

State of Connecticut
Regulation of
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Concerning
Sport Fishing in the Inland District

Section 1. Section 26-112-39 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-112-39. Conduct of fishermen

The following regulations relating to fishing and the behavior and conduct of fishermen apply [through] throughout the inland district.

(a) Entrance and exit from streams, lakes and ponds is restricted to rights-of-way designated by posters or when consent has been obtained from the landowner or his agent.

(b) (1) All fishermen shall keep within a reasonable distance of the banks of streams, lakes and ponds and shall not trespass on lawns or posted property. (2) On stream open to fishing under leases, permanent fishing easements or formal agreements, all fishermen shall keep within ten feet of the stream bank[.] or at such distance as specified under said leases, permanent fishing easements or formal agreements, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(c) Domestic animals, agricultural crops and other property shall not be damaged.

(d) Swimming and/or picnicking is prohibited on any area when such prohibition is shown by posters erected by the Department or its agent.

(e) Fishing and/or trespassing is prohibited in fish spawning areas, refuge and closed areas and safety zones, when such prohibition is shown by posters erected by the Department or its agent.

(f) Fishing is prohibited in any state reservation area when such area is so posted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

(g) No motor vehicle shall be operated or parked upon any public or private road, parking area, lane, passageway, right-of-way, field or lot when such prohibition is shown by posters erected by the Department or its agent.

(h) Discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper, junk, litter and trash is prohibited on any land and water open to fishing or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection.

(i) Vehicles using Department-controlled parking areas shall be parked only in authorized places as indicated by posters.

[(j)] At Department-controlled boat launching areas no boat shall be moored or anchored in a manner that will obstruct or interfere with the launching of other boats, and no boat shall be

left unattended in the water unless such boat has, in an exposed area, the name and address of the owner of such boat painted or branded thereon or in any legible manner attached thereto.

(k) At Department-controlled boat launching areas on inland lakes and ponds boats left moored or anchored after December fifteenth and before April first shall be subject to impoundment at the expense of the owner and such owner shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of this subsection.]

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

Sec. 26-112-43. Definitions and restrictions

As used in sections 26-112-21 to 26-112-48, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

(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 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, 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 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 compound bow, longbow, recurved bow or crossbow by which an arrow is propelled. Arrows shall have barbed heads and be

attached to the bow, or to a fishing reel attached to the bow. Any fish taken by bow and arrow shall be part of the possession limit of the individual taking such fish and shall not be released to the waters where taken.

(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 for any species of fish, except for trout, 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 during the period from 12:01 a.m. to midnight. In the inland district an individual that has attained their daily creel limit of fish for a species or species group may continue fishing for said fish provided all fish so taken are immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken.

(l) “Persons with Disabilities Fishing Area” means an area set aside for the exclusive use by persons with physical disabilities 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, except that Tenkara fishing shall also be considered fly fishing. 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] Except as provided in section 26-112-46(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, 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. 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. Any fish placed on a stringer, in a container, cooler, live well or similar device, or otherwise not immediately released to the water shall count against the possession limit. An individual that has attained their possession limit of fish for a species or species group may continue to fish for said fish provided all fish so taken are immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. 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] tidal waters and tributaries, as provided in section [26-112-44] 26-112-46 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 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.

(ee) "Bubble float" means a type of float that is attached to a fishing line or leader and can be filled with water to adjust its buoyancy.

(ff) "Maximum length" means the largest 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. No person shall possess any fish greater than the lengths specified and any fish greater than the maximum length shall, without avoidable injury, be immediately returned to the water from which taken.

(gg) "Tenkara fishing" is a traditional form of sport fishing and means angling with the use of a tenkara rod, tenkara line and a fly or flies, without the use of a reel of any type.

(hh) "Culling" or "high-grading" means discarding or returning a previously retained fish to the water in order to retain a more desirable fish of the same species or species group. In the inland district culling is prohibited except that an individual fishing for black bass in a fishing tournament or derby that has been permitted under the provisions of section 26-112-42 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies may cull provided said individual has not yet attained their possession limit for black bass.

(ii) "Inline circle hook" means a fishing hook on which the point and barb are not offset from the plane of the shank and bend of such hook, and such point is perpendicular to such shank.

(ij) "Cast net" means a circular or conical net with a round weighted opening that is cast and then retrieved by hand using lines attached to its margins, and is used to take fish or bait species. The use of cast nets to take fish or bait species in the inland district is prohibited, except that in tidal waters and tributaries, as provided in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, bait species may be taken by cast net.

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 second Saturday in April, except as provided below:] (a) Streams. Fishing is allowed throughout the year in streams except as provided in sections 26-112-46 and 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

[(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 Mattabesset River (Sebeth 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) Mattabesset River (Sebeth 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) 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.

(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 provided in section 26-112-45(c)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(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 second Saturday in April.

(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 second Saturday in April.]

(b) Lakes and Ponds. [There shall be no closed season for fishing] Fishing is allowed throughout the year at 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 second Saturday in April.

Angus Parks Pond (Eastbury Park Pond), Glastonbury
Beaver Park Lagoon, New Haven
Bicentennial Pond (Mansfield Town Pond), Mansfield
Godfrey Pond, Stonington
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 second Saturday in April.

Allen Brook Pond (Wharton Pond), Wallingford
Baldwins Pond, Meriden
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 Rock Flood Control Impoundment, Watertown
Black Rock Pond, 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
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
Green Falls Reservoir, Voluntown
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
McGovern Pond, West Hartford
Millers Pond, Durham
Millers Pond, Ridgefield

Moosup Pond, Plainfield
Mt. Tom Pond, Morris, Litchfield, Washington
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
Walker Reservoir (East), 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 second Saturday in April.

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

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

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

Lake McDonough (Compensating Reservoir), New Hartford, Barkhamsted. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the 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 second Saturday in April.

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

Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond), Norwich. From midnight on November thirtieth through 6:00 a.m. on the 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 second Saturday in April.

