

Northern Region Wildlife Board Advisory Council

September 19, 2007

6:00 P.M.

Place: Brigham City Community Center, Brigham City, Utah

RAC Present

Darwin Bingham, Agric
Jon Leonard, Sportsmen
Shawn Groll, Public at Large
Lee Shirley, Non-Con
James Gaskill, Sportsmen Rep
Ryan Foutz, Public At-large
Paul Cowley, Forest Service
Robert Byrnes, Public at Large
Ann Neville, Non-Con
Brad Slater, Elected
Ron Hodson, Executive Sec.
Bret Selman, Agric

DWR Present

Phil Douglass
Drew Cushing
Laura Hines
John Luft
Roger Wilson

Wildlife Board

Ernie Perkins

RAC Absent

Bill Fenimore
Mark Marsh

Public Present - See Attached Roll Sheet

Meeting Begins: 6:00 p.m.

Number of Pages: 11

Introduction - Brad Slater, RAC Chair

Agenda:

Regional Update
Fish Contest Proposal Rule
Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles
Brine Shrimp Rule R657-52 (5-year review)
Commercial Harvesting of Protected Aquatic Wildlife Rule R657-14
Aquaculture and Fish Stocking R657-16 (5-year review)
Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13 (5-year review)

Approval of Minutes - (Action)

Postponed until the November RAC meeting.

Approval of Main Agenda (Action)

Adopted by Consent

Item 3. Overview of DWR Northern Region Activities

Ron Hodson, Regional Supervisor

- Presented a slide show illustrating the effects of Quagga Mussels and the efforts that the Division is taking to prevent them from spreading in Utah's waters.

Item 4. Fish Contest Proposal Rule

Drew Cushing, Warm Water/Community Fisheries Program Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Joe Okeefe- Is the State trying to encourage more tournaments, clinics and contests? If the rules are made more liberal, it will attract more sponsors and trophy hunters to the State.

Cushing- The Division does not necessarily have as to whether there should be additional tournaments and contests held. We simply are asking for public opinion. We definitely support clinics. The questions will have to be answered by the anglers because that is where the potential conflict lies. Every year there is an increasing interest in tournaments and contests.

RAC Questions

Foutz- How does the DWR plan to have the fish weighed and measured at the sites where they are taken?

Cushing- There have been many ideas to accomplish this, such as a chase boat with a mobile scale that would weigh the fish quickly so they can be released back into the waters at that site.

Byrnes- Have you thought about the social impact this would have on the smaller lakes? I would hate to see a tournament take precedence over the public's ability to recreate on a lake.

Cushing- The DWR shares your concern. In the past, Flaming Gorge and Lake Powell have hosted the larger tournaments but Jordanelle, Quail Creek and Gunlock Reservoir are now the waters of interest.

Byrnes- Are you familiar with the fishing catch and release contest that occurred on the Provo? Did that occur on private land?

Cushing- I heard about it but I do not know if it occurred on private land.

Byrnes- Was that contest regulated?

Cushing- I believe the contest would have been limited to 200 contestants and less than \$500 in prizes.

Byrnes- There were teams 4 to 5 teams that were assigned certain sections of the streams which would have taken up a significant amount of fishing area. Do we have regulations regarding that at this time?

Cushing- The regulations only pertain to the amount of people and the value of the prizes that can be offered.

Gaskill- I am wondering how much the Division is willing to invest of public funds and time since it will be costly to enforce these regulations.

Cushing- The amount the Division is willing to spend will be based upon the public comment that is received.

Gaskill- Could you clarify what would happen if there were a fishing tournament taking place on the Provo River and an individual fished in one of the tournament holes.

Cushing- Those types of conflicts do occur. There would not be recourse for either party.

Gaskill- Our main concern is the biological issues. If we are suspending rules and regulations for certain groups, it becomes a social issue, as well as a biological issue.

Cushing- There is a mortality that is associated with every fish caught based on the amount of time it is out of the water. The biological effect from the number of fish being caught at these tournaments is negligible.

Gaskill- I would still be issued a ticket if I were to catch over my limit, even though it would not have a biological effect on the water.

Cushing- That is correct. These are the issues that need to be addressed.

Cowley- Does the Division ever regulate the numbers of boats based on the carrying capacity of the water?

Cushing- That is a State Park function.

Slater- There are reservoirs, such as Pineview, that have a carrying capacity that is based on water levels so that capacity changes throughout the summer.

Public Comments

Jim Morgan- I have served in many capacities for fishing clubs. This is a good proposal other than the fact that there is limited waters and a massive public usage on weekends. If we put 20

to 50 tournament boats on the water and they all have to weigh in at the same time, they will clog up the public facilities which will become a social issue. My suggestion would be to stipulate that each tournament group work with State groups and the DWR to weigh in at a certain area that will not take up the entire public ramp. I would like to see the live well issue addressed. The slot limits are a biological issue that should be adhered to. The Division has tried to find a way to keep the fish alive in the waters. We can do this by selective angling. If a special interest group is given the opportunity to put them in a live well, that is acceptable, but there will be fish lost. This will create a social issue. It will not work to hire a neutral judge for each boat because there will not be a way to compensate the judges.

Tyler Allred- For the last 8 years, I have been the designer and overseen the construction of the Middle Provo restoration. Any time there is a gathering up there, it is a problem. The organizers always feel that their use is more important than the public use. It is necessary for the Division to monitor these events and be directly involved with specific rules. I do not think the slot limit should be suspended. There should be a field scoring method applied so the same rules are followed by everyone. I was involved in a contest in Jackson Hole where the entry fee paid for the judges to measure in the field.

RAC Comments

Foutz- I do not think there is an issue with fishing clinics since they are educational. I like tag fish contests because they involve the public. I have a little bit of an issue when a profit making tournament impacts the public's use of the waters.

Gaskill- I feel uncomfortable with any rule that suspends the rules for special interest groups while the general public is forced to obey those rules. I am concerned that it has been proposed that there be a contest or tournament held at Echo Reservoir on Free Fishing Day. There should be a statement that the DWR will take the interests of the public over the interests of the tournament fisherman. Flaming Gorge and Lake Powell are the best places to hold those types of events.

Cowley- Many of the tournament fisherman are from out of town so the Quagga Mussel rules need to be in place to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

Selman- Many of the issues would be resolved if the tournaments were held during the week rather than on the weekends.

Byrnes- I agree that the tournaments and contests should not have a negative impact on the public's ability to use the waters. I also agree that the fish should be weighed and measured at the site, then released back into the water.

Bingham- I understand the comments that have been made. There has to be initiative and incentive or things die.

Slater- Would it be possible to allow the tournaments on the larger waters such as Lake Powell or Flaming Gorge but avoid the smaller waters?

Cushing- The tournaments are currently allowed at Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge. The groups are interested in holding their events at the special regulation waters that are smaller waters with trophy bass in them. They want to possess the trophy bass and have them weighed in on those waters.

Slater- How will the DWR determine which waters are allowed and which are not.

Cushing- If the intent is to protect the fish, the decision would be based on the water temperature, spawning season, and the amount of people on the water. Research has shown that there is a higher mortality rate associated with the larger tournaments. It has also been shown that there is a higher mortality rate associated with increased water temperatures. It is a biological issue.

Slater- There will have to be additional research done in addition to what has been presented tonight.

Cushing- We are looking for general guidance. From here, we will move forward with specific rules and ideas.

Slater- Not all of the waters are under the control of the State Parks. Will the Forest Service or National Park Service also have input regarding these decisions?

Cushing- Those groups do have an impact on the decisions that are made. It is now up to the public to decide which direction the proposal will go.

Neville- Does the Division plan to create a committee to create a proposal to be presented to the public?

Cushing- The intent is to gather public input from the RAC's, the public and the Wildlife Board. At that time, a committee made up of the general public will draft a rule including the comments that have been received. The RAC would then consider that rule in December.

Item 5. Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles

Laura Hines, Native Aquatic Species Biologist

See Handout

RAC Questions

Neville- Has the DWR provided photos and descriptions of the collectable and non-collectable species so the public is aware of their differences?

Hines- We have all of the species listed on line at the Utah Conservation database which is a link from the Division's website. There are only slight differences between the Utah King Snake and the Utah Milk Snake so it has been suggested that collectors bring the species into the Division

to verify that they have captured the collectable species.

Neville- Is this link obvious. There are many people who do not know it is necessary to have a permit to collect certain species.

Hines- As part of the outreach program, I will try to make that information more accessible.

Cowley- Where do most of the species go after they are collected?

Hines- I would assume they are collected to be pets.

Cowley- Is there concern that the species are being released in areas that are unnatural to them?

Hines- That is not a significant concern. Most of the individuals who collect these species are interested in having them for household pets and for propagation.

Neville- Is the Division working to increase the amount of information they have on the Amphibians and Reptiles that exist in Utah?

Hines- Funding for reptiles and amphibians is limited. The funding is tied up in higher priority species. I am currently working to find other means o increase the data we have for the different species.

Motion- Foutz- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles, as presented.

Second- Neville

RAC Discussion

Slater- What is the consequence if a child catches a snake or other species?

Hines- The consequence is dependent upon the type of snake that is captured. If it is a controlled or prohibited species, that is technically illegal. If a conservation officer was aware of the incident, they would educate the child about the regulations.

Cowley- Many of the species such as Boiled Toad and Spotted Frog are not included on the controlled species list.

Hines- Those types of species are prohibited and apply to the conservation species.

Motion Carries- Unanimous

Item 6. Brine Shrimp Rule R657-52

Item 7. Commercial Harvesting of Protected Aquatic Wildlife Rule R657-14

Item 8. Aquaculture and Fish Stocking R657-16

Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

See Handouts

RAC Questions

Neville- Are the Brine fisheries supportive of this proposal?

Deon- In the past, the Brine fisheries recommended text changes but the Division is not prepared to make those changes at this time.

Cowley- Should R657-14-7, the Fishing Proclamation and the Fishing Regulations all be consistent?

Cushing- We attempted to list the common species that are used for bait fish. We want to prohibit importation of fish from the Great Lake's region.

Cowley- R657-14-7 does not list the some of the species that would be used as bait fish.

Cushing- Those are the species that would be allowed on the commercial providers list. We will further consider that when the stipulations are considered. We are not prepared to make changes at this time.

Cowley- It seems that some of those issues should be addressed now since the next review period does not occur for five years.

Cushing- Those issues can be brought up prior to the five year review.

Gaskill- This is not a five year proclamation, this is a five year review.

Cushing- The Division wants to be prepared with recommendations prior to addressing those issues.

Motion- Foutz - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Brine Shrimp Rule R657-52, Commercial Harvesting of Protected Aquatic Wildlife Rule R657-14 and Aquaculture and Fish Stocking R657-16, as presented.

Second- Cowley

Motion Carries - Unanimous

Item 9. Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13

Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Foutz- Will Woodruff Creek Reservoir remain unchanged?

Wilson- It will remain the same.

Foutz- If I am camping at Strawberry Reservoir, is it against the law to filet the fish that I have caught?

Wilson- It would not be against the law for you to consume the fish at the Reservoir. We do not want to keep people from harvesting and filleting their fish.

Groll- Was this proposal brought about as a result of a study or survey that has been done?

Craig- The reason for the proposal is it is the only cold water in the region that is supported through natural reproduction so this proposal will help us to maintain that.

Gaskill- If there is a separate rule for tournaments, it may provide simplification but it may also be considered “out of sight, out of mind”.

Wilson- We have had that question. The Fishing Guide will have a statement that the website may be consulted for fishing contest guidelines. Less than 5% of the anglers participate in tournaments so it will only be referenced in the Fishing Guide.

Gaskill- What is the rationale for regulating the transportation of live Crayfish?

Wilson- It is fairly simple. We are just trying to prohibit Crayfish from being moved to waters that are not native to them. If Crayfish are transported away from their native waters, they have to be killed.

Gaskill- Is that still a problem?

Wilson- If the Crayfish are not in native waters, they do not belong there. Crayfish can foul up the sports fish programs by changing the dynamic of the fish assemblage. We prefer that the fish not be moved around by anglers.

Gaskill- I am just wondering if that regulation is outdated.

Craig- Within the last six years, Crayfish were introduced into Red Butte Reservoir (which is not meant to have public access). The Crayfish wiped out the macro vegetation, which then affected the Cutthroat, etc. in that Reservoir. We feel the problem still exists and this rule addresses that issue.

Wilson- We do have native Crayfish in Utah, as well as introduced Crayfish. We do not want the two types to be in competition.

Gaskill- If an individual is camping at a lake and fillets their fish before the other individuals at the campsite are done fishing, will they be violating the Rule?

Wilson- This is a point we will have to address with our enforcement staff. We do not want to prohibit certain species from being harvested and filleted. It is not our intent to stop anglers from fishing after they have filleted their fish.

Gaskill- Should there be an exception in the Rule for Lake Powell that allows fishing to continue after fish have been filleted?

Wilson- We discussed that possibility but agreed that the Rule would no longer be simple if we were to list exceptions for the different waters. This is a subject that could be discussed by the RAC if they want to add language for clarification.

Gaskill- I am in favor of simplification but I want to avoid giving too much discretion to the enforcement officers. There will be problems if the general public does not understand the Rule.

Wilson- Most of the waters are set up for day fishing, with the exception of larger waters such as Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge. The Rule would become complicated if we were to address every scenario.

Cowley- I did not realize that Pineview is being opened for spear fishing. Are you concerned that it will create safety hazards since there are many times when the beaches are maxed out with people and boats.

Wilson- We have those concerns but feel that the free-shafting prohibition addressed some of those issues. There are less than 100 spear fisherman in the State that participate in the sport. If problems arise, we will address them.

RAC Comments

Cowley- I would recommend that we table consideration of the Pineview proposal since there are safety issues that exist due to the amount of people who visit the Reservoir. This may be an issue that needs to be addressed with the Ogden District since this is a National Forest Reservoir. This is the first time I have heard about this proposal.

Wilson- The Pineview proposal was discussed during one of the RAC meetings that was held in the Spring.

Gaskill- When there are less than 100 spear fisherman in the State, what is the concern for safety? There are safety concerns with every water activity that we participate in.

