



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This policy provides direction on the management of non-native game fish to ensure the Department's actions to establish, maintain, enhance, or constrain non-native game species are consistent both with the conservation of native fish and wildlife and with providing quality recreational fisheries. It clarifies the Department's management of a diverse suite of non-native game fish species found across the landscape and provides direction on where and when to focus efforts to optimize their recreational use.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The document was shared with interested parties and written and verbal comments were taken into account as the policy was developed. A meeting was held in September with members of the Warmwater Champions to discuss the policy.

ISSUE 1

Adoption of the Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy.

ANALYSIS

The Department's overarching fish management goal is to ensure the conservation and recovery of native fish species, as outlined in the state's Native Fish Conservation Policy. This conservation mandate does not preclude the management of non-native game fish, but it does provide the context for where and what type of management is appropriate. As such, the Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy (Attachment 3) complements the Native Fish Conservation Policy.

The Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy frames how and where to manage non-native game fish to provide recreational angling opportunity and the associated social and economic benefits, while reducing or avoiding risk to native fish and wildlife populations. Implementation of this policy will likely be specific to individual sites, locations, or environments based upon native and non-native game fish distributions, the availability and quality of suitable habitat, and the importance of that habitat to native and non-native game fish species.

The Non-Native Gamefish Policy includes specific directives on how to manage for these species in rivers, streams, natural lakes and in man-made ponds, lakes or reservoirs.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the proposed policy.
2. Modify and adopt the proposed policy.
3. Reject the proposed policy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt the Non-Native Gamefish Management Policy as proposed by staff.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR 635 Division 7 and adopt the Non-Native Game Fish Management Policy as proposed by staff in Attachment 4.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon filing.