Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Summary of Proposed Fishing Regulation Changes for 2019

Throughout this document the text that is underlined is being added, text that is struck through is being removed. Only the proposed changes that are not self explanatory are shown in this document. Primary reasons for edits were to 1) simplify fishing regulations, and 2) address management challenges. Some relatively straightforward changes, changes proposed to clarify, but not change existing regulations, and minor grammatical corrections are not described below. Counties are consistently referenced in the header line for each regulation exception. Additional references to counties are only used for water names that apply to multiple Wyoming waters in different counties.

Statewide Regulations

Section 2. Definitions.

(h) “Creel Limit” means the total number of game fish a person may harvest and reduce to possession during any one (1) day, or have in possession, regardless of the method or methods of harvest.

[Rationale: This wording is not needed since we define “Possession Limit” separately.]

(zy) “Wild Caught Live Baitfish Possession Area” means the specific drainage locations in Area 2, 3 or 5 where wild caught live baitfish may be possessed regardless of whether they were captured by a seining license holder or obtained from a live baitfish dealer.

[Rationale: All possession areas are not defined using drainages.]

Section 4. Methods.

(g)(iv) The following waters are included under the Special Winter Ice Fishing Provision.

(O) Hawk Springs Reservoir;

[Rationale: Propose adding Hawk Springs Reservoir. Ice fishing is often limited due to poor ice conditions. Would allow anglers to use up to six lines during times when ice is suitable for fishing. Struck county references for water names that only occur in 1 location in the state. Other lists in Chapter 46 have not included county references.]

Section 5. Creel Limits.

(i) Streams and lakes Combined: six(6)

[Rationale: Clarifying that the Daily Creel and Possession limit for trout is 6, rather than 9, for anglers fishing a combination of streams and lakes.]

(xii) Burbot (ling)

three (3) – See drainage area exceptions in Sections 17, 28 and 32.

[Rationale: There are numerous other exceptions, including some for trout, brook trout, lake trout, whitefish, bass, walleye, and burbot. No reason to highlight burbot exceptions.]
Section 6. Seining and Trapping of Fish.

(g) No person shall intentionally tamper with or remove a trap or net, or remove fish from a trap or net that is set and maintained in compliance with Commission regulations without written permission from the seining license holder.

[Rationale: Language similar to trapping of furbearers suggested by warden Dustin Kirsch.]

(h) All wild caught live baitfish transported out of the water of capture shall be held in aquaria when not in use.
   (i) Wild caught live baitfish confined to a holding facility live car, net, pen, or other enclosure in the same water from which the baitfish were captured are exempt from the aquaria holding requirement.

(j) All holding facilities and aquaria and enclosures shall have the owner’s name and seining license number attached while in use.

[Rationale: Eliminating multiple references to “holding facility” in Chapter 46 which is defined in Chapter 10 and includes ponds. Intent is to prohibit wild caught live baitfish from being held in ponds without Chapter 49 (private fish stocking) authorization.]

(k) A seining license holder shall allow Department personnel to inspect live baitfish and all aquaria and enclosures used to hold live baitfish during reasonable business hours.
   (i) If an inspection discloses species of wildlife not authorized by the Department or an aquatic invasive species, the Department may order the wildlife, including all fish in aquaria and enclosures, removed from Wyoming or destroyed.

[Rationale: Added language similar to that used in Chapter 51 (Regulation Governing Fish Hatcheries) that will allow Department personnel to inspect seining license holders. Added language allowing the Department to order the wildlife be removed from Wyoming or destroyed, similar to language in Section 7 related to live baitfish dealers.]

Section 7. Live Baitfish Dealers

(e) All wild caught live baitfish transported out of the water of capture shall be held in aquaria when not in use.
   (i) Wild caught live baitfish confined to a holding facility live car, net, pen or other enclosure in the same water from which the baitfish were captured are exempt from the aquaria holding requirement.

(f) All holding facilities, enclosures and aquaria shall have the owner’s name and live baitfish license number attached while in use.

(p) Department personnel may inspect the holding facilities, aquaria, enclosures and fish of live baitfish dealers during normal business hours.
   (i) If an inspection discloses species of wildlife not authorized by the Department or an aquatic invasive species, the Department may order the wildlife, including all fish in the holding facilities, aquaria, and enclosures, removed from Wyoming or destroyed.

