

Utah Wildlife Board

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

RE: 2021–22 fishing recommendations and fishing contest rule amendments (Admin. Rule R657-58)

September 22, 2020

Dear members of the Utah Wildlife Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2021–22 fishing recommendations and fishing contest rule amendments (Admin. Rule R657-58). The undersigned organizations would like to express their support for the proposed changes to the 2021-2022 fishing regulations and the proposed fishing contest rule amendments.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has put forth a concentrated statewide effort to conduct a survey of anglers and their perspectives on the recommended changes to the 2021-2022 fishing regulations. The results of that survey indicated significant support among anglers for the proposed changes. The below signed organizations commend the DWR for taking the time and committing the resources necessary to consult with Utah anglers before recommending any regulatory changes.

The proposed regulation changes aim to sustainably manage the respective fisheries for continued use into the future, while simultaneously balancing angler satisfaction with biological necessity. The undersigned organizations believe that the DWR is utilizing the best available science to properly and adaptively manage the resources while taking into consideration the input of anglers that would be impacted by such changes. It is because of these reasons, that we support the proposed changes to the 2021-2022 fishing regulations.

Additionally, we support the effort by DWR to create consistency within the current fishing regulations and streamline fishing contest options. Fishing contests have the ability to significantly boost local economies by encouraging an influx of competitive anglers, spectators and others to rural communities. This is especially important now, more than ever, while small businesses are trying to remain operational during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the 2021–22 fishing recommendations and fishing contest rule amendments (Admin. Rule R657-58).

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association (A.S.A.)

Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (C.S.F.)