

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5b
Columbia River Joint Staff Hearing
April 4, 2011

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Recreational sturgeon fisheries in John Day pool

Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fishery Update

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force met in late January and recommended the following 2011 recreational harvest guidelines for the Zone 6 area (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam):
 - Bonneville Pool – increase from 1,400 fish to 2,000 fish annually.
 - The Dalles Pool – no change; 300 fish annually.
 - John Day Pool – increase from 165 fish to 500 fish annually.
- Despite the increase in the annual quota for the John Day Pool fishery, high catches in January, combined with an estimated catch of 140 fish the past two weeks, has consumed most of the harvest quota.
- Staff is estimating that the 500 fish guideline will be reached on April 9.

<i>Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fisheries – Recommendation</i>

Close the John Day Pool recreational sturgeon fishery to retention effective 12:01 AM Sunday, April 10, 2011.

- The Bonneville Pool closed to retention effective February 19, when the 2,000 fish guideline was projected to have been met. Catch rates were less than expected during the final 10 days of the retention season, resulting in a total catch of 1,627 fish, leaving a balance of 373 white sturgeon. Staff will propose a season at a future Joint State hearing to access the remaining fish.
- The guideline for The Dalles Pool is 300 fish and catches to date are well within guidelines. In 2010, this fishery closed on May 6.
- Staff will continue to monitor and update the catch projections for The Dalles Pool fishery and will request a hearing to close retention in this area when necessary.

Future Meetings

- A Joint State hearing is scheduled for 3 PM Wednesday April 6 to review the lower Columbia River recreational fishery.