

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: March 12, 2015

Agenda Item: 2016 Fishing Regulation-Setting Process

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

FWP Fisheries Division has begun the fishing regulation setting process for 2016. Even though regulation changes are made every year, every fourth year (2016 being one of them) FWP embarks on a thorough review of its fishing regulations.

There are two primary activities that occur during these fourth-year efforts:

- 1) FWP proposes ways to simplify and standardize regulations, within individual waterbodies, regions or statewide; and
- 2) The public is solicited for ideas on regulation changes.

Public Involvement Process & Results

A brochure is being developed which asks the public to provide FWP with ideas on regulation changes and to comment on a number of ideas developed by FWP.

The brochure will be sent to all license agents for distribution to anglers buying their 2015 fishing licenses.

In addition, the brochure will be posted on the FWP website where comments can be made.

Comment will be sought locally through March at which point FWP will compile the public responses to date and send to Regional Fisheries Managers who will use the information to decide on ways to fashion appropriate regulation changes.

Further engagement with the public will occur and could include open houses, presentations to angler groups, discussion at Regional Citizens Advisory Committees or surveys.

Results will be used to propose regulation changes for 2016, and will be presented to the Fish & Wildlife Commission in August.

Once approved by the Commission, a formal 30-day public comment period will follow, and the Commission will consider final adoption of the existing regulation and any changes in October.