



BPA announces extension of northern pikeminnow season 2000 season has been successful

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – The 2000 northern pikeminnow season has been so successful that the season is being extended at thirteen stations until Oct. 15. The season was scheduled to end Sept. 24. Anglers are encouraged to check the Web site at www.pikeminnow.org to find the new hours and stations offering the extension or call the hotline at 800-858-9015.

"The counts have already surpassed last year's numbers by over 50,000 fish, approaching the record year of 1995," reports John Skidmore, BPA's fish and wildlife project manager. So far this year, anglers have pulled over 161,000 northern pikeminnow out of the river. In 1995, over 197,000 fish were caught.

The season opened May 15. Anglers are paid for northern pikeminnow nine inches or longer. The fish must be caught in the mainstem lower Columbia River up to Priest Rapids Dam in Washington and the Snake River up to Hells Canyon Dam in Idaho.

According to Skidmore, "Paying for shorter fish than before, better weather and good flows all are factors in this year's counts."

The rewards are the same as last year. The more fish an angler catches, the more the fish are 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 are worth \$50.

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 1.3 million northern pikeminnow in the Snake and

Columbia rivers. Biologists estimate that the northern pikeminnow program has cut predation on young salmon by about 25 percent.

For more information call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Sport Reward Hot Line at 1-800-858-9015 or check out the new Web site (www.pikeminnow.org). Anglers can view the rules, site hours, directions to the sites, the catches by registration station and fishing tips all on the Web site.

NOTE: Please see attached list of extended stations and hours.

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Northern Pikeminnow Registration Stations

2000 Season Extension Schedule

(September 25 thru October 15)

Cathlamet Marina- 10:30 am to 2:00 pm

Rainier Marina- 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Gleason Boat Ramp- 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Chinook Landing- 7:00 am to 9:00 am

Washougal Boat Ramp- 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

The Fishery- 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Bonneville Trailhead- noon to 3:00 pm

Bingen Marina- 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Hood River Marina- 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

The Dalles Boat Basin- 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Giles French- 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Vernita Bridge Rest Area- noon to 8:00 pm

Greenbelt- noon to 8:00 pm

Note: All seven days per week.

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