

Proposed Changes to the Fisheries Rule 19.31.4.16 NMAC Establishing Free Fishing Days

The Department proposes amendments to the Fisheries Rule 19.31.4 NMAC regarding free fishing days. Subsection B of 17-3-17 NMSA (1978) currently empowers the Director to designate, with Game Commission approval, two non-consecutive free fishing days for resident and non-resident anglers. Game Commission rule (19.31.4.16 NMAC) identifies the first Saturday in June and the last Saturday in September as free fishing days. HB 197 was passed during the 2023 legislative session and expanded the number of free fishing days from two non-consecutive free fishing days to two nonconsecutive two-day weekends. Proposed changes will amend 19.31.4.16 NMAC to designate free fishing weekends, in accordance with HB197, on the first weekend in June and the last weekend in September.

Please send comments on the proposal to DGF-FisheriesRule@state.nm.us.