

Proposed Fishing Season and Limits Changes for 2022 – 2024

Outreach and Scoping Summary

IDFG provided a 30-day comment period allowing anglers to provide input on the proposed fishing seasons and limits changes for 2022-2024. These efforts included:

- News releases and social media campaign announcing public comment periods
- Open houses (10 total) hosted throughout the state during the 30-day comment period
- Email invitation to over 60,000 anglers to complete the online survey and provide comment
- Additional outreach efforts (i.e. fair booths, email, written comment, phone, and walk-ins)
- Additional email surveys were used for proposals on: (1) Henrys Lake, (2) Snake River-American Falls tailwater, and (3) Snake and Clearwater rivers salmon and steelhead season proposals. These proposals also accepted written comments.

Results

Our comprehensive outreach efforts resulted in significantly more public input than for previous general fishing seasons and limits updates. Public comment included:

- 2,678 anglers completed the public online survey
- 796 anglers provided written comments through the website
- 135 anglers attended open houses or otherwise contacted Regional Offices
- 3,232 responses to the Snake/Clearwater rivers anadromous proposals email surveys
- 3,910 responses to the Henrys Lake proposal random email survey
- 3,669 responses to the Snake River (American Falls tailwater) random email survey

Statewide Proposal

1. Free Fishing Day

Proposal: Establish June 11, 2022; June 10, 2023; and June 8, 2024 as Free Fishing Days. These dates are the Saturdays after the first full week in June and correspond with national events.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Panhandle Region Proposals

1. Pend Oreille River boundary definition

Proposal: Re-define the Pend Oreille River boundaries to include: from Highway 95 bridge at Sandpoint downstream to Idaho-Washington border, including tributaries and sloughs to the edge of flat water.

Rationale: The upstream boundary of the Pend Oreille River is currently defined as the railroad bridge at Sandpoint. An additional railroad bridge is currently being constructed next to the existing railroad bridge, making this a confusing description. Also, moving the boundary downstream to the Highway 95 Bridge will provide some additional area where anglers are allowed to fish from a boat with unlimited rods. Trolling in this area is popular with Walleye anglers and will allow more Walleye harvest opportunity, which supports our management objectives for Lake Pend Oreille.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 116. Yes: 90 (78%), No: 26 (22%)

2. Lake Pend Oreille creek mouth closures

Proposal: For Lake Pend Oreille, remove the 100-yard fishing closure at the mouths of Gold, North Gold, Granite, and Trestle creeks.

Rationale: This closure has been in place dating back to when harvest fisheries existed for Bull Trout and Cutthroat Trout. The closure was meant to protect Bull Trout and Cutthroat Trout from harvest at the mouths of these tributaries. However, these fishes are currently protected by catch-and-release limits, so this area closure is not needed.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 89. Yes: 83 (93%), No: 6 (7%)

Clearwater Region Proposals

3. Tolo Lake electric motors only

Proposal: Remove the “electric motors only” restriction from Tolo Lake.

Rationale: The original intention of this restriction was to ensure that boat speeds were minimized to prevent disturbance to other anglers. Some anglers without electric motors have claimed that they would fish this lake more often if allowed to use a gas motor. If the restriction was rescinded, the department would implement a no-wake and no personal watercraft restriction using signage (as per IDAPA 13.01.03), thereby allowing a wider variety of watercraft and motor types while still maintaining the calmness that angler’s desire.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 59. Yes: 31 (53%), No: 28 (47%)

4. Snake, Salmon, and Clearwater rivers fall Chinook Salmon seasons and limits

Proposal: Incorporate the fall Chinook Salmon season and limits for the Snake, Salmon, and Clearwater rivers into the triennial seasons and limits booklet. The recommended seasons, areas open, and daily limits for fall Chinook Salmon are presented in the table below. The possession limit would be three times the daily limit with no season limit.

