

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

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, AGENCY RESPONSE

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR FINAL REGULATIONS

Subject matter of the Regulation
SPORT FISHING IN THE INLAND DISTRICT

Proposed amendments to sections 26-112-43, 26-112-44, 26-112-45, and 26-112-46, and repeal of sections 26-112-24 and 26-112-47 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Introduction. These proposed amendments to the regulations, as authorized under authority of Section 26-112 of the General Statutes, will amend regulations concerning methods and gear types for bow fishing, fishing seasons at several waterbodies, harvest regulations for certain species (common carp, tiger muskie, catfish), Trout Management Areas, Trout Management Lakes (two new waterbodies added to list), Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” (renamed to Atlantic Salmon Management Areas) and Trophy Carp Waters. Additionally, two outdated regulation sections are repealed and several technical changes, corrections and updates are made.

These proposals are intended to provide additional recreational fishing opportunities, and enhance existing fishing opportunities. Below is a summary of the proposed changes:

Section 1. Updates regulations concerning bow and arrow fishing methods, revises the definition of daily creel limit to clarify that it applies to all sport fishing methods and updates the term “the physically disabled to “persons with physical disability.”

Section 2. Establishes a closed season on three waterbodies (Black Rock Pond, Walker Reservoir (East), McGovern Pond) and makes conforming changes to provisions of section 4 designating two waterbodies (Black Pond, Woodstock and Mount Tom Pond) as Trout Management Lakes.

Section 3. Revises common carp regulations based on user group feedback (fishing opportunities for bow fishers would be expanded), adds three waterbodies to the list of waters with a three fish per day creel limit for catfish and clarifies that creel and length limits for Northern Pike apply to Northern Pike hybrids.

Section 4:

- Subsection (c). Corrects spelling of the name of the road designated as the downstream boundary of the Mianus River Trout Management Area.
- Subsection (d). Designates two additional waterbodies, Black Pond (Woodstock) and

Mohawk Pond as Trout Management Lakes, both focused on a Brook Trout fishery.

- Subsection (g). Updates the name of a Wild Trout Management Area, “Negro Hill Brook”, to “Freeman Hill Brook” and changes its designation from Class III to Class I.
- Subsection (h). Renames “Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas” as “Atlantic Salmon Management Areas.”
- Subsection (i). Designates one additional waterbody, McGovern Pond (West Hartford) as a Trout Park.
- Subsection (l). Makes conforming changes reflecting the provisions of section 3 concerning bow fishing for carp and provides an exemption from length limits to temporarily retain a trophy-size carp for purposes of having the fish weighed (typically to determine whether the fish qualifies as any type of state record).

Section 5. Repeals obsolete regulations concerning a statewide closed season (sec. 26-112-24) and regulations concerning certain ponds at Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery (sec. 26-112-47).

Additionally, there are several technical changes and updates.

This document provides an explanatory statement for the final regulations concerning sport fishing in the inland district. It includes a summary of the public comments submitted: 1) via the eRegulations system, 2) emailed or mailed directly to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) as provided in the Notice of Intent, or 3) presented during an online public hearing held on December 1, 2020; and the Department’s response to the comments, including any revisions to the proposed regulations. The wording of the proposed regulations as posted on eRegulations and as presented at the public hearing, a statement of purpose, summaries of the comments received, final wording, and explanation for each regulation are presented under the corresponding section.

The Notice of Intent, the full text of the proposed regulations and statement of purpose, a fiscal note and a small business Impact statement were posted to the eRegulations system on November 12, 2020. The public comment period was open until 4:30 pm, December 15, 2020. A notice concerning the proposed regulations including a link directly to the posting on the eRegulations system was posted on the Department’s website and a notice concerning the proposed regulations (including the Notice of Intent) was distributed electronically to: 1) individuals who had requested notification, 2) over twenty outdoor writers and newspaper sports editors, and 3) and over 60 individuals who have requested to receive updates and news from DEEP’s Fisheries Division. Additionally an email notice was sent to over 118,000 2020 fishing license holders and a notice was posted on DEEP’s Fish and Wildlife Facebook page. As required by section 26-113 of the General Statutes, notice of the public hearing was also published in several newspapers (for this hearing, the Hartford Courant, The Day, and the Waterbury Republican-American), ensuring coverage in every county, eighteen days prior to the hearing. A total of 45 separate written comments were received, plus one representative of the Lake Lillinonah Authority (LLA) presented comments at the public hearing.

