

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AMENDMENT

FWP-SUGGESTED LURE DEFINITION MODIFIED 10/30/2024

FWP proposal to be amended: 2025 -2026 Fishing Regulations - Proposal 1 – Definition of a Hook

Commissioner: K.C. Walsh

Date Received by Commission: 10/30/2024

Proposed Amendment:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission remove the statement that “a lure with multiple hooks is still considered single hook.”

Requested by FWP: NO

Rationale and Background:

Whether a fly with a stinger or a lure with two hooks, a “single hook” should mean a single hook. Our regulation allows for two single hooks, and this amendment will eliminate the risk of one line with four hooks. This concern is heightened in waters where treble hooks are permitted.

Department Response:

FWP anticipates no population level impacts from this amendment.

This amendment would eliminate use of lures with multiple hooks in single-pointed hook waters unless those lures were modified to have only one single-pointed hook.

Additionally, this amendment would require the modification of any lure with more than two hooks. Examples include many popular versions of stick/crank baits and jigging lures currently in use for targeting many fish species (i.e. perch, kokanee, smallmouth bass, tiger musky, etc.). For example, the amendment would affect anglers using jigging lures for lake whitefish on Flathead Lake, kokanee and perch on Holter Reservoir or using crank/stick baits for muskie’s on Deadman’s Basin Reservoir and Ackley Lake. Since the amendment is a statewide amendment, this would affect all districts with the exception of eastern district rivers and streams. The eastern district rivers and streams currently allows for 6 lines with 6 hooks per line.

We would suggest the following additions to the amendment to clarify the definition of a hook:

HOOK: A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank **or lure**. **A lure with multiple hooks is still considered a single hook.**

Artificial Lure: *Any item designed to attract fish. These include, but are not limited to flies, hard plastic or wood lures (stick baits and plugs), soft plastic imitations, metal spoons, lead head lures, bladed lures, spinners, and spinner baits. Artificial lures are considered single devices regardless of the number of hooks. A lure with multiple hooks may not be connected to another lure.*