

Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program Season Closes Sept. 30

The pikeminnow season, originally set to be extended, closes today due to successful angling rates.

Portland, OR – The Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program—administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and funded by Bonneville Power Administration to partially mitigate for the impacts of the Federal Hydro-system—is set to close its 2026 season on Sept. 30. This year's Sport-Reward Program season, originally set to extend to Oct. 11, will close earlier than expected after participating anglers successfully reached the program's 20% harvest rate goal, marking a triumphant season for participating anglers while achieving salmon and steelhead conservation benefits from the program.

The Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program, first implemented in 1991, aims to reduce the predatory impact of northern pikeminnow on juvenile salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake rivers. To achieve this goal, the Sport-Reward Program pays anglers for catching predator-sized northern pikeminnow that meet or exceed nine inches in length.

Rewards for northern pikeminnow catches range from \$6 to \$10 per fish depending on an angler's total harvest. State fish and wildlife biologists also release tagged northern pikeminnow into the Columbia and Snake rivers each season, which helps the program determine the number of northern pikeminnow removed from the rivers. These verified external tagged northern pikeminnow are worth \$500, with verified internally tagged fish worth \$200.

"The Northern Pikeminnow Management Program tracks harvest throughout the season to ensure the Sport Reward Fishery meets the minimum northern pikeminnow harvest rate to reduce predation of juvenile salmon and steelhead while protecting this native species from overfishing," said Grant Waltz, project lead for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Since the fishery's inception, anglers have harvested more than six million reward-sized northern pikeminnow, reducing the northern pikeminnow's predation of juvenile salmon by as much as 40%. The Sport-Reward Fishery has also generated more than one million angler days of effort toward achieving NPMP goals. The Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program would like to thank all participating anglers for another exceptional season and reminds anglers that, to obtain payment, all reward vouchers must be received no later than Nov. 15, 2026. To learn more about the program and this year's Sport-Reward Fishery, visit www.pikeminnow.org.



About BPA *The Bonneville Power Administration is a federal non-profit power marketing administration that delivers reliable, low cost hydropower produced in the Columbia River Basin as well as the output from the region's only nuclear plant to communities across the Northwest. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission lines. More information about these and other activities is available on our Media Relations page.*

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