**Meeting Date:** 22 August, 2019

**Agenda Item:** Season Setting – Fall Chinook Salmon Fishery

**Prepared by:** Lance Hebdon, Anadromous Fish Manager

**Agenda Item No. 4D(1)**

**Bureau Chief Approval:**

**Background:**
This agenda item concerns the setting of a fishing season for fall Chinook Salmon on the Clearwater, Salmon, Snake rivers for 2019. Sport fisheries for fall Chinook Salmon have been conducted each year since 2008. Fall Chinook Salmon broodstock needed for Snake River hatchery programs are collected at or downstream of Lower Granite Dam so there are no broodstock management concerns associated with sport fisheries.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**
Idaho Statute 36-104(b)2 gives the Commission the authority to make rule or proclamation establishing seasons and methods for taking of fish. Fishing rules are provided in IDAPA 13.01.11.

**Public Involvement Process:**
This is the twelfth year of proposing the fall Chinook Salmon fishery. Public meetings have been held to discuss Clearwater Seasons and an angler survey has been distributed widely via email and through individual communications. At the time of this Gold Sheet preparation, staff was in the process of evaluating stakeholder input and developing season and limit proposals.

**Staff Recommendation:**
Approve the 2019 Fall Chinook Salmon fishing seasons as proposed at the August 22 Commission meeting.

**Justification:**
Salmon and steelhead mitigation hatcheries were built to mitigate or compensate for fishing opportunity lost as a result of hydropower development. The proposed season would provide anglers the opportunity to fish for returning hatchery fall Chinook Salmon.