**Abstract**

**Using a Citizen Based Working Group to Develop Season and Limit Proposals for two Controversial Fisheries**

Idaho Department of Fish and Game utilized a new approach to develop season and limit proposals for the 2022-2024 steelhead and fall Chinook Salmon fisheries in the Clearwater River basin. Due the controversial nature of these two fisheries, it was decided that instead of having the department develop proposals a citizen based working group that represented those people who would be influenced the most by new seasons and limits for these fisheries would develop the proposals. Thirteen individuals were selected to be members of this working group. They met in 11 different meetings over an 8-month period in which they were educated on the different aspects of these fisheries and worked together developing season and limit proposals that would be presented to the broader public for their input. Two different proposal packages were ultimately developed and presented to the public to see which they preferred most. The season and limits for fall Chinook Salmon and steelhead in the proposal package that was preferred most was recommend to and adopted by the commission for the 2022-2024 regulations. This resulted in a steelhead season that switched back and forth between catch-and-release and harvest regulations to provide a diversity of opportunities for harvest and catch-and-release oriented anglers when fishing for steelhead and fall Chinook Salmon. Evaluation of these new seasons and limits found that effort of harvest-oriented anglers increased during the new harvest season whereas effort for fly anglers did not increase in the new catch-and-release season; complaints about crowding when the fall Chinook Salmon fishery occurred were minimal; the new steelhead harvest season did not negatively affect upstream fisheries; and steelhead catch rates increased through the fall season.