

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 6, 2024 8:02 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 would like to add just single fly barbless on the green river only as well. Make fly fishing great again. I guide for spinner fall guide service on the green 200 plus days a year.

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August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 6, 2024 9:10 pm

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

I would like to see single barbless hooks be used on the Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

Reduce limits on Kokanee salmon at strawberry reservoir from 4 fish to 2 fish. The guide boats are decimating the Kokanee. The average size has gone way down and the numbers seem to be way down also. The spawning Kokanee in strawberry need to be protected. You can start by moving the closed season to August 1st through October 31st. There are too many fish that should be going to spawn being caught and kept. Once the Kokanee start changing they are not very good to eat and I would dare bet the majority of fish being kept are going to someone's freezer and sitting there for a year or better then getting thrown away because now they are no good or freezer burnt so bad they can't be eaten. Also remove slot limits on cutthroat trout state wide. These fish are being wasted because they are not very hardy and either roll over and die or a pelican or seagull come eat them before they can get deep enough to be safe. Besides they really aren't that fun to catch there's a reason they are known as a wet sock. I know this suggestion will never be considered be it the Kokanee suggestion or the cutthroat suggestion but there needs to be big changes at strawberry.

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 support the proposed spear fishing regulations.

As we look to the future, we hope spear anglers will be seen not as a niche group but as peers within the broader angling community.

- Trust us as advocates for pristine water and thriving aquatic ecosystems.
- Recognize our value as dedicated volunteers.
- Consider spearfishing as way to showcase the division's charter to increase public access to Utah's majestic waters.

I challenge you to work with us on a future

-Where spear anglers aren't just called on to help w eradication of invasive species but where we are treated as equals w other anglers and have the opportunity to explore more waters and take home fish to our families and friends.

-Where the division understands our selectivity; a spear angler only shoots when sure, just as an angler releases a fish not meant for home.

-Where expanding access to spearfishing for game fish is seen as a way to distribute spear angling pressure.

-where our activity and travel in the State benefits both the ecosystem and economics of the State.

-Where the angling community understands that we can reliably identify species underwater as accurately as traditional anglers or hunters on land.

We ask the Board to see spearfishing not just as a management tool, but as an integral, equal part of the angling community.

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'm very concerned about increasing the hole size through the ice on Flaming Gorge, and my concern is this. Ice fishing is very much a family sport that can and does include many children of all ages. Allowing holes through the ice larger than 18" is creating an unwanted safety issue. Younger children are constantly roaming and playing on the ice while the parents are attending to fishing, enjoying adult beverages, and conversing with other adults. Parents may be unaware of the existence of holes larger than typical ice auger size (generally 10" or less) through the ice in the area they are fishing. Very young children would not be aware of the dangers of these holes and could possibly fall into one of them undetected by the parents. My thoughts are this. Wyoming should be reducing the hole size to that which Utha has, not Utah increasing to that of Wyoming. Another consideration would be that this could also impact the safety of a person riding an ATV/UTV and have one or more tires go through causing an accident that would likely cause injury or death to one or more passengers in/on the ATV/UTV. It appears on the surface that this is aimed at allowing spear fishing through the ice at Flaming Gorge. Why? The number of people that spear fish is likely less than 1,000 in either state. Compared to the hundreds of thousands of line anglers in the state (Utah had 604,000 plus license sales in 2023 not counting combo licenses), spear fishing involves about one half of one percent (0.5%) of the total fishing population. Why would either state cater to such a small percentage of the recreational user? This makes no sense to me at all. Please feel free to contact me with regard to this issue. My phone number is (801) 549-8199.

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.

Form Name:
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August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 10, 2024 2:27 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?

As somebody who regularly fishes Flaming Gorge and arch I think these changes are needed.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 12, 2024 1:08 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?

Make the lake trout changes go into effect consistent with Wyoming. When ice fishing or fall fishing, those who cross state lines to fish can be caught in a legal nightmare when it comes to the possession limits.

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 agree with the proposed actions on Lake Trout to help the kokanee population at Flaming Gorge with the exception on kokanee limits. I think Wyoming and Utah are being short sighted by reducing it to three kokanee per angler.

The kokanee problem at FG is not angling pressure; it is Lake Trout. Limiting fishermen from occasionally taking that fourth fish will not improve the situation but it will discourage them from visiting the reservoir. The Gorge is located in an isolated area and is a long drive for most of the anglers who visit. For these anglers, it is a significant expenditure in time and money to get there. Fewer will want to do that for the hope of catching three fish.

Maybe most importantly for Utah anglers, it will put even more pressure on places like Strawberry, which is already crazy at times.

For DWR, fewer out of state anglers will want to visit. The Gorge is the mecca of kokanee fishing for anglers in the western US and that means fewer licences sold.

