



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

March 2025 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: Spearfishing Seasons and Rules Update

Presented by: Lance Hebdon

Position/Title: Chief, Fisheries

Agenda Item No.: 9

Bureau Chief Approval: LH

Background:

At the May 2024 Commission meeting, anglers requested modification to the gear restrictions pertaining to take of certain gamefish species by the use of underwater spearfishing in waters where the Department is trying to actively reduce their abundance to achieve management objectives. Following that meeting a petition was received requesting rulemaking to address the issue. The pending rules were approved by the Commission as presented at the November 2024 meeting [5. a. administrative rules.pdf](#). The rules have been approved by the legislative committees and are pending approval by the full legislature.

Staff will begin drafting proposals for public scoping will provide timelines for Department staff should the rules be approved during the 2025 Legislative session

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Rules 13.01.11 Rules Governing Fish

Public Involvement Process:

Draft proposals would be developed and scoped with the public in April and with drafts presented to the Commission at the May meeting for final approval.

Justification:

Update Commission on timeline and process to draft and scope for seasons and rules to allow spearfishing for gamefish in specific waters.

Staff Recommendation:

Informational only.

Suggested Motion:

Informational only.