[Rationale: Eliminating multiple references to “holding facility” in Chapter 46 which is defined in Chapter 10 and includes ponds. Intent is to prohibit wild caught live baitfish from being held in ponds without Chapter 49 (private fish stocking) authorization. It’s not realistic to require that baitfish be removed from the state rather than destroyed.]
Section 8. Use of Baitfish.

(c) No person shall possess live baitfish while fishing on any water where the use of live baitfish is prohibited.

[Rationale: Add regulation in prohibit possession of wild caught and commercially produced live baitfish when angling on a water where those live baitfish are not legal bait. Current regulations only prohibit possession of commercially produced live baitfish, except where specifically permitted. Wild caught baitfish can currently be possessed on waters like LAK and Wheatland Reservoir #3, where those baitfish can’t be legally collected or used.]

Drainage Area Regulations

Jackson Region

Section 17. Area 1 Exceptions to General Provisions.

Note: Restructured the regulations in this section, moving all regulations pertaining to Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) and the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway (JDR) to Section 20. The JDR makes up much of the area between Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park and is managed by the National Park Service. Also moved one exception related to Snake River proper so that all Snake River exceptions are presented from upstream to downstream; moved from (s) to (i).

(a) All lakes within Grand Teton National Park in Teton County.
   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be six (6) per day or in possession.
      (A) No more than three (3) shall be cutthroat trout; and,
      (B) No more than one (1) cutthroat trout shall exceed twelve (12) inches.

[Rationale: Moved regulation to Section 20 and changed to all waters, to simplify regulations within GTNP and the JDR.]

(b) All streams within Area 1, unless indicated otherwise, in Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton counties.
   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession.
      (A) No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches; and
      (B) No more than one (1) cutthroat trout shall exceed twelve (12) inches.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Delete regional stream exception for Area 1 and go with statewide stream regulation in most Area 1 streams outside of GTNP and the JDR.]

(d) All streams and Backtail Spring Ponds within Grand Teton National Park below Jackson Lake Dam, excluding Buffalo Fork River, Pacific Creek, Gros Ventre River and Snake River in Teton County.
   (i) Closed to fishing December 1 through July 31.
   (ii) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

[Rationale: Moved regulation to Section 20 and struck “below Jackson Lake Dam” so that the closure and tackle restriction apply to all streams in GTNP.]

(h) Jackson Lake, Grand Teton National Park in Teton County.
(i) Closed to fishing from October 1 through October 31.

[Rationale: Moved regulation to Section 20.]

(i) Pacific Creek downstream from the wilderness boundary to the confluence with the Snake River in Teton County.

(i) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

[Rationale: Simplifying regulations by deleting this exception, but deletion of this regulation would open all of Pacific Creek to bait, rather than restricting tackle on the 7.0 miles of stream upstream of the confluence with the Snake River.]

(o) Snake River proper for a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet below the downstream face of Jackson Lake Dam, Grand Teton National Park in Teton County.

(i) Closed to fishing throughout the calendar year.

[Rationale: Regulation is redundant with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) regulation. Propose deleting from Chapter 46, but continuing to include as BOR regulation in the fishing regulation booklet.]

(pk) Snake River proper from one hundred fifty (150) feet below Jackson Lake dam downstream to the gauging station one thousand (1,000) feet below Jackson Lake dam in Teton County.

(i) All cutthroat trout shall be released to the water immediately from November 1 through March 31.

(ii) The use or possession of fish, parts thereof, or fish eggs for bait is prohibited. Refer to Grand Teton National Park fishing regulations.

[Rationale: Reference is no longer relevant. Deleted GTNP exceptions to Area 1 live baitfish regulations.]

Section 18. Area 1 Live Baitfish. The use or possession of live baitfish in Area 1 is prohibited except that licensed live baitfish dealers may possess live baitfish native to the drainage until the time of sale. Holders of valid seining licenses may only seine, net, trap or spear baitfish native to the drainage for use as dead bait in Area 1, excluding the waters within Grand Teton National Park (refer to Section 20 for Jackson Lake exception). Any baitfish captured, except those to be held by licensed live baitfish dealers, shall be killed immediately. Baitfish permissible for use as dead bait in the Snake River drainage are redside shiner, speckled dace, longnose dace, Paiute sculpin, mottled sculpin, Utah chub, and Utah sucker, and commercially preserved dead baitfish.

