



April 25th, 2011

Colorado Department of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

Dear Brett & Greg:

Over the past six months the Colorado Bowfishing Association (COBF) has been following the DOW's addition of Northern Pike to the permissible species list for bowfishing/spearfishing. Having had no involvement in this process, the COBF Board actually came to learn of this change via the DOW website's commission minutes and draft changes online late last summer/fall.

The DOW's approval of their fishing regulation changes, with regard to pike manner of take (chapter 1), has brought forth some controversy by avid pike anglers (rod and reel), and unfortunately bowfishermen have been the target of a lot of mis-placed criticism as a result. To our surprise we recently found this issue paper (link below) titled "Should regulations for spearfishing and bowfishing be liberalized to include more species and waters?" when searching for "bowfishing" on the DOW website.

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/NR/rdonlyres/6DDFA7E8-6C64-4C1A-B251-5DAE614AB914/0/Ch1FishingIssues.pdf>

The document, authored in May of 2010, specifically lists the COBF as one of the organizations that "have asked that opportunities be expanded to include more species" as well as being listed under the "Issue Raised By" section. The above issue paper apparently has only recently become available on the DOW website via searching, as our previous research into the history of this issue has generally turned up no results.

The COBF never made any such request in 2010 or prior, requesting additional fish species be permissible for harvest with archery equipment. In previous years, we have communicated with the DOW regarding a meet & greet with the staff to discuss Carp management as well as trying to get bowfishing listed on the master anglers award program; but never discussed pike. We were therefore, surprised to find our organization's name listed as a contributor to the issue paper. No one from the DOW ever reached out to our organization regarding this issue, and consequently, the COBF Board is wondering why the Colorado Bowfishing Association is cited in this issue paper as having requested that additional species be added when we never made that request. We were not involved with initiating, requesting or drafting any of these regulations, nor do we have any affiliation or contact with the Rocky Mountain Spearfishing Association

(RMSA). The issue paper is incorrect in citing the COBF as an originating party.

We have had several communications with pike anglers (via our online forums and individual conversations) and have stated that bowfishermen are looking forward to pursuing the occasional pike with bowfishing equipment, but that these new regulations were initiated, reviewed, and changed solely by the Division of Wildlife efforts. Now when we then see that the root of this change is an issue paper, incorrectly listing our club as one of the originators; that hinders some of the credibility of our organization. Again, bowfishermen may appreciate availability of more bowfishing opportunities within our state, but we want to be clear when we have discussions as to the reason for those changes.

To clear the record, the COBF is officially requesting that the DOW remove the references to our organization from this Issue Paper, as well as issue a correction/amendment clarifying the origin of this original issue paper.

As always the COBF looks forward to working with the DOW as much as possible in the future and hopes this particular item can be cleared up.

Sincerely,

The COBF Board of Directors

Colorado Bowfishing Association
www.coloradobowfishing.org