

STELLER SEA LION PREDATION ON WHITE STURGEON IN THE BONNEVILLE DAM TAILRACE

General

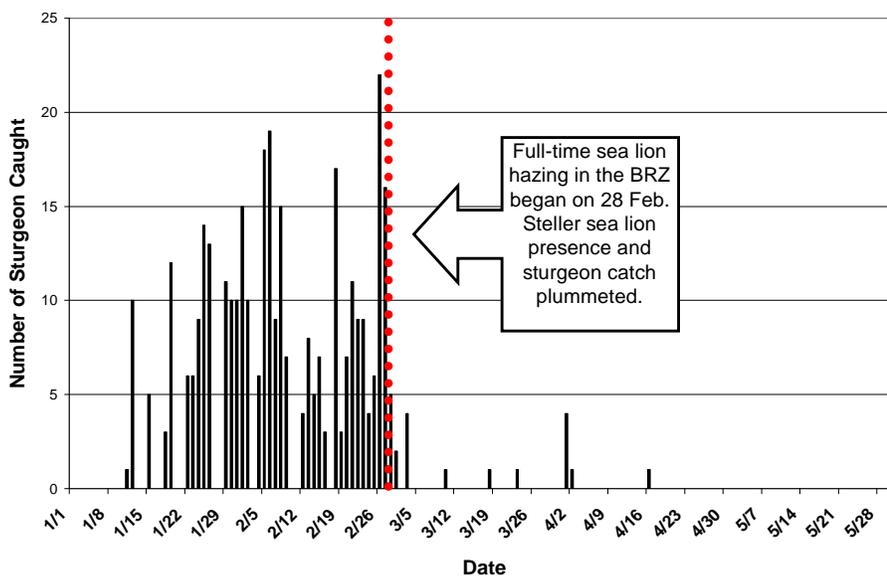
- The BON tailrace area is important white sturgeon habitat
- Steller sea lion predation on sturgeon at BON is increasing dramatically
- Steller sea lions are arriving earlier each year (sightings on 11/6/07)
- Steller sea lions made 97.8% of observed sturgeon catches (611 of 625 observed takes) since 2002
- Non-lethal harassment (hazing) may be an effective deterrent, if it is conducted from Marker 85 to the dam (beyond the BRZ)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Steller Sea Lions Present	0	3	2	4	10	9
Observed Sturgeon Catch	0	0	0	1	264	360

2007 Hazing Activities

- February 1-26: Single ODFW or WDFW boat crew hazed from Marker 85 to below the BRZ, 3-5 days per week (~6-8 hours per day)
- February 28-May 24: 1 to 3 boats, plus dam-based USDA agents hazed primarily in the BRZ, 7 days per week (~8-10 hours per day)
- Observed sturgeon catch, Steller sea lion hazing events (takes), and Steller sea lion presence all dropped dramatically around 1 March

DAILY STURGEON CATCH AT BONNEVILLE DAM (2007)



SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF STURGEON TAKEN BY SEA LIONS
AT BONNEVILLE DAM (2006-2007)