[Rationale: Struck reference to the baitfish regulation for Jackson Lake because that exception is proposed for elimination. Added language to allow anglers to use commercially preserved dead baitfish in Area 1 where use of dead baitfish is permitted.]


(a) Fishing is permitted in Grand Teton National Park as described in Sections 1 through 14 of this Chapter, except as otherwise specified in this Section. Fishing shall be in conformance with laws and regulations of the Commission, the state of Wyoming and the regulations of the National Park Service.
(b) The use or possession of fish, fish eggs (real or artificial) or fish parts for bait is prohibited in all waters within Grand Teton National Park, except that it shall be permissible to possess or use the following dead, nongame fish on or along the shores of Jackson Lake: redside shiner, speckled dace, longnose dace, Paiute sculpin, mottled sculpin, Utah chub, and Utah sucker. Please refer to Grand Teton National Park Regulations.

[**Rationale:** Simplify baitfish regulations in the region by making baitfish regulations the same for waters inside and outside Grand Teton National Park.]

(b) All waters within the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway and Grand Teton National Park.

   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be six (6) per day or in possession.
         (A) No more than three (3) shall be cutthroat trout; and,
         (B) No more than one (1) cutthroat trout shall exceed twelve (12) inches.

[**Rationale:** Reorganized, moving this regulation from Section 17 to Section 20 to consolidate all Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) regulations. Edited to include all waters within the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway. National Park Service would like to retain current exception on (GTNP) lakes and streams that limits harvest to no more than one cutthroat over twelve inches.]

(c) All streams within the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway and Grand Teton National Park, excluding Buffalo Fork River, Gros Ventre River, Pacific Creek, P olecat Creek, and Snake River.

   (i) Closed to fishing December 1 through July 31.
   (ii) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

(e) Blacktail Spring Ponds.

   (i) Closed to fishing December 1 through July 31.
   (ii) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

(f) Jackson Lake.

   (i) Closed to fishing from October 1 through October 31.

(g) Snake River proper.

   (i) See Snake River exceptions in Section 17.

(h) Area 1 Live Baitfish regulations in Section 18 apply to all waters.

[**Rationale:** Existing regulations that were moved to Section 20 to consolidate all GTNP regulations in this section of Chapter 46. P olecat Creek was added to the list of waters excluded in (c). P olecat Creek is a popular spring fishery within the JDR that is not an important cutthroat trout spawning tributary. The seasonal closure and tackle restriction need not apply to this stream. Blacktail Springs Ponds was moved from (c) above to separate exception for clarity. Snake River proper exceptions were not moved to Section 20 due to the complicated nature of the GTNP boundary on the Snake River, but a reference was added for clarity. Explanation of live baitfish regulations in GTNP and the JDR was added.]
Lander/Cody Regions

Section 22. Area 2 Exceptions to General Provisions.

(a) All streams within Area 2, unless indicated otherwise, in Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park, Teton and Washakie counties

(i) The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession
   (A) No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches; and
   (B) No more than one (1) cutthroat trout shall exceed twelve (12) inches.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Delete regional stream exception for Area 2 and go with statewide stream regulation in most streams.]

(f) Clark’s Fork River proper from the Wyoming/Montana state line downstream to the Shoshone National Forest Boundary (at mouth of Clarks Fork River Canyon) in Park County.

   (i) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

[Rationale: Propose extending the tackle restriction from the mouth of Clark’s Fork Canyon to the Montana State Line. The restriction would apply to all of the Clark’s Fork River in Wyoming. Regulation is proposed primarily due to the elimination of stocking and feedback from regional anglers that desire a tackle restriction.]

(hg) East Fork of the Wind River drainage streams upstream from the confluence with the Wind River, including Bear Creek and Wiggins Fork, in Fremont County.

   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession. All cutthroat shall be released to the water immediately.

   (A) No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches; and
   (B) All cutthroat shall be released to the water immediately.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Proposed change to statewide stream regulation makes stricken stipulations unnecessarily redundant.]

(q)——Middle Depression Reservoir in Fremont County.

   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession.

   (A) No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. The reservoir is no longer managed for trout. It is being managed primarily Tiger Muskie and Bluegill.]

(s) Pete’s Pond in Fremont County.

   (i) The creel limit on trout and brook trout in combination shall be three (3) per day or in possession.