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

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

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

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

Factory Pond, Salisbury

Gould Manor Pond, Fairfield

Helen Keller School Pond, Easton

Katz Pond, Trumbull
 Mill Pond, Newington
 Sochrin Pond, Seymour]

[(5) Trout Management Lakes. The closed season for fishing in 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:

Sec. 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] tidal waters and tributaries, as provided in section [26-112-44] 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, 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 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) The daily creel limit for American shad and hickory shad shall be six fish of both species in the aggregate, except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(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] designated as tidal waters and tributaries as provided in section [26-112-44(a)(1)] 26-112-46 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] designated as tidal waters and tributaries as provided in section [26-112-44(a)(1)] 26-112-46 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.

(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 notice on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's website and social media accounts, posting signs, and by printing notice in the [anglers'] fishing 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 (*Luxilus cornutus*), fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*), creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*), spottail shiner or "river bait" (*Notropis hudsonius*), 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 commersonii*), 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*] *Faxonius* 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 and by cast net, 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] In inland waters, where open to fishing, bait species may also be taken by hand, by scoop net and by angling.

(D) In tidal waters and tributaries, as provided in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, bait species may be taken by cast net.

(e) Black bass. Black bass include largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus 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) Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), bowfin (*Amia calva*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), white suckers (*Catostomus [commersoni] commersonii*), American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*), and sea lampreys (*Petromyzon marinus*).

(1) Common carp, bowfin, tench, suckers, eels and sea 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 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.

(4) The daily creel limit for common carp shall be five, not more than one of which may exceed thirty inches in length, except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection or in

Trophy Carp Waters as specified in section 26-112-46 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The commissioner may grant an exemption from the daily creel limit or length requirements specified for common carp in this subsection to any person issued a permit under section 26-112-42 to conduct a fishing tournament or derby provided that all fish caught shall be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters where taken.

(5) The daily creel limit for common carp taken by bow and arrow fishing shall be twelve, not more than three of which may exceed thirty inches in length, in the following areas: West Thompson Lake, the 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, the Connecticut River and its coves downstream of the Arrigoni Bridge, the Mattabesset River (Sebethe River) downstream of Route 3, including the Cromwell Meadows Wildlife Management Area, the Coginchaug River downstream of Route 3, the Quinnipiac River downstream of Route 40 and the Housatonic River downstream of the Derby Dam.

(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*). Northern pike includes tiger muskie, the hybrid of a northern pike and muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*).

(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 in Lake Lillinonah the daily creel limit shall be one, and, during the period December 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 Lake Lillinonah the minimum length for northern pike shall be thirty-eight inches, in the Connecticut River and its coves the minimum length for northern pike shall be twenty four inches and, during the period December 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*), 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 and kokanee. Trout and kokanee include brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and their hybrids.

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

[(2) The taking of trout and kokanee from March first through 6:00 a.m. on the 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)] (2) The daily creel [limit] limits for trout and 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 tidal waters and tributaries as listed in section 26-112-46 and as specified in section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall be [eight in the aggregate, not more than five of which may be trout 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.] as follows:

(A) During the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be five and the daily creel limit for kokanee shall be five.

(B) During the time period from March first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout is zero, the daily creel limit for kokanee is zero, and all trout and kokanee caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. During said time period from March first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, possession of trout or kokanee in the waters or on the shores of the waters from which taken is prohibited.

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

[(5)] (4) There shall be no minimum length for trout (except lake trout) 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] tidal waters and tributaries, as provided in section [26-112-44] 26-112-46 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 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 this section, 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.

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

(s) Catfish and bullheads.

(1) All species of catfish (*Ameiurus* spp. and *Ictalurus* spp.), including bullheads, may be taken by hand, angling, bobbing and ice fishing.

(2) The daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and white catfish (*Ameiurus catus*) shall be six fish of both species in the aggregate, except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(3) The daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and white catfish (*Ameiurus catus*) shall be three fish in the following lakes and ponds:

Beaver Park Lagoon, New Haven
 Birge Pond, Bristol
 Bunnells Pond (Beardsley Park Pond), Bridgeport
 Center Springs Park Pond, Manchester
 Colony Pond (Abe Stone Park Pond), Ansonia, Shelton
 Crescent Lake, Southington
 Freshwater Pond, Enfield
 Keney Park Pond, Hartford
 Lake Wintergreen, Hamden
 Lakewood Lake, Waterbury
 Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond), Meriden
 Picketts Pond, Derby
 Rogers Park Pond, Danbury
 Rowans Pond (Butternut Park Pond), Middletown
 Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond), Norwich
 Stanley Quarter Pond, New Britain.

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

Sec. 26-112-46. Special management areas

(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 in this section.

(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 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 and kokanee: the daily creel limits shall be five for trout and five for kokanee 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 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. [There shall be no closed season for fishing.] 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 (Indian Lake), Sharon -New York. [The closed season for fishing shall be is from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the 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 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. [There shall be no closed season for fishing.] 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.

(b) **Fly Fishing Only Areas.** In the following waters or portions thereof, as indicated by ~~posters~~ signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, fishing is restricted to fly fishing only:

Bantam River (outlet), Morris, Litchfield.

Hewitt Flyfishing Pond (Gallup Pond), North Stonington.

Housatonic River, Cornwall, Sharon.

Moosup River, Plainfield.

Salmon River, Colchester.

Saugatuck River, Westport, from Dorr's Mill Dam to Merritt Parkway.

Willimantic River, Tolland, Willington.

Yantic River, Lebanon, above Johnsons Bridge and Bozrah.

