

**Meeting Date:** June 12, 2024

**Agenda Item No. 2.**

**Agenda Item:** Season Setting Summer Chinook  
Salmon Fisheries

**Bureau Chief Approval:** LH

**Prepared by:** Lance Hebdon, Chief of Fisheries

**Presented by:** John Cassinelli, Anadromous Fisheries Manager

**Background:**

This agenda item concerns the setting of Chinook Salmon fishing seasons targeting adult anadromous Chinook Salmon. Staff will review updated in-season returns over Bonneville Dam and propose seasons based on numbers of returning adult Chinook Salmon.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

Idaho Statute 36-104(b)2 gives the Commission the authority to make a rule or proclamation establishing seasons and methods for the taking of fish. Fishing Rules are provided in IDAPA 13.01.11

**Public Involvement Process:**

Public meetings to seek input on 2024 summer Chinook Salmon seasons were held in Riggins, Lewiston, Orofino, Coeur d'Alene, Nampa, Boise and Cascade during February. Fish and Game Regional staff hosted each of the meetings to provide information on 2024 projected salmon returns and to allow for public comment on potential 2024 seasons. The proposed seasons were developed with public input.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve the proposed 2024 fishing seasons proposed for summer Chinook Salmon.

**Justification:**

Salmon and steelhead mitigation hatcheries were built to mitigate or compensate for fishing opportunities lost as a result of hydropower development. The proposed season would provide anglers the opportunity to fish for returning adult hatchery Chinook Salmon produced at Idaho mitigation hatcheries.

**Recommended Motion:** I move the Commission approves Chinook Salmon fishing seasons and limits as proposed in the staff recommendation.