



Proposed Initiatives 2015 Legislative Session





Odd Numbered Years are 60-Day Sessions

- Penalties for hunting, fishing and trapping
- Develop a pay plan for hard to fill position (enforcement, hatchery, WMA staff, biologists)
- Consolidate veteran license discounts
- Seek Commission authority for tilapia
- Budget and Capital project request
- Develop a broad-based volunteer program



2015 Initiatives

- Penalties for hunting, fishing and trapping (3rd year)
 - Seeking felony for trophy poaching
 - Seeking to allow greater penalty assessments (like traffic citations) on minor infractions
 - Remove the misdemeanor language from previous version



2015 Initiatives

- Consolidate Veteran License Discounts
 - 50% license reduction on all licenses if veteran or currently serving in the military
 - Except free 100% disabled veterans fishing, small game and deer
 - Except free military rehabilitation fishing license
 - Preliminary support from NM Department of Veterans' Services
 - Simplification and ease of bookkeeping



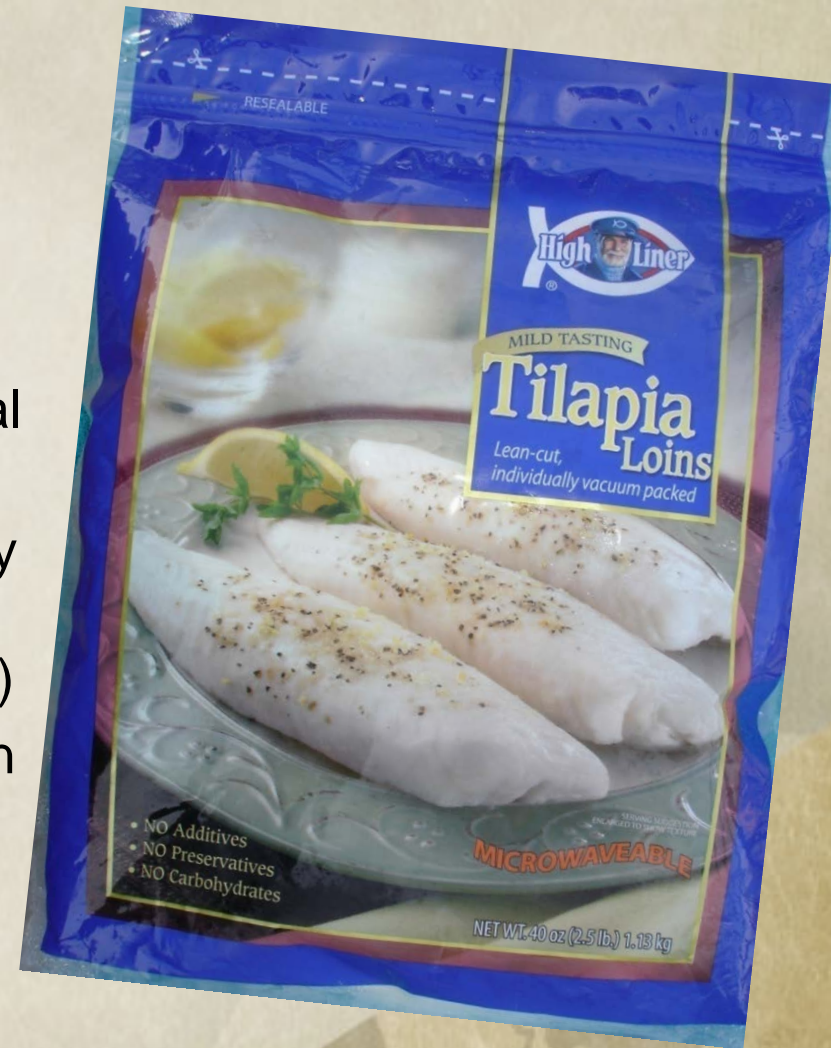
2015 Initiatives

- Pay plan for hard to fill positions – recruitment and retention of qualified, competent employees
 - Conservation Officers (increase in pay with steps for field officers)
 - Hatchery and WMA employees & biologists by developing a new series of job descriptions from technicians – mid level biologist supervisors (increase in pay comparable to surrounding states)



2015 Initiatives

- Seek Commission Authority for Tilapia
 - Currently not protected species
 - Growing aquaculture interests & more requests to raise and sell for food including aquaponics (symbiotic animal & plant production)
 - If under Commission jurisdiction, ability to regulate – (possession, closed systems, greater flexibility in permitting)
 - Top 5 finfish for grocery, \$751 million in US sales 2010



2015 Initiatives

- Budget and Capital Projects

Agenda Item 19 - will be discussed in detail later during the meeting



2015 Initiatives

- Develop a broad-based volunteer program
 - Similar to State Parks volunteers (16-2-2.1)
 - Services in education, property administration and other programs
 - Allows for volunteers to receive per diem
 - Operate Department vehicles and equipment
 - Tort claim protection – performing under terms of work agreement
 - Volunteers can be used as federal match in specific grants



Continuing the Process

- If Commission approved – draft bill language & move to executive branch vetting
- On approved initiatives seek sponsors
- Next Session
 - *Pre-file* Legislation Dec 2014
 - Session Dates Jan 20, 2015 – Mar 21, 2015





Questions, Comments?