(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 in the Housatonic River Trout Management Area, except that those] No person shall fish in those portions of [this trout management area] the Housatonic River Trout Management Area within one hundred feet of signs indicating such [closure] prohibition 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 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 in the Housatonic River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area.] The daily creel limit for trout in the Willimantic River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from

which taken. Possession of trout 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 Merriebrook Lane 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 in this area and the] The minimum length for trout taken in the Mianus River Trout Management Area shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, fishing in this area is restricted to single hook flies and artificial lures only, the daily creel limit for trout is zero, and all trout 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 second Saturday in April, possession of trout in the waters or on the shores of the Mianus River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through August thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Mianus River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout 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 in the Farmington River Trout Management Area except that the portion of such trout management area from the intersection of Hogback Road and Route 20 in Hartland, as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, downstream to the gas pipeline crossing approximately 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, shall be closed to all fishing during the period April first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April.] The daily creel limits for trout 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 in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout taken shall be twelve inches during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through August thirty-first. During said time period, possession of trout less than twelve inches or possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout 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 second Saturday in April, possession of trout 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 is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in any combination shall be two and the minimum length for any trout taken shall be twelve inches during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through August thirty-first. During said time period, possession of trout less than twelve inches or possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout 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 second Saturday in April, possession of trout 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 second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout 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 second Saturday in April, possession of trout in the waters or on the shores of the Hammonasset River Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the 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 is two and the minimum length for any such trout 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 in the Mill River Trout Management Area]. The daily creel limit in the Mill River Trout Management Area for trout is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout in the waters or on the shores of the Mill River Trout Management Area is prohibited.

(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. [There shall be no closed season for trout in the Moosup River Trout Management Area.] The daily creel limit for trout in the Moosup River Trout Management Area is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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. [There shall be no closed season for trout in the Salmon River Trout Management Area.] From 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in August, the daily creel limit for trout in any combination in the Salmon River Trout Management Area shall be two and the minimum length for any trout taken shall be nine inches. From September first to 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout 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 second Saturday in April possession of trout 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 in the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area, except that those] No person shall fish in those portions of [this trout management area] the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area within one hundred feet of signs indicating such [closure] prohibition 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 September fifteenth, inclusive. From September 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 is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in the Bulls Bridge Trout Management Area, except that those] No person shall fish in those portions of [this trout management area] the Bulls Bridge Trout Management Area within one hundred feet of signs indicating such [closure] prohibition 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 September fifteenth, inclusive. The daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in this area.] From 6:00 A.M. on the second Saturday in April through August thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the William Doc Skerlick Trout Management Area for any combination of trout is two and the minimum length for trout taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout 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 second Saturday in April, possession of trout 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 in the Hockanum River Trout Management Area.] The daily creel limit for trout is zero in the Hockanum River Trout Management Area and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in the Pequabuck River Trout Management Area.] The daily creel limit for trout is zero in the Pequabuck River Trout Management Area and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in this area.] From 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through August thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Yantic River Trout Management Area for any combination of trout is two and the minimum length for trout taken shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout 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 second Saturday in April, possession of trout 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 in the Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area.] The daily creel limit for trout is zero in the Upper Saugatuck River Trout Management Area and all

trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in the Aspetuck River Trout Management Area.] The daily creel limit for trout is zero in the Aspetuck River Trout Management Area and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 in the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area and the] The minimum length for trout taken in the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area shall be nine inches. From September first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, the daily creel limit for trout is zero and all trout 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 second Saturday in April possession of trout in the waters or on the shores of the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area is prohibited. From 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through August thirty-first, the daily creel limit in the Sleeping Giant Trout Management Area for any combination of trout is two.

(d) **Trout Management Lakes.** In the following lakes during the period March first through [March thirty-first] 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be sixteen 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.

(1) 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 second Saturday in April.]

(2) 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 second Saturday in April.]

(3) 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 second Saturday in April.] During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the slot limit lengths for trout shall be from twelve inches to sixteen inches total length and the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may equal or exceed sixteen inches in total length.

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

(B) Not more than two tip-ups, bobbers or floats, similar devices or hand-held jigs in any combination thereof, in the aggregate, may be used at any one time when ice fishing at East Twin Lake.

(5) 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 second Saturday in April.] During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the slot limit lengths for trout shall be from twelve inches to sixteen inches total length and the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may equal or exceed sixteen inches in total length.

(6) 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 second Saturday in April.]

(7) 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 second Saturday in April.]

(8) 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 second Saturday in April.]

(9) Black Pond, Woodstock. [The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April.] During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may be a brook trout that equals or exceeds fourteen inches in total length. During the period from March first through [March thirty-first,] 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be fourteen inches.

(10) Mohawk Pond, Cornwall, Goshen. [The closed season for fishing in this area shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April.] During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day of February, the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may be a brook trout that equals or exceeds fourteen inches in total length. During the period from March first through [March thirty-first,] 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be fourteen inches.

(11) Long Pond, Ledyard, North Stonington.

(12) Wononskopomuc Lake, Salisbury. (A) During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day of February the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may be a brown trout, and the minimum length for brown trout shall be twenty-two inches. During the period from March first through 6:00 a.m. on the

second Saturday in April, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be twenty-two inches.

(B) Not more than two tip-ups, bobbers or floats, similar devices or hand-held jigs in any combination thereof, in the aggregate, may be used at any one time when ice fishing at Wononskopomuc Lake.

(e) **Special use of streams by persons with disabilities.** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is authorized to set aside sections of streams for temporary use by groups of persons with disabilities from state institutions, veteran or similar organizations, upon written request, and under conditions as specified by the department.

(f) **Bass Management Areas.** In addition to the provisions of section 26-112-45 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the following provisions shall apply in the following listed waters. For the purposes of this subsection, “slot limit lengths” are the lengths between which fish may not be retained. Measurements shall be from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail and all fish equal to or greater than the lower length limit and less than the upper length limit shall be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken.

