

SUMMARY AND TALLY OF UMRRFMP PUBLIC COMMENTS

CANYON FERRY WALLEYE

Alternative 1: (FWP Preferred) Reduce bag limit to 10 fish daily, 20 in possession with only one fish greater than 28-inches. Maintain 10 fish limit for three years in order to evaluate any changes to walleye population structure.

Comments

- Support - 12
- Opposed - 2 (includes Missouri River Flyfishers (117 members) and not in support of any other alternative.

Alternative 2: Reduce bag limit to 10 fish daily, 20 in possession with only 4 fish greater than 16-inches and one fish greater than 28-inches.

Comments

- Support - 53 (includes Walleyes Unlimited (WU) executive Director and Malta Chapter of WU (100+members))

Alternative 3: Maintain current bag limit of 20 fish daily, 40 in possession.

Comments

- Support -12
- Support - 2 (includes Trout Unlimited (TU) (3300 members) but include limit on fish over 14")

Additional Comments

- Support pelican/cormorant reduction -10
- Opposed to pelican/cormorant reduction - 46 (includes Montana Audubon (3800 members) and Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society with argument it is not scientific based.

HAUSER WALLEYE

Alternative 1: (FWP Preferred) Increase daily bag limit to 20 fish only one over 28-inches, 40 in possession.

Comments

- Support - 7

Alternative 2: Increase daily bag limit to 20 fish, 19 fish under 20-inches and only one over 28-inches, 40 in possession. No harvest of fish between 20 and 28-inches.

Comments

- Support - 7

Alternative 3: Keep current daily limit of 10 fish, only one over 28-inches, 20 in possession.

Comments

- Support - 24

Alternative 4: No daily bag limit for walleye.

Comments

- Support - 1 (includes TU)

HOLTER WALLEYE

Alternative 1: Maintain current regulation of six fish daily, with 5 less than 20-inches and only one over 28-inches. No harvest of fish between 20 and 28-inches.

Comments

- Support - 25

Alternative 2: (FWP Preferred) Increase harvest by increasing bag limit to eight fish daily, with 7 less than 20-inches and only one over 28-inches. No harvest of fish between 20 and 28-inches.

Comments

- Support - 13

Alternative 3: Increase harvest by increasing bag limit to ten fish daily, with 9 less than 20-inches and only one over 28-inches. No harvest of fish between 20 and 28-inches.

Comments

- Support - 2

CANYON FERRY YELLOW PERCH

No new management alternatives for perch were presented by the Citizen Workgroup.

Comments

- Support current regulations - 15

HAUSER YELLOW PERCH

Alternative 1: Lower daily angler bag and possession limit to 15 yellow perch

Comments

- Support - 18

Alternative 2: Maintain current angler bag limit of 50 perch daily with no possession limit.

Comments

- none

Alternative 3: (FWP Preferred) Lower daily angler bag limit to 25 perch daily with no possession limit.

Comments

- Support - 5

HOLTER YELLOW PERCH

Alternative 1: (FWP Preferred) Reduce daily limits of perch to 25 fish daily with no possession limit.

Comments

- Support - 20

Alternative 2: Maintain current bag limit of 50 fish daily with no possession limit.

Comments

- Support - 1

Additional Comments

- Support 15 fish limit - 2

HAUSER KOKANEE

Alternative 1: Continue work with hatcheries to find a cost-effective solution for stocking kokanee in Hauser.

Comments

- Support - 3

Alternative 2: Explore opportunities to construct artificial spawning facilities for kokanee.

Comments

- Support - 12

Alternative 3: (FWP Preferred) Eliminate stocking of kokanee in Hauser Reservoir.

Comments

- Support - 7

HOLTER KOKANEE

Alternative 1: (FWP Preferred) Continue stocking surplus hatchery kokanee when available.

Comments

- Support - 15

Alternative 2: Modify stocking requests to stock kokanee in Holter annually.

Comments

- Support - 2

Alternative 3: Discontinue kokanee stocking in Holter Reservoir.

Comments

- Support - 2

MISSOURI RIVER (TOSTON – CFR) BROWN TROUT

Alternative 1: Maintain current combined trout regulation, with catch-and-release only for brown trout between 18 and 24 inches.

Comments

- Support - 8 (includes TU)

Alternative 2: Consider catch-and-release only for brown trout. Children age 14 and under can possess one brown trout.

Comments

- none

CANYON FERRY BROWN TROUT

Alternative 1: (FWP Preferred) Consider catch-and-release only regulations for Canyon Ferry. Children age 14 and under can possess one brown trout.

Comments

- Support - 7 (includes TU)

Alternative 2: Maintain current bag limit of 5 combined trout daily

Comments

- Support - 1

CANYON FERRY FORAGE FISH

Alternative 1: (FWP Preferred) Give priority to increase current forage species to support a multi-species fishery. Informally identify potential new species that may be appropriate for the system.

