

Meeting Date: May 5-6, 2021

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda Item: Proposed changes to 2022-2024 Fishing Seasons and Limits for Public Review

Bureau Chief Approval: ES

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Background:

By statute, fishing regulations are set by actions of the IFG Commission on a regular basis, recently at three-year intervals. Fishing regulations for Idaho were last set by the Commission in November 2018 and implemented in January 2019. During March and April, 2021, the Department completed internal and public scoping regarding potential changes to existing fishing regulations. Public scoping efforts are detailed in Appendix A. Based on scoping input and biological information, draft proposals to the 2022-2024 fishing regulations have been developed (Appendix B).

The Department wishes to gather public feedback on proposed season and limit changes for individual fisheries. With that input, staff will develop recommendations for the 2022-2024 fishing seasons and limits for the Commission's consideration in November.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho Code Sections 36-104(b) and 36-901. IDAPA 13.01.11.000

Public Involvement Process:

Staff gathered input for developing draft proposals for new fishing regulations for 2022-2024 using multiple methods. Staff developed a series of presentations, hosted virtual open houses, and answered questions live to discuss important fisheries or common themes. News releases, email blasts, and social media campaigns were utilized to inform the public of meetings and opportunities for providing comment. On-line comment forms were posted on the Department's Website from March 25 through April 11, 2021. In addition, input was gathered by conventional means such as in-person or by phone. A total of 814 comments were received with the vast majority (769) being submitted through the on-line comment form.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff seeks approval to present draft proposals for the 2022-2024 fishing regulations to the public for additional review.

Justification:

This action allows IDFG to update fishing seasons and limits in response to new opportunities, new biological information, or changes in public preferences.