



**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Anglers needed! Save young salmon and reel in cash

Pikeminnow season begins today

Portland Ore.- Anglers, young salmon need your help.

Today marks the start of a new Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Fishery Program that pays anglers for catching one of the biggest predators of young salmon. Around 2,000 anglers participated in the program last year, but still more are needed.

Pikeminnow consume millions of young salmon every year. Although Pikeminnow are native to the region, dams created conditions that increased their numbers and allow them to prey on salmon headed downstream. That's why the Bonneville Power Administration funds the program.

Pikeminnow represent about 80 percent of all fish that kill young salmon. So these young salmon need your help. Each angler counts. The top 2 percent of anglers reel in around just 40 percent of the catch.

"But 40 percent doesn't equal 100 percent, so we need each angler out there to get involved so we can reach our goals," said John Skidmore, a policy analyst for the Bonneville Power Administration. The goal is to reduce numbers of older pikeminnow by 10 to 20 percent from where they are now.

Although the sport reward program is just one tool in a large toolbox of effort, said Skidmore, this program is one of the few ways the public can directly join in the salmon recovery effort.

Anglers who catch the fish earn rewards ranging from \$4 to \$8 per pikeminnow that measures at least nine inches. There are also specially tagged fish worth \$500. The fish are tagged so scientists can measure the harvest rate from plus gather data on growth, movement and other factors. The prize is an incentive to recover tags for data collection.



The program runs now through the end of September. To participate, you have to sign up at a [registration station](#) before you drop your line in the water. And you do need to have a current fishing license.

Since the program began in 1990, the public has removed 3.9 million pikeminnow. In recent years, the program has reduced predation an estimated 35 percent.

For more information about the program call visit www.pikeminnow.org or call [800-858-9015](tel:800-858-9015).

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BPA is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal Columbia River dams, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.