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Preliminary response to what to do if Northern Pike observed at USACE dams in Oregon

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Given there is no known population of Northern Pike in Oregon there is no specificity to refer to when inquiring about what law or state statute has been adopted to address Northern Pike observed at Corps of Engineer operated dams in Oregon.

State of Oregon documentation that address invasive species introduction seeks to prevent new introductions. The Oregon Conservation Plan provides seven actions for guidance and include 16 additional resources for helping address prevention of new introductions.

The 2020 Oregon Fishing Regulations indicate that Northern Pike are a prohibited species in the State of Oregon [OAR 635-056-0050 (1)(e)(E) documents the rule that makes it illegal to import, possess, sell, purchase, exchange or transport Northern Pike alive in Oregon]. A notice in the regulations specific to the Snake River Zone encourage anglers to kill all Northern Pike―instructing anglers not to release Northern Pike back into the water. Additionally, anglers are instructed that harvested Northern Pike must be dead before anglers leave the water where the Northern Pike were caught. In the event an angler observes someone releasing or transporting a Northern Pike they are asked to report it to Oregon State Police 1-800-452-7888. Also, it is reiterated that “It is illegal to transport and release live fish, including Northern Pike, into Oregon waters without an ODFW permit”.

Although specific guidance regarding management of live Northern Pike at dams in Oregon is not explicitly called out in state law, it seems defensible to encourage any new observation of Northern Pike, inclusive of Corps dams in state of Oregon waters, to follow the actions meant to prevent new introductions by:

* Focusing on the prevention of introducing new invasive non-native species in Oregon;
* Not releasing live Northern Pike into Oregon waters;
* Not transporting live Northern Pike in the state of Oregon;
* Contacting Oregon State Police regarding any observation of release or transport of Northern Pike in Oregon;
* Contacting and coordinating all observations of Northern Pike with ODFW and other invasive species groups that are actively working to address the prevention and spread of new introductions (go to ODFW link at <https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/key-conservation-issue/invasive-species/> )―including collaborating with the 16 additional sources found in the Goals and Actions section;
* Consider development of a rapid response plan similar to “Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and other Dreissenid Species” to prepare for the potential event that other non-native invasive species like Northern Pike are discovered;
* Participating in establishing an invasive species tracking system that documents location, size and status of infestations;
* Participating in the development of an invasive species implementation tool;
* Participating in work to develop and test techniques for dealing with invasive species;
* Eliminate ecological impacts that encourage, support or promote establishing new introductions such as non-native or invasive species

2020 Oregon Fishing Regulations

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