General note on comments submitted. A total of forty-five comments were submitted by email or via the eRegulations System. However, of the forty-five comments submitted, twenty-two were not relevant to the regulation changes being proposed. These comments included suggestions on altering DEEP's trout stocking program, requests for interpretations of other regulations, complaints concerning Environmental Conservation Police coverage and/or response times, suggestions on amending other portions of the regulations, and reporting a problem with the online licensing system. The record of all submitted comments, including the full text, can be found at the end of this document.

Section 1. Section 26-112-43 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-112-43. Definitions and restrictions

(a) "Angling" means fishing with hook and line which shall be personally attended, but shall not include ice fishing or snagging or snatching. Not more than 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 [weapon made of wood or other elastic material, with a cord to connect the two ends when bent,] compound bow, longbow, recurved bow or crossbow by which an arrow is propelled[, but shall not include the use of a cross bow. The use of a cross bow in fishing is prohibited]. 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 becomes part of the possession limit of the individual taking said 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 is prohibited in the area specified.

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

(l) “[Disabled] Persons with Disability Fishing Area” means an area set aside for the exclusive use by [the physically handicapped] persons with physical disability 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 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. Possession limit in the field shall not exceed the daily creel limit. Any fish in possession shall be intact to the extent that neither the heads nor the tails have been removed but gills and viscera may be removed. Possession limit shall not be construed to restrict the number of legally acquired fish that may be kept in storage in the home or in other storage facilities.

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

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

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

(bb) “Spearing” means the use of any pointed instrument, with or without barbs, which is

propelled by hand. The use of spears is prohibited in lakes and ponds and in streams, or sections of streams, stocked with trout[,] 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.

Summary of proposal: This proposal will 1) update regulations concerning bow and arrow fishing methods to better reflect current bow fishing technology and equipment, 2) revise the definition of daily creel limit to clarify that it applies to all sport fishing methods, and 3) updates the term “the physically disabled” with the current, and more appropriate, descriptor in use, “persons with physical disability” and makes two typographical corrections (deletions of unnecessary commas).

Hearing testimony. One individual, representing the Lake Lillinonah Authority, provided testimony at the public hearing but did not comment on this section.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC). In a written submission the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited expressed general support for all the proposed regulations. One individual also expressed support of the full set of proposed regulations although they did question a provision of section 3 and one individual submitted comments in opposition to “government” regulations in general.

Two individual commenters indicated support for the bow fishing regulations, and expressed desires that bow fishing opportunities be expanded. Two individuals commented in opposition to bow fishing, another individual suggested that an archery training course be required, and one individual suggested that bow fishing not be allowed in waters where Northern Pike or Tiger Muskie are present as due to their large size pike or muskie could be misidentified as carp by bow fishers.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation and response to comments: This proposal updates the definition of “bow and arrow fishing” that is over 50 years old to better reflect the current bow fishing equipment types and technologies available and used for bow fishing. Additionally, it includes provisions intended to prevent overharvesting and possible “wanton waste.” Arrows used for bow fishing would be required to be barbed and attached to the bow or to a fishing reel attached to the bow and any fish shot by an arrow counts as part of the individual’s possession limit. These requirements are expected to ensure proper retrieval of any fish shot by an arrow and avoid excess mortalities due to fish that are shot but not retrieved. DEEP believes that this proposal continues to provide recreational opportunities for those wishing to fish with bow and arrow while further protecting target species from undue harvest.

Section 2. 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:

(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 [Mattabasset] 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) [Mattabasset] 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 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 Pond, Woodstock]
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
 [Mohawk Pond, Cornwall, Goshen] 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.

Summary of proposal: This proposal would establish a closed season on three waterbodies (Black Rock Pond, Walker Reservoir (East), McGovern Pond) and remove two waterbodies (Black Pond, Woodstock and Mount Tom Pond) from the list of waters with a closed season from midnight on the last day of February to 6:00 am on the second Saturday in April as a concurrent proposal adds the two waterbodies to the list of Trout Management Lakes with an extended season. Several technical changes are also made.