River Reach	Daily limit is 3 adult fall Chinook Salmon (≥ 24 inches total length), no limit on jacks (< 24 inches total length). Adipose clipped or unclipped fish may be kept.		
	August	September	October
Clearwater River: Mouth to Memorial Bridge Clearwater River: Orofino Bridge to South Fork Clearwater Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam Salmon River: Mouth to Little Salmon River	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 31;	
Clearwater River: Memorial Bridge to Orofino Bridge	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 14	Closed Oct 15
North Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Dworshak Dam	Closed	Sep 1 - Oct 31	

Rationale: Consistent runs sizes of wild- and hatchery-origin fall Chinook Salmon in the Salmon, Snake, and Clearwater rivers allow for additional harvest opportunity that is well supported by anglers. Including the fall Chinook Salmon seasons and limits in the triennial fishing seasons and limits booklet (similar to steelhead) simplifies the annual publication process, makes these seasons predictable and transparent, and makes this information easily accessible.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total email survey responses: 934. Yes: 823 (88%), No: 111 (12%)

5. Clearwater and Snake rivers Coho Salmon seasons and limits

Proposal: Incorporate the Coho Salmon season and limits into the triennial seasons and limits booklet. The recommended seasons, areas open, and daily limits for Coho Salmon are presented in the table below. The possession limit would be three times the daily limit with no season limit.

	Daily limit is 2 adult Coho Salmon (≥ 20 inches total length), no limit on jacks (< 20 inches total length). Adipose clipped or unclipped fish may be kept.			
River Reach	September	October	November	December
Clearwater River: Mouth to South Fork Clearwater River North Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Dworshak Dam Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam	September 1 - December 31			

Rationale: Consistent run sizes of and hatchery-origin Coho Salmon in the Clearwater River basin allow for additional harvest opportunity that is well supported by anglers. Including the Coho Salmon seasons and limits in the triennial fishing seasons and limits booklet (similar to steelhead) simplifies the annual publication process, makes these seasons predictable and transparent, and makes this information easily accessible.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total email survey responses: 899. Yes: 802 (89%), No: 97 (11%)

6. Snake River steelhead catch/release season

Proposal: Extend the catch-and-release steelhead season in the Snake River by opening the season one month earlier on July 1. Seasons would include:

Season:

- Catch-and-release season: July 1 - August 31
- Harvest season: Jan 1 - April 30 (spring), and September 1 - December 31 (fall)
- The area affected by this change is the Snake River from the Idaho/Washington border to Hells Canyon Dam

Rationale: Steelhead run timing allows for additional catch-and-release fishing opportunity in July. Alteration to this season framework matches what is being proposed for steelhead in the lower Clearwater River (see Clearwater Region Proposal #7) which would increase consistency and reduce confusion between the bordering waters and states. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has verbally indicated that if this season is adopted in the Snake River they would attempt to adopt a similar season framework.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total survey responses:

Email survey: Yes: 823 (88%), No: 111 (12%)
 Public web survey: Yes: 59 (71%), No: 24 (29%)
 Public meetings: Yes: 17 (94%), No: 1 (6%)

7. Clearwater River basin steelhead seasons and limits

Proposal: The recommended seasons, areas open, and daily limits for steelhead in the Clearwater River basin are presented in the table below. The possession limit would be three times the daily limit, with a season limit of 20 fish in the fall (July 1 through December 31) and 20 in the spring (January 1 through April 30). The staff recommendation was Proposal 2 during public outreach.

River Reach	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan - Apr
Clearwater downstream of Memorial Bridge	Jul 1 - Aug 31; Catch-and-release		Sep 1 - Dec 31; 2 fish				Jan 1 - Apr 30; 3 fish
Clearwater upstream of Memorial Bridge	Jul 1 - Sep 9; Catch-and-release		Sep 10 - Oct 14; 2 fish	Oct 15 - Nov 9; C&R	Nov 10 - Dec 31; 2 fish		Jan 1 - Apr 30; 3 fish
Middle Fork Clearwater to Clear Creek	Jul 1 - Sep 9; Catch-and-release		Sep 10 - Oct 14; 2 fish	Oct 15 - Nov 9; C&R	Nov 10 - Dec 31; 2 fish		Jan 1 - Apr 30; 3 fish
North Fork Clearwater	Jul 1 - Aug 31; Closed to fishing		Sep 1 - Dec 31; 2 fish				Jan 1 - Apr 30; 3 fish
South Fork Clearwater	Jul 1 - Sep 9; Catch-and-release		Sep 10 - Oct 14; 2 fish	Oct 15 - Nov 9; C&R	Nov 10 - Dec 31; 2 fish		Jan 1 - Apr 30; 3 fish

