

WILLAMETTE RIVER: sturgeon, steelhead, spring Chinook
Updates May 28, 2008

Fish counts at Willamette Falls continue to fall short of expectations – fewer than 5,000 chinook have been counted to date. Summer steelhead are still being caught and with cool water temperatures fishing could be good for the next month or two.

Shad fishing also is picking up, especially in the Oregon city area where Clackamette and Meldrum Bar Park provide good bank access.

Below Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel), closed for retention of spring chinook Monday, May 12. The river below the Falls is still open for steelhead, shad and other species.

Above Willamette Falls and tributaries, the river remains open for retention of spring chinook, steelhead and shad. Previously adopted seasons and bag limits remain in effect:

- The daily bag limit for the Willamette River downstream of Willamette Falls will be two adult adipose fin-clipped steelhead.
- The daily bag limit for the Willamette River and tributaries above Willamette Falls will remain two adult adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead of which only one may be a chinook, except that an additional adipose fin-clipped steelhead may be retained.
- The daily bag limit for salmon and steelhead in the Clackamas River upstream to North Fork Dam will remain two adult adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead of which only one may be a chinook.

The Oregon/Washington Compact adopted the following rules at the Dec. 13 Joint State Hearing for the sturgeon sport fishery above Wauna power lines (RM 40) upstream to Bonneville Dam, including all adjacent Washington tributaries, and the lower Willamette River (including the Multnomah Channel) upstream to Willamette Falls for 2008:

- Allow the retention of white sturgeon four days per week on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during Jan. 1 through July 31 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2008.
- Prohibit the retention of sturgeon three days per week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during Jan. 1-July 31 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2008 and seven days per week during Aug. 1 through Sept. 30, 2008.
- Daily and annual catch limits listed in the 2008 Oregon Sport Regulations pamphlet remain in effect.

These rules are subject to inseason changes. Please check the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Web site for the latest updates.

For more information or to book a trip please call 503-720-9033 (8am-7pm).