Hearing testimony. One individual, representing the Lake Lillinonah Authority, provided testimony at the public hearing but did not comment on this section.

Comments: The proposed amendment was endorsed by the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC). In a written submission the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited expressed general support for all the proposed regulations. One individual also expressed support of the full set of proposed regulations although they questioned a provision of section 3 and one individual submitted comments in opposition to “government” regulations in general. No comments on proposed regulations directed specifically to this section were submitted electronically or by mail by individuals.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation and response to comments: Both Black Rock Pond (in Black Rock State Park) and Walker Reservoir (East)(Vernon) have been stocked with trout since the 1990’s, and have been managed with a closed season, although they are not currently listed as waters with a closed season in the inland fisheries regulations. In the case of Black Rock Pond, it was listed with a closed season in 1978 regulations, but appears to have been inadvertently dropped from the list of waters with a closed season sometime prior to 2004. For Walker Reservoir, regulations establishing a closed season for this water body had never been promulgated. These omissions

came to light recently and this proposal corrects these oversights by adding both ponds to the list of lakes and ponds with a closed season. In the spring of 2020 DEEP began stocking McGovern Pond (West Hartford) with trout (a concurrent proposal adds this pond to the list of Trout Parks) and this proposal will fully protect stocked trout from harvest prior to Opening Day by adding McGovern Pond to the list of lakes and ponds with a closed season.

Black Pond (Woodstock) and Mohawk Pond (Cornwall, Goshen) will be managed as Trout Management Lakes with an extended season through March 31 and creel and length limits that differ from statewide regulations for trout. A concurrent proposal adds these two waterbodies to the list of Trout Management Lakes. As the seasons for Trout Management Lakes are specified within the provisions for Trout Management Lakes (section 26-112-46(d)) the two waterbodies must be removed from the list in this section of waters with the Opening Day to last day in February season.

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

(4) The open season for taking American shad from the Pawcatuck River, North Stonington-Stonington-Rhode Island, shall be as provided by Rhode Island regulations authorized by section 20-1-12 of the General Laws of Rhode Island.

(c) Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)

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

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

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

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

(d) Bait species. Bait species include the following species of fish, amphibians, aquatic insects and crustaceans to the exclusion of all other species: golden shiner or "pond shiner" (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), common shiner (*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 [commersoni] 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 rusticus*), perch bugs, helgramites, and mayfly nymphs. Bait species may be taken only for personal use as bait and food, except as provided in section 26-55-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and shall not be sold or offered for sale, except as provided in sections 26-142a-1 to 26-142a-6 inclusive, 26-142a-12 and 26-142a-15 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

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

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

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

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

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

(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[, charr] and/or salmon, these species may be taken only by angling or ice fishing. Spearing is prohibited in all lakes and ponds.

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

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

(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 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, 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 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) The daily creel limit for trout and kokanee 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.

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

(5) 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 listed in section 26-112-44 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies where the minimum length shall be fifteen inches.

(C) In the following streams, or portions of the streams, where the minimum length of trout 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

[Keeney] 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.

Summary of Proposal: This proposal would 1) make revisions to common carp regulations based on user group feedback, especially concerns expressed by bow fishers (carp fishing opportunities for bow fishers would be expanded in certain areas), 2) add three waterbodies to the list of waters with a three fish per day creel limit for catfish to extend fishing opportunities for stocked catfish, 3) make technical changes concerning Northern Pike Hybrids and use of the term “charr” and 4) correct several incorrect spellings.

Hearing testimony. One individual (Brian Piepho), a representative of the Lake Lillinonah Authority (LLA), provided testimony at the public hearing on the changes to subsection (h) of this section that include Tiger Muskie under the Northern Pike regulations. He indicated that the LLA had wanted there to be a specific regulation for Tiger Muskie, and not to have them grouped together with Northern Pike, noting that other states’ regulations for Muskellunge/Tiger Muskie generally differ from their regulations for Northern Pike. Mr. Piepho also suggested the possible establishment of separate regulations specific to Lake Lillinonah for both Northern Pike and Tiger Muskie that are more restrictive than the current statewide regulations for Northern Pike. Finally he predicted that as the Tiger Muskie grew to “Trophy size” in Lake Lillinonah they would generate an exceptional increase in fishing pressure, warranting catch-and-release regulations for Tiger Muskie to protect them from over-harvest.

