



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

### **November 2025 Commission Meeting**

**Agenda Item:** *Fishing Licenses for Foster Children and Foster Parents Discount Order* **(Action)**

**Presented by:** Amber Worthington

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

**Agenda Item No.:** 6C  
**Supervisor Approval:** JF

### **Background:**

The Department engaged in a pilot program last year with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) and Idaho Sportsmen Access & Opportunity (Idaho Sportsmen) to provide free fishing opportunities for children in extended foster care who are aged 18 through 20 years old and one foster parent.

By law, children under the age of 14 do not need a license to fish during open seasons, and under Idaho Code 36-401(a)(5), fishing licenses are not required for children under the age of 18 whom are residents of a licensed foster home. In consideration of fishing as an opportunity for foster families and foster youth, the Department recognized there was an opportunity gap for foster parents, and foster children aged 18 and older who do not have a fishing license.

After a year into the program that IDHW considers a “meaningful resource for families,” the Department and Idaho Sportsmen have been asked to continue to support the program and to expand participation by including a second foster parent and by discounting junior fishing licenses for other eligible children of the foster parents living in the foster home.

Idaho Code 36-415 authorizes the Commission to discount license fees upon a finding of public need. The requested expansion of the discount would include two foster parents licensed by IDHW, youth aged 18 through 20 years in extended foster care, and other children (aged 14 through 17 years) of the foster parents living in the home. The proposed discounted adult fishing license is \$15 and the proposed discounted junior license is \$8, both inclusive of access and depredation fees.

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

In §36-415, Idaho Code, the Commission is authorized upon finding a biological need or public need or unsold licenses to order a discount in fees for specific species, units, areas, zones, or gender as necessary to encourage increased license sales or to encourage hunting, fishing or trapping.

### **Public Involvement Process:**

The Department has not engaged the public on this topic. This Commission action item was publicly noticed and can be addressed during the public hearing portion of the meeting.



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**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends adoption of discount order 25-50, which would be effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027. This order would discount annual fishing licenses for the following Idaho residents living in the same fostering home: up to two (2) licensed foster parents, foster youth (aged 18 through 20 years), and other children (aged 14 through 17 years) of the foster parents who live in the fostering home.

**Suggested Motion:**

I move the Commission adopt discount order 25-50 for calendar years 2026 and 2027 as presented.