

# Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Conservation Plan

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[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower\\_columbia\\_white\\_sturgeon\\_plan.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower_columbia_white_sturgeon_plan.asp)

## Process for Developing the Conservation Plan

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### General Schedule

- ✓ Develop draft Plan with co-managers and stakeholders
- Solicit public comment and review
- Modify Conservation Plan to reflect input
- Present Plan to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for consideration and adoption

# Concurrent Processes

## Conservation Plan

### Describe

- Current Status
- Desired Status
- Conservation Threshold
- Limiting Factors and Threats
- Measurable Criteria/Triggers

### Strategies

- Optimal Harvest
- Address Limiting Factors
- Monitoring/Research
- Adaptive Management

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## Joint State Accord

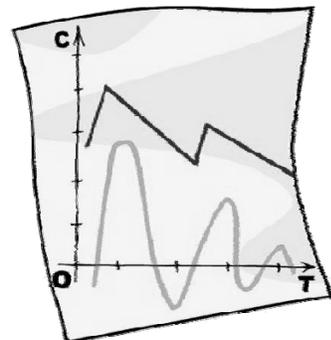
- Specific Harvest Guidelines and Allocation

## Where are we?

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## Current Status

- Present state of the population for various biological characteristics.



## Where don't we want to be?

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### Conservation Status

- These are the conditions we need to avoid
- Conditions that pose significant risk to population persistence

## Where do we want to be?

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### Desired Status

- These are healthy and harvestable conditions we manage for
- Self-sustaining
  - Abundant
  - Diverse
  - Productive
  - Habitat available and access to that habitat
- A place that supports optimal fisheries
  - A biologically sustainable harvest
  - A socioeconomically viable fishery
    - ✦ Fishing opportunity provided throughout the year and in all areas
    - ✦ High likelihood of success

## Biological Attributes

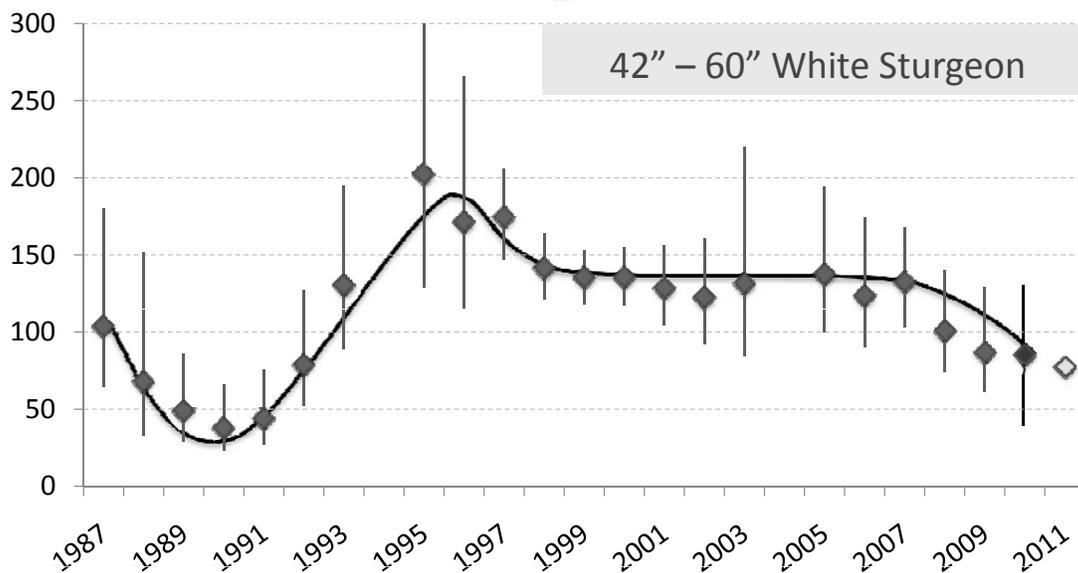
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Measurable characteristics that tell us **where we are** relative to **current, conservation, and desired** status

- **Abundance**
- **Productivity**
- Distribution
- Genetic diversity
- Available spawning and rearing habitat
- Population persistence

