

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: April 25, 2025

Agenda Number: 9

Presenter: Kirk Patten

Corroborator: Mike Ruhl

Agenda Title: Initial Discussion of Proposed Changes to the Fisheries Rule 19.31.4 NMAC and Manner and Method Rule 19.31.10 NMAC

1. Summary of Agenda Item

The current Fisheries Rule 19.31.4 NMAC expires on March 31, 2026. The Department will present proposed changes to the Fisheries Rule and the Manner and Method Rule 19.31.10 NMAC for initial consideration by the Commission. Proposed changes have been developed based upon internal Department discussions as well as public input received over the past several years.

2. Background Information

The Fisheries Rule sets regulatory requirements for recreational angling. The Manner and Method Rule includes provisions which regulate methods for legal angling. Upon initial review and internal discussions, the Department has identified a need for changes for adoption of the new Fisheries Rule as well as amendments to the existing Manner and Method Rule.

Proposed changes to the Fisheries Rule include:

- Clarify the definition of Barbless Lure or Fly to make consistent with the Manner and Method definition and to exclude natural or artificial attractor scents from the definition
- Add Jack's Creek (Pecos), Rio San Antonio (near Lagunitas Lakes), and the upper Rio Chiquito to the list of Catch and Release, Artificial Fly or Lure Only, and unlimited non-native trout harvest to support the resident Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout populations
- Removing the reference to Santa Cruz Lake, Bonito Lake and Spring Lake as closed to ice fishing and refer to signage by the specific landowner

Proposed changes to the Manner and Method Rule include:

- Clarify the definition of Barbless Lure or Fly to make consistent with the Fisheries definition described above
- Removing the reference to Santa Cruz Lake, Bonito Lake and Spring Lake as closed to ice fishing and refer to signage by the specific landowner
- Rearrange the Table in 19.31.10.14(F)(7) regarding trotlines to clarify waters in the state which are open to trotline use by anglers
- Prohibiting the use of Bait Fish in the Bureau of Land Management Overflow Wetlands to protect Pecos Pupfish from potential introduction of Sheepshead Minnow

- Expand Director's authority to suspend angling limits, methods, and size limits or to close a water due to water shortage, eradication needs, or other management needs. The duration of Director's authority is proposed to be limited to six months during which the Department could propose an emergency or permanent rule.
- Add Jackson Lake to the list of lakes where trolling motors are permitted.

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objective 4 of the Departments Strategic Plan: FY2019 to FY2023.

4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

None

5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

This agenda item is intended to initiate discussions on proposed changes to the Fisheries Rule and fisheries related changes in the Manner and Method rule. The Department will post the proposed changes to the Department website and anticipates holding public meetings during spring or summer of 2025.

6. Suggested Motion

This presentation is for information purposes and to initiate discussions on proposed amendments to the previously identified rule.