

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

The 25-Year Recreational Angling Enhancement Plan (Plan) is required as a budget note from the 2007 Legislative Session. The plan provides a framework, strategies, actions and pilot projects that will guide the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) efforts to enhance recreational fishing opportunities in Oregon over the next 25 years.

An internal agency working group with representatives from District, Fish Propagation, Information and Education, Conservation and Recovery, and Recreational Fisheries programs developed the initial drafts of the Plan. Similar work from other states was reviewed. Department staff provided input at regional meetings. The Commission reviewed and commented on the Plan at their December 12, 2008 meeting.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Sportfish Leaders Group has provided oral and written input and is advising on the Plan. Additionally, staff presented the Plan to user groups and partners around the state and received oral and written comments.

### ISSUE 1

#### ACCEPTANCE OF THE 25-YEAR RECREATIONAL ANGLING ENHANCEMENT PLAN

### ANALYSIS

Staff has developed the Plan (Attachment 4) as identified in a Budget Note to the Department's FY 2007-2009 Budget (Attachment 3). Attachment 2 is an overview of the Plan. It highlights and summarizes the key elements of the Plan: goals, strategies, actions and pilot programs directed toward enhancing Oregon's recreational fisheries. The Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Directive states:

*"The Department will plan and implement management actions to enhance, develop, and promote diverse and productive recreational fishing opportunities that are consistent with the conservation needs of native species, provide balanced social and economic benefits, and connect Oregonians with fish, water, and the outdoors".*

The two goals of the plan are: Goal 1. Provide diverse, stable, and productive angling opportunities; and Goal 2. Increase angling participation. The Plan recognizes the challenges Oregon will face with increasing population. The Plan focuses on youth and family participation and on retention of current anglers in the near-term. Strategies, actions and pilot programs to enhance recreational fisheries include:

- identifying and prioritizing locations and actions to improve fishing opportunities;
- developing marketing plans and improving education programs to recruit new anglers, retain current anglers, and reconnect Oregonians with the outdoors;
- using the hatchery product to increase harvest opportunities;
- forming a recreational fisheries advisory committee;
- retooling our STEP Program to directly address recreational fishing priorities;

- building partnerships to improve our ability to enhance recreational angling;
- using information and tools from a wide range of disciplines such as economics and sociology into decisions; and
- improving Department staffing, organization, and funding to adequately meet current and future recreational fisheries management needs.

The Plan calls for monitoring, reviewing, and updating strategies and actions periodically.

Commission acceptance of the Plan will result in endorsement of the directive, goals, objectives and actions identified in the 25-Year Recreational Angling Enhancement Plan.

**OPTIONS**

1. Support implementation of the Plan as proposed
2. Provide additional comments on the Plan

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Acceptance of this Plan and endorsement of the directive, goals, objectives and actions identified.

<b>DRAFT MOTION:</b>	I move to support implementation of the 25-Year Recreational Angling Enhancement Plan and encourage staff to continue working internally, with partners, and with the public to implement actions in the Plan as determined by the Director.
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	NA