

# A-Engrossed Senate Bill 1509

Ordered by the Senate February 16  
Including Senate Amendments dated February 16

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

**Digest: The Act stops the lottery for Columbia River gillnet fishing permits. The Act directs an agency to start a work group to make suggestions on creating a program for buying the permits from willing sellers. The Act directs the agency to report on the suggestions of the work group on a due date. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.9).**

*[Digest: The Act stops the lottery for Columbia River gillnet fishing permits. The Act directs an agency to create a short-term program for buying the permits from willing sellers. The Act directs an agency to report on a due date on creating a long-term version of the program. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.2).]*

Eliminates the lottery for Columbia River gillnet vessel permits.

*[Directs the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish a Columbia River gillnet vessel permit purchase program that ends on January 2, 2026.]*

**Directs the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to convene a work group to provide recommendations on a voluntary Columbia River gillnet vessel permit buyback program. Directs the department to report to [interim] committees of the Legislative Assembly that relate to natural resources, on or before [September] November 15, 2024, on [establishing a Columbia River gillnet vessel permit buyback program] the recommendations.**

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to Columbia River fisheries; creating new provisions; amending ORS 508.778; repealing ORS  
3 508.792; and declaring an emergency.

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

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 ORS 508.792 is repealed.**

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

7 508.778. *[Except as provided in ORS 508.792, no]* **On or after the effective date of this 2024**  
8 **Act, new vessel permits [shall] may not be issued.**

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

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

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

15 **(b) One member representing Oregon seafood processors;**

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

17 **(d) One member representing a nonprofit organization comprised of Columbia River rec-**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 recreational anglers; and

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

4 (3) The work group shall:

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

8 (b) Make recommendations on:

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

11 (B) Any changes to laws, rules or funding levels that would be needed in order to imple-  
12 ment the program.

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

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

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

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

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