



Notice of Decision to Take Action on Proposed Regulations

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4-168(d) of the *General Statutes of the State of Connecticut (CGS)*, as amended, the **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)** hereby gives notice that it has decided to proceed with proposed regulations concerning Sport **Fishing in the Inland District, Permits for Liberation of Triploid Grass Carp**. Notice of intent to adopt, amend, or repeal these regulations was posted to the regulations webpage of the Secretary of the State on April 15, 2014.

A public hearing was held on May 19, 2014 and the public comment period was held open until June 3, 2014. DEEP received comments on the proposed regulation and has provided responses to those comments. The final wording of the proposed regulations, a summary of public comments and the explanatory statement containing a statement of the principal reasons in support of this intended action, a statement of the principal considerations in opposition to this intended action, and a statement of the agency's reasons for accepting or rejecting such considerations are attached to this notice.

As required by the Freedom of Information Act and CGS Section 4-168(d), the following items are available for copying at the address specified below, and, if applicable, by the alternate methods detailed:

- (A) The final wording of the proposed regulation;
- (B) A statement of the principal reasons in support of this intended action;
- (C) A statement of the principal considerations in opposition to this intended action;
- (D) A statement of the agency's reasons for accepting or rejecting such considerations.

Address where copies of items (A) through (D) above can be made or obtained:

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Inland Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127

In addition, these items are available for viewing and printing on the following website:

<http://www.ct.gov/deep/publicnotices> (and then go to "[Proposed Actions or Decisions](#)").

In addition, these items can be obtained by contacting the following staff member:

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R-39 Rev. 03/2012
(Title page)

State of Connecticut
REGULATION
of

NAME OF AGENCY

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Concerning

SUBJECT MATTER OF REGULATION

SPORT FISHING IN THE INLAND DISTRICT, PERMITS FOR LIBERATION
OF TRIPLOID GRASS CARP

Section 26-55-1(i), 26-112-43, 26-112-44, 26-112-45, 26-112-46(a), 26-112-46(c), 26-112-46(d), 26-112-46(g), 26-112-46(h), 26-112-46(k), 26-112-48.

Section 1. Section 26-55-1(i) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(i) The importation, possession or liberation of grass carp or white amur (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is prohibited, except that the Commissioner, at his discretion, may issue a permit for the importation, possession and liberation of triploid (sterile) grass carp into lakes and ponds of this state as herein provided.

(1) Waters into which triploid grass carp are to be liberated may be inspected by an agent of the Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit for the liberation of triploid grass carp into any [waters under multiple ownership unless all individuals who have ownership rights on such waters have first provided written agreement to such liberation] lake or pond where multiple individuals or entities own the property immediately abutting the lake or pond, unless:

(A) the applicant provides notice to the owners of record of each property immediately abutting the lake or pond by mail to the owner's address on the most recent grand tax list of the municipality in which such properties are located or by personal delivery and receives written agreement to such liberation from such owners; or

(B) at least thirty (30) days prior to the Commissioner issuing the permit:

(i) the Commissioner publishes a notice of the application on the department's web site; and

(ii) the applicant publishes a notice of application in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or municipalities in which the lake or pond is located and in the central offices of each municipality in which the lake or pond is located. The newspaper notice published by the applicant may reference the notice published on the department's website but shall, at a

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minimum, contain the heading “Notice of Application to Liberate Triploid Grass Carp”; the name of the applicant; the location of the proposed activity by the name of the lake or pond and the municipality or municipalities in which the lake or pond is located; and the address, telephone number and e-mail address of the applicant or other appropriate person to contact for further information on the application, including an appropriate member of department staff. In addition to said notice, the Commissioner may require the applicant to host a public information meeting regarding the application in a municipality in which the lake or pond is located prior to issuing any permit for such liberation.

(3) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit for the liberation of triploid grass carp into any waters unless the outlet and inlet of such waters are, in his opinion, adequately screened so as to prevent the emigration of such grass carp or unless such waters are ecologically isolated. For the purposes of this subsection, ecologically isolated means any waters from which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the emigration of such grass carp will not significantly impact public waters or waters of another, or from which there is no surface water outflow.

(4) Any permit for the liberation of triploid grass carp issued by the Commissioner may prescribe the number and size class of triploid grass carp that may be liberated.

(5) Such fish shall be certified as triploid prior to shipment by a person or persons acceptable to the Commissioner and such certification shall accompany the shipment of such fish.

(6) At least fourteen (14) days prior to importation of such fish, the permittee shall notify the Commissioner of the date that any grass carp are to be imported and the location where such fish may be inspected.

(7) Such fish may be inspected and may be sampled and tested for triploidy by an approved method by an agent of the Commissioner prior to liberation.

(8) Any shipment of grass carp which contains any diploid (fertile) individuals shall be confiscated and disposed of at the discretion of the Commissioner.

(9) The owner of any lake or pond into which grass carp are liberated shall allow agents of the Commissioner to monitor the population dynamics of the grass carp and other environmental conditions of the pond in order to determine the long term efficacy of grass carp in Connecticut waters.

(10) In the event that any grass carp or white amur, that are capable of reproduction, are liberated into or found in any waters of this state, the Commissioner may, in the public interest, order that all such fish as well as any other fish present in such waters be destroyed by whatever means he shall determine to be the most practical and in the best public interest except as provided in section 26-55a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Sec. 2. Section 26-112-43 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

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26-112-43. Definitions and restrictions

(a) "Angling" means fishing with hook and line which shall be personally attended, but shall not include ice fishing or snagging or snatching. Not more than [two] three lines, with or without rods, may be used at one time except in Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trout Parks, Sea-run Trout Streams and Trophy Trout Streams as listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies where no more than two lines may be used at one time. Each line may have any combination of hooks, flies or lures, among which not more than three hooks may be baited.

(b) "Bait" means any animal, bait species as defined in section 26-112-45(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, fish eggs, insect or vegetable, or parts thereof, living or dead, except for certain nuisance aquatic invertebrates as provided for in section 26-55-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, used with a hook for the purpose of attracting and catching fish. Any fish legally acquired, except black bass (largemouth and smallmouth), chain pickerel, northern pike, trout, charr, salmon, carp and goldfish may be used as bait, except as provided in section 26-112-48(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(c) "Bait fishing" means taking or attempting to take bait species, for personal use as bait or food, by use of a bait seine, bait trap, umbrella net, scoop net or by hand.

(d) "Bait seine" means a seine or net which, for the purpose of this regulation, does not exceed fifteen feet in length and four feet in depth and is used for the taking of bait species.

(e) "Bait trap" means a glass, wire or wooden device which, for the purpose of this regulation, does not exceed twenty inches in length and fifteen inches in diameter and is used for the taking of bait species.

(f) "Barbless hook" or "barbless fishhook" means a curved, pointed device, without a barb, used to catch fish and includes single, double or treble hooks provided each point is without a barb and hooks manufactured with a barb if the barb has been bent down to the hook, broken off or otherwise made ineffective.

(g) "Bobbing" means fishing with a ball or mass of worms or other bait attached to a line held in the hand or a line attached to a rod held in the hand to which no hooks are attached.

(h) "Bow and arrow fishing" means fishing by use of a weapon made of wood or other elastic material, with a cord to connect the two ends when bent, by which an arrow is propelled, but shall not include the use of a cross bow. The use of a cross bow in fishing is prohibited.

(i) "Children's stream" and "children's pond" means waters that are set aside in whole or in part as children's fishing areas when such restriction is indicated by posters. Angling in such areas is restricted to children under sixteen years of age.

(j) "Closed season" means that period of time during which all fishing is prohibited in the area specified.

(k) "Daily creel limit" means the quantity or number of fish of a species or species group that can be taken by an individual angler during the period from 12:01 a.m. to midnight.

(l) "Disabled Persons Fishing Area" means an area set aside for the exclusive use by the physically handicapped when such restriction is indicated by posters.

(m) "Downrigger" means a device, supplemental to a fishing line, used to deploy, via an electric or handpowered winch, reel or spool that projects over the side or stern of a boat and is used as a hoist, main line and terminal weight, one or more fishing lines to a desired depth in the water column.

(n) "Gaff" means a spear or hook, with or without a handle, used for holding or lifting fish. The use of a gaff to land or assist in landing a fish is prohibited in the inland district.

(o) "Hook" or "fishhook" means a curved, pointed device, with or without barb, used to catch fish. Hooks may be single, double or treble and each point shall be considered as a single hook.

(p) "Fishing" or "sport fishing" means taking or attempting to take fish in the inland district, except for commercial purposes, and is restricted to angling, bow and arrow fishing, bobbing, ice fishing, snagging or snatching, spearing, scoop netting, and taking or attempting to take fish by hand.

(q) "Float" or "bobber" means any buoyant object attached to a fishing line. No such float shall be used unless the line is personally attended.

(r) "Fly" means a single or double hook dressed with hair, feathers, tinsel, thread, yarn or similar material to which no bait, spinner, spoon, plug or other device is added.

(s) "Fly fishing" means angling with the use of a fly reel, fly rod, fly line, leader and a fly or flies. Additional weight may be built into the fly in its construction, as in a weighted nymph, and additional weight may be attached to the leader. The use of strike indicators, as defined in this section, is permitted.

(t) "Hand-held jig" means a rod, jig stick or line held in the hand, used for fishing through the ice.

(u) "Ice fishing" means fishing through the ice with tip-ups, bobbers or floats, similar devices or hand-held jigs. The following restrictions shall apply to ice fishing:

(1) An individual may use, at one time, tip-ups, bobbers or floats, similar devices or hand-held jigs in any combination thereof, not exceeding six in the aggregate.

(2) Each line shall be restricted to not more than three baited hooks, with or without attractors, or three ice flies or three artificial lures or any combination thereof, not exceeding three in the aggregate.

(3) All tip-ups, bobbers or floats or similar devices shall have the name and address of the person using the same legibly printed thereon or attached thereto.

(4) No tip-ups, bobbers or floats or similar devices shall be used unless they are personally attended.

(v) "Leadcore line" means a fishing line constructed with a metal core.

(w) "Minimum length" means the smallest total length of a species or species group that may be legally possessed, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail unless otherwise specified. No person shall possess any fish less than the lengths specified and any fish less than the minimum length shall, without avoidable injury, be immediately returned to the water from which taken.

(x) "Possession limit" means the total number of fish of any species or species group that may be legally possessed by one person, either on the person, on the waters of the inland district, or the shores of such waters, or in any type of vehicle. Possession limit in the field shall not exceed the daily creel limit. Any fish in possession shall be intact to the extent that neither the heads nor the tails have been removed but gills and viscera may be removed. Possession limit shall not be construed to restrict the number of legally acquired fish that may be kept in storage in the home or in other storage facilities.

(y) "Scoop net" or "scap net" means a net attached to a handle which, for the purpose of this regulation, shall be not over thirty-six inches across the widest point of the single hoop or have a mesh bag more than thirty-six inches in depth at its deepest point. Such net shall be constructed of flexible mesh material and shall be manually operated by a single individual. The use of any such net constructed of metal mesh or stiff plastic mesh is prohibited.

(z) "Set line" means a line with one or both ends secured to the shore or to a fixed or buoyant object in the water which is used for fishing and is not personally attended. Set lines shall not be used in the inland district.

(aa) "Snagging" or "snatching" means the taking of fish by foul hooking, that is, hooking fish in any part of the body other than inside the mouth. Snagging or snatching is prohibited in all waters in the inland district for all species of fish and any fish so taken shall be released immediately, except, in streams open to fishing throughout the year, as provided in section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, menhaden, alewives and blueback (glut) herring may be taken by snagging or snatching.

(bb) "Spearing" means the use of any pointed instrument, with or without barbs, which is propelled by hand. The use of spears is prohibited in lakes and ponds and in streams, or sections of streams, stocked with trout, charr and salmon. Spears may be used only for taking carp, bowfin, tench, suckers, eels and sea lampreys. In the inland district, fish shall not be taken by underwater spear fishing and the use of any type of spear gun in fishing is prohibited.

(cc) "Strike indicator" means a brightly colored, highly visible tab, sleeve or bead or similar material used in fly fishing. Such devices may be attached to the line or leader when used in areas restricted to fly fishing only.

(dd) "Take" or "taking" means killing, capturing or otherwise rendering into possession, any fish or bait species, or attempting to kill, capture or render into possession, or assisting in taking or attempting to take any fish or bait species.

Sec. 3. Section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-112-44. Closed seasons

(a) Streams. The closed season for fishing in streams shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, except as provided below:

(1) Streams open to fishing throughout the year. There shall be no closed season for fishing in the following streams, or portions thereof, as specified:

(A) Coginchaug River, Middletown – downstream from Route 3 bridge to its junction with the Mattabassett River (Sebethe River).

(B) Connecticut River and its coves.

(C) Farmington River – downstream from the outlet of the Rainbow Dam Tailrace Canal to its confluence with the Connecticut River (all fishing is prohibited in the Rainbow Dam Tailrace Canal and in the Farmington River from the Tailrace Canal upstream to Rainbow Dam).

(D) Housatonic River – downstream from the dam on Lake Housatonic (the Derby Dam).

(E) Mattabasset River (Sebethe River), Middletown – downstream from the Route 372 bridge to its junction with the Connecticut River.

(F) Mystic River, Groton and Stonington – downstream from the confluence of Whitfords Brook and Haleys Brook.

(G) Naugatuck River – downstream from the Kinneytown Dam (Seymour) to its confluence with the Housatonic River.

(H) Niantic River, East Lyme and Waterford.

(I) Quinnipiac River – downstream from the highway bridge on Route 5 in North Haven to its junction with New Haven Harbor.

(J) Salmon River, Haddam and East Haddam – downstream from the bridge on Route 151 to its junction with the Connecticut River.

(K) Thames River and its coves, [-] including the Shetucket River downstream from Greenville Dam[.] and the Yantic River downstream of the falls at Indian Leap in Norwich.

[(2) Children's streams. The closed season for fishing in the following posted children's streams shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the third Saturday in April.

(A) Indian Hole Brook, Shelton – from the falls in Indian Wells State Park downstream to the railroad bridge.

(B) Quinebaug River, Putnam – within Putnam Town Park.

(C) Wepawaug River, Orange – from old New Haven/Derby railroad upstream approximately two miles.]

[(3)] (2) Trout Management Areas. There shall be no closed season for fishing in Trout Management Areas listed in section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies except as provided therein.

[(4)] (3) In areas where fishing for Atlantic salmon is allowed, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the closed season for Atlantic salmon fishing shall be as pursuant to the provisions of 26-112-45(c)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

[(5)] (4) Wild Trout Management Areas. Except as provided in section 26-112-46(g), the closed season for fishing in Wild Trout Management Areas shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

[(6)] (5) Sea-run Trout Streams. Except as provided in section 26-112-46(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the closed season for fishing in Sea-run Trout Streams shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

(b) Lakes and Ponds. There shall be no closed season for fishing lakes and ponds, except as provided below.

(1) The closed season for fishing in the following lakes and ponds shall be from midnight on October thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Angus Parks Pond (Eastbury Park Pond), Glastonbury

[Batterson Park Pond, Farmington, New Britain]

Beaver Park Lagoon, New Haven

Bicentennial Pond (Mansfield Town Pond), Mansfield

Godfrey Pond, Stonington

Green Falls Reservoir, Voluntown

Hewitt Flyfishing Pond (Gallup Pond), North Stonington

Mohegan Lake, Fairfield

Pistol Shop Pond, Middlefield

Prospect Park Pond, Prospect

Shenipsit Reservoir, Ellington, Tolland, Vernon

Tollgate Ponds, Greenwich

Wononscopomuc Lake, Salisbury. Fishing hours shall be from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time.

