

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 8, 2015

Agenda Item: Waters Approved for Commercial Bait Seining – Annual Rule

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

A bait fish seining license is required for: 1) persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana; and 2) for any person who seines for and has in their possession more than 24 dozen non-game bait fish. The Commission may designate waters that are allowed for these purposes, and FWP describes these waters annually in the Commercial Bait Seining Application form.

Public Involvement Process & Results

If approved by the Commission, the current list of approved waters will be released for a 15-day public comment period. Based on the comments received, the list will be modified (if necessary) and proposed to the Commission for final approval in November.

Alternatives and Analysis.

The proposed list is identical to waters approved for Commercial Bait Seining in 2015.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Evaluation by biologists and Fisheries program managers confirmed that waters in the current list can still support commercial bait seining, as previously approved by the Commission.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission propose the Commercial Bait Fish Seining Waters list recommended by FWP and initiate the public involvement process.