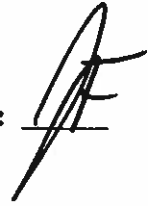


Meeting Date: July 25-26, 2018

Agenda Item No. 13

Agenda Item: Recommended 2019-2021 Fishing Seasons and Bag Limit Changes for Public Review

Bureau Chief Approval:



Prepared by: Jeff Dillon and Tom Bassista

Background:

By statute, fishing regulations are set through IDFG Commission action on a regular basis. Fishing regulations for Idaho were last set by the Commission in November 2015 and implemented in January 2016. During February and March, 2018 the Department completed internal and public scoping regarding existing fishing regulations. Based on this input staff have developed proposed season and bag limit changes for 2019-2021, and staff are prepared to seek additional public input prior to developing final recommendations for the Commission's consideration.

The Department wishes to gather public feedback on a total of 27 proposed season and bag limit changes for individual regions or fisheries (Attachment A).

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho Code Sections 36-104(b) and 36-901. IDAPA 13.01.11.000

Public Involvement Process:

Fisheries staff gathered input for developing new fishing regulations for 2019-2021 using multiple methods. Between February 12 and March 7, 2018, regional staff hosted 18 public open house meetings and compiled the input received on potential rule changes. Additionally, the Department website provided an online comment form for those that could not attend local meetings, as well as contact information for Regional Fisheries Managers for those that preferred to speak with staff directly. The schedule of open house meetings and the online comment form were publicized in several press releases and on the Department website. The online comment form received 59 comments regarding potential fishing rule changes. A brief summary of public input is provided in Attachment B.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff seeks approval to present proposed 2019-2021 fishing rule changes for additional public review.

Justification:

This action allows IDFG to update fishing rules in response to new opportunities, new biological information, or changes in public preferences.