

## ZONE 6 SPORT STURGEON FACT SHEET #2

**March 19, 2008**

**Purpose:** To consider modifications to the sport fishing seasons for sturgeon in John Day Reservoir.

The John Day Reservoir sport harvest guideline is 165 white sturgeon for 2008. We estimate 111 white sturgeon were harvested from John Day Reservoir from January 1 through March 16, 2008 (Table 1). Harvest was estimated by applying harvest per hour of effort to estimated total effort. Approximately 15 percent of the estimated 111 sturgeon harvest was sampled in the creel.

Since creel sampling was not started until February 28, January and February effort and harvest estimates were based on historical averages, adjusted by the ratios of March 2008 effort and harvest estimates to historical March averages. Harvest averaged 32 fish per week from March 1 through March 16. Assuming harvest will average 32 fish per week from this point on, the 165 fish guideline would be reached during the week of March 23-29.

Table 1. Sample data, estimated, and projected harvest for John Day Reservoir, 2008.

Month/Week	Monthly or weekly sample rate	Average weekly # of fish in-sample	Monthly or weekly harvest estimate	Cumulative harvest
January	----	----	9	9
February	----	----	28	37
March 1-9	0.34	0	53	90
March 10-16	0.52	0	21	111
March 1-16 average/week	0.40	7.4	32	
March 17-23			32	143
March 24-30 (guideline 165)			32	175

Table 2. Estimated white sturgeon harvest during 2008 sport fisheries, by reservoir, as of February 29.

	Bonneville Reservoir	The Dalles reservoir	John Day Reservoir
Harvest guideline	700	100	165
Estimated harvest	65	104	111 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As of March 16.

Treaty commercial harvest in Zone 6 has been closed in all three pools. The guideline was exceeded in Bonneville Pool (190%) and John Day Pool (114%), and nearly met in The Dalles Pool (82%), based on preliminary final numbers.

Staff recommends closure for sport retention of white sturgeon effective 12:01 am Wednesday, March 26, 2008. This will allow one week to notify the public and post signs.