

Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of January 21, 2011**

January 19, 2011

Telephone Message:

Ed McMurtry
52763 Crown Court
Scappoose OR 97056

Mr. McMurtry called ODFW Fish Division to provide comments over the phone. He is unable to drive to the February 4, 2011 ODFW Commission meeting and does not have a computer to send in his comments. His comments are summarized in the paragraphs below.

Mr. McMurtry has been a fisherman for well over 50 years, he is 83 years old and still fishing. His concern is the decline of sturgeon in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. He feels that the gill netters (commercial fisherman) should be banned in the Columbia River and limited to fishing in the ocean only. He has been told by past ODFW employees that gill netters have been seen catching sturgeon in their nets and will cut them open, and then put them back into the river so that the sturgeon will not get back into their nets. He feels with the gill netters on the Columbia River the sturgeon will be depleted.

Mr. McMurtry also had a comment regarding sturgeon fishing on the Willamette River. He would like to see a recreational sturgeon fishing season from September 30 through the end of the year from Oregon City to the Columbia River.

On another topic, for the Sandy River to have good salmon, steelhead and smelt fishing, he feels the area where the Sandy comes into the Columbia should be dredged. He said this was a great place to fish years ago but he no longer fishes there because the fish can't get into the Sandy River through all the silt at the Columbia base.

Notes taken and summarized by:

Susayn Brown
Assistant Operations Manager/Fish Division