

Meeting Date: January 17, 2018

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: 2017 Angler Opinion Survey and
Revision of the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan
(informational only)

Bureau Chief Approval: 

Prepared by: Jeff Dillon and Martin Koenig

Background:

The Fisheries Bureau has surveyed the angling public periodically since 1968 to assess preferences and satisfaction with fisheries management and conservation programs. The most recent statewide angler opinion survey was implemented in fall of 2017 and included a randomized mail survey (12,000 sent, 30% response rate), a non-random email survey (56,000 sent, 10% response rate), and an open survey on the Department website (over 1,000 completed). Preliminary results will be presented. This survey along with public outreach and traditional public meetings will provide broad direction as the Department updates the statewide fisheries management plan for 2019-2024. Department staff will begin public input and plan revisions this spring, with a goal of submitting the final for Commission approval in November, 2018.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Authority vested in the Fish and Game Commission under Title 36-104b and 36-901.

Statewide fisheries management plans serve to articulate Commission policy and provide direction for staff.

Public Involvement Process:

The Department anticipates public scoping in spring of 2018, creation of a draft statewide fisheries management plan for Commission review in July, and a public comment period in August-September prior to finalizing for Commission approval in November.

Staff Recommendation:

No recommendation; informational only.

Justification:

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