

## Start planning for 2018 fishing, hunting seasons

SALEM — The new 2018 Oregon Sport Fishing and 2018 Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations are now available at outdoor stores and ODFW offices, or at [www.eregulations.com](http://www.eregulations.com) or through its new recreation website at [MyODFW.com](http://MyODFW.com).

As of Friday, 2018 licenses and tags are also on sale at license sales agents most ODFW offices and online.

Fishing and hunting licenses can make great gifts, especially for kids. Youth age 12 to 17 can fish (including Columbia River Endorsement), hunt, crab and clam all year for \$10 with the Youth License, or gift the Sports Pac (\$55) and add all major hunting and fishing tags/validations including deer, elk, turkey, bear, cougar and combined angling tag.

ODFW's special big game hunt raffle tickets also make great stocking stuffers (\$4.50-\$11.50 for chance to win a special deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn or Rocky Mountain goat tag).

To give a license, tag or other document as a gift, you need the hunter or angler's full name and date of birth (day, month, year).

If the person has had a license before, make sure you have their ODFW hunter/angler ID number, which is found at the top of their license and stays the same

every year. If you are purchasing for someone who has never had a license, you will need to provide their social security number in compliance with Federal and State Laws.

**What's New for 2018**  
 • **Big Game Hunting:** New in the 2018 regulations, significant changes are in yellow highlighted text not red text, consistent with fishing regulations.

The only major regulatory changes for hunters are the extension of the age limit for the Mentored Youth Hunt Program to include 14- and 15-year-olds (goes into effect Jan. 1), and a removal of the cap on non-resident fall bear tags.

Hunters will notice some changes in the regulations as staff have been working to make the document easier to follow and understand.

New this year, each species follows the same standard format and organization; there are more maps and tables and less text; and all regulations for youth, veterans and landowners are in one place on new pages.

The changes are part of a multi-year effort to simplify Oregon's Big Game Hunting Regulations.

"Hunting regulations are very important for the conservation of species and safe/ethical hunting practices, and we

want to make it as easy as possible for hunters to understand them," said Nick Myatt, ODFW Grande Ronde Watershed Manager. "We are in the process of revisiting our regulations to simplify overly complicated regulations and eliminate unnecessary ones."

"Hunters will see additional changes in coming years ahead."

• **Fishing:** New in the 2018 regulations, five rods or lines are allowed when ice-fishing for anglers with a two-rod validation.

Other changes are noted in yellow highlight throughout the regulations.

Note that two rods are only allowed when fishing in lakes, ponds and reservoirs, though the two-rod validation may be extended to some rivers and streams in 2018 if conditions allow.

Fishing regulations have also been reorganized for clarity. New this year, rule exceptions are consistently organized and listed from the mouth to the headwaters, with each reach break identified, so anglers can better understand the regulations for each section of the river they are fishing.

Free Fishing Days for 2018: Under statute set by the Oregon State Legislature, ODFW can offer eight days of free fishing each year.

The 2018 days are scheduled for: Feb. 17-18 (Presidents' Day Weekend), June 2-3, Sept. 1-2 (Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend) and Nov. 23-24 (the two days after Thanksgiving).

While ODFW had originally planned to offer free fishing Dec. 31, 2017 through Jan. 1, 2018, the department has cancelled those dates to stay within the eight-day limit in 2018 and to offer free fishing during months when fishing conditions are better.

• **Fee increase for 2018**

Fees for some hunting and fishing documents will increase for 2018, as approved by the Oregon State Legislature when it passed ODFW's 2015-17 budget. Typically, ODFW raises fees once every six years but during this six-year cycle, fee increases are staggered with a more modest fee increase every two years.

For 2018, a hunting license will increase by \$1.50 to \$33.50, an annual fishing license will increase by \$3 to \$41 and a combination license will increase by \$4 to \$69.

The cost of juvenile licenses will stay the same as part of efforts to make hunting and fishing affordable for young people and their families. For a full list of the new fees visit [www.MyODFW.com](http://www.MyODFW.com).

## New section re-opens to recreational crabbing

The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announce that recreational crabbing is now open from Cape Blanco, north of Port Orford, to the Columbia River.

Crab samples taken from the area indicate that levels of the marine biotoxin domoic acid have dropped below the alert level.

This reopening of the recreational season applies to crab harvested in the ocean and in bays and estuaries, and on beaches, docks, piers, and jetties. Recreational crab harvesting remains closed along the southern Oregon coast from Cape Blanco to the California border due to elevated levels of domoic acid.

Crab and shellfish products

sold in retail markets and restaurants remain safe for consumers.

It is always recommended to eviscerate the crab and discard the "butter" (viscera or guts) prior to cooking. When whole crab are cooked in liquid, domoic acid may leach into the cooking liquid.

It is recommended to discard the cooking liquid, and do not use it in other dishes, such as sauces, broths, soups, stews, stocks, roux, dressings, etc.

The consumption of crab viscera is not recommended.

For more information, call ODA's shellfish safety information hotline at 800-448-2474 or visit the ODA shellfish closures web page at [www.oda.direct/ShellfishClosures](http://www.oda.direct/ShellfishClosures).

## Local horse club returning for young equestrians next month

C&M Stables has announced the Horse Club for equestrians between ages of 6 and 18 will begin its second session of the 2017-18 school year.

The weekly one-hour program enables Horse Club members to build on the skills learned in the previous weeks and use hands-on techniques to learn safety around horses, grooming and riding.

The afterschool classes last for 15 weeks, beginning the week of Jan. 29, and ending the week of May 13.

To sign up for Horse Club, stop by C&M Stables, 8 miles north of Florence at 90241 Highway 101, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week.

For more information, call the stables at 541-997-7540.

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Merry Christmas

From Alta and Natalie at:



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