(2) The closed season for fishing in the following lakes and ponds shall be from midnight on the last day of February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Alexander Lake, Killingly
Allen Brook Pond (Wharton Pond), Wallingford
Ball Pond, New Fairfield
Barber Pond, Bloomfield, Windsor
Bashan Lake, East Haddam
Baummer Pond, Naugatuck
Beach Pond, Voluntown and Rhode Island
Beachdale Pond, Voluntown
Beaver Brook Ponds (Upper and Lower), Windham
Bigelow Pond, Union
Billings Lake, North Stonington
Black Pond, Meriden, Middlefield
Black Pond, Woodstock
Black Rock Flood Control Impoundment, Watertown
Blanchard Pond, New Canaan, Wilton
Branford Supply Ponds, Branford
Broad Brook Mill Pond, East Windsor
Brookfield Pond, South Windsor
Cedar Lake, Chester
Clarks Pond, Hamden
Clarktown Pond, Orange
Cobbs Mill Pond, Weston
Colebrook Flood Control Impoundment, Colebrook, and Massachusetts
Day Pond, Colchester
Dayton Pond, Wallingford
Disbrow Pond, New Fairfield
Dodge Pond, East Lyme
[East Twin Lake, Salisbury]
Enders Pond, Granby
Factory Pond, Redding, Wilton
Fitchville Pond, Bozrah
Fort Shantok Pond, Montville
Fountain Lake, Seymour, Ansonia
Freshwater Pond, Enfield
Gardner Lake, Salem, Montville, Bozrah
Gay City Park Pond, Hebron
Gills Pond, Berlin
Hallville Pond, Preston
Hancock Brook Flood Control Pool, Plymouth
Hanover Reservoir, Canterbury, Sprague
Hewitt Pond (Lower Hewitt Pond), North Stonington
Higganum Reservoir, Haddam

Hop Brook Flood Control Pool, Middlebury
Hopeville Pond, Griswold
Horse Pond, Salem
Howells Pond, Hartland
Johnson's Pond, Bolton
Keney Park Pond, Hartford
Lafayette Pond, Somers
Lake Stibbs, Southbury
Lake Wintergreen, Hamden
Lantern Hill Pond, Ledyard, North Stonington
Little Pond, Thompson
Long Pond, Ledyard, North Stonington
Lower Storrs Pumping Station Pond, Mansfield
Mad River Flood Control Impoundment, Winchester
Mansfield Training School Ponds, Mansfield
Mashapaug Lake, Union
Millers Pond, Durham
Millers Pond, Ridgefield
Mohawk Pond, Cornwall, Goshen
Moosup Pond, Plainfield
Mt. Tom Pond, Morris, Litchfield, Washington
[Naubesatuck Lake, Mansfield, Chaplin, Windham]
Nells Rock Reservoir, Shelton
Northfield Brook Flood Control Pool, Litchfield
Norwich Pond, Lyme
Pages Millpond, North Branford
Paine Pond, Ashford
Pataconk Lake (Russell Jennings Pond), Chester
Picketts Pond (Osborndale State Park), Derby
Roseland Lake, Woodstock
Saint Martha's Pond, Enfield
Salmon Brook Pond, Glastonbury
Sawmill Park Pond, Ledyard
Schreeder Pond (Chatfield Hollow Pond), Killingworth
Scoville Reservoir, Wolcott
Shaw Lake (Hayward Lake), East Haddam
Silvermine Pond, New Canaan
Somersville Mill Pond, Somers
Southford Falls Pond, Oxford, Southbury
Starret Pond (Huntington Park Pond), Redding
Stillwater Pond, Torrington
Stratton Brook Park Pond, Simsbury
Taftville Reservoir, Norwich
Tankerhoosen Lakes, Vernon
Tungsten Mine Park Pond, Trumbull
Twin Brooks Park Pond, Trumbull

Tyler Pond, Goshen
Uncas Lake (Hog Pond), Lyme
Upper Fulton Park Pond, Waterbury
Valley Falls Pond, Vernon
Wangumbaug Lake (Coventry Lake), Coventry
Wards Millpond, Branford
Wauregan Reservoir (Quinebaug Lake), Killingly
West Branch Reservoir (Hogback), Hartland, Colebrook
West Side Pond, Goshen
Woodruffs Pond, Hamden
Wyassup Lake, North Stonington

(3) The closed season for fishing in the following lakes and ponds shall be as specified.

Bunnells Pond (Beardsley Park Pond), Bridgeport. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Great Hollow Pond, Monroe. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Isinglass Reservoir (Far Mill Reservoir), Shelton. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Lake Chamberlain, Bethany. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Lake McDonough (Compensating Reservoir), New Hartford, Barkhamsted. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Fishing hours shall be from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time, except opening day when fishing shall start at 6:00 a.m.

Lake Saltonstall, Branford, East Haven. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Maltby Lakes (#1, #2, #3), Orange West Haven. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Mohegan Park Pond, Norwich. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Pasture Pond (Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery), Plainfield. From midnight on September thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April.

Saugatuck Reservoir, Easton, Redding, Weston. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Shelton Reservoir #2, Shelton. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Simsbury Town Park Ponds, Simsbury. From midnight on June fifteenth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

West Pequonnock Reservoir, Monroe. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

(4) Children's Ponds. The closed season for fishing in the following posted children's ponds shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, except as specified.

[Backwater Brook Pond, Thompson]

[Beachland Park Pond, West Hartford]

Butternut Pond, East Windsor. Open season 6:00 a.m. [third] second Saturday in April through October thirty-first.

[City Hall Pond, Milford]

[Clark Pond (Besse Pond), Torrington]

[Edgewood Park Pond, New Haven]

Factory Pond, Salisbury

[Fernridge Park Pond, West Hartford]

Gould Manor Pond, Fairfield

Helen Keller School Pond, Easton

[Hyde Park Pond, Glastonbury]

[Hurlburt Pond, Putnam]

Katz Pond, Trumbull

[Lilly Pond, Thompson]

[Lower Fulton Park Pond, Waterbury]

[McGovern Pond, West Hartford]

Mill Pond, Newington

[Mill Woods Park Pond, Wethersfield]

[Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond), Meriden]

[North Street Pond, Milford]

[Orange Park Pond, Orange]

[Page Park Pond, Bristol]

[Pasture Pond (Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery), Plainfield. Open season 6:00 a.m. third Saturday in April through September thirtieth.]

Sochrin Pond, Seymour

[Stanley Quarter Pond, New Britain]

[Stroh Pond, Windsor]

[Washington Park Pond, Windsor]

(5) Trout Management Lakes. The closed season for fishing in [Trophy] Trout Management Lakes listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be as specified therein.

(6) Boundary Waters. The closed season for fishing in boundary water listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be as specified therein.

Sec. 4. Section 26-112-45 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

26-112-45. Species limitations

(a) Alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*).

(1) Alewives and blueback herring may be taken only by angling or scoop net, except that in streams open to fishing throughout the year alewives and blueback herring may also be taken by snagging or snatching.

(2) The taking of alewives and blueback herring by scoop net from June sixteenth through March thirty-first, both dates inclusive, is prohibited.

(3) In rivers and streams, the taking of alewives and blueback herring by angling and snagging or snatching from June sixteenth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April is prohibited.

(4) The taking of alewives and blueback herring from the section of Brides Brook, East Lyme, extending from the dam at Brides Pond downstream to Brides Brook Road is prohibited.

(5) Alewives and blueback herring shall not be taken from Saturday 12:00 midnight to Tuesday 12:00 midnight except in lakes and ponds, the main body of the Connecticut River, the main body of the Housatonic River, and the main body of the Thames River including the Shetucket River to the base of the Greenville Dam.

(6) The daily creel limit for alewives and blueback herring shall be twenty-five in the aggregate.

(b) American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*).

(1) American shad and hickory shad may be taken only by angling.

[(2) In those streams open to fishing throughout the year the taking of American shad from July first through March thirty-first, both dates inclusive, is prohibited. In all other areas the taking of American shad from midnight on July first through 6:00 a.m. on the third Saturday in April is prohibited, except as provided in section 26-112-45(b)(4).]

[[3]] (2) The daily creel limit for American shad and hickory shad shall be six fish of both species in the aggregate, except as provided in section [26-112-45(b)(4)] 26-112-45(b)(3) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) In all areas of the inland district except for the Connecticut River and those portions of its tributaries open to fishing throughout the year as provided in section 26-112-44(a)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the daily creel limit for American shad shall be zero, and all American shad caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of American shad on the waters or on the shores of the inland district, except for the waters and shores of the Connecticut River and those portions of its tributaries open to fishing throughout the year as provided in section 26-112-44(a)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, is prohibited.

(4) The open season for taking American shad from the Pawcatuck River, North Stonington-Stonington-Rhode Island, shall be as provided by Rhode Island regulations authorized by section 20-1-12 of the General Laws of Rhode Island [and the daily creel limit for American shad in this area shall be one].

(c) Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)

(1) The taking of Atlantic salmon is prohibited, except that the Commissioner may, by an annual declaration, allow the taking of Atlantic salmon during a specified period in specified waters as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall inform the public of open seasons and angling regulations for Atlantic salmon by annually issuing a news release, posting signs, and by printing notice in the anglers' guide.

(2) During any period during which the taking of Atlantic salmon is allowed, the Commissioner may, by declaration, specify the angling methods allowed for the taking of Atlantic salmon.

(3) During any period during which the taking of Atlantic salmon is allowed, the Commissioner may, by declaration, specify the daily creel limit and the minimum length for Atlantic salmon.

(4) The taking of Atlantic salmon in the main stem Connecticut River shall be as provided by regulations of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, as authorized by Chapter 494 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(d) Bait species. Bait species include the following species of fish, amphibians, aquatic insects and crustaceans to the exclusion of all other species: golden shiner or "pond shiner" (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), common shiner ([*Notropis*] *Luxilus cornutus*), fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*), creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*), spottail shiner or "river bait" (*Notropis hudsonius*), [bridle shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*),] blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*), longnose dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*), pearl dace (*Semotilus margarita*), bluntnose minnow (*Pimephales notatus*), fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), cutlips minnow (*Exoglossum maxillingua*), chub sucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*), white sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*), banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus*), mummichug (*Fundulus heteroclitus*), striped killifish (*Fundulus majalis*), tidewater silverside (*Menidia beryllina*), Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*), sand

lance or "sand eels" (*Ammodytes* spp.), frogs (except the northern leopard frog, *Rana pipiens*), crayfish (except rusty crayfish, *Orconectes rusticus*), perch bugs, helgramites, and mayfly nymphs. Bait species may be taken only for personal use as bait and food, except as provided in section 26-55-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and shall not be sold or offered for sale, except as provided in sections 26-142a-1 to 26-142a-6 inclusive, 26-142a-12 and 26-142a-15 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(1) Bait species may be taken by bait seine, bait trap, umbrella net, by hand, by scoop net and by angling, as provided below:

(A) In all inland waters, except those lakes and ponds where the use of fish (dead or alive) as bait is prohibited, bait species may be taken at any time by bait traps not to exceed twenty inches in length and fifteen inches in diameter and by umbrella nets not to exceed four feet in length by four feet in width.

(B) In all streams bait species may be taken at any time with bait seines not to exceed fifteen feet in length and four feet in depth. Bait seines shall not be used in lakes and ponds, except in those lakes and ponds designated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as open to the commercial taking of bait. In such lakes and ponds bait seines not exceeding fifteen feet in length and four feet in width may be used to take bait species at any time of year.

(C) During the open season for fishing in inland waters, bait species may also be taken by hand, by scoop net and by angling.

(e) Black bass. Black bass include largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus [dolomieu] dolomieu*).

(1) Black bass may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The daily creel limit for black bass shall be six, except in Boundary Waters and Bass Management Areas as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and except as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) There shall be no minimum length for black bass taken in streams, except in the Connecticut River, and its coves, where the minimum length shall be twelve inches. The minimum length for black bass taken in lakes and ponds shall be twelve inches, except in Boundary Waters and Bass Management Areas as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and except as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(f) Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), bowfin (*Amia calva*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), white suckers (*Catostomus commersoni*), American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*), and sea lampreys (*Petromyzon marinus*).

(1) Carp, bowfin, tench, suckers, eels and lampreys may be taken by angling, bobbing, ice fishing, bow and arrow fishing and spearing, except that, in streams or sections of streams stocked with trout, charr and/or salmon, these species may be taken only by angling or ice fishing. Spearing is prohibited in all lakes and ponds.

(2) The daily creel limit for American eel shall be twenty-five.

(3) The minimum length for American eel shall be nine inches.

(g) Chain pickerel (*Esox niger*).

(1) Chain pickerel may be taken only by angling or ice fishing

(2) There shall be no daily creel limit for chain pickerel taken in streams and the daily creel limit for chain pickerel taken in lakes and ponds shall be six, except in Boundary Waters as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) There shall be no minimum length for chain pickerel taken in streams and the minimum length for chain pickerel taken in lakes and ponds shall be fifteen inches, except in Boundary Waters as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(h) Northern pike (*Esox lucius*).

(1) Northern pike may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The taking of northern pike from March first through April thirtieth, both dates inclusive, is prohibited in Bantam Lake, Little Pond (Little Bantam Lake), and their tributaries, Litchfield-Morris.

(3) The daily creel limit for northern pike shall be two, except that, during the period December [1] first through the last day of February, the daily creel limit for northern pike in Bantam Lake, Little Pond (Little Bantam Lake), and their tributaries, Litchfield-Morris, shall be one.

(4) The minimum length for northern pike shall be twenty-six inches, except that in the Connecticut River and its coves the minimum length for northern pike shall be twenty four inches and, during the period December [1] first through the last day of February, the minimum length for northern pike in Bantam Lake, Little Pond (Little Bantam Lake), and their tributaries, Litchfield-Morris, shall be thirty-six inches.

(i) Panfish. Panfish include yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), white perch (*Morone americana*), calico bass (*Pomoxis* spp.), rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*), all species of catfish including bullheads (*Ictalurus* spp.), and all species of sunfish (*Lepomis* spp.) except banded sunfish (*Enneacanthus obesus*). Panfish may be taken only by angling, bobbing and ice fishing.

(j) Smelt (*Osmerus mordax*)

(1) Smelt may be taken in lakes and ponds only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The taking of smelt in rivers and streams is prohibited.

(3) The daily creel limit for smelt taken in lakes and ponds shall be fifty fish.

(k) Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) regulations governing the taking and possession of striped bass in the inland district shall be as specified in sections 26-159a-2, 26-159a-4, 26-159a-7, and 26-159a-20 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(l) Sturgeon (*Acipenser* spp.). The taking of sturgeon is prohibited.

(m) Trout, charr and kokanee. Trout, charr and kokanee include brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), lake trout (*Savelinus namaycush*), kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and their hybrids.

(1) Trout, charr and kokanee may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The taking of trout, charr and kokanee from March first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April is prohibited, except: in boundary waters, Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas, Sea-run Trout Streams and Trout Management Lakes as listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as specified therein; in streams open to fishing throughout the year as listed in section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) The daily creel limit for trout, charr and kokanee shall be eight in the aggregate, not more than five of which may be trout or charr and not more than five may be kokanee except: in boundary waters, Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trout Parks, Sea-Run Trout Streams, Trophy Trout Streams and Trout Management Lakes as listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as specified therein; in streams open to fishing throughout the year as listed in section 26-112-44 and as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(4) The minimum length for lake trout shall be twenty inches.

(5) There shall be no minimum length for trout (except lake trout), charr and kokanee except:

(A) In Trout Management Lakes, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trophy Trout Streams, Sea-Run Trout Streams and Trout Management Areas listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as specified therein.

(B) In streams open to fishing throughout the year listed in section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies where the minimum length shall be fifteen inches.

(C) In the following streams, or portions of the streams, where the minimum length of trout and charr shall be nine inches:

Belden Brook, Hartland, Granby- that portion downstream from Fuller Road in Hartland.

Blackledge River, Glastonbury, Marlborough- that portion downstream from Route 94.

Burlington Brook, Burlington- that portion downstream from Covey Road.

Center Brook, Colebrook- that portion downstream from Route 183.

Cherry Brook, Canton- that portion downstream from Route 179.

Colebrook Brook, Winchester, Colebrook.

Dickinson Creek, Colchester, Marlborough- that portion downstream from Route 66.

East Branch Salmon Brook, Granby- that portion downstream from the Connecticut-Massachusetts state line.

East Branch Eightmile River, Salem, East Haddam, Lyme- that portion downstream from Witch Meadow Road in Salem.

East Branch Farmington River, Barkhamsted, New Hartford- that portion downstream from the dam at Lake McDonough.

Eightmile River, East Haddam, Lyme- that portion from Foxtown Road downstream to the dam at Mt. Archer Road.

Farmington River, Farmington, Avon, Simsbury, East Granby, Bloomfield, Windsor- that portion downstream from Route 177.

Fawn Brook, Marlborough, Hebron- that portion downstream from Slocum Road.

Indian Meadow Brook, Winchester.

Jeremy River, Colchester- that portion downstream from Greyville Road.

Judd Brook, Colchester, Hebron- that portion downstream from Old Colchester Road.

Mad River, Norfolk, Winchester- that portion downstream from Grantville Road in Norfolk.

Meadow Brook, Colchester- that portion downstream from Route 16.

Mill Brook, Winchester- that portion downstream from Hannifin Road.

Morgan Brook, Barkhamsted- that portion downstream from the dam on West Hill Pond.

Mountain Brook, Granby- that portion downstream from the Route 20 bridge located between the Route 20 intersections with Case Street and Enders Road.

Pequabuck River, Plymouth, Bristol, Plainville, Farmington - that portion downstream from Canal Street in Plymouth.

Pine Brook, East Hampton, Haddam- that section downstream from Sexton Road in East Hampton.

Ratlum Brook, Canton, New Hartford- that portion downstream from the confluence with Spruce Brook.

Raymond Brook, Hebron- that portion downstream from Old Colchester Road.

Safstrom Brook, East Hampton- that portion downstream from Tartia Road.

Salmon River, Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam, Haddam- that portion from the confluence of the Blackledge and Jeremy rivers downstream to Route 151.

Salmon Brook, East Granby, Granby.

Sandy Brook, Colebrook, Norfolk- that portion downstream from the Connecticut-Massachusetts state line.

Still River, Barkhamsted, Colebrook- that portion downstream from the confluence with the Mad River.

West Branch of Fawn Brook, Marlborough, Hebron- that portion downstream from Slocum Road.

West Branch of Salmon Brook, Granby- that portion downstream from Route 179.

(n) Any fish or bait species taken contrary to this section shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken.

(o) Marine finfish. Unless otherwise specified by section 26-112-45 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the species limitations for marine finfish taken by sport fishing from the waters of this state shall be as specified in regulations adopted under authority of section 26-159a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(p) Walleye (*Sander vitreus*).

