

**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2017

**Agenda Item No. 7 (a) and (b)**

**Agenda Item:** Legislative Update and 2018

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Legislative Process Guidance

**Prepared by:** Sharon W. Kiefer

**Background:** Staff will brief the Commission about the approval status of the department legislative proposal that was submitted in bill form to the Executive Agencies Legislation System (EALS) for Governor Office approval. If approved by the Governor's Office, the proposal will be forwarded to either the House Resources and Conservation Committee or the Senate Resources and Environment Committee for a print hearing once the 2018 legislative session begins.

Staff will also review the previous Commission legislative process including weekly Commission conference calls and legislative analysis to gain Commission guidance for the upcoming 2018 session. During several previous sessions, the Commission has chosen to meet via weekly conference call to evaluate legislative proposals related to fish and wildlife management and administration of the Department and determine whether a policy position is warranted. Calls have typically occurred on either Wednesday or Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. MST.

A staff legislative analysis sheet proposed for use during the 2018 session is attached for consideration.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** Commission has responsibility to provide policy direction for Department-sponsored legislation and to provide policy guidance relative to other legislative initiatives and process include issues the Commission has identified to work with other stakeholders to advance.

**Public Involvement Process:** The Commission held a public hearing prior to their policy approval of legislative ideas in July and there will be continuing public opportunity at upcoming Commission meetings during the legislative session. Public input for specific legislative proposals during the 2018 legislative session is also expected.

**Staff Recommendation:** Continue a 2018 legislative process similar to 2017 with modification as directed by the Commission, including establishing the 2018 calendar. Direct staff to initiate support work such as public notice to implement the Commission legislative process.

**Justification:** Define the Commission's legislative process to facilitate timely and effective policy input during the 2018 legislative session.