

## Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program ends early on Sept. 25

**Portland, OR** – The Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program will end its 2024 season five days early after an outstanding season for participating anglers. The Sport-Reward Program pays anglers for each predator-sized northern pikeminnow they catch that is over nine inches long to reduce their predatory impact on juvenile salmon and steelhead. This year anglers made above-average catches, set a new top angler reward payout of more than \$159,000, and reached the 10-20% harvest goal of the total northern pikeminnow population over nine inches long in the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The 2024 season was originally intended to run from May 1 to Sept. 30 and will now close on Sept. 25. This is the first time in the program's 34-year history that the season will close early. There are two reasons that the sport-reward program may close early: either the harvest rate exceeds 20%, or the sport-reward fishery runs out of reward funds. This year, a season of successful angling depleted the program's reward fund budget.

All agencies that administer the Sport-Reward Program—The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Bonneville Power Administration—extend a warm thank-you and congratulations to all anglers who participated in this outstanding season.

The Sport-Reward Program has funds available to pay out anglers for any eligible fish caught and turned into a check station by the Sept. 25 closure date. For anglers to obtain payment, all reward vouchers must be mailed no later than Nov. 15.

The Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program, implemented in 1991, is designed to reduce the northern pikeminnow's predatory impact on salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin. It reaches this goal by paying anglers for each northern pikeminnow they catch that is nine inches or longer. Since the fishery's inception, anglers have harvested more than six million reward-sized northern pikeminnow and spent more than a million angler days fishing them. As a result, predation of juvenile salmon by northern pikeminnow has been reduced by as much as 40%. To learn more about the Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Fishery and its 2024 season, visit [www.pikeminnow.org](http://www.pikeminnow.org).

**About BPA** The Bonneville Power Administration is a federal non-profit power marketing administration that delivers reliable, low-cost and carbon-free hydropower produced in the Columbia River Basin to communities across the Northwest. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission lines and administers one of the largest, most comprehensive fish and wildlife conservation programs in the United States. A leader in promoting energy efficiency, BPA has saved more than 2,500 average megawatts of energy since 1980. More information about these and other activities is available on our [Media Relations page](#).



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