



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Commission Conference Call**

**Agenda Item:** Spring Chinook Season Modification

**(Action)**

**Prepared by:** Chris Sullivan, Anadromous Fisheries  
Program Coordinator

**Presented by:** John Cassinelli, Anadromous Fisheries  
Program Manager

**Agenda Item No.: 1**

**Bureau Chief Approval:** LH

### **Background:**

This agenda item concerns the modification of Chinook Salmon fishing seasons targeting adult anadromous Spring Chinook Salmon in the Clearwater River basin. Staff will review updated in-season returns over Bonneville Dam and propose changes to season structures. This request is due to the numbers of actual returning adult Chinook Salmon over Bonneville Dam exceeding the preseason forecast.

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

Idaho Statute 36-104(b)2 gives the Commission the authority to make a rule or proclamation establishing seasons and methods for the taking of fish. Fishing Rules are provided in IDAPA 13.01.11

### **Public Involvement Process:**

Public meetings to seek input on 2025 spring Chinook Salmon seasons were held in Riggins, Lewiston, Orofino, Coeur d'Alene, Nampa, and Cascade during February. Fish and Game Regional staffs hosted each of the meetings to provide information on 2025 projected salmon returns and to allow for public comment on potential 2025 seasons. The proposed change in season structure is supported by the season matrix developed with public input.

### **Justification:**

Salmon and steelhead mitigation hatcheries were built to mitigate or compensate for fishing opportunity lost as a result of hydropower development. The proposed season would provide anglers the opportunity to fish for returning adult hatchery Chinook Salmon produced at Idaho mitigation hatcheries.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Department recommends the Commission adopt the proposed season and bag limit changes to Chinook Salmon fisheries in the Clearwater River basin.

### **Suggested Motion:**

I move the Commission approve the proposed changes to the seasons and bag limits for Chinook Salmon fisheries in the Clearwater River basin, to take effect May 13, 2025.