(1) Walleye may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The daily creel limit for walleye shall be two.

(3) The minimum length for walleye shall be eighteen inches except that in Lake Pocotopaug, East Hampton, the minimum length for walleye shall be twenty inches.

(q) Banded sunfish (*Enneacanthus obesus*). The taking of banded sunfish is prohibited.

(NEW) (r) American brook lamprey (Lethenteron appendix). The taking of American brook lamprey is prohibited.

Sec. 5. Section 26-112-46(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(a) Boundary Waters. Boundary waters are defined as those lakes and ponds forming a common boundary between Connecticut and an adjoining state. Connecticut sport fishing regulations shall apply, except as provided herein.

(1) Beach Pond, Voluntown - Rhode Island. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Connecticut or Rhode Island fishing license legal on entire pond. Connecticut and Rhode Island regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Trout: the daily creel limit shall be five and there shall be no minimum length. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

(2) Breakneck Pond, Union-Massachusetts. Connecticut or Massachusetts license legal on entire pond.

(3) Colebrook Flood Control Impoundment. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire impoundment. Upstream demarcation line posted by Massachusetts.

(4) Congamond Lakes (South Pond, Middle Pond and North Pond), Suffield - Massachusetts. There shall be no closed season for fishing. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on all three lakes. Massachusetts regulations apply as follows: Trout: the daily creel limit shall be six, during the period from the Saturday next preceding the third Monday in April, one hour before sunrise, through the Sunday following the third Saturday in October. Trout: the daily creel limit shall be three, during the period from the Monday following the third Saturday in October to the Saturday preceding the third Monday in April. Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be ten inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than two hooks may be used during periods of open water fishing and not more than five hooks may be used when ice fishing.

(5) Hamilton Reservoir, Union - Massachusetts. There shall be no closed season for fishing. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire pond. Massachusetts regulations apply as follows: Trout: the daily creel limit shall be six, during the period from the Saturday next preceding the third Monday in April, one hour before sunrise, through the Sunday following the third Saturday in October. Trout: the daily creel limit shall be three, during the period from

the Monday following the third Saturday in October to the Saturday preceding the third Monday in April. Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be ten inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than two hooks may be used during periods of open water fishing and not more than five hooks may be used when ice fishing.

(6) Hazard Pond, Voluntown - Rhode Island. No closed season. Connecticut or Rhode Island fishing license legal on entire pond. Connecticut and Rhode Island regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

(7) Indian Pond, Sharon -New York. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Connecticut or New York license legal on entire pond. New York regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the closed season for the taking of black bass shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit shall be six and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Not more than five tip-ups and two hand held jigs may be used for ice fishing.

(8) Keach Pond, Thompson - Putnam - Rhode Island. Connecticut or Rhode Island license legal on entire pond. Rhode Island regulations apply.

(9) Killingly Pond, Killingly - Rhode Island. No closed season. Connecticut or Rhode Island fishing license legal on entire pond. Connecticut and Rhode Island regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

(10) Muddy Pond, Woodstock-Massachusetts. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire pond.

(11) Perry Pond, Thompson - Massachusetts. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire pond.

Sec. 6. Section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(c) Trout Management Areas.

(1) The Housatonic River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Housatonic River in Salisbury, Canaan, Sharon, and Cornwall from the bridge at Route 112 downstream to the bridge at Routes 4 and 7. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Housatonic River Trout Management Area, except that those portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such

closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive. Fishing within a portion of the Housatonic River Trout Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is restricted to fly fishing only. The daily creel limit for trout and charr in the Housatonic River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Housatonic River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(2) The Willimantic River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Willimantic River in Tolland and Willington from the mouth of Roaring Brook downstream to the bridge at Route 74. Fishing in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area is restricted to fly fishing only. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Willimantic River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(3) The Mianus River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Mianus River in Stamford, from Merrybrook Road to the dam approximately one mile upstream, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, fishing in this area is restricted to single hook flies and artificial lures only, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero, and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Mianus River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Mianus River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two.

(4) The Farmington River Trout Management Area shall be the West Branch Farmington River in Hartland, Barkhamsted, and New Hartford and that portion of the Farmington River from the junction of the East and West Branches of the Farmington River in New Hartford downstream to the Route 177 Bridge in Unionville. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Farmington River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limits for trout and charr in the Farmington River Trout Management Area shall be as follows:

(A) In that portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area from the Goodwin Dam in Hartland downstream to the foot bridge abutments approximately one and four-tenths miles downstream of the confluence with the Still River in Barkhamsted, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the daily creel limit for trout and charr in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout and charr taken shall be twelve inches during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first. During said time period, possession of trout or charr less than

twelve [(12)] inches or possession of more than two [(2)] trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of this portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(B) In that portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area from the foot bridge abutments approximately one and four-tenths miles downstream of the confluence with the Still River in Barkhamsted, downstream to the bridge at Route 219 in New Hartford, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, fishing is restricted to the use of barbless hooks only, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of this portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(C) In that portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area from the bridge at Route 219 in New Hartford downstream to the Route 177 Bridge in Unionville, the daily creel limit for trout and charr in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout and charr taken shall be twelve inches during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first. During said time period, possession of trout or charr less than twelve (12) inches or possession of more than two [(2)] trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of this portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(5) The Hammonasset River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Hammonasset River in Killingworth and Madison, from the Lake Hammonasset Dam downstream to Chestnut Hill Road. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Hammonasset River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day in August, the daily creel limit in the Hammonasset River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two and the minimum length for any such trout and charr taken shall be nine inches.

(6) The Mill River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Mill River in Fairfield, from the Merritt Parkway Bridge downstream to Lake Mohegan. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from

September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Mill River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Mill River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two.

(7) The Moosup River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Moosup River in Plainfield from the bridge at Route 14 downstream to the junction with the Quinebaug River. Fishing within a portion of the Moosup River Trout Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is restricted to fly fishing only. The daily creel limit for trout and charr in the Moosup River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Moosup River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(8) The Salmon River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Salmon River in Colchester and East Hampton, from the junction of the Blackledge and Jeremy Rivers downstream to the Route 16 bridge. Fishing within a portion of the Salmon River Trout Management Area is restricted to fly fishing only as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day in August, the daily creel limit for trout and charr in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first to 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Salmon River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(9) The Naugatuck River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Naugatuck River from Route 118 in Harwinton and Litchfield, downstream to the Thomaston Dam in Thomaston. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area, except that those portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive. From October first through March thirty-first, fishing is restricted to those methods specified by the Commissioner for the taking of Atlantic salmon in accordance with section 26-112-45(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(10) The Bulls Bridge Trout Management Area shall consist of (A) the portion of the Housatonic River from Bulls Bridge Dam downstream to the Gaylordsville Bridge (Route 7) and (B) the Ten Mile River from the New York State border downstream to the confluence with the Housatonic River. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Bulls Bridge Trout Management

Area, except that those portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Bulls Bridge Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(11) The William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Saugatuck River in Westport from the Dorr's Mill Dam to the Merritt Parkway bridge. Fishing within the William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area is restricted to fly fishing only. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area. From 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August 31, the daily creel limit in the William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(12) The Hockanum River Trout Management Area shall be the portion of the Hockanum River from I-84 in Vernon downstream to where the river crosses under I-84 at the Manchester/East Hartford town line as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Hockanum River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Hockanum River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(13) The Pequabuck River Trout Management Area shall consist of (a) that portion of the Pequabuck River in Bristol and Plainville from King Street (Route 229 & 72) downstream to Route 177 and (b) that portion of Coppermine Brook in Bristol from Artisan Street downstream to the confluence with the Pequabuck River. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Pequabuck River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Pequabuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(14) The Yantic River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Yantic River from Barstow Road in Lebanon, downstream to the bridge crossing at the intersection of Fitchville Road and Schwartz Road in Bozrah. Fishing within portions of the Yantic River Trout Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is restricted to fly fishing only. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first,

the daily creel limit in the Yantic River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Yantic River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(15)The Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Saugatuck River in Redding from Diamond Hill Pond Dam downstream to Saugatuck Reservoir, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(16) The Aspetuck River Trout Management Area shall consist of (a) that portion of the Aspetuck River in Easton, Redding and Newtown upstream from the bridge at Valley Road in Easton and (b) those portions of the unnamed inflow and outflow streams to Lyons Swamp in Easton and Redding from North Park Avenue downstream to the confluence with the Aspetuck River. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Aspetuck River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Aspetuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(17) The Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Mill River within Sleeping Giant State Park located between Tuttle Avenue and Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine (9) inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two.

Sec. 7. Section 26-112-46(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(d) Trout Management Lakes. In the following lakes during the period March first through March thirty-first the daily creel limit for trout and charr shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be sixteen [(16)] inches, except as otherwise specified herein. For the purposes of this

subsection “slot limit lengths” shall mean the lengths between which fish may not be retained and all fish equal to or greater than the lower limit but less than the upper limit must be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken.

Amos Lake, Preston. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Candlewood Lake (including Squantz Pond), New Fairfield, Danbury, New Milford, Sherman, Brookfield. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Crystal Lake, Ellington, Stafford. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the slot limit lengths for trout and charr shall be from twelve (12) inches to sixteen (16) inches total length and the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may equal or exceed sixteen (16) inches in total length.

East Twin Lake, Salisbury. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on [the last day in February] March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. [The daily creel limit for brown trout, rainbow trout and charr during the open season shall be five in the aggregate, not more than one of which may be a brown trout. The minimum length for brown trout shall be twenty (20) inches in total length.]

Highland Lake, Winchester. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the slot limit lengths for trout and charr shall be from twelve (12) inches to sixteen (16) inches total length and the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may equal or exceed sixteen (16) inches in total length.

Quonnipaug Lake, Guilford. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Rogers Lake, Lyme, Old Lyme. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

West Hill Pond, New Hartford, Barkhamsted. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Sec. 8. Section 26-112-46(g) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(g) Wild Trout Management Areas.

(1) There shall be no closed season for trout or charr in class one Wild Trout Management Areas. Fishing in these areas is restricted to barbless single-hook artificial lures and barbless single-hook flies. The daily creel limit for trout and charr in these areas is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr on the waters or shores of these Wild Trout Management Areas is prohibited. The following are class one Wild Trout Management Areas:

(A) The Belding-Tankerhoosen Wild Trout Management Area, which shall consist of (a) those portions of the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries contained within the Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon and (b) those portions of the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries contained within the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(B) Deep Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall consist of (a) that portion of Deep Brook in Newtown from Wasserman Way downstream to the confluence with the Pootatuck River and (b) that portion of the Pootatuck River upstream and downstream of the confluence with Deep Brook as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(C) Eightmile River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the Eightmile River in Southington.

(D) Hawleys Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Hawleys Brook in Easton and Weston within the Trout Brook Valley property that is owned by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Aspetuck Land Trust, and the town of Weston.

(E) Merrick Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall consist of (a) that portion of Merrick Brook and Beaver Brook in Scotland within the Talbot Wildlife Management Area and (b) that portion of Merrick Brook upstream of the Talbot Wildlife Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(F) Mill River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Mill River in Easton from upstream of the first bridge crossing below Easton Reservoir (South Park Avenue) as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to downstream of the third bridge crossing (South Park Avenue) as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(G) Quinnipiac River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Quinnipiac River in Cheshire and in Southington upstream of Cheshire Street.

(H) Wachocastinook Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Wachocastinook Brook on Mt. Riga Corporation property in Salisbury as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(I) Upper Mill River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Mill River in Easton and Monroe from Route 59 downstream to Judd Road.

(J) Lower Macedonia Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Macedonia Brook in Kent from the confluence with Bog Hollow Brook downstream to Route 341.

(2) In class two Wild Trout Management Areas the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two and the minimum length for trout and charr shall be [12] twelve inches. Possession of more than two trout or charr or possession of trout or charr less than [12] twelve inches on the waters or shores of these Wild Trout Management Areas is prohibited. The following are class two Wild Trout Management Areas:

(A) Heather Reaves Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Furnace Brook in Cornwall Bridge upstream of the Housatonic River as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(B) Salmon Brook (Glastonbury) Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Salmon Brook in Glastonbury downstream of Addison Pond.

(3) In class three Wild Trout Management Areas the minimum length for trout and charr shall be nine inches. Possession of trout or charr less than nine inches on the waters or shores of these Wild Trout Management Areas is prohibited. The following are class three Wild Trout Management Areas:

(A) Beacon Hill Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Beacon Hill Brook in Naugatuck and Beacon Falls from Route 63 downstream to the confluence with the Naugatuck River.

(B) Blackberry River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Blackberry River in Canaan downstream of the Whiting River to the confluence with the Housatonic River.

(C) East Aspetuck River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the East Aspetuck River in New Milford and in New Preston downstream of Lake Waramaug to the confluence with the Housatonic River.

(D) East Branch Naugatuck River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the East Branch Naugatuck River in Torrington from Newfield Road downstream to the confluence with the West Branch Naugatuck River.

(E) Farm River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Farm River from Mill Road in North Branford downstream to the I-95 Bridge in East Haven.

(F) Fenton River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the Fenton River in Mansfield and in Willington.

(G) Little River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Little River in Oxford from Towner Lane downstream to Park Road.

(H) Macedonia Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be those portions of Macedonia Brook in Kent within Macedonia Brook State Park.

(I) Morgan Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be Morgan Brook in Barkhamsted.

(J) Sessions Woods Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Negro Hill Brook in Burlington upstream of Route 69.

(K) Norwalk River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Norwalk River in Wilton and in Ridgefield upstream of Wolf Pit Road.

(L) Pease Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Pease Brook in Lebanon within the Pease Brook Wildlife Management Area.

(M) Eric C. Schlutz Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the portion of Roaring Brook in Glastonbury from Route 94 downstream to the confluence with the Connecticut River.

(N) Roaring Brook (Stafford) Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the portion of Roaring Brook in Stafford and in Willington from Route 190 downstream to the confluence with the Willimantic River.

(O) Salmon Brook (Granby) Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Salmon Brook and East Branch of Salmon Brook in Granby and in East Granby from Route 20 downstream to the confluence with the Farmington River.

(P) Shunock Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be Shunock Brook in North Stonington.

(Q) Stony Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be Stony Brook in Montville.

Sec. 9. Section 26-112-46(h) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(h) Atlantic salmon broodstock areas. From October first through March thirty-first, angling for all species in the following areas is restricted to those methods specified by the commissioner for the taking of Atlantic salmon in accordance with section 26-112-45(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

(1) The Upper Naugatuck River Atlantic salmon broodstock area is that portion of the Naugatuck River from Route 118, Harwinton and Litchfield, downstream to Thomaston Dam, Thomaston.

(2) The Lower Naugatuck River Atlantic salmon broodstock area is that portion of the Naugatuck River from Prospect Street, Naugatuck, downstream to Pines Bridge Road, Beacon Falls.

(3) The Shetucket River Atlantic salmon broodstock area is that portion of the Shetucket River from the Scotland Dam, [Scotland] Windham, downstream to the Occum Dam, Norwich and Sprague.

Sec. 10. Section 26-112-46(k) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(k) Trophy Trout Streams.

(1) In the Natchaug River (Eastford, Chaplin, and Windham), the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(2) In the Naugatuck River (Torrington, Harwinton, Plymouth, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, and Ansonia), except as provided in section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. Those portions of the Naugatuck River within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive.

(3) In that portion of the Pequonnock River in Trumbull, from the Whitney Avenue Bridge Crossing downstream to the Daniels Farm Road Bridge Crossing, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(4) In the Pomperaug River (Woodbury and Southbury), the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(5) In the Salmon River (Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, and Haddam), except as provided in section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(6) In the Shetucket River (Windham, Scotland, Sprague, and Norwich), the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. Those portions of the Shetucket River within one

hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive.

Sec. 11. Section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

26-112-48. Miscellaneous restrictions

(a) In the following waters the indicated miscellaneous restrictions shall apply:

Bog Meadow Pond, Norwich. The use of [boats and canoes] vessels is prohibited.

East Twin Lake, Salisbury. The use of radios by fishermen is prohibited from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. prevailing time.

Hewitt Pond (Lower Hewitt Pond), North Stonington. The [use of boats and canoes] operation of vessels with motors, except for electric motors, is prohibited.

Housatonic River, Kent. Those portions of the Housatonic River within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of Kent Falls Brook and Macedonia Brook shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through September fifteenth, inclusive.

Isinglass Reservoir (Far Mill Reservoir), Shelton. Ice fishing is prohibited.

Messerchmidt's Pond, Deep River, Westbrook. The operation of [boats] vessels with [internal combustion engines] with motors, except for electric motors, is prohibited.

Quassapaug Lake, Middlebury, Woodbury. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on the last day of February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Icefishing is prohibited. The daily creel limit for trout and charr shall be one and the minimum length shall be eighteen inches. The daily creel limit for black bass shall be one and the minimum length shall be eighteen inches.

Salmon River, East Haddam. Those portions of the Salmon River in East Haddam within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the paved boat ramp in Sunrise Resort State Park shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through September fifteenth, inclusive.

Saugatuck Reservoir, Easton, Redding, Weston. Ice fishing is prohibited.

Shelton Reservoir #2, Shelton. Ice fishing is prohibited.

