

**Meeting Date:** June 13, 2023

**Agenda Item No. 1**

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

**Bureau Chief Approval:** LH

**Prepared by:** John Cassinelli, Anadromous Fish Manager

**Presented by:** Chris Sullivan, Anadromous Fisheries Coordinator

**Background:**

This agenda item concerns the setting of Chinook Salmon fishing seasons targeting adult anadromous Chinook Salmon in the South Fork Salmon River, Upper Salmon River, and if appropriate, the Lochsa River. Staff will review estimated in-season returns over Bonneville Dam and propose fishing seasons in areas where sufficient numbers of hatchery salmon are estimated to return in 2023. Sport fisheries will target the non-tribal harvestable share above brood stock targets.

**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 2023 summer Chinook Salmon seasons were held in Riggins, Lewiston, Orofino, Coeur d'Alene, and Cascade during February. Fish and Game Regional staffs hosted each of the meetings to provide information on 2023 projected salmon returns and to allow for public comment on potential 2023 seasons.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve the proposed 2023 fishing seasons for summer Chinook Salmon in proposed areas.

**Justification:**

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