



2016-2018 Rules Process

Upper Snake Region

The Process

- Scoping – collecting and sharing ideas on how we can better manage our resources
- Rule Proposal – formal proposal on a specific regulation. Typically based on biological (first) and social input (second).

The Process

- February - Regions solicit ideas from the public, share ideas under consideration that we believe have merit (Scoping)
- March – Regions combine public input with biological information and direction from the FMP to develop rules proposals, which are submitted to HQ
- June – Regions gather public input on Commission-approved draft rules changes
- Nov – Commission acts on rules changes
- Jan 1, 2016 – all approved rules changes take effect

General Concepts

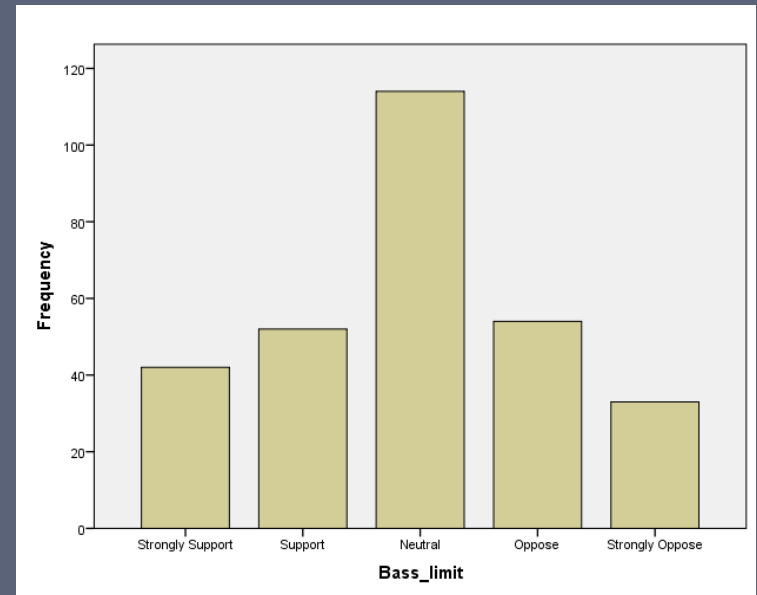
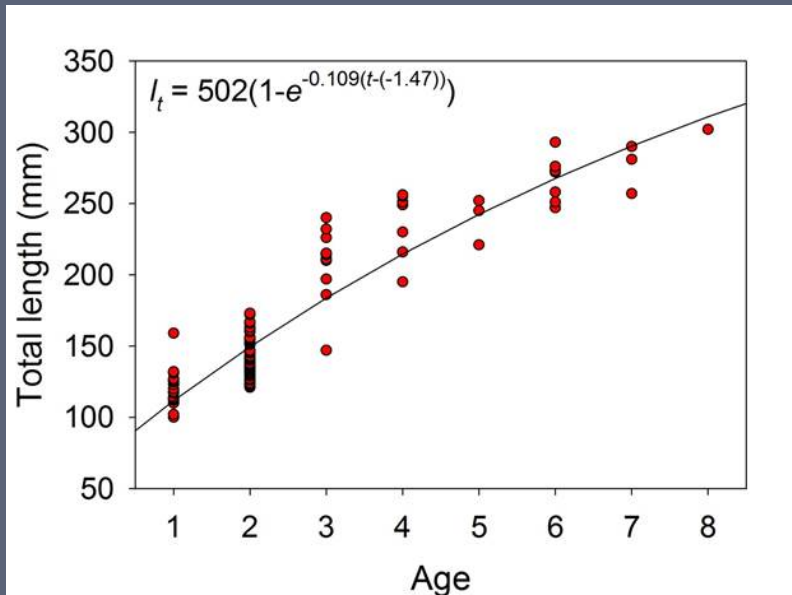
- Simple rules are better than complex rules
- Biologically based
 - Avoid social rules when possible
- Maximize opportunity where possible
- Compliant with management direction (FMP)
- Focus on outcomes
 - What you want the population to look like (Goals)
 - Not necessarily the specific rule (Strategies)
- Avoid “Tinkering”, or unnecessary rules

All Ideas are Good Ideas...

- But not all ideas will result in a new rule
 - Must pass through many filters before becoming a rule. Issues may include:
 - Compliance with Fish Management Plan
 - Biologically unnecessary
 - Create confusion with existing rules
 - Inconsistent with existing rules
 - Legal or statutory issues
 - Political issues
 - Socially unacceptable

Ideas We Are Considering

- Region Wide Rule Change:
 - Remove size limit from bass, and allow any sized bass in the harvest.

