

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 4
June 25, 2009

Purpose: Update on the Below Wauna recreational sturgeon fishery
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Stock status and management guidelines and season recommendations for 2009 sturgeon fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (December 18, 2008).

- Based on the 2006-2009 Joint State agreement and catch during 2006 through 2008, a total of 15,529 fish are available for 2009 fisheries below Wauna.
- Seven-day/week retention fisheries were adopted for January 1-April 30 and May 9-June 28, and daily for July 2-5, 2009 based on this available harvest.
- An estimated 1,125 white sturgeon were kept during January through May which is about 67% of the cumulative catches through May in both 2007 and 2008.
- Catch rates in June started out slow, but have improved as the season has progressed, having averaged 212 fish per day during June 1-7, 352 fish per day during June 8-14, and 415 fish per day during June 15-21.
- Oregon-side anglers accounted for 86% of the June 1-7 non-charter harvest, 77% of the June 8-14 non-charter harvest, and 71% of the June 15-21 non-charter harvest.
- Based on preliminary fishery sampling results, catch during June 1-21 is estimated at 6,875 fish, bringing the year-to-date total to about 8,000 fish, leaving a balance of about 7,530 fish for the remainder of 2009.
- Catch rates can improve quickly in June and July, making it difficult to make accurate catch projections for the remainder of the scheduled season. Catch in this fishery during late June and early July averaged 644 fish per day in 2007 and 504 fish per day in 2008.
- The projected balance provides for an average catch of about 684 fish per day for the 11 days remaining in the scheduled season.
- Staff will continue to monitor the fishery and will provide another update next week.

Future Hearings

- A Compact/Joint State hearing will be scheduled for July 1 or July 2 to review ongoing Treaty and non-Indian fisheries.