Comments

- Support - 6

Alternative 2: Begin a formal process to evaluate introduction of alternative species that would be part of the forage base identified in initial forage evaluations.

Comments

- Support - 39

Additional Comments

- Opposed - 33 to any forage introductions at all. These comments do not specifically state support for either alternative. Includes Montana Audubon, TU, Missouri River Flyfishers, and Snowy Mountain Chapter TU.

RAINBOW TROUT

No new formal management alternatives for rainbow trout were presented by the Citizen Workgroup.

Additional Comments

- Support - 2 - 8" stocking is good.

HAUSER TAILRACE MOTORIZED ACCESS

Alternative 1: Maintain the no wake zone from Beaver Creek to Hauser Dam.

Comments

- Support - 23

Additional Comments

- Need more enforcement on the river
- Need more signage
- Do not restrict use
- Eliminate guides and outfitters

Alternative 2: (FWP Preferred) Restrict boat use from Hauser Dam to Beaver Creek to non-motorized boats only.

Comments

- Support - 5

Alternative 3: Restrict boat use from Hauser Dam to Cochrane Gulch to non-motorized boats only.

Comments

- Support - 1

Additional Comments

- Restrict boat use from Hauser Dam to Holter Lake

Comments

- Support - 1

OTHER ISSUES

Disease and Aquatic Nuisance Species

Comments

- Support - 2 (includes MT Audubon and TU) - all strategies but especially boat-check and boat washing stations available during periods of high angler during fishing and boating tournaments.

Use of Live Fish and Bait

Comments

- Support - 2 (includes MT Audubon and TU) - all strategies for the prohibition except *without* the FWP investigation of use of native bait fish species.

NEW ISSUES

Classify and Manage the Lower Missouri below as a Trout Fishery and Suppress Walleye

Comments

- Support - 31 (includes TU, Missouri River Flyfishers and Snowy Mountain TU of Lewistown)

Other Comments

- Manage for native fish over non-natives in the Missouri River system (1). (includes Snowy Mountain TU.)
- Opposed to gill netting of walleye. (2)
- Suppress northern pike. (4)
- Maintain good water quality in Missouri River system. (1)
- Manage for trout exclusively in the reservoirs and remove walleye limits. (1)
- Reduce walleye limit to 6 fish daily with slot overall. (3)
- Prevent escapement of walleye below Holter. (1)
- BOR should give more consideration for protection of the downstream fishery. (1)
- Supports CFR walleye limit of 10 fish and 10 in possession. (1)
- Reduce walleye limit to 5 fish with or without a slot on CFR. (7)
- Reduce walleye limit to 10 fish with a slot of 20-27 inches on CFR. (1)
- Maintain walleye limit at 10 fish limit with a slot of 20-27 inches and one over 28 inches on Hauser. (1)
- Consider cisco as forage introduction. (1)
- Unequal representation of Workgroup members. (6) (includes Missouri River Flyfishers)
- Perch habitat improvements have created spawning area for northern pike. (1)
- Need more commercial control or suppression for controlling carp. (2)
- Increase trout stocking for the reservoirs. (1)
- Restore rainbow limits in Missouri River below Holter to 5 fish. (1)
- Maintain a flexible management plan. (2)
- Maintain a 5-year management plan. (1)
- Kokanee stocking should not continue since it may have led to the decline of the brown trout fishery. (1)

- FWP should pursue mitigation of the turbines at Toston Dam which has led to a decline in the brown trout fishery. (1)
- Please organize a thorough regimented creel census on Hauser to determine the popularity of this fishery. (1)
- Opposed to fishing derbies because some fish die when returned to the water and compete with other anglers for use. (2)
- Executive Summary has questionable statistics regarding the statement “almost 50% of summer fisherman were targeting walleye in 2007” and should be removed from the plan. (1)
- The plan incorrectly states that trout populations in the reservoir are “stable”(1) (includes MT TU)
- Close the walleye and perch fishing from March 31 to June 1 south of the Silos for spawning. (1)
- Reduce burbot daily limit to 5 fish. (1)
- Lower daily angler bag and possession limit to 25 yellow perch and in possession in Hauser (1)
- Keep the rainbow trout limit consistent with the central district lake limits. (1)
- Stock walleye every three years. (1)
- Support better management of kokanee in Regulating Reservoir. (1)
- Supports consistency with walleye limits on all three lakes. (2)
- Supports a limit of 10 to 20 walleye under 14 inches with a slot of 14-20 inches with 5 or less between 14-20 inches on Holter. (1)
- Suppress walleye in the reservoirs. (1)
- Support catch-and-release for all brown trout in all 3 reservoirs and tailwater. (1)
- Support catch-and -release for rainbow in the riverine sections to promote successful spawning of wild fish. (1)
- Also restrict boat use from on Missouri River below Toston to Townsend, below CFR Dam to Hauser Lake. (1)
- Maintaining and improving the wild trout fishery below Toston should be a priority. (1)