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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

DFW 13-2026

CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED

02/12/2026 4:42 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Set Recreational Retention Fisheries for Sturgeon in Bonneville and The Dalles Pools and Adjacent Tributaries

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/16/2026 THROUGH 04/30/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 02/12/2026

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Salem, OR 97302

Filed By:
John Seabourne
Rules Coordinator

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

This rule is needed to implement recreational white sturgeon retention fisheries in Bonneville and The Dalles pools for 2026. The permanent rule has these retention fisheries closed for the entire year by default. The recreational harvest guidelines allow up to 1,250 white sturgeon to be retained in the Bonneville Pool and 275 in The Dalles Pool. Preseason modeling indicates harvest is expected to be within these levels for the one open day enacted by this rule.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

There is not adequate time to go through normal rulemaking proceedings to modify the rules to open this retention season by the specified date and time.

Fisheries are managed to provide opportunity for recreational, commercial, and treaty fisheries while meeting species or stock-specific allocations while remaining within harvest guidelines.

Failure to adopt this temporary rule could cause serious prejudice to the public interest because anglers would not be allowed to harvest their share of this valuable resource.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

1. Columbia River Fishery Notice, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Joint State Action, dated February 11, 2026.
2. OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5b, Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing, dated February 11, 2026.

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking [the above document(s)] are available from

the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact Linda Spansel at 503-947-6233 or linda.d.spansel@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

AMEND: 635-023-0101

SUSPEND: Temporary 635-023-0101 from DFW 1-2026

RULE SUMMARY: This amended rule modifies the recreational retention fishery regulations for white sturgeon on the mainstem Columbia River in the Bonneville Pool (Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam) and The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to the John Day Dam) and all adjacent tributaries. Retention will be allowed only on Monday February 16, 2026 in these areas.

Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish & Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Joint State hearing on February 11, 2026.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-023-0101

Sturgeon Season Above Bonneville Dam

The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Columbia River Zone. However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time, and, to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶

(1) Effective on February 16, 2026 only (one day) retention of white sturgeon is allowed in the Bonneville Pool (Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam) and in The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to John Day Dam) of the Columbia River and all adjacent tributaries.¶

(2) When open for retention, the white sturgeon legal size is from 38 to 54 inches fork length in Bonneville Pool and adjacent tributaries and is from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles Pool and adjacent tributaries¶

(3) All other permanent rules for the Columbia River Zone, as stated in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162