

**Supplemental Correspondence**

**Exhibit (E)**

**Public Correspondence received after  
September 26, 2019**



**Comments from The Conservation Angler  
Columbia River White Sturgeon Conservation Rulemaking  
October 7, 2019**

The Conservation Angler supports the Sport Fishing Regulation Changes to protect Columbia River White Sturgeon upstream of Bonneville Dam

The joint-state concurrent management recommendations developed by Washington and Oregon fisheries staff are well-reasoned, appropriately cautionary, and backed up by evidence gathered in the field.

**Regarding Issue 1**, TCA supports these recommendations that change the effective dates for spawning sanctuaries in Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day Reservoirs in the Columbia River, and a proposed extension of the downstream boundary of the sanctuary in the John Day Reservoir.

“No Angling Sanctuaries” are a viable and proven conservation tool. TCA appreciates the data showing the significant handle rate reductions predicted if the time period for the sanctuary is extended. Specific spatial and temporal boundaries should help improve reproductive success by limiting the handle of white sturgeon during their pre-spawn, active spawning and post-spawning recovery stages. The data provided by ODFW staff is quite compelling regarding post-spawning mortality and supports this action.

The Commission and ODFW do not have strong regulatory control over the multiple factors influencing spawning success of white sturgeon such as river flow and water temperatures but does have some control over prey and food resources as well as angling pressures that create stress. The department’s the proposed actions will reduce the overall handling and should result in lower overall stress on spawning white sturgeon.

**TCA Concern** - Since seven years passed without measurable spawning recruitment in the John Day Pool, and before action was taken, what is ODFW’s timetable for implementing additional actions that may indeed be warranted now?

**Regarding Issue 2**, TCA supports the retention closure in joint waters of the Columbia River upstream of McNary Dam to the Oregon/Washington state line for all the reasons identified in the Staff Summary. However, what appears unclear is whether Washington will be establishing the same sort of temporal “no fishing sanctuary” in the Washington-only waters of the McNary Reservoir portion of the Columbia and Snake Rivers. While TCA understands that this issue is beyond Oregon’s authority, based on the rationale presented for the jointly managed Columbia River, we find it makes sense to close any spawning areas below Priest Rapids Dam and above McNary Dam (including the Snake River from the confluence to below Ice Harbor Dam – which is all part of the McNary Reservoir) to all sturgeon angling during the known spawning periods.

**Action:** TCA urges the Commission to direct ODFW Staff to communicate the need to reduce handle and stress in white Sturgeon in any and all spawning areas below Priest Rapids and Ice Harbor Dam and above McNary Dam so that angling rules are uniform in Oregon and Washington.

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