

THE PROBLEM

Background

Northern pike are illegally introduced, highly invasive predators in the Columbia River. These voracious fish feed on juvenile salmon and are currently spreading downstream, threatening crucial salmon and steelhead populations.

Why Care?

Washington has invested billions of dollars in the Columbia River region in salmon recovery. If Northern Pike become established further down the Columbia River, the vital salmon runs of the river and its surrounding tributaries, and all the resources invested in their recovery are in jeopardy.



Adam Sepulveda, US Geologic Survey

Salmon fishing is also a big business in Washington. Recreational anglers spend over \$1 billion in Washington State on trip-related expenses, such as restaurants, motels, gas, convenience and sporting goods stores, creating more than 14,600 jobs. Further, tribal fisheries, both commercial and ceremonial, would suffer if Northern Pike decreased salmon numbers.

Stocking and introductions of illegal fish species, such as Northern Pike, jeopardize jobs and costs hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to remove.

DO YOUR PART

Catch. Kill. Report.

If found or caught, kill the Northern Pike. **DO NOT** release. There are no catch limits on Northern Pike.

IT'S THE LAW

It is **ILLEGAL** to leave Washington waters with live Northern Pike.

You **CANNOT** transport live fish without a permit.

REPORTING

To report a catch and/or location:

WASHINGTON

☎ 1-360-902-2700

✉ fishpgm@dfw.wa.gov

Create a report at invasivespecies.wa.gov

Use the 'WA Invasives' app on iOS or Android

OREGON

☎ 1-866-INVADER

✉ invasive.species@state.or.us

Create a report at oregoninvasiveshotline.org

Report releasing or transport of pike to the police or your local county sheriff's department.



STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE NORTHERN PIKE



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Northern Pike pose a significant threat to Oregon and Washington salmon and steelhead.

IF CAUGHT DO NOT RELEASE.

Photograph and Report to your state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

IMPACTED AREAS

In Washington, Northern Pike were illegally introduced into the Pend Oreille River and have spread from there. They are currently known to be established above the Grand Coulee Dam. They are negatively affecting the upper reaches of the Columbia River watershed and surrounding tributaries in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Canada. They are only two dams away from vital spawning habitat, where they would threaten valuable fisheries, native species, and the ecosystem.



Native American tribes, public utility districts and state agencies are working together to prevent further downstream spread of Northern Pike.

IDENTIFICATION

Everyone can help by learning how to identify Northern Pike and reporting them if found.

Pattern: lateral rows of white to yellow, bean-shaped spots.

Shape: Typically longer and have a snake like look compared to other native fish species.



Dorsal (top) fin: extends far back, much closer to the tail than on many other fish species. Fins have black blotches and are usually yellow, orange or red in color.

Turn it on its head: there are up to five pairs of sensory pores on the underside of a pike's jaw, meant for picking up vibrations in the water.



KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

A native fish often confused with Northern Pike due to their similar names is the Northern Pikeminnow. While considered a nuisance fish, Northern Pikeminnow are native to the Pacific Northwest. While the two fish share similar names, they differ greatly in appearance.



Northern Pike

- Olive green color
- Horizontal, bean- shaped spots
- 1-5 sensory pores
- Duck-bill shaped snout
- Sharp teeth
- Average 26 inches and 4 pounds

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Timothy Knepp



Northern Pikeminnow

- Silver color (darker depending on habitat)
- No spots
- No sensory pores
- Long mouth, ends below its eye
- No teeth
- Average 15 inches and 1 pound

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife