



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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March 31, 2011

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you there is a scheduled commercial gillnet white sturgeon fishery April – 16, 2011 through May 15, 2011 in Willapa Bay. The fishery will begin 12:01 a.m. April 16 and continue through 11:59 p.m. May 15, 2011.

The minimum mesh size allowed during this April - May fishery is 9-inches. There is no limit on soak-time. The fishery will be in Areas 2G (easterly of a line from Ledbetter Point to Toke Point), 2H, 2J and 2M. Notice of Intent is **required** to participate in this fishery by 10 a.m., April 12<sup>th</sup> (using the Quick Reporting phone, fax or email). All fishers **MUST** carry an on-board observer, if requested by WDFW.

**Retention of all species other than white sturgeon is prohibited.** Retention of all Chinook, non-legal sturgeon, all steelhead and green sturgeon is prohibited. The NOAA Fisheries listed the southern population of green sturgeon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act effective July 6, 2006. Most green sturgeon captured in Willapa Bay fisheries are from the southern population. Therefore, **the retention of green sturgeon is prohibited to protect this federally listed stock.**

A new method of measuring white sturgeon is **required** statewide as of January 1, 2009. This new method measures FORK LENGTH, from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail with the fish on its side. Total length has been correlated to fork length so the actual size of sturgeon that may be retained will not change. The new legal fork length size limit is 43-54 inches. Fork length is easier to measure both for the angler and for enforcement and will reduce handling time of the fish.

Report ALL encounters of salmon and green sturgeon (using the Quick Report phone, fax or email). Include your name, date encountered, species, and number of each encountered. If any information from spaghetti tags on green or white sturgeon can be retrieved please do so. If tags from retained, legal white sturgeon can be removed before sale, please mail them to the address at the top of the page. **DO NOT REMOVE** tags from green sturgeon.

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that “Quick Reporting” of catches is **required** for all salmon and sturgeon landed; this includes all “take home”. All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.**

Reports can be made by:

- fax (360) 249-1229
- telephone 1-866-791-1280
- email to [harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)

The quick reporting summary must include: the dealer's name, purchasing location, date of purchase, list of fish ticket numbers used on the purchasing date (including alpha letter preceding the fish ticket number), commercial fishing gear type, catch area, species, number and total weight of fish. Please note that a copy of the "Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet" has been included for your convenience or you can go to our website and download a copy at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/quickreport\\_form.xls](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/quickreport_form.xls)

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

### **Atlantic Salmon**

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.