

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Sport Hearing
February 10, 2010

Fisheries under consideration: Recreational fishery for sturgeon in Bonneville Pool

2010 Zone 6 Sturgeon Harvest Guidelines			
	<u>Tribal</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bonneville Pool	1,400	1,400	2,800
The Dalles Pool	1,000	300	1,300
John Day Pool	<u>335</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>500</u>
Total	2,735	1,865	4,600
Legal slot length: between 43-54 inches in fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools and between 38-54 inches in fork length in the Bonneville Pool.			

- The 2010 guideline for the recreational sturgeon fishery in Bonneville Pool increased two-fold compared to 2009.
- Unusually warm winter weather (and water temperatures) has fueled an increase in effort, and improved the harvest per unit effort since the second week of January.
- An influx of anglers from below Bonneville Dam and above The Dalles Dam, has occurred during the past few weeks.
- The commercial sturgeon fishery in Bonneville Pool has also experienced unprecedented harvest rates during February.
- Estimated numbers of angler trips and catch during January 2010 is 1,411 and 390 respectively. This compares to an estimated 382 angler trips and a catch of 17 fish for January 2009.
- The trend continued into early February with record high effort and catch rates during February 1-7. The sturgeon harvest in Bonneville Pool through February 7 is estimated at 790 fish (56% of guideline).
- If this trend continues, the guideline could be met as early as February 21 with a projected catch of 1,382 fish.

Joint Staff Recommendation – Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fisheries

Close the Bonneville Pool sturgeon recreational fishery to retention effective 12:01 am Sunday February 21, 2010.

Sport retention of sturgeon in the Dalles and John Day pools will remain in effect per current regulations

- Staff will continue to track the progress of the ongoing fisheries in The Dalles and John Day pools and provide an update at the February 18 Compact hearing.
- Staff will also provide a harvest estimate for the Bonneville fishery at the February 18 hearing

Future Meetings

A Compact/Joint State is scheduled for 10 AM February 18, 2010 at the Museum of the Oregon Territory, 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City, Oregon to consider non-treaty fisheries for white sturgeon and spring Chinook.