

Meeting Date: May 14, 2009

Agenda Item No. 22

Agenda Item: Season Setting: Chinook Salmon Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Ed Schriever, Fisheries Bureau Chief

Background:

The Commission approved, at its March meeting, Chinook salmon fisheries in the Clearwater River drainage and on portions of the Snake, Salmon and Little Salmon rivers. This agenda item concerns a fisheries targeting hatchery-origin Chinook salmon on the South Fork Salmon River and the upper Salmon River. Chinook salmon fisheries were conducted on the South Fork Salmon River in 1997 and 2000 through 2008. The upper Salmon River fishery is proposed to occur on a section of that river from approximately the town of Salmon upstream to near the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery weir near the town of Stanley. For both fishing areas, staff is forecasting the return of a sufficient number of hatchery salmon to allow sport fisheries that target the non-tribal harvestable share when hatchery production and brood stock targets are considered.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho Statute 36-104(b)2 gives the Commission the authority to set Fishing Rules. Fishing Rules are provided in IDAPA 13.01.11

Public Involvement Process:

The public involvement process was on-going at the time this gold sheet was prepared. Findings from the Public Involvement Process will be reported to the Commission during their meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed 2009 Chinook salmon fishing seasons for South Fork Salmon River and Upper Salmon River.

NOTE: At the time of preparation of this gold sheet, Regional and Bureau fisheries staffs were in the process of updating salmon return forecasts and scoping fishery options. The specific fishery proposals are not included here but will be delivered to the Commission during the week prior to the May Commission meeting.

Justification:

Title 36 of Idaho State Code gives the Commission the authority to set rules to preserve, protect, or manage fish and wildlife in Idaho. The proposed fisheries are to address biological issues, mitigation hatchery programs and angler desires.