

Meeting Date: July 14, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5J

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 Clearwater River basin.

Staff will present updated forecasts of the Coho run which indicate sufficient abundance to allow sport fisheries.

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 proposed fisheries.

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 Idaho mitigation hatcheries.