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MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Advisory Council Members and Wildlife Board

FROM: Trina Hedrick, Coldwater Sportfish Coordinator, and
Craig Walker, Assistant Aquatics Chief, Sportfish Program

DATE: July 31, 2024

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Fishing Regulation Proposals

The UDWR is recommending the following regulation changes to the 2025 and 2026 Utah Fishing Guidebooks. All page numbers referenced in this memorandum refer to the location in the 2024 Utah Fishing Guidebook where a regulation change is proposed.

Central Region:

- Deer Creek Reservoir: Strike white bass from the first bullet requiring that all white bass be killed immediately. Add "No limit white bass" (page 28).
- Provo River Delta: Add to Rules for Specific Waters on page 36 of the guidebook: "All suckers must be immediately released. CLOSED to the possession of walleye from March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May. No limit on northern pike. Anglers must not release any northern pike they catch. All northern pike must be immediately killed. CLOSED to nighttime bowfishing (sunset to sunrise) from the first Saturday of May through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July." (Page 37)
- Stansbury Lake: Add to Rules for Specific Waters on page 38 of the guidebook: "Closed to the possession of largemouth bass. Limit 10 bluegill, green sunfish, and black crappie (a combined total). Limit 2 channel catfish." (Page 38)

Northeastern Region:

- Flaming Gorge Reservoir: (Page 30)
 - Strike language saying "Limit 4 trout or kokanee salmon (a combined total), excluding lake trout" and replace with "Limit 4 trout or kokanee salmon (a combined total), excluding lake trout, and no more than 3 may be kokanee salmon" (page 30).
 - Strike language saying "Limit 12 lake trout/mackinaw, only 1 may exceed 28 inches" and replace with "No limit for lake trout/mackinaw 28 inches or less, only 1 may exceed 28 inches."
 - Add "Anglers may use dead lake trout that are part of their daily bag limit as bait."
 - Strike "When ice fishing, the hole size may not exceed 18 inches."



- In the bullet allowing the use of up to six lines while ice fishing, strike “If the angler is using more than one line, pole or tip-up” and replace it with, “If the angler is using more than two lines, poles, or tip-ups.”
- Strike “Open to taking burbot by means of underwater spearfishing from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 24 hours each day. Artificial light is permitted while engaged in underwater spearfishing for burbot. Artificial light may not be used to take other fish species with spearfishing techniques. No other species of fish may be taken with underwater spearfishing techniques between official sunset and official sunrise,” and replace it with “Open to the taking of burbot and lake trout by means of underwater spearfishing from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Artificial light is permitted while engaged in underwater spearfishing for burbot and lake trout. Artificial light may not be used to take any other fish species with spearfishing techniques.”
- Add “Anglers are only allowed one daily limit at Flaming Gorge Reservoir.”
- Add “Chumming is allowed, but you may chum only with legal baits, dead burbot or lake trout, as specified in Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-12.”
- Add “The length of shooting lines used when spearfishing is restricted to 20 feet.”
- Pelican Lake: Keep the daily bag limit for bluegill at 15 on page 36. Replace the bluegill size restriction with “only 5 may exceed 8 inches.” Add “A person may use up to six lines when fishing through the ice. If the angler is using more than two lines, the angler’s name shall be attached to each line, pole or tip-up, and the angler shall check only their lines.”
- Strawberry River: Add “such as any instream lakes or ponds” to the location description (page 39). The location paragraph would then read, “...including all flowing water, standing water, and instream lakes or ponds.”

Northern Region:

- Causey Reservoir: Add “A person may use up to six lines when fishing through the ice. If the angler is using more than two lines, the angler’s name shall be attached to each line, pole or tip-up, and the angler shall check only their lines.”
- Cutler Reservoir: Add limit 15 black crappie. (Page 27)
- Echo Reservoir: Remove “No limit for walleye. Anglers must not release any walleye they catch. All walleye must be immediately killed.” (Page 30)
- Pond at Poulter Preserve: Add to Rules for Specific Waters on page 36 of the guidebook: “Catch and release only and artificial flies and lures only from 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of September through the third Saturday in May.”
- Porcupine Reservoir: Add “A person may use up to six lines when fishing through the ice. If the angler is using more than two lines, the angler’s name shall be

attached to each line, pole or tip-up, and the angler shall check only their lines.” (Page 36)