Trap Falls Reservoir, Shelton. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through midnight on June thirtieth. Icefishing is prohibited. The daily creel limit for black bass shall be two and the minimum length shall be sixteen inches.

West Pequonnock Reservoir, Monroe. Ice fishing is prohibited.

[Housatonic River, Kent. Those portions of the Housatonic River in Kent within one hundred feet of the mouths of Kent Falls Brook and Macedonia Brook, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Environmental Protection, shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through August thirty-first.]

(b) (1) In reclaimed waters the use of fish, alive or dead, as bait, is prohibited when so posted. The possession on such waters or the shores of such waters of any species of fish, alive or dead, except trout, charr or salmon, is prohibited when so posted.

(2) In the following waters where it would be contrary to good fishery management practice to use any live alewives, blueback (glut or river) herring, gizzard, hickory or threadfin shad as bait, the use of live individuals of these species as bait is prohibited. The possession on such waters or the shores of such waters of any live individuals of these species, is prohibited.

Alexander Lake, Killingly.

Colebrook Flood Control Impoundment, Colebrook and Massachusetts.

East Twin Lake, Salisbury.

Lake Pocotopaug, East Hampton.

Saugatuck Reservoir, Easton, Redding, Weston.

Shenipsit Lake, Ellington, Tolland, Vernon.

Waumgumbaug Lake (Coventry Lake), Coventry.

West Branch Reservoir (Hogback), Hartland, Colebrook.

West Hill Pond, New Hartford, Barkhamsted.

West Twin Lake, Salisbury.

Wononscopomuc Lake, Salisbury.

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(Statement of Purpose page)

Statement of Purpose

Pursuant to CGS Section 4-170(b)(3), "Each proposed regulation shall have a statement of its purpose following the final section of the regulation." Enter the statement here.

Section 1. Section 26-55-1 (RCSA) deals with the importation, transportation and liberation of live fish and live fish eggs. Subsection (i) establishes permitting procedures and requirements for the liberation of triploid (sterile) grass carp to manage nuisance aquatic plant growth. This proposal will revise permitting procedures to improve the application and review process for water bodies under multiple ownership. Under the existing regulation, all individuals who have ownership rights on a water body must provide written agreement before a permit can be issued for the liberation of triploid grass carp into that water body. Especially for waters where numerous individuals may have some type of ownership right, no matter how limited or dated, this requirement can be excessively burdensome and costly for the applicant. This proposal would provide an alternative procedure that could be used when it may be difficult or impossible to determine ownership and then contact all individuals with ownership rights. With the alternative process, the applicant would be required to publish notice of their application in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or municipalities in which the lake or pond is located. DEEP would also publish notice of the application on its website and would have the authority to require the applicant to announce and hold a public information meeting concerning the proposed liberation in a municipality in which the lake or pond is located. An additional benefit of the requirement to publish notice and possibly conduct a public information meeting would be improved public awareness of the proposed activity.

Section 2. Section 26-112-43 (RCSA) contains definitions and restrictions for a range of fisheries-related terms, gear types and methods. This proposal will 1) increase the number of lines that can be used by an individual angler from two to three lines, 2) add bowfin and tench to the list of fish that can be taken by spearing, and 3) clarify that the only lamprey species that can be taken by spearing is the sea lamprey.

Increasing the number of lines that can be used by an individual angler is expected to enhance the fishing experience for a number of avid anglers by allowing them to take better advantage of technical methods available to target their select fisheries such as shore-based common carp angling and trolling for trout in lakes. Although popular in Europe for decades, shore-based catch-and-release carp fishing is just beginning to develop a strong and passionate following in the United States and this type of fishing has the potential to enhance tourism in the state, especially if a third line is allowed for each angler. Avid trout anglers would enjoy greater flexibility in trolling. As use of more than two lines/rods would be inappropriate in certain shore or wading based trout fisheries, the existing limit would be maintained in most specially designated trout areas.

A concurrent proposal (section 4) would add bowfin and tench to the list of species that can be taken in inland waters and prescribe methods for their taking. This section makes conforming changes by adding bowfin and tench to the list of fish that can be taken by spearing.

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Additionally, there are two species of lamprey, sea lamprey and American brook lamprey found in Connecticut waters. The American brook lamprey is on the state list of endangered species and this change clarifies that only sea lamprey can be taken by spearing, and may prevent the inadvertent taking of American brook lamprey.

Section 3. RSCA section 26-112-44 establishes closed seasons for fishing. This proposal would move the date of “Opening Day” of trout season one week earlier, from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April. Currently, Connecticut’s Opening Day of trout season is the third Saturday in April, and is the latest Opening Day in the northeast. This proposal would more closely align Connecticut’s Opening Day with those of the other states in the region, providing numerous additional fishing opportunities in this state for both resident and non-resident anglers targeting trout or fishing for other species (such as largemouth and smallmouth bass) found in trout waters. Moving the start of trout season one week earlier would also provide the state’s school-age anglers the opportunity to fish for (and keep) trout during their spring breaks. Nearly all public school systems schedule a spring break in April that falls the week just prior to the current third Saturday in April.

Additionally, the closed season is removed from the lower Yantic River (from just below the falls at Indian leap in Norwich to the confluence with the Thames River/Norwich Harbor) by inclusion in the Thames River listing under the “Streams open to fishing throughout the year” designation (26-112-44(a)(1)). This change was also requested by the City of Norwich.

One trout lake (Scoville Reservoir) needs to be added to the list of lakes and ponds having a closed season in order to fully protect stocked trout from harvest prior to Opening Day.

One lake (Batterson Park Pond) is being removed from the list of lakes and ponds with a closed season from midnight on October 31 to 6:00 am on the third Saturday in April. Batterson Park Pond is not stocked with trout, but can provide year-round fishing opportunities for species such as walleye, black bass, common carp and sunfish.

Three streams are being removed from the list of “Children’s Streams” and twenty ponds are being removed from the list of “Children’s Ponds” and will become open to fishing to all anglers, regardless of age, and revert back to state-wide regulations for seasons (with one exception – Pasture Pond). The age restriction on fishing at a number of these areas has become counterproductive to facilitating family-style fishing where children fish in an all-ages group or are assisted/mentored by adults. A number of these areas have also fallen into disuse.

Two lakes, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (Naubesatuck Lake) and East Twin Lake, are being removed from the list of lakes and ponds with a closed season from midnight on the last day of February to 6:00 am on the third Saturday in April. Mansfield Hollow Reservoir is not stocked with trout, and eliminating the closed season here will provide additional winter and early spring fishing opportunities. East Twin Lake is a designated Trout Management Lake. A concurrent proposal will extend the fishing season through March thirty-first to provide additional fishing opportunities and for consistency with the seasons of the other designated Trout Management Lakes.

This proposal also corrects one erroneous holdover reference to “Trophy Trout Lakes” (now “Trout Management Lakes”).

Section 4. RCSA section 26-112-45 deals with limitations on the taking of specific species. This proposal will update regulations for certain species (American eel, American shad, bowfin, American brook lamprey, kokanee salmon, tench) to better reflect current status of their populations, and fisheries and/or management plan requirements.

The American eel population all along the East Coast has been experiencing a worrisome decline over the last 20 years. Eels are important components of the ecosystem and need to be conserved. The proposed minimum length and lower creel limit will conform to the recently amended Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) management plan for this species, and will better reflect the current status of this important species and limit overharvest.

Recent stock assessments by the ASMFC have indicated that American shad stocks were at all-time historical lows in 2007 and although several have shown improvement, many remain well below sustainable levels. Under the ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring the member states are to prohibit recreational harvest of American shad in systems without sustainable shad fisheries. This proposal amends Connecticut's inland regulations for American shad to conform to the ASMFC management plan and will protect the limited numbers of American shad that are found in systems other than the Connecticut River system.

Bridle shiner populations appear to be declining in Connecticut and is currently a state-listed species of special concern. This proposal would provide bridle shiners additional protections by removing them from the list of bait species.

Bowfin (*Amia calva*) and tench (*Tinca tinca*) are two nonnative species with very limited distributions in Connecticut. Over the last decade, the population of bowfin in the Connecticut River has expanded and a popular recreational fishery is developing for these fish. Tench are sometimes fished for at two lakes where this fish is present. This proposal would add bowfin and tench to the list of species that can be taken in inland waters and prescribe methods for their taking.

This proposal would protect kokanee salmon from possible overharvest by reducing the maximum daily harvest of kokanee from eight to five fish per angler per day.

The American brook lamprey (*Lethenteron appendix*) is on the state list of endangered species. This proposal would provide additional protections for brook lamprey by explicitly prohibiting its taking.

A concurrent proposal (section 3) would advance the date of "Opening Day" of trout season by one week from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April. This proposal includes conforming changes.

Section 5. RCSA section 26-112-46 deals with special management areas. Subsection (a) pertains to Boundary Waters (defined as those lakes and ponds forming a common boundary between Connecticut and an adjoining state). A concurrent proposal (section 3) would advance the date of "Opening Day" of trout season by one week from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April, providing numerous additional fishing opportunities in this state for anglers. This proposal includes conforming changes to seasons at three "boundary Waters" (Beach Pond, Colebrook Reservoir, Indian Pond).

Section 6. RCSA section 26-112-46 deals with special management areas. Subsection (c) pertains to Trout Management Areas (TMA). This amendment will refine existing regulations intended to protect thermally-stressed trout seeking cool water refuge at tributaries to major rivers. Under existing regulations, a seasonal no-fishing zone is created within 100 feet of the tributary mouth at those tributaries so posted. However, cool water flows often do not conform to an area within a 100 foot radius of the stream mouth. This proposal will 1) provide for a more accurate delineation of thermal refuges by changing the reference point for the refuge from the outlet of the tributary to a point or points as posted by DEEP, and 2) extend the closure through September 15 to better reflect recent weather patterns (warm Septembers).

A concurrent proposal (section 3) would move the date of “Opening Day” of trout season one week earlier, from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April, providing numerous additional fishing opportunities in this state for anglers. This proposal includes conforming changes.

Section 7. Subsection (d) of RCSA 26-112-46 pertains to trophy trout lakes. This proposal would liberalize creel/length limits during the open fishing season for brown trout and extend the open season through March thirty-first at East Twin Lake. Due to the recent collapse of the forage base (landlocked alewife), East Twin Lake does not currently support or grow sufficient numbers of large brown trout. The current regulation whereby only one brown trout greater than 20 inches in length may be harvested per person per day is no longer warranted based on recent data that shows few if any brown trout greater than 20 inches in length being captured. These changes would also complete standardization of seasons and the creel limits during the March first through March thirty-first period at all trout management lakes.

A concurrent proposal (section 3) would move the date of “Opening Day” of trout season one week earlier, from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April, providing numerous additional fishing opportunities in this state for anglers. This proposal includes conforming changes.

Section 8. Subsection (g) of RSCA Section 26-112-46 pertains to Wild Trout Management Areas. The proposed amendment to this subsection will protect a population of naturally reproducing trout in the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area (WMA) from undue depletion by limiting fishing to catch-and-release only. This relatively new WMA (property purchased in 2012) includes the Tankerhoosen River (and several tributaries) just upstream of the existing Belding Wild Trout Management Area. The Tankerhoosen River supports an abundant population of wild trout (best in the CT portion of the CT River watershed) and this proposal will provide excellent year-round fishing opportunities while protecting the trout population.

Section 9. Subsection (h) of RSCA Section 26-112-46 pertains to Atlantic salmon broodstock areas. This proposal corrects the locations of several dams used as the upper and lower boundaries of the broodstock salmon area on the Shetucket River. The Scotland Dam is located in Windham, not in Scotland as found in the existing regulation. The Occum Dam is located in both Norwich and Sprague (and not solely in Norwich as found in the existing regulation).

Section 10. Subsection (k) of RSCA Section 26-112-46 pertains to trophy trout streams. This amendment will refine existing regulations intended to protect thermally-stressed trout seeking cool water refuge at tributaries to major rivers. Under existing regulations, a seasonal no-fishing zone is created within 100 feet of the tributary mouth at those tributaries so posted. However, cool water flows often do not conform to an area within a 100 foot radius of the stream mouth. This proposal will 1) provide for a more accurate delineation of thermal refuges by changing the reference point for the refuge from the outlet of the tributary to a point or points as posted by DEEP, and 2) extend the closure through September 15 to better reflect recent weather patterns (warm Septembers).

Section 11. RSCA section 26-112-48 pertains to miscellaneous restrictions at various water bodies that are not addressed in other sections of the regulations. This proposal will 1) provide for a more accurate delineation of thermal refuges on the Housatonic River by changing the reference point for the refuge from the outlet of the tributary to a point or points as posted by DEEP, 2) extend the closure through September 15 to better reflect recent weather patterns (warm Septembers) and 3) also establish a thermal refuge at a site on the lower Salmon River that serves as a cool water refuge for several species including trout, salmon and northern pike. Additionally, in response to town request, the prohibition on boats and canoes on Hewitt Pond (North Stonington) will be removed.

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR FINAL REGULATIONS

Subject matter of the Regulation

SPORT FISHING IN THE INLAND DISTRICT, PERMITS FOR LIBERATION OF TRIPLOID GRASS CARP

Proposed amendments to sections 26-55-1(i), 26-112-43, 26-112-44, 26-112-45, 26-112-46(a), 26-112-46(c), 26-112-46(d), 26-112-46(g), 26-112-46(h), 26-112-46(k), 26-112-48.

Introduction. These proposed amendments to the regulations, as authorized under authority of Sections 26-55 and 26-112 of the General Statutes, will 1) revise triploid (sterile) grass carp (used to manage nuisance aquatic plant growth) permitting procedures to improve the application process for water bodies under multiple ownership; 2) increase the number of lines allowed for angling in inland waters from two to three; 3) move the date of “Opening Day” of trout season one week earlier, from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April, 4) remove the closed season from three areas (Batterson Park Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Yantic River below falls at Indian Leap), and establish a closed season for one water body (Scoville Reservoir), 5) remove twenty-three areas from the lists of children’s fishing areas; 6) increase the minimum length to 9 inches and reduce the creel limit for American eel and limit harvest of American shad to the Connecticut River system to comply with provisions of interstate fishery management plans of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC); 7) update regulations for several other species (reduces creel limit for Kokanee salmon, allows fishing for bowfin and tench and defines methods of fishing for them, and explicitly prohibits taking of state-endangered brook lamprey) to better reflect current status of their populations; 8) refine existing regulations concerning thermal refuges intended to protect trout seeking cool water refuge at tributaries to major rivers and establish a thermal refuge at a site on the lower Salmon River that serves as a cool water refuge for several species including trout, salmon and northern pike; 9) remove special regulations for brown trout and extend the fishing season at East Twin Lake (Salisbury) to be consistent with the other designated Trout Management Lakes; 10) designate additional portions of the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries in Vernon as a Class 1 Wild Trout Management Area; and 11) allow the use of boats and electric motors on Hewitt Pond (North Stonington). There are also several minor conforming and technical adjustments.

This document provides an explanatory statement for final regulations concerning sport fishing in the inland district and permits for the liberation of triploid grass carp. It is a summary of

public comments presented during the hearing held on May 19, 2014 or received in writing. The public record was open until June 3, 2014 to allow for any additional written comments to be received. The wording of the proposed regulations as presented at the public hearing, a statement of purpose, comments received, final wording, and explanation for each regulation are presented under the corresponding section.

Section 1. Section 26-55-1(i) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(i) The importation, possession or liberation of grass carp or white amur (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is prohibited, except that the Commissioner, at his discretion, may issue a permit for the importation, possession and liberation of triploid (sterile) grass carp into lakes and ponds of this state as herein provided.

(1) Waters into which triploid grass carp are to be liberated may be inspected by an agent of the Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit for the liberation of triploid grass carp into any [waters under multiple ownership unless all individuals who have ownership rights on such waters have first provided written agreement to such liberation] lake or pond where multiple individuals or entities own the property immediately abutting the lake or pond, unless:

(A) the applicant provides notice to the owners of record of each property immediately abutting the lake or pond by mail to the owner's address on the most recent grand tax list of the municipality in which such properties are located or by personal delivery and receives written agreement to such liberation from such owners; or

(B) at least thirty (30) days prior to the Commissioner issuing the permit:

(i) the Commissioner publishes a notice of the application on the department's web site; and

(ii) the applicant publishes a notice of application in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or municipalities in which the lake or pond is located and in the central offices of each municipality in which the lake or pond is located. The newspaper notice published by the applicant may reference the notice published on the department's website but shall, at a minimum, contain the heading "Notice of Application to Liberate Triploid Grass Carp"; the name of the applicant; the location of the proposed activity by the name of the lake or pond and the municipality or municipalities in which the lake or pond is located; and the address, telephone number and e-mail address of the applicant or other appropriate person to contact for further information on the application, including an appropriate member of department staff. In addition to said notice, the Commissioner may require the applicant to host a public information meeting regarding the application in a municipality in which the lake or pond is located prior to issuing any permit for such liberation.

(3) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit for the liberation of triploid grass carp into any waters unless the outlet and inlet of such waters are, in his opinion, adequately screened so as to prevent the emigration of such grass carp or unless such waters are ecologically isolated. For the purposes of this subsection, ecologically isolated means any waters from which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the emigration of such grass carp will not significantly impact public waters or waters of another, or from which there is no surface water outflow.