(1) The slot limit lengths for black bass shall be from twelve to sixteen inches in length and the daily creel limit for black bass shall be six, not more than two of which may equal or exceed sixteen inches in length, in: Bashan Lake (East Haddam), Billings Lake (North Stonington), Black Pond (Meriden-Middlefield), Bolton Lakes (Upper, Middle, Lower; Bolton, Coventry, and Vernon), Lake Chamberlain (Bethany), Colebrook Flood Control Impoundment (Colebrook), Coventry Lake (Coventry), Halls Pond (Eastford and Ashford), Hayward Lake (East Haddam), Lake Kenosia (Danbury), Maltby Lakes (#1, #2, #3; New Haven, Orange and West Haven), Mamasasco Lake (Ridgefield), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (Mansfield, Chaplin, and Windham), Mashapaug Lake (Union), Pickerel Lake (Colchester and East Haddam), West Side Pond (Goshen) and Wononscopomuc Lake (Salisbury).

(2) The minimum length for black bass shall be sixteen inches and the daily creel limit for black bass shall be two, in: Gardner Lake (Salem, Montville, and Bozrah), Highland Lake (Winchester), Housatonic Lake (Shelton, Derby, Monroe, Oxford, and Seymour), Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich), Quinebaug Lake (Killingly), Taftville Reservoir (Norwich), and Wyassup Lake (North Stonington).

(3) The slot limit lengths for black bass shall be from twelve to eighteen inches; and the daily creel limit for black bass shall be six, not more than one of which may equal or exceed eighteen inches in length, in: Amos Lake (Preston), Moodus Reservoir (East Haddam), Mudge Pond (Sharon), and [Pataganset] Pattagansett Lake (East Lyme).

(4) The minimum length for black bass shall be eighteen inches and the daily creel limit for black bass shall be one, in: Lake Saltonstall (Branford and East Haven).

(5) The Commissioner may grant an exemption from minimum length and daily creel limit requirements of this [section] subsection to any person issued a permit under section 26-112-42 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies to conduct a fishing tournament or derby on Gardner Lake or Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, provided that all fish caught shall be released

without avoidable injury to the waters where taken, and that each participating boat shall be furnished with live wells with aerators or circulating pumps.

(6) The Commissioner may grant an exemption from minimum length and daily creel limit requirements of this [section] subsection to any person issued a permit under section [2-112-42] 26-112-42 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies to conduct a fishing tournament or derby in any Bass Management Area between September 1 and June 30, provided that all fish caught shall be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters where taken, and that each participating boat shall be furnished with live wells with aerators or circulating pumps.

(7) The Bulls Bridge Bass 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. The daily creel limit for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass is zero and all smallmouth bass and largemouth bass caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of smallmouth bass or largemouth bass in the waters or on the shores of the Bulls Bridge Bass Management Area is prohibited.

(g) Wild Trout Management Areas.

(1) [There shall be no closed season for trout in class one Wild Trout Management Areas.] Fishing in [these areas] class one Wild Trout Management Areas is restricted to barbless single-hook artificial lures and barbless single-hook flies. The daily creel limit for trout in these areas is zero and all trout caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which taken. Possession of trout 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 (i) those portions of the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries contained within the Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon and (ii) 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 (i) that portion of Deep Brook in Newtown from Wasserman Way downstream to the confluence with the Pootatuck River and (ii) 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 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 (i) that portion of Merrick Brook and Beaver Brook in Scotland within the Talbot Wildlife Management Area and

(ii) 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 and Fairfield 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 the Merritt Parkway 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.

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

(2) In class two Wild Trout Management Areas during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout shall be two and the minimum length for trout shall be twelve inches. Possession of more than two trout or possession of trout less than 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 during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, as provided for in section 26-112-45(m)(3) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and the minimum length for trout shall be nine inches. Possession of trout 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) 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.

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

(L) 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.

(M) 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.

(N) 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.

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

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

(h) **Atlantic salmon management areas.** From September 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 management 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 management 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 management area is that portion of the Shetucket River from the Scotland Dam, Windham, downstream to the Occum Dam, Norwich and Sprague.

(i) Trout Park Areas.

Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, in the following waters during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be two and possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited:

- (1) Black Rock Pond and Branch Brook within Black Rock State Park (Watertown).
- (2) Schreeder Pond and Chatfield Hollow Brook within Chatfield Hollow State Park (Killingworth).
- (3) Natchaug River within Natchaug State Forest (Eastford).
- (4) Allen Brook Pond (Wharton Pond) within Wharton Brook State Park (Wallingford).
- (5) Eight Mile Brook and Papermill Pond within Southford Falls State Park (Oxford).
- (6) Day Pond (Colchester).
- (7) Stratton Brook ponds and Stratton Brook as indicated by signs posted by the Department of Environmental Protection within Stratton Brook State Park (Simsbury).
- (8) Valley Falls Pond within Valley Falls Park (Vernon).
- (9) Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich).
- (10) Great Hollow Lake within Wolfe Park (Monroe).
- (11) Kent Falls Brook within Kent Falls State Park (Kent).
- (12) Pasture Pond (Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery), Plainfield.
- (13) McGovern Pond, West Hartford.

(j) Sea-run trout streams.

(1) In the Eightmile River (East Haddam and Lyme): [There shall be no closed season for fishing downstream of the dam at Mt. Archer Road.] The daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length limit for trout shall be fifteen (15) inches downstream of the dam at Mt. Archer Road. Possession of trout less than fifteen (15) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(2) In the Farm River (North Branford and East Haven): [There shall be no closed season for fishing downstream of the I-95 bridge.] The daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be fifteen (15) inches downstream of the I-95 bridge.