[Rationale: Pete’s Pond is a new community pond that will be managed as a put and take fishery stocked with catchable trout. Anticipate high rate of harvest. Propose restricting harvest to 3 fish (rather than 6) to reduce number of stocking trips necessary to maintain quality angling.]
Section 23. Area 2 Live Baitfish.

(a) Area 2 Live Baitfish location A. Live baitfish may be used for bait in the waters listed in subsection (i), provided the baitfish are obtained from a licensed live baitfish dealer authorized to sell baitfish for use in these waters or the baitfish were seined or trapped from the waters listed in subsection (ii). Live baitfish restricted to use in location A shall not be transported out of the designated wild caught live baitfish possession area defined in subsection (iii).

(i) Fathead minnows and lake chub are the only live baitfish species that may be used in the following waters;
   
   (A) Torrey Lake
   (B) Ring Lake, and
   (C) Trail Lake

(ii) A holder of a valid seining license may seine, net or trap fathead minnows or lake chubs from the Wind River drainage upstream from the western boundary of the Wind River Indian Reservation excluding Torrey, Ring and Trail lakes. All other baitfish captured shall be killed immediately for use as dead bait or released to the water immediately.

(iii) The designated wild caught live baitfish possession area for location A is the Wind River drainage upstream from the western boundary of the Wind River Reservation.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Very few live baitfish dealer licenses or seining and trapping licenses have been sold for this area. Live baitfish were used primarily by anglers fishing for burbot, but burbot populations and burbot fishing pressure have declined significantly from historic levels. The Area 2 regulation is simplified by removing one of the two locations entirely from the Area 2 baitfish regulations. Old Live Baitfish Location B, will now become Live Baitfish location A.]

Sheridan Region

Section 25. Area 3 Exceptions to General Provisions.

(h) North Sayles Reservoir #1 (on Bud Love WHMA) in Johnson County.

(i) The creel limit on trout shall be one (1) per day or in possession.

(ii) All trout less than twenty (20) inches shall be released to the water immediately.

(iii) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

[Rationale: There is significant angler interest in more trophy trout waters in the Sheridan area. This pond has the potential to grow trophy size trout and diversify fishing opportunities in the various ponds on the Bud Love Wildlife Habitat Management Area.]

(hi) Sand Creek, from the forest service boundary above Ranch “A” downstream to Interstate 90 in Crook County

(i) The creel limit on brown trout is twelve (12) per day or in possession

   All other trout shall be released to the water immediately; and

   (A) No more than one (1) brown trout shall exceed twelve (12) inches.

(ii) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only on the Ranch “A” Public Fishing Area.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Very few anglers keep fish on Sand Creek so liberalized creel limit has not worked to reduce brown trout numbers. Propose retaining the popular tackle restriction.]
Section 26. Area 3 Live Baitfish.
(a) Area 3 Live Baitfish location A. Live baitfish may be used for bait in the waters listed in subsection (i), provided the baitfish are obtained from a licensed live baitfish dealer authorized to sell baitfish for use in these waters or the baitfish were seined or trapped from the waters listed below in subsection (ii). Live baitfish restricted to use in location A shall not be transported out of the designated wild caught live baitfish possession area defined in subsection (iii).
(iii) The designated wild caught live baitfish possession area for location A is the Belle Fourche River drainage, Little Missouri drainage, Little Powder drainage and Cheyenne River drainage and the Little Powder drainage upstream of the confluence of Cottonwood Creek in Campbell County.

[Rationale: Baitfish regulation simplification. Propose eliminating the Cheyenne, Little Missouri and the downstream portions of the Little Powder River drainage from the possession area to help prevent movement of species and AIS between drainages. The proposed changes simplify regulations by eliminating the possession of live minnows in drainages where they can neither be collected nor used, but would prohibit anglers that purchase Location 3A wild caught live baitfish from taking them home if they live in Newcastle, Upton, or other locations outside of the new possession area. Also propose adding “spear” to subsection (ii) as legal means for collecting baitfish – for consistency with other regions.]

(c) Area 3 Live Baitfish location C. The use or possession of live baitfish in Area 3C is prohibited. A holder of a valid seining license may seine, net, trap or spear baitfish in the Tongue River and Goose Creek (Sheridan and Johnson counties) drainages upstream of the Wyoming-Montana state line. Any live baitfish captured shall be killed immediately and used only as dead bait.

