

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

As a avid set line fisherman I don't agree with lowering the hook limit to 8. Only once or twice have I ever had more then 8 fish on at a time. So the risk of taking an over limit is not there. The reason I want the 15 hook limit stay. There are so few set liners. lowering the hook limit takes the experience away. If the limit of hooks is lowered can there be talk a out allowing 2 set line permit holders to combine the hook count to 16 but no more on a single set line. as long as both permit holders are present and both active checking the set line. If the 15 hook count stays lower the time to check to every 10 hours. It reads that you have to be present and near the set line at all times. Pushing the time to 48 hours opens it up to illegal leaving of fishing gear. One more thing I would love to see is more bodies of water open to set lining. le lower green river below vernal. And pelican lake to target carp mostly.

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to Administrative Rule R657-61?

Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

I think you guys are off to a great start by allowing the walleye to stay in echo, and also closing spearfish off to spawning walleyes as well for the set between dates. big spawning female walleye are basically fish in a barrel for spear fisherman when they are "spawning"

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Also unrelated to a few things talked about in the video but oquirrh lake has become booming with fisherman in the past few years strictly for the largemouth bass, it has been producing consistent 4-5-6lb large mouth bass and has been completely self sustaining for the past 8 years, sense the last time you guys stocked it. They're is a giant crowd of new and already existing bass anglers but the interest in them has been booming in the past 4 or so years where all I constantly hear from others is where is a good place locally in the valleys to catch large mouth bass, I know lots of community ponds have them stocked in very small numbers but I think if you upped the numbers or even made more ponds designated/designed for largemouth, channel catfish, bluegill you would have a lot more people fishing and interested in it, plus during the extremely hot summer months when trout don't do well during the stocking/ transportation process largemouth will, and as daybreak has proven if people follow safe catch and release procedures they can self sustain and make an amazing fishery year round!!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 6, 2024 8:49 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

Allowing spearfishing at night and lights for chubs is disappointing and will allow spearfisherman to spear big trout when they are vulnerable at night with no enforcement. This is a retrogressive proposal and is dishonest in its nature as it opens up spearfishing big trout at places like strawberry reservoir at night when there is little enforcement present

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 7, 2024 12:38 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

The walleye rule I believe is great coming from the midwest they are great fish to have in the ecosystem. In regards to cutler I would like to know how to put to vote the use of bluegill in any form at all cutler waters (such as benson Marina area)? Bluegill are abundant and are exceptional bait for catfish. Similar to the cutbait rule for Newton reservoir. I also think that the increase to 6 poles on porcupine will be a good improvement.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 7, 2024 6:22 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed response to the illegal walleye introduction at Strawberry Reservoir?

Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

I do not believe it is in the best interest of Utah or Utah anglers to allow 24 hr spearfishing or even 12 month a year fishing. Spearfishing is not fishing, it is hunting and as such should be regulated as hunting is with specific seasons, purchase of tags. Utah trophy walleye populations have already been negativley impacted by this practice of unsportsmanlike take of a natural resource.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 7, 2024 10:21 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

Im a traditional angler and a spear angler. I support increased access for spear anglers. As I watched this presentation I was happy to see the proposed new places for spear anglers, however, why isn't spearfishing allowed at Gunlock, Quail, and Sand Hollow? This presentation says the State and anglers want increased harvest and we know spear anglers will do this and eat the fish. These bodies of waters allow swimmers and boaters and scuba divers. Having a spear angler in the water is no different than any of these other users. Take is take in these situations. There are so few reservoirs open to spear anglers in Southern Utah. This is a natural, common sense place to expand access in our great State.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 8, 2024 10:22 pm

**Which best describes your position
regarding the proposed changes to
Utah's fishing regulations?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the
proposed changes?**

I support changes especially allowing spear anglers more access and opportunities

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed response to the illegal walleye introduction at Strawberry Reservoir?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed response at Strawberry Reservoir?

I believe that removing the ice hole size restrictions at Flaming Gorge creates a massive safety issue. 8-10 inch holes are bad enough when you have a child unknowingly step in one, but allowing holes bigger than 18 inches creates real deadly hazards on the ice. This should not be allowed.

I also oppose the proposed changes at Manning Meadow Reservoir. This is a brood stick lake for Bonneville Cutthroats. Our state has worked so hard on this program it is a shame to say that because they are doing well we should open the lake to bait fishing and increased harvest. The current regulations at Manning Meadow should stay in place.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed response to the illegal walleye introduction at Strawberry Reservoir?

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed response at Strawberry Reservoir?

Not sure there was a proposal to vote on here. I dont agree with many of your fish management strategies. So i sure the heck dont agree with individuals messing with or waters systems. Get illegal fish out of all lakes and make the plenty for illegal planting extreme.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

Are you kidding me! You want us to vote yes or no to two dozen some rule changes! The board and RACs can barely handle voting on a change with 2 or 3 topics because they deliberate on each part. Which is good. How can you honestly expect them to vote majority yes or no to this many. Or the public. This feels like a federal bill where they slip things in to get them passed sneakily. You seriously recommended reducing a fish limit because its not super effective, but you still have too many of the fish??? I vote no because the dwr/rac/board/public needs to consider each of these more individually. Also, why not send surveys (regardless of topic) to all individuals to get the maximum sample size imstead of worrying about if you have enough samples. We are talking about sending a mass email, not time intensive phone calls or other methods. Ex: fishing rule changes, send to all people with a fishing license

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 23, 2024 7:49 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Somewhat disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

Allowing Chumming is unsporting and should not be allowed anywhere in the state.

We should not be wasting Lake trout, I am against this, find a reasonable use.

Spearfishing at night seems like a bad idea.

I think spearfishing in the Uintas is a bad idea too.

