

Meeting Date: June 13, 2019

Agenda Item No.1a

Agenda Item: Season Setting, Chinook Salmon Fishery

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Lance Hebdon, Anadromous Fish Manager

Background:

This agenda item concerns fisheries targeting hatchery-origin Chinook salmon on the South Fork Salmon River. Staff will review the forecast to the South Fork Salmon provide an update on the current status of the 2019 Chinook Salmon returns.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho Statute 36-104(b)2 gives the Commission the authority to set fishing seasons. Rules governing fish are provided in IDAPA 13.01.11

Public Involvement Process:

Public meetings to seek input on 2019 season Chinook salmon fisheries were held to provide information to allow for public comment on potential seasons. Meetings were held by Idaho Department of Fish and Game Regional staff in Nampa, Boise, McCall, Lewiston, Orofino, Moscow and Riggins during February.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed 2019 Chinook salmon fishing seasons for South Fork Salmon River.

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 salmon returning to the hatcheries.