- Willard Bay Reservoir and inlet channel: Add limit 15 yellow perch. (Page 41)

Southern Region:

- Barney Lake: Strike “•Limit 2 trout. •Artificial flies and lures only.” (Page 25).
- Gunlock Reservoir : Strike “• Limit 6 largemouth bass, only 1 may be over 12 inches.” Add “Limit 100 black crappie.” (Page 31)
- Manning Meadow Reservoir: Strike “• Limit 2 trout, regardless of species. • Artificial flies and lures only. (Page 34)
- Mill Meadow Reservoir: Remove from Rules for Specific Waters section (Page 34)
- Quail Creek Reservoir: Strike “• Limit 6 largemouth bass, only 1 may be over 12 inches.” (Page 37)
- Sand Hollow Reservoir: Strike “• Limit 6 largemouth bass, only 1 may be over 12 inches.” Add “• Limit 8 largemouth bass.” (Page 37)

Statewide Recommendations

- Change “New community fisheries anticipated: Two new community fishing ponds—Roosevelt Nature Park Pond in Roosevelt (Duchesne County), and The Pond at Poulter Preserve in West Haven (Weber County)—will open to the public in the summer of 2024.” to “New community fishing opportunities: Four new community fishing ponds—Dry Creek Highland Pond in Highland (Utah County), Provo River Delta Gateway Park Pond in Provo (Utah County), Jordan River Big Bend Pond in West Jordan (Salt Lake County), and Willow Spring Pond in Enterprise (Washington County)—are now open to the public.” (Page 3).
- Change “Dead burbot from Flaming Gorge may be used as bait only in Flaming Gorge” to “Dead burbot and lake trout from Flaming Gorge may be used as bait only in Flaming Gorge.” (Page 12).
- On page 13, under “Restrictions on taking fish and crayfish,” add lake trout to the first bullet to now allow the use of artificial light for burbot and lake trout at Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
- On page 13, under “Restrictions on taking fish and crayfish,” add Utah chub to the second bullet to now allow the use of artificial light for common carp and Utah chub anywhere open to spearfishing in the state.
- On page 13, change “Chumming is prohibited on all waters except Lake Powell. Please see the Rules for specific waters, Lake Powell on page 33 for more information about chumming at Lake Powell” to “Chumming is prohibited on all waters except Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Please see the Rules for specific waters, Lake Powell on page 33 and Flaming Gorge Reservoir on page 30 for more information.”



- On page 14, under “Setline fishing” add Yuba Reservoir to the list of waters where setline fishing is permitted.
- On page 14, under “Setline fishing” change “• A setline may not contain more than 15 hooks.” to “• A setline may not contain more than 8 hooks.”
- On page 14, under “Setline fishing” remove “• When fishing with a setline, you must be within 100 yards of the surface or the bank of water you’re fishing from.”
- On page 14, under “Setline fishing” add “• Setlines may only be tended by anglers possessing a setline permit.”
- On page 14, under “Setline fishing” add “• Mechanical retrieval of setlines is prohibited.”
- On page 14, under “Setline fishing” add “• Permitted setlines must be checked at least once every 48 hours.”
- On page 14, under “Setline fishing” change “• ...Your setline must also have a legible tag attached to it that includes your name, address and setline permit number.” to “•...Your setline must be permanently marked with a legible tag identifying your setline permit number.”
- On page 14, under “Fishing with archery tackle and crossbows” change the “Using a crossbow” subheading to “Using a crossbow or airgun”.
- On page 14, under the new “Using a crossbow or airgun” subheading, change “You may use a crossbow to take carp at any open water statewide. You may not use a crossbow to take any other species of fish.” to “You may use a crossbow or airgun to take carp at any open water statewide. You may not use a crossbow or airgun to take any other species of fish.”
- On page 15 under “Underwater spearfishing” remove “Underwater spearfishing hours are from official sunrise to official sunset. It is illegal to use artificial light while underwater spearfishing, and free shafting is prohibited.”
- On page 15 under “Underwater spearfishing” add the following waters to the list of waterbodies where spearfishing is allowed: Alexander Lake, Chepeta Lake, China Lake, Fish Lake (Uintas), Hacking Lake, Hoop Lake, Hoover Lake, Moccasin Lake, Papoose Lake, Paradise Park Lake, Spirit Lake, Upper Stillwater Reservoir, Wall Lake, Wigwam Lake, and Whitney Reservoir.
- On page 15 under “Underwater spearfishing” add white bass, in addition to northern pike, as a species that can be harvested using spearfishing in listed Utah Lake tributaries.
- On page 15, under “Additional spearfishing rules”
 - Remove “There are a few exceptions to spearfishing regulations”
 - Change “At Flaming Gorge (Daggett County), you can underwater spearfish for burbot from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 24 hours per day. You can also use artificial light while spearfishing for burbot at this reservoir.” to “At Flaming Gorge (Daggett County), you can underwater spearfish for burbot and lake trout using artificial light.”
 - Add “Free shafting is prohibited”

