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## *Season opens with higher payout for northern pikeminnow*

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### **Bonneville Power Administration**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Thursday, April 29, 1999**

PR 35 99

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**PORTLAND, Ore.** – The 1999 [northern pikeminnow](#) season opens on Monday, May 3 with good news for anglers -- an increase in cash rewards.

For every northern pikeminnow 11 inches or longer returned to a registration station, anglers will receive \$4-\$6. The more fish an angler catches in the season, the more they're worth: the first 100 are worth \$4 each; after 100 they're worth \$5 each; and after 400 they're worth \$6 each. Special tagged northern pikeminnow will be worth \$50 again this year.

The season runs through Sept. 26. Northern pikeminnow may be caught along the mainstem lower Columbia River up to [Priest Rapids Dam](#) in Washington and in the Snake River up to Hells Canyon Dam in Idaho.

There will be 10 registration stations open from 1 to 9 p.m., seven days a week, along the rivers. In addition, there will also be satellite stations operated for limited hours. Anglers can register themselves at all sites if the station is not open.

BPA and the region's ratepayers sponsor the Northern Pikeminnow Management Program as a part of the comprehensive effort to protect and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydropower development. [The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission](#), [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) and the Columbia Basin Tribes implement the program.

Northern pikeminnow are major predators of young salmon, devouring millions of smolts each year. Biologists believe reducing the number of pikeminnow is an effective way to increase the number of juvenile salmon that migrate to the sea. Keeping tabs on the balance between the numbers of pikeminnow and the numbers of salmon is a major goal of the Northern Pikeminnow Management Program.

Since 1990, sport-reward anglers have caught over 1.2 million northern pikeminnow in the Snake and Columbia rivers. As a result millions more young salmon survived that would have otherwise been eaten. Biologists estimate that the northern pikeminnow program has cut predation on young salmon by about 38 percent. In the 1998 season, more than 108,000 northern pikeminnow were caught.

Do your part to help rebuild the region's salmon and steelhead runs. For more information call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Sport Reward Hot Line at 1-800-858-9015.

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