

A dark green silhouette of a dense forest of evergreen trees spans the width of the slide, positioned above the title text.

# MDIF&W Fisheries Species Planning 2016

# Agenda



- History of Species Planning in Maine
- Current Planning Process
- Moving Forward
  - Role of Wildlife Action Plan
  - Statewide vs. Regional planning
  - Role of Working Groups
  - Public Surveys



# History of Species Planning in Maine



## Initiated in 1968: Requirement for Federal funding

- 15 year planning cycle, 5 year updates
- Rudimentary species assessment
- Goals and Objectives:
  - Crafted by Dept. biologists
  - Reviewed by 9 member steering committee
  - Reviewed by Advisory Council
  - Commissioner made final decision

# History of Species Planning in Maine



## 1985 – Major Changes

- Enhanced species assessment
- Improved public input process
  - Working group set Goals & Objectives



# Current Planning Process



## 2000 – 2001

- Coldwater, Warmwater, Baitfish Working Groups

- 7 Components

- 1) Life History
- 2) Management History
- 3) Past Management Goals
- 4) Opportunity
- 5) Demand
- 6) Fishing Quality
- 7) Goals & Objectives
- 8) Management Problems and Strategies



# Current Planning Process



- Statewide Plans:
  - Statewide Average metrics
  - Goals & Objectives
  - Management Problems & Strategies
- 15-year cycle, updates as required



# Current Species Plans



- Charr
- Bass
- Brook Trout
- Brown Trout
- Burbot
- Lake Trout
- Landlocked Salmon
- Minor Sportfish
- Non-Sport & Commercial
- Muskellunge
- Northern Pike
- Pickerel
- Rainbow Trout
- Smelt
- Splake
- White Perch
- Whitefish

# Wildlife Action Plan



- Update underway, completed in 2015
- Comprehensive plan for most non-sportfish
  - Habitat based
  - Some species-specific management actions
- NOT focused on management of harvest





# Proposed Revisions to Planning Process



1. More Comprehensive 'Fisheries Management Plans'
2. Streamlined Species Content
3. Broader Public Consultation
4. 'Working Groups' transition to 'Steering Committees'

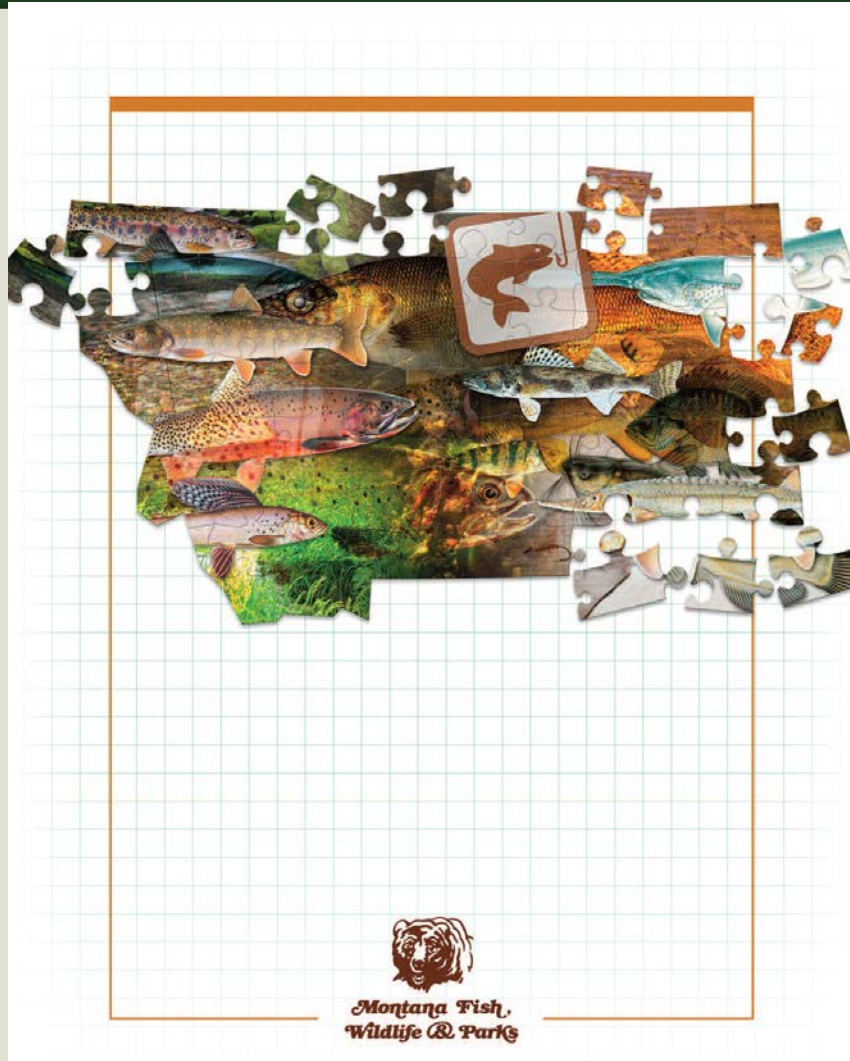
# 1. Comprehensive 'Statewide Fisheries Management Plan'



