



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

### **March 2026 Commission Meeting**

**Agenda Item:** *Petition for Rulemaking: Non-resident Fishing Restrictions on the Clearwater River (Action)*

**Presented by:** *Amber Worthington*

**Position/Title:** *Deputy Director of Programs and Policy*

**Agenda Item No.:** *5B*  
**Supervisor Approval:** *JF*

### **Background:**

The Commission and the Department received the included petition for rulemaking on February 17, 2026 to modify the fishing rules related to anadromous game fish permitting. Under existing rule and statute, anyone who holds a valid Idaho fishing license and salmon and/or steelhead permit are allowed to fish for those species in the waters designated and during the seasons set through season setting and Commission proclamation.

The petitioners are requesting a rule change to “restrict steelhead and salmon fishing on the South Fork of the Clearwater River to Idaho residents only or implement meaningful limitations on non-resident access that prioritize conservation, enforcement, and local use.” Currently, there is no rule or statute providing authority to the Commission to limit non-resident participation in steelhead trout or anadromous salmon fishing in the waters of Idaho.

### **Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Under Idaho Code 67-5230, any person may petition an agency requesting rulemaking. The agency must: deny the petition in writing, stating its reasons for denial, or initiate rulemaking. The Commission must act on the petition no later than its first regular meeting scheduled seven (7) or more days after submission of petition.

### **Public Involvement Process:**

Department staff received this petition as a written letter.

### **Justification:**

Idaho Code 67-5230 requires the Commission to act on petitions for IDAPA rulemaking, either by initiation of rulemaking or by written petition denial.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff have no recommendations.

### **Sample Motion #1:**

I move the Department initiate negotiated rulemaking to consider restrictions on non-resident salmon and steelhead fishing in the South Fork of the Clearwater River.

### **Sample Motion #2:**



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I move to deny the petitioners' request for rulemaking to consider restrictions on non-resident salmon and steelhead fishing in the South Fork of the Clearwater River.