

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 7
 Joint State Hearing
 July 13, 2006**

Fisheries under Consideration: Estuary Sturgeon Sport Fishery
 Bonneville Pool Sturgeon Sport Fishery

Management guidelines, stock status and past fisheries are described in Winter Fact Sheet #1, dated December 15, 2005.

Estuary Sturgeon Sport Fishery

- The recreational sturgeon fishery downstream of the Wauna powerlines was open for retention from January 1-April 30 (42-inch minimum) and May 13-July 4 (45-inch minimum) as adopted at the December 15, 2005 hearing.
- The preseason management target was for a harvest of 15,000 fish, and a total guideline of 16,000, which includes a 1,000 fish management buffer.

- Based on finalized data through June (12% higher than the inseason projection), the estimated harvest through July 4 for this area is 15,568 fish, which represents 104% of the management target and 97% of the harvest guideline.
- Just over 400 fish remain available for harvest, which could possibly be sufficient for one additional day of retention fishing. Catch and release angling is currently allowed through December 31.

<i>2006 Estimated Estuary Sturgeon Harvest</i>	
Management Target	15,000
(Guideline)	(16,000)
<u>Harvest</u>	
January 1-April 30	73
May 13-31	1,814
June 1-30	12,079
July 1-4 ^a	1,602
Total	~15,568
Remaining	~0 (432)

^a Preliminary estimate

Bonneville Pool Sturgeon Sport Fishery

- The Bonneville Pool has been open for retention of sturgeon since January 1, 2006. The management target is for a harvest of 700 fish.
- The estimated catch through July 9 is 564 fish. Given current catch rates, it is likely the catch guideline will be reached by Sunday July 23.
- The Dalles and John Day pools previously closed to sturgeon retention effective April 8 (100 fish guideline) and July 1 (165 fish guideline), respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Estuary Sturgeon Sport Fishery

- No modifications to the previously adopted regulation to prohibit retention of sturgeon seven days per week from Wednesday July 5, 2006 through Sunday December 31, 2006 in the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines (RM 40) downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay; and all adjacent Washington tributaries.

Bonneville Pool Sturgeon Sport Fishery

- Prohibit the retention of sturgeon in the Columbia River and tributaries between Bonneville and The Dalles dams (Bonneville Pool) effective 12:01 AM Monday July 24, 2006.
- Catch and release of sturgeon may continue during retention closures.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 27, 2006 located at the River Street Building, 25 River Street in Cathlamet, Washington. The purpose of the hearing will be to review stock status of fall Chinook and consider non-Indian fall commercial fisheries.