Possession of trout less than fifteen (15) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(3) In the Hammonasset River (Clinton, Killingworth, and Madison): in the following waters during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be nine (9) inches. Possession of trout less than nine (9) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited. [There shall be no closed season for fishing downstream of the breached dam located approximately 300 feet above River Road.] The daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be fifteen (15) inches downstream of the breached dam located approximately 300 feet above River Road. Possession of trout less than fifteen (15) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(4) In Latimers Brook (East Lyme): [There shall be no closed season for fishing downstream of the I-95 bridge.] Downstream of the I-95 bridge the daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be fifteen (15) inches. Possession of trout less than fifteen (15) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(5) In Oil Mill Brook (Waterford, East Lyme): Downstream of the I-95 bridge the daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be fifteen (15) inches. Possession of trout less than fifteen (15) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(6) In the Mianus River (Greenwich and Stamford): Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be nine (9) inches. Possession of trout less than nine (9) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(7) In Whitfords Brook (Groton, Ledyard, and Stonington): [There shall be no closed season for fishing downstream of the Route 184 bridge.] Downstream of the Route 184 bridge the daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be fifteen (15) inches. Possession of trout less than fifteen (15) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(8) In the Saugatuck River (Danbury, Redding, Weston, and Westport): [There shall be no closed season for fishing downstream of Wood Dam.] The daily creel limit for any combination of trout is two (2) and the minimum length for trout shall be fifteen (15) inches downstream of Wood Dam. Possession of trout less than fifteen (15) inches or possession of more than two (2) trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(k) Trophy Trout Streams.

(1) In the Natchaug River (Eastford, Chaplin, and Windham), during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout shall be two. Possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores during said time period is prohibited.

(2) In the Naugatuck River (Torrington, Harwinton, Plymouth, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, and Ansonia), except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout shall be two. Possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores during said time period is prohibited. [Those] No person shall fish in those portions of the Naugatuck River within one hundred feet of signs indicating such [closure] prohibition 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 September fifteenth, inclusive.

(3) In that portion of the Pequonnock River in Trumbull, from the Whitney Avenue Bridge Crossing, during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout shall be two. Possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores during said time period is prohibited.

(4) In the Pomperaug River (Woodbury and Southbury), during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout shall be two. Possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores is prohibited.

(5) In the Salmon River (Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, and Haddam), during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout shall be two. Possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores during said time period is prohibited.

(6) In the Shetucket River (Windham, Scotland, Sprague, and Norwich), during the time period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day in February, inclusive, the daily creel limit for any combination of trout shall be two. Possession of more than two trout on such waters or their shores during said time period is prohibited. [Those] No person shall fish in those portions of the Shetucket River within one hundred feet of signs indicating such [closure] prohibition 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 September fifteenth, inclusive.

(l) **Trophy Carp Waters.** (1) Except as provided in section 26-112-45(f)(5) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the maximum length for common carp shall be twenty- six inches and the daily creel limit for common carp shall be one in: Batterson Park Pond (Farmington, New Britain), the Connecticut River, its coves, and those portions of its tributaries [open to fishing throughout the year] designated as tidal waters and tributaries as provided in [section 26-112-44(a)(1)] this section of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and Squantz Pond (New Fairfield).

(2) The Commissioner may grant an exemption from the maximum length and daily creel limit requirements of this subsection to any person issued a permit under section 26-112-42 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies to conduct a fishing tournament or derby in any Trophy Carp Water provided that all fish caught shall be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters where taken.

(3) Any individual fishing in any Trophy Carp Water may, at any time, temporarily retain in their possession one common carp that exceeds the maximum length requirement of this section, for the purposes of measurement, provided such fish shall be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters where taken.

(m) Tidal waters and tributaries.

Fishing is allowed throughout the year in the following streams, or portions thereof, as specified:

(1) Coginchaug River, Middletown – downstream from Route 3 bridge to its junction with the Mattabesset River (Sebeth River).

(2) Connecticut River and its coves.

(3) 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).

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

(5) Mattabesset River (Sebeth River), Middletown – downstream from the Route 372 bridge to its junction with the Connecticut River.

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

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

(8) Niantic River, East Lyme and Waterford.

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

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

(11) 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.

Sec. 6. Section 26-112-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-112-48. Miscellaneous restrictions

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

(1) Bog Meadow Pond, Norwich. The use of vessels is prohibited.

(2) Hewitt Pond (Lower Hewitt Pond), North Stonington. The operation of vessels with motors, except for electric motors, is prohibited.

(3) Housatonic River, Kent. [Those] No person shall fish in those portions of the Housatonic River within one hundred feet of signs indicating such [closure] prohibition 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.

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

(5) Messerschmidt's Pond, Deep River, Westbrook. The operation of vessels with motors, except for electric motors, is prohibited.

(6) 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 second Saturday in April.] Ice fishing is prohibited. The daily creel limit for trout 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.

(7) Salmon River, East Haddam. [Those] No person shall fish in those portions of the Salmon River in East Haddam within one hundred feet of signs indicating such [closure] prohibition 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.

(8) Saugatuck Reservoir, Easton, Redding, Weston. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(9) Shelton Reservoir #2, Shelton. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(10) West Pequonnock Reservoir, Monroe. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(11) Factory Pond, Salisbury. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(12) Lake Chamberlain, Bethany. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(13) Lake Saltonstall, Branford, East Haven. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(14) Maltby Lakes (#1, #2, #3), Orange West Haven. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(15) Lake McDonough (Compensating Reservoir), New Hartford, Barkhamsted. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(16) Shenipsit Lake, Ellington, Tolland, Vernon. Ice fishing is prohibited.

(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 or salmon, is prohibited when so posted.

(2) In the following waters the use of alewives, blueback (glut or river) herring, gizzard, hickory or threadfin shad as bait is prohibited. The possession on such waters or the shores of such waters of any live individuals of said 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

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.”

Section 1. Section 26-112-39 (RCSA) regulates angler behavior and conduct when fishing. This section was last amended in 1977 and several provisions require updating. Subsection (b) contains a provision requiring anglers to stay within ten feet of the stream banks on private property that is open to public fishing under terms of a lease, permanent fishing easement or formal agreement. This requirement no longer reflects the variety of provisions found in current leases, permanent fishing easements and formal agreements providing for angler access. This proposal updates subsection (b) to explicitly allow for anglers to follow the actual provisions of certain leases, easements and agreements.