Comments: The proposed amendments were endorsed by the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC). In a written submission the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited expressed general support for all the proposed regulations. One individual also expressed support of the full set of proposed regulations although they did question a provision of section 3 and one individual submitted comments in opposition to “government” regulations in general.

Eight comments were submitted that referenced Tiger Muskie and/or Northern Pike. Of these, one expressed opposition to any stocking of non-native pike in Connecticut and one questioned whether Tiger Muskie should be grouped with Northern Pike or were they sufficiently

“prominent” to warrant separate regulations. Five unfavorable comments were submitted by individuals (including Mr. Piepho, who had commented on behalf of the LLA during the hearing) concerning the proposed amendment, all were in support of separate regulations for Tiger Muskie. All five requested catch-and-release only if possible, or as a second choice, a one fish per day creel limit and a high minimum length (45 or 46 inches). The LLA also submitted comments, reiterating many of the points expressed by Mr. Piepho during the hearing. The LLA requested separate regulations for Tiger Muskie, either catch-and-release only for Tiger Muskie, or a one fish per day creel limit with a 50 inch minimum length.

Three comments were received on amendments to regulations for common carp. One commenter fully supported enhancing opportunities for bow fishers targeting carp, while two were in opposition to more liberal regulation for taking carp. One of those opposed suggested that only harvest of smaller fish be allowed and the other expressed concern for possible negative impacts to carp populations.

No comments were submitted concerning the amendments to catfish regulations.

Final Wording: As proposed except for subsection (h) which is revised as follows:

(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.

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Explanation and response:

In March, 2018, regulations establishing creel limits, length limits and special management areas (Trophy Carp Waters) for Common Carp became effective. Prior to this time, there were only regulations concerning methods of take for Common Carp in Connecticut, with no regulations for creel limits or length limits. These regulations were intended to promote shore-based catch-and-release carp fishing, which is beginning to develop a strong and passionate following in the United States, and were based in part on input from the catch-and-release carp

fishing community. Shore-based catch-and-release carp fishing has been popular in Europe for decades, and carp provide a great opportunity to grow a niche fishery here in CT, and to also generate more overall excitement for recreational fishing in our state.

Following establishment of these new regulations for Common Carp, the bow fishing community became more aware of the operative effect of these regulations on the practice of their sport and bow fishers began to express their concern with several provisions of the regulations. Bow fishers felt that the creel limits (five fish per day statewide, and one fish per day in Trophy Carp Waters) and the length limits (one fish over thirty inches statewide, and a twenty-six inch maximum length in Trophy Carp Waters) severely limited their ability to bow fish, especially in the Trophy Carp Waters. Due to the nature of bow fishing, where an anchored arrow wound is generally fatal, catch-and-release fishing is not an available option; and accurately estimating target fish length prior to shooting the fish is very difficult.

The concerns expressed by the bow fishing community prompted legislative action with Public Act 18-181 (see sec. 26-128 of the Connecticut General Statutes) requiring DEEP to develop regulations concerning bow and arrow fishing for carp in selected areas. This proposal was developed based on discussions with the bow fishing community and would establish alternative regulations (twelve fish per day creel limit, of which not more than three may exceed thirty inches in length) specific to bow fishing in select areas known to be popular bow fishing waters. The proposed regulations are expected to provide sufficient fishing opportunities to bow fishers while still being sufficiently restrictive to protect carp from over harvest.

This proposal added Tiger Muskie to the list of species that are allowed to be taken in inland waters. Lake Lillinonah has been stocked with Tiger Muskie (a sterile Northern Pike x Muskellunge hybrid) at least twice by the Lake Lillinonah Authority (with approval by DEEP) and anglers are now beginning to catch adult Tiger Muskie. This proposal included Tiger Muskie in the definition of Northern Pike and applies the legal methods of take, creel limits and length limits for Northern Pike to Tiger Muskie.