(4) Any permit for the liberation of triploid grass carp issued by the Commissioner may prescribe the number and size class of triploid grass carp that may be liberated.

(5) Such fish shall be certified as triploid prior to shipment by a person or persons acceptable to the Commissioner and such certification shall accompany the shipment of such fish.

(6) At least fourteen (14) days prior to importation of such fish, the permittee shall notify the Commissioner of the date that any grass carp are to be imported and the location where such fish may be inspected.

(7) Such fish may be inspected and may be sampled and tested for triploidy by an approved method by an agent of the Commissioner prior to liberation.

(8) Any shipment of grass carp which contains any diploid (fertile) individuals shall be confiscated and disposed of at the discretion of the Commissioner.

(9) The owner of any lake or pond into which grass carp are liberated shall allow agents of the Commissioner to monitor the population dynamics of the grass carp and other environmental conditions of the pond in order to determine the long term efficacy of grass carp in Connecticut waters.

(10) In the event that any grass carp or white amur, that are capable of reproduction, are liberated into or found in any waters of this state, the Commissioner may, in the public interest, order that all such fish as well as any other fish present in such waters be destroyed by whatever means he shall determine to be the most practical and in the best public interest except as provided in section 26-55a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Statement of Purpose: The existing subsection establishes permitting procedures and requirements for the liberation of triploid (sterile) grass carp to manage nuisance aquatic plant growth. This proposal will revise permitting procedures to improve the application and review process for water bodies under multiple ownership.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. No comments were provided at the hearing and emailed comments were received from one lake authority and five individuals. All comments received were highly in favor of the proposed amendment.

Written comments

The Candlewood Lake Authority, (CLA) and the five individuals (one also representing a homeowner's association- Holiday Point Homeowners Association) were all highly supportive of this amendment. All commenters cited Candlewood Lake as an example of a water body that could benefit from this amendment. Most, including CLA, explicitly noted that as currently written, it would be very difficult to impossible for communities on larger lakes such as Candlewood Lake to consider the use of triploid grass carp to control excess aquatic vegetation due to the requirement that all individuals who have ownership rights on a water body must provide written agreement. All commenters 1) expressed concern over the severity of the impacts associated with the Eurasian water milfoil population in Candlewood Lake, 2) noted the uncertain future of current methods (drawdowns) to control Eurasian water milfoil population in Candlewood Lake and 3) mentioned the comparatively low cost of grass carp and the high costs associated with other control methods such as the use of herbicides on larger water bodies. Several also noted that in light of public perception of herbicides and the concerns sometimes expressed over their use, it would be difficult to obtain consensus concerning their use on a large lake such as Candlewood Lake.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: Under the existing regulation, all individuals who have ownership rights on a water body must provide written agreement before a permit can be issued for the liberation of triploid grass carp into that water body. Especially for waters where numerous individuals may have some type of ownership right, no matter how limited or dated, this requirement can be excessively burdensome and costly for the applicant. This proposal would provide an alternative procedure that could be used when it may be difficult or impossible to determine ownership and then contact all individuals with ownership rights. With the alternative process, the applicant would be required to publish notice of their application in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or municipalities in which the lake or pond is located. DEEP would also publish notice of the application on its website and would have the authority to require the applicant to announce and hold a public information meeting concerning the proposed liberation in a municipality in which the lake or pond is located. An additional benefit of the requirement to publish notice and possibly conduct a public information meeting would be improved public awareness of the proposed activity.

Sec. 2. Section 26-112-43 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

26-112-43. Definitions and restrictions

(a) "Angling" means fishing with hook and line which shall be personally attended, but shall not include ice fishing or snagging or snatching. Not more than [two] three lines, with or without rods, may be used at one time except in Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management

Areas, Trout Parks, Sea-run Trout Streams and Trophy Trout Streams as listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies where no more than two lines may be used at one time. Each line may have any combination of hooks, flies or lures, among which not more than three hooks may be baited.

(b) "Bait" means any animal, bait species as defined in section 26-112-45(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, fish eggs, insect or vegetable, or parts thereof, living or dead, except for certain nuisance aquatic invertebrates as provided for in section 26-55-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, used with a hook for the purpose of attracting and catching fish. Any fish legally acquired, except black bass (largemouth and smallmouth), chain pickerel, northern pike, trout, charr, salmon, carp and goldfish may be used as bait, except as provided in section 26-112-48(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(c) "Bait fishing" means taking or attempting to take bait species, for personal use as bait or food, by use of a bait seine, bait trap, umbrella net, scoop net or by hand.

(d) "Bait seine" means a seine or net which, for the purpose of this regulation, does not exceed fifteen feet in length and four feet in depth and is used for the taking of bait species.

(e) "Bait trap" means a glass, wire or wooden device which, for the purpose of this regulation, does not exceed twenty inches in length and fifteen inches in diameter and is used for the taking of bait species.

(f) "Barbless hook" or "barbless fishhook" means a curved, pointed device, without a barb, used to catch fish and includes single, double or treble hooks provided each point is without a barb and hooks manufactured with a barb if the barb has been bent down to the hook, broken off or otherwise made ineffective.

(g) "Bobbing" means fishing with a ball or mass of worms or other bait attached to a line held in the hand or a line attached to a rod held in the hand to which no hooks are attached.

(h) "Bow and arrow fishing" means fishing by use of a weapon made of wood or other elastic material, with a cord to connect the two ends when bent, by which an arrow is propelled, but shall not include the use of a cross bow. The use of a cross bow in fishing is prohibited.

(i) "Children's stream" and "children's pond" means waters that are set aside in whole or in part as children's fishing areas when such restriction is indicated by posters. Angling in such areas is restricted to children under sixteen years of age.

(j) "Closed season" means that period of time during which all fishing is prohibited in the area specified.

(k) "Daily creel limit" means the quantity or number of fish of a species or species group that can be taken by an individual angler during the period from 12:01 a.m. to midnight.

(l) "Disabled Persons Fishing Area" means an area set aside for the exclusive use by the physically handicapped when such restriction is indicated by posters.

(m) "Downrigger" means a device, supplemental to a fishing line, used to deploy, via an electric or handpowered winch, reel or spool that projects over the side or stern of a boat and is used as a hoist, main line and terminal weight, one or more fishing lines to a desired depth in the water column.

(n) "Gaff" means a spear or hook, with or without a handle, used for holding or lifting fish. The use of a gaff to land or assist in landing a fish is prohibited in the inland district.

(o) "Hook" or "fishhook" means a curved, pointed device, with or without barb, used to catch fish. Hooks may be single, double or treble and each point shall be considered as a single hook.

(p) "Fishing" or "sport fishing" means taking or attempting to take fish in the inland district, except for commercial purposes, and is restricted to angling, bow and arrow fishing, bobbing, ice fishing, snagging or snatching, spearing, scoop netting, and taking or attempting to take fish by hand.

(q) "Float" or "bobber" means any buoyant object attached to a fishing line. No such float shall be used unless the line is personally attended.

(r) "Fly" means a single or double hook dressed with hair, feathers, tinsel, thread, yarn or similar material to which no bait, spinner, spoon, plug or other device is added.

(s) "Fly fishing" means angling with the use of a fly reel, fly rod, fly line, leader and a fly or flies. Additional weight may be built into the fly in its construction, as in a weighted nymph, and additional weight may be attached to the leader. The use of strike indicators, as defined in this section, is permitted.

(t) "Hand-held jig" means a rod, jig stick or line held in the hand, used for fishing through the ice.

(u) "Ice fishing" means fishing through the ice with tip-ups, bobbers or floats, similar devices or hand-held jigs. The following restrictions shall apply to ice fishing:

(1) An individual may use, at one time, tip-ups, bobbers or floats, similar devices or hand-held jigs in any combination thereof, not exceeding six in the aggregate.

(2) Each line shall be restricted to not more than three baited hooks, with or without attractors, or three ice flies or three artificial lures or any combination thereof, not exceeding three in the aggregate.

(3) All tip-ups, bobbers or floats or similar devices shall have the name and address of the person using the same legibly printed thereon or attached thereto.

(4) No tip-ups, bobbers or floats or similar devices shall be used unless they are personally attended.

(v) "Leadcore line" means a fishing line constructed with a metal core.

(w) "Minimum length" means the smallest total length of a species or species group that may be legally possessed, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail unless otherwise specified. No person shall possess any fish less than the lengths specified and any fish less than the minimum length shall, without avoidable injury, be immediately returned to the water from which taken.

(x) "Possession limit" means the total number of fish of any species or species group that may be legally possessed by one person, either on the person, on the waters of the inland district, or the shores of such waters, or in any type of vehicle. Possession limit in the field shall not exceed the daily creel limit. Any fish in possession shall be intact to the extent that neither the heads nor the tails have been removed but gills and viscera may be removed. Possession limit shall not be construed to restrict the number of legally acquired fish that may be kept in storage in the home or in other storage facilities.

(y) "Scoop net" or "scap net" means a net attached to a handle which, for the purpose of this regulation, shall be not over thirty-six inches across the widest point of the single hoop or have a mesh bag more than thirty-six inches in depth at its deepest point. Such net shall be constructed of flexible mesh material and shall be manually operated by a single individual. The use of any such net constructed of metal mesh or stiff plastic mesh is prohibited.

(z) "Set line" means a line with one or both ends secured to the shore or to a fixed or buoyant object in the water which is used for fishing and is not personally attended. Set lines shall not be used in the inland district.

(aa) "Snagging" or "snatching" means the taking of fish by foul hooking, that is, hooking fish in any part of the body other than inside the mouth. Snagging or snatching is prohibited in all waters in the inland district for all species of fish and any fish so taken shall be released immediately, except, in streams open to fishing throughout the year, as provided in section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, menhaden, alewives and blueback (glut) herring may be taken by snagging or snatching.

(bb) "Spearing" means the use of any pointed instrument, with or without barbs, which is propelled by hand. The use of spears is prohibited in lakes and ponds and in streams, or sections of streams, stocked with trout, charr and salmon. Spears may be used only for taking carp, bowfin, tench, suckers, eels and sea lampreys. In the inland district, fish shall not be taken by underwater spear fishing and the use of any type of spear gun in fishing is prohibited.

(cc) "Strike indicator" means a brightly colored, highly visible tab, sleeve or bead or similar material used in fly fishing. Such devices may be attached to the line or leader when used in areas restricted to fly fishing only.

(dd) "Take" or "taking" means killing, capturing or otherwise rendering into possession, any fish or bait species, or attempting to kill, capture or render into possession, or assisting in taking or attempting to take any fish or bait species.

Statement of Purpose: This proposal will 1) increase the number of lines that can be used by an individual angler from two to three lines, 2) add bowfin and tench to the list of fish that can be taken by spearing, and 3) clarify that the only lamprey species that can be taken by spearing is the sea lamprey.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. Two individuals provided comments at the hearing and one individual provided written comments by email prior to the close of the comment period.

Hearing comments

Two persons provided testimony on this proposal. Both operate retail fishing-related business concerns, Gary Brummett (Connecticut Outfitters) and Iain Sorrell (Saxon Tackle, Angling solutions LLC). One (Sorrell) also is the Connecticut Chair for the Carp Anglers Group of North America. Both supported the provision to increase the number of lines that can be used by an individual angler from two to three lines. Sorrell opposed allowing bowfin to be fished for by methods such as spearing that don't allow the option of releasing caught fish alive. He noted that fishing provides economic benefits and suggested that as the larger fish are more likely to be targeted by these methods, spearing would remove fish that otherwise would attract the most additional angling interest (and would provide additional economic benefits).

Written comments

One individual (Sorrell) who had also spoken at the hearing later provided written comments in opposition to adding tench and bowfin to the list of species that can be taken by spearing, noting that certain methods such as spearing (and bow fishing) are by their nature fatal to the fish. This commenter also felt that such methods, if successfully employed, are fatal and "unsporting" as these fish are infrequently consumed for food.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: Increasing the number of lines that can be used by an individual angler is expected to enhance the fishing experience for a number of avid anglers by allowing them to take better advantage of technical methods available to target their select fisheries such as shore-based common carp angling and trolling for trout in lakes. Although popular in Europe for decades, shore-based catch-and-release carp fishing is just beginning to develop a strong and passionate following in the United States and this type of fishing has the potential to enhance tourism in

the state, especially if a third line is allowed for each angler. Avid trout anglers would enjoy greater flexibility in trolling. As use of more than two lines/rods would be inappropriate in certain shore or wading based trout fisheries, the existing limit would be maintained in most specially designated trout areas.

A concurrent proposal (section 4) would add bowfin and tench to the list of species that can be taken in inland waters and prescribe methods for their taking. This section makes conforming changes by adding bowfin and tench to the list of fish that can be taken by spearing. Methods such as bow fishing and spearing appear to be employed by only a very small subset of those fishing recreationally in inland waters in Connecticut. At this time, DEEP has no data to support the contention that allowing bowfin and tench to be taken by bow fishing and/or spearing would unduly deplete or otherwise negatively impact their populations in Connecticut.

Additionally, there are two species of lamprey, sea lamprey and American brook lamprey found in Connecticut waters. The American brook lamprey is on the state list of endangered species and this change clarifies that only sea lamprey can be taken by spearing, and may prevent the inadvertent taking of American brook lamprey.

Sec. 3. Section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-112-44. Closed seasons

(a) **Streams.** The closed season for fishing in streams shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, except as provided below:

(1) Streams open to fishing throughout the year. There shall be no closed season for fishing in the following streams, or portions thereof, as specified:

(A) Coginchaug River, Middletown – downstream from Route 3 bridge to its junction with the Mattabassett River (Sebethe River).

(B) Connecticut River and its coves.

(C) Farmington River – downstream from the outlet of the Rainbow Dam Tailrace Canal to its confluence with the Connecticut River (all fishing is prohibited in the Rainbow Dam Tailrace Canal and in the Farmington River from the Tailrace Canal upstream to Rainbow Dam).

(D) Housatonic River – downstream from the dam on Lake Housatonic (the Derby Dam).

(E) Mattabasset River (Sebethe River), Middletown – downstream from the Route 372 bridge to its junction with the Connecticut River.

(F) Mystic River, Groton and Stonington – downstream from the confluence of Whitfords Brook and Haleys Brook.

(G) Naugatuck River – downstream from the Kinneytown Dam (Seymour) to its confluence with the Housatonic River.

(H) Niantic River, East Lyme and Waterford.

(I) Quinnipiac River – downstream from the highway bridge on Route 5 in North Haven to its junction with New Haven Harbor.

(J) Salmon River, Haddam and East Haddam – downstream from the bridge on Route 151 to its junction with the Connecticut River.

(K) Thames River and its coves, [-] including the Shetucket River downstream from Greenville Dam[.] and the Yantic River downstream of the falls at Indian Leap in Norwich.

[(2) Children's streams. The closed season for fishing in the following posted children's streams shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the third Saturday in April.

(A) Indian Hole Brook, Shelton – from the falls in Indian Wells State Park downstream to the railroad bridge.

(B) Quinebaug River, Putnam – within Putnam Town Park.

(C) Wepawaug River, Orange – from old New Haven/Derby railroad upstream approximately two miles.]

[(3)] (2) Trout Management Areas. There shall be no closed season for fishing in Trout Management Areas listed in section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies except as provided therein.

[(4)] (3) In areas where fishing for Atlantic salmon is allowed, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the closed season for Atlantic salmon fishing shall be as pursuant to the provisions of 26-112-45(c)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

[(5)] (4) Wild Trout Management Areas. Except as provided in section 26-112-46(g), the closed season for fishing in Wild Trout Management Areas shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

[(6)] (5) Sea-run Trout Streams. Except as provided in section 26-112-46(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the closed season for fishing in Sea-run Trout Streams shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

(b) Lakes and Ponds. There shall be no closed season for fishing lakes and ponds, except as provided below.

(1) The closed season for fishing in the following lakes and ponds shall be from midnight on October thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Angus Parks Pond (Eastbury Park Pond), Glastonbury
[Batterson Park Pond, Farmington, New Britain]
Beaver Park Lagoon, New Haven
Bicentennial Pond (Mansfield Town Pond), Mansfield
Godfrey Pond, Stonington
Green Falls Reservoir, Voluntown
Hewitt Flyfishing Pond (Gallup Pond), North Stonington
Mohegan Lake, Fairfield
Pistol Shop Pond, Middlefield
Prospect Park Pond, Prospect
Shenipsit Reservoir, Ellington, Tolland, Vernon
Tollgate Ponds, Greenwich
Wononscopomuc Lake, Salisbury. Fishing hours shall be from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time.

