

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT**  
**SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 10**  
**June 10, 2008**

<b>Purpose:</b> <b>Update on Non-Indian recreational sturgeon fisheries</b>
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*Stock status and management guidelines and season recommendations for 2008 sturgeon fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (December 13, 2007).*

***2008 Above Wauna Recreational Sturgeon Fishery***

- Since 2003, the annual white sturgeon harvest guideline for the recreational fishery from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam has been 12,800 fish (40% of the recreational allocation).
- In 2006, harvest in the mainstem Columbia River above Wauna was less than the 12,800 fish guideline, resulting in increased catch guidelines for 2007 and 2008 (14,300 white sturgeon annually).
- During 2007, seasons were liberalized in order to provide additional harvest opportunity in response to the increased annual catch guideline.
- Based on the 2006-2008 Joint State agreement and catch during 2006 and 2007 (including adjustments for harvest in the lower Willamette River) a total of 14,327 fish were available for harvest in 2008.
- The estimated harvest for this fishery from January 1-April 30, 2008 is 410 white sturgeon, or about 50% of the 2007 harvest for the same period. Harvest during May has followed a similar trend, with catch being less than expected.

***2008 Below Wauna (Estuary) Recreational Sturgeon Fishery***

- Since 2004, the annual white sturgeon harvest guideline for the recreational fishery downstream of Wauna has been 16,000 fish.
- Based on the 2006-2008 Joint State agreement and catch during 2006 and 2007, a total of 13,143 fish are available for 2008 fisheries below Wauna.
- Based on this available harvest, a 7-day/week fishery for January 1-April 30 and May 10-June 24 was adopted for 2008.
- Harvest estimates during January 1-April 30 total 22 white sturgeon. The fishery resumed on May 10, and catch rates have generally been increasing, but have also been variable from day to day.
- During May samplers checked 966 fish. The preliminary harvest estimate for May is about 1,600 white sturgeon from 7,900 angler trips, this compares to 1,722 white sturgeon harvested from 7,164 angler trips in May 2007.
- Based on catch estimates through May, about 11,500 fish are available for harvest below Wauna for the remainder of 2008. To date, catch rates in June appear to be lower than they were by the same date in 2007.

***Future updates***

- Staff will continue to distribute weekly updates. A second update should be available by June 18, 2008.

<b>2008 Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Recreational Fisheries</b>		
<u>Area</u>	<u>Planned Season Structure</u>	<u>Final Season Structure</u>
<b><u>Above Wauna</u></b>		
➤ Sturgeon retention allowed Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only.	January 1-July 31	Ongoing
➤ Sturgeon retention not allowed.	August 1-September 30	TBD
➤ Sturgeon retention allowed Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only.	October 1-December 31	TBD
<b><u>Below Wauna</u></b>		
➤ Sturgeon retention allowed seven days per week, 42-inch minimum size limit.	January 1-April 30	As proposed
➤ Sturgeon retention not allowed.	May 1- May 9	As proposed
➤ Sturgeon retention allowed seven days per week, 45-inch minimum size limit.	May 10-June 24	Ongoing
➤ Sturgeon retention not allowed.	June 25-December 31	TBD

<b>2006-2008 Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Harvest in Recreational Fisheries</b>			
<u>Area</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008 (thru May)</u>
<b><u>LCR Total</u></b>			
Guideline	28,800	30,574	27,470
Harvest	<u>- 25,471</u>	<u>- 33,459</u>	<u>-2,032</u>
No. remaining on guideline	+ 3,329	- 2,885	25,438
<b><u>Above Wauna</u></b>			
Management target	12,000	12,000	12,800
Management buffer	+ 800	+ 800	0
No. remaining from previous guideline	<u>0</u>	<u>+ 1,500</u>	<u>+ 1,527</u>
Guideline	12,800	14,300	14,327
Willamette adjustment	- 1,200	- 3,800	- pending
Harvest	<u>- 8,545</u>	<u>-10,528</u>	<u>-410</u>
No. remaining on guideline	+ 3,055	- 28	13,917
<b><u>Below Wauna</u></b>			
Management target	15,000	15,000	16,000
Management buffer	+1,000	+1,000	0
No. remaining on guideline	<u>0</u>	<u>+274</u>	<u>- 2,857</u>
Guideline	16,000	16,274	13,143
Harvest	<u>-15,726</u>	<u>-19,131</u>	<u>- 1,622</u>
No. remaining from guideline	+ 274	- 2,857	11,521