

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 6, 2015

Agenda Item: Classification of Exotic Wildlife ARM: Pacific White Shrimp and African Fur Rat

Division: Enforcement/Fisheries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background

To be legally imported into Montana, exotic wildlife must be classified. The Classification Review Committee evaluates petitions for such classifications. The committee-which includes FWP, the Montana Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, and Public Health and Human Services, a representative of the exotic pet trade, and a citizen with an interest in fish and wildlife makes recommendations to the Commission to classify exotic wildlife either as non-controlled, controlled, or prohibited. Recommendations are based on:

- A. the environmental impacts caused by the animal if it is released or escapes from captivity, including ecological and economic impacts;
- B. the risk the animal would pose to health or safety of the public, wildlife or agriculture; and
- C. the ability to readily control and contain the animal in captivity.

Public Involvement Process & Results

A public comment period took place and a public Hearing was heard in Helena on June 22nd. The Commission received five public comments. One comment in support, two outside the scope of this rule making, one suggesting adding the Pacific White Shrimp to prohibited instead of controlled, and one suggesting a change to the proposed amendments to allow live Pacific White Shrimp larvae to be imported for rearing in permitted facilities.

Alternatives and Analysis

The Commission can decide not to adopt the amendments as proposed. The Commission can also decide to adopt the proposed amendments but without the Department's recommend language change.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Based on public comment, the Department recommends that the Commission adopt the amendments as proposed but with a change to allow live Pacific White Shrimp larvae to be brought into the rearing facilities that are permitted for Pacific White Shrimp.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission adopt the amendments to the classification of exotic species Administrative Rules of Montana as proposed with the Department's recommended change.