



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### 1997 Northern Squawfish season opens on Columbia and Snake rivers

#### Popular program offers anglers cash and saves salmon

#### Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, May 13, 1997

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**What:** The annual Northern Squawfish Sport-Reward Season is the time of year when the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) offers a \$3-5 reward for every northern squawfish 11 inches or longer turned in along the Columbia and Snake rivers.

**When:** Monday, May 19, 1997 at 1 p.m. Please note that the season is opening later this year due to high run-off and flows. (Season runs through mid-October.)

**Where:** Open waters include the mainstem lower Columbia River up to Priest Rapids Dam in Washington and the Snake River up to Hells Canyon Dam in Idaho. Eleven registration stations will be open seven days a week, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Maps are available by calling the Squawfish Hotline.

**Who:** BPA and the region's ratepayers sponsor the Northern Squawfish Management Program which is part of a comprehensive effort to protect and recover fish and wildlife affected by hydropower development. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tribes implement the program.

**Why:** Northern squawfish are major predators of young salmon, devouring millions of smolt each year. Researchers believe reducing the number of squawfish is one of the best ways to reduce predation mortality. Keeping a check on the balance between the numbers of squawfish and the numbers of salmon is a major goal of the sport-reward fishery program.

Please note that the high spring flows may make fishing more challenging this year, but anglers who employ creative techniques and try different locations should have plenty of opportunity to catch fish.

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