



Northern pikeminnow season extended to Oct. 14: Anglers can keep earning money while helping salmon

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. — Don't put the fishing rods away yet. The northern pikeminnow fishing season has been extended for two weeks — until Oct. 14 — in selected areas so more of the voracious salmon predators can be removed from the Columbia and Snake rivers.

“Fishing catch rates have been very high, and a lot of anglers are continuing to fish with enthusiasm,” said John Skidmore, BPA's pikeminnow program manager. “So we thought we would keep the program open longer to help salmon during this low-water year when juvenile salmon are more vulnerable to predators.”

The reward for each qualifying pikeminnow was increased in July. The program now pays \$5 for the each of the first 100 pikeminnows turned in, \$6 each for the next fish up to 400, and \$8 for every fish over 400. Each specially tagged pikeminnow is worth \$1,000.

BPA and the region's electricity ratepayers sponsor the Northern Pikeminnow Management Program as part of a comprehensive effort to protect and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydropower development. The goal is reduce the number of pikeminnows, not eliminate them.

Here are the stations that remain open and their hours:

- 1A. Cathlamet Marina, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 2A. Rainer, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 3. Gleason, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 4. Washougal, 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- 5. The Fishery, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 6A. Bonneville trailhead, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 11. Vernita, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 12. Greenbelt, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All other stations will close Sept. 30.

For more information about fishing rules, registration, sites, hours and the like, call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Sport Reward Hotline at 1-800-858-9015 or check the Web site at www.pikeminnow.org.

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