[Rationale: Anglers have requested a location to collect baitfish for use as dead bait, primarily when walleye fishing at Tongue River Reservoir (MT) and Lake DeSmet. Propose allowing collection of baitfish for use as dead bait from the Tongue River drainage, including Goose Creek drainage.]

Green River/Pinedale Region

Section 28. Area 4 Exceptions to General Provisions.
(a) All streams within Area 4, unless indicated otherwise, in Carbon, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater and Uinta counties
   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession
      (A) No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches
      (B) No more than one (1) cutthroat shall exceed twelve (12) inches.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Delete regional stream exception for Area 4 and go with statewide stream regulation in most streams.]

(d) Boulder Creek from the inlet of Boulder Lake to the confluence of the North Fork of Boulder Creek in Sublette County.
   (i) Closed to fishing from April 1 through June 30.

[Rationale: Seasonal closure was intended to protect spawning rainbow trout and is no longer warranted.]
(ec) Burnt Lake in Sublette County.
   (i) Closed to fishing from November 15 through April 30.

[Rationale: Aligning fishing closure dates with dates of WHMA closure.]

(ig) Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Sweetwater County.
   (ii) The creel limit on lake trout shall be eight (8) twelve (12) per day, or twenty-four (24) in possession.
   (A) No more than one (1) lake trout in possession shall exceed twenty-eight (28) inches.

[Rationale: Flaming Gorge Reservoir is managed primarily as a trophy lake trout and kokanee fishery. The abundance of lake trout less than 28 inches continues to increase. Growth rates for lake trout less than 28 inches are slowing as they compete with each other for limited food resources. The proposed regulation is intended to highlight the abundance of lake trout under 28 inches and encourage additional angler harvest of these fish.]

(q) High Savery Reservoir in Carbon County.
   (i) The North Fork Savery Creek inflow from the concrete fish trap (dam) downstream to the reservoir is closed to fishing September 1 to September 30.

[Rationale: The closure was intended to prohibit anglers from disturbing the kokanee salmon spawning weir on the North Fork Savery Creek. Kokanee management has changed and the weir is no longer used.]

(ws) Meadow Creek in Sublette County.
   (i) Closed to fishing from April 1 through June 30.

[Rationale: Propose change to Meadow Creek closing date to align with adjacent seasonal closures on Fall Creek and Meadow Lake. Meadow Creek closure is intended to prohibit anglers from disturbing the grayling spawning weir, but his spawning operation does not occur until May.]

(xt) Meadow Lake in Sublette County.
   (i) The portion east of the Game and Fish Department markers shall be closed to fishing from May 1 through June 30.
   (ii) The entire lake is closed to fishing from November 15 through April 30.

[Rationale: Propose change to Meadow Lake fall closing date to align with adjacent seasonal closure through the Fall Creek WHMA; the access road to Meadow Lake.]

(y) Naughton Plant Pond in Lincoln County.
   (i) Closed to ice fishing.
   (ii) The creel limit on trout shall be two (2) per day or in possession.

[Rationale: WGFD was notified that the Naughton Power Plant is going to change the management of this pond and use it as a toxic settling pond, after which it will not support aquatic life.]

Section 30. Flaming Gorge Reservoir Reciprocal Stamp. A person may utilize a valid Wyoming fishing license to fish in the Utah portions of Flaming Gorge Reservoir if the person possesses a valid Utah reciprocal fishing stamp. A person may utilize a valid Utah fishing license to fish in the Wyoming
portions of Flaming Gorge Reservoir if the person possesses a valid Wyoming reciprocal fishing stamp. Anglers purchasing a reciprocal fishing stamp shall validate the stamp by signing in ink across the face of the stamp. Anglers who acquire a reciprocity stamp authorization through the Department’s electronic license service shall not be required to meet the signature portion of this Section. Each licensed angler may take only one (1) creel limit regardless of the number of fishing licenses or stamps held. A person possessing a valid Utah resident fishing license and a valid Wyoming reciprocal fishing stamp, may fish in the Wyoming portions of Flaming Gorge Reservoir and may take creel and possession limits from Wyoming waters of the reservoir in compliance with Wyoming fishing regulations. A person possessing a valid Wyoming resident fishing license and a valid Utah reciprocal fishing stamp, may fish in the Utah portions of Flaming Gorge Reservoir and may take creel and possession limits from Utah waters of the reservoir in compliance with Utah fishing regulations.

