

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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*For Wildlife-
For People*

May 20, 2011

COBF Board of Directors
Colorado Bowfishing Association
16783 East Prairie Goat Avenue
Parker, CO 80134

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in response to your recent inquiry regarding why the Colorado Bowfishing Association (COBF) was listed on the Issue paper for the proposed fishing regulation (Chapter 1) change to allow the take of northern pike by archery or spearfishing equipment in May 2010. Also, the COBF requested that we remove references to your organization from the issue paper and issue a correction/amendment clarifying the origin of this original issue paper.

This issue paper was drafted last spring in consultation with Senior Aquatic staff during discussions about allowing spearfishing and bowfishing as an additional allowable method of take for various sportfish species including northern pike. There were several public angler roundtable meetings held around the state to discuss and solicit ideas/proposals from the public for changes to the Chapter 1 Fishing Regulations. Further, we invited public input via e-mail, our web site and personal communication to staff to help inform our discussions and consideration for potential regulatory changes.

The Rocky Mountain Spearfishing Association specifically asked for the opportunity to pursue additional sportfish species through this process. We also received several phone calls from anglers who asked for additional sportfish species to be added for bowfishing, including northern pike and gar. I had to tell the caller who asked about gar that we do not have that species in Colorado and that all species of gar are on our prohibited species list.

I have discussed COBF's inquiry with Senior Aquatic staff and I believe we mistakenly listed the COBF on the issue paper because of related public input. I apologize for this oversight and we now realize from your recent inquiry that your organization did not advocate for such fishing regulation changes.

Please accept this letter as official recognition of COBF's position and feel free to share this with members of other organizations or the public who believe COBF was party to the development of the bowfishing regulation changes last year. I cannot alter the original documents that were presented during the public regulatory process for Chapter 1 Fishing Regulation changes eventually adopted as final regulatory changes by the Wildlife Commission in November 2010 as that would change the

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Mike King, Executive Director
WILDLIFE COMMISSION, Tim Glenn, Chair • Robert Streeter, Vice Chair • Mark Smith, Secretary
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Ex Officio Members, Mike King and John Salazar

official record. However, I have copied our regulations review manager and the Attorney General's office so they have this acknowledgement in their official records.

I hope this helps you and your organization's members understand how this misperception came about last year. Though the COBF did not official support the regulatory change, I do believe there are anglers out there who now enjoy the added opportunity to pursue northern pike with archery. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Gerlich
Aquatic Section Manager – Fisheries Chief

Cc: CDOW – Senior Aquatic Staff, Brett Ackerman
Attorney General Office – Tim Monahan