Cowley- I wish there would have been a representative from the Forest Service to address the issue. Pineview is one of the most highly used Reservoirs by waders, swimmers, canoers, water skiers, etc. It is a flat reservoir that does not have depth. It would seem more appropriate to have spear fishing at Cozzie since it does have the depth and is used less by the public. I do not

see a need to create a conflict if it can be avoided.

Slater - Pineview has been zoned for specific recreational uses. There are regulations that are marked for different uses. Based on my experience in law enforcement, it appears that the divers generally avoid areas that are used for other recreational purposes. I do not see that this will create a safety hazard. This issue can be further discussed, from a law enforcement perspective, at our annual discussion with the members of the Ogden Ranger District.

Motion- Shirley- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13, as presented.

Second- Bingham

Amended Motion- Gaskill- the Wildlife Board accept the Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13, as presented, with a clarification regarding the filet restrictions at Lake Powell.

Second-

RAC Deliberation

Wilson- The Division considers a camp to be anything that provides overnight accommodation such as a houseboat or motor boat. This language states that it does not apply to fish that are held over from a previous day's catch.

Slater- The Division's proposal includes language to address your concerns.

Gaskill- I do not think it does. I want to clarify the filet restrictions for houseboats and other overnight craft on Lake Powell only.

Neville- Would it be fair to clarify the Proclamation by referring to camps?

Gaskill- That is the problem. Houseboats are considered a camp, yet an individual can still fish from the boat during the same day.

Shirley- The amended motion will "open up a can of worms" because people can be camping on a houseboat or in a tent, etc.

Gaskill- Whether or not the motion is amended, there will be a "can of worms opened up". If an individual is staying in a tent and is caught fishing after they have filleted their fish, they will be issued a ticket. The proposal should be clarified so the discretion is not left to the law enforcement officers.

Cowley- Is the proposal stating that once an individual fillets their fish, their day of fishing is over?

Wilson- We have discussed this issue at length. We even discussed the idea of having a

separate provision for Lake Powell but then we would also have to address Flaming Gorge. The Proclamation currently states that fish can be cleaned and processed, once they complete the act of fishing or they reach a cleaning station camp or their primary means of land transportation. The definition of camp is any place providing temporary or overnight accommodation for anglers including camp, campground, tent, trailer, houseboat, boat or hotel. The issue that has been brought up is valid.

Gaskill- If an individual is fishing from a houseboat, they are technically in their camp so the individual could fillet their fish at any time. I do not think that is the RAC's intent for the Rule.

Wilson- I think it would be wise for fisherman to move the filleted fish into the refrigerator before they resume fishing.

Gaskill- When you include a boat or a houseboat as a camp, it confuses the issue.

Motion Fails- For 3, Against 6

Original Motion- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13, as presented.

Motion Carries- Unanimous

Amended Motion- Groll - Recommend the Wildlife Board remove the Woodruff Reservoir restrictions.

Second -

RAC Deliberation

RAC Member - I run a CWMU that borders that Reservoir. There really isn't any access. There was 2,000 fish per mile the last time it was shocked. I would hate to see another reservoir that allows for artificial flies and lures. I think it will limit youth participation at the Reservoir. I understand the intent of the proposal but it appears the fish are protected through the river.

Selman- What is the current restriction?

Craig- Two

Clarified Amended Motion- Groll- Recommend the Wildlife Board remove the restrictions on artificial flies and lures at Woodruff Reservoir.

Motion Carries- Unanimous

Meeting Ends:

2007 Central Region RAC meeting

Springville Jr. High School
September 18, 2007 6:30 pm

Members Present:

Calvin Crandall
Richard Hansen
Gary Nielson
Byron Gunderson, Vice Chair
Duane Smith
John Bair
Allen Stevens
Fred Oswald
Ed Kent, Chair

Members Absent:

George Holmes
Jay Price
Doug Jones (excused)

1. Approval of Agenda (amended) with

Agenda amended to present Action items #7 Brine Shrimp Rule R657-52, #9 Aquaculture and Fish Stocking R657-16, and #10 Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13 before other agenda items.

Motion: John Bair

Second: Duane Smith

Motion passed unanimously

2. Approval of August 21, 2007 RAC minutes

Motion: John Bair

Second: Duane Smith

Motion passed unanimously

Motion made by Byron Gunderson to accept:

- **Action item 7 Brine Shrimp Rule R657-52 (5 year review) ACTION**
- **Action item 8 Commercial Harvesting of Protected Aquatic Wildlife R657-14 (5 year review) ACTION**
- **Action item 9 Aquaculture and Fish Stocking R657-16 (5 year review) ACTION**

As there is no change to the rules, no RAC/public comment or RAC/public questions

Second: Gary Nielson

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

RAC Chair, Ed Kent

Recognition of Rick Woodard, Representative on Wildlife Board.

4. Regional Update (Informational)

- John Fairchild, DWR Regional Supervisor

In the Wildlife section:

There were 20 Rocky Mountain goats released last week on Mt. Loafer by Spanish Fork. We are still dealing with nuisance bear calls most recently in Summit Park. Garbage pickup is contributing to the nuisance bear problems. We are using outreach in bear nuisance problem areas. We have had deer problems at Provo Airport. Biologists are trying to remove deer.

In the Aquatics section:

We have released over 40,000 June Suckers at Utah Lake as part of recovery project. These June suckers were raised at the Division Fishery Experiment Station in Logan. DWR biologists have been electro-shocking at Diamond Fork below Three Forks. The population of brown trout below Three Forks looks to be healthy but final numbers are not in yet. Cutthroats were also sampled. Kokanee salmon numbers down this year at Strawberry. Biologists are collecting Kokanee eggs but only working with about 10 percent of the population that biologists sampled last year.

In the Habitat section:

Habitat restoration projects, consisting of pinion & juniper clearing (lop and scatter), in the San Pete Wildlife Management areas, are scheduled for this fall.

In the Law Enforcement section:

Officer Ray Loken deserves special recognition for working a case in Alta where a trophy deer was illegally shot during the deer archery hunt. Several law enforcement bear cases where bears have been shot and killed under claims of personal safety. Please be sure that you are in danger before killing a bear because you can be investigated. Please use safe measures while out hunting and camping to prevent bear incidents.

The Annual Strawberry Festival was held this past Saturday at Visitor's Center at Strawberry Reservoir. There were enough Kokanee salmon on display for visitors to observe. People were treated to a spectacular display as the salmon moved up the river.

5. Fish Contest Proposed Rule (Informational)

- Drew Cushing, Warm Water/Community Fisheries Program Coordinator

This is a result of eight months of discussions about tournaments, contests, and clinics. We have divided these items into different options to review. We broke tournaments in to two different issues. One being cold water or trout and salmon tournaments the other being warm water fish tournaments. Each of these items has potential benefits to the Division. The benefits from fishing tournaments are high dollar fishing equipment, high-level fishing skills, and high dollar entry fees. The Division would benefit from potential revenue from Federal Aid from gear purchases, motorboat gas, etc. The tag fishing contests are low skill level and low investment and anyone could enter and would have a chance to win. The last would be fishing clinics and they would be educational in nature and would benefit the Division in future license sales. And it would educate the kids about ecosystems and angling in general. We are looking to solicit advice from the public on these issues.

1. Cold water fishing tournaments-

(Option 1): Should the DWR?

Reinstate historical rules at Flaming Gorge and Echo Reservoirs where there was no limit to the number of contestants or the amount that can be offered in total prizes.

Reinstate the statement that there may be a contest/tournament held on Echo Reservoir on Free Fishing Day.

Prohibit the culling of fish.

Prohibit live weigh tournaments or contests.

(Option 2): Should the DWR maintain the requirements of coldwater fish tournaments as they are currently? This would entail very little control over the specifics as to how the tournament would be conducted except for the number of contestants and the amount of cash or prizes that could be awarded.

2. Warm water fishing tournaments-

(Option 1): Should the DWR allow tournament participants to temporarily possess fish protected in length-restricted waters for the duration of specific tournaments? This would allow high publicity events comparing catch at the end of the tournament.

(Option 2): Should the DWR specify methods to weigh or measure fish at the site of capture. This would eliminate the need for participants to temporarily possess fish protected under special regulations, and still enable the contestants to weigh fish under DWR guidelines.

3. Tagged Fish Contests-

(Option 1): Should the DWR establish a list of waters where tagged fish contests could take place and establish guidelines to control those and other types of contests?

(Option 2) Should the DWR leave the tagged fish contest as is, which allows DWR to authorize fish tagging but no oversight on how the contest is conducted.

4. Youth Fishing Clinics-

(Option 1): Should the DWR clearly separate clinics from all other fishing tournaments and contests and make every attempt to encourage these types of events as well as reduce the requirements necessary for them to hold a clinic?

(Option 2): Should the DWR regulate clinics and manage them as contests or tournaments?

(Option 3): Should the DWR regulate only commercial fish clinics?

Questions from the public

Q: - Ray Shelble – Why are we going through this process at this time and to this extent? What are the benefits of going through this?

A: - Drew Cushing – This has been a discussion for the last nine months. State Parks are interested in boosting visitor days. And we are reviewing the rule to gauge public input on how we should proceed.

Q: - John Bair – Does the Division have any real heartburn with the way tournaments are run now? I didn't see a lot of specific concerns with the way it is now.

A: - Drew Cushing – There are other entities that are interested in liberalizing. Jordanelle is regionally famous water. One of the primary interests is to have a weigh-in on Jordanelle along with Quail Creek and Gunlock. These are the three big ones.

Q: - John Bair - Live weigh-in's are where you catch the fish take them back and weigh them and then release?

A: - Drew Cushing – Yes, sir. As far as the issue of whether or not the rule works now; I believe that it does with some modifications for nuisance species and some others.

Q: - Byron Gunderson – Ray, please elaborate What concerns you about this proposal?

A - Ray Shelble – I don't see any good background here to look at changing the rules. Our waters that can support big fishing tournaments are already supporting them. If we are looking at big fishing tournaments on Jordanelle; it's not a big lake. Plus in the warm water section, Option two is already legal. We don't need a change for that. I am looking for why this is even being broached right now. I understand that State Parks needs more business. I don't see how this will increase their business. Option 2 takes no changes?

A – Drew Cushing – In some regards. But there has been talk of a chase boat going out and possess the fish for a short period of time. But you have to release the fish at the sight of capture. I think what we are asking is “Do we want to liberalize things or take a more conservative approach?”

Q: Duane Smith – You didn't really clarify the weigh in procedure.

A: Drew Cushing –The weigh in procedure would be that the angler would bring in a number of fish within the legal limit, which you can possess on a water such as East Canyon which doesn't have a size limit. The angler would possess those fish for the day and then at the end of the day bring them into to a central location to be weighed and they are grandstanded so that the other anglers and general public can see and be weighed. The difference between that and what occurs now at Jordanelle is that the tournament takes place on a length-restricted water and they can't possess those fish. So what they would do is catch the fish and have a buddy who is randomly drawn measure the fish and release it immediately where it was caught. That would be the difference.

Q: Duane Smith – Would you release the fish that are grandstanded?

A: Drew Cushing – Yes

Q: Duane Smith – How and where would they be released?

A: Drew Cushing – Not within a quarter mile of where they are weighed.

Q: Byron Gunderson – Would there be some kind of requirement for equipment to keep the fish while they are alive? Is a five-gallon bucket ok to keep the fish in until they are weighed? We would need use of an oversized something.

A: Drew Cushing – Currently it's not in the rules on how those fish are handled. Details will have to be addressed in the CORs for the tournaments. Other states have dealt with the issues with success. Anything we do is an improvement in my opinion over the way we do it now.

Q: Ed Kent – What is the live well mortality rate for cold water and warm water tournaments?

A: Drew Cushing – We have never allowed or want to allow coldwater live well tournaments. Because once you put a coldwater trout or salmon in a live well, it's pretty much done. So we don't even want to go there. In a warm water study done by Wisconsin, day of tournament live well mortality was about three percent. Delayed mortality was pretty constant running between twenty-three and twenty seven percent. They correlated the size of tournaments with an increase in mortality. So the larger the tournament; the higher the mortality rate. The rougher the water; the higher the mortality. The warmer the water; the higher the mortality.

Q: Ed Kent – What about catch and release mortality?

A: Drew Cushing – It's the same as regular angling. It's fairly low. All the tournament anglers have to use artificial bait and lures. So the release of those fish immediately after they are caught and weighed keeps mortality low.

Comments from the public

Kylon Lovell – I need some clarification. Twenty five percent of the fish caught in a live well are going to die? That seems like a pretty high rate of fish to kill for a tournament.

Drew Cushing – That's based on a one hundred-tournament study in Wisconsin.

Ray Schelble – I really would have liked the Division to take more leadership in this. This didn't come up in the spring. It's come up now. I just think we need to be real careful. It's not an emergency; I mean there are certain tweaks such as nuisance species. I'd be real leery about making too many changes to what appears to already working now.

Wayne Crowder – The data from the Wisconsin tournaments? Why aren't we using data that relates to tournament organizations that have been around since the seventy's? Why aren't we using a national average?

Drew Cushing – That was the most recent tournament study that I found in the nation.

Lyle Gingery – I am the Park Manager for Jordanelle State Park. I have been at Jordanelle for nine years and I have heard a lot of statements from the public. I do not support one side or the other. I do believe that there are a number of fisherman especially bass fisherman who would like to participate in a tournament. I think that would be a draw for a certain aspect of angling. I believe that DWR has done an excellent job with the fisheries at Jordanelle. This is really a social thing, as Drew has said. This is not a biological issue. We are dealing with what the public wants and that's what we are here for.

Byron Gunderson – I take exception to the idea that we have to do what the public wants. I think that resource and help of the resource is our first concern. We could kill every deer in the state if that's what the public wants. And on the Wisconsin deal, it's just my experience that when you collect fish from a depth where the water is cold and put them in a live well where the water comes from the surface, you are going to experience a high rate of thermal shock. Wisconsin is mostly natural lakes that are shallow and uniform in temperature. Out here in the west in our reservoirs, we have greater depth and fish that utilize the cooler water and unless we had some kind of refrigeration system, I think we would have a greater mortality rate.

Richard Hansen – Are fishing tournaments becoming a bigger thing in the state? Is it something that is growing? What's the situation with that?