[Rationale: Revised language to conform to the updated Reciprocal Fishing Agreement (RFA) between the WGFD and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The proposed changes to Section 30 would eliminate the sale of stamps to anglers from states other than Utah, thereby requiring those anglers to purchase nonresident fishing licenses from the state they wish to fish in. Past language limited harvest to a single creel limit, “regardless of the number of stamps or licenses held”. The revised language would allow anglers that possess either two fishing licenses (UT and WY) or a fishing license and a reciprocity stamp to harvest a limit of fish from each state. The price of the stamp was last increased in 1996, when it went from $5 to $10. The WGFD Commission recently directed the WGFD to recommend a reasonable increase in the cost of the stamp for 2019. The price will ultimately be set by the WGFD Commission. Either state may choose to withdraw from the RFA with 90 days notice to the other state agency. If this occurs in 2018, Section 30 will be completely eliminated from Chapter 46 and Wyoming resident anglers will no longer be able to purchase a reciprocal fishing stamp from Utah and would have to purchase a UT nonresident fishing license to fish the UT portions of Flaming Gorge Reservoir.]

Laramie Region

Section 32. Area 5 Exceptions to General Provisions.

(a) All lakes within Area 5, unless indicated otherwise, in Albany, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
   (i) The general daily creel and possession limit for brook trout (Section 5) shall not apply. The total creel limit on trout and brook trout in combination, The creel limit on brook trout shall be six (6) per day or in possession.

(b) All streams within Area 5, unless indicated otherwise, in Albany, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, and Platte counties.
   (i) The creel limit on brook trout shall be sixteen (16) per day or in possession.

(c) The total combined creel limit for the brook trout category, regardless of the waters (streams, lakes, or a combination of both) a person is fishing, shall not exceed sixteen (16) per day or in possession.

[Rationale: Attempting to simplify regulation by deleting the regional lake exception for trout in Area 5 and going to statewide regulation for the trout category in most streams and lakes.
However, we propose to continue to restrict harvest in Area 5 lakes to 6 brook trout. Allowing harvest of 16 brook trout from many area lakes (e.g. Leazenby Lake, Lake Owen, Mariah Reservoir, Diamond Lake, Turpin Reservoir.) would be excessive for these stocked brook trout fisheries and would be unpopular with anglers. Propose clearly defining stream, lake, and stream and lake combined brook trout limits for clarity.]

(d) Alsop Lake in Albany County
   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be two (2) per day or in possession.
   (A) All trout less than sixteen (16) inches shall be released to the water immediately
   (ii) Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

[Rationale: Eliminating special regulations that were intended to produce trophy sized trout. Occasional winterkills have limited the trophy potential of this water and the restrictive tackle regulation has resulted in a reduction in angler use.]

(e) Bump Sullivan Reservoir in Goshen County.
   (i) Closed to fishing from November 1 through the last day of February 15.

[Rationale: Proposing extension of winter fishing closure to avoid conflicts between anglers and late season waterfowl hunters on this small reservoir.]

(q) North Platte River from Pathfinder Dam downstream eight tenths (0.8) of a mile to the vehicle bridge in Natrona County
   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be one (1) per day or in possession.

[Rationale: Not enough fishing pressure to justify keeping the current regulation. There is a popular handicap access pier in this reach and allowing additional harvest via general creel limits will allow additional opportunities.]

(s) North Platte River from Alcova Dam downstream to Gray Reef Reservoir in Natrona County.
   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be six (6) per day or in possession.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Changing to a more restrictive general creel and possession limit for streams is also appropriate due to recent increase in fishing pressure.]

(u) North Platte River drainage streams from Bessemer Bend Bridge (Natrona County Road 308) downstream to Guernsey Dam in Albany, Converse, Natrona an Platte counties.
   (i) The creel limit on trout shall be six (6) per day or in possession.
   (A) No more than one (1) trout shall exceed twenty (20) inches.

[Rationale: Regulation simplification. Propose going to general creel and possession limit for streams. Change will result in same stream regulation on Deer, Boxelder, LaBonte, Horseshoe, and LaPrele creeks so that it is same with other Laramie Range streams.]