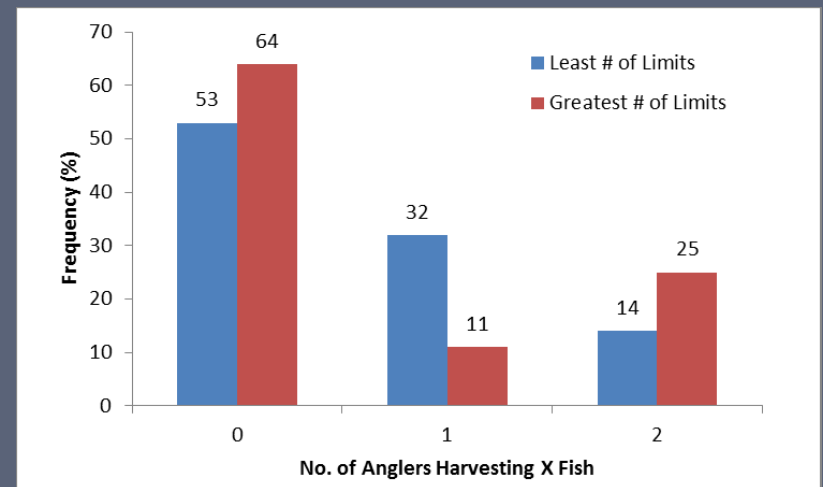
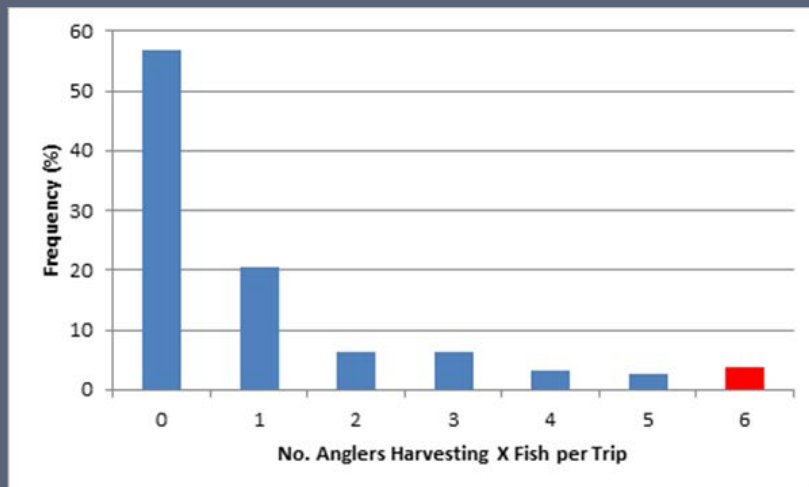


Ideas We Are Considering

- Region Wide Rule Change:
 - Increase Region-wide kokanee limit from 6 fish to 15 fish
 - Mackay – over-abundant kokanee with stunting
 - Ririe – low harvest overall - <4,000 fish
 - Palisades – low effort, low catch
 - Island Park – low effort, low catch

Ideas We Are Considering

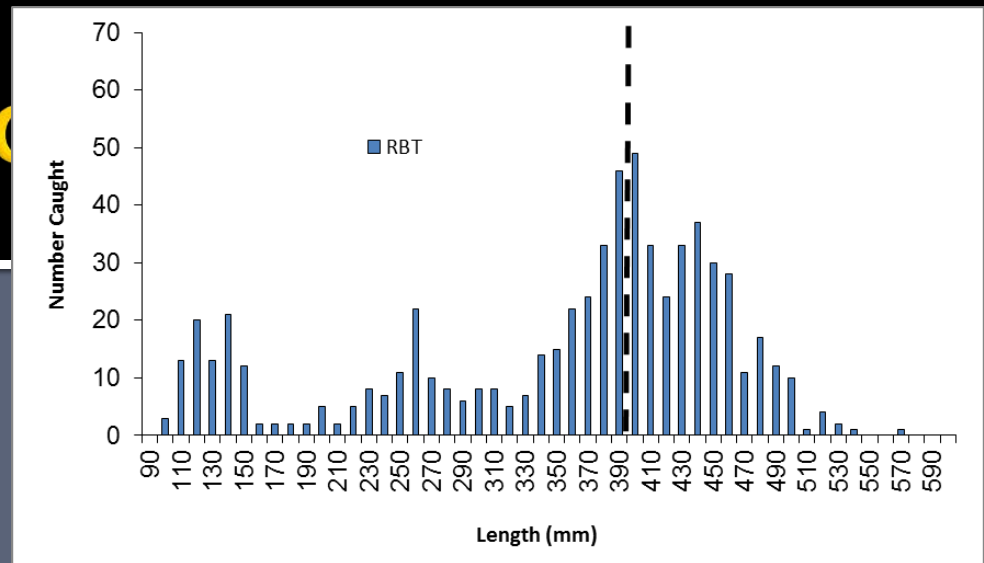
- Region Wide Rule Change:
 - Consider changing the possession limit (currently the same as a daily bag limit)
 - *Only impacts destination fisheries*
 - *May only affect a small segment of the public*



Ideas We Are Co

■ Water Specific Rule

- Henrys Fork – From the Lower Harriman State Park Boundary Downstream to the Confluence with the South Fork (excluding reservoirs)
 - Consistent regulation to avoid confusion and increase opportunity
 - Open all year
 - Trout Limit is 2 fish, no harvest of cutthroat trout



Combines 5 separate sections into one; simplifies rules; provides additional opportunity in some areas (Pinehaven, Riverside, Ashton Dam) while restricting opportunity to harvest in others (lower river)

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:



Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Snake River – Section: From the Osgood Diversion upstream to the confluence with the Henrys Fork/South Fork
 - Trout limit is 2 fish; no harvest of cutthroat trout



Reduces harvest opportunity in an area where trout populations are low. Telemetry data from the South Fork shows strong connection between these river reaches.