Drew Cushing – There are a number of tournaments that we don't know are going on. And that's the truth. Last year we had twenty CORs in Utah for tournaments that needed CORs. There were a number of illegal tournaments and also tournaments that were small enough that they did not need a COR. It's anyone's guess as to how many we have annually; perhaps a hundred or more. And I think they are becoming more popular.

Richard Hansen – Does it have any impact on the general fishing public. Do tournaments cause problems for other anglers?

Drew Cushing – There were two tournaments last year, one on Willard Bay and one on East Canyon, where we received complaints. The person who was hosting those tournaments apparently got a ticket. He was clogging up boat ramps.

Richard Hansen – How long before they have a fishing tournament are they required to submit an application?

Drew Cushing – 60 days

Richard Hansen – Is there any way that they could schedule that to be published so that the general public would know that there is a fishing tournament?

Drew Cushing – That has been discussed. And if you would like to make that comment that would be nice. We have a place on our website where we could announce tournaments. I think that's important information.

Q: Ed Kent – We need to be discriminatory.

A: Drew Cushing – That is what we are here to discuss. There is a conflict as to equal rights and who is able to do what. It was mentioned in the Wisconsin study as well. There are some conflicts that will need to be taken in consideration.

RAC Discussion

Cold Water Tournaments (2 options)

Byron Gunderson – Really 3 options. One is to leave things alone and do more study before we submit anything to the RAC.

Ed Kent – No I think there are just 2 options (2) Be more conservative or to (1) Be more liberal.

Drew Cushing answer – That's pretty close. But I would hesitate to leave it alone because there are some issues that need to be addressed. We need to look at it. We need some protocol in tournaments.

Gary Nielson – In the historical rules, with Flaming Gorge and Echo. Why did we do away with them?

Drew Cushing – It was a mistake. Several years ago the tournament rule was in the proclamation. When the tournament rule was removed from the proclamation, it was omitted. There were no issues, positive or negative. Coalville City had a tournament every year that ran well. That is one that was removed. If it were reinstated, it would help Coalville for sure.

Gary Nielson – Is there any language in the rest of this about cold water? If you reel one in from down deep, that's pretty much the end of him unless you take really good care of him.

Drew Cushing – That's a fact. The way it is now, once you possess a cold-water fish, it's possessed. That's your fish.

Ed Kent – These options are just general topic items. If you go with Ray Shelble's recommendation, you are going to give us a foundation for recommendations and a direction.

Drew Cushing – Yes, this is a social issue. There will be fish lost in a tournament. But whether or not fifty people catching two hundred fish is enough to upset an ecosystem is doubtful. But when a general angler sees this or sees dead fish or sees fish in a tournament that he is not allowed to possess that is an issue. And that's why we are addressing this in a social setting tonight.

VOTING-

Cold Water Fish Tournaments (information for the RAC)

Motion made by Byron Gunderson to accept option 1

Second by Duane Smith

Motion passed unanimously

Fred abstained from voting

Warm water Fish Tournaments (information for the RAC)

Motion made by Byron Gunderson to accept option 2

Second by John Bair

Motion passed unanimously

Tagged fishing contest (informational for the RAC)

Gary Nielsen – Have they had any problems at all with the tagged fish contest as is?

Have we had issues?

Drew Cushing – Increased visitors, increased license sales, increased fishing pressure at the one at Lake Powell. The issue was at Strawberry Reservoir, where some fish that were caught and released didn't do very well.

Motion made by Byron Gunderson to accept option 1

Second by Duane Smith

Motion passes unanimously

Community Fishing Clinic (informational for the RAC)

Motion made by Byron Gunderson to accept option 1 and recommend that the DWR put more resources behind that.

Second by Fred Oswald

Motion passes unanimously

6. Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles (ACTION)

- Laura Hines, Native Aquatics Species Biologist

The amphibian reptile collection importation and possession rule was reviewed by the RACs and approved the Wildlife Board this past March. During the rule revisions, numerous collection options were examined including a stamp to the hunting and fishing license and an amphibian reptile license. We finally decided on a preauthorized COR in a draw format for personal collection of amphibians and reptiles listed as "controlled". "Controlled" is defined as requiring a COR to collect, possess, import, transport, and propagate these species. This is the first time native species in Utah that are listed as "controlled" have been authorized for collection or possession for personal use in any program. Applicants may apply for one COR for one species per year. Applications will be accepted the second full week of January and a public drawing will take place if applications exceed the number of permits available. Applicants may indicate a first, second, and third choice. There will be one species per county, with a few exceptions. There are two permits in a few counties. The fees associated with the preauthorized

CORs follow the license fee increase approved in 2007 by the Utah State Legislature. It's a non-refundable application fee of ten dollars. The collection fee is seventy-five dollars. The number of permits for each species, bag limits, and the designation of open and closed areas was determined following a review by a group that included academia (BYU and USU professors) and DWR biologists. The recommendations were then reviewed by the Utah Herpetological Association, and now we are having the Wildlife RAC and Board review. This proposal just relates to preauthorized CORs; we still have CORs that will be granted through the regular process for scientific research, education and even personal use. This is the first year for preauthorized CORs and we're going to gauge public interest and determine the collection pressure and impact on the species. In 2006, only seven CORs were issued and in 2007, only four of those were renewed. We do expect an increase because we are giving out these preauthorized CORs. We do lack population status information. Our knowledge on the distribution and abundance of these species is very limited. In addition, there are increasing impacts to these species' habitats such as wildfires, urban development, and non-native species introduction. Information that we do have on a couple of species was used to base the permit numbers and bag limit for a couple of species. This will be an annual process. We will increase and decrease the number of permits based on information collected throughout the year. The species that will not be allowed to be collected are listed on the slides and in the agenda. The recommendation for this year is as follows:

Northern Leopard Frog- ten permits with one bag limit with a limit of one permit per county. The season will be from June 1 through October 31.

California King Snake will have six permits with a bag limit of one with two permits in Garfield, Kane, and San Juan. The season will be from March 1 through October 31. This is post hibernation.

Smooth Greensnake - six permits

Utah Milksnake - eight permits

Utah Mountain Kingsnake - four permits with a bag limit of one. The season will be March 1 through October 31.

Questions from the RAC

Q: John Bair – I see your season dates but I don't see a bonus point system. In case I don't draw this year... Is this real popular because if someone goes a couple of years and doesn't get one, they are going to ask for a point system.

A: Laura Hines – I am not sure. If we have a lot of interest, that is something that we can consider.

Q: Allen Stevens – What is the difference between the COR and the preauthorized COR?

A: Laura Hines – They don't have to go through the regular process of filling out a COR application and wait for a 30-45-day review. The preauthorized COR doesn't have to be reviewed by the Division of Wildlife, biologist in Salt Lake and Regional biologist. If you apply for it and your name gets drawn, you get it.

Q: Duane Smith – You talked about an annual review, but you say that the only data that you have is presence and absence data. Do you have plans to monitor these counties or populations or is this such a small impact that you are not going to worry about it?

A: Laura Hines – We don't know what the impact will be on the populations. That's why we have been very conservative with permit numbers. We lack a lot of information. We have some ideas on how to collect the information. We have the members from the Utah Herpetological Association working with us help with volunteer surveys. Funding is limited. So we are looking "outside the box" for ways to obtain population information.

Q: Duane Smith – Could you require the person who gets this COR to submit different types of data on time spent in the field and pursuit?

A: Laura Hines – There will be an annual questionnaire and report. We will get a limited amount of data.

Questions from the Public – None

Comments from the Public

Whit Lovell – This looks like a lot of money. Unless this is an endangered species or there is a problem, there is no need to put a lot of money into this kind of thing. This looks like a desert tortoise thing to me.

RAC discussion

Q: Richard Hansen – Who required the Division to do this? Was it mandated?

A: Laura Hines – The review process of the proclamation began before I started. But my understanding is that there was some political involvement to allow collection of our native amphibians and reptiles. Some surrounding states have much more liberal collection laws and some states are similar to us, such as Colorado. They are very conservative. It was in the interest of the Utah Herpetological Association and political folks, too.

Q: Ed Kent – This issue was brought around to the RACs in March?

A: Laura Hines – The Division biologists have worked on this for a very long time.

Q: Richard Hansen – I am just trying to get a little history on this.

Q: John Bair – Didn't they tell us in March that this took like seven years to put together?

A: Laura Hines – That is correct.

Motion made by John Bair to accept the Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles as presented

Second by Allen Stevens

Motion passes unanimously

10. Fishing Proclamation and Wildlife Rule R657-13 (ACTION)

- Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

The proposals are identical to the ones we proposed in the spring except for one water in the Northern Region that we tabled. Based on some discussions we had with the Forest Service and some anglers. The changes that we are proposing are minimal in nature from that original presentation. We did hand out a two-page document with the proposed

changes. There are some minor tweaks to the mailer that went out. We have four main objectives that we are working with. We are trying to simplify clarify and standardize regulations. Some examples of this are:

- 1) We are proposing to simplify the spearfishing regulations. We are proposing a statewide standardization of our Burbot limit. Removing the “you may not release any Burbot” line.
- 2) We are also proposing the simplification of a number of stream regulations in Northern Utah.
- 3) We want to continue to refine the Fishing Guide format. That was very successful last year. We had a lot of positive comments about the ease in which people could read it. We want to provide a wide variety of opportunities to anglers.
- 4) We are proposing an allowance of perch harvest at Yuba this year. We are also proposing some changes to our possession and transportation rule as it pertains to filleting. We think this will make it a lot easier for people to understand what they can legally do. It would make it easier for people to fillet on the water. We think this is a major move forward.
- 5) We want to protect the aquatic resources of the state. We are proposing bait restrictions. We are concerned about diseases, genetic contamination, and a number of invasives. Invasives have come to the forefront with the Quagga Mussels. We want to protect our natives and our sport fish from these invasives. We are moving to a catch and kill for small-mouthed bass on the Green River. We have a number of concerns on the Green River for our native fish. It’s for your information since it does not concern your region. We are also proposing a protection of cutthroat trout on Woodruff Reservoir, too. These two items were added after the mailer.
- 6) As part of the filleting recommendation, we had to define “filleting” and “camp”. It wasn’t previously defined.
- 7) We had to define “free-shafting” as part of our spearfishing rule. The spear fisherman requested a ban on “free-shafting” which is releasing a spear that is not tethered to a diver. Because we were talking about tournaments, we thought that “live well” should be specified with in the definition of possession limit. There was confusion last year about spearfishing and which waters were open to non-game and as a result we felt it necessary to define a spear and spearfishing. The confusion was in regards to the definition of spearfishing. We want to distinguish the two items spear and spearfishing in regards to fishing above the surface and below the surface.
- 8) We are discussing putting the fishing tournament rules in a separate rule. A number of advantages to this would be that we could open this at any time. We wouldn’t have to wait until spring to have any discussions or make changes. We will be moving to make this a separate rule. However we have to maintain in the existing rule 657-13 until we make that change. In December, we will bring an action item for the fishing tournaments.
- 9) There was confusion on Bear Lake as to which state, Utah or Idaho, to buy their second pole permit. It now states that you must purchase your second pole permit

- from the state in which you purchased your fishing license. We are working on a similar agreement with Arizona.
- 10) We brought the underwater spearfishing issue to the attention of the RAC's last fall and last spring. We are proposing a prohibition on "free-shafting" because of safety considerations and game retrieval. The divers were very supportive of this idea. We are proposing to remove Joe's Valley from the spearfishing list. We are proposing to add three waters, Jordanelle, Pineview with the exception of Tiger Muskie, and Yuba Reservoir. These would be the only waters open to spearfishing. Also, the spear-fishermen have asked that we extend the season until November 30th. The actual harvest by spear-fishermen is very limited. The bag and possession limit has changed. The bag and possession limit for spear-fishermen would be the same as it is for other anglers. Carp can be taken anywhere.
 - 11) We had a lot of discussion about bait regulations this year. There were concerns about Tiger Salamanders. There were concerns about viral issues in the Great Lakes region and importation of frozen bait from the Great Lakes area into Utah. We do have emerald shiners in the stores that come from the Great Lakes area and we want to prohibit that. We are concerned with disease and genetic introgression and contamination. The change is use or possession of salamanders live or dead while fishing is unlawful. There are some artificial baits out there or soon to hit the market that are commercially embedded with fish or fish parts. We are going to err on the side of caution and prohibit these baits. We want to clarify the fish parts that can be used as bait. We will add Yuba Reservoir to the use of dead perch as bait. We will continue to allow the use of commercially prepared salt-water fish as bait. We are trying to work with the Department of Agriculture to stop the importation of bait from the Great Lakes.
 - 12) We are proposing that at all but three waters, Strawberry, Panguich and Jordanelle, that game fish may be filleted, altered, dressed after completing the act of fishing. We also made an exception for fish that are being consumed right on the lake for fishing events. We have special needs for the three reservoirs, so we felt like we need to retain the previous standard. And those waters are listed as exceptions.
 - 13) There is one change in the bag and possession limit, Burbot was listed last year as a twenty-five fish limit. But it was still a catch and kill. This year it would be a "no limit" on Burbot and anglers may not release any Burbot that they catch. Tilapia was discovered in Blue Lake and we don't want them moving to other waters. We are proposing a catch and kill for Tilapia on Blue Lake.
 - 14) Diamond Fork Creek was closed last year after treatment and restocking of native Cutthroat. We are proposing to remove that prohibition and go to general statewide. For Grantsville Reservoir, we are just adding the wording to kill immediately. Jordanelle Reservoir we are just adding the wording that fish may not be filleted and heads and tails may not be removed in transit. Spanish Oaks Reservoir is something that was not included last year. We want to add the wording that it is closed between December and February. Strawberry Reservoir will have the filleting restriction. At Yuba Reservoir, we are proposing the ten

perch limit and also the winter prohibition against releasing to prevent perch mortality.

Questions from the RAC

Q: Allan Stevens – Is a new regulation that 12 year olds need a license?

A: Roger Wilson – That was passed this year by the Utah Legislature and it will appear in the proclamation.

Q: Allan Stevens – With the possession of bag limits, is that another change this year? Is there a second bag limit?

A: Roger Wilson – No, it's the same as it was last year. We have a second pole permit but not a second daily limit.

Q: Byron Gunderson – We talked about wasting smallmouth bass. Is there going to be a problem because you can't release it?

