

## 1 SENATE BILL NO. 360

2 INTRODUCED BY M. LANG

3  
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO FISHERIES  
 5 MANAGEMENT; ~~ESTABLISHING A SPORT FISHING ENHANCEMENT POLICY; PROVIDING FINDINGS~~  
 6 ~~AND DEFINITIONS; REVISING MANAGEMENT FOR CERTAIN SPECIES; AND REQUIRING AN UPDATED~~  
 7 A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING STATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE  
 8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

9  
 10 WHEREAS, sport fishing is part of Montana's rich outdoor heritage, and fishing is culturally important to  
 11 more than 200,000 residents and 100,000 nonresident visitors; and

12 WHEREAS, angling generates nearly \$1 billion in annual spending statewide; and

13 WHEREAS, the total number of angler days in Montana has declined in many of the past few years;

14 and

15 WHEREAS, a large percentage of the sport fish caught in Montana are nonnative fish species.

16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

18

19 NEW SECTION. Section 1. ~~Sport fishing enhancement policy – definition – reporting~~ REVIEW

20 OF STATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN. ~~(1) In recognition of the cultural and economic importance of sport~~

21 ~~fishing in the state, the legislature establishes the following sport fishing enhancement policy:~~

22 ~~(a) The department shall take all appropriate steps to improve and enhance fishing opportunities for~~  
 23 ~~fish species of greatest importance.~~

24 ~~(b) By January 1, 2023, the department shall update the~~ COMPLETE A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING state  
 25 fisheries management plan ~~to ensure the maintenance of healthy and viable populations of fish species of~~  
 26 ~~greatest importance.~~ The department shall seek and consider public input in the process, including through  
 27 extensive public meetings PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2023.

28 ~~(c) For any management project to assist native threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species~~

1 that reduces sport fishing opportunities for a fish species of greatest importance, including but not limited to  
2 rotenone treatment or reduced catch for each day or allowable in-possession limits approved by the  
3 commission, the commission shall consider replacement sport fishing opportunities for that species.

4 (2) For the purposes of this section, the term "fish species of greatest importance" includes rainbow,  
5 brown, brook, westslope cutthroat, Yellowstone cutthroat, and bull trout, arctic grayling, mountain whitefish,  
6 northern pike, walleye, yellow perch, kokanee salmon, paddlefish, bass, crappie, catfish, sauger, lake trout and  
7 lake whitefish, and other game fish.

8  
9 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
10 integral part of Title 87, chapter 3, part 2, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 3, part 2, apply to [section 1].

11  
12 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. [THIS ACT] IS EFFECTIVE ON PASSAGE AND APPROVAL.

13 - END -