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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

DFW 23-2025

CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED

04/01/2025 8:10 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Continue Closure of Recreational Sturgeon Retention in Pools above Bonneville Dam

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/01/2025 THROUGH 09/27/2025

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 03/11/2025

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Filed By:

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Rules Coordinator

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

The joint state recreational harvest guidelines allow up to 675 white sturgeon to be retained from the Bonneville Pool, 275 white sturgeon to be retained from The Dalles Pool, and 105 white sturgeon to be retained from the John Day Pool in 2025.

The states' catch monitoring program indicated record effort levels on the first day of the season and very high catch rates. This resulted in the Bonneville Pool fishery exceeding the guideline after one day. Similarly, The Dalles and John Day Pools fishery has met their guideline. Therefore, these retention fisheries must remain closed for the rest of the year.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

The Department finds that its failure to act promptly will result in serious prejudice to the public interest because there is a substantial likelihood that absent immediate implementation of conservation measures wild sturgeon may be adversely affected (i.e., overharvested), which could be avoided or reduced if the rule modifications were effective immediately.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

1. Columbia River Fishery Notice; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; dated January 2, 2025.

2. Columbia River Fishery Notice; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; dated March 11, 2025.

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking [the above document(s)] are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact John Seabourne at 503-947-6207 or john.d.seabourne@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

AMEND: 635-023-0101

RULE SUMMARY: This amended rule continues the closure of the recreational retention fishery for white sturgeon on the mainstem Columbia River in the Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day Pools (Bonneville Dam upstream to the

McNary Dam) and all adjacent tributaries.

Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish & Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Joint State hearing on January 2, 2025 and March 11, 2025.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-023-0101

Sturgeon Season Above Bonneville Dam

The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Columbia River Zone.

However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time, and, to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶

(1) Effective January 3, the harvest guideline has been met and retention of white sturgeon is prohibited in the Bonneville Pool (Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam) of the Columbia River and all adjacent tributaries.¶

(2) Effective February 28, the harvest guideline has been met and retention of white sturgeon is prohibited in The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to John Day Dam) of the Columbia River and all adjacent tributaries.¶

(3) Effective March 14, the harvest guideline has been met and retention of white sturgeon is prohibited in the John Day Pool (John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam) of the Columbia River and all adjacent tributaries.¶

(4) All other permanent rules for the Columbia River Zone, as stated in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162