



Northern Pikeminnow Management Program

- Objective: Increase the survival of outmigrating juvenile salmon and steelhead by reducing the number of larger, predatory pikeminnow in the mainstem Columbia and Snake rivers.
- Its genesis is from basic research conducted between 1982-1986 in the John Day Reservoir to determine the magnitude and significance of predation on juvenile salmonids.
- Of the 4 main predators, the northern pikeminnow accounted for 78% of the fish predation (smallmouth bass, walleye, channel catfish)
- Researchers developed a hypothesis that keys into the long-lived life-history of the northern pikeminnow that by exploiting the larger older more predaceous fish a significant reduction in piscine salmonid predation would occur..
- Tested many removal techniques and determined that hook and line fisheries could provide system-wide benefits to outmigrating juvenile salmon.
- Began system-wide removal fishery in 1991.





Program Goals:

- Remove 10-20% of predatory-sized pikeminnow per year.
- Evaluate response of pikeminnow to sustained fisheries.
- Check for compensatory predation by smallmouth bass and walleye.
- Evaluate effect of program on salmonid predation.



Results

- Over 3 million northern pikeminnow removed.
- Low impact to resident/anadromous species.
- 10-20% Exploitation achieved in 17 of 21 years.
- Estimated 38% reduction in salmonid predation.
- Compensation by remaining predators minimal.
- Credible science: ~30 journal articles published.