Subsections (j) and (k) address the use of state boat launches anglers to moor boats and still reflect the practice of allowing individuals to moor their vessels at launches from April 1 to December 15 provided the boats are marked visibly with the owner’s name and are moored in a fashion as to not interfere with other users of the boat launch. This practice has been discontinued for many years and other current department regulations (subsections (j) through (m) of section 26-16-1 RCSA) prohibit this practice at state water access areas. This proposal deletes the obsolete subsections in section 26-112-39 concerning the mooring of boats at state boat launches, eliminating a conflict between two department regulations, and avoiding any confusion concerning regulations addressing activities at state boat launches.

Section 2. Section 26-112-43 (RCSA) contains definitions and restrictions for a range of fisheries- related terms, gear types and methods. This proposal revises the existing definition of “closed season” to better conform with the statutory definition of “closed season”; revises regulations concerning daily creel and possession limits to clarify that an individual may continue to fish after reaching their limits provided no additional fish are retained; establishes a definition of culling (or high grading) and prohibit its practice in most instance; and establishes a definition for cast nets and limit their use to certain tidally influenced rivers including the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Several technical and conforming changes are also made.

Public Act 21-12 included a provision that eliminated all closed seasons for fishing for trout. Current inland fisheries regulations provide a waterbody-centric definition of the term “closed season” as a period of time when all fishing is prohibited at specific waters while a species-centric definition of the term “closed season” as a period of time during which hunting, trapping or fishing is prohibited for any species of wildlife is provided in section 26-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Additionally, section 26-112-45 provides a closed season for trout. To conform with this legislation, a concurrent proposal amends section 26-112-45 to eliminate this closed season for fishing for trout and this proposal revises the definition of “closed season” in this section to better align with the statutory definition. Concurrent

proposals eliminate all existing closed seasons on a wide range of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams as they are no longer necessary.

The definitions of daily creel limit and possession limit are revised to clarify that an individual may continue to fish once they have attained their daily creel and possession limits provided any fish of a species or species group caught for which the creel or possession limits have been reached are immediately released without avoidable harm (often termed “catch-and-release fishing”). Although this has generally been the practice, especially at certain special management areas as provided in sec. 26-112-46 where only catch-and-immediate release fishing is allowed and the daily creel and possession limits are zero in these areas, the current wording is ambiguous and could alternately be interpreted as prohibiting fishing for a species or species group once the creel or possession limits are reached. This ambiguity has sometimes led to confused guidance to anglers and variation in enforcement of fishing regulations in the inland district. This clarification better reflects the goals of current fisheries management to enhance fishing opportunities and eliminates any confusion or disagreement in guidance to anglers and in enforcement of regulations.

This proposal establishes a definition for “culling” (“high-grading”) in the inland district and prohibits the practice excepted for permitted bass fishing tournaments. Culling is the practice of releasing or discarding previously caught and retained fish to keep a more desirable (typically a larger fish) fish of the same species or species group. As most methods for storing caught fish in the field, such as in a cooler or other container, or on a stringer, can be damaging or eventually deadly to the retained fish, culling leads to excess mortalities and can effectively increase the number of fish removed from the population by an angler to well above their daily creel and possession limits. Additionally, in support of the prohibition on culling a provision is added to the definition of “possession limit” explicitly stating that any fish placed on a stringer, in a container, cooler, live well or similar device, or otherwise not immediately released to the water counts against an individual’s possession limit.

The one exception to the prohibition on culling is for participants of permitted black bass fishing tournaments. The vast majority of black bass fishing tournaments are conducted with a format of caught fish selected to be retained are stored in a live well until the end of the tournament at which time they are measured (typically weighed) and then released back into the water. The rest of the black bass tournaments are conducted under a format of catch, immediately measure and release fish. If catch rates are sufficiently high for catch and retain type tournaments, participants can sometimes cull fish. The live wells used to store retained bass in these tournaments are generally aerated and often have a water-cooling system or are otherwise cooled (often with a frozen water bottle added to the well) to maintain water temperatures at an appropriate range and helping maintain the retained fish in good condition. Additionally, additives are sometimes used to help maintain the retained fish and participants are typically penalized for any dead fish at the weigh-in, creating a further incentive in maintain their catch in good condition. Due to these various measures mortalities for tournament released fish are generally well within acceptable levels, unlike the mortalities induced by retaining in other types of containers or kept on a stringer.

Finally, this proposal establishes a definition for “cast net” and allows their use in certain tidally influenced rivers including the Connecticut River and its tributaries, Thames River, lower Housatonic and Naugatuck rivers, lower Salmon River, Mystic River, Niantic River and lower Quinnipiac River. Cast nets are thrown by hand with the intent to entrap fish, usually bait fish. The nets are typically conical with a round opening having a series of small weights. As the net is retrieved, the opening draws shut, capturing the intended targets. Under the structure of sport fishing regulations concerning fishing for various species in the inland district only those methods provided as methods of take for a species or species group can be used. Existing inland regulations do not include cast nets as an allowable method of take for any fish species or species group, or for bait species, therefore their use in inland waters is not allowed. As this prohibition on the use of cast nets is not explicitly stated there has been confusion on the part of anglers as to whether they can use a cast net to fish for bait fish in the inland district. This proposal is expected to eliminate any confusion concerning use of cast nets in the inland district. As cast nets are an effective tool to capture menhaden and other bait species in tidal waters their use will be allowed in a number of tidally influenced waters (see above) while their use is prohibited in other inland waters, where their uses would possibly be more problematic (or used to take other fish besides bait fish).

There are several technical changes to conform with provisions in other sections of this proposal. The name and citation for a class of rivers and streams formerly designated as “streams open to fishing throughout the year” is revised to “tidal waters and tributaries” and will be provided for in section 26-112-46 instead of section 26-112-44. A definition for “inline circle hook” consistent with the definition of “circle hook” that applies in the Marine District, and an exception from the statewide ice fishing requirement is also established to conform with provisions of section 26-112-46 concerning gear restrictions at certain Trout Management Lakes.

