

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 3, 2009

Fishery under Consideration: Recreational white sturgeon fishery in Bonneville Reservoir

Bonneville Reservoir Recreational Sturgeon Fishery

- The Bonneville Reservoir recreational white sturgeon harvest guideline is 700 fish (in effect since 2004).
- The estimated harvest of white sturgeon through May 31 is 657 fish (94% of the guideline).
- The estimated harvest of white sturgeon for the week of Monday May 25 through Sunday May 31 is 187 fish (27% of the guideline).
- Three different harvest projection models (2-week, 3-week, and 4-week average effort and harvest) predict that the recreational white sturgeon harvest guideline will be exceeded by this coming weekend (on June 4, June 5, and June 6 respectively). Harvest projections through Friday June 5 range between 693-718 and through Saturday June 6 projections range between 702-751 white sturgeon.
- For the 2005-2008 seasons, the recreational sport fishery in Bonneville Reservoir had a cumulative excess of 46 fish harvested over guideline (see Table 1).

Table 1. Zone 6 white sturgeon recreational harvest, closing dates, and guideline variance.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Closed</u> | <u>Guideline Variance</u> | |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | | <u>Annual</u> | <u>Cumulative</u> |
| <u>Bonneville (700 fish guideline)</u> | | | |
| 2005 | June 11 | -104 | -104 |
| 2006 | July 24 | 27 | -77 |
| 2007 | July 30 | -18 | -95 |
| 2008 | July 12 | 141 | 46 |
| <u>The Dalles (400 fish guideline 2003-2005; 100 fish 2006-2008; 300 fish 2009)</u> | | | |
| 2005 | June 25 | -18 | -18 |
| 2006 | April 8 | -7 | -11 |
| 2007 | March 29 | 8 | -3 |
| 2008 | March 15 | 28 | 25 |
| 2009 | April 19 | -68 | -43 |
| <u>John Day (165 fish guideline)</u> | | | |
| 2005 | July 11 | -37 | -37 |
| 2006 | July 1 | -23 | -60 |
| 2007 | June 11 | 84 | 24 |
| 2008 | March 26 | 0 | 24 |
| 2009 | April 13 | -17 | 7 |

Joint Staff Recommendation – Bonneville Reservoir Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery

- Effective 12:01 AM Sunday, June 7, 2009, the recreational fishery in Bonneville Reservoir be closed to the retention of white sturgeon.

- Although the proposed closure date may result in the guideline being exceeded, staff recommends the additional time to allow for adequate notification. This is particularly important to this fishery where bank anglers are spread over a wide area, hence less likely to encounter closure signs.

The Dalles Reservoir Recreational Sturgeon Fishery

- The 2009 Dalles Reservoir recreational harvest guideline is 300 white sturgeon (increased from 100 fish during 2006-2008).
- We estimate 232 white sturgeon were recreationally harvested from The Dalles Reservoir from January 1 through April 18, 2009 (77% of guideline).
- Effective April 19, 2009, the retention of white sturgeon was prohibited/closed in The Dalles Reservoir.
- The spawning sanctuary (from John Day Dam downstream 2.4 miles to the west end of the grain silo at Rufus, OR) is closed to all sturgeon fishing May 1 through July 31.

John Day Reservoir Recreational Sturgeon Fishery

- The John Day Reservoir recreational white sturgeon harvest guideline is 165 fish (in effect since 2002).
- We estimate 148 white sturgeon were recreationally harvested from John Day Reservoir from January 1 through April 12, 2009 (90% of guideline).
- Effective April 13, 2009, the retention of white sturgeon was prohibited/closed in John Day Reservoir.
- The spawning sanctuary (from McNary Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the Hwy. 82 [Hwy. 395] Bridge) is closed to all sturgeon fishing May 1 through July 31.

Zone 6 Treaty Commercial

- Treaty commercial harvest in Zone 6 has been closed in all three pools. The guideline was exceeded in Bonneville Pool (114%), and nearly met in The Dalles (93%) and John Day (99%) pools.

Future Hearings

A Columbia River Compact hearing is scheduled for 2:30 PM Wednesday, June 10 to consider non-Indian and treaty Indian summer Chinook commercial fisheries.