



BPA's squawfish sport reward season wraps up

Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – Good news for salmon. Since 1991 anglers have taken one million northern squawfish, hungry predators of juvenile salmon, out of the river.

Over 119,000 northern squawfish were caught on the Columbia and Snake rivers during BPA's 1997 squawfish sport reward season. That's down 24 percent from last year. The season started late this year – May 19 – because early spring streamflows in the rivers were some of the highest ever recorded. The catch picked up in August, and BPA extended the season nearly two weeks until Oct. 17.

Even with the water levels as high as they were, this season was successful considering the cumulative impacts of northern squawfish removals to date. Some variability is expected in catch between seasons due to changing conditions and their effect upon angler participation," says John Skidmore of BPA's fish and wildlife office.

Every day an average of 178 anglers fished the Columbia and Snake rivers for northern squawfish during the five-month season.

Northern squawfish devour millions of salmon smolts each year. During the season, BPA offered up to \$5 for every northern squawfish 11 inches or longer turned in along the Columbia and Snake rivers.

BPA expects the next northern squawfish sport reward season to begin in May 1998.

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