- Incorporate all Fisheries Management Issues
  - Fish health
  - Invasive species
  - Habitat
  - Hatchery Program
  - Fishing Access
  - Angler Recruitment/Retention
- Include Chapters on each species
- Enable Regional/Watershed Planning



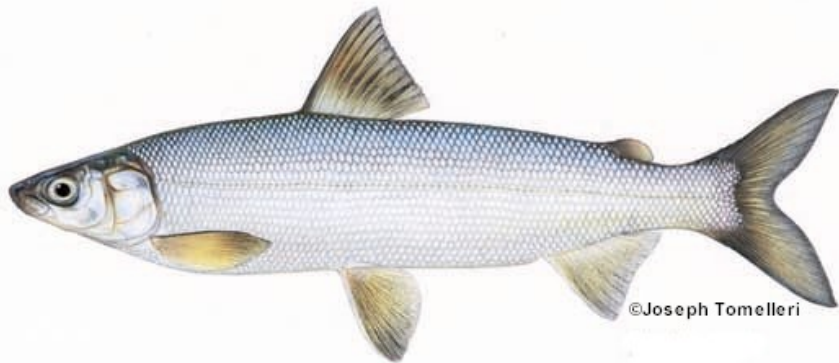
# Example: Montana Fisheries Plan



## 2. Streamlined Species Plans



- Remove duplication
- Condensed Natural History & Background
- Statewide Goals, Objectives Strategies
- Describe Framework of Spp. Management scenarios
- Incorporate and update content from species current plans



# 3. Broader Consultation – Public Surveys/Meetings



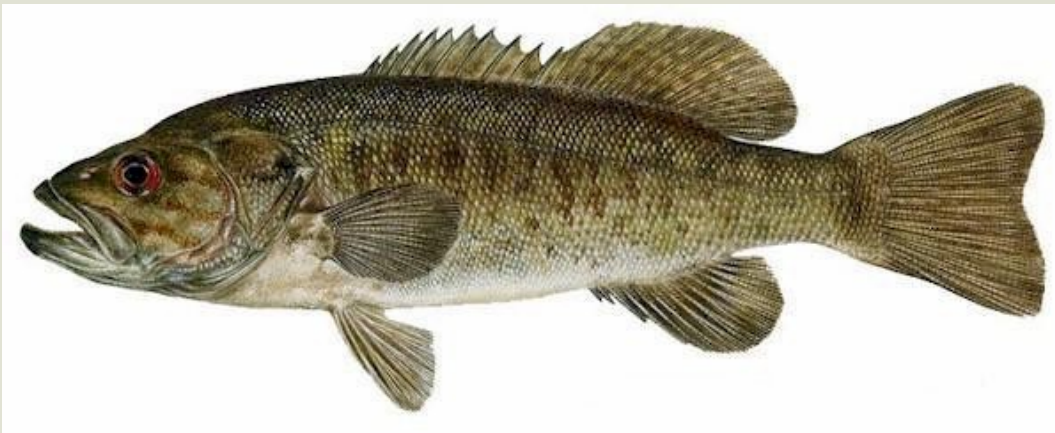
- Primary mechanism for public input, rather than working group
  - More democratic
  - Balanced input from all Maine anglers
- Resident & Non-resident anglers from 4 regions
- Dept. staff and Steering Committee identify survey questions
- Professional Survey Company



# 4. Role of Working Group



- Transition to ‘Steering Committee’
- Help IFW shape public input into Goals, Objectives, & Strategies
- IFW provides draft content for consideration
- Strive for consensus
- Subcommittees convened if necessary



# Table of Contents



# Plan Timeline





# Steering Committee: Roles & Responsibilities



- Sounding board on process and plan components
- Input on Public Survey content
- Feedback on draft goals, objectives, and strategies
- Feedback on time-sensitive issues

## Steering Committee is Advisory

- IFW Commissioner has final authority

# Steering Committee: Logistics



- Monthly meetings expected
- Conference calls if needed
- Rotate between Bangor & Augusta – others?
- Responsible for own travel expenses