

Final Fishing Regulations for 2016

Outcome Summary

On November 12, 2015, the Fish and Wildlife Commission met to take final action on fishing regulation recommendations developed by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) during 2015. At that meeting most FWP recommendations were approved as proposed, including withdrawal of Proposal 12 that would have prohibited bow fishing for Shortnose Gar, and withdrawal of Proposal 33 that would have eliminated the existing regulation exception for Loon Lake in Region 1. Among the remaining proposals, the following modifications (indicated in **blue** ink) were made by the Commission:

Proposal 8- Add single point barbless hook restriction to streams in the Western Fishing District currently designated catch and release and artificial lures only, where Cutthroat Trout are the primary species meant to be protected by the restrictions.

- FWP recommended to limit this regulation to the North Fork Blackfoot River only, in the reach *Downstream from the North Fork Falls to the Highway 200 bridge*, and to delay its implementation two years to allow time to gather information about current angler behaviors and population status of the drainage with respect to hook-caused injuries.
- The Commission approved the regulation for the North Fork Blackfoot River only, **to be implemented in 2016**, in the reach *Downstream from the North Fork Falls to the Highway 200 bridge*.

Proposal 9- Add 1 Cutthroat Trout to the combined trout limit in the Central Fishing District.

- FWP recommended to apply this regulation throughout the Central Fishing District.
- The Commission approved the regulation **except that Cutthroat Trout will remain catch and release only on the Yellowstone River and its tributaries from the Yellowstone National Park boundary downstream to the Pine Creek Bridge**.

Proposal 45- Madison River regulation modifications.

- FWP recommended regulation changes with several modifications based on public comment.
- The Commission approved the modified recommendations as proposed, **and also placed an artificial lure only requirement from Varney Bridge downstream to Ennis Lake**. A placeholder was inserted to discuss barbless hook requirements during the 2016 regulation process that will lead to new regulations in 2017.

All other 2016 fishing regulation proposals were approved as submitted for the November 12, 2015 meeting.