



Notice of Intent

In accordance with the provisions of section 4-168(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) hereby gives notice that it proposes to amend regulations on Endangered Species, Threatened Species, and Species of Special Concern concerning the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Sections 26-306-4, 26-306-5, and 26-306-6.

Comment Period.

A comment period of not less than 30 days shall begin upon posting of this notice to the eRegulations System website and shall end on June 30th, 2026.

Purpose.

The purpose of this proposal is to update the lists of Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern in the RCSA Sections 26-306-4, 26-306-5, and 26-306-6 pursuant to CGS Sections 26-306 and 26-307 to keep current with the latest scientific consensus.

Description.

Listed species are divided into three statutory categories per CGS Sec. 26-304:

1. Endangered species – any native species documented by biological research and inventory to be in danger of extirpation throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state and to have no more than five occurrences in the state, and any species determined to be an “endangered species” pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act;
2. Threatened species – any native species documented by biological research and inventory to be likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state and to have no more than nine occurrences in the state, and any species determined to be a “threatened species” pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act;
3. Species of special concern – any native plant species or any native nonharvested wildlife species documented by scientific research and inventory to have a naturally restricted range or habitat in the state, to be at a low population level, to be in such high demand by humans that its unregulated taking would be detrimental to the conservation of its populations or has been extirpated from the state.

The proposed regulatory updates would make 99 changes to the existing regulations. Approximately half of these changes are merely name changes to reflect scientific updates to taxonomy, but they do not change listing status. The other half of the changes fall into four categories:

1. Species being newly added;

2. Uplisted species, which generally reflect that habitat alteration, destruction, and fragmentation have had impacts or that new data has confirmed a species is present in the state;
3. Downlistings for three high profile bird species reflect the ongoing success of decades of conservation, regulations, science, and habitat protection; and
4. Delistings, most of which reflect that the species is no longer present in the state.

The process for updating these lists is explained in RCSA Sec. 26-306-2, which requires a committee to make recommendation to DEEP. Additional documents can be found on the agency's online document search portal at:

<https://filings.deep.ct.gov/DEEPDocumentSearchPortal/>

Statutory authority.

The authority to adopt the proposal is granted by CGS sections 22a-6 and 26-307.

Written comments.

Interested persons are invited to provide written comment on the proposal. Comments should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 30th, 2026, via the eRegulations System (Tracking Number PR2025-036) or electronic mail to Alison Rau, alison.rau@ct.gov.

Public hearing.

In addition to the opportunity to provide written comment, DEEP will also hold a public hearing.

This hearing will be held through Zoom, a remote online hearing platform. All interested persons can register to attend the public hearing and express their views on the proposed regulations using the following link:

Date: June 17th, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/7esUMFC2Rb-KIdNe0fb5wg>

Speakers are requested, although not required, to submit a written copy of their comments as instructed above. DEEP reserves the right to set reasonable time limitations per speaker to allow all participants the opportunity to provide oral comments.

Additional information.

The proposed regulation text, the fiscal note, the regulatory flexibility analysis, and a statement required by CGS section 22a-6(h) are posted on the eRegulations System (Tracking Number PR2025-036). For further information, contact Alison Rau, Alison.rau@ct.gov.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you: have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint. Any person needing a hearing

accommodation may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. Requests for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to any agency hearing, program or event.



Katherine S. Dykes
Commissioner

5/11/2026

Date