- Add “Use of artificial light while spearfishing for Utah chub and carp is permitted anywhere in Utah.”
- Strike Recapture Reservoir from the list of waterbodies open to spearfishing for any legal species on page 15. Add Recapture Reservoir to the list of waterbodies included in the “Restrictions on spearfishing for bass” section on page 16.
- On page 18, under “Prohibited fish” replace all text with the following:
“The following is a list of threatened or endangered native species. If you catch any of these fish, you must release them immediately:
 - Bonytail
 - Colorado pikeminnow
 - Humpback chub
 - June sucker
 - Razorback sucker
 - Virgin River chub
 - Woundfin

The following is a list of non-native nuisance fish species. If you catch any of these fish, please do not release them back into the water. Please keep the fish (dead) and report your catch to a local DWR official:

- Alewife
- Asian swamp eel
- Bighead carp
- Black carp
- Bowfin
- Brook stickleback
- Convict cichlid
- Eurasian ruffe
- Flathead catfish
- Gar
- Grass carp
- Ide
- Piranhas
- Nile perch
- Northern snakehead
- Red bellied pacu
- Red shiner
- Round goby
- Rudd
- Sand shiner
- Sea lamprey
- Silver carp

- South American parasitic catfish
 - Tiger fish
 - Tench
 - Tilapia
 - Walking catfish”
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- On page 18, under the heading, “Taking common carp,” add airgun to the list of techniques allowed for the take of common carp.
 - On page 20, under the heading, “Season Dates,” replace that entire paragraph with “Utah’s general fish and crayfish season is Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Fish may be caught by angling, setline, or spearfishing 24 hours a day.”
 - Add “You are on an overnight or multi-day fishing trip at any Utah waterbody, excluding Flaming Gorge Reservoir. (At this reservoir, you may have only one daily limit in your possession.)” as the first bullet on page 20 under “Additional limit in the field.” Strike the paragraph starting, “Here’s another example.”
 - Remove Deer Creek white bass from the list of fish and waterbodies where anglers may legally “waste” (page 23). Remove Echo Reservoir walleye from this list. Strike “• Flaming Gorge: burbot” and add “• Flaming Gorge: burbot and legally possessed lake trout.”
 - Uinta Mountains lakes and streams: Change “Uinta Mountains lakes and streams, Daggett, Duchesne, Summit, Uintah and Wasatch counties” to ““Uinta Mountains lakes and streams, Summit County” (Page 40)
 - Uinta Mountains lakes and streams: Strike “Bonus limit of 4 brook trout (total limit of no more than 12 trout if at least 4 are brook trout from Aug. 15–Dec. 31; total limit of no more than 8 trout if at least 4 are brook trout during the remainder of the year). (b) All other streams and lakes in Utah within the boundary beginning on I-80 at the Utah-Wyoming state line southwest of Evanston, Wyoming and continuing southwest along I-80 to US-40 (near Park City); then east along US-40 to Vernal, Utah; then north along SR-44 to Manila, Utah; then west on SR-43 to the Wyoming state line; and then west and north along the Wyoming state line back to the beginning point at I-80: • Limit 4 trout. • Bonus limit of 4 brook trout (total limit of no more than 8 trout if at least 4 are brook trout).” (page 40).

Definitions

- Add “Shooting line” means the line used to connect a speargun to spearshaft and does not include float line and reel line.