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**IDAPA 13  
TITLE 01  
CHAPTER 05**

**13.01.05 – RULES GOVERNING FISHING CONTESTS**

**000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission is authorized under Sections 36-104(b) and 36-901, Idaho Code, to adopt rules concerning fishing and fishing contests. (3-30-07)

**001. TITLE AND SCOPE.**

**01. Title.** These rules shall be cited in full as IDAPA 13.01.05.000, et seq., Idaho Fish and Game Commission Rules, IDAPA 13.01.05, “Rules Governing Fishing Contests. (3-30-07)

**02. Scope.** These rules establish the permit requirements, allowable species, types of contest, and reporting requirements for fishing contests. (3-30-07)

**002. WRITTEN INTERPRETATIONS.**

In accordance with Section 67-5201(19)(b)(iv), Idaho Code, this agency has written statements which pertain to the interpretation of the rules of this chapter, or to the documentation of compliance with the rules of this chapter. These documents are available for public inspection and copying at cost at the headquarters office at 600 South Walnut, Boise, Idaho. (3-30-07)

**003. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.**

All contested cases shall be governed by the provisions of IDAPA 13.01.01, “Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.” (3-30-07)

**004. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.**

There are no documents that have been incorporated by reference into this rule. (3-30-07)

**005. OFFICE -- OFFICE HOURS -- MAILING ADDRESS AND STREET ADDRESS.**

The principal place of business of the Department of Fish and Game is in Boise, Idaho. The office is located at 600 South Walnut, Boise, Idaho and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707. (3-30-07)

**006. -- 009. (RESERVED)**

**010. DEFINITIONS.**

**01. Catch-and-Release Contest.** Any fishing contest where the contest rules require specific procedures to keep target species of fish alive and healthy and require that all fish caught by participants be released back into the contest water on the same day they were captured. (7-1-93)

**02. Fishing Contest.** Any organized fishing event that: (3-29-12)

**a.** Has a live-fish weigh-in; (3-29-12)

**b.** Awards cash or prizes of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more based on number, size, or species of fish captured; or (3-29-12)

**c.** Is expected to draw or have more than twenty (20) participants. (3-29-12)

**d.** Events organized wholly for youth under the age of fourteen (14) are excluded from the requirement for a Fishing Contest Permit. (3-29-12)

**03. Harvest Contest.** Any fishing contest where the contest rules do not require participants keep all target species of fish alive and healthy and release the fish back into contest waters, but allow participants to harvest

or kill the fish. (7-1-93)

**011. -- 099. (RESERVED)**

**100. PERMITS.**

**01. General.** No person, organization, club, business, partnership, corporation, or other entity may sponsor a fishing contest whereby an entrance fee is charged or any prize is offered without having first obtained a fishing contest permit from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. No permit will be issued for a harvest contest for the fish listed below. The Director may issue a permit for a catch-and-release contest for these species if he determines that there will be no harm to that fishery resource in the particular water where the contest is to take place: (7-1-93)

- a. Bull trout, *Salvelinus confluentus*; (7-1-93)
- b. White sturgeon, *Acipenser transmontanus*; (3-30-07)
- c. Cutthroat trout, *Oncorhynchus clarki*; (7-1-93)
- d. Arctic grayling, *Thymallus arcticus*; and (7-1-93)
- e. Wild native trout in any streams. (3-30-07)

**02. Applications for Fishing Contest Permits.** Application for fishing contest permits shall be made on a form prescribed by the Department. The application must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to a catch-and-release contest and ninety (90) days prior to a harvest contest. The application shall include: (7-1-93)

- a. Name and address of the sponsor; (7-1-93)
- b. Name of the body of water or waters where the contest will take place, including second preference location if applicable; (7-1-93)
- c. Target species; (7-1-93)
- d. Whether the contest is catch-and-release or harvest; (7-1-93)
- e. Procedures to be used to ensure fish will be returned pursuant to Department requirements in a catch-and-release contest or to ensure that fishing will cease when the bag or possession limit is reached in a harvest contest; (7-1-93)
- f. Location and time of start and check-in; (7-1-93)
- g. Date(s) of contest; (7-1-93)
- h. Estimated number of participants; (7-1-93)
- i. Entry fee; (7-1-93)
- j. Description and value of prizes or awards; and (7-1-93)
- k. Signature of the applicant, or a person authorized to sign on behalf of an applicant organization. (7-1-93)

**101. ISSUANCE OF PERMIT.**

**01. General.** The Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game may issue or deny a fishing contest permit. In case of denial, reason(s) will be provided to the applicant. Applicant may appeal a denied permit to

the Commission. Among the factors that he may consider are: (7-1-93)

- a. Impacts of the contest on fish populations; (7-1-93)
- b. Compatibility of the contest with fish population management programs and fishery goals; (7-1-93)
- c. Conflicts with other recreational users for access facilities; and (7-1-93)
- d. Conflicts with other contests previously applied for. (7-1-93)

**02. Conditions.** The Director may condition a fishing contest permit in any manner, and may specify in the permit: (7-1-93)

- a. The time of start and check-in; (7-1-93)
- b. Limitations on the area or areas of the body of water where the contest is conducted as to where participants may fish; (7-1-93)
- c. For catch-and-release contests, the method and location of release of fish; (7-1-93)
- d. For harvest contests, bag or size limits may be more restrictive than those required by the general fishing regulations; and (7-1-93)
- e. Any other conditions as deemed necessary to minimize adverse impacts on fish populations, management programs and goals, or other recreational users. (7-1-93)

**102. -- 199. (RESERVED)**

**200. APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES.**

Except for additional restrictions or other permit provisions, all rules pertaining to the taking of fish, except commercial fishing rules, shall apply to any fishing contest. (7-1-93)

**201. -- 249. (RESERVED)**

**300. RELEASE OR CULL OF TARGET SPECIES.**

At catch-and-release contests, participants may have one (1) daily bag limit of the target species in possession while continuing to fish for additional contest target species. Participants must immediately release the last fish caught or immediately exchange it for another target fish in possession. No fish may be culled (released back to the water after a possession limit has been reached) that is not capable of swimming free. (7-1-93)

**301. -- 399. (RESERVED)**

**400. CONTEST REPORTS.**

**01. Report Due.** Each fishing contest sponsor shall, within thirty (30) days after the last day of a fishing contest, submit a written report to the Fisheries Bureau, Headquarters Office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. (7-1-93)

**02. Report to Include.** Every report shall include: (7-1-93)

- a. Total hours fished; (7-1-93)
- b. Total number of participants; (7-1-93)
- c. Total number of fish weighed by species; (7-1-93)

- d. Total weight of fish by species; (7-1-93)
  - e. Number of fish released alive; (7-1-93)
  - f. Number of fish killed or kept; (7-1-93)
  - g. Weight of largest fish caught; (7-1-93)
  - h. Number of tagged fish; and (7-1-93)
  - i. Any other information that the sponsor feels is appropriate. (7-1-93)
- 401. -- 999. (RESERVED)**

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