Rationale: The goals of this proposal are to provide diversified opportunities for catch-and-release and harvest-oriented steelhead anglers by allowing anglers to fish during each of the two runs of steelhead that utilize the Clearwater River and to provide a time (September 10 through October 14) when steelhead, fall Chinook Salmon, and Coho Salmon could all be harvested at the same time.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total survey responses (includes “no opinion” responses):

	<u>Residents:</u>	<u>Non-residents:</u>
E-mail survey:	1,762	262
Open web survey:	149	69
Public meetings:	16	6

Two different steelhead proposals were presented to the public for comments. Proposal 2 received the most support from the email survey and is the staff recommendation presented.

Which proposal do you prefer most?	Survey Type	
	E-mail Survey*	Open Web Survey*
Proposal 1	609 (40%)	97 (46%)
Proposal 2	795 (53%)	61 (29%)
Neither	109 (7%)	54 (25%)
Total	1,513	212

*excludes “no opinion”

Southwest Region – McCall

8. McCall area alpine lake bag limits

Proposal: Remove the 2-trout bag limit and 20-inch minimum length limit from 6 high mountain lakes around McCall. These lakes would revert back to general fishing seasons and limits (6 trout bag limit, no length limit). The 6 lakes include: Brush, Crystal, Lake Rock, Long, Serene, and Tule lakes.

Rationale: Idaho has hundreds of alpine lake fisheries, almost all of which are managed with general fishing seasons and limits (6-trout limit, 25 brook trout, no minimum length). Since the early 2000s, trophy trout seasons and limits were adopted for several high mountain lakes around McCall. These seasons and limits were intended to reduce trout harvest, and allow trout to grow to larger sizes to provide fishing for trophy-sized trout in these small high alpine lakes. Recent fish surveys show that the trophy trout limits are not producing larger-sized trout. Fish grow slowly in these lakes where the growing season is short and food is limited. In some cases, natural reproduction is also making for many, but smaller trout. Under the current trophy trout limits, the average trout size did not improve, and there is very little chance to harvest any trout. Adopting general fishing seasons and limits would allow for at least some trout harvest, average size would remain similar, and in some cases could actually improve growth rates by thinning populations.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 136. Yes: 107 (79%), No: 29 (21%)

Southwest Region – Nampa

9. Dick Knox Pond bass bag limit

Proposal: Reduce the bass bag limit and increase the minimum length for bass at Dick Knox Pond in Gem County as follows: Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches

Rationale: Dick Knox Pond near Emmett was recently donated to IDFG. The pond currently has a bass population that includes quality- or trophy-sized bass. The pond opened to the public with general fishing seasons and limits (6 bass, none under 12 inches). Continuing general fishing seasons and limits would likely reduce the number of large bass and the abundance of the bass population. Additionally, Sawyer's Pond nearby – a very similar pond – also uses the general bass season and limits. Changing from general bass seasons and limits to either quality bass limits (16-inch minimum) or trophy bass limits (20-inch minimum) on Dick Knox Pond could help increase the average size of bass, and would diversify the area's bass fishing opportunities. While fewer bass would be available for harvest, the average size of bass in the pond would likely increase. Option B became the staff recommendation after public input.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 123. Yes (i.e. reduce bag & increase length limits): 116 (94%), No: 7 (6%)

Option A (Bass limit is 2, none under 16 inches): 49 (41%)

Option B (Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches): 71 (59%)

Magic Valley Region

10. Anderson Ranch Reservoir kokanee bag limit

Proposal: Reduce kokanee daily bag limits on Anderson Ranch Reservoir from 25 to 15 kokanee per day.