A: Roger Wilson – To my knowledge there wasn't a problem at Grantsville this year. Are you aware of anything, John?

Comment from John Fairchild – I haven't heard of any problems.

Q: Ed Kent – I've been approached by a couple of fly fishermen about mirroring the regulations for Panguitch to those of Strawberry.

A: Roger Wilson – Panguitch is a little different than Strawberry. It's similar in productivity and we are trying to mirror that predator management program. The difference is that out of state anglers make up a large portion of the anglers that fish Panguitch Lake. The region felt that a rainbow and cutthroat limit was too complicated for out of state anglers. We couldn't develop an outreach program like we have at Strawberry.

Questions from the public – none

Questions/Comments from the public

Q: NO NAME OR CARD What is a burbot?

A: Roger Wilson – Burbot is native to some parts of Eastern Wyoming. They were introduced into the western drainages including Flaming Gorge. They are a member of the Cod family. We have concerns about Burbot. We are concerned about its impact on Kokanee and if they get into the rivers, we would be concerned their impact on our native fish. We want the fish removed, if possible, by anglers.

Comments from the RAC

Q: Ed Kent – How are we going change the tournament rule in the middle of the year?

A: Roger Wilson – We will have to come forward with an emergency change to remove that tournament rule from the proclamation. In the new proclamation we will just reference the new rule.

Allan Stevens – This is the second year that the RAC has tried to simplify the proclamation and I still think that is one of the major obstacles to getting people out there to fish. When you have thirty some odd pages of exceptions, that's not simplification. That's why I don't take my kids fishing. Maybe I'm too lazy to go to the proclamation if I want to go to a different water. I only go to one or two waters in which I know the regulations. I don't think you will increase your fishing population unless you really simplify it.

Motion made by John Bair to accept the fishing proclamation and rule as presented
Second by Byron Gunderson
Motion passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned

*Next CRO RAC meeting will be held **November 13th***
*Wildlife Board meeting will be held **October 4th***
*Total in attendance: **60***

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY-MOTIONS PASSED
Western Park, Vernal/Sept. 13,2007

6.Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles

MOTION: to accept as presented by DWR

Passed- 4 to 1 (Karl Breitenbach voted nay, stating he thought all collection should be illegal)

7.8 & 9. Brine Shrimp Rule, Commercial Harvesting of Protected Aquatic Wildlife, Aquaculture & Fish Stocking

MOTION: to accept as proposed

Passed unanimously

10.Fishing Proclamation and Rule

MOTION: to accept as proposed

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY MEETING

September 13, 2007

Western Park, Vernal Utah 84078

Started 6:00 pm; adjourned 7:51 pm

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

RON STEWART-NER Conservation Outreach
BEN WOLFORD- NER Conservation Officer
WALT DONALDSON-Aquatic Program Chief
ROGER WILSON- Wildlife Program Coordinator
DREW CUSHING-Wildlife Program Coordinator
LAURA HINES- Wildlife Biologist II
ROGER SCHNEIDERVIN- Wildlife Program manager
ROSE FEDELLECK-Office Technician I

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

KEVIN CHRISTOPHERSON-NER Supervisor
KARL BREITENBACH-At Large
BETH HAMANN- Non-Consumptive
CURTIS DASTRUP-Agriculture
BOB CHRISTENSEN-Forest Service
JAY GROVES substituting for CARLOS REED)-Ute Tribe

UNEXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:

ROD HARRISON-Elected Official
NANCY BOSTICK-EBBERT-Non-Consumptive

EXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:

KIRK WOODWARD-Sportsman
AMY TORRES-Chair
ROD MORRISON-Sportsman
CARLOS REED-Native American
FLOYD BRIGGS-At-Large

1,2 &3. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA AND MINUTES; OLD BUSINESS-Bob Christensen for Amy Torres

4.REGIONAL UPDATE: Kevin Christopherson

Bears are a big issue. The drought has had a big effect on the bears, we are stressing that camp areas be kept clean. Garbage containers are failing.

- September 25th is a black-footed ferret release.
- Interviewed for full-time maintenance person who will be working on land issues.
- Kokanee Salmon day will be held Sept 22nd from 9 am to 3 pm. Spawning numbers have been down in the past but we are happy to see a 200 percent increase in salmon spawning this year.
- The UDWR is gearing up to deal with Quagga Mussels. Our new Quagga Mussels Biologist is coming. We are lucky to have him; He has good experience in this field.
- We are working on containing whirling disease in Duchesne River; we believe we have everything in place.
- Cottonwood Reservoir will be drained two more feet, we want to drop water down quickly before winter and do the repairs.
- The Habitat section has completed two burns
- Stewart's Lake is empty; we would like to refill next spring when Green River water levels are up.
- Timber Canyon fish salvage.

5.FISH CONTEST PROPOSED RULE: Drew Cushing

A slide show was presented on tournaments, contests and clinics

Questions from RAC:

Karl Breitenbach: What percent of fishermen attend these functions?

Drew Cushing: 1%. It's mostly mom and pop fishermen who oppose.

Karl Breitenbach: I don't approve of keeping fish in live wells.

Curtis Dastrup: Who promotes these activities?

Drew Cushing: Coalville Community puts on the event.

Curtis Dastrup: Are the Walleye tournaments good for the economy?

Drew Cushing: Yes, There is economic benefit for surrounding towns, tackle sales go up, it may increase stays at parks and clinics, and may increase future sales.

Karl Breitenbach: How responsible are fisherman for contamination of quagga mussels?

Drew Cushing: That needs to be addressed, Lake Powell does check, but nowhere else yet.

Comments from the RAC:

Karl Breitenbach: Tournament anglers do go more places.

Walt Donaldson: All contests will include nuisance control. There will be some protocol in the COR's.

Discussion on issues with various waters around the region. Most of the tournaments are on warm water fisheries (Flaming George, Pelican Lake, and Starvation Res.).

Karl Breitenbach: How do we gain information?

Drew Cushing: Through e-mails, letters, and regional offices.

Discussion on pros and cons of contests. Promoting fishing verses impacts to average anglers.

Karl Breitenbach: I understand the general public's feeling. I do have a concern for the fish's welfare. From personal history I know they usually die.

Kevin Christopherson: So are we inclined to keep regulations as they are?

MOTION by Karl Breitenbach to keep the rules the same, keeping slots equal for general public, contestants and tournament.

Second by Beth Hamann

Passed unanimously

Comments from the public:

Drew Cushing: I would like feedback from the public.

Clay Hamman: I'm in favor of what Karl Breitenbach said, I don't think special regulations should apply for tournaments, it should be the same for every good 'ole boy. I also have concern for the commercialization of wildlife.

George Sommer (Utah Bass Federation):

Tournament Proposal (see letter)

6. PRE-AUTHORIZED COR FOR PERSONAL COLLECTION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES- LAURA HINES

Questions from RAC:

Karl Breitenbach: What a lot of bull, why don't we just stop all collection of wild creatures?

Beth Hamann: Permits for research or education could be good. I don't like people to collect either.

Discussion on scientific research

Laura Hines: We hope this curtails illegal collection and helps find data.

Comments from the RAC:

Kevin Christopherson: Utah is the most restrictive state concerning collection of amphibians; other states think we have it right.

Beth Hamann: How many illegal takes are there?

Walt Donaldson: A few, it does happen. We are trying to put a plan into place, need public input, being conservative.

Questions from public: None

Comments from public: None

Motion by Bob Christensen to accept as presented

Second by Curtis Dastrup

Motion passed 4 to 1. Karl Breitenbach opposed

**7,8,& 9 BRINE SHRIMP RULE, COMMERCIAL HARVESTING of
PROTECTED AQUATIC WILDLIFE, AQUACULTURE AND FISH STOCKING-
ROGER WILSON**

Questions from RAC:

Curtis Dastrup: Are the CORs one or two year?

Walt Donaldson: Annual, with preference when rules and fees are obeyed.

Curtis Dastrup: I can't put a pond on a natural spring?

Drew Cushing: We're not telling you about private waters, just commercial waters.

Curtis Dastrup: If beavers build a dam, can I stock it?

Drew Cushing: Yes, if the fish stay put.

Questions from public:

Comments from public:

Walt Donaldson: Collection waters are good, mainstream waters need to be regulated.

Motion by Bob Christianson to accept all three proposals by UDWR

Second by Beth Hamann

Passed unanimously

10. FISHING PROCLAMATION AND RULE- ROGER WILSON

(See handout)

Questions from RAC: None

Questions from public:

Clay Hamann: Shouldn't camper shells/trucks/sleeping arrangements be in the rule?

Roger Wilson: I believe we addressed that with temporary/overnight accommodations. Once at "camp" they can file.

Comments from RAC: None

Questions from public: None

Comments from public: None

MOTION by Bob Christensen to accept as proposed

Second by Karl Breitenbach

Passed unanimously

Bob Christensen presented a tournament letter for consideration.

Kevin Christopherson: We will consider letter in our resolution.

Meeting adjourned 7:51 pm.

MOTIONS MATRIX
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL
JOHN WESLEY POWELL MUSEUM IN GREEN RIVER
September 12, 2007

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: to approve the agenda as amended.

PASSED: unanimously

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the August 15 meeting as written.

PASSED: unanimously

FISHING CONTEST PROPOSED RULE--INFORMATIONAL

MOTION: N/A

PASSED:

PRE-AUTHORIZED COR FOR COLLECTION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

MOTION: to approve the pre-authorization process for granting CORs for the collection of amphibians and reptiles as presented.

PASSED: unanimously

BRINE SHRIMP RULE R657-52 (5-YEAR REVIEW)

COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF AQUATIC WILDLIFE RULE R657-14

AQUACULTURE AND FISH STOCKING R657-16 (5-YEAR REVIEW)

MOTION: to approve the above three rules as presented by Roger Wilson.

PASSED: unanimously

FISHING PROCLAMATION AND RULE R657-13

MOTION: to approve the 2008 Fishing Proclamation and Rule as presented.

PASSED: unanimously

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River

September 12, 2007

Commence at 6:30 p.m. Adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Adams, Bruce | At Large |
| Bayles, Lyle | At Large |
| Byrnes, Verd | At Large |
| Gilson, James | Sportsmen |
| Hoskisson, Wayne | Environmental |
| Kamala, Laura | Environmental |
| Larson, Rick | Regional Supervisor |
| Maldonado, Walt | Sportsmen |
| Riddle, Pam | BLM |
| Sanslow, Terry | At Large |
| Sitterud, Drew | Elected Official |

EXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Albrecht, Kevin | U.S. Forest Service |
| Hatch, Jordan | Agriculture |

UNEXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Lewis, Kurt | Agriculture |
|-------------|-------------|

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard, Lee

DWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Birdsey, Paul
Clark, Alan
Cushing, Drew
Donaldson, Walt
Hart, Justin
Hines, Laura
Larson, Rick
Luft, John
Robertson, T.J.
Stettler, Brent
Wilson, Roger

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE 3

CONDUCTING THE MEETING

-James Gilson, Chairman

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

James Gilson invited the RAC to allow Roger Wilson to present agenda items 7, 8, and 9 in a single block. Discussion of the three could then be considered together.

Rick Larson asked the RAC to approve the substitution of his regional overview with a PowerPoint presentation by Paul Birdsey on Joes Valley Reservoir fisheries management.

MOTION by Bruce Adams to accept the proposed changes to the agenda.

SECOND by Drew Sitterud

PASSED unanimously

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

MOTION by Terry Sanslow to approve the minutes of the August 15 meeting as written.

SECOND by Walt Maldonado

PASSED unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

By James Gilson, RAC Chairman

James summarized a few of the decisions made by the Utah Wildlife Board at its last meeting. The CWMU Rule passed as presented by the DWR, except for a variance on the corner-to-corner regulation. Another change was made with regard to the 50:50 moose tag split. The matter was renegotiated and settled. Board minutes may be found at:

http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/

JOES VALLEY RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

-By Paul Birdsey, Regional Aquatics Program Manager

Questions from the RAC:

James Gilson asked questions about the Strawberry Reservoir treatment and how that compared to the Joes Valley Reservoir situation.

Paul Birdsey had participated in the Strawberry Reservoir treatment was able to provide details for comparison and contrast.

James Gilson asked how old a splake would have to be before switching to a diet of chubs.

Paul Birdsey answered that a Joes Valley Reservoir splake would need to be 4-5 years old.

James asked about the age of a trophy fish and how many chubs such a fish might consume.

Paul didn't have that kind of data, but suggested that a large splake would consume a lot of chubs.

Questions from the Audience:

Lee Howard asked about the fishing closure at Joes Valley from November until the second week of December.

James Gilson explained that a temporary closure was needed to stop the practice of splake snagging during their vulnerable spawning period.

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

Drew Sitterud noted that the aquatics manager preceding Paul Birdsey had promised to introduce kokanee salmon in order to increase angler use and to justify funding for the new boat ramp.

Paul responded that another game fish couldn't be introduced until the chubs had been knocked down. There just wasn't enough forage and space in the reservoir to accommodate another fish species. Paul cited his experience with chubs at Flaming Gorge Reservoir and how fisheries biologists had eliminated the chub problem there, using smallmouth bass. Paul expressed his intention to introduce smallmouth bass to Joes Valley to accomplish the same thing.

Drew asked about the drop in the splake population, following the two-year period, when splake were not stocked.

Paul answered that he wasn't sure.

MOTION by N/A

SECOND by

PASSED

FISH CONTEST PROPOSED RULE—(INFORMATIONAL)

-By Drew Cushing, Community Fisheries Program Coordinator

Questions, Comments and Discussion from the RAC:

Terry Sanslow asked how well trout do in a live well.

Drew Cushing answered that they stressed a lot faster than warm water fish.

Drew Sitterud asked where fishing tournaments have been held in Utah.

Cushing cited Flaming Gorge and Lake Powell as popular tournament locations.

Drew Sitterud asked why smaller reservoirs didn't attract tournament sponsors.

Cushing responded that smaller reservoirs offer too little space for tournament goers and result in too much pressure on the fishery.

Drew Sitterud asked about the benefits and impacts of a "tagged fish" contest.

Cushing said that these contests are very attractive to the public, because the average angler has as much chance to win as a high-dollar professional.