Fisheries Division staff has reviewed and considered public comment submitted regarding regulations for tiger muskellunge within Lake Lillinonah and DEEP now agrees that the pike and muskie fishery in Lake Lillinonah require additional protections. The lake contains both Northern Pike and Tiger Musky, the fishery being supported by stocking of juvenile fish by the Lake Lillinonah Authority. The proposal will be revised to provide a one fish per day (Northern Pike and Tiger Muskie combined) with a 38 inch minimum length, far more restrictive than the statewide regulations. Staff developed the final recommendation through discussion and review of life history, growth characteristics, past intensive angler surveys, and the desire of the Lake Lillinonah Authority to create a "trophy fishery".

This proposal adds Colony Pond (Ansonia, Shelton), Crescent Lake (Southington) and Rogers Park Pond (Danbury) to the list of waters with a three fish per day creel limit for catfish. DEEP recently included the waterbodies as part of its "Community Fishing Waters" program in which a number of lakes and ponds (often smaller ponds) located in or near urban areas are managed to help provide local fishing opportunities in these areas. The Fisheries Division stocks these waters with trout and/or Channel with the majority stocked with both trout and Channel

Catfish. As Channel Catfish typically do not successfully reproduce in smaller lakes in Connecticut, catfish populations in the stocked waters are generally not self-sustaining, and must rely on periodic stockings of fish purchased from commercial hatcheries located in Arkansas. Currently Channel Catfish are stocked annually into Community Fishing Waters and periodically into a number of other lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state. Community Fishing Waters are located in more urban areas and intended to provide more convenient fishing opportunities to local residents in these more populated areas, they are expected to experience greater fishing pressure than the other waters stocked with catfish. Consequently the creel limit for catfish in the Community Fishing Waters stocked with Channel Catfish is more restrictive, at three fish per day. This more restricted creel limit is intended to spread the catch out and provide more fishing opportunities to more anglers at these areas. As Colony Pond, Crescent Lake and Rogers Park Pond are now being managed as Community Fishing Waters, a three fish per day creel limit is the appropriate management option for these waterbodies.

Section 4. 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: the daily creel limit shall be five and there shall be no minimum length. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

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

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

(4) Congamond Lakes (South Pond, Middle Pond and North Pond), Suffield - Massachusetts. There shall be no closed season for fishing. Connecticut or Massachusetts fishing license legal on all three lakes. Massachusetts regulations apply as follows: Trout: the daily creel limit shall be six, during the period from the Saturday next preceding the third Monday in April, one hour before sunrise, through the Sunday following the third Saturday in October. Trout: the daily

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

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

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

(7) Indian Pond, Sharon -New York. The closed season for fishing shall be from midnight on March thirty-first through 6:00 a.m. on the 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. No closed season. Connecticut or Rhode Island fishing license legal on entire pond. Connecticut and Rhode Island regulations apply as follows: Black bass (largemouth and smallmouth): the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be twelve inches. Chain pickerel: the daily creel limit shall be five and the minimum length shall be fourteen inches. Not more than six tip-ups may be used when ice fishing.

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

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

(b) **Fly Fishing Only Areas.** In the following waters or portions thereof, as indicated by posters, 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 portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through 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 [Merrybrook Road] 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 minimum length for

trout taken 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 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 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 portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through September fifteenth, inclusive. From October first through March thirty-first, fishing is restricted to those methods specified by the Commissioner for the taking of Atlantic salmon in accordance with section 26-112- 45(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The daily creel limit for trout 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 portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

(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 March first through March thirty-first 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 March first through March thirty-first the daily creel limit for trout shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be fourteen inches.

(e) **Special use of streams by disabled persons.** The Department of Environmental Protection is authorized to set aside sections of streams for temporary use by groups of disabled persons 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 Lake (East Lyme).

(4) The minimum length for black bass shall be eighteen (18) 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 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 to any person issued a permit under section 2-112-42 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 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 State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Aspetuck Land Trust, and the town of Weston.

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

[(K)] [(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.

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

[(M)] [(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.

[(N)] [(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.

[(O)] [(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.

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

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

(h) **Atlantic salmon [broodstock] 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 [broodstock] 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 [broodstock] 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 [broodstock] 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 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): Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, downstream of the Hammonasset Dam (at the outlet of Hammonasset Reservoir) to the I-95 bridge 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, 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), 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.

