

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT**  
**SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2**  
**June 19, 2008**

<b>Purpose:</b> <b>Update on the Below Wauna recreational sturgeon fishery</b>
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*Stock status and management guidelines and season recommendations for 2008 sturgeon fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (December 13, 2007).*

- Based on the 2006-2008 Joint State agreement and catch during 2006 and 2007, a total of 13,143 fish are available for 2008 fisheries below Wauna.
- A 7-day/week fishery for January 1-April 30 and May 10-June 24 was adopted for 2008 based on this available harvest.
- Harvest estimates include 22 white sturgeon kept during January through April and an additional 1,689 fish kept during open periods in May. June 1-15 catch is estimated at 3,200 fish, bringing the total through June 15 to just over 4,900 fish.
- Daily catch has been particularly low through mid-June, averaging about 220 fish per day compared to over 500 fish per day in June-July 2007.
- Based on catch estimates through June 16, a little over 8,200 fish are available for harvest for the remainder of 2008 in the area below Wauna.
- The 8,200 fish provides from 16 to over 30 days of retention based on the range of catch rates observed in 2007 and 2008. This includes the 9 days scheduled during June 16-24.
- As typical for June, catch can ramp up significantly in a short period of time, making it difficult to make accurate catch projections for the remainder of the scheduled season. Catch in this fishery during late June and early July can be unpredictable, as was demonstrated in 2007 when catch exceeded staff's expectations by close to 1,200 fish.
- As expected, catch rates have improved with over one fish/boat observed since June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Although there is no apparent risk in exceeding the harvest allocation prior to the scheduled closure date of June 25, the number of fish that may be available for harvest beyond the closure date remains uncertain due to the rapidly changing catch rate.
- Staff will be able to provide catch projections for season extension scenarios with much greater certainty based on a full accounting of harvest following closure of the fishery as scheduled on June 25.
- Additional retention opportunity for white sturgeon in the below Wauna recreational fishery will be considered at the Joint State/Compact Hearing scheduled for June 27, 2008.

**Future Hearings**

- A Compact hearing is scheduled via teleconference for 4 PM Thursday, June 19 to consider an extension (3 days) of the non-Indian commercial shad fishery and consider sockeye retention in treaty and non-treaty fisheries.
- A Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled via teleconference for 11 AM Friday, June 27 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial fishing periods, review the recreational sturgeon fishery below the Wauna powerlines and review sockeye stock status and harvest.