James Gilson read a statement from the Salt Lake County Fish and Game. Following the statement, James asked when a recommendation would come before the RAC as an action item. Cushing indicated that it would appear as an action item in December.

Walt Maldonado spoke about his experience with fishing tournaments throughout the United States and described the efforts made by responsible sponsors to ensure the well-being of tournament fish and protect the rights of non-tournament anglers.

Representing the Utah Bass Federation (UBA), Walt Maldonado presented the federation's recommendations. These include: 1) mandatory registration of all contests and tournaments; 2) identification of tournament contestants, using boat banners or other identification means; 3) stipulation that tournaments occur only on weekdays to minimize conflict with weekend anglers; 4) imposition of penalties and suspension for tournament sponsors who violate rules; and 5) raising the fee for a COR to help fund a future warm water fish hatchery.

In behalf of the Utah Bass Federation, Walt Maldonado congratulated DWR fisheries program managers for their willingness to listen to angler organizations.

James Gilson asked how Drew Cushing hoped to collect input before December.

Cushing said that in addition to comments received from RACs and the Wildlife Board, he was contacting other states with fishing tournament regulations, in order to find out how they managed their programs.

Rick Larson informed the RAC and public that they could email him with their input and he would forward that input to Drew Cushing.

Walt Donaldson emphasized the need to provide input as soon as possible, so that there is enough time for the DWR to compile the input and develop a recommendation for public review prior to the December RAC meeting line-up.

James Gilson asked what issues concerned tournament opponents.

Walt Donaldson said that there had been complaints about special privileges being awarded to big-spending sponsors. Some people questioned whether or not the Division would receive additional revenue, and whether the program would become a liability to the Division in terms of personnel time and its perceived role as a referee.

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Bruce Wilson of the Emery County Public Lands Council reported that in years' past, fishing contests at Joes Valley Reservoir had been very popular, had boosted angler use, and had been a boon to the local economy.

PRE-AUTHORIZED COR FOR COLLECTION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

-By Laura Hines, Native Aquatic Species Biologist

Questions, Comments and Discussion from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

MOTION by Drew Sitterud to approve the pre-authorization process for granting CORs for the purpose of collection of amphibians and reptiles as presented.
SECOND by Bruce Adams
PASSED unanimously

BRINE SHRIMP RULE R657-52 (5-YEAR REVIEW)

-By Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF AQUATIC WILDLIFE RULE R657-14

-By Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

AQUACULTURE AND FISH STOCKING R657-16 (5-YEAR REVIEW)

-By Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

Questions, Comments and Discussion from the RAC:

Walt Maldonado asked about the history of burbot at Flaming Gorge Reservoir, and if any had been documented in the Green River.

Walt Donaldson said that the DWR had known of its presence in Utah for four years. None have been found in the Green River at this point.

James Gilson asked what brought about the proposed change in special regulations for Electric Lake tributaries.

Paul Birdsey explained that special regulations had been implemented to protect the Division's source for cutthroat trout eggs. However, since the Division stopped using the Yellowstone cutthroat strain, the lake and its tributaries lost their importance. As a result, special regulations are no longer necessary.

James Gilson asked if other kinds of trout would be stocked at Electric Lake.

Paul answered that tiger trout were being stocked this fall.

In opposition to the proposed mandatory kill of small mouth bass in the Green River, Walt Maldonado expressed his opinion that smallmouth bass be protected.

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

MOTION by Pam Riddle to accept the 2008 Fishing Proclamation and Rule as presented.

SECOND by Verd Byrnes

PASSED: unanimously

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick Larson asked if the RAC would approve his proposal to substitute the "Regional Overview" with a special presentation on some timely topic at the beginning of each RAC meeting. RAC members nodded their heads in agreement.

James Gilson interjected that such presentations would be subject to the vote of the RAC at the beginning of each meeting.

Lee Howard of the Utah Wildlife Board commended RAC members on their faithful attendance at meetings, and expressed the importance RAC motions play for him in the decisions made by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

James Gilson adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Beaver High School
Beaver, UT
Sept 11, 2007
7:00 p.m.**

REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the minutes with the requirement that the tape be reviewed for accuracy on page 9.

VOTE: 9 in favor, 1 opposed

PRE-AUTHORIZED COR FOR PERSONAL COLLECTION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

MOTION: To accept the Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles as presented.

VOTE: 6 in favor, 4 opposed

**BRINE SHRIMP RULE R657-52
COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF PROTECTED AQUATIC WILDLIFE RULE R 657-14
AQUACULTURE AND FISH STOCKING RULE R657-52**

MOTION: To present, discuss, and vote on the Brine Shrimp Rule, Commercial Harvesting Rule, and the Aquaculture and Fish Stocking Rule together as one item.

VOTE: unanimous (1 RAC member absent from vote)

MOTION: To accept the Brine Shrimp Rule, Commercial Harvesting Rule, and the Aquaculture and Fish Stocking Rule as presented.

VOTE: unanimous (1 RAC member absent from vote)

FISHING PROCLAMATION AND RULE R657-13

MOTION: To accept the Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13 as presented.

VOTE: 9 in favor, 1 opposed

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
 Snow College
 Richfield, UT
 April 17, 2007
 6:30 p.m.**

| RAC Members Present | DWR Personnel Present | Wildlife Board Present | RAC Members Not Present |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jake Albrecht, chairman Harry Barber Sam Carpenter Steve Dalton James Edwards Steve Flinders Gary Hallows Jack Hill Cordell Pearson Rex Stanworth Clair Woodbury | Josh Carver Lynn Chamberlain Drew Cushings Walt Donaldson Albert Enriquez Laura Hines Giani Julander John Loft Douglas Messerly Mike Ottenbacher Gabe Patterson Tim Shurtliff Roger Wilson | Tom Hatch Paul Niemeyer | Dell LeFevre Kim Robinson |

Chairman Jake Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 35 interested parties in attendance in addition to the RAC members, Wildlife Board members and DWR employees. Chairman Jake Albrecht introduced Wildlife Board members Tom Hatch and Paul Niemeyer. Chairman Jake Albrecht asked the RAC members to introduce themselves. Cordell Pearson, Rex Stanworth, Jim Edwards, Steve Flinders, Doug Messerly Clair Woodbury, Harry Barber, Sam Carpenter, Jack Hill, Steve Dalton, Gary Hallows.

Jake Albrecht: It's the Southern RAC meeting started. We want to welcome everyone here tonight. I want to make a couple of introductions: First on our Wildlife Board we have Paul Niemeyer with us, who is the Chairman of the Wildlife Board. And then we also have Tom Hatch, from Panguitch, with us that just got appointed to the Wildlife Board, also. Our first item, like I say, my name's Jake Albrecht, I'm the Chairman. I represent the elected officials. Our first item tonight is the RAC credit and Tim Shurtliff will give us a minute there.

Tim Shurtliff, the volunteer services coordinator with the Division of Wildlife Resources explained the process by which the dedicated hunters would receive credit for their RAC attendance.

Jake Albrecht: Thanks Tim. Before we get started with the rest of the agenda I want to take the time to have the RAC members introduce themselves. On my left, we're going to start down there. And our newest member to the RAC is Cordell Pearson, from Circleville. We want to welcome him here with us tonight and he'll do an outstanding job for us on the RAC. And we'll go from Rex and come this way. Rex Stanworth, from Delta, and I represent at-large. Jim Edwards from Delta, I represent the sportsmen. Steve Flinders, here in Beaver, Dixie and Fish Lake National Forests. I'm Doug Messerly, regional supervisor with the Division of Wildlife, out of Cedar City, my staff and I act as executive secretary to the committee but we don't vote. I'm Clair Woodbury from Hurricane, I represent the public at-large. Harry Barber, from Kanab, I represent the Bureau of Land Management. Sam Carpenter, from Kanab, I represent sportsmen. My name's Jack Hill, from Cedar City, I represent the non-consumptive side of sportsmen. My name's Steve Dalton, from Teasdale, I'm an at-large representative. Gary Hallows, from Loa, represent agriculture.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda (action)

- Chairman Jake Albrecht

Jake Albrecht: Okay it looks like we have a lot of our RAC members in attendance tonight, so that's good. Our agenda for tonight is the green sheet. Gentlemen, make sure that's the one you're looking at. And with that I'd ask for a motion to approve tonight's agenda. Jack.

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman, I would so move for the adoption of the agenda as presented.

Jake Albrecht: Okay we have a motion. Do we have a second? A second by Harry Barber. All those in favor please say aye. Any against? Motion passes.

Questions from the RAC:

None.

Questions from the Public:

None.

Comments from the Public:

None.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Jack Hill made the motion to accept the agenda as written. Harry Barber seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Jake Albrecht: Our next item is last month's minutes. I'm sure everybody's read those. Do we have any corrections that need to be taken care of?

Rex Stanworth: I do Mr. Chairman.

Jake Albrecht: Go ahead Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Not that it may be significant but on page 9, where it says RAC discussion and vote. Jack Hill, in the middle of there it says the gentleman on the end of the table brought it up, wasn't it you Rex? And yeah I don't see that there's any competition at all. Then I stated well that's the point Jack. Earlier in that discussion is where Clair brought up the discussion about another group coming in. We had a discussion what come in with the RAC discussions at Cabela's. And I'd made the, made a statement that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was not part of that big convention and therefore they could maybe come back in and ask that. So I just didn't know where that was in the conversation. But it was before Jack made that comment, so. For what it's worth that kind of fills in the blank there. Because it says, wasn't it you Rex that made that conversation? It was me, but there's no discussion point on it, so.

Jake Albrecht: Was it recorded that way or was it just a conversation that wasn't taken into the recording?

Doug Messerly: Well if it was recorded . . .

Recording Error: 5:54 to 5:59

Rex Stanworth: With that exception, Mr. Chairman, I'd make a motion to accept the minutes.

Jake Albrecht: Okay. So where was your correction at? What page was it?

Rex Stanworth: Well it was on page 9. It was where Jack Hill is bringing up the point about who gets the permits. And it was prior to that when Clair was asking that I said yes, up at the Cabela's they said that it is conceivable that another entity could come in and ask for permits and if that took place the Division would have to make some decisions as to who would get those permits, whether they split them or they didn't give them or whatever it was, but that would be up to the Division.

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman?

Jake Albrecht: Go ahead Jack.

Jack Hill: My concern was that the way the policy is written that the organization must have a history of holding a conference or convention in order to be considered to receive the permits. And the way it's written it would preclude anyone that currently is interested in it from getting any permits or holding the convention because they don't have a history of holding the convention. That was my initial, and still my concern about the policy. That the people that

currently receive the permits are the only people qualified to receive the permits because they are the only organization that's held a convention.

Jake Albrecht: Rex, so what correction would you like made there then?

Rex Stanworth: Well I guess, I guess just reading the minutes, Jack specifically says, Rex wasn't it you that, he's referring to me that I'd made that comment. And the answer is yes I had but it was further on. It was up here with Clair Woodbury when we were talking about that. Wasn't that right Clair?

Jake Albrecht: Okay so as far as the minutes the comments that you made are correct but they're just in a different place?

Rex Stanworth: They're not even there. Maybe my microphone wasn't on, I don't know. But the conversation we had is when I said, yes at that meeting at the Cabela's there was a conversation pertaining what happens if two different groups come in. And they're both worthy people to be able to put on that convention. At that point the uh, the Wildlife Board, the Division itself would have to make the decision as to who gets those permits.

Doug Messerly: Let me suggest that we review the tape and then . . .

Rex Stanworth: So, it's not a big deal I just, it's just that there was that comment, there was no place to tie it to is what I'm saying.

Jake Albrecht: Okay. Why don't we make a motion to approve the minutes under the condition that they review the tape and put the comments maybe back in the right conversation.

Rex Stanworth: Sure.

Jake Albrecht: They might be up in the paragraph above. Is that correct?

Rex Stanworth: Yep and I made the motion that, based upon that one correction, I would make the motion we accept the minutes.

Jake Albrecht: Okay. Do we have a second then? We have a motion to accept the minutes with the one correction on Rex's comment. Do we have a second? Okay we have a second by Sam Carpenter. All in favor please say aye. Any against? One against, Jack Hill. Okay, motion carries.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting upon review of the tape. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried 9:1, Jack Hill opposed.

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman?

Jake Albrecht: Yes Jack.

Jack Hill: The reason I'm voting against the motion is I think it would be more appropriate if

they redid the minutes and brought them back for approval at the next meeting.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, thanks Jack.

Wildlife Board Update:

Jake Albrecht:

- Our Wildlife Board update on the youth waterfowl date, our motion or our action here at our last meeting was we wanted a time change to one half hour before sunrise, that passed at the Wildlife Board.
- One the CWMU Rule, we asked that we leave the 60-40 split for moose and that the CWMU committee would look at all properties on corner-to-corner issues with like a variance group. And both of those came out of the Wildlife Board, as we proposed, with a 60-40 split and the first permit has to go to the sportsmen. With that the 60-40 works, if it goes the other way why then it changes the percentages a little bit. And then on the property issue they're going to go ahead and look at each piece with some type of variance if it warrants.
- And then on the turkey, Option 2 passed, and that's what we voted on out of our group here.
- I thought all of the RACs, well I shouldn't say all of them, but two or three of the other RACs had kind of the same ideas of what we had in our Southern Region, so I thought it went really well. So that's what happened at the Wildlife Board regional update. I'm going to turn the time to Doug.

Regional Update:

Douglas Messerly, Southern Region Regional Supervisor. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I've got just got a few items.

- Probably the most interesting item is our goat capture. We're catching mountain goats here right on the Tusher Mountains, up here in Big John flat, is the staging area. As of 5:00 pm tonight, they operated yesterday and today, as of 5:00 pm tonight they had captured 37 goats. Our target is 45 for the whole project. What I anticipate is we'll catch 20 more today in addition to the 20 yesterday and we'll probably be catching a few goats in the morning. And that operation should be concluded by 10:00. So far everything has gone real smooth. I've been pretty pleased with the operation. Those goats are going, 20 of those goats are going to Mt. Nebo, in Utah, and 25 are going to Idaho; a place called Lemhigh Valley in Idaho. And again, that project has been going pretty well.
- The archery deer hunt comes to a close this week. It's been a pretty successful hunt, I think, probably average in success across the state. The weather hasn't been perfect for the whole hunt but it's been variable so everybody should have had at least some weather that they liked. In any event I think that the success rate will probably be near average this year for that hunt. Although, hunters are reporting seeing a lot of animals in the southern region and that's good to hear.
- Bobcat and cougar application deadlines are coming up soon so be sure and watch those applications. The cougar proclamations have just hit the street. Furbearer proclamations are printed. They haven't hit the street yet but they should within the next day or so.