Rationale: Historically, Anderson Ranch Reservoir supported an abundant kokanee population, but the average size was small. The bag limit of 25 kokanee per day bag was intended to increase kokanee harvest and improve average sizes. More recently, the Anderson Ranch Reservoir kokanee population has declined, while angler effort has increased. Reducing the daily bag limit is needed to reduce harvest and help sustain the kokanee fishery. Changing the kokanee daily bag limit from 25 to 15 per day would also simplify the fishing seasons and limits by using the same limits for similar fisheries including Deadwood, Mackay, and Ririe reservoirs.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 205. Yes: 196 (96%), No: 9 (4%)

11. Baker Lake trout bag limit

Proposal: Remove the trophy trout length (none under 20”), no-bait, and barbless hook requirements from Baker Lake. Maintain 2-trout limit.

Rationale: Baker Lake is a high mountain lake in the Big Wood River drainage. Recent fish surveys show that the current trophy trout limits (20-inch minimum length, no bait, barbless hooks) are not producing trophy-sized trout. Fish grow slowly in this lake where the growing season is short and food is limited. Trout do not reach the 20-inch minimum length, so there is virtually no harvest. Adopting a 2-trout limit with no minimum length, and removing bait and barbless hook restrictions would allow for at least some trout harvest, without substantially affecting fishery quality.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 69. Yes: 57 (83%), No: 12 (17%)

12. Sublett Reservoir winter fishing closure

Proposal: Increase the length of the fishing season at Sublett Reservoir by removing the December 1 to Memorial Day Weekend closure. If approved, Sublett Reservoir would return to general fishing seasons and limits.

Rational: Historically, IDFG fishing seasons and limits followed seasonal US Forest Service road closures. This has unnecessarily limited seasonal fishing opportunity. Removing the fishing closure from December 1 – Memorial Day weekend and adopting general fishing seasons and limits (open all year) would allow anglers to access this reservoir by non-motorized means during winter and early spring. Fish survey data show that this hatchery-supported trout fishery could support additional ice fishing and early spring fishing opportunity. The local irrigation district was adamantly opposed to this proposal.

Staff Recommendation: Do not adopt.

Total web survey responses: 89. Yes: 64 (72%), No: 25 (28%)

13. Carey Lake electric motors restriction

Proposal: Remove the electric motors only restriction from Carey Lake.

Rationale: This restriction was intended to ensure that boat speeds were minimized to prevent disturbance to other anglers, wildlife, and prevent shoreline erosion for this small lake. Limiting motors to electric only may be unnecessarily restrictive. Alternatively, the department could implement a no-wake restriction using signs (as per IDAPA code 13.01.03). This would allow a wider variety of watercraft and motor types to be used, while still meeting the original intent of the restriction.

Staff Recommendation: Do not adopt.

Total web survey responses: 77. Yes: 28 (36%), No: 49 (64%)

Southeast Region

14. Southeast Idaho “no motors” restriction

Proposal: Remove the “no motors” restrictions on Bannock Reservoir, Winder Reservoir and Dike Lake.

Rationale: Using motorized watercraft at these waters is already limited by the lack of improved boat launches, seasonal availability of water, and overall waterbody size. Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized anglers are not expected to be a problem. Additionally, boating restrictions are more appropriately addressed with county rules or ordinances. The public input and review process lead to a conflict between 58% of public and the proposal. The staff recommend removing the “no motors” restrictions on these waters for the following reasons. Bannock Reservoir is a small urban pond where it’s unlikely that anglers would use motorized boats, so a fishing season restriction for this is unnecessary. On Winder Reservoir, the landowners (Twin Lakes Canal Company) do not allow boats in accordance with a Franklin County ordinance prohibiting boat access to the reservoir, negating the need for a fishing related restriction. The Department will work with the landowner and Franklin County on cooperatively signing the access. For Dike Lake, the only public access is on BLM land. This access is very steep, preventing launching motorboats, so a fishing related restriction here is unnecessary.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 110. Yes: 46 (42%), No: 64 (58%).

