

GEAR – Projectile Gear in Fishery Management Areas

What is being considered?

The Department is considering the prohibition of projectile gear in all Fishery Management Areas (FMAs).

Why is this change necessary?

Current regulations define legal projectile fishing gear as archery equipment, gig, spear, and spear gun. Current regulations prohibit the use of projectile gear in many FMAs or sections of FMAs due to restrictions in trout management waters and safety zone distance. Those areas where the gear may be used legally are few, small in size, and can be difficult to identify and enforce. This has led to confusion among stakeholders and enforcement personnel. The proposed regulatory idea would simplify the language and prohibit the use of projectile fishing gear at all FMAs.

Who will this affect?

This action will affect recreational anglers using projectile gear at all FMAs.

When will this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the winter of 2023-2024. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

This change was discussed with the Black Bass Advisory Committee at their July meeting.