



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

November 2025 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: Dworshak Reservoir – Research and Management

Presented by: Tyler Zumwalt

Position/Title: Fishery Research Biologist

Agenda Item No.: 18

Supervisor Approval: LH

Background:

Dworshak Reservoir provides a high harvest fishery for kokanee and a nationally recognized trophy Smallmouth Bass fishery. Dworshak Reservoir also provides habitat for migratory Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout that spawn in the North Fork Clearwater River.

In recent decades, nutrient declines typical of an aging reservoir led to imbalances in nitrogen and phosphorus creating ideal conditions for toxic blue-green algae blooms. IDFG's Fishery Research program evaluates water quality and monitors the food web to inform prescriptive application of nitrogen-based fertilizer by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair the nutrient imbalance in the system. The blooms are detrimental to human health and recreation, but they are also inedible to the reservoir's zooplankton community. The fertilization work drastically reduces the prevalence of harmful algal blooms and increases the productivity of the food web for sportfish.

Staff will report on the history of the program and successful improvement of this important fishery.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

N/A – Informational only.

Public Involvement Process:

N/A – Informational only.

Justification:

N/A – Informational only.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A – Informational only.

Suggested Motion:

N/A – Informational only.