(2) The closed season for fishing in the following lakes and ponds shall be from midnight on the last day of February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Alexander Lake, Killingly
Allen Brook Pond (Wharton Pond), Wallingford
Ball Pond, New Fairfield
Barber Pond, Bloomfield, Windsor
Bashan Lake, East Haddam
Baummer Pond, Naugatuck
Beach Pond, Voluntown and Rhode Island
Beachdale Pond, Voluntown
Beaver Brook Ponds (Upper and Lower), Windham
Bigelow Pond, Union
Billings Lake, North Stonington
Black Pond, Meriden, Middlefield
Black Pond, Woodstock
Black Rock Flood Control Impoundment, Watertown
Blanchard Pond, New Canaan, Wilton
Branford Supply Ponds, Branford
Broad Brook Mill Pond, East Windsor
Brookfield Pond, South Windsor
Cedar Lake, Chester
Clarks Pond, Hamden
Clarktown Pond, Orange
Cobbs Mill Pond, Weston
Colebrook Flood Control Impoundment, Colebrook, and Massachusetts
Day Pond, Colchester
Dayton Pond, Wallingford
Disbrow Pond, New Fairfield

Dodge Pond, East Lyme
[East Twin Lake, Salisbury]
Enders Pond, Granby
Factory Pond, Redding, Wilton
Fitchville Pond, Bozrah
Fort Shantok Pond, Montville
Fountain Lake, Seymour, Ansonia
Freshwater Pond, Enfield
Gardner Lake, Salem, Montville, Bozrah
Gay City Park Pond, Hebron
Gills Pond, Berlin
Hallville Pond, Preston
Hancock Brook Flood Control Pool, Plymouth
Hanover Reservoir, Canterbury, Sprague
Hewitt Pond (Lower Hewitt Pond), North Stonington
Higganum Reservoir, Haddam
Hop Brook Flood Control Pool, Middlebury
Hopeville Pond, Griswold
Horse Pond, Salem
Howells Pond, Hartland
Johnson's Pond, Bolton
Keney Park Pond, Hartford
Lafayette Pond, Somers
Lake Stibbs, Southbury
Lake Wintergreen, Hamden
Lantern Hill Pond, Ledyard, North Stonington
Little Pond, Thompson
Long Pond, Ledyard, North Stonington
Lower Storrs Pumping Station Pond, Mansfield
Mad River Flood Control Impoundment, Winchester
Mansfield Training School Ponds, Mansfield
Mashapaug Lake, Union
Millers Pond, Durham
Millers Pond, Ridgefield
Mohawk Pond, Cornwall, Goshen
Moosup Pond, Plainfield
Mt. Tom Pond, Morris, Litchfield, Washington
[Naubesatuck Lake, Mansfield, Chaplin, Windham]
Nells Rock Reservoir, Shelton
Northfield Brook Flood Control Pool, Litchfield
Norwich Pond, Lyme
Pages Millpond, North Branford
Paine Pond, Ashford
Pataconk Lake (Russell Jennings Pond), Chester

Picketts Pond (Osborndale State Park), Derby
Roseland Lake, Woodstock
Saint Martha's Pond, Enfield
Salmon Brook Pond, Glastonbury
Sawmill Park Pond, Ledyard
Schreeder Pond (Chatfield Hollow Pond), Killingworth
Scoville Reservoir, Wolcott
Shaw Lake (Hayward Lake), East Haddam
Silvermine Pond, New Canaan
Somerville Mill Pond, Somers
Southford Falls Pond, Oxford, Southbury
Starret Pond (Huntington Park Pond), Redding
Stillwater Pond, Torrington
Stratton Brook Park Pond, Simsbury
Taftville Reservoir, Norwich
Tankerhoosen Lakes, Vernon
Tungsten Mine Park Pond, Trumbull
Twin Brooks Park Pond, Trumbull
Tyler Pond, Goshen
Uncas Lake (Hog Pond), Lyme
Upper Fulton Park Pond, Waterbury
Valley Falls Pond, Vernon
Wangumbaug Lake (Coventry Lake), Coventry
Wards Millpond, Branford
Wauregan Reservoir (Quinebaug Lake), Killingly
West Branch Reservoir (Hogback), Hartland, Colebrook
West Side Pond, Goshen
Woodruffs Pond, Hamden
Wyassup Lake, North Stonington

(3) The closed season for fishing in the following lakes and ponds shall be as specified.

Bunnells Pond (Beardsley Park Pond), Bridgeport. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Great Hollow Pond, Monroe. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Isinglass Reservoir (Far Mill Reservoir), Shelton. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Lake Chamberlain, Bethany. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Lake McDonough (Compensating Reservoir), New Hartford, Barkhamsted. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Fishing hours shall be from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time, except opening day when fishing shall start at 6:00 a.m.

Lake Saltonstall, Branford, East Haven. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Maltby Lakes (#1, #2, #3), Orange West Haven. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Mohegan Park Pond, Norwich. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Pasture Pond (Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery), Plainfield. From midnight on September thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April.

Saugatuck Reservoir, Easton, Redding, Weston. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Shelton Reservoir #2, Shelton. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Simsbury Town Park Ponds, Simsbury. From midnight on June fifteenth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

West Pequonnock Reservoir, Monroe. From midnight on December thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

(4) Children's Ponds. The closed season for fishing in the following posted children's ponds shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, except as specified.

[Backwater Brook Pond, Thompson]

[Beachland Park Pond, West Hartford]

Butternut Pond, East Windsor. Open season 6:00 a.m. [third] second Saturday in April through October thirty-first.

[City Hall Pond, Milford]

[Clark Pond (Besse Pond), Torrington]

[Edgewood Park Pond, New Haven]

Factory Pond, Salisbury

[Fernridge Park Pond, West Hartford]

Gould Manor Pond, Fairfield

Helen Keller School Pond, Easton

[Hyde Park Pond, Glastonbury]
[Hurlburt Pond, Putnam]
Katz Pond, Trumbull
[Lilly Pond, Thompson]
[Lower Fulton Park Pond, Waterbury]
[McGovern Pond, West Hartford]
Mill Pond, Newington
[Mill Woods Park Pond, Wethersfield]
[Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond), Meriden]
[North Street Pond, Milford]
[Orange Park Pond, Orange]
[Page Park Pond, Bristol]
[Pasture Pond (Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery), Plainfield. Open season 6:00 a.m. third Saturday in April through September thirtieth.]
Sochrin Pond, Seymour
[Stanley Quarter Pond, New Britain]
[Stroh Pond, Windsor]
[Washington Park Pond, Windsor]

(5) Trout Management Lakes. The closed season for fishing in [Trophy] Trout Management Lakes listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be as specified therein.

(6) Boundary Waters. The closed season for fishing in boundary water listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be as specified therein.

Statement of Purpose: This proposal would move the date of “Opening Day” of trout season one week earlier, from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April. Additionally, the closed season is removed from the lower Yantic River (from just below the falls at Indian leap in Norwich to the confluence with the Thames River/Norwich Harbor) by inclusion in the Thames River listing under the “Streams open to fishing throughout the year” designation (26-112-44(a)(1)). One trout lake (Scoville Reservoir) will be added to the list of lakes and ponds having a closed season in order to fully protect stocked trout from harvest prior to Opening Day. Two lakes (Batterson Park Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir) would be removed from the list of lakes and ponds with a closed season. Additionally, the closed season provided for in this section for East Twin Lake will be removed to conform to a season provided for in a concurrent proposal (see section 7). Three streams will be removed from the list of “Children’s Streams” and seventeen ponds are being removed from the list of “Children’s Ponds” and will be opened to fishing to all anglers, regardless of age, and will also revert back to state-wide regulations for seasons (with one exception – Pasture Pond). This proposal also corrects one erroneous holdover reference to “Trophy Trout Lakes” (now “Trout Management Lakes”).

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. Three individuals spoke and one individual submitted written comments at the hearing. The City of Norwich Harbor Management Commission and one individual provided written comments by email prior to the close of the comment period.

Hearing comments

Three persons provided spoken testimony on this proposal. One (H. Tucker Braddock), a member of the City of Norwich Harbor Commission, spoke in strong support of the provisions to open the Yantic River below Indian Leap Falls to fishing year round and to move the date of Opening Day of trout season one week earlier. Mr. Braddock felt that both provisions would increase interest in fishing locally, and benefit local businesses. It was also noted that the relative lateness of Connecticut's Opening Day date in comparison to neighboring states currently represents a loss in tourism dollars to the state. Additionally, the change in the Opening Day date would be more convenient for school children, aligning better with school vacations.

The other two persons providing testimony both operate retail fishing-related business concerns, Gary Brummett (Connecticut Outfitters) and Iain Sorrell (Saxon Tackle, Angling solutions LLC.). One (Brummett) spoke in favor of the change in the date of Opening Day of trout season one week earlier, from the third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April. Both supported the provision removing the closed season from Batterson Park Pond, citing its year-round fishing potential. Brummett noted the potential to ice fish for walleye (Batterson Park Pond is managed for walleye by DEEP).

Written comments

The City of Norwich Harbor Management Commission wrote in strong support of the provisions to open the Yantic River below Indian Leap Falls to fishing year round and to move the date of Opening Day of trout season one week earlier. In their comments on the Yantic River they noted 1) that the current regulations concerning the rivers that join the Thames River at Norwich Harbor are inconsistent, the Shetucket River to the first upstream dam is open year-round, while the Yantic River currently has a closed season, 2) no trout are stocked in the Yantic River below Indian Leap Falls (closed seasons are most typically applied to areas stocked with trout), and 3) the lower Yantic River can provide year-round fishing opportunities for species such as Striped Bass. Opening up this portion of Norwich Harbor to fishing year round would benefit economic development and tourism in the area. Commenting on the provisions to change the date of Opening Day, they stated that the current date redirects sport fishing tourism revenue to neighboring states with seasons that open earlier, and this change could address this loss of revenue.

The individual (Michael Ose) who provided written comments at the hearing wrote in support of the change in the date of Opening Date of trout season, but did caution that some complications concerning pre-Opening Day trout stocking could occur depending on the nature and severity of late winter/early spring weather. He also noted that Opening Day would coincide better with school vacations. The individual providing comments by email, James Bascetta Jr., operates a retail fishing-related business (Jim's Bait & Tackle) in northwest

Connecticut and wrote in opposition to the proposed earlier date for Opening Day, noting that late winter weather could make fishing conditions very difficult for Opening Day anglers due to cold temperatures and high flows due to spring snowmelt.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: Currently, Connecticut's Opening Day of trout season is the third Saturday in April, and is the latest Opening Day in the northeast. This proposal would more closely align Connecticut's Opening Day with those of the other states in the region, providing numerous additional fishing opportunities in this state for both resident and non-resident anglers targeting trout or fishing for other species (such as largemouth and smallmouth bass) found in trout waters. DEEP believes that the proposal for moving Opening Day one week earlier strikes a good balance between parts of the state that can experience vastly different weather from each other in early spring (i.e. northwest Connecticut versus southeast Connecticut). This balance would also protect the fishing-related revenues generally associated with an Opening Day that is fishable statewide. Moving the start of trout season one week earlier would also provide the state's school-age anglers the opportunity to fish for (and keep) trout during their spring breaks. Nearly all public school systems schedule a spring break in April that falls the week just prior to the current third Saturday in April.

The lower Yantic River is not stocked with trout and removing the closed season from this area will increase fishing opportunities in the Norwich Harbor area.

Scoville Reservoir is stocked with trout and a closed season is needed in order to fully protect stocked trout from harvest prior to Opening Day. Batterson Park Pond is not stocked with trout, but can provide year-round fishing opportunities for species such as walleye, black bass, common carp and sunfish. Mansfield Hollow Reservoir is also not stocked with trout, and eliminating the closed season here will provide additional winter and early spring fishing opportunities. East Twin Lake is a designated Trout Management Lake. A concurrent proposal will extend the fishing season through March thirty-first to provide additional fishing opportunities and for consistency with the seasons of the other designated Trout Management Lakes.

The age restriction on fishing at many streams and ponds designated as "children's areas" has become counterproductive to facilitating family-style fishing where children fish in a multi-generational group or are assisted/mentored by adults. Opening these areas will provide additional family friendly fishing opportunities. Several of these areas have also fallen into disuse/disrepair and a designation such as " children's area" would no longer be applicable.

Sec. 4. Section 26-112-45 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

26-112-45. Species limitations

(a) Alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*).

(1) Alewives and blueback herring may be taken only by angling or scoop net, except that in streams open to fishing throughout the year alewives and blueback herring may also be taken by snagging or snatching.

(2) The taking of alewives and blueback herring by scoop net from June sixteenth through March thirty-first, both dates inclusive, is prohibited.

(3) In rivers and streams, the taking of alewives and blueback herring by angling and snagging or snatching from June sixteenth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April is prohibited.

(4) The taking of alewives and blueback herring from the section of Brides Brook, East Lyme, extending from the dam at Brides Pond downstream to Brides Brook Road is prohibited.

(5) Alewives and blueback herring shall not be taken from Saturday 12:00 midnight to Tuesday 12:00 midnight except in lakes and ponds, the main body of the Connecticut River, the main body of the Housatonic River, and the main body of the Thames River including the Shetucket River to the base of the Greenville Dam.

(6) The daily creel limit for alewives and blueback herring shall be twenty-five in the aggregate.

(b) American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*).

(1) American shad and hickory shad may be taken only by angling.

[(2) In those streams open to fishing throughout the year the taking of American shad from July first through March thirty-first, both dates inclusive, is prohibited. In all other areas the taking of American shad from midnight on July first through 6:00 a.m. on the third Saturday in April is prohibited, except as provided in section 26-112-45(b)(4).]

[(3)] (2) The daily creel limit for American shad and hickory shad shall be six fish of both species in the aggregate, except as provided in section [26-112-45(b)(4)] 26-112-45(b)(3) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) In all areas of the inland district except for the Connecticut River and those portions of its tributaries open to fishing throughout the year as provided in section 26-112-44(a)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the daily creel limit for American shad shall be zero, and all American shad caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of American shad on the waters or on the shores of the inland district, except for the waters and shores of the Connecticut River and those portions of its tributaries open to fishing throughout the year as provided in section 26-112-44(a)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, is prohibited.

(4) The open season for taking American shad from the Pawcatuck River, North Stonington-Stonington-Rhode Island, shall be as provided by Rhode Island regulations authorized by section 20-1-12 of the General Laws of Rhode Island [and the daily creel limit for American shad in this area shall be one].

(c) Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)

(1) The taking of Atlantic salmon is prohibited, except that the Commissioner may, by an annual declaration, allow the taking of Atlantic salmon during a specified period in specified waters as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall inform the public of open seasons and angling regulations for Atlantic salmon by annually issuing a news release, posting signs, and by printing notice in the anglers' guide.

(2) During any period during which the taking of Atlantic salmon is allowed, the Commissioner may, by declaration, specify the angling methods allowed for the taking of Atlantic salmon.

(3) During any period during which the taking of Atlantic salmon is allowed, the Commissioner may, by declaration, specify the daily creel limit and the minimum length for Atlantic salmon.

(4) The taking of Atlantic salmon in the main stem Connecticut River shall be as provided by regulations of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, as authorized by Chapter 494 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(d) Bait species. Bait species include the following species of fish, amphibians, aquatic insects and crustaceans to the exclusion of all other species: golden shiner or "pond shiner" (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), common shiner ([~~Notropis~~] Luxilus *cornutus*), fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*), creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*), spottail shiner or "river bait" (*Notropis hudsonius*), [~~bridle shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*),~~] blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*), longnose dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*), pearl dace (*Semotilus margarita*), bluntnose minnow (*Pimephales notatus*), fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), cutlips minnow (*Exoglossum maxillingua*), chub sucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*), white sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*), banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus*), mummichug (*Fundulus heteroclitus*), striped killifish (*Fundulus majalis*), tidewater silverside (*Menidia beryllina*), Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*), sand lance or "sand eels" (*Ammodytes* spp.), frogs (except the northern leopard frog, *Rana pipiens*), crayfish (except rusty crayfish, *Orconectes rusticus*), perch bugs, helgramites, and mayfly nymphs. Bait species may be taken only for personal use as bait and food, except as provided in section 26-55-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and shall not be sold or offered for sale, except as provided in sections 26-142a-1 to 26-142a-6 inclusive, 26-142a-12 and 26-142a-15 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(1) Bait species may be taken by bait seine, bait trap, umbrella net, by hand, by scoop net and by angling, as provided below:

(A) In all inland waters, except those lakes and ponds where the use of fish (dead or alive) as bait is prohibited, bait species may be taken at any time by bait traps not to exceed twenty inches in length and fifteen inches in diameter and by umbrella nets not to exceed four feet in length by four feet in width.

(B) In all streams bait species may be taken at any time with bait seines not to exceed fifteen feet in length and four feet in depth. Bait seines shall not be used in lakes and ponds, except in those lakes and ponds designated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as open to the commercial taking of bait. In such lakes and ponds bait seines not exceeding fifteen feet in length and four feet in width may be used to take bait species at any time of year.

(C) During the open season for fishing in inland waters, bait species may also be taken by hand, by scoop net and by angling.

(e) Black bass. Black bass include largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus [dolomieu] dolomieu*).

(1) Black bass may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The daily creel limit for black bass shall be six, except in Boundary Waters and Bass Management Areas as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and except as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) There shall be no minimum length for black bass taken in streams, except in the Connecticut River, and its coves, where the minimum length shall be twelve inches. The minimum length for black bass taken in lakes and ponds shall be twelve inches, except in Boundary Waters and Bass Management Areas as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and except as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(f) Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), bowfin (*Amia calva*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), white suckers (*Catostomus commersoni*), American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*), and sea lampreys (*Petromyzon marinus*).