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - South Fork Tributaries— July 1 to May 31 –
 - No harvest of cutthroat trout
 - ~~Brown trout limit is 2 fish, none under 16"~~
 - No limit on rainbow trout or trout hybrids
 - Tributaries - June 1 to June 30
 - Season Closure? C+R?



Provides additional opportunity while protecting cutthroat trout.
Data shows this rule will protect 90+% of migrating/spawning cutthroat trout.

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Teton River —
 - No harvest of cutthroat trout
 - No limit on rainbow trout or trout hybrids
 - Eliminate catch and release season during the winter



Increases harvest opportunity on rainbows. Creates consistency for important cutthroat trout waters. Additional harvest expected to be low

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Teton River Tributaries– July 1 to May 31 –
 - No harvest of cutthroat trout
 - No limit on rainbow trout or trout hybrids
 - Tributary Management – June 1 to June 30
 - Seasonal Closure? C+R?
 - Season would also apply to the Willow Creek Drainage

Provides additional opportunity for anglers. Data shows this rule will protect 90+% of migrating/spawning cutthroat trout.

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Little Lost River, Fall River, Medicine Lodge Creek and Warm River
 - Eliminate exception to harvest during winter

Wintertime effort is low, and harvest during the winter is not expected to have population-level effects on the fishery. Removal of this rule simplifies regulations and eliminates confusion among anglers.

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Becker Pond (Ryder Park Pond)
 - Trout limit is 2 fish
 - Catfish limit is 2 fish



Adding limits to catfish will help spread harvest across more people, and prolong the persistence of catfish in the pond.

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Jim Moore (Roberts) Pond, Teardrop Lake, Horseshoe Lake
 - Reduce bag limit of trout from 6 fish to 2 fish

Current harvest levels create “boom and bust” fisheries in heavily fished waters. Reducing the bag limit will help smooth these ups and downs out, and create better, more consistent fishing.

Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Tributaries to Palisades Reservoir
 - Kokanee limit is zero - catch and release

Addresses an enforcement issue that is difficult to regulate;
Protects limited spawning population



Ideas We Are Considering

- Water Specific Rule Change:
 - Canal Salvage – Oct 1 to Dec 31 – it is legal to take fish with dip nets, by snagging or by hand. Upper Snake Region bag limits apply
 - Need to list every canal specifically

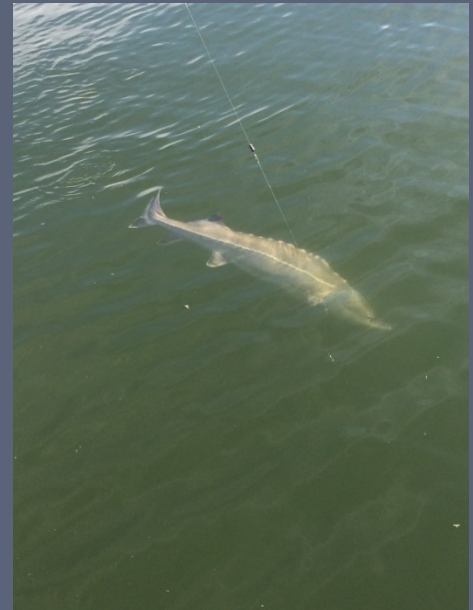


Ideas We Are Considering

- Heads and Tails Attached:
 - Current law requires harvested fish have heads and tails attached, limiting the ability of anglers to clean fish on the water.
 - Alternatively, we can consider changing this rule and allowing anglers to clean fish
 - Provides convenience for anglers

Ideas We Are Considering

- Species Specific Rule Change:
 - Sturgeon – Expand hatchery supported sturgeon fisheries in the Upper Snake to provide limited harvest opportunities in the future.
 - Must be evaluated for impacts first
 - Waters could include most reservoirs
 - Mainstem Snake River, Lower Henrys Fork
 - Need to know if there is interest, and where
 - would be acceptable



Ideas We Are Considering

- Other Input:
 - Angler Access
 - Where can we improve access?
 - Where do we need additional access?
 - Do boat ramp facilities meet your expectations/needs?

Other Business



- License increase of \$1 to \$6 per resident license, tag and fee starting in 2016
- Create "Price Lock" for annual purchases – no increased fee.
 - 10% more of non-annual license buyers generates about \$1 million and allows us to keep license fees lower
- Operating costs have increased by 22% since our last fee increase (2005)