

**Coldwater Resources Steering Committee Meeting
via MS Teams, 2/23/2022**

Attendees: Dave Borgeson Sr., Jim Bos, Bryan Burroughs, Bryan Darland, Tess Nelkie, Steve Mondrella, Jay Wesley, Seth Herbst, Dave Peterson, Mark Tonello, Scott Heintzleman, Nick Green, Jim Bedford, Jory Jonas, Dennis Eade, Walt Grau, James Dexter, Cory Kovacs, Jan-Michael Hessenauer, Jeffery Jolley, Mark Tonello, Tim Cwalinski, Don Wright, Christian LeSage, Bill Ziegler, Mike Gabrion, Justin Vanderlinde, Steven Converse, Daniel Bigger, Jason Wicklund, Richard Buss, April Simmons, Tom Baird, Dave Cozad, Dave Nyberg, Justin Tomei, Patrick Hanchin, and Troy Zorn (chair, notes).

- **Artificial fly definition:** Seth Herbst led the discussion, updating the group on the overall issue and sharing the current definition and some changes suggested thusfar. Seth showed definition and example pictures of legitimate and illegal (and gray area) flies which present an enforcement challenge for LED. Many comments, as shown below, with several questioning what the management goal is of this regulation as the goal might (or should?) inform the artificial fly regulation and definition.

What is the CRSC's perspective on the purpose of "Flies only" regulations

- MTonello: No perfect solution. Issue will keep popping up over time as new flies and fishing tackle are developed.
- DBorgSr- Doesn't think newer flies make much difference. Dave likes it as is. Don't mess with it, which might add confusion.
- SHerst- Simplistic is ideal.
- DWright- The spirit of reg is captured with current reg.
- MTonello- This reg is a social issue.
- DBigger- Agrees with simplistic approach and reducing change unless it needed for resource. However, social group does change, so reg may need to change along with the social group. Much harder to justify a social-based regulation. Many potential definitions. For example- Where should/shouldn't the bead be placed and why?
- NGreen: Would it be easier to describe what can't be used than what can?
- Seth- That's been used in other regulations. Anything more on the purpose of the regs?
- JBos: Always new "flies" being brought in, posing a problem for saying using a "what is not acceptable" approach. Clarified that a bead is not a fly, which is how it's being enforced.
- SHerst: If objective is to create a special fishing opportunity, what makes using a bead a concern?
- JBos- Artificial fly has a creativity component vs. something that came out of a mold. Thinks a bead is more effective because it sinks better.

- BBurroughs: Doesn't have a clear picture. Maybe an efficient tweak to ensure that egg bead isn't a fly? Would a bead fundamentally deviate from a lure?- doesn't know. Artificial lures have a slightly higher hooking mortality. Lures are better fish catchers, outside of a hatch.
 - BDarland- Beads aren't just a simple piece of plastic anymore though. Lots of guys sitting down and customizing the beads with certain nail polishes and such to make them look unique. That said, they are extremely effective and catch more fish than just about anything out there. If the purpose is to restrict catch rates, than beads should be not qualified.
 - If purpose is to maintain artificial flies streams do one thing; but if purpose is to reduce mortality then another answer.
 - WGrau: 100+ days on PM 7-mi stretch, which is getting a lot attention for the meeting. Giant leap forward with C&R. Supports definition #2. Ok with wire, would prefer only 1 hook point.
 - SHerbst - what about articulated flies?
 - WGrau - articulation is not a factor (only adds movement), as long as there is only 1 hook point.
 - CLesage: We can update text in guide and add pics online to clarify.
 - DBigger: This discussion demonstrates how opinionated people are on what a fly is. Creating a special opportunity, but it is often for people who don't fish these areas. "Intent" is the issue when it comes to enforcement. Adding stuff to internet would be very helpful (e.g., add QR code to guide).
 - DWright - I'm in favor of the suggestion for a single pointed hook artificial lure. Greatly simplified, addresses mortality, retains 'special area status', simplifies enforcement at bait/no bait.
 - SConverse- has there been any discussion about distance between hook and bead? this needs to be defined.
 - NGreen- Beads are less lethal than flies. I have never had a fish swallow a bead — it's always in the corner of the mouth. I have had many fish swallow my fly. Just some context if we are talking about hooking mortality.
 - JDexter- Keep it simple, fair, and enforceable.
 - DWright: Are we trying to restrict catch? Are we trying to create a rule that is rock-solid to enforce?
 - CLesage: You can fish up to 3 lines with up to 6 total hooks. So, you can have 6 flies on a single line for your total 6.
- ***Proposed fishing regulations (Herbst)***
 - Seth provided slides showing an overview of regs, highlighting upcoming Coffee and Conversations meetings being held statewide. These primarily virtual meetings provide an opportunity to talk to local Fisheries staff about current or proposed regs, other issues/topics, etc.

- ***Steelhead management, fishing regulations & research (Wesley & Jonas)***
 - Jay Wesley and Jory Jonas provided a similar (slightly more detailed) version of the presentation on these topics that was given at the November 2021 Natural Resources Committee meeting. Some committee members questioned the NRC representatives regarding the decision to support the amendment to FO 200.22 which reduced the daily steelhead bag limit on selective rivers to one fish. Commissioners provided a quick overview of the issues brought forward that weighed in on their decision making.