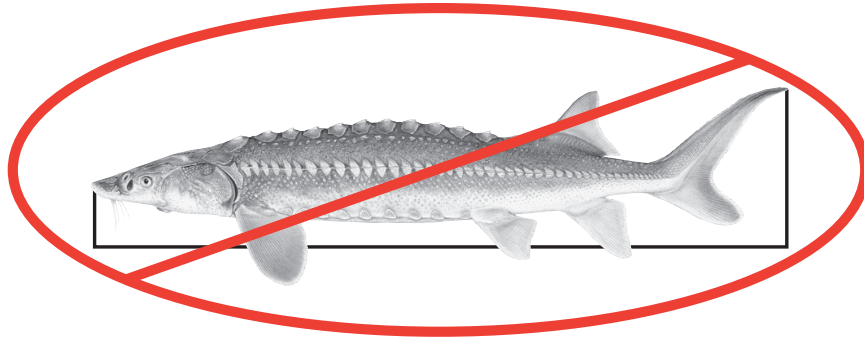


# ATTENTION STURGEON ANGLERS

Effective January 1, 2009, a **new method of measuring sturgeon for retention will take effect statewide.**

Sturgeon will be measured from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail (fork length). The new method applies **ONLY TO STURGEON**, and is illustrated below:



**OLD Method (not legal after 2008)**



**NEW Method "FORK LENGTH"**

Measured from tip of snout to fork of tail with the fish on its side, on a flat surface and the tail in a natural position.

**Statewide legal size limits have been adjusted to reflect the new measurement technique as follows** (the new slots are simple conversions of the old slots to account for the different technique):

- Ocean, bays and estuaries, coastal tributaries, and the Columbia River downstream of The Dalles Dam, including tributaries – **38 to 54 inches FORK LENGTH.**
- Columbia R. fisheries below the Wauna Powerlines will likely change to – **41 to 54 inches FORK LENGTH** after April 2009 – see Emergency Rule changes for exact dates as the season approaches)

- Columbia River upstream of The Dalles Dam to the Oregon/Washington border – **43 to 54 inches FORK LENGTH.**

## **Why was this change needed?**

Research has shown that fork length is a more precise method of measuring sturgeon. This method reduces error due to tail fin injuries and differences in the length and position of the lobes of the tail fin.

**Be sure that your sturgeon is of legal length under this NEW measurement technique!!!**

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**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

