



Proposed Initiatives 2015 Legislative Session





Summary of Proposed Initiatives

- Penalties for hunting, fishing and trapping
- Consolidate veteran license discounts
- Develop a broad-based volunteer program
- Seek Commission authority for tilapia



Changes

- Operating Budget Agenda Item #12
- Pay Raises – \$2.2 million
- Continue working State Personnel Office & Legislature for FY 16 Budget



Individual Motions Per Proposal

1. Legislative initiative on penalties including penalty assessments for minor violations and increased penalties on flagrant violations
2. Legislative initiative on consolidating veteran license discounts
3. Legislative initiative for pursuing a broad based volunteer program
4. Legislative initiative for establishing Commission authority on Tilapia



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





New Mexico Department of Game & Fish

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



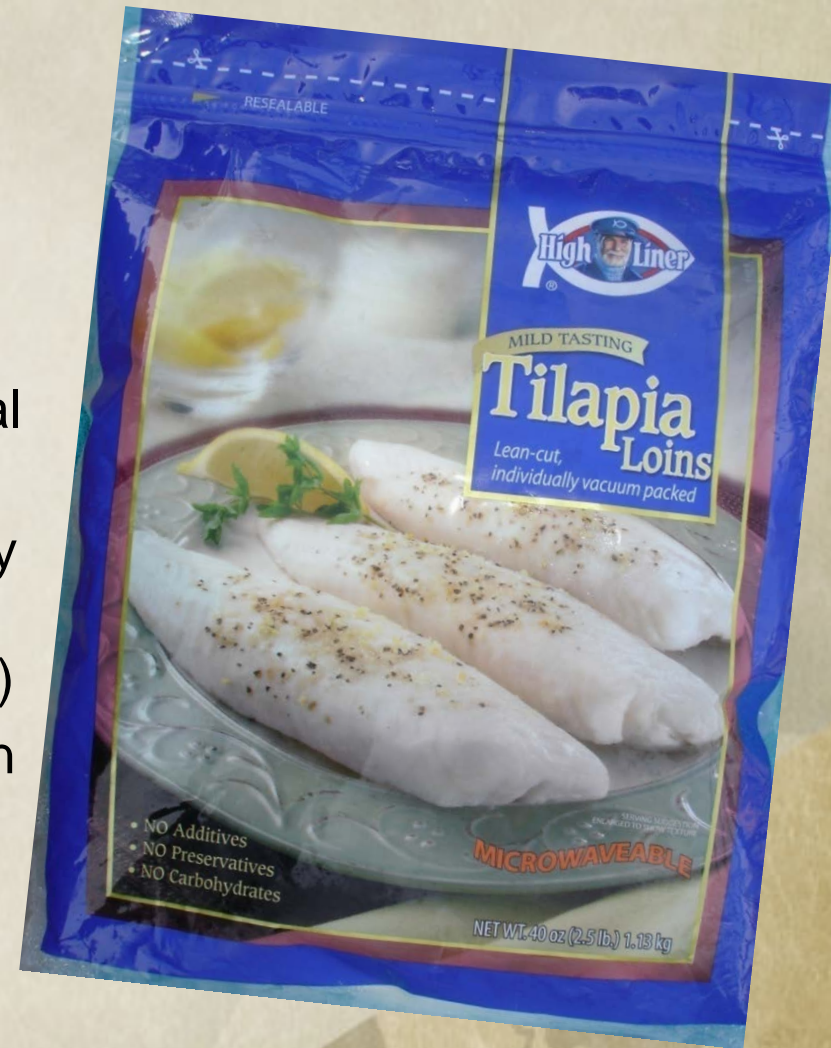
2015 Initiatives

- 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

- 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

- Develop a broad-based volunteer program
 - Similar to State Parks volunteers (16-2-2.1)
 - Services in a education, property administration and other programs
 - Allows for them 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



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 employees & biologists by developing a new series of job descriptions from technicians – mid level biologist supervisors (increase in pay comparable to surrounding states)

