

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 15
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 31, 2013**

Fisheries under consideration: Recreational sturgeon in The Dalles Pool

Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery in The Dalles Pool

- Under permanent rule, the 2013 Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam) recreational white sturgeon fisheries opened for retention effective January 1. The fisheries remain open until the annual guideline for each pool is met except in Bonneville Pool where a split winter/summer season structure is used. Fishery status through October 27 for all pools are as follows:

2013 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest in Zone 6				
	Guideline	Harvest	Balance	Season
Bonneville Pool	1,100	1,017	83	Closed 6/22
The Dalles Pool	300	265	35	Ongoing
John Day Pool	500	507	-7	Closed 6/29
Total	1,900	1,789		

- Bonneville and John Day pools are closed to retention for the season.
- The retention season in The Dalles Pool currently remains open 7 days per week. Year-to-date harvest is similar to 2012, but October weekly catch rates are tracking higher than last year. In 2012, The Dalles Pool closed on November 3, with 22 fish remaining on the guideline.
- Through October 27, The Dalles Pool fishery has reached 88% of the available guideline. Catch rates (and effort) in The Dalles Pool have been highly variable, but have recently improved with effort and harvest last week approximately twice the 4-week average. If this pattern continues, the guideline of 300 fish should be reached before mid-November.
- Considering the balance of harvestable sturgeon remaining on guideline and expected catch rates, staff proposes the following season recommendation:

Staff Recommendation: Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery – The Dalles Pool

Effective 12:01 AM Tuesday, November 12, 2013, prohibit retention of white sturgeon in The Dalles Pool and adjacent tributaries through December 31, 2013.