



## **CCA Oregon Legislative Wrap Up: Saving our Hatcheries and Fisheries**

The 2025 Oregon Legislature convened for the long session on January 21 and adjourned on June 27<sup>th</sup>—2 days before the 160-day constitutional deadline. The number of bills introduced during long sessions is not subject to limitations like the 35-day session, in even numbered years. This resulted in a record 3,467 bills being introduced and 704 bills ultimately passing the legislature.

In the 2024 election, Democrats picked up one seat in both the House and Senate resulting in a three-fifths supermajority in both chambers -- further tilting the balance of power in the House by a 36 Democrat to 24 Republican margin, and in the Senate by a 18 Democrat to 12 Republican margin.

The Capitol building continued to be under construction the entire session but remained open and accessible to the public amid a major seismic renovation that closed 70 percent of the building—often disrupting committee hearings. Testimony was allowed in person or via video this session allowing more of the public to participate in the process.

CCA Oregon played a key role in the Legislature ensuring ODFW secured the funds necessary to maintain current services, protect hatcheries, and enhance fishing opportunities across Oregon.

Below are the priority bills that CCA Oregon weighed in on this session to save our hatcheries and fisheries...

### **House Bill 5009 ODFW Budget; CCA Position: **SUPPORT**, Status: **PASSED****

HB 5009 establishes ODFW's 2025-2027 budget, including the funds it will receive from the General Fund, license fees, federal funds, and other revenue sources. House Bill 5009 would provide ODFW about \$66 million in General Fund revenue – just 10% of ODFW's overall \$665 million biennial budget. This is basically unchanged from the level of General Fund the agency received in 2023-2025 – despite the significant cost increases felt by the agency.

CCA Oregon unsuccessfully urged the Legislature to provide ODFW an additional \$9 million in General Fund — which is a 14% increase over its current level. This is the same percentage increase being sought from recreational license buyers. We believed it was only fair that the state matches the increase being asked of recreational license buyers since all Oregonians benefit from ODFW. This increased funding would have allowed ODFW to reverse reductions, make additional conservation investments, and enhance recreational opportunities.

We will be working in future legislatures to increase the state's investment in ODFW. CCA Oregon also supported tax proposals to create a dedicated, broad-based funding source for ODFW. These proposals also did not advance.

**House Bill 2342 ODFW Fee Increase**; CCA Position: **NOT OPPOSE unless HB 2345, HB 5006, SB 5505 and HB 2343 all PASSED**, Status: **PASSED**

HB 2342 increases recreational fishing and hunting fees several times over the next six years. Fishing license fees would increase by 14% in 2026 and another 6% in both 2028 and 2030. The bill would generate about \$17 million in increased recreational license fee revenue in the 2025-2027 biennium and \$30 million in the 2027-2029 biennium.

During a February 24 committee hearing on the fee increase, CCA Oregon's Chairman Dave Schamp [highlighted](#) what CCA members needed to see from ODFW and the Legislature: improved hatchery production, increased fishing opportunities, and addressing stubborn policy issues like gillnetting in the mainstem lower Columbia River. We will continue working with ODFW to ensure that progress is made on these important objectives.

**House Bill 2345 Redirect OHRC Surcharge to Hatchery Maintenance/Monitoring**; CCA Position: **SUPPORT**, Status: **PASSED**

HB 2355 redirects an existing license surcharge paid by recreational anglers for the Oregon Hatchery Research Center to a new Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund. The bill is estimated to generate about \$1.1 million per biennium for critical monitoring and maintenance activities for our hatcheries. CCA Oregon supported this legislation.

**House Bill 5006 Rock Creek Hatchery Funding**; CCA Position: **SUPPORT**, Status: **PASSED**  
HB 5006 allocates \$1.4M allowing ODFW to maintain status quo production in the Umpqua basin (spring and fall chinook, winter steelhead, and coho) while the agency works with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to implement a more permanent solution (such as what was laid out in April at the Roseburg [townhall](#)). Approx \$1M will go to hatchery operations and 400K will go to research (focus on estimating predation impacts from bass on outmigrants). This is one time funding so a permanent solution will be needed for 2027 and beyond.

The funding came with an associated budget note:

*“The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is directed to provide a report, in consultation with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means prior to the 2026 session regarding potential hatchery operations in the Umpqua Basin. The report shall include recommendations for overall hatchery operations in the Umpqua Basin, based on the Hatchery Resiliency Assessment, including but not limited to:*

- An evaluation of returning Rock Creek Hatchery to operability and in what capacity, including estimated initial and ongoing costs, and timeline for implementation.*
- An assessment of other hatchery location options in the Umpqua Basin, including estimated initial and ongoing costs, and timeline for implementation.*
- An assessment of available revenue streams and financial partnerships to support the recommendations.*

**Senate Bill 5505 \$20 Million in Hatchery Maintenance Funding;** CCA Position: **SUPPORT**, Status: **PASSED**

SB 5505 finances capital improvement and public construction projects across Oregon. The bill includes \$20.2 million for ODFW to begin addressing its deferred hatchery maintenance backlog of at least \$200 million. We strongly supported this as a minimum level of funding given the immense funding need. Hatcheries help mitigate for the impacts of development across Oregon and all Oregonians have a responsibility to help maintain ODFW’s hatcheries.

**House Bill 2343 Columbia River Endorsement Fee Extension;** CCA Position: **SUPPORT**, Status: **PASSED**

HB 2343 extends an additional six years the Columbia River Endorsement fee that funds the Columbia River fishery reforms. CCA Oregon supports an extension since the endorsement has played a key role in keeping ODFW from agreeing with WDFW’s pro-gillnet policy, which calls for restoring year-round gillnetting in the mainstem Columbia River. In 2021, CCA helped secure language that automatically sunsets the endorsement if ODFW joins WDFW to increase gillnetting. That provision remains in law with this extension.

We also need to see greater progress implementing the gillnet reforms, including further reducing mainstem gillnetting and overcoming WDFW’s policies that have reduced the Columbia River recreational spring Chinook fishery by 15-20%.

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