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**TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION  
**DFW 16-2026**  
CHAPTER 635  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**FILED**  
02/27/2026 9:52 AM  
ARCHIVES DIVISION  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Set Recreational Retention Fishery for Sturgeon in The Dalles Pool and Adjacent Tributaries

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/03/2026 THROUGH 04/30/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 02/26/2026

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503-947-6233  
Linda.D.Spansel@odfw.oregon.gov

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Filed By:  
John Seabourne  
Rules Coordinator

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

This rule is needed to implement an additional recreational white sturgeon retention fishery in The Dalles Pool. This recreational sturgeon fishery has a projected remaining balance of 279 fish (29% of the guideline). In-season monitoring indicates this fishery is within allowable harvest levels.

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 25, 2026.
2. OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 7b, Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing, dated February 25, 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.

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AMEND: 635-023-0101

SUSPEND: Temporary 635-023-0101 from DFW 14-2026

RULE SUMMARY: This amended rule establishes a retention day for the recreational white sturgeon fishery on the mainstem Columbia River in The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to the John Day Dam) and all adjacent tributaries. Retention will be allowed on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

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 25, 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 March 3, 2026, retention of white sturgeon is allowed 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 daily bag limit is one legal-sized fish; the white sturgeon legal size 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