

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

These rules are needed to amend and/or establish recreational fishing seasons for white sturgeon in the Columbia River, and conclude the negotiation process the Commission directed the staff to conduct with the State of Washington to establish a uniform sturgeon management regulations on the Columbia River.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ODFW together with the State of Washington, recreational interests and commercial industry participants met January 26, 2012 to develop and forward regulations for the Commission's review and consideration. Additionally, staff conducted or participated in the following associated public meetings:

- October 27, 2011 - Meeting with the Columbia River Recreational Fisheries Advisory Group; Clackamas, OR.
- November 3, 2011 - Meeting with the Columbia River Commercial Fisheries Advisory Group; Vancouver, WA.
- December 13, 2011 - Meeting with Salmon for All; Astoria, OR.
- December 13, 2011 – Meeting with Northwest Sport-fishing Industry Association; Clackamas, OR.
- December 14, 2011 - Public meeting; The Dalles, OR.
- January 6, 2012 – Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.
- January 10, 2012 - Meeting with the Columbia River Commercial Fisheries Advisory Group; Rainier, OR.
- January 10, 2012 - Meeting with the Columbia River Recreational Fisheries Advisory Group; Vancouver, WA.
- January 12, 2012 – Public meeting regarding Select Area fisheries; Astoria, OR.

ISSUE 1

Whether to adopt rules to establish recreational retention fisheries for white sturgeon in the mainstem Columbia River.

ANALYSIS

Staff, as a member of the Columbia River Compact and through Joint State proceedings, developed regulations for white sturgeon retention fisheries according to protocol first established by the Commission in 2004 and consistent with parameters of the current Joint State Sturgeon Management Agreement (Accord) amended in 2012. Copies of the amended accord will be available at the February 3, 2012 Commission meeting. The seasons adopted by the Joint States on January 26, 2012 are consistent with a reduced harvest quota based on current population estimates and guidance received at the January 2012 meeting of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. These rules for 2012 establish:

- Recreational retention seasons above and below the Wauna power lines consistent with a reduced harvest guideline.
- A permanent time and area closure (Sand Island Slough) near Rooster Rock

OPTIONS

1. Adopt modifications to permanent rule 635-023-0095 as proposed in Attachment 3 to allow recreational retention fisheries for white sturgeon in the mainstem Columbia River during 2012.
2. Amend proposed rules
3. Retain status quo.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to adopt 635-023-0095 as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon filing