(1) Carp, bowfin, tench, suckers, eels and lampreys may be taken by angling, bobbing, ice fishing, bow and arrow fishing and spearing, except that, in streams or sections of streams stocked with trout, charr and/or salmon, these species may be taken only by angling or ice fishing. Spearing is prohibited in all lakes and ponds.

(2) The daily creel limit for American eel shall be twenty-five.

(3) The minimum length for American eel shall be nine inches.

(g) Chain pickerel (*Esox niger*).

(1) Chain pickerel may be taken only by angling or ice fishing

(2) There shall be no daily creel limit for chain pickerel taken in streams and the daily creel limit for chain pickerel taken in lakes and ponds shall be six, except in Boundary Waters as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) There shall be no minimum length for chain pickerel taken in streams and the minimum length for chain pickerel taken in lakes and ponds shall be fifteen inches, except in Boundary Waters as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(h) Northern pike (*Esox lucius*).

(1) Northern pike may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The taking of northern pike from March first through April thirtieth, both dates inclusive, is prohibited in Bantam Lake, Little Pond (Little Bantam Lake), and their tributaries, Litchfield-Morris.

(3) The daily creel limit for northern pike shall be two, except that, during the period December [1] first through the last day of February, the daily creel limit for northern pike in Bantam Lake, Little Pond (Little Bantam Lake), and their tributaries, Litchfield-Morris, shall be one.

(4) The minimum length for northern pike shall be twenty-six inches, except that in the Connecticut River and its coves the minimum length for northern pike shall be twenty four inches and, during the period December [1] first through the last day of February, the minimum length for northern pike in Bantam Lake, Little Pond (Little Bantam Lake), and their tributaries, Litchfield-Morris, shall be thirty-six inches.

(i) Panfish. Panfish include yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), white perch (*Morone americana*), calico bass (*Pomoxis* spp.), rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*), all species of catfish including bullheads (*Ictalurus* spp.), and all species of sunfish (*Lepomis* spp.) except banded sunfish (*Enneacanthus obesus*). Panfish may be taken only by angling, bobbing and ice fishing.

(j) Smelt (*Osmerus mordax*)

(1) Smelt may be taken in lakes and ponds only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The taking of smelt in rivers and streams is prohibited.

(3) The daily creel limit for smelt taken in lakes and ponds shall be fifty fish.

(k) Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) regulations governing the taking and possession of striped bass in the inland district shall be as specified in sections 26-159a-2, 26-159a-4, 26-159a-7, and 26-159a-20 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(l) Sturgeon (*Acipenser* spp.). The taking of sturgeon is prohibited.

(m) Trout, charr and kokanee. Trout, charr and kokanee include brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), lake trout (*Savelinus namaycush*), kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and their hybrids.

(1) Trout, charr and kokanee may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The taking of trout, charr and kokanee from March first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April is prohibited, except: in boundary waters, Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas, Sea-run Trout Streams and Trout Management Lakes as listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as specified therein; in streams open to fishing throughout the year as listed in section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(3) The daily creel limit for trout, charr and kokanee shall be eight in the aggregate, not more than five of which may be trout or charr and not more than five may be kokanee except: in boundary waters, Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trout Parks, Sea-Run Trout Streams, Trophy Trout Streams and Trout Management Lakes as listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as specified therein; in streams open to fishing throughout the year as listed in section 26-112-44 and as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(4) The minimum length for lake trout shall be twenty inches.

(5) There shall be no minimum length for trout (except lake trout), charr and kokanee except:

(A) In Trout Management Lakes, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trophy Trout Streams, Sea-Run Trout Streams and Trout Management Areas listed in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as specified therein.

(B) In streams open to fishing throughout the year listed in section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies where the minimum length shall be fifteen inches.

(C) In the following streams, or portions of the streams, where the minimum length of trout and charr shall be nine inches:

Belden Brook, Hartland, Granby- that portion downstream from Fuller Road in Hartland.

Blackledge River, Glastonbury, Marlborough- that portion downstream from Route 94.

Burlington Brook, Burlington- that portion downstream from Covey Road.

Center Brook, Colebrook- that portion downstream from Route 183.

Cherry Brook, Canton- that portion downstream from Route 179.

Colebrook Brook, Winchester, Colebrook.

Dickinson Creek, Colchester, Marlborough- that portion downstream from Route 66.

East Branch Salmon Brook, Granby- that portion downstream from the Connecticut-Massachusetts state line.

East Branch Eightmile River, Salem, East Haddam, Lyme- that portion downstream from Witch Meadow Road in Salem.

East Branch Farmington River, Barkhamsted, New Hartford– that portion downstream from the dam at Lake McDonough.

Eightmile River, East Haddam, Lyme- that portion from Foxtown Road downstream to the dam at Mt. Archer Road.

Farmington River, Farmington, Avon, Simsbury, East Granby, Bloomfield, Windsor- that portion downstream from Route 177.

Fawn Brook, Marlborough, Hebron- that portion downstream from Slocum Road.

Indian Meadow Brook, Winchester.

Jeremy River, Colchester- that portion downstream from Greyville Road.

Judd Brook, Colchester, Hebron- that portion downstream from Old Colchester Road.

Mad River, Norfolk, Winchester- that portion downstream from Grantville Road in Norfolk.

Meadow Brook, Colchester- that portion downstream from Route 16.

Mill Brook, Winchester- that portion downstream from Hannifin Road.

Morgan Brook, Barkhamsted- that portion downstream from the dam on West Hill Pond.

Mountain Brook, Granby- that portion downstream from the Route 20 bridge located between the Route 20 intersections with Case Street and Enders Road.

Pequabuck River, Plymouth, Bristol, Plainville, Farmington - that portion downstream from Canal Street in Plymouth.

Pine Brook, East Hampton, Haddam- that section downstream from Sexton Road in East Hampton.

Ratlum Brook, Canton, New Hartford- that portion downstream from the confluence with Spruce Brook.

Raymond Brook, Hebron- that portion downstream from Old Colchester Road.

Safstrom Brook, East Hampton- that portion downstream from Tartia Road.

Salmon River, Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam, Haddam- that portion from the confluence of the Blackledge and Jeremy rivers downstream to Route 151.

Salmon Brook, East Granby, Granby.

Sandy Brook, Colebrook, Norfolk- that portion downstream from the Connecticut-Massachusetts state line.

Still River, Barkhamsted, Colebrook- that portion downstream from the confluence with the Mad River.

West Branch of Fawn Brook, Marlborough, Hebron- that portion downstream from Slocum Road.

West Branch of Salmon Brook, Granby- that portion downstream from Route 179.

(n) Any fish or bait species taken contrary to this section shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken.

(o) Marine finfish. Unless otherwise specified by section 26-112-45 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the species limitations for marine finfish taken by sport fishing from the waters of this state shall be as specified in regulations adopted under authority of section 26-159a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(p) Walleye (*Sander vitreus*).

(1) Walleye may be taken only by angling and ice fishing.

(2) The daily creel limit for walleye shall be two.

(3) The minimum length for walleye shall be eighteen inches except that in Lake Pocotopaug, East Hampton, the minimum length for walleye shall be twenty inches.

(q) Banded sunfish (*Enneacanthus obesus*). The taking of banded sunfish is prohibited.

(NEW) (r) American brook lamprey (*Lethenteron* appendix). The taking of American brook lamprey is prohibited.

Statement of Purpose: To update regulations for certain species (American eel, American shad, bowfin, American brook lamprey, kokanee salmon, tench) to better reflect current status of their populations, and fisheries and/or management plan requirements. A concurrent proposal (section 3) would advance the date of “Opening Day” of trout season by one week from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April. This proposal would make conforming changes.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. One individual provided comments both at the hearing and later by email prior to the close of the comment period. See “**Comments**” under section 3 for comments received concerning changes to date of “Opening Day”.

Hearing comments & Written comments

One individual, Iain Sorrell (Saxon Tackle, Angling solutions LLC. Connecticut Chair for the Carp Anglers Group of North America) provided both spoken comments and written comments in support of adding bowfin and tench to the list of species that can be fished for, but in opposition to allowing lethal methods such as bow fishing and spearing for their take. See “Comments” under **section 2** for complete summaries of Mr. Sorrell’s comments.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: The American eel population all along the East Coast has been experiencing a worrisome decline over the last 20 years. Eels are important components of the ecosystem and need to be conserved. The proposed minimum length and lower creel limit will conform to the recently amended Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) management plan for this species, and will better reflect the current status of this important species and limit overharvest.

Recent stock assessments by the ASMFC have indicated that American shad stocks were at all-time historical lows in 2007 and although several have shown improvement, many remain well below sustainable levels. Under the ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring the member states are to prohibit recreational harvest of American shad in systems without sustainable shad fisheries. This proposal amends Connecticut’s inland

regulations for American shad to conform to the ASMFC management plan and will protect the limited numbers of American shad that are found in systems other than the Connecticut River system.

Bowfin (*Amia calva*) and tench (*Tinca tinca*) are two nonnative species with very limited distributions in Connecticut. Over the last decade, the population of bowfin in the Connecticut River has expanded and a popular recreational fishery is developing for these fish. Tench are sometimes fished for at two lakes where this fish is present. This proposal would add bowfin and tench to the list of species that can be taken in inland waters and prescribe methods for their taking. Both species are being added to a species group provided for in subsection (f), for which methods of take include bow fishing and spearing (with some restrictions on the types of water bodies where these methods can be used). Methods such as bow fishing and spearing appear to be employed by a very small (but avid) subset of those fishing recreationally in inland waters in Connecticut. At this time, DEEP has no data to support the contention that allowing bowfin and tench to be taken by bow fishing and/or spearing would unduly deplete or otherwise negatively impact their populations in Connecticut.

This proposal would protect kokanee salmon from possible overharvest by reducing the maximum daily harvest of kokanee from eight to five fish per angler per day.

The American brook lamprey (*Lampetra appendix*) is on the state list of endangered species. This proposal would provide additional protections for brook lamprey by explicitly prohibiting its taking.

Sec. 5. Section 26-112-46(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(a) Boundary Waters. Boundary waters are defined as those lakes and ponds forming a common boundary between Connecticut and an adjoining state. Connecticut sport fishing regulations shall apply, except as provided herein.

(1) Beach Pond, Voluntown - Rhode Island. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Connecticut or Rhode Island fishing license legal on entire pond. Connecticut and Rhode Island regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Trout: the daily creel limit shall be five and there shall be no minimum length. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

(2) Breakneck Pond, Union-Massachusetts. Connecticut or Massachusetts license legal on entire pond.

(3) Colebrook Flood Control Impoundment. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on the last day in February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire impoundment. Upstream demarcation line posted by Massachusetts.

(4) Congamond Lakes (South Pond, Middle Pond and North Pond), Suffield - Massachusetts. There shall be no closed season for fishing. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on all three lakes. Massachusetts regulations apply as follows: Trout: the daily creel limit shall be six, during the period from the Saturday next preceding the third Monday in April, one hour before sunrise, through the Sunday following the third Saturday in October. Trout: the daily creel limit shall be three, during the period from the Monday following the third Saturday in October to the Saturday preceding the third Monday in April. Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be ten inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than two hooks may be used during periods of open water fishing and not more than five hooks may be used when ice fishing.

(5) Hamilton Reservoir, Union - Massachusetts. There shall be no closed season for fishing. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire pond. Massachusetts regulations apply as follows: Trout: the daily creel limit shall be six, during the period from the Saturday next preceding the third Monday in April, one hour before sunrise, through the Sunday following the third Saturday in October. Trout: the daily creel limit shall be three, during the period from the Monday following the third Saturday in October to the Saturday preceding the third Monday in April. Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be ten inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than two hooks may be used during periods of open water fishing and not more than five hooks may be used when ice fishing.

(6) Hazard Pond, Voluntown - Rhode Island. No closed season. Connecticut or Rhode Island fishing license legal on entire pond. Connecticut and Rhode Island regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

(7) Indian Pond, Sharon -New York. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Connecticut or New York license legal on entire pond. New York regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the closed season for the taking of black bass shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit shall be six and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Not more than five tip-ups and two hand held jigs may be used for ice fishing.

(8) Keach Pond, Thompson - Putnam - Rhode Island. Connecticut or Rhode Island license legal on entire pond. Rhode Island regulations apply.

(9) Killingly Pond, Killingly - Rhode Island. No closed season. Connecticut or Rhode Island fishing license legal on entire pond. Connecticut and Rhode Island regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

(10) Muddy Pond, Woodstock-Massachusetts. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire pond.

(11) Perry Pond, Thompson - Massachusetts. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on entire pond.

Statement of Purpose: A concurrent proposal (section 3) would advance the date of “Opening Day” of trout season by one week from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April. This proposal makes conforming changes to seasons at three “boundary Waters” (Beach Pond, Colebrook Reservoir, Indian Pond).

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. See “Comments” under section 3 for comments received concerning changes to date of “Opening Day”.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: Advancing the date of “Opening Day” of trout season by one week from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April will provide numerous additional fishing opportunities in this state for anglers.

Sec. 6. Section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(c) Trout Management Areas.

(1) The Housatonic River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Housatonic River in Salisbury, Canaan, Sharon, and Cornwall from the bridge at Route 112 downstream to the bridge at Routes 4 and 7. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Housatonic River Trout Management Area, except that those portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive. Fishing within a portion of the Housatonic River Trout Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is restricted to fly fishing only. The daily creel limit for

trout and charr in the Housatonic River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Housatonic River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(2) The Willimantic River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Willimantic River in Tolland and Willington from the mouth of Roaring Brook downstream to the bridge at Route 74. Fishing in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area is restricted to fly fishing only. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Willimantic River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(3) The Mianus River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Mianus River in Stamford, from Merrybrook Road to the dam approximately one mile upstream, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the ~~[third]~~ second Saturday in April, fishing in this area is restricted to single hook flies and artificial lures only, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero, and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the ~~[third]~~ second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Mianus River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the ~~[third]~~ second Saturday in April through August ~~[31]~~ thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Mianus River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two.

(4) The Farmington River Trout Management Area shall be the West Branch Farmington River in Hartland, Barkhamsted, and New Hartford and that portion of the Farmington River from the junction of the East and West Branches of the Farmington River in New Hartford downstream to the Route 177 Bridge in Unionville. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Farmington River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limits for trout and charr in the Farmington River Trout Management Area shall be as follows:

(A) In that portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area from the Goodwin Dam in Hartland downstream to the foot bridge abutments approximately one and four-tenths miles downstream of the confluence with the Still River in Barkhamsted, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the daily creel limit for trout and charr in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout and charr taken shall be twelve inches during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the ~~[third]~~ second Saturday in April through August ~~[31]~~ thirty-first. During said time period, possession of trout or charr less than twelve ~~[(12)]~~ inches or possession of more than two ~~[(2)]~~ trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the ~~[third]~~ second

Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of this portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(B) In that portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area from the foot bridge abutments approximately one and four-tenths miles downstream of the confluence with the Still River in Barkhamsted, downstream to the bridge at Route 219 in New Hartford, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, fishing is restricted to the use of barbless hooks only, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of this portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(C) In that portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area from the bridge at Route 219 in New Hartford downstream to the Route 177 Bridge in Unionville, the daily creel limit for trout and charr in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout and charr taken shall be twelve inches during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first. During said time period, possession of trout or charr less than twelve (12) inches or possession of more than two [(2)] trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of this portion of the Farmington River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(5) The Hammonasset River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Hammonasset River in Killingworth and Madison, from the Lake Hammonasset Dam downstream to Chestnut Hill Road. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Hammonasset River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day in August, the daily creel limit in the Hammonasset River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two and the minimum length for any such trout and charr taken shall be nine inches.

(6) The Mill River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Mill River in Fairfield, from the Merritt Parkway Bridge downstream to Lake Mohegan. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be

immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Mill River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Mill River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two.

