

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 7
April 1, 2009**

Fisheries under Consideration: Recreational white sturgeon fisheries in John Day and The Dalles reservoirs

Bonneville Reservoir

- The Bonneville Reservoir recreational white sturgeon harvest guideline is 700 fish (in effect since 2004).
- The estimated harvest of white sturgeon through March 22 is 277 fish (40% of the guideline).

The Dalles Reservoir

- The 2009 Dalles Reservoir recreational harvest guideline is 300 white sturgeon (increased from 100 fish during 2006-2008).
- We estimate 193 white sturgeon were harvested from The Dalles Reservoir from January 1 through March 29, 2009 (Table 1). Harvest was estimated by applying harvest per hour of effort to estimated total effort. Approximately 18 percent of the estimated 193 sturgeon harvest was sampled in the creel.
- Harvest is projected using the last 2 weeks' HPUE and effort for this season in The Dalles Pool, and expanding by the 2006-2008 average effort increase for each of the last 2 weeks of those seasons. Assuming harvest will average 38-39 fish per week from this point on, the 165 fish guideline would be reached during the week of April 13-19.

Table 2. Sample data, estimated, and projected harvest for The Dalles Reservoir, 2009.

Month/Week	Monthly or weekly sample rate	Average weekly # of fish in-sample	Monthly or weekly harvest estimate	Cumulative harvest
January	0.19	3.2	75	75
February	0.09	0.8	33	108
Mar 1-29	0.21	4.3	85	193

Last 2 weeks' average HPUE:0.11

Last 2 weeks' average effort: 255

Average 2006-2008 effort increase for last 2 weeks of the season:

Week 1 138%

Week 2 141%

Projection:		
Mar 30-April 5	38	231
April 6-12	39	270
<u>April 13-18 (guideline = 300)</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>299</u>

John Day Reservoir

- The John Day Reservoir recreational white sturgeon harvest guideline is 165 fish (in effect since 2002).
- We estimate 87 white sturgeon were harvested from John Day Reservoir from January 1 through March 29, 2009 (Table 1). Harvest was estimated by applying harvest per hour of effort (HPUE) to estimated total effort. Approximately 25 percent of the estimated 87 sturgeon harvest was sampled in the creel.
- Since creel sampling was not started until March 2, January and February effort and harvest estimates were based on historical averages, adjusted by the ratios of March 2009 effort and harvest estimates to historical March averages. Harvest is projected using the highest weekly HPUE and effort for this season in John Day Pool, and expanding by the 2006-2008 average effort increase for each of the last 2 weeks of those seasons. Assuming a projected average harvest of 41-42 fish per week from March 30 on, the 165 fish guideline would be reached during the week of April 6-12.

Table 1. Sample data, estimated, and projected harvest for John Day Reservoir, 2009.

Month/Week	Monthly or weekly sample rate	Average weekly # of fish in-sample	Monthly or weekly harvest estimate	Cumulative harvest
January	----	----	3	3
February	----	----	11	14
March 1-8	0.33	----	3	17
March 9-15	0.41	----	22	39
Mar 16-22	0.22	----	36	75
Mar 23-29	0.33	----	12	87

2009 highest weekly HPUE: 0.06

2009 highest weekly effort: 638

Average 2006-2008 effort increase for last 2 weeks of the season:

Week 1 114%

Week 2 112%

Projection:		
Mar 30-April 5	42	129
<u>April 6-12 (guideline = 165)</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>170</u>

Zone 6 Treaty Commercial

- Treaty commercial harvest in Zone 6 has been closed in all three pools. The guideline was exceeded in Bonneville Pool (114%), and nearly met in The Dalles (93%) and John Day (99%) pools, based on preliminary final numbers.

Joint Staff Recommendations – Zone 6 Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective 12:01 AM Monday, April 13, 2009, the recreational fishery in John Day Reservoir is closed to the retention of white sturgeon.• Effective 12:01 AM Sunday, April 19, 2009, the recreational fishery in The Dalles Reservoir is closed to the retention of white sturgeon.

- Note: the closure recommendation for The Dalles Pool is mid-weekend. Using the same projection method closing before the weekend (on Saturday) would give a harvest of 289 fish, and open through the weekend (closing on Monday) would give a harvest of 309 fish.
- Staff recommends announcing the fishery closures dates as early as possible to provide advanced notice for fishers and to provide adequate time to post signs at the various boat ramps.