



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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Meeting Date: October 20, 2022

Agenda Item: Extending the 2022 Fishing Regulations to the 2023 Fishing Season

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: The next full review of the fishing regulations will be completed once the revision of the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan is complete. The management plan will be used to inform future regulation proposals. The 2022 regulations need commission action to be extended to the 2023 fishing season to maintain continuity.

Public Involvement Process & Results: During the recent public process on fishing regulation proposals the public raised several issues that can be addressed within the management plan and then used to inform regulation proposals.

Analysis & Alternatives: Without extending the 2022 existing regulations into the 2023 fishing season there will be no fishing regulations in place starting on March 1, 2023. An alternative would be for the commissioners to bring regulation proposals forward without direction from the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan, which is currently being revised.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The department recommends extending the 2022 Fishing Regulations into the 2023 fishing season.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the currently-operating 2022 Fishing Regulations, for the 2023 fishing season, so that the 2022 Fishing Regulations become the 2023 Fishing Regulations.