

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Conference Call
September 20, 2019
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S Walnut
Boise, ID**

Present: Director Schriever, Deputy Director Reinecker, Owen Moroney, Sharon Kiefer, Toby Boudreau, Brian Pearson, Greg Wooten, Mary Boyer and Jeff Knetter.

Deputy Director Kline and Lance Hebdon participated via phone call along with Regional Supervisors Jim White, J.J. Teare and Brad Compton.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Meyers with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Brad Melton, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Lane Clezie and Derick Attebury.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Revision to 2019 Steelhead Season

Lance Hebdon, Anadromous Fishery Manager, presented the proposed revision to the 2019 Steelhead season (Appendix 52, Exhibit 54).

The Commission modified the Fall 2019 Steelhead Season at the August meeting with a reduction in the daily bag limit to 1 steelhead statewide and a length limit in the Clearwater River and Snake River where Clearwater hatchery steelhead are encountered.

At the August meeting the length adjustment to protect Clearwater hatchery broodstock was based on the forecasted return as it was too early in the Clearwater steelhead run to have many Clearwater steelhead across Bonneville Dam.

Since the August meeting we have determined that through September 18, about 1,158 hatchery steelhead destined for the Clearwater River have had passed Bonneville Dam. On average, about 50 percent of the hatchery steelhead returning to the Clearwater River would have passed Bonneville Dam by September 18.

“Based on average run timing, we estimate that this will result in approximately 2,300 fish crossing Bonneville Dam by the end of the season. The result for Idaho anglers is that only 1,700 hatchery steelhead destined for the Clearwater River will make it to Lower Granite Dam by the end of the season.

Staff recommendation is for the Commission to approve the proposed adjustments to the 2019 Steelhead seasons for Clearwater and Snake rivers.

19-87 Commissioner Brad Melton moved and Commissioner Brad Corkill seconded a motion to approve the proposed adjustments to the 2019 Steelhead seasons for Clearwater and Snake rivers. Motion Carries.

Coho Fishery Season Proposal

Lance Hebdon, presented the proposal for the setting of a fishing season for Coho Salmon on the Clearwater River for 2019.

2019 CLEARWATER RIVER COHO SALMON FISHERY PROPOSAL

I. SEASONS

A. Opening Dates

1. Clearwater River - from its mouth upstream to Memorial Bridge: September 20, 2019.
2. Clearwater River – from Memorial Bridge upstream to the confluence of the Middle Fork Clearwater and South Fork Clearwater rivers: September 20, 2019. North Fork Clearwater River – from mouth to Dam: September 20, 2019.

B. Closing Dates

Closure to fishing at midnight on October 13, 2019 or may close earlier by emergency order of the Director.

C. Fishing Days

1. Clearwater River - from its mouth upstream to Memorial Bridge: Fishing will occur 7 days a week.
2. Clearwater River – from Memorial Bridge upstream to the confluence of the Middle Fork Clearwater and South Fork Clearwater rivers: Fishing will occur 4 days a week (Thursday through Sunday).
3. North Fork Clearwater River – from mouth to Dam: Fishing will occur 4 days a week (Thursday through Sunday).

II. LIMITS

- A. Bag (Daily): Two (2) Coho Salmon. Either adipose clipped or un-clipped Coho Salmon may be retained.
- B. Possession: Six (6) Coho Salmon. Either adipose clipped or un-clipped Coho Salmon may be retained.
- C. Season: There is no limit on the number of Coho Chinook Salmon that can be harvested during the fall season (all Coho Salmon that are harvested must be recorded on a salmon permit).

III. Definitions Pertaining to Limits

- A. Adult– All Coho Salmon are considered Adults.

III. All other rules pertaining to Salmon Fisheries apply-see page 39-43 in 2019-2021 Idaho Fishing Seasons and Rules.

19-88 Brad Melton moved and Commissioner Brad Corkill seconded a motion to approve the 2019 Choho Salmon fishing season. Motion Carries.

LEGISLATION

Revising Agency Sponsored Legislation for Upland Game Permit to Include Swan Tag

Paul Kline, Deputy Director and Jeff Knetter, presented the proposal.

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulates the hunting of migratory game birds. In July 2018, the Commission adopted the staff recommendation to submit an Idaho swan hunt proposal to the Pacific Flyway Western Tundra Swan Subcommittee. In September 2018, this proposal was endorsed by the Pacific Flyway Council (Council). In August 2019, Council recommended a change to the 2020-21 Pacific Flyway swan hunting framework to allow a season in northern Idaho. Contingent upon approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations Committee in October 2019, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission may be authorized to allow limited tundra swan hunting in northern Idaho during the fall 2020-21 hunting season.

It is necessary to establish statutory authority for the Commission to issue swan tags. In July 2019, the Commission adopted the staff recommendation to modify statutory language for Upland Game Bird requirements and proceed with the development of draft bill language to submit through the Executive Agencies Legislation System (EALS). To accommodate swan hunting in the near term, the Department received approval from the Governor's Office and the Division of Financial Management to amend this proposed legislation to include allowances for swan hunting in Idaho.

19-89 Commissioner Brad Corkill moved and Commissioner Greg Cameron seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendation to modify statutory language as presented to establish a swan tag and the associated tag cost. Motion Carries.

Revision to 2019 Chinook Season

Chairman Meyers noted that there are no changes necessary for this agenda item.

Adjourn



Jerry Meyers
Chairman



Ed Schriever
Secretary