15. Southeast Idaho “electric motors only” restriction

Proposal: Remove the “electric motors only” restrictions at Foster Reservoir and Montpelier Reservoir, and Rose Pond.

Rationale: Using motorized watercraft at these waters is already limited by the lack of improved boat launches. Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized anglers is not expected to be a problem. Additionally, boating restrictions are more appropriately addressed with county rules or ordinances. The staff recommendation was developed following public input which determined the “electric motors only” fishing restriction on Foster Reservoir was intended to reduce conflicts among anglers and was supported by the reservoir owners (Consolidated Irrigation Company). However, boating use has changed and now includes many non-anglers. As a result, the fishing related restriction is not meeting interests of anglers or the land/water owner. The IDFG will work with Consolidated Irrigation Company to post conditional restrictions for access to the reservoir which will likely mirror the existing fishing restriction. For Montpelier Reservoir and Rose Pond, there was significant opposition to removing this restriction.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommend removing the “electric motors only” restriction for Foster Reservoir and keep existing restriction for Montpelier Reservoir and Rose Pond.

Total web survey responses: 104. Yes: 40 (38%), No: 64 (62%).

16. Weston Reservoir boating access

Proposal: Remove boating access restrictions at Weston Reservoir.

Rationale: Currently, fishing seasons and limits state “no fishing from boats or rafts, float tubes only” for Weston Reservoir. The primary access to the reservoir is through private property. This restriction was put in place at the request of the adjacent property owner who regulates access to the reservoir. Staff has worked with this landowner to describe more appropriate ways to post the conditions of access, such as posting them at the reservoir. This would better serve this purpose and apply to all recreational users, rather than only anglers. This change would better serve the interests of the landowner and would not change the angler experience at Weston Reservoir.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 75. Yes: 45 (60%), No: 30 (40%).

17. Kokanee Creek fishing closure

Proposal: Remove fishing closure on Kokanee Creek.

Rationale: Kokanee Creek is a man-made stream associated with Bannock Reservoir community recreation complex. There is no clear purpose for this closure as there is no fishery on Kokanee Creek.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 32. Yes: 30 (94%), No: 2 (6%).

18. Portneuf River fishing closure section

Proposal: Remove the fishing closure on the Portneuf River in Lava Hot Springs from the Center Street Bridge upstream to the East Main Street Bridge.

Rationale: This fishing closure on this section of the Portneuf River was intended to reduce conflicts between anglers and other recreational users. A wild trout fishery exists, and there is good access through town. In addition, IDFG would consider stocking trout to provide additional opportunity if the closure is removed. There are many examples of multiple-use waters (Lower Boise River or the NF Coeur d’Alene River) where angling is not in conflict with other recreational activities, such as tubing.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 80. Yes: 63 (79%), No: 17 (21%).

19. Bannock Reservoir, Edson Fichter Pond, Montpelier Rearing Pond bag limits

Proposal: Increase the trout daily bag limit on Bannock Reservoir, Edson Fichter Pond, and Montpelier Rearing Pond from 2 trout to 6 trout per day (i.e. adopt general fishing seasons and limits).

Rationale: The intent of the 2-trout bag limit was to spread out trout harvest among more anglers and to maintain more consistent catch rates between stocking events. Recent studies show that the 2-trout bag limit is not providing either of these intended benefits at these ponds.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 67. Yes: 36 (54%), No: 31 (46%).

20. Blackfoot Reservoir bass restrictions

Proposal: Remove the size, bag, and possession limit restrictions for bass (currently “limit is 6; none under 14 inches”) at Blackfoot Reservoir.

Rationale: Smallmouth Bass were illegally introduced into Blackfoot Reservoir and may threaten long-term conservation goals for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and compromise the ability to use fingerling hatchery trout to support the fishery. Additional harvest of Smallmouth Bass may slow the population growth of this nonnative predator and help protect Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. This proposal would remove the daily bag and possession limits, and the 14-inch minimum length for Smallmouth Bass. The staff recommendation was developed following public input with acknowledgement that despite the fairly even split in public support, this change is an important step to help meet our conservation goals for native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and is supported by the 2019-2024 Fish Management Plan guidance for Blackfoot Reservoir.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 204. Yes: 111 (54%), No: 93 (46%).