Angler harvest of kokanee is not the problem at Flaming Gorge and the reduced limit is a bad idea for Utah.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 16, 2024 2:05 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?

The removal of the bonus brook trout limit (4) is ridiculous when the DWR continues to rotenone the streams in the High Uintas to kill the brook trout!! Why not let the PUBLIC continue to harvest them and get the benefit of the food. After all our TAXES are funding this organization! The fishing license rates are already too high now and to spend the money to travel to the Uintas to fish for just a limit of four trout is prohibitive to many senior citizens and lower income individuals. I STRONGLY disagree with this proposed change

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes?

As a passionate Utah angler, I am experiencing more pressured waters in my fishing, than ever before. I feel we need to make changes on one of my favorite waterbody, the green river below flaming gorge reservoir. With more use and the same or decreasing numbers of fish (an aging reservoir, drought and unnatural seasonal flow patterns for power generation), there's a need now more than ever to protect the pristine nature of the fish we so often catch and release. I see fish with previous catch evidence every single day (mangled maxilla, severed scales, tweaked tails, undulated underbellies, finagled fins, fried eyes, pulverized pectorals, etc....) and I believe it's from barbed and multiple pointed hooks (trebles). Please, consider the catch and release practices by the large majority here, and change regulations to best allow for minimal damage to fish being caught time after time. This will also decrease handling and out of water time for these finite adult fish so many anglers are targeting. I've used for years, barbed hooks, and I be used for years now, barbless hooks. I can attest to the ease of handling and minimal damage a single barbless fly and lure can accomplish vs the barbed hooks that create deformations on the fish population. On another note, it would be great to discontinue allowing the use of toxic lead on such a pressured waterway. We've just heard of an endangered condor found dead in Utah from lead poisoning, and we have many migratory birds that utilize the river corridor. While shotgunners have to use nontoxic shot, anglers should embrace more of an environmental stewardship of often overused resources and go with nontoxic fishing weights as well. They are available and as managers of our wildlife, you should consider making this change. I am one who fishes, works, boats, and wades the green river most all my life, and I'd like to see more emphasis on keeping this stunning fishery as stunning as ever, and we need to make some changes for the better amidst increased use and abuse. Thank you. Charlie Card- Born to fish, forced to guide.

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?

The UDWR is absolutely sending mixed signals to anglers at Pelican Reservoir. There have been some news releases and Facebook posts (summer 2024) encouraging anglers to harvest bluegill at Pelican Reservoir. I have seen these on the evening news too. Yet the proposed regulations for 2025 are restricting bluegill harvest at Pelican to 15 fish and only 5 can be greater than 8". I don't know any angler who would want to drive from the Wasatch Front to Pelican Res. to harvest 15 bluegill, especially when only 5 of them can be greater than 8". What is the UDWR actually wanting? Harvest of bluegill from Pelican or not? Why the difference between what is being advertised in the summer of 2024 compared to the highly restricted harvest of what amounts to a 5 bluegill limit proposed for 2025? Most anglers do not harvest bluegill smaller than 8". Finally, why on earth would you propose to allow anglers to ice fish with 6 rods at Pelican Reservoir when the bluegill limit is basically 5 bluegill of keeper size (i.e. 8" or larger)? There was a big push in the mid 2010's to "simplify fishing regulations". The UDWR has done a good job of this, but making more special regulations with 6 ice fishing rods, but only at certain reservoirs, and making special harvest regs stating that only 5 of the 15 bluegill can be 8" or longer is going the other direction. How about just saying 15 bluegill? Or maybe 10 bluegill. I live far enough away from Pelican Res. that I won't be interested in driving there for 5 bluegill over 8".

Finally, how many anglers were "polled" to develop the 6 ice fishing rod regulation? I've talked to quite a few anglers and I have only heard from one person that supports the regulation and this person admitted he was the person who spoke to Chris Penne about a year ago asking for it. Has there been a demand from anglers? Additionally, allowing 6 poles would likely result in very little additional harvest. In fact, fishing with two poles and paying attention to bites is hard enough. Trying to watch 6 poles and have any success is just nothing more than complicating regulations. If the UDWR agrees that fishing regulations control the harvest on most bodies of water, then why bother with 6 poles? Why not allow 10? Maybe trot line with 50 hooks? Anyway, I hope you can see my point.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 23, 2024 7:42 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.

Allowing wasting of Lake Trout should not be allowed.

Allowing Spearfishing at night is a bad idea and unsporting. Same with allowing in the Unitas.

I think removing the bonus brook trout Limit is a bad idea. maybe cut it in half if needed.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

August/September 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback
August 25, 2024 10:06 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