



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Fisheries Division

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MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2020

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

From: Jon Sjöberg, Administrator, Fisheries Division

Title: **Commission Regulation 20-01, Amendment #1 – Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the Two Year Period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 – Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action**

Description: The Commission will consider amending Commission Regulation 20-01 to remove the seasonal closure and modify the harvest limit for mountain whitefish and warmwater game fish other than black bass for Topaz Lake in Douglas County, to remove the harvest limit of two mackinaw (lake trout) for Lake Tahoe in Douglas, Carson City and Washoe counties and to adopt a limit of three game fish for Seeman Pond in Douglas County.

Presenter: Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg

Summary:

The Commission will consider Amendment #1 of Commission Regulation 20-01, the Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the Two Year Period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. The Department is proposing an amendment to remove the seasonal closure and modify the harvest limit for mountain whitefish and warmwater game fish other than black bass for Topaz Lake in Douglas County, to remove the harvest limit of two mackinaw (lake trout) for Lake Tahoe in Douglas, Carson City and Washoe counties and to adopt a limit of three game fish for Seeman Pond in Douglas County. This memorandum presents a synopsis of Department recommendations for the Amendment to CR 20-01 including county specific recommendations for fishing seasons and regulations including descriptions and rationale for those changes.

Background:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife acting through their California Fish and Game Commission has proposed several fishing regulation changes to promote regulatory simplicity and reduce confusion for anglers. These regulation changes were workshopped at their August

20, 2020 Commission meeting and will be presented for action and adoption at their October 15, 2020 Commission meeting for the period March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022. Some of these regulations are inconsistent with existing Nevada fishing regulations for the bi-state waters Topaz Lake in Douglas County and Lake Tahoe in Douglas, Carson City and Washoe counties. This Amendment #1 to CR 20-01 will adopt Nevada fishing regulations consistent with the proposed California regulations to ensure regulatory consistency and remove enforcement conflicts and confusion for anglers, where those changes will not negatively impact anglers or have negative biological consequences for Nevada fisheries resources. This amendment will also establish a limit of three game fish for Seeman Pond in Douglas County.

There are no changes proposed for waters in the following counties:

<u>Western Region</u>	<u>Eastern Region</u>	<u>Southern Region</u>
Churchill	Elko	Clark
Humboldt	Eureka	Esmeralda
Lyon	Lander	Lincoln
Mineral	White Pine	Nye
Pershing		
Storey		

The following changes are proposed for fishing seasons and regulations for Carson City, Douglas and Washoe counties:

CARSON CITY COUNTY

All regulations in Carson City County are proposed to remain the same with the exception of the following (changes are delineated in (red) strike-out text):

Lake Tahoe and tributaries

Proposed Regulation:

OPEN WATERS: Lake Tahoe and tributaries	Open year around	5 game fish of which not more than 2 may be mackinaw (lake trout)	1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset
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Description and Rationale:

The Department is proposing to modify the harvest limit for Lake Tahoe and tributaries to read “5 game fish”. The current harvest limit for Lake Tahoe is “5 game fish of which not more than 2 may be mackinaw (lake trout)”. This change is consistent with California’s proposed statewide regulation for multiple waters including Lake Tahoe. Removal of a separate 2-fish harvest limit for mackinaw in Lake Tahoe will have no negative biological impact on the mackinaw population and any increase in harvest of mackinaw that does occur may potentially enhance the fishery over time by removing overabundant smaller mackinaw from the population. This change will ensure regulatory consistency and reduce angler confusion on this bi-state water.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

All regulations in Douglas County are proposed to remain the same with the exception of the following (changes are delineated in (red) strike-out and (green) bold text):

Proposed Regulation:

OPEN WATERS: Lake Tahoe and tributaries	Open year around	5 game fish of which not more than 2 may be mackinaw (lake trout)	1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset
Topaz Lake	January 1 through September 30 Open year around	5 trout, 10 5 mountain whitefish, and 15 25 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass	1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset
Mitch Park Pond, Lampe Park Pond, Martin Slough Ponds (on Gilman Avenue), Seeman Pond	Open year around	3 game fish	Hours parks are open to public use.

