

Meeting Date: September 1, 2021

Agenda Item No. 3a

Agenda Item: Season Setting, Coho Salmon Fishery

Bureau Chief Approval: LH

Prepared by: Lance Hebdon, Chief, Fisheries

Background:

This agenda item concerns the season setting for a fishery targeting Coho Salmon returning to the Snake River.

Staff will present updated forecasts of the Coho Salmon run which indicate sufficient abundance to allow a sport fishery in the Snake River.

Specific boundaries will be described in a separate season proposal.

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 were held in Lewiston and Orofino in June and a public outreach effort via email and web surveys was conducted to gather input on the Coho fishery in the Clearwater River basin.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve staff recommendation

Justification:

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