21. Bear Lake wild/hatchery cutthroat trout bag limits

Proposal: Remove the limit allowing only harvest of adipose fin-clipped Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (i.e. hatchery origin) in Bear Lake, making it allowable to harvest both hatchery (adipose fin-clipped) and wild Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. The 2-trout daily bag limit would remain.

Rationale: The population of wild Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in Bear Lake has increased in recent years in response to extensive tributary habitat restoration work. For the last 20 years, harvest opportunity has been limited to adipose fin-clipped hatchery trout only. However, recent fish population surveys and analysis show that harvest of wild Bonneville Cutthroat Trout could be allowed as long as the 2-trout bag limit remains.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 86. Yes: 50 (58%), No: 36 (42%).

22. Snake River: Eagle Rock to American Falls Dam seasons and limits

Proposal: For the Snake River section from Eagle Rock to American Falls Dam, simplify seasons and limits by removing seasonal closure on game fish harvest, and also remove no bait, barbless hook, and trout length restrictions as follows: October 16 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – limit is 0 for trout, catch-and-release. Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through October 15 – trout limit is 2.

Rationale: The seasons and limits for this river reach are unnecessarily complex and restrictive. This river section supports quality fisheries for Trout, White Sturgeon, and Smallmouth Bass. There is currently no harvest of White Sturgeon, and Smallmouth Bass harvest rates are low because of the 2-bass bag limit. Removing the existing restrictions during the winter season would allow substantive opportunity for White Sturgeon fishing, and eliminate unintended limitations to the harvest of other game fish such as bass, Yellow Perch, and crayfish. Trout would remain catch-and-release only from October 16 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend, after which there would be a 2-trout limit. Daily bag limits and length limits under the general fishing seasons and limits would otherwise apply outside these exceptions. Public input was split between implementing simplified seasons and limits versus keeping the existing seasons and limits. Additional angler outreach using a much broader randomized email survey was used to collect additional input. Option A became the staff recommendation following the expanded public outreach effort.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 262. Idaho residents: 254

Option A: 117 (46%), Option B: 137 (54%)

Option A became staff recommendation presented above:

Option B: (Keep existing)

October 16 – Friday before Memorial Day weekend – limit is 0 for game fish species, catch-and-release, no bait, barbless hooks required.

Saturday of Memorial Day weekend – October 15 – bass limit is 2 any size; trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout, only 2 trout over 16 inches.

- 75% of comments were submitted by residents in southeastern Idaho from Burley to Idaho Falls.

Randomized Email Survey Summary:

- Emailed 47,743 residents anglers, 50% selected in Regions 4, 5, 6; 50% randomly statewide.
- Received 3,669 responses; 1,372 indicating they fished this section of river
- Overall, Option A had 53% of the support.
- When only including anglers that fish this stretch of river, Option A had 56% support.
- Of anglers who *primarily fish the winter/catch and release season* 3-5 of the last 5 years, 142 responses, were the least supportive of Option A (48% support, with 37% preferring no change)
- Regular anglers who *primarily fish the summer harvest season* 3-5 of the last 5 years, 418 responses, were slightly more supportive of Option A (55% support, 33% preferring no change)
- Some anglers did not prefer the existing seasons and limits or either proposed option. For anglers that didn't oppose both the options, 62% favored option A.
- Those opposed to the change expressed concern over complexity of the existing fishing seasons and limits. Anglers commented that simplicity of seasons and limits would encourage their participation in the fishery.

Regions 4-6, Anglers that fish here:

Option A (Simplify):	601	(55%)
Option B (Keep existing):	380	(35%)
Don't Like either option:	114	(10%)

All other Regions, Anglers that fish here:

Option A (Simplify):	167	(60%)
Option B (Keep existing):	88	(32%)
Don't Like either option:	22	(8%)

Upper Snake Region

23. Henrys Lake fishing season extension

Proposal: Lengthen the current fishing season on Henrys Lake to allow additional fishing opportunity. Recommendation is: Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through February 14: trout limit is 2, February 15 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend: trout limit is 0, catch-and-release.