(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, 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. Those portions of the Naugatuck River within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of 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 downstream to the Daniels Farm Road Bridge Crossing, 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.

(4) In the Pomperaug River (Woodbury and Southbury), 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), except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, 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.

(6) In the Shetucket River (Windham, Scotland, Sprague, and Norwich), 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. Those portions of the Shetucket River within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through September fifteenth, inclusive,

(l) **Trophy Carp Waters.** [The] (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, as provided in section 26-112-44(a)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and Squantz Pond (New Fairfield)[, and West Thompson Reservoir (Thompson)]. [The commissioner may grant an exemption from 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.]

(2) The commissioner may grant an exemption from 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) An 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 said fish shall be released, without avoidable injury, to the waters where taken.

Summary of proposal: This proposal amends regulations concerning Trout Management Areas, Trout Management Lakes, Wild Trout Management Areas, Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas, Trout Parks, and Trophy Carp Waters:

- Subsection (c). Corrects spelling of the name of the road designated as the downstream boundary of the Mianus River Trout Management Area.

- Subsection (d). Designates two additional waterbodies, Black Pond (Woodstock) and Mohawk Pond as Trout Management Lakes, both focused on a Brook Trout fishery.
- Subsection (g). Updates the name of a Wild Trout Management Area, “Negro Hill Brook”, to “Freeman Hill Brook.”
- Subsection (h). Renames “Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas” as “Atlantic Salmon Management Areas.”
- Subsection (i). Designates one additional waterbody, McGovern Pond (West Hartford) as a Trout Park.
- Subsection (l). Makes conforming changes reflecting the provisions of section 3 concerning bow fishing for carp and provides an exemption from length limits to temporarily retain a trophy-size carp for purposes of having the fish’s weighed (typically to determine whether the fish qualifies as any type of state record).

Hearing testimony. One individual, representing the Lake Lillinonah Authority, provided testimony at the public hearing but did not comment on this section.

Comments: The proposed amendments were endorsed by the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC). In a written submission the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited expressed general support for all the proposed regulations. One individual also expressed support of the full set of proposed regulations although they questioned a provision of section 3 and one individual submitted comments in opposition to “government” regulations in general.

Three commenters supported the amendment designating Black Pond (Woodstock) and Mohawk Pond (Cornwall, Goshen) as Trout Management Lakes (TML) and the new creel and length limits for Brook Trout in these two lakes. One of these supporters also suggested establishing a reduced creel limit of two trout per day during the entire regular open season (Opening Day through the last day of February). No comments in opposition to this amendment to the TML regulations were submitted.

Two individuals submitted comments in support of the amendment renaming the Negro Hill Wild Trout Management Area (WTMA) as Freeman Hill Brook and re-designating this stream as a Class I WTMA (a more protective designation), with one also suggesting that the downstream boundary of this WTMA be extended.

One individual comment cited the amendment to the Trophy Carp Waters provisions, expressing a concern that more restrictive restrictions should apply to the taking of carp. This comment will also be considered under the section 3 (Species Limitations) proposal amending regulations for the taking of carp.

No individuals commented on the proposed renaming of “Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas” as “Atlantic Salmon Management Areas” although several individuals submitting comments expressed a desire for more protective regulations for Atlantic Salmon and one requested that

the methods of take of Atlantic Salmon be relaxed some to allow for several newer fishing methods (most notably “center-pinning”). It should be noted that by regulation (26-112-45(c)) the methods of take, creel limits and size limits for the Atlantic Salmon recreational fishery are determined by annual Commissioner’s Declaration, and not directly by regulation. No comments on the amendment designating McGovern Pond as a Trout Park were submitted during the comment period.

Final Wording: As proposed except as follows:

During review of this section, it was discovered that subdivision (9) of subsection (c) (Trout Management Areas) conflicted with the current regulations concerning legal methods in Atlantic Salmon Management Areas (see subsection (h)). This subdivision is revised to conform to current regulations.

(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 portions of this trout management area within one hundred feet of signs indicating such closure posted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at or near the mouths of tributary streams shall be closed to all fishing during the period June fifteenth through September fifteenth, inclusive. From [October] 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.