Section 3. RSCA section 26-112-44 establishes closed seasons for all fishing at waterbodies. This proposal adjusts regulations at waterbodies in response to the provision of Public Act 21-12 that eliminated the closed fishing season for trout. As PA 21-12 prohibits closed seasons for trout and trout are the only species with a closed season in inland waters these closed seasons for waterbodies are generally unnecessary. Eliminating these closed seasons will also greatly increase fishing opportunities at those waters for the many other game species currently without a closed season. Additionally attempting to maintain closed seasons for all other species besides trout while allowing fishing for trout at any waterbodies is unworkable, greatly complicating enforcement and making the fishing regulations unduly complicated and difficult for the public to understand. Based on legislative guidance and intent, PA 21-12 was not however intended to prevent allowing the Agency from enacting temporary closures that would protect trout health and population well-being.

This proposal therefore eliminates the closed seasons on all lakes and ponds, and all rivers and streams with a few exceptions for areas associated with protecting trout and other fish from undue stress during the summer when river temperatures rise to stressful levels and they congregate in cooler water near mouths of tributaries. These exceptions retain these “thermal

refuge” areas in portions of Trout Management Areas, Trophy Trout Streams, the Housatonic River, and the lower Salmon River.

Finally, this section currently includes a list of eleven tidally influenced rivers and portions of rivers designated as “Streams open to fishing throughout the year”. The regulations for several fish species (Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Shad, trout) and methods of take (snagging, cast nets) differ from the general statewide regulations at these waters. As this proposal eliminates closed seasons on all rivers and streams, the designation of “Streams open to fishing throughout the year” is no longer appropriate. This proposal deletes this list of rivers and portions of rivers, and they will be added to section 26-112-46 and redesignated as “Tidal waters and tributaries”.

Section 4. RCSA section 26-112-45 deals with limitations on the taking of specific species. This proposal adapts trout seasons and creel limits to conform with a provision of Public Act 21-12 that eliminated a closed season for trout. Several minor, conforming, and technical changes are also made.

Public Act 21-12 includes a provision prohibiting closed seasons for fishing for trout. Currently the general statewide closed season for trout, as provided in this section, lasts from March 1 to 6:00 am on the second Saturday in April, inclusive. There are a number of special management areas provided for in sec. 26-112-46 that either already have no close seasons or shorter closed seasons. There also is a statewide closed season for fishing at nearly all rivers and streams and closed seasons on many lakes and ponds, and these closed seasons generally coincides with the statewide closed season for trout. A concurrent proposal amending sec. 26-112-44 eliminates these types of closed seasons and this proposal eliminates the statewide closed season for trout.

This proposal establishes a daily creel limit of zero (catch-and-release fishing only) during the now eliminated closed period from March 1 through 6:00 am on the second Saturday in April. This daily creel limit choice is based on staff assessments of management options and angler preferences (as suggested by the results of a survey that was both posted on DEEP’s Fish & Wildlife Facebook page and emailed to inland fishing license holders who had supplied an email address). The two most popular choices from the survey were 1) maintain the closed season regulations and 2) catch-and-release only for trout during the previously closed season. The daily creel limit of zero during the previously closed season is expected to provide the best early season trout fishing opportunities, address angler preferences, and conserve stocked trout resources to maintain adequate trout fishing opportunities throughout the now extended spring trout fishing season. To maintain at least some of the Opening Day traditions the spring catch-and-release season will end on the second Saturday in April.

Exceptions from the statewide daily creel limits are retained for boundary waters, Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trout Parks, Sea-Run Trout Streams, Trophy Trout Streams and Trout Management Lakes (as specified in sec. 26-112-46); in tidal waters and tributaries (as specified in section 26-112-46) and for several waters (as specified in sec. 26-112-48).

Additionally, this proposal adjusts the daily creel limit for trout and Kokanee Salmon. Currently this limit is in aggregate. A total of eight trout and kokanee may be kept, of which no more than five could be trout and no more than five could be Kokanee Salmon. This proposal eliminates the “in aggregate” daily creel limit and provides a daily creel limit of five for trout and five for Kokanee Salmon. There are currently three waterbodies statewide, Beach Pond (Voluntown), East Twin Lake (Salisbury) and West Hill Pond (Barkhamsted-New Hartford) that are managed concurrently for trout and Kokanee Salmon. In the past, anglers wishing to keep both trout and Kokanee at these waters were limited to eight fish total. This change simplifies regulations for anglers, provides additional opportunities to keep fish, and is expected to spread out the catch of trout and Kokanee for anglers while still maintaining ample numbers of adult salmon in the lakes to be used as broodstock.

There are also several changes to conform with the provisions of amendments to other sections including the inclusion of cast nets as a method of take for bait species in certain waters and the redesignation of “Streams open to fishing throughout the year” as “Tidal waters and tributaries” and technical changes that update the scientific name of White Suckers, and revise the notification process for announcing the annual Atlantic Salmon regulations (must be posted on the agency’s website and social media accounts instead of in news releases).

Section 5. RCSA section 26-112-46 deals with special management areas. This proposal makes conforming changes and adaptations to reflect the elimination of a closed season for trout; elimination of closed seasons at all rivers and streams and the close seasons at all lakes and ponds; establishment of a catch-and-release season for trout during the former closed period, and revisions to the trout and kokanee creel limits by concurrent proposals. Additionally, Long Pond and Wononskopomuc Lake are added to the list of Trout Management Lakes and special regulations for Brown Trout are established at East Twin Lake and Wononskopomuc Lake

