

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> March 05, 2024
<b>Received:</b> February 28, 2024
<b>Status:</b> Posted
<b>Posted:</b> February 29, 2024
<b>Tracking No.</b> lt6-fdvh-qa7a
<b>Comments Due:</b> March 04, 2024
<b>Submission Type:</b> Web

**Docket:** FWS-HQ-WSFR-2023-0231

Agency Information Collection Activities; National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR)

**Comment On:** FWS-HQ-WSFR-2023-0231-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR)

**Document:** FWS-HQ-WSFR-2023-0231-0003

Comment from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

---

## Submitter Information

**Email:** Holly.A.Huchko@odfw.oregon.gov

**Government Agency Type:** State

**Government Agency:** Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

---

## General Comment

See attached file(s) from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, submitted on 2/28/24 regarding Docket No. FWS-HQ-WSFR-2023-0231, OMB Control No. 1018-0088.

---

## Attachments

ODFW response to Docket No. FWSHQWSFR2023-0231 USFWS 5 yr survey FINAL submitted 2.28.24



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, 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/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/)



02/28/24

Madonna L. Baucum  
Service Information Collection Clearance Office  
Submitted via internet to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

Re: Docket No. FWS-HQ-WSFR-2023-0231, OMB Control No. 1018-0088

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 89 FR 384, 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 2023 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Survey (FHWAR) 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 ODFW uses to assess activities and spending on outdoor recreation in Oregon. ODFW uses the data from the survey when working with our outdoor recreation partners and frequently answer questions from the public with FHWAR survey information. The report is invaluable to our agency's work 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;**

*In Oregon, we rely on the national survey to determine our required SFR freshwater/saltwater split for allocating funding. 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 the saltwater/freshwater percent of resident anglers in each state 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.*


*In future years, it would be helpful if the saltwater/freshwater split is shared with state agencies directly and/or published publicly in the FHWAR report or elsewhere to ensure coastal states have immediate access to the information, once calculated as in some years the National Survey report is published long after the survey occurs. While we understand that there were some methodological differences in the way the 2022 FHWAR survey was conducted that make comparison of 2022 results to previous years problematic. However, it would be helpful, in future years, if data that is comparable is presented in a way data users can see the change in saltwater angling across different states and time periods. Having data available in this way would offer an opportunity to better monitor both national and state level trends in saltwater angling participation over time.*

**(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,



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

cc: Teuscher, USFWS- Pacific Region; Dreith, Seabourne, Stahl, Clements, Kennedy, Fish Research- ODFW