

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'm a traditional and spear angler. I strongly support all recommendations opening spearfishing in the current proposal.

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 place common sense to expand access in our great State.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 7, 2024 11:10 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 increasing access to spear fishing across more lakes in Utah.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 7, 2024 11:11 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 strongly support approving all recommended spearfishing opportunities.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 8, 2024 7:18 am

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 strongly support these changes.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 8, 2024 4:56 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? Strongly agree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes? Highly recommend passing more opportunities for spearfishing statewide!!

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 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 changes to Utah's fishing regulations?

Somewhat disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

I went up to Manning over the weekend for a couple hours and had a lot of fun, caught a lot of fish, and did a lot of thinking about this proposal. And, the more I thought, the more I didn't like it. Here's why:

1) The flies and lures regulation has been place for around 30 years and Manning has been a brood stock lake for that same time frame. The current management plan has not only worked to help the state stock loads of bonnevillie cutts but also provide a nice fishery right off the road. Why fix what ain't broke?

2) With the amount of traffic the road by Manning sees--ATV's, side-by-sides, motorcycles, and trucks--I can't believe that the amount of shore fishing will lead many of those same people to drive up to the shoreline across grassy shorelines, prop up a rod with bait, and then leave after discarding their worm containers, powerbait bottles, leaders, hooks and sinkers on the shoreline. One thing I have always appreciated about Manning is the lack of garbage around the reservoir. But, just down the road at the Box Creek Reservoirs or even a little further down to the Monroe City pond and you will find a different story. I realize that not every bait fisherman is going to do this but the increased shoreline use will lead to it...

3) The close proximity to the Box Creek Reservoirs is particularly concerning...both of these reservoirs have had a history of all kinds of rough fish including shiners and goldfish. I have a hard time not believing that lifting the bait fishing regulations at Manning will lead to someone moving shiners to Manning after using them for bait jeopardizing the entire fishery. To me, it would only be a matter of time. Shouldn't the brood stock program be of highest priority and every management option be used to protect that program?

4) To compromise, I would suggest the DWR allow bait and increase harvest at Barney Reservoir which is a short drive from Manning.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 12, 2024 10:50 am

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 requested change to allow bait at Manning Meadow Reservoir does not make sense. This has been a brood lake for Bonneville Cutthroat trout for a very long time. As far as I know the Bonneville are the only species in there. Allowing bait for a threatened species just seems counterproductive. If there are too many fish in the reservoir then the increased limit would be okay with a yearly review of the population. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 12, 2024 1:46 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?

We should not kill bigger bass, there should be a size limit 14 inches and smaller.

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?

You want to increase the average size bass in southern utah lakes.... so you're going to allow people to keep MANY of those larger fish? How does this make any LOGICAL sense. If you want to increase the average size open it up to keeping 5 largemouth bass with only 1 over the size of 12 inches. Or make all 5 be under 12 inches. This would allow people to keep more small fish and keep the larger fish in there. It's pretty obvious that the implementation of the 6 bass of any size rule change many years ago has DESTROYED every northern Utah bass fishery. Let's learn from our mistakes and make bass fishing better. Not continue to destroy it. There are so many more bass fisherman in Utah than ever before. It's time to start making bass fishing more of a priority. NOT continue to keep destroying it. Rule changes like these make it obvious the DWR has no idea what's happening to lakes and fish populations in Utah.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 13, 2024 7:18 am

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 13, 2024 7:23 am

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?

Changing this rule allows all the big fish to be killed off and no longer there from fishermen to enjoy catching. Making fishing not a sport of enjoyment.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 13, 2024 10:13 am

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 wish they would make the bass limits lower in the reservoirs around St. George so the fisheries can continue to grow in numbers and get bigger fish.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 19, 2024 1:45 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?

I don't see why we need to get rid of the artificial flies and lures only regulations on Manning Meadow and Barney Reservoirs. So few lakes or streams in the region have such regulations and it doesn't seem fair to anglers that prefer fishing with artificials to remove these waterbodies from that very short list. Both reservoirs produce nice fish and are easy access. Why would we do away with regulations that have created wonderful fisheries? Perhaps we can see a compromise to moving Barney to bait fishing allowed while keeping Manning Meadow as a destination for fly anglers and lure fishermen.

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 strongly disagree with the proposed changes to Manning Meadow Reservoir and Barney Lake. These bodies of water have been fly/lure lakes for many years, and that needs to continue. I agree that Manning could use the limit of fish being raised to 4, however, I disagree with allowing bait. Manning aside, I am sick about the idea of Barney Lake being turned over to bait. This video states that the fish population is healthy. What is this based off of? Has there been a net survey done in the last year? I fish that lake probably as much or more than any single person and I am almost certain the lake took on significant winter kill over the winter of 21-22, and 22-23. In fact your own website states "we did observe evidence of a partial winter kill at Barney" That was written for the 2022 summer forecast, the lake then had a horrible winter and had worse winter kill the following winter. I realize it has been stocked now for two summers, but the healthy fish population that was once there is gone. I have verified this with DWR employees. As such, there is no necessity to thin that lake out. Normally Barney is an exceptional fishery for fly and lure anglers. There are plenty of cutthroats to catch, of decent size 14-18", and it also produces trophy tiger trout. The introduction of bait fishing into that lake will eliminate the chance of trophy fish, and it will eliminate it quickly. This type of opportunity does not really exist anywhere else on that mountain range. Barney is the lake that has always provided the chance of a really big fish. There are multiple other opportunities on that exact mountain range for bait anglers to take advantage of (Lower and Upper Box Creek, Big Lake, Annabelle, and Deep Lake) all provide great opportunities for catch and keep anglers. Barney is not a widely used camping destination, trailers are not allowed down the road...it is a place to escape the crowds and a haven for fly and lure anglers. I question the accuracy and validity of the statistics on this survey. If the majority of fisherman in the state are bait friendly, how does this survey account for that? Because I am assuming the sample size of bait angler to non-bait anglers respondents is not close to the same, which would obviously make the survey lean in the favor of bait anglers. Please do not make these changes. I think the points being made in the video are inaccurate, possibly relying on skewed statistics and outdated netting surveys.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 25, 2024 10:05 am

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

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

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

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