

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10b
September 15, 2011**

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| Fisheries under consideration: | Recreational sturgeon above Wauna |
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Recreational Mainstem White Sturgeon Fishery above Wauna Powerlines

- The 2011 retention season above Wauna was scheduled to be open three days a week (Thu-Sat) during January 1-July 31 and October 8-December 31 (38-54 inch fork length). Through July, anglers kept 784 white sturgeon from 16,806 angler trips.
- Kept catch to date is 23% of the 2011 catch guideline for this area of 3,410 fish.
- Harvest during the January-July timeframe was less than recent years which is partially influenced by the Sand Island Slough closure (January-April)

| Area | Season | Retention Days | Angler Trips | Catch | Guideline | +/- Guideline |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| Above Wauna | Jan 1 – July 31 | 91 | 16,806 | 784 | 3,410 | -2,626 |
| | Oct 8 – Dec 31 | 37 | | | | |
| Below Wauna | Jan 1 – Apr 30 | 199 | 26,409 | 6,117 | 6,800 | -683 |
| | May 14 – July 31 | | | | | |
| Willamette | Feb 17 – Mar 12 | 12 | 12,634 | 2,690 | 2,550 | +140 |
| Total | | | 55,849 | 9,591 | 12,760 | -3,169 |

- Projected catch for October 8 through December 31 is 1,800 – 1,900 fish, which would provide about 700-800 fish for additional opportunity in the first part of October.
- Harvest in recent years during October through December has been:
 - 2,368 in 2010 (Thursday – Saturday retention)
 - 2,447 in 2009 (Thursday – Saturday retention)
 - 4,103 in 2008 (Thursday – Sunday retention)
 - 4,439 in 2007 (7-day per week retention)
 - 2009-2010 average = 2,408
 - 2008-2010 average = 2,973

FISHERY RECOMMENDATION

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| <i>Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery above Wauna Powerlines</i> |
| The Joint Staff recommends adding the following three days to the currently adopted retention fishery: Saturday, October 1; Thursday, October 6; and Friday, October 7 |

- The proposed fishery is expected to harvest most of the fish remaining on the guideline.
- The resulting season structure would replicate 2009-2010 retention seasons.
- Staff will continue to monitor the fishery and recommend further action if needed.

FUTURE HEARINGS

A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday September 22, 2011 via teleconference to review treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fisheries.