

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 4
July 13, 2010

Fisheries under consideration:	Recreational sturgeon below Wauna
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- The 2010 catch guideline for this fishery is 9,600 white sturgeon (60% of recent years).
- The initial retention season adopted was seven days a week during January 1- April 30 (38-54 inch fork length) and May 22 – June 26 (41-54 inch fork length).
- Effort and catch were well below average throughout much of the fishery with a projection of 2,950 fish landed during January –June 26 leaving an additional 6,650 fish available for harvest.
- On June 24, a fishery extension was adopted which allowed the fishery to remain open 7-days per week through July 11 (15 additional retention days).
- Actual catch during the initial season extension was less than projected, although catch rates improved to approximately 0.87 fish/boat kept during July 9-11.
- Catch estimates through July 5 total 3,500 sturgeon kept from 25,769 angler trips. Projections through July 11 total 28,300 angler trips with 3,900 sturgeon kept, or 41% of the 2010 adjusted harvest guideline.

<i>2010 Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery - Below Wauna</i>	
Season:	Thursday, July 15 through Sunday, August 1, 2010 (7 days/week) (18 days)
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay, and all adjacent Washington tributaries.
Allowable Catch:	White sturgeon between 41-inches and 54-inches fork length Retention of green sturgeon prohibited

- The estimated kept catch for the proposed season extension is 1,500-2,700 fish resulting in a season total projected kept catch of 5,400-6,600 fish (56%-69% of 2010 adjusted quota).
- The proposed fishery poses very limited risk of exceeding the harvest guideline. With an expected 3,000-4,200 fish remaining on the guideline, current catch rates would need to increase dramatically for the guideline to be met.
- Staff will continue to closely monitor catch as the season continues, and modify the proposed season as necessary in order to remain within the catch guideline.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on July 29 in Cathlamet, Washington to consider fall season commercial fishing periods. Given the date, this hearing would also provide a timely opportunity to review the estuary sturgeon fishery if the proposed season extension is adopted.