

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AMENDMENT

FWP proposal to be amended: 2025-2026 Fishing Regulations

Commissioner: Vice Chair Pat Tabor (Region 1 Commissioner) is carrying the amendment for FWP

Date Received by Commission: TBD

Proposed Amendment:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission amend the 2025-26 Fishing regulations to remove the lake whitefish exception from Flathead Lake in the western district. This amendment will revert the whitefish catch limits on Flathead Lake to the district standard of 20 fish per day and 40 in possession.

Requested by FWP: YES

Rationale and Background:

Whitefish provide a valued fishery and suppression is not a goal. A twenty fish limit allows for liberal harvest and removes a regulation exception. Anglers have reported reduced catch rates. Over limits can still be permitted for anglers participating in the commercial fishery.

Department Response:

N/A