To conform with the provisions of Public Act 21-12 prohibiting closed seasons for trout, concurrent proposals amending sections 26-112-44 and 26-112-45 eliminate the closed season for trout, and as they were no longer necessary, the statewide closed season for rivers and streams and all closed seasons at lakes and ponds. Additionally, a catch-and-release season for trout is being established during the former closed period. The creel limit for trout and Kokanee Salmon were also revised. This proposal makes conforming changes and adaptations reflecting these amendments. As legislative intent was to maintain DEEP’s ability to protect trout health and well-being, the thermal refuge fishing restrictions areas in portions of Trout Management Areas, Trophy Trout Streams, the Housatonic River, and the lower Salmon River are retained as these areas are intended to protect trout and other fish from undue stress. Long Pond and Wononskopomuc Lake are added to the list of Trout Management Lakes, special regulations for Brown Trout are established at East Twin Lake and Wononskopomuc Lake, and the waterbodies formerly designated as “Streams open to fishing throughout the year” are added as a type of special management area to this section and redesignated as “Tidal waters and tributaries”. This proposal amends subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (i), (j) and (k), and adds a new subsection (m):

Subsection (a) pertains to Boundary waters. DEEP has recently begun managing for Kokanee Salmon by stocking salmon fry into Beach Pond. The updated creel limit for Kokanee Salmon is

added to the regulations for Beach Pond in this subsection to explicitly inform anglers of the new creel limits for Kokanee Salmon. Conforming edits are made to the regulations for many boundary waters to reflect the elimination of the statewide closed seasons. The closed seasons at Beach Pond, Colebrook River Lake and Indian Pond are eliminated.

Subsection (b) pertains to Fly fishing only areas. The text concerning delineation of these areas by “posters” is updated to “signs” posted by DEEP.

Subsection (c) pertains to Trout Management Areas. Conforming edits are made to reflect elimination of use of the term “closed season” for closures of areas to all fishing and elimination of the trout season and area closed seasons by sections amending 26-112-43, 26-112-44 and 26-112-45.

Subsection (d) pertains to Trout Management Lakes. Conforming edits are made to reflect elimination of use of the term “closed season” for closures of areas to all fishing and elimination of the trout season by sections amending 26-112-43, 26-112-44 and 26-112-45, and extends the existing March 1 to March 31 one fish per day with a 16-inch minimum length to end at 6:00 am on the second Saturday in April.

Long Pond (Ledyard-North Stonington) is being designated Trout Management Lake. Trout Management Lakes are designated as such because of the presence of coldwater habitat during the summer months, which is key to the potential to holdover and grow large trout. Fisheries staff have determined that Long Pond has the physical characteristics (a suitable well-oxygenated cool layer of water) and potential to provide additional trout fishing opportunities if managed as a Trout Management Lake.

Wononskopomuc Lake is also being designated as a Trout Management Lake. Long a destination trout fishery due to its combination of lake habitat and forage availability, limited public access and short fishing season. However, the passage of Public Act 21-12 eliminating closed seasons for trout greatly expanded fishing access and allowed for ice fishing for the first time in decades. Several commenters provided both oral and written comment that the opening of the lake to ice fishing for the first time has drawn considerable pressure, which in their opinion has been detrimental to the unique fishery. Requests were to limit the harvest and/or number of tip ups for use during ice fishing. These concerns were also supported by anecdotal reports received by DEEP and staff observations. Designation as a Trout Management Lake and more restrictive regulations are expected to better protect the brown trout population.

Special regulations for Brown Trout are re-established at East Twin Lake. Brown Trout in East Twin Lake are very dependent on land locked Alewife populations in this lake. When Alewives are abundant the lake has the potential to produce Brown Trout of outstanding size and quality. However, when alewife populations plummet as they did in the early 2010’s there is not sufficient other forage to support many Brown Trout. The land locked Alewife population have now rebounded and become re-established through East Twin Lake to the levels needed to support production of large Brown Trout. The proposal establishes a highly protective high minimum length (22 inches) for Brown Trout to support the production of very large and highly

desired trophy Brown Trout that feed on the resurgent Alewife population. To protect Brown Trout from over-exploitation the same highly protective minimum length is also established at Wononskopomuc Lake and to better protect Brown Trout at both lakes, more protective gear restrictions (reduced number of ice fishing devices) are established at both lakes.

Subsection (g) pertains to Wild Trout Management Areas. Conforming edits are made to reflect the elimination of the statewide closed seasons for trout and closed seasons for rivers and streams, and changes to creel limits for trout.

Subsection (i) pertains to Trout Parks. Conforming technical edits are made to reflect the elimination of the statewide closed seasons for trout and closed seasons for rivers and streams and lakes and ponds, and changes to creel limits for trout.

Subsection (j) pertains to Sea run trout streams. Conforming edits are made to reflect the elimination of the statewide closed season for trout and the elimination of closed seasons for rivers and streams.

Subsection (k) pertains to Trophy Trout Streams. Conforming technical edits are made to reflect the elimination of the statewide closed season for trout, the elimination of closed seasons on the designated waterbodies, and changes to creel limits for trout.

Subsection (m), pertaining to Tidal rivers and tributaries, is established. Included in the existing section 26-112-44 is a list of eleven tidally influenced rivers and portions of rivers designated as “Streams open to fishing throughout the year”. The regulations for several fish species (Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Shad, trout) and methods of take (snagging, cast nets) differ from the general statewide regulations at these waters. As a concurrent proposal eliminates closed seasons on all rivers and streams, this previous designation of “Streams open to fishing throughout the year” is no longer appropriate. This proposal establishes these areas as special management areas and designates them as “Tidal waters and tributaries”.

Section 6. RCSA section 26-112-48 deals with miscellaneous restrictions. Conforming edits are made to reflect elimination of closed seasons on lakes and ponds and the provisions of Public Act 21-12 eliminating closed seasons for fishing for trout. In response to requests by a municipality and several water companies, the proposal prohibits ice fishing at six additional waterbodies. During development of these proposed regulations, the Town of Salisbury had requested the prohibition at Factory Pond, and the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority had requested the prohibition at Lake Chamberlain, Lake Saltonstall and the Maltby Lakes. During the public comment period the Metropolitan District Commission requested an ice fishing prohibition at Lake McDonough and the CT Water Company requested the prohibition at Shenipsit Lake. These prohibitions were requested due to concerns over lack of sufficient winter staff, public safety or for public health concerns (water contact at water supply reservoirs).