Section 33. Area 5 Live Baitfish.
(a) Live baitfish may be used for bait in Seminoe, Kortes, Pathfinder, Alcova, Gray Reef, Glendo, Guernsey, Grayrocks, Hawk Springs, Bump Sullivan, Wheatland #1, and Springer reservoirs, Rock, Festo, and Packers lakes, and the North Platte River proper from Interstate Highway 80 downstream to the Wyoming–Nebraska state line (except eight (8) river miles from Gray Reef
Dam to the upstream boundary of the Lusby Public Fishing Area and from the vehicle bridge eight tenths (0.8) of a mile downstream from Pathfinder Dam downstream to Alcova Reservoir provided the baitfish are obtained from a licensed live baitfish dealer authorized to sell baitfish for use in those waters.

[Rationale: We define use areas below so this is not needed. Eliminating redundancy.]

(b) Seining and trapping of live baitfish is prohibited in all waters in the Horse Creek drainage, the South Platte River drainage, the Medicine Bow National Forest and all waters located west of Interstate Highway 25 in the Laramie River drainage.

[Rationale: We define where seining and trapping is prohibited below. Eliminating redundancy.]

(ea) Area 5 Live Baitfish location A

(i) Live baitfish may be used in the following waters:

[Rationale: Removed the North Platte River proper from the dam at Dave Johnson Power Plant to Glendo Dam (including Glendo Reservoir) from the list of waters where wild caught live baitfish from location A could be used. Asian clams, an aquatic invasive species, are established downstream of Glendo Dam and life stages can be moved via water and baitfish. Change is intended to reduce spread of this AIS via baitfish. Reorganized the waters in the list alphabetically.]

(ii) A holder of a valid seining license may seine, net, or trap baitfish from the following waters:

(A) North Platte River drainage from the dam at Dave Johnston Power Plant (Converse County) downstream to Glendo Dam except in the Medicine Bow National Forest;

(B) North Platte River proper downstream from Glendo Dam to the Wyoming-Nebraska state line; and,

(C) Laramie River drainage east of Interstate Highway 25.

(A) Bump Sullivan Reservoir;

(B) Festo Lake;

(C) Grayrocks Reservoir;

(D) Guernsey Reservoir;

(E) Hawk Springs Reservoir;

(F) North Platte River proper from Glendo Dam downstream to the Wyoming-Nebraska state line;

(G) Packers Lake;

(H) Rock Lake in Platte County;

(I) Springer Reservoir;

(J) Wheatland Reservoir #1 in Platte County; and,

(K) Canals and ditches within Wyoming that are in the Interstate and Fort Laramie canal systems in Goshen County downstream from the Whalen Diversion on the North Platte River.

[Rationale: This change removes the Laramie River drainage east of I25 and the North Platte River drainage from Dave Johnson Dam to Glendo Dam from the location A baitfish collection area, but it adds 8 new standing waters and the canal system below the Whalen Diversion to the live baitfish collection area. Intent is to allow baitfish collection on waters where the baitfish can be used, protect native species of greatest conservation need in portions of the Laramie River.
drainage east of I-25, and contain the spread of Asian Clam to waters below Glendo Dam. Reorganized waters so that lists in (i) and (ii) are in same order.]

(iii) The designated wild caught live baitfish possession area for location A is the North Platte River drainage below the Dave Johnston Power Plant (Converse County)Glendo Dam, excluding all locations in the South Platte River drainage and all locations in Albany County.

[Rationale: Intent is to keep the collection, use and possession areas restricted to waters in the North Platte River downstream of Glendo Dam. Numerous species are found in the collection area that do not occur in Plains Lakes and other waters in Albany County. Excluding Albany County from the possession area will help avoid introductions of unwanted species and AIS.]

(db) Area 5 Live Baitfish location B.

(ii) A holder of a valid seining license may seine, net, or-trap, or spear baitfish from the following waters:

(A) North Platte River drainage from Seminoe Dam downstream to the dam at Dave Johnson Power Plant (Converse County)Glendo Dam.

[Rationale: Propose moving boundary between live baitfish location A and B collection, use and possession areas to Glendo Dam for simplicity].

(f) Area 5 Live Baitfish location D. Live Baitfish may not be used in this area. Any live baitfish seined or trapped from the waters listed below in subsection (i) shall be killed immediately or released to the water immediately.

(i) A holder of a valid seining license may seine, net or trap baitfish for use as dead bait from the following waters:

(A) North Platte River drainage upstream from Interstate Highway 80 to the Medicine Bow National Forest.

[Rationale: This seining license location sold very few licenses and is no longer needed.]