

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – July 12, 2023
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Boise, Idaho**

A meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference, attended by Commissioners Dave Bobbit, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: (in-person) Adam Park, John Cassinelli, Connor Liess, and Valerie Taro; and (via phone) Director Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director Jon Rachael, Carson Watkins, Mike Peterson, Dan Garren, Matt Pieron, and Ryan Hilton.

Chairman Ebert called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. MDT.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Season Setting: Boise River Chinook Fishery Proposal

John Cassinelli, Anadromous Fisheries Manager, explained the complexity of Chinook Salmon fisheries management. The number of fish that will be available for harvest for both the sport fishery and the tribal fisheries (often referred to as harvest shares) are initially estimated from pre-season forecasts. As runs progress up the Columbia and Snake Rivers and fish cross the dams, forecasted shares are updated with in-season estimated returns based on PIT tag detections. In some of our fisheries, such as Rapid River, those PIT-Tag estimates are even further refined with in-season Parental Based Tagging genetics analysis from samples collected at Lower Granite Dam. All of these efforts are to generate more accurate harvest shares for fisheries management and maximize harvest opportunity while still meeting brood needs. Additionally, harvest is monitored with creel surveys or check stations while Hatcheries trap and accumulate broodstock. Jacks are managed separately and are not included in harvest shares or broodstock needs.

Because of these management complexities, oftentimes the Department will end up with excess fish at some of the hatcheries above and beyond broodstock needs. The majority of these surplus fish are usually jacks but can also consist of some adults. The Department uses multiple outlets for these surplus hatchery Chinook including recycling fish through downriver fisheries if those fisheries remain open, tribal distribution for Ceremonial and subsistence purposes, outplanting fish to spawn naturally (although the ability to do that is hatchery and river specific), distribution of fish to food banks, and finally, outplanting fish to provide additional fisheries which is what Staff is proposing today.

The proposal is as follows:

I. SEASONS – CHINOOK SALMON

- A. Opening Date:** The Boise River, from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam, opens to Chinook Salmon fishing on July 14, 2023.
- B. Closing Date:** The Boise River closes to Chinook Salmon fishing on August 30, 2023.

II. FISHING HOURS AND DAYS

- A.** Fishing for Chinook Salmon on the Boise River is permitted 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

III. LIMITS

A. Daily Bag and Possession limits for the Boise River are as follows:

1. Daily Bag Limit: Two (2) Chinook Salmon, regardless of size.
2. Possession Limit: Six (6) Chinook Salmon, regardless of size.

B. Season Limit, Statewide

No person may take more than twenty (20) adult Chinook Salmon statewide during 2023 salmon seasons occurring prior to August 10, 2023.

C. Other rules:

- All Chinook Salmon (adults and jacks) harvested on the Boise River must be recorded on an angler's permit.
- All Chinook Salmon harvested on the Boise River count towards the statewide adult possession limit.
- Anglers must cease fishing for all Chinook Salmon (including jacks) once they have retained their daily, possession or season limit of adult Chinook Salmon or their overall daily, possession, or season limit of Chinook Salmon of any size, whichever comes first.

IV. METHODS OF TAKE

- Only hooks not greater than 5/8 inch between the point and shank may be used when fishing for salmon. Anglers may use barbed hooks while fishing for Chinook salmon on the Boise River
- It is unlawful to fish in any waters while having fish in possession that violate rules for those waters.
- It is unlawful to have in the field or in transit any Chinook Salmon from which the head or tail has been removed unless: 1) the angler is ashore and done fishing for the day; 2) the adult Chinook Salmon is properly recorded on the anglers Chinook Salmon permit; and 3) the fish is processed or packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh including a portion with a healed, clipped adipose fin scar. The fish must be processed or packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined. Processed Chinook Salmon cannot be transported by boat.
- All salmon that are hooked, landed and reduced to possession shall be counted in the limits of the person hooking the fish.
- Salmon caught in a legal manner must be either released or killed immediately after landing.

23-48 Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to approve the salmon season for the lower Boise River as presented by staff. The Motion Carried.

Adjournment



Don Ebert
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary