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Northern pikeminnow fishing season opens

Fishing for fun, profit and the environment

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – The 2001 northern pikeminnow fishing season begins today. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will pay \$4 to \$6 for every northern pikeminnow, which is a major predator of young salmon migrating to the sea. The season will end September 30, 2001.

For every northern pikeminnow nine inches or longer returned to a registration station, anglers will receive \$4 to \$6. The more fish an angler catches, the more they're worth: the first 100 in one season 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.

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 number of pikeminnow and the number of salmon is a major goal of the Northern Pikeminnow Management Program.

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 Yakama Nation implement the program. April 30 begins the fishing season for the stretch of The Columbia River that is downstream from The Dalles Dam to the mouth of the Columbia. On May 14, northern pikeminnow fishing season opens upstream of The Dalles Dam. Both seasons end on September 30, 2001.

Since 1990, sport-reward anglers have caught over 1.5 million northern pikeminnow in the Snake and Columbia rivers. As a result, millions more young salmon and steelhead escaped the jaws of the hungry pikeminnow. Biologists estimate that the northern pikeminnow program has cut predation on young salmon by about 25 percent. In the 2000 season, more than 190,000 northern pikeminnow were caught.

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 Web site (www.pikeminnow.org). The 2001 Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Fishery brochure is also available at local sporting good stores. Anglers can view the

rules, site hours, directions to the sites, catches from the 2000 season by registration station and fishing tips on the Web site.

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