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Anglers made profits catching pikeminnow

Anglers caught and removed more than 191,000 northern pikeminnow from the Columbia and Snake rivers this year, protecting young salmon and steelhead from predation.

And they were paid for it.

Approximately 1,100 people registered to be part of the Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program. They were paid \$1.5 million for their efforts. The program, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration, runs from May 1 through Sept. 30.

The anglers' success means BPA also is meeting its program goals.

"The program's goal is to reduce the number of pikeminnow that prey heavily on

juvenile salmon," BPA project manager Makary Hutson said. "Annual harvest rate estimates, which are calculated using data from tagged fish caught by anglers, indicate the 2017 season met our program targets, which directly benefits juvenile salmon making their way to the ocean."

The reward program pays registered anglers \$5 to \$8 per fish nine inches or longer.

The more fish an angler catches during the season, the more each pikeminnow is worth.

State fish and wildlife biologists also release more than 1,000 specially tagged northern pikeminnow, each worth \$500.

This year, the top 20 fish-

ermen registered with the Sport Reward Program earned an average of \$30,000 each.

The top angler earned nearly \$84,000, reeling in more than 10,000 fish over the five-month season.

Northern pikeminnow are voracious eaters.

The program has reduced predation on young salmon and steelhead by up to 40 percent since it began.

The BPA-funded program is administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The 2018 season is scheduled for May 1 through Sept. 30. For more information about the program, call 800-858-9015 or visit www.pikeminnow.org.

Pacific Power offers text alerts in power outages

Power outages come with the territory for those who live at the coast.

Pacific Power customers can now receive customized text alerts when the power goes out but the cell phone still works.

"In the past, customers would call or go online for updates on outages," said Aric Muhlestein, Pacific Power director of customer service and support. "Now, after they sign up, customers can receive text or email updates on an outage, including changes

to the estimated time of restoration and cause."

There also are options for billing reminders and payment information.

Pacific Power developed the new alerts option based on customer feedback, Muhlestein said.

To sign up, register on the Pacific Power website at pacificpower.net/alerts and pick which types of notices you want to receive.

Current Pacific Power mobile phone app users already have access to similar

information and updates, but can sign up for the text alerts if they find that more convenient. Get the app at pacificpower.net/app.

"We wanted to make it simple for our customers to have quick and easy access to the most up-to-date information," Muhlestein said. "This new offering makes that happen."

Other website updates include a new energy usage and temperature graph on the customer account summary page, and a faster, more streamlined process for customers when they move.

Additional enhancements are planned for 2018 as part of the company's efforts to improve customer communications and provide more ways for customers to manage their energy use. Pacific Power provides electric service to 750,000 customers in Oregon, Washington and California.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Rep. Deborah Boone
 Deborah Boone is a member of the Oregon House of Representatives, representing District 32 since 2004.