

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
ZONE 6 SPORT STURGEON FACT SHEET No. 1**

March 26, 2007

Purpose: To consider modifying the sport fishing season for sturgeon in The Dalles Pool.

- Assessment of The Dalles Pool sturgeon population conducted in 2005 indicates legal-size abundance may have declined by 80% since the 2002 assessment. Recruitment to legal size is expected to increase in the future based on strong production in 1996 and 1997.
- The sport harvest guideline in The Dalles Pool was reduced from 400 fish to 100 fish in 2006 and retained at 100 fish in 2007. The treaty Indian commercial harvest guideline was reduced from 700 fish to 550 fish.
- An estimated 106 white sturgeon have been harvested from The Dalles Pool during January 1 through March 25, 2007 (Table 1).
- The number of fish observed each week in the creel surveys remained at zero from January 29 through March 18 and then increased to 14 fish the week of March 19-25.
- Weekly harvest estimates increased by 72 fish last week.
- Daily catch rates for the period March 26-28 are projected to approach 5 fish per day, based on catch rates for the week of March 19-25.

Table 1. Sample data, estimated and projected harvest for The Dalles Pool, 2007.

Month/Week	Average # in-sample fish/wk	Harvest estimate	Cumulative harvest
January	2	34	34
February	0	0	34
March 1-18	0	0	34
March 19-25	14	72	106
Projected harvest:			
March 26 – 28		15	121

Joint Staff Recommendation

- The Joint Staff recommends retention of sturgeon in The Dalles Pool be prohibited effective 12:00 midnight March 28, 2007.

- The 100 fish guideline is projected to be exceeded by 20% through Wednesday, March 28th.
- All fishing for sturgeon is prohibited from May through July in the sturgeon spawning sanctuary that runs from John Day Dam 2.4 miles downstream to the grain silo complex at Rufus.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
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