Unless there's any other questions I would, that will conclude my remarks Mr. Chairman.

Jake Albrecht: Any questions from the RAC? Okay.

RAC Procedures (Informational)

- Chairman Jake Albrecht

Jake Albrecht: With that we're going to go to our next item on the agenda which is fish contest proposed rule. Drew Cushings?

Fish Contest Proposed Rule (Informational) 14:46 to 20:52

- Drew Cushings, Warm Water/Community Fisheries Program Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Okay Drew.

Questions from the RAC:

Jake Albrecht: Questions from the RAC members? Sam.

Sam Carpenter: What exactly is the difference in cold and warm water, in the way you're doing these? And also, what are we doing right now with Lake Powell? I know they have major fishing tournaments out there, how are we handling that?

Drew Cushings: The first question is, we don't allow, presently, live weigh tournaments on cold water. They are basically dead weigh, which means you catch a fish you can't cull it. You have to take it in and have it weighed in or measured. And that's the way those are handled right now, the cold water tournaments. As far as Lake Powell, it's not a length-restricted water. And so the tournaments would go on there as they go on right now, which is they can bring their fish in from where they catch them to the weigh station, which is typically at one of the marinas, and have them weighed at the end of the day with the grand standing. And you're right; there are some major tournaments there.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. I still didn't get what the difference in the warm and cold water and why there's a difference.

Doug Messerly: Drew, I think the question is what species of fish are we talking about here.

Drew Cushings: Oh, trout and salmon, or bass and or other kinds of Centrarchids, basically. So you, the cold water would be salmon species, mainly trout, and the others would be warm water fish. Does that help?

Sam Carpenter: Yeah.

Drew Cushings: Okay. Sorry about that.

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman?

Jake Albrecht: Jack Hill.

Jack Hill: I've seen a couple of scenarios where in a tagged fish tournament where the tagged fish was worth \$100,000, quarter of a million dollars. And the lake that the competition was on, the day the tagged fish tournament opened up you could damn near walk across the lake on the boats. I would think that the fishing pressure that a fishery would receive in that context would just raise hell with the type of fishing that would occur after the tagged fish contest was over. And I would be adamantly opposed to that kind of fishing contest on some of these smaller lakes in Utah, especially cold water fishing. I would be adamantly opposed to that because I think the fishing pressure you would get on some of those little lakes would just be tremendous.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir, I agree. One of the things that we discussed internally was to generate a list, and I think it was mentioned in your mailer, that the region's, the regional aquatic managers, the regional aquatic staff generated. And the list was composed of waters where they needed additional fish removed. That is our perch waters, our walleye waters, white bass, carp were mentioned, lake trout out of the Gorge, those types of things. Those would be the fish sought after. The reason the tagged fish contests are a possibility are that they could generate additional license sales because they're not a skill contest, they're a random chance basically. And the other thing is, is that our state parks, which is a sister agency, could get more gate money if you could solicit more people into the state parks via these tournaments or contests, I mean, tagged fish contests.

Jack Hill: That sounds great but I believe that the kind of fishing pressure you would see on some of these lakes would have an impact on those waters for years after. And that's what concerns me.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, we're under the question part. So have we got any other questions?
Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I'm assuming on the uh, on those tagged fishes though, you folks would determine which waters that they could be placed in.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir.

Rex Stanworth: So if it was a smaller reservoir the Division could absolutely say at that point in time, absolutely no way. But if it was like, uh, yeah I guess Flaming Gorge or Lake Powell, or I guess even Strawberry, at that point in time where there's a huge amount of water, space that could be, it could be generated there.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir. That was the thought behind it. And two of those waters that you mentioned were on, you know, the potential list.

Rex Stanworth: So if the Division is curtailing or controlling where it goes at that point in time preservation of some of the smaller reservoirs would be intact.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir.

Rex Stanworth: Okay.

Jake Albrecht: Okay Drew, I have a question. I'll let Harry go first.

Harry Barber: Um, in regards to the cold water fishing tournaments, Option 1, C and D,C: prohibit the culling of fish, D: prohibit live weigh tournaments or contests. Are there currently negative impacts to the fishes through these tournaments right now in relationship to culling and live weigh?

Drew Cushings: They're basically illegal. That was just put in there to specify that culling is just really hazardous in a cold water tournament. If you release a fish after, a trout especially, you know a cold-water fish out of a live well, it's really stressed and doesn't do very well.

Rex Stanworth: I've got one more question in regards to that.

Jake Albrecht: Rex Stanworth.

Rex Stanworth: If I understand the regulations on Strawberry, if you catch a fish which is, that's in that slot it has to be immediately returned to the water.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir.

Rex Stanworth: So, so in this case you would be giving special permission to the tournaments. Let's say if you held it on there, that if they were to hold those they would actually be in violation of the State Law. You'd have to give a variance to that law, I guess is what I'm saying.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir. And that would be part of the, you know that option for warm-water fish. Cold-water fish we don't allow fish to be held and released so it's not an issue there. It's an issue with warm-water. But yes Sir, that's exactly what this would be asking for is a variance for these folks that fish tournaments to possess fish that are illegal for other folks to possess. That's right.

Jake Albrecht: Okay Drew. If I look at the cold-water fish tournaments, Option 1 and Option 2, which is the DWR preferred?

Drew Cushings: This is, like I said, this is a real social issue. And I mean it's not a biological issue. The Division of Wildlife could discuss the biology but we really think that this deserves consideration here and we really don't have a preference.

Jake Albrecht: Do you have a preference on any of them?

Drew Cushings: No.

Rex Stanworth: I would guess that for those who participate in a tournament, uh, it would be a day of joy, but I guess for some of those folks like myself who adhere to a specific law it would almost like opening up deer season a week early or keeping it a week late. And giving somebody special permission, they could go out and kill what they say. I guess my thought would be that uh, we could certainly allow certain things to happen but I think as far as making variances I think we better be very careful how we do that. We'll find ourselves with an upset public at-large, which I'm assuming that on these tournaments for the statewide, what kind of an estimate would you guess would participate in these? Would it be one percent of the fisherman, five percent of the fisherman?

Drew Cushings: I would say less than one percent.

Rex Stanworth: I see we have some real problems with that. It's kind of like the highway patrol allowing these folks to drive from Ely, Nevada to Delta in their Ferraris and they could drive 200 miles an hour. And of course they fine them, they pay their fines and that fine goes to that, but there's been a lot of folks that have been a little upset saying, gee, I would be willing to pay the fine if they'd just let me do, you know, a hundred.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir.

Rex Stanworth: So I guess my concern is that we open up Pandora's box in relationship to that. And I don't know a lot about these tournaments but when there's less than one percent of our public that's participating in them, I guess I'd have some concern.

Drew Cushing: Just to state something that we, it's been discussed publicly in all of the fishing forums on the internet for over a year now and people are either adamantly opposed or all for. I mean there's very little people that are in the middle and have no opinion.

Jake Albrecht: Okay. Do we have any other questions from our RAC members? Do we have any questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

Jake Albrecht: I have one, a gentleman. Please come forward and use the mic.

Doug Wolfenstein: Can you hear me now?

Jake Albrecht: No just come right up here so it gets into the minutes, please. Go ahead and do it. We need your name also, please.

Doug Wolfenstein: Name's Doug Wolfenstein, from ST. George, Utah. My question is, is on the warm-water catch and release, how do the fish do? You mentioned how traumatized it is to cold-water fish, of the salmon species, how does the bass do? Do they survive well in being released after a tournament? In other words, my understanding a lot of these tournaments they release the fish back into the waters, is that correct?

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir.

Doug Wolfenstein: And how do the fish do? That's my question.

Drew Cushings: The mortality on released warm-water fish, and this is of a survey done over a hundred tournaments, is about somewhere between twenty and thirty percent of the fish that are released that are caught are delayed mortality. There's about seven percent that are immediate mortality. That study also showed that the larger the tournament is the higher the mortality. The warmer the water, the higher the mortality. And the rougher the water the higher the mortality.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any other questions from the public? Seeing none we'll move to comments from the public. And I have no cards up here.

Comments from the Public:

None.

Jake Albrecht: So we'll go to comments from the RAC.

Comments from the RAC:

Jake Albrecht: If we have no comments we'll go to RAC motion, discussion and vote. Informational? Oh I'm sorry.

Rex Stanworth: Mr. Chairman?

Jake Albrecht: Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I believe I read the other day in the newspaper that the Division on bluegill had found it easier to catch the fish by hook and holding them and then releasing them than they did by trying to net them, am I correct on that? Didn't they move some fish from one spot to another spot and they had folks that came and collected those fish by fishing for them?

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir. That was for the state fair this year.

Rex Stanworth: Okay. Would there by any time when, when the division may say, you know what, we would like to get a large volume of these fish and, you know, and move from here to here. In something like that would there be an opportunity to where some of these fishing things would go through or is it, is it like transplanting deer, the mortality rate is such that it just doesn't pay?

Drew Cushings: I really don't follow the question one hundred percent, can you restate that?

Rex Stanworth: Well I guess, I guess my question is if they catch fish and they hold them . . .

Drew Cushings: Um hum, yes Sir.

Rex Stanworth: You know they bring them in to weigh them instead of dumping them back in the lake they dump them in a tank and you go some place and you plant them.

Drew Cushings: Right.

Rex Stanworth: Like they did the bluegill for the, for that. I'm just wondering is there a point in time when the Division may say, you know what, we need fish from here to here and the only way that's logical to do that is just do like they did with the bluegill.

Drew Cushings: We've solicited these same anglers help to do these kinds of projects before. Because the difference would be in the mortality' that we transplant them immediately. In other words we don't hold them all day, and they hold them all day until the day's over, and so their mortality is higher. But we do solicit their help for those kinds of projects because they do have the equipment to do it with.

Rex Stanworth: So in that case there may be an opening where there could be something that would be beneficial to all of the sportsman in Utah by that so-called catch and release but at a different water.

Drew Cushings: Yes Sir.

Walt Donaldson: We do move fish now Mr. Stanworth, okay. And we do take them from some waters to other waters. But the difference is in terms of when we do it we have strict disease protocol that we have to follow. We do not want to move disease from one water to another. So in terms of using contests or tournaments to do that, when you have a lot of people handling fish we do do that on occasion with warm water but not cold. But we do follow the protocol that has to be there. So when we look at these for transplants we look at them carefully because there are other issues than just establishing fisheries. Okay? Thank you.

Rex Stanworth: I guess my thought was is that if there's an opportunity to where we could accommodate specific tournaments in a specific water to benefit all of the sportsman and at that point in time that may be a loophole that we could say if it fits in this criteria we can make it work.

Drew Cushings: there are those opportunities around at times.

Rex Stanworth: Okay. I guess, is there anybody on the RAC that would be not willing to allow the Division to use their own judgment if they determine if there was a place that they could catch fish and capture them and transplant them based upon the criteria that he's just alluded to?

Jake Albrecht: We have no comments there. Just for your minutes, that was Walt Donaldson. I'm sure you've got that in there. Okay. Where this is strictly informational I think we're through with the comments. We're going to move right along to the Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection by Laura Hines. This is an action item.

Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles (Action)

- Laura Hines, Native Aquatics Species Biologist

37:06 to 43:36

Questions from the RAC:

Harry Barber: You indicated who you coordinated with, and the universities you sought information from, did you visit or coordinate with any federal biologist, Forest Service biologists. BLM biologists?

Laura Hines: No not for this particular table. I'm not sure that they weren't, no.

Harry Barber: No. I appreciate it.

Jake Albrecht: Steve Flinders first Jack.

Steve Flinders: Not to be a smart-aleck but I see these snake guys have kind of finally got their way, how far is this going? Are you going to extend this into mammals or? Is there a (unintelligible)?

Laura Hines: As far as I know for now this is it. But it does work kind of like a draw for collecting a native species. I think that's similar to maybe the raptor, raptors. You apply for application and if it gets selected you get it if there's more than one applicant.

Steve Flinders: But these are for individuals to have as pets in their homes.

Laura Hines: Yep.

Jack Hill: Oh that's just what I want, a king snake running around.

Jake Albrecht: Jack Hill.

Jack Hill: Uh yeah, two questions. Let's see, number one: do you have some baseline data in terms of populations of these species?

Laura Hines: Very limited. Like I said, and that's kind of, I think that's why we've been pretty conservative with our numbers. We do have some anecdotal information, presence-absence surveys for the Utah Mountain King Snake and the Utah Milk Snake.

Jack Hill: The reason I ask, I've talked to several biologists, a couple of them from Southern Utah University, and one of them is doing a study on toads and frogs. And they are talking in terms of a severe reduction in populations in both toads and frogs. Why are we even allowing anybody to take a leopard frog if the numbers are plummeting?

Laura Hines: It's kind of, it's why we've left the numbers pretty low. That's why, part of that ten, they're still relatively abundant throughout the state but their numbers have diminished from historical numbers, and as in the leopard frog, and there's a question of hybridization. So

that's why we have limited it to ten.

Jack Hill: But you don't have any population figures to speak of?

Laura Hines: No

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions? Do we have any questions from the public?

James Edwards: Jake, I have a question, Mr. Chairman. On these it shows the lizards, no collection, and snakes, no collection. Are these now becoming protected species?

Laura Hines: No. We don't have a lot of information on these species. And those species from the information we do have, which is locality information, historic locality, that kind of thing, they are very rare in the state or their distribution is very small, you know, limited to one corner of the state, as in Washington County or something.

James Edwards: Okay, thank you.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, do we have any questions from the public then?

Questions from the Public:

None.

Jake Albrecht: Seeing none. We don't have any comment cards so we'll go to comments from the RAC.

Comments from the Public:

None.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Jake Albrecht: Any comments Harry?

Harry Barber: I can't remember your herpetologist's name in Salt Lake, George? Is he still?

Laura Hines: George Oliver.

Harry Barber: George Oliver.