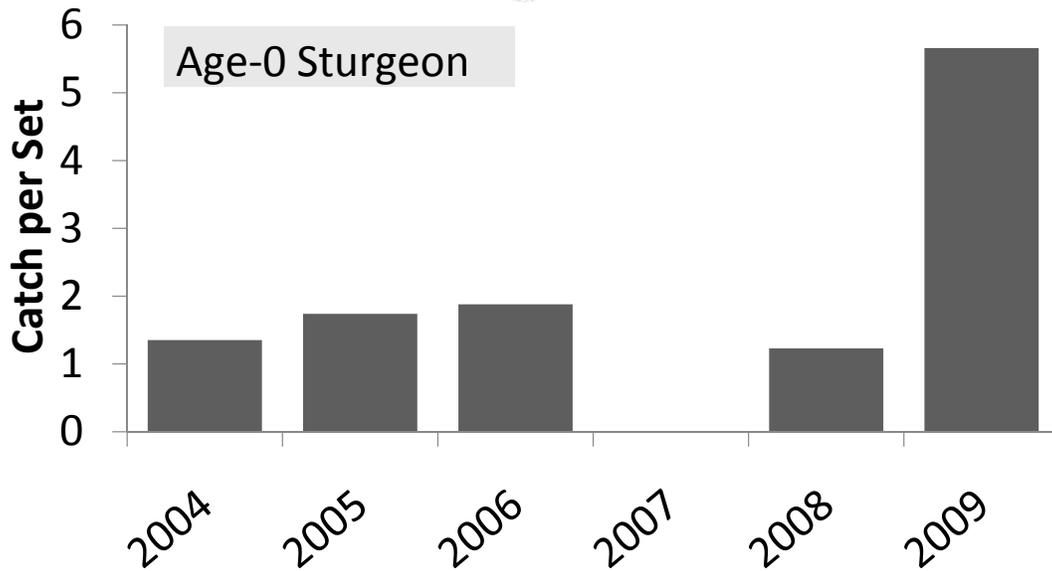
## Biological Attribute -- Abundance

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## Biological Attribute -- Productivity

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## Selected Limiting Factors

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**Why aren't we where we want to be?**

**What do we have to do to get where we want to be?**

- ❖ Sea Lion Predation
- ❖ Hydro Operations & Flow Conditions
  - Water quality
  - In-water work activity
  - Incidental hydrosystem mortality
  - Fish predation
  - Fishing (over fishing and poaching)

## Sea Lion Predation

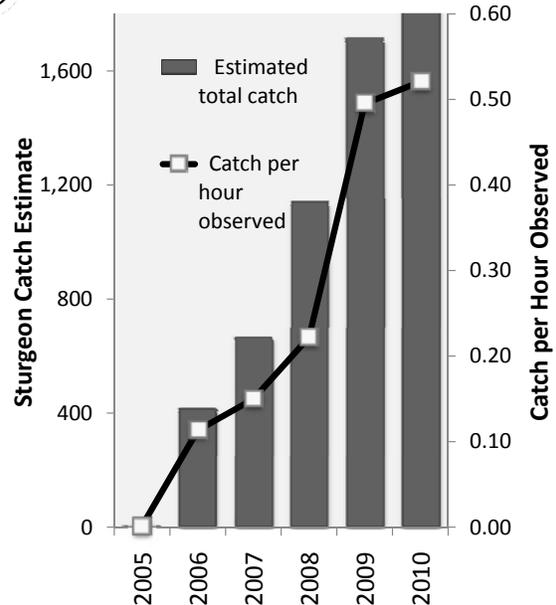
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### Why aren't we where we want to be?

- Predator abundance and trends
- Observed Consumption

### What do we have to do to get where we want to be?

- Harassment and removals
- Reduce number of predators in the current angling sanctuary
- Monitor and assess river-wide predation and losses



## Hydro Operations & Flow Conditions

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### Why aren't we where we want to be?

- Upstream research demonstrates a strong relationship between flows (velocity) and juvenile recruitment.

### What do we have to do to get where we want to be?

- Configure hydrosystem to maximize spawning habitat
- Monitor effect of operations on spawning & recruitment



## Monitoring and Evaluation

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### How will we know when we get there?

- Implement a robust & diverse monitoring program
- Monitor a cross section of life stages & limiting factors
  - Adult tagging
  - Age-0 indexing
  - Commercial & recreational harvest monitoring
- Use weight of available evidence
- Assure opportunities to adapt as we learn



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- The draft plan is available on ODFW's website  
[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower\\_columbia\\_white\\_sturgeon\\_plan.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower_columbia_white_sturgeon_plan.asp)
- Your input is welcome



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