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## Northern squawfish season extended to October 17

Bonneville Power Administration

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**PORTLAND, Ore. – There are still lots of squawfish in the Columbia and Snake rivers looking to make a meal of young salmon, so the Bonneville Power Administration has extended the season that was scheduled to end yesterday. It will now end on Friday, Oct. 17.**

BPA is asking anglers to catch as many northern squawfish as they possibly can during this extension of the 1997 Northern Squawfish Sport Reward Season. Northern squawfish devour millions of salmon smolts each year. During the season, BPA offers a \$3 to \$5 reward for every northern squawfish 11 inches or longer turned in along the Columbia and Snake rivers. Anglers have turned in more than 26,000 daily registrations since the season began in May and caught nearly 111,000 squawfish.

Besides helping protect salmon, catching northern squawfish pays off big for anglers. The top angler so far this year, Roy Kendall of Selah, Wash., has already earned more than \$11,500.

“Our catch rates are great this time of year. Anglers are averaging seven fish a day, if you haven’t made it out yet, it’s not too late,” says Eric Winther, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologist.

Most registration stations will be operating on a reduced schedule. Please check individual registration stations for hours. Anglers may self-register at any time at all registration stations. For registration locations, up-to-date catch totals and other project information, anglers can call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Squawfish hotline, (360) 737-2091 in Vancouver or toll free (800) 858-9015.

The Northern Squawfish Sport Reward Season is part of BPA’s ongoing commitment to improving anadromous fish populations in the Columbia River basin. BPA spends \$252 million each year on fish and wildlife programs. It also incurs substantial costs each year in river operations to help young salmon migrate downstream.

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