

## CHAPTER 48

## AN ACT

SB 1509

Relating to Columbia River fisheries; creating new provisions; amending ORS 508.778; repealing ORS 508.792; and declaring an emergency.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** ORS 508.792 is repealed.

**SECTION 2.** ORS 508.778 is amended to read:

508.778. *[Except as provided in ORS 508.792, no]*  
**On or after the effective date of this 2024 Act,**  
new vessel permits *[shall]* **may not** be issued.

**SECTION 3.** (1) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall convene a work group of relevant stakeholders to provide recommendations on a voluntary Columbia River gillnet vessel permit buyback program.

(2) The work group shall consist of at least six members selected by the State Fish and Wildlife Director, including but not limited to:

(a) Two members representing Columbia River gillnet vessel permit holders;

(b) One member representing Oregon seafood processors;

(c) One member representing Columbia River recreational fishing businesses;

(d) One member representing a nonprofit organization comprised of Columbia River recreational anglers; and

(e) One member representing a nonprofit organization focused on the conservation of Columbia River salmonid populations.

(3) The work group shall:

(a) Consider how a voluntary Columbia River gillnet vessel permit buyback program in Oregon can best complement the Columbia River gillnet fishing license reduction program implemented by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

(b) Make recommendations on:

(A) The specifics of a voluntary Columbia River gillnet vessel permit buyback program; and

(B) Any changes to laws, rules or funding levels that would be needed in order to implement the program.

(4) All recommendations described in subsection (3) of this section must be consistent with tribal treaty fishing rights and all fishery management agreements between Indian tribes and this state.

(5) The department shall report on the recommendations described in subsection (3) of this section, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, in the manner provided under ORS 192.245, no later than November 15, 2024.

**SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

**SECTION 5.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor March 27, 2024

Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 27, 2024

Effective date March 27, 2024