

Meeting Date: July 24, 2024

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Draft Fisheries Management Plan 2025-2030 for Public Review

Bureau Chief Approval: LH

Prepared by: Lance Hebdon, Bureau Chief of Fisheries

Background:

The six-year Fisheries Management Plan describes the programmatic structure and function of the fisheries bureau and identifies how the agency meets the broad goals of preserving, protecting and perpetuating Idaho's native fish species and improving fisheries for the benefit of Idaho's anglers. The plan establishes policy direction for Department personnel and resources that maintains focus on priorities identified by Idaho anglers and other stakeholders.

The plan is organized in two parts. Part I of the Fisheries Management Plan describes statewide programs including objectives and strategies for fisheries programs and serves as the guiding document for fisheries for the 2025-2030 period. Part II of the Fisheries Management Plan describes management by major river drainage and includes descriptions of major fisheries, focal species, conservation challenges, management priorities and specific objectives using benchmarks such as fish size or catch rates.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho Code Sections 36-104 and 36-901.
Idaho Administrative Code 13.01.11.000

Public Involvement Process:

Input for draft changes to the Fisheries Management Plan for 2025-2030 was collected through a series of presentations pertaining to important fisheries or common themes voiced by anglers at in-person open houses, staff presentations on the department's website for later viewing. News releases, email blasts, and social media campaigns were utilized to inform the public of meetings and opportunities for providing comments. Scoping for the Fisheries Management Plan was open from February 12 through April 12. In addition, input was gathered by conventional means such as in-person or by phone.

Justification:

Long-term management strategies, vetted by the public, are necessary for effective conservation and management of fisheries resources for the citizens of Idaho.

Staff Recommendation:

The Department seeks Commission concurrence to release the 2025-2030 draft Fisheries Management Plan to the public for their input.