Description and Rationale:

Lake Tahoe and tributaries

The Department is proposing to modify the harvest limit for Lake Tahoe and tributaries to read “5 game fish”. The current harvest limit for Lake Tahoe is “5 game fish of which not more than 2 may be mackinaw (lake trout)”. This change is consistent with California’s proposed statewide regulation for multiple waters including Lake Tahoe. Removal of a separate 2-fish harvest limit for mackinaw in Lake Tahoe will have no negative biological impact on the mackinaw population and any increase in harvest of mackinaw that does occur may potentially enhance the fishery over time by removing overabundant smaller mackinaw from the population. This change will ensure regulatory consistency and reduce angler confusion on this bi-state water.

Topaz Lake

The Department is proposing to modify the fishing season for Topaz Lake to read “open year around”. The current season regulation for Topaz Lake is open “January 1 through September 30”. The proposed change is consistent with the proposed California regulation of open year around. This change will have no negative biological impacts on the fishery and will provide additional angler opportunities for harvest of warm-water fish species during the fall months. Recent fisheries surveys have indicated an increasing smallmouth bass population in Topaz Lake and increased opportunity to harvest this species could be beneficial to the primary rainbow trout fishery. The Department is proposing to modify the harvest limits for Topaz Lake to read “5 trout, 5 mountain whitefish, and 25 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass”. This reduces the harvest limit for mountain whitefish in Topaz Lake from 10 fish to 5 fish and increases the harvest limit for warmwater game fish other than black bass from 15 fish to 25 fish, consistent with California’s existing and proposed limits for mountain whitefish and warmwater fish other than black bass in Topaz Lake. Mountain whitefish are an uncommon species in Topaz Lake and a reduced limit is not anticipated to have any impact on angler harvest opportunities while providing a consistency of regulations on a bi-state water. Warmwater fish

species other than smallmouth bass are not a significant component of this fishery. Increasing the general warmwater species limit to 25 fish will have no biological impact and will make the Topaz Lake warmwater species limit consistent with the existing California regulation.

Seeman Pond

The Seeman Pond in Douglas County is a new urban fishing pond being constructed by the City of Minden. It is anticipated to be open to the public by spring or early summer of 2021. The Department is proposing a regulation establishing season and harvest limits for this water as “*Season is open year around, during hours the park is open to public use. Limit is 3 game fish.*” This is consistent with the regulations established for other waters statewide that are managed under the Urban Fishing Concept in the Fisheries Division’s Fishery Management Concepts Program and Procedure. Without adoption of this regulation the Seeman Pond would be placed under the Douglas County general regulation of 5 trout, 10 mountain whitefish, and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass, which is inconsistent with the intended management strategies for this water.

WASHOE COUNTY

All regulations in Washoe County are proposed to remain the same with the exception of the following (changes are delineated in (red) strike-out text):

Lake Tahoe and tributaries:

Proposed Regulation:

<p>OPEN WATERS: Lake Tahoe and tributaries</p>	<p>Open year around</p>	<p>5 game fish of which not more than 2 may be mackinaw (lake trout)</p>	<p>1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset</p>
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Description and Rationale:

The Department is proposing to modify the harvest limit for Lake Tahoe to read “*5 game fish*”. The current harvest limit for Lake Tahoe is “*5 game fish of which not more than 2 may be mackinaw (lake trout)*”. This change is consistent with California’s proposed statewide regulation for multiple waters including Lake Tahoe. Removal of a separate 2-fish harvest limit for mackinaw in Lake Tahoe will have no negative biological impact on the mackinaw population and any increase in harvest of mackinaw that does occur may potentially enhance the fishery over time by removing overabundant smaller mackinaw from the population. This change will ensure regulatory consistency and reduce angler confusion on this bi-state water.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends Commission approval of the proposed changes to Commission Regulation 20-01 after consideration of public and Commission input.