Rationale: Extensive surveys of the trout population and angler harvest surveys show that trout populations can withstand much more angler harvest without having a negative long-term effect on abundance or average size. Angler harvest rates of trout are very low (less than 10% annually) and most fish die of natural causes. This proposal could extend the ice fishing season, and provide opportunity for catch-and-release fishing early in the season when fishing conditions are best for high catch rates. The primary difference between Option A and Option B is that Option B includes a fishing closure period before the opening of the traditional harvest season on Memorial Day weekend. Option A became the staff recommendation.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 528. Idaho residents: 440

Option A: 227 (52%), Option B: 87 (20%), I don't like either option: 126 (29%)

Option B: Saturday of Memorial Day weekend – January 31: trout limit is 2
February 1 through May 10: trout limit is 0, catch-and-release
May 11 through Friday of Memorial Day Weekend: closed to fishing

Randomized email survey summary:

- Email survey sent to 36,021 resident anglers, with roughly half in the Upper Snake Region, and the other half going to residents statewide.
- 3,910 survey responses returned, 11% response rate (very good for email)
- Breakdown of responses was similar across angler age, gender, experience and whether they ice-fished or not, with Option A showing strong support in most cases.
- The most common comment expressed concern about mortality from bait fishing during the catch/release season
- Other comments mentioned simpler seasons and limits, higher bag limits, and expressed concern over ice-fishing effects to the population.

Upper Snake Region only

Total responses: 2,417

Option A:	1,402	(58%)
Option B:	677	(27%)
I don't like either:	338	(14%)

All other Regions statewide

Total responses: 1,493

Option A:	911	(61%)
Option B:	403	(27%)
I don't like either:	179	(12%)

Salmon Region

24. Lemhi River: Remove minimum length for trout

Proposal: Remove the 14-inch minimum length limit on trout in the Lemhi River (maintain no harvest of Cutthroat Trout).

Rationale: The Lemhi River has very limited public access, and therefore receives very limited angling effort. Protective limits are unnecessary for Rainbow Trout and hybrids here. This simplification will provide additional harvest opportunity for Rainbow Trout and trout hybrids with little risk to this population and the fishery. If adopted, removing the length limit would provide more consistency with other Salmon River tributaries (North Fork, East Fork, and Yankee Fork Salmon rivers).

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 59. Yes: 36 (61%), No: 23 (39%).

25. Pahsimeroi River: Remove minimum length for trout

Proposal: Remove the 14" minimum length limit on trout in the Pahsimeroi River (maintain no harvest of Cutthroat Trout).

Rationale: Similar to the Lemhi River in the previous proposal, the Pahsimeroi River has very limited public access, and therefore also receives limited angling effort. Protective limits are unnecessary for Rainbow Trout and hybrids. This simplification will provide additional harvest opportunity for Rainbow Trout and hybrids with little risk to this population and the fishery. If adopted, removing this length limit would provide more consistency with other Salmon River tributaries.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 49. Yes: 34 (69%), No: 15 (31%).

26. Stanley Lake bag limit for Lake Trout

Proposal: In Stanley Lake, reduce harvest of recently-stocked large sterile Lake Trout by reducing the daily bag limit. Of the 6-trout bag limit, only 2 Lake Trout may be retained.

Rationale: Drafted with input of stakeholders, the Stanley Lake Management Plan directs IDFG to remove naturally-reproducing Lake Trout to reduce the possibility of fertile Lake Trout colonizing nearby lakes important for Sockeye Salmon recovery. To replace the temporarily reduced fishing opportunity, IDFG will annually stock juvenile sterile Lake Trout, and complete a one-time stocking of about 400 adult-size, sterile Lake Trout from Bear Lake. A reduced bag limit would conserve the trophy size class of adult Lake Trout transplanted from Bear Lake.

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Total web survey responses: 85. Yes: 61 (72%), No: 24 (28%).