scored quickly, with Brody Lucero slipping into the end zone on a four-yard carry less than two minutes into the period. Siuslaw, mean-

while, threatened but never got into the red zone during the next eight minutes on the clock.

The Bulldogs then delivered a 38-yard kick to extend their lead to 33-20.

With 33 seconds left in the game, Mitchell found Trent Reavis for a 21-yard TD pass for the final score of the game, 33-27.

Thrall led rushing with 86 yards on 19 carries, including a

touchdown. Mitchell had 48 yards on 15 carries, and Nick Steinman had two carries for three yards.

Mitchell was 18-for-28 in passing, with 179 yards and three touchdowns.

Scott Gordon led receivers with 104 yards on 10 catches, including a touchdown. Reavis had two catches, including a 21-yard TD reception. Siegel had 34 yards on two catches,

including a TD.

Evan Teter had 11 yards on three receptions.

Though three games remain in the season, this Friday’s home game against Marshfield is the most crucial. Both teams began the regular season undefeated at 4-0; both teams suffered their first loss last Friday, knocking them out of a three-way tie for first place.

A loss this week would not

only make reaching the play-offs that much harder, it would also likely lead to a loss of homefield advantage should they make the state playoffs.

The Vikings will have the homefield advantage against the Pirates this Friday. With Siuslaw’s roster of 22 versus the Pirates’ 83-man roster, any advantage is important.

Kickoff for Friday’s game will be 7 p.m.

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