

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 5
June 30, 2009

Purpose:	Update on the Below Wauna recreational sturgeon fishery
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Stock status and management guidelines and season recommendations for 2009 sturgeon fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (December 18, 2008).

- Based on the 2006-2009 Joint State agreement and catch during 2006 through 2008, a total of 15,529 fish are available for 2009 fisheries below Wauna.
- Seven-day/week retention fisheries were adopted for January 1-April 30 and May 9-June 28, and daily for July 2-5 based on this available harvest.
- An estimated 1,125 white sturgeon were kept during January through May which is about 67% of the cumulative catches through May in both 2007 and 2008.
- Catch rates in June started out slow, but improved as the season progressed, averaging 207 fish per day during June 1-7, 342 fish per day during June 8-14, 397 fish per day during June 15-21, and 351 fish per day during June 22-28.
- Oregon-side anglers accounted for 86% of the June 1-7 non-charter harvest, 77% of the June 8-14 non-charter harvest, 72% of the June 15-21 non-charter harvest, and 65% of the June 22-28 non-charter harvest.
- Based on preliminary fishery sampling results, catch during June 1-28 is estimated at 9,100 fish, bringing the year-to-date total to about 10,225 fish. This leaves a balance of about 5,300 fish for the remainder of 2009.
- Catch rates can improve quickly in June and July, making it difficult to make accurate catch projections for the remainder of the scheduled season. Catch in this fishery during late June and early July averaged 644 fish per day in 2007 and 504 fish per day in 2008.
- Based on average catch per day, it is likely white sturgeon will remain available for harvest after the currently scheduled fishery closes on July 6, however, the variability observed in recent years makes it difficult to set a specific season based on catch projections prior to the July 6 close.
- Staff will provide an updated catch estimate following the close of the currently scheduled season to allow for an informed discussion regarding season extension options to utilize the remaining guideline.

Future Hearings

- No Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for this week.
- A Compact/Joint State hearing will be scheduled for next week to review summer season treaty and non-Indian fisheries.