

OFWC adopts new fishing, hunting regulations

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) met Monday in Klamath Falls, where Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff presented a Draft Revised Wolf Management Plan. Nearly 40 people testified about the draft plan. A second public meeting about the plan has been scheduled for May 19 at the Portland Airport Embassy Suites.

The Commission set the 2017 Pacific halibut and ocean salmon and Pacific halibut seasons for Oregon's territorial waters within three nautical miles of shore by adopting staff proposals.

Due to the critically low forecast for Klamath fall Chinook, ocean Chinook fisheries off Oregon south of Cape Falcon have been sharply curtailed with no commercial troll seasons allowed south of Florence this year.

Recreational fisheries from Cape Falcon to Humberg Mt. harvest far fewer Chinook and will have a regular Chinook season structure, but coho seasons will be limited due to poor forecasts for several key populations.

The area south of Humberg Mt. will be closed for all ocean salmon fishing with the exception of the state waters fall Chinook season at Brookings.

The Commission also adopted regulations for Pacific halibut fishing in 2017. The total 2017 catch limit will be 256,757 pounds, a 17 percent increase from 2016. There are several changes to the 2017 regulations that affect the sport fisheries:

- For all Oregon subareas, in-season modifications to the sport halibut seasons can now be considered based on yelloweye rockfish impacts.
- Descending devices will be mandatory for sport fishing of Pacific Halibut to reduce impacts to yelloweye rockfish (similar to what was adopted for the bottomfish fishery in December 2016).
- For the Central Coast sub-area nearshore fishery (shoreward of the 40 fathom line), retention of other species of flatfish when fishing outside of the seasonal bottomfish depth restriction will be allowed.
- This will allow for some additional opportunities and aligns the nearshore and all-depth fishery regulations.
- For the Central Coast sub-area all-depth fishery, retention of bottomfish species is allowed if the sport bottomfish fishery is also open to all depths.
- This will allow anglers to retain some additional species

when both fisheries are open to all depth, with minimal potential additional impacts to yelloweye rockfish.

In other business, the Commission:

- Adopted 2017-18 Game Bird Season Regulations. There

are just a few changes from last year's regulations including: Daily bag limit for pintails reduced to one as mandated by USFWS frameworks; NW Permit Goose Zone shooting hours will begin 15 minutes earlier; edible portions for

game birds now defined as being at minimum the breast for all game birds; open dates for lands east of Foothill Rd on Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area are changed (so open Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, federal holidays Aug.1-Jan. 31) to increase

hunting opportunity for game birds and elk.


- Downlisted Borax Lake Chub from Endangered to Threatened and removed Foskett Spring Speckled Dace from the state's List of Threatened and Endangered

Species.
 • Adopted permanent rules for issuing leftover limited Landowner Preference tags and for the transfer of controlled or limited tags from people to their terminally ill immediate family members.




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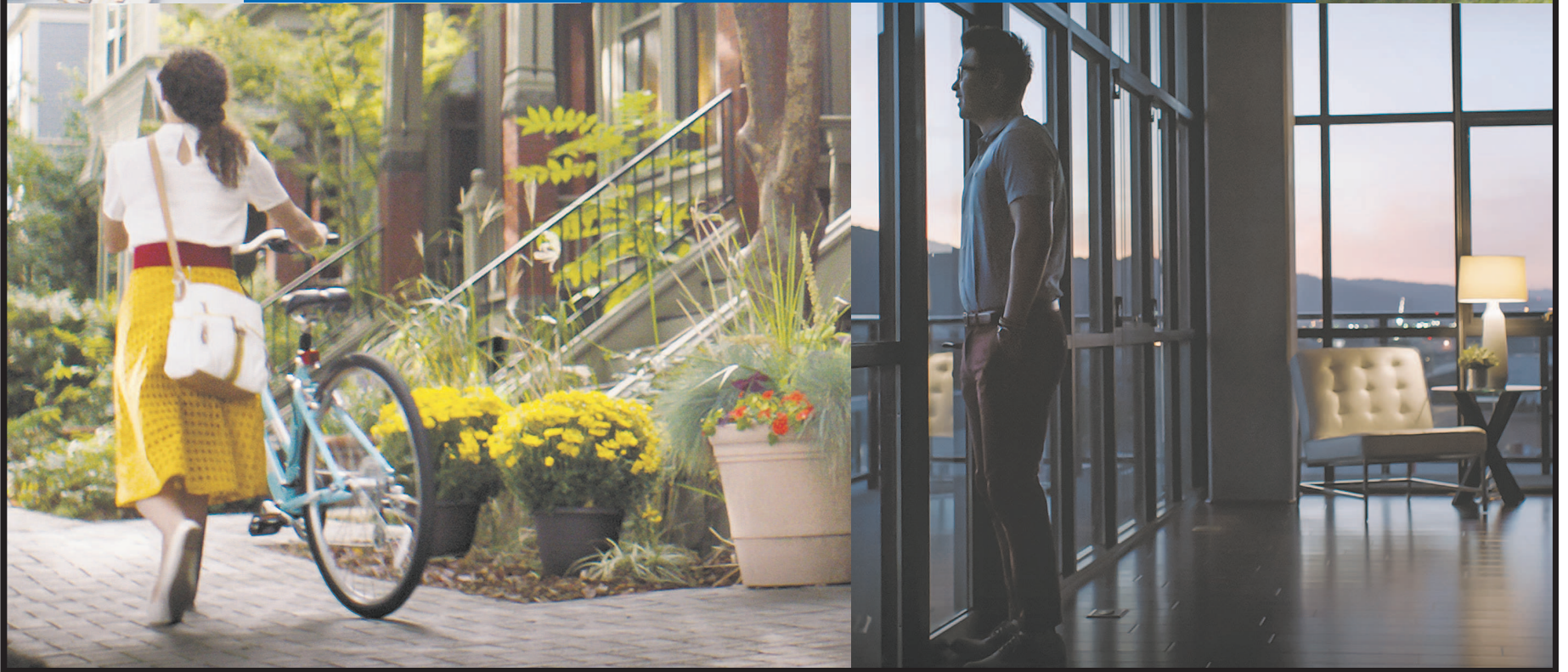
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