

Meeting Date: July 25-26, 2018

Agenda Item No. 14

Agenda Item:

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Fisheries Management Plan Draft Development Update - Jim Fredericks, Martin Koenig, Paul Kline

Prepared by: State Fishery Manager, Jeff Dillon

Background:

2019-2024 Fisheries Management Plan

The Fisheries Bureau is currently developing the 2019-2024 Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). The Draft FMP provides a broad framework for implementing ongoing conservation and sportfish management actions over the next six-year period. The FMP describes all fisheries programs and establishes specific fisheries policies and major goals for fish management on both a broad statewide basis and a more detailed drainage scale.

Public opinion helps establish priorities for fisheries programs and contributes to updating the FMP for 2019-2024. The Fisheries Bureau conducts a statewide angler opinion survey every five to six years to assess angler preferences and satisfaction with Department fisheries programs, and to gauge public support for changes in management direction. A summary of results from the 2017 survey will be provided.

Notable changes in proposed policy and/or management direction between the 2019-2024 FMP and the current (2013-2018) FMP will be reviewed. One new component that will be included in the 2019-2024 draft FMP is escapement goals for wild- and natural-origin Salmon and Steelhead. The Fisheries Bureau will present an overview of these goals and the methodology used to develop them.

The Draft 2019-2024 Plan will be available for public comment in late August, with final submitted for Commission approval in November.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho Code section §36-106 directs the Department to, "...preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage..." the fisheries resources of the state for the citizens of Idaho and "... provide fishable populations." The plan describes both general and specific Department policies and establishes our major goals and objectives.

Public Involvement Process:

The Angler Opinion Survey is one of several public input methods used by the Fisheries Bureau to revise the Statewide Fish Management Plan. The 2017 survey was mailed to 12,000 randomly selected fishing license holders and received 3,048 responses. Additionally, the survey was also sent via email (4,770 responses) and offered an open online versions (1,011 responses). The results discussed will focus on the randomized mail survey, which is the most robust method and is comparable to previous surveys.

Input on the 2019-2024 Fish Management Plan was also collected during public open house meetings in each IDFG region from February 12 to March 7, 2018. Additionally, the Department 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. Regional staff hosted 18 public open house meetings across all Regions and compiled public input. The online comment form received 46 comments regarding the Fish Management Plan.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A – informational only

Justification:

N/A – informational only