

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2018

**Agenda Item No. 5H**

**Agenda Item:** 2019-2021 Fishing Seasons and Rules

**Bureau Chief Approval:** 

**Prepared by:** Jeff Dillon, State Fishery Manager; Tom Bassista, Fisheries Program Coordinator

**Background:**

By statute, fishing seasons and bag limits are set through IDFG Commission action. Seasons and rules are established on a three-year cycle and were last set by the Commission in November 2015 and took effect in January 2016. Staff will provide a list of proposed fishing season and limit changes for 2019–2021.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

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

**Public Involvement Process:**

The Department solicited comments on fishing seasons and rules from the public through scoping meetings at locations across the state beginning in February 2018. Resulting season and limit change proposals were reviewed by the Commission in July and made available for public and agency review for 30 days, from early September to early October. Input opportunities were advertised through press releases to local and statewide media outlets. Regional staff hosted 10 open house meetings statewide during the 30-day comment period. The proposed season and limit changes were posted on the Department website, and we provided the opportunity for an on-line survey of the proposed changes, including an opportunity to provide written comments for each survey question. Additionally, an invitation to take the survey was e-mailed to over 60,000 fishing license holders. Feedback was also received via email, traditional mail and interaction directly with Department staff. Results of the web survey for each proposed season and limit change are included in Attachment A.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve the 2019 – 2021 fishing seasons and rules as presented by staff.

**Justification:**

This action item allows IDFG to update and simplify fishing seasons and rules that have been in-place since January 2013. Our goal is to provide better customer service through simplification of rules and expanding angler opportunities.