

Meeting Date: November 14, 2019

Agenda Item No. 5E

Agenda Item: Season Setting, Steelhead Fishery

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Lance Hebdon, Anadromous Fish Manager

Background/Justification:

This agenda item concerns fisheries targeting hatchery-origin Steelhead on the Salmon, Clearwater, and Snake Rivers.

The Commission took action in August to restrict the bag limit for steelhead statewide and took action in September to close the steelhead fishery in the Clearwater River and lower Snake River to protect broodstock returning to Clearwater River hatchery facilities.

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 input has been received as part of the three-year season setting process that established the 2019-2021 steelhead seasons and rules.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff will make a recommendation to extend the current regulations for the 2020 spring steelhead fisheries.

Justification:

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 harvest steelhead returning to the hatcheries.