Removing the Bonus brook Trout Limit seems like a bad idea, cut it in half first.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed response to the illegal walleye introduction at Strawberry Reservoir?

Strongly agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed response at Strawberry Reservoir?

The State should take further steps to improve enforcement of current laws regarding illegal movement and introduction of fish species and increase penalties for those people who are caught. Also, once an unwanted fish species is discovered, a catch and kill order should be implemented and the fish should be wasted without allowing angler to harvest and consume.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

August 27, 2024

Roger Wilson, Chair
Utah Anglers Coalition
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Re: Proposed Changes to the 2025 Fishing Regulations

To All RAC Members:

Utah Anglers Coalition is a statewide association of varied angling interests dedicated to the protection, enhancement, and enjoyment of Utah's aquatic resources and angling opportunities.

Recently, UAC met with the Division to discuss at length the proposed regulation changes for 2025. UAC supports all of the proposed changes to the 2025 Fishing Regulations except for removal of the current size restriction on ice holes at Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Some of our members are opposed to this regulation change due to their concerns about public safety with unrestricted hole size. Because our organization operates by consensus we are therefore taking no official position on this single regulation change.

Respectfully,

Roger Wilson

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to Administrative Rule R657-61?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?

First of all, I want to make it clear. I am not against anyone pursuing their passion or craft. I am not arguing against spear fishing. However, I believe there should be a check and balances when it comes to the taking of fish in the sport of spear fishing.

I think the new proposed regulations of allowing spear fishing at night with artificial light for chub only, opens up a can of worms. From a walleye angler's perspective, this regulation change is specifically targeted to the exploitation of walleye.

During the spring, walleye are vulnerable. This is especially true at Deer Creek and Starvation. Walleye gather in hug schools in the same locations year after year. These schools include the large females that are easy targets for spear fishing. They don't spook easily and can be taken at will. Additionally, there is no law enforcement at night. I feel we are giving the fox the keys to the hen house by implementing the use of artificial light at night for spear fishing.

I am personally against the regulation change. Allowing spear fishing at night with artificial light for chub is not enforceable. And leaves to door open for exploitation of our walleye population.

I am asking for a compromise. Close Starvation, Deer creek and other walleye water bodies to all spear fishing from March 1st - May 15th. We protect spawning bass and trout. Why are we not protecting our walleye fisheries?

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

As a local fisherman that utilizes manning meadow many times each year, I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed rule changes removing the artificial flies and lures only restrictions on Manning meadow and Barney reservoirs.

These pristine mountain reservoirs are the only local waters that have such restrictions, and it has been a nice resource to help encourage fly fishing and lure techniques without having to compete with other fisherman using baiting techniques. I have nothing against bait fishing in general, but there are ample fishing opportunities in the vicinity that allow all fishing techniques, and I believe reserving these couple reservoirs as artificial flies and lures only, helps maintain their uniqueness and value as fly fishing destination waters.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

I would like to comment about the proposed rule changes for Manning Meadow Reservoir and Barney Lake. I frequent both lakes and both are treasures in the fly fishing community. They are the only Artificial fly and lure only lakes for many miles and I believe they should stay that way. The last Net Survey at Barney Lake was conducted in 2020 and since that time, it has had significant winter kill due to the drought two years ago and it will not recover if bait is allowed there. It is a pristine lake with very little parking. There are numerous other lakes on the mountain and surrounding areas which allow bait. The DRW web sight describes Barney Lake as a "small lake perfect for float tubes." The Southern RAC voted to not allow bait fishing at these two fisheries. I respectfully ask the Wildlife Board also vote to not allow bait at Manning Meadows and Barney, but also allow the taking of four fish at both waters, to protect this limited resource to those to have come to cherish this area for the opportunities it provides. Manning Meadows has been described as one of the best dry fishing spots in Utah.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

The proposed changes to Manning Meadow and Barney Lake need are unnecessary, and the Southern RAC agrees and voted to eliminate the proposed changes to these fisheries. These lakes provide two of only a few opportunities specific for fly/lure anglers. I am opposed to changing the regulations at both lakes, however, I am extremely opposed to change at Barney Lake. I voiced my opinion at the Southern RAC meeting and noted some of the following issues:

The fish population is not healthy as is being presented in the presentation video. Barney Lake experienced winter kill in the winter of 2021-2022, as well as 2022-2023. This is confirmed on the DWR Fish Finder Website, as well as by Mr. Mike Hadley at the Southern RAC meeting. There is no reason to change regulations to this lake in order to help reduce fish population. It was noted in the meeting that the real reason for the change was because it needs to follow the same rules as Manning Meadow.

Manning is a fly fishing destination and is literally the premier dry fly fishery in southern Utah. The fish population is healthy, providing great opportunity to catch quality 14-18" cutthroat trout. Although the fish do not get much bigger because of the healthy population, the angling community is happy with the quality of fish that are available at the lake.

Local comments and questions were heard at the Southern RAC meeting, and the Southern RAC Board voted UNANIMOUSLY to keep the fly/lure restrictions in place. The Wildlife board should support the recommendation of the Southern RAC and again vote to strike down the recommended changes and keep the fly/lure restrictions in place.

Southern Utah only has a few lakes/reservoirs that have these restrictions (Manning, Barney, Minersville, & Kolob (partial year)), there is no need to take away what is already limited opportunities for these type of fisheries. Taking these away would essentially make Minersville Res the only true fly/lure only location, which is unreasonable for a region as large as the Southern Region. Again, please listen to the Southern RAC and their vote, and please consider that the fish populations at these two locations are in no need of reduction through the use of bait, especially Barney Lake, which was confirmed by the DNR Biologist at the RAC meeting. If you are not going to follow the recommendation of the Southern RAC, then I am not sure why they are included as part of the process. Thank you for your consideration.