

[EXTERNAL] comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-WSFR-2022-0035

HUCHKO Holly A * ODFW <Holly.A.HUCHKO@odfw.oregon.gov>

Tue 5/17/2022 5:39 PM

To: Info_Coll, FWHQ <info_coll@fws.gov>

 1 attachments (350 KB)

ODFW response to Docket No. FWS-HQ-WSFR-2022-0035 USFWS 5 yr survey submitted 5.17.22.pdf;

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hello,

Please see attached comments to Docket No. FWS-HQ-WSFR-2022-0035. We tried to submit online on www.regulations.gov today but it was not working.

Can you please confirm receipt of our comments?

Thanks,

Holly

Holly Huchko

Endangered Species Act Program Specialist/Sport Fish Restoration Coordinator

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

4192 N. Umpqua Hwy

Roseburg, OR 97470

(541) 464-2185

Holly.A.Huchko@odfw.oregon.gov

For quickest correspondence regarding Oregon Scientific Take permits, please contact:

Fish.Research@odfw.oregon.gov (permitting shared inbox)

Holly: 541-464-2185 or Michele: 503-947-6254



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish Division

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 947-6201

FAX (503) 947-6202

www.dfw.state.or.us/



5/17/22

Madonna L. Baucum
Service Information Collection Clearance Office
Submitted via email to: Info_Coll@fws.gov

Re: Docket No. FWS-HQ-WSFR-2022-0035

Dear Ms. Baucum or to whom this may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to include comments and information from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) responding to your Federal Register Notice 85 FR 28972, OMB Control Number 1018-0088. Oregon is one of many states and territories that participate in annual funding from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq., except 777e-1), also known as the WSFR program.

Specific information was requested (in bold below) regarding the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and our responses are in italics below:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

The national level data is the standard that we use to assess activities and spending on outdoor recreation in Oregon. We use it when working with our outdoor recreation partners and frequently answer questions from the public with FHWAR survey information. The report as a whole is invaluable to our agency's work here in Oregon, and we supplement the survey information with local and state level data from partners. The FHWAR survey is also essential to USFWS WSFR program and ODFW since coastal states must obligate Sport Fish Restoration program grant funds so that the ratio is equal to the resident marine and freshwater anglers (50 CFR 80.65-66). State agencies are required to either use the FHWAR survey or another statistical survey technique approved by the USFWS. ODFW does not have a current alternative technique, so we rely on the 5-year FHWAR survey to properly obligate our funds so we can continue to participate in the WSFR grant program and use funds to support sport fish management, restoration, and boating access in Oregon.

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

Upon review of Table C-1 from the 2016 survey, it appears that the survey changed from reporting both State and National level data collection from 1975-2011 to National only for 2016+. It is our understanding that for future national USFWS FHWAR survey, states will need to pay for state level data if desired. It is also our understanding that USFWS will still provide the freshwater/saltwater percent of resident anglers in each state at no cost to states for use of Sport Fish Restoration saltwater/freshwater split. In Oregon, we rely on the national survey to determine our SFR split. If we do not obtain this information at no cost from this survey, we will need to use previous survey data from 2016 rather than current data to allocate our costs. It is essential to have access to the most up to date state level freshwater/saltwater participation ratios to allow for an accurate and equitable Sport Fish Restoration split. We currently do not have an angling license structure with a saltwater endorsement, so we are unable to determine this ratio in-house. For these reasons we support that all survey questions related to this ratio are routinely included in the 5-year FHWAR. It is also critical that future survey samples are designed to get a representative sample of anglers from coastal states to accurately

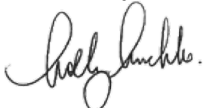
determine state level freshwater/saltwater participation levels. It is also beneficial for all coastal states to use a ratio for the same time period to ensure SFR splits are using the same snapshot in time, so resources are allocated in an equitable manner across coastal states.

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. Permitting electronic submission of response.

While we understand the need to reduce paperwork and burden, we hope the FHWAR survey can continue to collect information through both mail and digital format to properly portray and survey our angling and hunting constituents so there is no barrier to participate in the survey.

We respectfully submit these comments for your inclusion in correspondence on this Federal Register notice. Please direct any questions on these comments to me at below contact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holly Huchko".

Holly Huchko
Sport Fish Restoration Coordinator/ESA Specialist
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
541-464-2185

cc: Dave Teuscher, USFWS- Pacific Region Chief; Dreith, Seabourne, Kennedy, Vogel, Kohl, Fish Research- ODFW