Laura Hines: He was one of the reviewers for this table.

Harry Barber: George and I worked pretty close together on the Grand Staircase. We did a three-year base-line study, particularly with snakes but a lot of other things as well. I'd just recommend in the future that maybe you visit with some of the BLM biologists that work with George on those types of projects, particularly where some of these guys are out everyday on

some of those lands and have some pretty good information.

Laura Hines: Some of the field biologists did contact some other herp experts in their regions, so that may be addressed. But I would love to get names from you. Maybe afterwards?

Jake Albrecht: Steve Flinders.

Steve Flinders: Yeah, Mr. Chairman I just want to go on record that we're making pets of protected species. It's something the Division's, I know, felt strongly about and probably struggled with for a time, but just philosophically I hate to move the line in this direction. I'd like to have a pet ringtail, pine martin, and the list is long, but they're a protected species and less rare, I would venture than these on this list. The two snakes listed there, milk snake and king snake listed in Beaver and Millard County are very rare to ever see. I haven't seen one yet in either of those counties and I'm paid to be outside whenever possible. So that's just my feelings on it.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any other comments? Jack, have you got a comment?

Jack Hill: I'm just talking to my colleague. I apologize. I'm sorry.

Jake Albrecht: James Edwards.

James Edwards: I have a comment. I know that if we, everything we put on a limited entry, you sure you won't get maybe 5000 people put in for anything that's limited entry in the state of Utah, it seems like we have about 10,000 from Utah County put in for it.

Jake Albrecht: Okay if we don't have any comments, let's move down to a RAC motion, see if we can work our way through this. Steve, have you got one?

Steve Flinders: I know we already passed this in concept a long time ago, and now we're further defining what a preauthorized COR. I didn't like it then but it's made its rule. And the people pushing this, you know, have had these animals in possession for a long time and continue to do it, underground, whether you, you know, so we probably ought to make it legal. But I don't want to make a motion. I think it's a mess. Somebody else do it.

Jake Albrecht: Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I just had one thought that came to me. The reason for giving these permits, are you hoping that by giving these permits you're going to be able to gather information from these folks that are going out? So you've got ten people out looking for one species and you're going to be able to get from them, oh yeah we saw lots of them, or we saw none, we weren't successful in filling our required one lizard or one frog?

Laura Hines: Yes

Rex Stanworth: So it's really a collection. You're hoping that some people can help you collect information on how much there is in a species out there.

Laura Hines: Yeah. By allowing these collectors to do this we are requiring that they report what they find.

Rex Stanworth: Okay. Mr. Chairman I'll make a motion that we accept the Amphibious Reptile on the agenda.

Jake Albrecht: Okay we have a motion to accept the personal collection of amphibians and reptiles. Do we have a second?

Gary Hallows: Second.

Jake Albrecht: We have a second by Gary Hallows. Do we have any other discussion? Seeing none we'll call for a vote. All those in favor please raise your right hand. Okay so we have five there? All those against please raise your right hand. How many have we got there, four? Five/ four, motion carries.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept the Pre-authorized COR for Personal Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles as presented. Gary Hallows seconded. Motion passed 5:4. Jack Hill, Sam Carpenter, Harry Barber, Steve Flinders opposed.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, moving right along our next three items: the brine shrimp rule, the commercial harvesting, and the fish stocking review is going to be taken care of by Roger Wilson. And if it's okay with the RAC I think we can do all three of these at once. Am I correct Roger?

Roger Wilson: Yeah we could do that if that's okay with you guys.

Jake Albrecht: Are you guys okay with that or do you want to go individually?

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman? Are you talking about brine shrimp and commercial and aquaculture?

Jake Albrecht: That's correct.

Jack Hill: I'm all for handling all three at one time.

Jake Albrecht: Is that okay with everybody or do we want to . . .

Jack Hill: I would make that a motion.

Jack Albrecht: Okay do we have second? Okay we've got a second by James. All in favor raise your hands. All against.

Jack Hill made the motion to discuss and vote on the Brine Shrimp Rule, the Commercial Harvesting of Protected Aquatic Wildlife rule, and the Aquaculture and Fish Stocking Rule as one item. James Edwards seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Steve Dalton was not present for vote.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, Roger.

Brine Shrimp Rule R657-52 5-year review (Action) 55:33 to 58:18

- Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

Commercial Harvesting of Protected Aquatic Wildlife Rule R657-14 (Action)

- Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

Aquaculture and Fish Stocking R657-52 5-year review (Action)

- Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Okay Roger. Do we have any questions from the RAC then?

Questions from the RAC:

None.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

None.

Jake Albrecht: Okay we don't have any comments on that particular one from the public so we will go to comments from the RAC.

Comments from the Public:

None

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman?

Jake Albrecht: Jack Hill.

Jack Hill: Would a motion be in order?

Jake Albrecht: Does anybody else have any comments? Okay Jack go ahead.

Jack Hill: I would move for the acceptance and support of Brine Shrimp Rule #R657-52, Commercial Harvesting of protected aquatic wildlife R657-14, and Aquaculture and fish stocking R657-16 as presented.

Jack Albrecht: Do you have a second? Second by Harry Barber. Any other discussion? If not all in favor please say aye. Any against please don't say anything. Okay, motion carries.

Jack Hill made the motion to accept the Brine Shrimp Rule, the Commercial Harvesting

of Protected Aquatic Wildlife rule, and the Aquaculture and Fish Stocking Rule as presented. Harry Barber seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Steve Dalton was not present for vote.

Jake Albrecht: Our next one is fishing proclamation and rule. Roger.

Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13 5-year review (Action) 59:40 to 1:17:07

- Roger Wilson, Sport Fish Program Coordinator

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Jake Albrecht: Okay do we have any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

Jake Albrecht: Rex Stanworth.

Rex Stanworth: I want to make sure I understand on this fillet. I go to Strawberry Reservoir and I go to the campground, put my motor home there, I put my boat in the lake and I go fish. I come back and I want to prepare some fish for dinner. Am I legal to fillet those fish, because according to this it says may not be fillet, the heads or tails may not be removed in the field or in transit, so what about at camp when I'm eating?

Roger Wilson: Yes, if you're consuming those fish, yes you can.

Rex Stanworth: So that's legal.

Roger Wilson: Yes.

Rex Stanworth: Okay. So if I've got a camp, if I've got a campground and a place to cook em then I can fillet em.

Roger Wilson: Well you know what and we tried to work through a lot of specifics on this regulation, what if this happens, what if these guys want to do this or that? And a lot of this is going to have to be good communication with our officers and what we want them to enforce and what we don't. We wanted this to be somewhat simple but still cover the bases. But we can't cover every exception with this rule. And we're just going to have to work with our enforcement staff to make sure they understand what we'd like.

Rex Stanworth: I'm assuming you're going to have ample posting especially at the cleaning stations there at Strawberry, because that's been a big activity is the filleting of fish at those stations.

Roger Wilson: Well they've actually had signs there that say no filleting. You know at Strawberry, interestingly enough, those fish cleaners are not built for bones, for chewing up bones. So a lot of the cold-water stations were never designed for that. So the main reason those signs were put up, initially, was because they were concerned they'd plug off those fish cleaners. But again, you cannot fillet fish at Strawberry. And that's been that way for a long time. And see we've had a lot of problems with this regulation because our previous

regulations required that we leave a little flap of skin on fillets and that wasn't a standard practice and it required some of our smallmouth and walleye waters that those fish be transported whole. And in many cases that wasn't being done and it put anglers in a spot, a bit of a spot. And I think this change is good. I will help, I think we can still enforce the laws but it will help anglers to be legal and take fish home in a processed state. We really think this is a good change.

Rex Stanworth: Those, what do you call them burbot?

Roger Wilson: Burbot.

Rex Stanworth: Where are those fish? Are they in, is it Flaming Gorge, is that where they are?

Roger Wilson: Flaming Gorge only at this time and we'd like to keep it that way. We are pushing, we want interest in going to Flaming Gorge and catching burbot but it's kind of a fine line you want because we don't want people to get so interested in them that they're going to move them to other waters in the state. A burbot are going to create and may create significant problems at Flaming Gorge and if and when they get in the Green River, who knows what 's going to happen. They'll create serious problems there as well. So we are very concerned about burbot. They may descimate our kokanee program up there because they are egg predators and they may get down there in the reds in those lake spawning kokanee and take the eggs. So that kind of remains to be seen but we are very concerned.

Rex Stanworth: And I assume they are an edible fish that you, that people should . . .

Roger Wilson: Well, they are a member of the cod family and cod are very edible fish. Yeah. They do, the only thing they do is kind of funny, they wrap around your arm when you catch them. They are eel like and will actually wrap their tail around your arm and that give some guys the creeps. But they are very edible.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, any other questions? Yours is a comment?

Harry Barber: Question.

Jake Albrecht: Question, go ahead Harry.

Harry Barber: Just for my own understanding, what is free shafting?

Roger Wilson: Free shafting is something we're prohibiting or proposing to prohibit. That's basically taking a spearfishing gun and discharging that underwater without a tether. So we want the spears to be tethered to the diver so they can retrieve the fish. And it's a safety factor too, sometimes the divers get down and if they don't control their buoyancy they'll cloud the water up and they may not see a diver behind the fish so we want that tether on there.

Harry Barber: Just one more question on the dead shad from Lake Powell may be used as bait only in Lake Powell. Dead shad must not be removed from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. So if for some reason an angler wanted to go up the lower portion of the Escalante or

some thing like that in Glen Canyon they need to stay in Lake Powell proper?

Roger Wilson: Yeah I think that 's the way that reads.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions? Gary.

Gary Hallows: Are we making this a little complicated? I just found out corn was illegal tonight. You got so many rules in there a guy could get a ticket about anywhere.

Roger Wilson: Well you know corn's actually been prohibited for a long time and this goes back to the old days when . . .

Gary Hallows: That shattered my bubble. Over on the Boulder Mountain you don't know which lake you can catch 4 fish or 8 fish. I think it's a high percentage for me not to even have a license. All of them different rules, maybe you ought to educate fisherman like we have to buffalo hunters so they don't take the wrong ones.

Roger Wilson: Well and we try to do that. And as I mentioned up front we are trying to simplify, and it's difficult because simplification means that you can't manage each water specifically for it's needs. It's a difficult process. There's a lot of reasons to manage Panguitch Lake different than Strawberry, for instance.

Gary Hallows: I still haven't figured out why you can't fillet a fish at Panguitch but you can in Loa.

Roger Wilson: Well we want to make sure we have an enforcement tool because we have a slot limit there at Panguitch Lake. The slot limit requires anglers to release fish between 15 and 22 inches. And that's done to create a predator so we don't have to come with a Rotenone treatment every 8 to 10 years, an expensive treatment. We're really working to try to control some of these chub populations biologically. And it worked at Strawberry very well. We've controlled the chubs. We've turned the population right on its butt. So we are seeing some real effective results from some of these regulations. And yeah we want to be as simple.

Gary Hallows: So you're saying that down there if you catch a big fish, and that's why you go fishing, you have to turn it loose?

Roger Wilson: Well you can keep one over 22 at Panguitch. And you're going to see a few in a few years with this slot limit.

Gary Hallows: I rest my case.

Jake Albrecht: Clair Woodbury.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah I've got a question on the slot limits as opposed to, some waters have slot limits, others have either 22 or 18, one over that, why some waters have slot limits others just have one fish over a certain size.

Roger Wilson: We did standardize a few years back. 22 is a fairly standard upper limit for slot and lower limit for one over. 22 is the standard. We don't really have any 18's now on trout, any more. We used to. We used to have several.

Clair Woodbury: The water I'm talking about would be Kolob. I think it's 18.

Roger Wilson: Okay. Is there an 18 on that Mike? Okay, I stand corrected.

Clair Woodbury: It was 18 then moved to 22 then back to 18, but it's not quite as big a water and it's a little higher. It's real optimistic to get a 22 incher up there.

Roger Wilson: Well see that's the problem with standardization because all the waters are a little different.

Clair Woodbury: I think you're misunderstanding. I was asking about a slot limit. Some waters you can catch, keep under 15, or over 22. Kolob is just one fish only over 18. I guess the reason I bring this up is the mayor of Hurricane, and he also in conversation with the mayor of St. George expressed concern to me about that's no longer a family fishery. It's a trophy fishery. And it's, realistically the only high water lake in that area until you get to Panguitch. And they expressed quite a bit of concern to me. They'd like to see that back as a family fishery. And I wonder if we didn't go like at Strawberry where it's so many under 15 and then one over 22. Why isn't that available for like at Kolob?

Roger Wilson: Do you want to address that Mike?

Mike Ottenbacher: Actually our regulations on Kolob were proposed by the Southern Utah Anglers, a fishing group in St. George, and at the time we didn't have many slot limits in the southern region. We felt that it was appropriate. Didn't see any problems there. It may be something that we want to consider in the future. We certainly don't have an adamant opposition to using the slot at Kolob. It might be something we want to address in the future.

Clair Woodbury: I would like to ask that in, as a response to the mayor of Hurricane and St. George. They would like that addressed.

Mike Ottenbacher: We'll take a look at that. Basically when we get some suggestions for regulations we'll try to look at the data we have on our creel surveys and estimate what kind of harvest we'll have under that new regulation. And at the time it seemed to fit there and what we were trying to do is create a quality fishery.

Clair Woodbury: Okay, that's fair enough. Their concern was it's a trophy fishery for a select few, maybe that organization that you mentioned, and they would like to see it a family fishery again. So if you would look at that they would certainly appreciate it.

Mike Ottenbacher: We'll take a look at that.

Clair Woodbury: I told them I would bring that up to you guys. Thanks.

James Edwards: Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

Jake Albrecht: James Edwards.

James Edwards: Has there been a study done to where the mortality of the slot limit that has to be released to say an area like Panguitch where bait fishing is allowed as opposed to one that is just artificial lures only?