(7) The Moosup River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Moosup River in Plainfield from the bridge at Route 14 downstream to the junction with the Quinebaug River. Fishing within a portion of the Moosup River Trout Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is restricted to fly fishing only. The daily creel limit for trout and charr in the Moosup River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Moosup River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(8) The Salmon River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Salmon River in Colchester and East Hampton, from the junction of the Blackledge and Jeremy Rivers downstream to the Route 16 bridge. Fishing within a portion of the Salmon River Trout Management Area is restricted to fly fishing only as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day in August, the daily creel limit for trout and charr in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first to 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Salmon River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(9) The Naugatuck River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Naugatuck River from Route 118 in Harwinton and Litchfield, downstream to the Thomaston Dam in Thomaston. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area, except that those portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive. From October first through March thirty-first, fishing is restricted to those methods specified by the Commissioner for the taking of Atlantic salmon in accordance with section 26-112-45(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(10) The Bulls Bridge Trout Management Area shall consist of (A) the portion of the Housatonic River from Bulls Bridge Dam downstream to the Gaylordsville Bridge (Route 7) and (B) the Ten Mile River from the New York State border downstream to the confluence with the Housatonic River. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Bulls Bridge Trout Management Area, except that those portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Bulls Bridge Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(11) The William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Saugatuck River in Westport from the Dorr's Mill Dam to the Merritt Parkway bridge. Fishing within the William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area is restricted to fly fishing only. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area. From 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August 31, the daily creel limit in the William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(12) The Hockanum River Trout Management Area shall be the portion of the Hockanum River from I-84 in Vernon downstream to where the river crosses under I-84 at the Manchester/East Hartford town line as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Hockanum River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Hockanum River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(13) The Pequabuck River Trout Management Area shall consist of (a) that portion of the Pequabuck River in Bristol and Plainville from King Street (Route 229 & 72) downstream to Route 177 and (b) that portion of Coppermine Brook in Bristol from Artisan Street downstream to the confluence with the Pequabuck River. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Pequabuck River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Pequabuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(14) The Yantic River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Yantic River from Barstow Road in Lebanon, downstream to the bridge crossing at the intersection of Fitchville Road and Schwartz Road in Bozrah. Fishing within portions of the Yantic River Trout Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is restricted to fly fishing only. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in this area. From 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August [31] thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Yantic River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 A.M. on the [third] second Saturday in April, possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Yantic River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(15) The Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Saugatuck River in Redding from Diamond Hill Pond Dam downstream to Saugatuck Reservoir, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(16) The Aspetuck River Trout Management Area shall consist of (a) that portion of the Aspetuck River in Easton, Redding and Newtown upstream from the bridge at Valley Road in Easton and (b) those portions of the unnamed inflow and outflow streams to Lyons Swamp in Easton and Redding from North Park Avenue downstream to the confluence with the Aspetuck River. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Aspetuck River Trout Management Area. The daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Aspetuck River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(17) The Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area shall be that portion of the Mill River within Sleeping Giant State Park located between Tuttle Avenue and Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden. There shall be no closed season for trout and charr in the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area and the minimum length for trout and charr taken shall be nine (9) inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout and charr is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from September first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April possession of trout or charr in the waters or on the shores of the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00

a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through August thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area for any combination of trout and charr is two.

Statement of Purpose: To refine existing regulations intended to protect thermally-stressed trout seeking cool water refuge at tributaries to major rivers. Additionally, conforming changes are made as a concurrent proposal (section 3) would advance the date of “Opening Day” of trout season by one week from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. No comments, favorable or unfavorable, were received concerning revisions to “thermal refuge” provisions. See “Comments” under section 3 for comments received concerning changes to date of “Opening Day”.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: During the summer months, water temperatures in some of the state’s major rivers including the Housatonic and Naugatuck rivers, can rise to levels stressful or harmful to trout. During these periods, trout often congregate at the outlet (mouth) of small tributary streams where water entering the larger river is cooler and more suitable for trout survival. This cold water often forms a plume, the structure of which will vary depending upon the volume of water entering from the tributary stream, the difference in temperature between the warmer larger river and cooler small tributary, and the shape of the confluence of the two water bodies. These areas called “thermal refuges” are critical for accomplishing trout management objectives as they ensure that trout survive the stressful to lethal temperatures that sometimes occur for extended periods during the summer.

When the trout are actively remaining within the relatively small "thermal refuges" they are often found in very high numbers, have little protection from predators, and are especially susceptible to anglers. Under existing regulations, a seasonal no-fishing zone is created within 100 feet of the tributary mouth at those tributaries so posted. However, cool water flows often do not conform to an area within a 100 foot radius of the stream mouth. This proposal will 1) provide for a more accurate delineation of thermal refuges by changing the reference point for the refuge from the outlet of the tributary to a point or points as posted by DEEP, and 2) extend the closure through September 15 to better reflect recent weather patterns (warm Septembers).

Sec. 7. Section 26-112-46(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(d) Trout Management Lakes. In the following lakes during the period March first through March thirty-first the daily creel limit for trout and charr shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be sixteen [(16)] inches, except as otherwise specified herein. For the purposes of this

subsection “slot limit lengths” shall mean the lengths between which fish may not be retained and all fish equal to or greater than the lower limit but less than the upper limit must be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken.

Amos Lake, Preston. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Candlewood Lake (including Squantz Pond), New Fairfield, Danbury, New Milford, Sherman, Brookfield. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Crystal Lake, Ellington, Stafford. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the slot limit lengths for trout and charr shall be from twelve (12) inches to sixteen (16) inches total length and the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may equal or exceed sixteen (16) inches in total length.

East Twin Lake, Salisbury. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on [the last day in February] March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. [The daily creel limit for brown trout, rainbow trout and charr during the open season shall be five in the aggregate, not more than one of which may be a brown trout. The minimum length for brown trout shall be twenty (20) inches in total length.]

Highland Lake, Winchester. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the slot limit lengths for trout and charr shall be from twelve (12) inches to sixteen (16) inches total length and the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may equal or exceed sixteen (16) inches in total length.

Quonnipaug Lake, Guilford. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Rogers Lake, Lyme, Old Lyme. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

West Hill Pond, New Hartford, Barkhamsted. The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April.

Statement of Purpose: To liberalize creel/length limits during the open fishing season for brown trout and extend the open season through March thirty-first at one of the Trophy Trout Lakes, East Twin Lake. Additionally, conforming changes are made as a concurrent proposal

(section 3) would advance the date of “Opening Day” of trout season by one week from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. No comments, favorable or unfavorable, were received concerning changes to regulations at East Twin Lake. See “Comments” under section 3 for comments received concerning changes to date of “Opening Day”.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: Due to the recent collapse of the forage base (landlocked alewife), East Twin Lake does not currently support or grow sufficient numbers of large brown trout. The current regulation whereby only one brown trout greater than 20 inches in length may be harvested per person per day is no longer warranted based on recent data that shows few if any brown trout greater than 20 inches in length being captured. These changes would also complete standardization of seasons and the creel limits during the March first through March thirty-first period at all Trout Management Lakes.

Sec. 8. Section 26-112-46(g) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(g) Wild Trout Management Areas.

(1) There shall be no closed season for trout or charr in class one Wild Trout Management Areas. Fishing in these areas is restricted to barbless single-hook artificial lures and barbless single-hook flies. The daily creel limit for trout and charr in these areas is zero and all trout and charr caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout or charr on the waters or shores of these Wild Trout Management Areas is prohibited. The following are class one Wild Trout Management Areas:

(A) The Belding-Tankerhoosen Wild Trout Management Area, which shall consist of (a) those portions of the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries contained within the Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon and (b) those portions of the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries contained within the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(B) Deep Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall consist of (a) that portion of Deep Brook in Newtown from Wasserman Way downstream to the confluence with the Pootatuck River and (b) that portion of the Pootatuck River upstream and downstream of the confluence with Deep Brook as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(C) Eightmile River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the Eightmile River in Southington.

(D) Hawleys Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Hawleys Brook in Easton and Weston within the Trout Brook Valley property that is owned by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Aspetuck Land Trust, and the town of Weston.

(E) Merrick Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall consist of (a) that portion of Merrick Brook and Beaver Brook in Scotland within the Talbot Wildlife Management Area and (b) that portion of Merrick Brook upstream of the Talbot Wildlife Management Area as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(F) Mill River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Mill River in Easton from upstream of the first bridge crossing below Easton Reservoir (South Park Avenue) as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to downstream of the third bridge crossing (South Park Avenue) as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(G) Quinnipiac River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Quinnipiac River in Cheshire and in Southington upstream of Cheshire Street.

(H) Wachocastinook Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Wachocastinook Brook on Mt. Riga Corporation property in Salisbury as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(I) Upper Mill River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Mill River in Easton and Monroe from Route 59 downstream to Judd Road.

(J) Lower Macedonia Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Macedonia Brook in Kent from the confluence with Bog Hollow Brook downstream to Route 341.

(2) In class two Wild Trout Management Areas the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two and the minimum length for trout and charr shall be [12] twelve inches. Possession of more than two trout or charr or possession of trout or charr less than [12] twelve inches on the waters or shores of these Wild Trout Management Areas is prohibited. The following are class two Wild Trout Management Areas:

(A) Heather Reaves Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Furnace Brook in Cornwall Bridge upstream of the Housatonic River as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(B) Salmon Brook (Glastonbury) Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Salmon Brook in Glastonbury downstream of Addison Pond.

(3) In class three Wild Trout Management Areas the minimum length for trout and charr shall be nine inches. Possession of trout or charr less than nine inches on the waters or shores of these Wild Trout Management Areas is prohibited. The following are class three Wild Trout Management Areas:

(A) Beacon Hill Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Beacon Hill Brook in Naugatuck and Beacon Falls from Route 63 downstream to the confluence with the Naugatuck River.

(B) Blackberry River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Blackberry River in Canaan downstream of the Whiting River to the confluence with the Housatonic River.

(C) East Aspetuck River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the East Aspetuck River in New Milford and in New Preston downstream of Lake Waramaug to the confluence with the Housatonic River.

(D) East Branch Naugatuck River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the East Branch Naugatuck River in Torrington from Newfield Road downstream to the confluence with the West Branch Naugatuck River.

(E) Farm River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Farm River from Mill Road in North Branford downstream to the I-95 Bridge in East Haven.

(F) Fenton River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the Fenton River in Mansfield and in Willington.

(G) Little River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Little River in Oxford from Towner Lane downstream to Park Road.

(H) Macedonia Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be those portions of Macedonia Brook in Kent within Macedonia Brook State Park.

(I) Morgan Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be Morgan Brook in Barkhamsted.

(J) Sessions Woods Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Negro Hill Brook in Burlington upstream of Route 69.

(K) Norwalk River Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of the Norwalk River in Wilton and in Ridgefield upstream of Wolf Pit Road.

(L) Pease Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Pease Brook in Lebanon within the Pease Brook Wildlife Management Area.

(M) Eric C. Schluntz Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the portion of Roaring Brook in Glastonbury from Route 94 downstream to the confluence with the Connecticut River.

(N) Roaring Brook (Stafford) Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be the portion of Roaring Brook in Stafford and in Willington from Route 190 downstream to the confluence with the Willimantic River.

(O) Salmon Brook (Granby) Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be that portion of Salmon Brook and East Branch of Salmon Brook in Granby and in East Granby from Route 20 downstream to the confluence with the Farmington River.

(P) Shunock Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be Shunock Brook in North Stonington.

(Q) Stony Brook Wild Trout Management Area, which shall be Stony Brook in Montville.

Statement of Purpose: To add the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries within the new Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area to the list of Class I Wild Trout Areas.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. One individual submitted written comments at the hearing. No other comments were received.

Written comments

One individual wrote in support of adding additional portions of the Tankerhoosen River to Class I Wild Trout management, but would like alternative regulations that would allow some fish to be kept (*Class I Wild Trout Management Areas have no closed season, but are “catch-and-release” only*).

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: This proposed amendment will protect a population of naturally reproducing trout in the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area (WMA) from undue depletion by limiting fishing to catch-and-release only. This relatively new WMA (property purchased in 2012) includes the Tankerhoosen River (and several tributaries) just upstream of the existing Belding Wild Trout Management Area. The Tankerhoosen River supports an abundant population of wild trout (best in the CT portion of the CT River watershed) and this proposal will provide excellent year-round fishing opportunities while protecting the trout population.

Sec. 9. Section 26-112-46(h) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(h) Atlantic salmon broodstock areas. From October first through March thirty-first, angling for all species in the following areas is restricted to those methods specified by the commissioner for the taking of Atlantic salmon in accordance with section 26-112-45(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

(1) The Upper Naugatuck River Atlantic salmon broodstock area is that portion of the Naugatuck River from Route 118, Harwinton and Litchfield, downstream to Thomaston Dam, Thomaston.

(2) The Lower Naugatuck River Atlantic salmon broodstock area is that portion of the Naugatuck River from Prospect Street, Naugatuck, downstream to Pines Bridge Road, Beacon Falls.

(3) The Shetucket River Atlantic salmon broodstock area is that portion of the Shetucket River from the Scotland Dam, [Scotland] Windham, downstream to the Occum Dam, Norwich and Sprague.

Statement of Purpose: To correct the locations of several dams used as the upper and lower boundaries of the Atlantic salmon broodstock area on the Shetucket River.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. No comments, favorable or unfavorable, were received.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: The Scotland Dam is located in Windham, not in Scotland as found in the existing regulation. The Occum Dam is located in both Norwich and Sprague (and not solely in Norwich as found in the existing regulation).

Sec. 10. Section 26-112-46(k) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

(k) Trophy Trout Streams.

(1) In the Natchaug River (Eastford, Chaplin, and Windham), the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(2) In the Naugatuck River (Torrington, Harwinton, Plymouth, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, and Ansonia), except as provided in section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. Those portions of the Naugatuck River within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive.

(3) In that portion of the Pequonnock River in Trumbull, from the Whitney Avenue Bridge Crossing downstream to the Daniels Farm Road Bridge Crossing, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(4) In the Pomperaug River (Woodbury and Southbury), the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(5) In the Salmon River (Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, and Haddam), except as provided in section 26-112-46(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(6) In the Shetucket River (Windham, Scotland, Sprague, and Norwich), the daily creel limit for any combination of trout and charr shall be two. Possession of more than two trout or charr on such waters or their shores is prohibited. Those portions of the Shetucket River within one hundred feet of [the mouths of tributary streams, as indicated by] signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection[,] at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through [August thirty-first] September fifteenth, inclusive.

Statement of Purpose: To refine existing regulations intended to protect thermally-stressed trout seeking cool water refuge at tributaries to major rivers.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. No comments, favorable or unfavorable, were received.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: See “explanation” at end of section 6.

Sec. 11. Section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

26-112-48. Miscellaneous restrictions

(a) In the following waters the indicated miscellaneous restrictions shall apply:

Bog Meadow Pond, Norwich. The use of [boats and canoes] vessels is prohibited.

East Twin Lake, Salisbury. The use of radios by fishermen is prohibited from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. prevailing time.

Hewitt Pond (Lower Hewitt Pond), North Stonington. The [use of boats and canoes] operation of vessels with motors, except for electric motors, is prohibited.

Housatonic River, Kent. Those portions of the Housatonic River within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of Kent Falls Brook and Macedonia Brook shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through September fifteenth, inclusive.

Isinglass Reservoir (Far Mill Reservoir), Shelton. Ice fishing is prohibited.

Messerchmidt's Pond, Deep River, Westbrook. The operation of [boats] vessels with [internal combustion engines] with motors, except for electric motors, is prohibited.

Quassapaug Lake, Middlebury, Woodbury. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on the last day of February through 6:00 a.m. on the [third] second Saturday in April. Icefishing is prohibited. The daily creel limit for trout and charr shall be one and the minimum length shall be eighteen inches. The daily creel limit for black bass shall be one and the minimum length shall be eighteen inches.

Salmon River, East Haddam. Those portions of the Salmon River in East Haddam within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the paved boat ramp in Sunrise Resort State Park shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through September fifteenth, inclusive.

Saugatuck Reservoir, Easton, Redding, Weston. Ice fishing is prohibited.

Shelton Reservoir #2, Shelton. Ice fishing is prohibited.

Trap Falls Reservoir, Shelton. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on November thirtieth through midnight on June thirtieth. Icefishing is prohibited. The daily creel limit for black bass shall be two and the minimum length shall be sixteen inches.

West Pequonnock Reservoir, Monroe. Ice fishing is prohibited.

[Housatonic River, Kent. Those portions of the Housatonic River in Kent within one hundred feet of the mouths of Kent Falls Brook and Macedonia Brook, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Environmental Protection, shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through August thirty-first.]

(b) (1) In reclaimed waters the use of fish, alive or dead, as bait, is prohibited when so posted. The possession on such waters or the shores of such waters of any species of fish, alive or dead, except trout, charr or salmon, is prohibited when so posted.

(2) In the following waters where it would be contrary to good fishery management practice to use any live alewives, blueback (glut or river) herring, gizzard, hickory or threadfin shad as bait, the use of live individuals of these species as bait is prohibited. The possession on such waters or the shores of such waters of any live individuals of these species, is prohibited.

Alexander Lake, Killingly.

Colebrook Flood Control Impoundment, Colebrook and Massachusetts.

East Twin Lake, Salisbury.

Lake Pocotopaug, East Hampton.

Saugatuck Reservoir, Easton, Redding, Weston.

Shenipsit Lake, Ellington, Tolland, Vernon.

Waumgumbaug Lake (Coventry Lake), Coventry.

West Branch Reservoir (Hogback), Hartland, Colebrook.

West Hill Pond, New Hartford, Barkhamsted.

West Twin Lake, Salisbury.

Wononscopomuc Lake, Salisbury.

Statement of Purpose: This proposal will 1) refine existing regulations intended to protect thermally-stressed trout seeking cool water refuge at tributaries to the Housatonic River, 2) establish a thermal refuge at a site on the lower Salmon River that serves as a cool water refuge for several species including trout, salmon and northern pike, and 3) in response to town request, remove the prohibition on boats and canoes on Hewitt Pond (North Stonington).

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Conservation Advisory Council and the Fisheries Advisory Council. No comments, favorable or unfavorable, were received.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: See “explanation” at end of section 6 for information concerning thermal refuges for trout. Additionally, DEEP Inland Fisheries biologists have identified a spring on the lower Salmon River that functions as a thermal refuge for trout, Atlantic salmon and northern pike. This proposal will apply the same protections to this site.

This proposal also removes the prohibition on use of boats and canoes at Hewitt Pond in North Stonington. This pond is part of a property obtained for public access by the Town of North Stonington in 2008. The management committee for this property would like to enhance access to, and use of Hewitt Pond and have requested that the prohibition on use of boats and canoes be eliminated. They have requested that the use of engines and motors be limited to electric motors only.