Roger Wilson: Well Mike might want to talk about that. I don't know if he has data on Panguitch but we certainly did on Strawberry. We looked in 2001, we took our creel data and we modeled angling mortality based on standard literature values against our creel data. And at that time we had, if you look at your whole exploitation picture, your basic angling induced mortality, at that time 88 percent of that was fish going directly in the creel and home. Only 12 percent was hooking loss. And that's changed a little bit because now people are releasing more fish. But the bottom line that we've seen at Strawberry is we've had a population response. The Bear Lake Cutthroat have responded. We have a lot more bigger predators. They have inflicted predation losses on the chub. They have driven the chub down, they've actually declined, the young of the year chub have declined 93 percent since the imposition of that slot limit. So I guess the bottom line is it worked at Strawberry. And we certainly do have losses. We're not disputing that. In the summertime you see, probably in August you see more losses than other times of the year. There really is, Idaho has done a lot of work on this as well. You don't necessarily have to have a gear restriction to succeed with a special regulation like a slot limit. It really depends a lot on your objectives. And you just have to accept some hooking loss; you are going to have that. And even with some of your best techniques, I mean even with artificial lures and flies you still have a 9 percent hooking loss. You can have as high as 60 percent on bait if bait is fished incorrectly and people try to degorge and pull the bait out of the stomach and out of the gills and those kind of things. If you'll clip the line you can double the survival rate on deeply hooked fish. There's a lot of things anglers can do. But again, you're going to have to, with a slot limit you're going to occasionally, even if you do everything right, you're going to release a fish and it's going to swim up and seagulls are going to come in and it's not going to make you feel good, I know that. But we have no other way of doing it. I mean if you're going to have slot protection you can't allow people to keep a fish that's injured because they would make sure the fish was injured, if you get my drift. And they would make, and the rational would be to keep every fish. So the rule has to be, if we're going to have a slot limit we have to have release, and we're going to release a few fish that will die.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? Do we have any questions from the public? Edward, please come up to the mic. We have your comment card up here also, so this is questions.

Questions from the Public:

Edward Owens: Yeah my name's Ed Owens. I probably should have saved it for when I come up to comment but do they ice fish Strawberry? I'm not much of an ice fisherman but I watch it a lot on Panguitch Lake and I know the mortality rate is very high in ice fishing. Most of the fish I see come out die when they ice fish. Have you noticed it being high?

Roger Wilson: Would you like me to?

Edward Owens: Yeah I would. I just, from what I've seen.

Roger Wilson: You know actually my experience at Strawberry is that ice fishing we have pretty good survival. And you now, again, you have to handle the fish correctly but it's cold, fish don't ingest baits deeply. You can almost try to make a fish ingest the bait and they won't. Because you know they just come up and they just nip at it.

Edward Owens: I've seen them pull them out of the water and they move about twice and they're done. By the time they get their hook out (unintelligible).

Roger Wilson: Well you know and I, people need to, if they're going to release them they need to put them back in the hole pretty quickly. But again, during the cold water season of the year you have better survival and fish do not take baits as deeply during the winter as they do in the summer.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any other questions from the public? Please come forward.

Jason Campbell: Hi my name's Jason Campbell and I'm from down from Hurricane. I have a couple of questions. One question first is: when you're talking about the breakaway guns in spearfishing and being tethered to the diver there's a method commonly used, maybe not in freshwater but that the spear is tethered to a buoy or tethered to something other than the diver, not specifically just letting the spear go away. And my question is curious, has that been discussed or is it specifically need to be tethered to the diver? Free-divers commonly don't use tanks when they go down deep and they need to shoot the gun but they still recover it because they follow the buoy out. So that specifically I think, I would be interested in having some follow-up done on that. My other comment is that I have had a conversation with the mayor of Hurricane, a number of times, specifically relating to Kolob and its use as a family fishery. Our conversations have mainly focused on, not necessarily the slot limit, although that did come up, but specifically whether it was going to be maintained as an artificial only. Our conversations revolved around adding back the bait. That the family fisheries, that the very young people weren't able to use the artificial lures or the fly fishing that is typically going on up there. And a lot of those folks can't afford a boat to where they can troll with it. So just as an additional comment, that conversation with the mayor of Hurricane and I have come up. So they are interested in having Kolob Reservoir move back towards a bait and a family style fishing that my conversations with him have included that, that the baits need to be brought back to Kolob Reservoir. Anyway I appreciate your time

Jake Albrecht: Okay, do we have any other questions from the public? This is the question part not the comment part. And any comments need to be, we need to have your name on a comment card and turned in so that we can get it into the public record and then get you on. So do we have any other questions from the public? If not we'll go to the comment cards. Right now we have one from Edward Owens. Please come forward. You have three minutes.

Comments from the Public:

Edward Owens: Yeah a few years ago they put together a panel to take care of Panguitch Lake, and they were talking Strawberry then. They're still talking Strawberry. I think the objective is to make it a trophy lake, I'm sure it is. Panguitch Lake has always been a fishery where people come with their families to eat fish. When we treated Panguitch Lake there was between 9 and 10 businesses operating at Panguitch Lake. I think when we start next year there will be 4. I'm still hanging in there but I don't know for how long. I think, I don't think you have the fish in there that you think you have in there. Lately people, the last month or so people have been catching hardly any fish. And the fish they're catching are in the slot. I had one guy said he caught 9 fish, one of the few people that said he caught fish, said he caught 9 fish and wasn't able to keep 1. That's why I'm really concerned with the ice fishing. I don't think you have very many fish out of the slot. I don't know if you've uh, I don't know if anybody's been up there taking any comments or talking to any fisherman lately. I haven't seen anybody. But I've had a lot of mad, mad fisherman in my store and a lot of people saying they're never coming back. The people from Panguitch say why would I go there when I could go to Otter Creek. They just don't come any more. And we've seen a big, I think it was three weeks ago on a Saturday at 9:00 in the morning there were 2 boats on Panguitch Lake. I don't know how many of you are familiar with Panguitch Lake but that's not very many boats. I think your slot limit's not working. I don't think it's the right place for it. I think probably talking to people that have already got their minds made up. But that's all I've got to say.

Jake Albrecht: David Jordan.

David Jordan: Yes I would just like to make some comments about Kolob. Going to artificial has been a change for kids to fish at, and I think that void is being filled by these urban fisheries. It's a great gift to be able to go up there and catch some mature fish. If you go to Pine Valley or Baker, I mean there's a lot of fish planted there, even over to Ivins and then the urban fisheries in St. George and now Washington. And the artificial needs to be encouraged. I mean a lot of these fish are caught and released. And you know it's a little bit different type of fishing but you can still use a spin reel, put a weighted bubble on there and at certain times you can do every bit as good from the shore as somebody on a float tube or a boat. And it's been a great gift. I mean if you go to any other lake, you can go to Navajo, Duck Creek, you have to drive a little bit farther, but all of these are bait fishing. And what happens with bait fishing is almost all of the fish are pulled out. In fact the urban fisheries down there because the water temperature gets so warm, I mean it's like all the trout have to be pulled out. And so anyway I would hate to see anything changed at Kolob because it's just a great gift. It's a little bit different but it would be good with these urban fishing programs to teach these kids, and I have been an urban fishing instructor. Thank you.

Jake Albrecht: Thanks David. Okay we got one more comment card coming forward. John Farish. Is that correct? Please come forward.

John Farish: I'd just like to say about the Panguitch Lake fishing, I understand you know being a business owner there's people that have concerns, but if, I'm somebody that has fished Strawberry a lot, and you turn it into a Strawberry type fishery you would have a lot, you wouldn't have to worry about customers because the people would come. It's whether you can do it or not, you know. Strawberry is an outstanding fishery. So I'd just like to mention that.

Jake Albrecht: Okay that concludes our comment cards that we have. So we'll go to comments from the RAC.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman.

Jake Albrecht: Jack Hill.

Jack Hill: As a member of the committee that was referred to, I think I need to speak up. The committee was not unanimous about the idea of a slot limit but the majority of members of that committee members were in favor of a slot limit. We had 2 gentlemen from Strawberry, one being an employee of DWR and the other being a member of, I think he was the president of the Strawberry Fisherman's Association, I think something like that, they spoke, both of them were very supportive of the slot limit and the impact of the slot limit on Strawberry Reservoir relative to control of the chub specie. The idea was that if you try this, if this is implemented and you adhere to it for several years then the possibility is there that it will become a fishery similar to Strawberry. And I think the majority of the members of that committee supported that. Now there's been an implication that there was some kind of attempt to turn it into a trophy fishery. I never heard that term used. I heard discussions about what a Strawberry type fishery would do for the people that visited Panguitch Lake and I was very enthused about it. I still am. I think time will prove that according to what I was told by the biologists, good science dictates that a slot limit is very successful, that it can work at Panguitch Lake and it will turn Panguitch Lake into a very, very viable fishery. And I think we should maintain that concept and give it a couple of years to see what going to happen because I think it will do it. Anyway that's my thoughts on it.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any other comments? Okay. When we got here tonight there was a letter that had been sent to Harry Barber in Kanab. Is that correct Harry? And he brought that with him. It addresses the chairman of the Southern RAC. It is from the Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association. Have you guys seen this letter? Have you DWR guys seen this? (See Attached Letter) Okay, I'm not going to go through all of it but I'm going to go through some of the things that they are asking us to look at. If you guys will follow, since you've got a copy of it. The catch and kill rule which is no creel limit. Must kill all bass, no catch and release. And if I turn the page it says there's no change there, that's correct. Special catch and release rule it says closed to the possession of all largemouth and or smallmouth bass, catch and release only. It says we recommend the addition of all community fishing waters to this rule, otherwise no real change. Special use reservoir rule, 20 smallmouth bass plus 6 largemouth bass. This rule consolidates, simplifies the regulations for Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Lake Powell because both of these waters are so large and the fishing pressure on black bass so light that's biological reasons for limiting harvesting cannot be demonstrated. A regulation promoting a liberal harvest of smallmouth bass would benefit both fisheries as both have problems with too many small bass and a reduction in competition could only result in fewer larger fish. Note this is especially important in Lake Powell and in its need for predator prey stability in the face of expanding prey, the shad populations. And then it goes on to say the regulation for largemouth really only pertains to Lake Powell as Flaming Gorge does

not really have significant numbers of largemouths. And this rule would only change the current rule by one fish there to make it more consistent with the current and proposed new statewide rule. Recommended waters are Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Lake Powell. Special trophy rule, 6 bass under 10 inch and only 1 bass over 20. All bass between 10 and 20 inches must be released immediately. This slot limit consolidates simplifies the regulations for all waters being managed for trophy potential because most such waters have regulations that are virtually identical anyway. There are few significant differences in the management goals of these few waters. And the functional predator prey differences between largemouth and smallmouth bass are not significant. And then it goes on to C regulation (unintelligible) 2007 which I'm sure has something to do with some type of study there. And the rule is consistent with the general statewide rule below. Current regulations either do not allow the harvest of a single record fish or allow the harvest of too many trophy fish. Recommended waters are Gunlock Reservoir, Jordanelle Reservoir, Sand Hollow Reservoir and Quail Creek Reservoir. And then they go on, a statewide general rule is 6 largemouth or smallmouth bass. All bass between 12 and 16 inches must be released. And it goes on to talk about the proposed rules different from the current regulation only in that it implements a slot limit requiring the catch and release of fish in the slot. The 6 fish limit remains the same. This long needed slot limit promotes more ecological predator prey balance and stability to help reduce the boom bust cycles experienced by many of Utah's waters. It is almost identical to those proven regulations already implemented by the RACs and WLB on Strawberry Reservoir and the more recently passed walleye regs. The slot combined with the current 6 fish limit provides compromise between the needs of consumptive meat anglers and non-consumptive catch and release fishers. The rule promotes the harvest of normally more numerous smaller bass while stockpiling fish in the slot for their value to sportfisherman and their contest. The recommended waters is all the rest of Utah water. Although the last two slot limit proposals have included above included, recommended lower and upper limits neither are hard proposals and may require additional discussion between UDWR and the public. We do however think we are on the right track with the proposed. It is noteworthy that our recommendations would significantly reduce the number of waters with different and special regulations while doing a much better job of managing prey populations. So anyway I'll turn a copy of this in to Doug for the records. And do you guys have any comments on that or? Does anybody else?

Jack Hill: I've got a question. Has the biologists seen this letter?

Roger Wilson: Yes, when you read it. I have seen that. I have a copy. You know we've had some discussions of bass standardization in the state and we aren't bringing any proposals forward at this time but we are hoping to in the future, standardize and shrink the number of bass regulations. And this is the Salt Lake County Fish and Game's recommendation. I do have a letter on that one.

Jack Hill: Do you see it as being a positive thing?

Roger Wilson: Well I think the general idea is pretty good but I'm not sure we would agree with every item on that letter. We would certainly, I think there's some good ideas but there are some other ideas that I don't think we'd move to a slot limit statewide. And Drew's the warm-water coordinator so many he could address that better. But I doubt we would want to do that.

Jake Albrecht: Go ahead if you want to make a comment.

Drew Cushings: As Roger said we've discussed this several times with our regional managers and there is room for simplification. And some of what they said falls in line with what we were thinking.

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman.

Jake Albrecht: Jack Hill.

Jack Hill: I wish the gentleman from Panguitch Lake had stayed here so he could have heard what the Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association had to say about slot limits. He says the two proposed slot limits are very similar in management and mentality to those already successfully implemented and evaluated on Strawberry Reservoir. Thank you.

Jake Albrecht: Okay do we have any other comments? If not we'll move to RAC motion. Harry do you have one?

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman.

Jake Albrecht: Hold on one second. Harry go ahead.

Harry Barber: I make a motion to accept as presented.

Jake Albrecht: We have a motion to accept the fishing proclamation and rule R657-13 as presented. Do we have a second? We have a second by Sam Carpenter. Any other discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor please say aye. Any against say aye. Okay so we have one against and the rest in favor. Motion carries.

Harry Barber made the motion to accept the Fishing Proclamation and Rule R657-13 as presented. Sam carpenter seconded. Motion passed 9:1. James Edwards opposed.

Jake Albrecht: Okay our next meeting is Bucks Bulls Proclamation and Rule, November 6, 2007 at 5:00 pm in the Hurricane High School. Notice the time is 5:00. Also I want to excuse Del LeFevre tonight, he called in and he is in Washington D.C.. So with that I would ask for a motion to adjourn.

Clair Woodbury: I motion that we adjourn.

Jake Albrecht: Motion by Clair. Do we have a second? By James Edwards. All in favor please say aye. Any against? Thank you. **1:52:15**

Clair Woodbury made the motion to adjourn. James Edwards seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