Explanation and response to comments: To provide a unique fishing opportunity not generally available elsewhere in CT, several years ago the Fisheries Division (Fisheries) altered its trout stocking management to promote a lake and pond Brook Trout fishery at two waterbodies, Black Pond (Woodstock) and Mohawk Pond (Cornwall/Goshen), that had been stocked with a mix of trout (Brown, Rainbow, Brook) for decades. This proposal adds both waterbodies to the list of Trout Management Lakes and establish length and creel limits for Brook Trout (5 trout per day creel limit but only one Brook Trout over 14 inches in length during the regular trout season, and a one fish per day creel limit and 14-inch minimum length for Brook Trout during the extended March season). DEEP believes that the proposed regulations will spread the catch of the large Brook Trout out and provide fishing opportunities to more anglers over a longer period of time.

This proposal changes the designation for the Sessions Woods Wild Trout Management Area (WTMA) from a class 3 to class 1. Field sampling has indicated that the more protective class 1 designation would be more appropriate for the current status of the wild trout populations in

this WTMA. Additionally, the name of the stream in this WTMA is updated from “Negro Hill Brook” to “Freeman Hill Brook”. The two towns (Bristol, Burlington) sharing this brook had approached the USGS Board of Geographical Names (BGN) to request the name change and the BGN recently approved this change. Any extension of the boundaries, as proposed by one commenter, would first need review and investigation by Fisheries field staff.

Renaming the Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” as “Management Areas” will better reflect the current management of the Atlantic Salmon recreational fishery where Atlantic Salmon are raised and stocked specifically to support a recreational fishery. It will also better inform anglers concerning the program and eliminate the misconception expressed by some anglers that “broodstock” fish are stocked with the intention that they’ll reproduce in the waters where they were released.

This proposal adds McGovern Pond (West Hartford) to the list of Trout Parks, areas intended to facilitate fishing as a family activity, offering easy shore access for fishing and convenient parking. Most are located within state or municipal parks, with amenities such as picnic tables, park benches or toilets. McGovern Pond is within a city preserve (Spice Bush Swamp, West Hartford), located near an urban center, and has good shore access and parking with bathroom facilities nearby. The City of West Hartford supports this designation.

A concurrent proposal (see section 3 amending sec. 26-112-45) establishes alternative regulations (twelve fish per day creel limit, of which not more than three may exceed thirty inches in length) specific to bow fishing in select areas known to be popular bow fishing waters and this proposal makes conforming changes including removing West Thompson Reservoir from the list of Trophy Carp waters as it has few larger carp and is not frequented by catch-and-release carp anglers (the concurrent proposal also includes West Thompson Reservoir as one of the bow fishing areas). Additionally, while an exemption from the creel and length limits to allow carp to be temporarily retained to allow measuring/weighing of larger fish exists for permitted carp fishing tournaments, no similar avenue currently exists for an individual angler wishing to measure/weigh a fish that could possibly be personal best or a new state record fish. This proposal allows an individual angler fishing in Trophy Carp Waters to temporarily retain a carp that would otherwise have to be immediately released until it can be appropriately measured/weighed. DEEP believes that these changes will continue to provide adequate protections for common carp while providing additional fishing opportunities.

Section 5. Sections 26-112-24 and 26-112-47 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are repealed.

Proposal summary: This section repeals an obsolete regulation (sec. 26-112-24) concerning a statewide closed season and regulations (sec. 26-112-47) concerning certain ponds at Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery that had been managed for public fishing until late 2009 when they were closed.

Hearing testimony. One individual, representing the Lake Lillinonah Authority, provided testimony at the public hearing but did not comment on this section.

Comments: The proposed amendments were endorsed by the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC). In a written submission the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited expressed general support for all the proposed regulations. One individual also expressed support of the full set of proposed regulations although they questioned a provision of section 3 and one individual submitted comments in opposition to “government” regulations in general. No comments on proposed regulations directed specifically to this section were submitted electronically or by mail by individuals.

Final Wording: As proposed.

Explanation: Section 26-112-24 is an obsolete section that likely should have been repealed but was overlooked during a major revision of inland fishing regulations that became effective in 1986. It set a statewide closed season for fishing from 12:00 pm, March 31, to 6:00 am on the third Saturday in April and referenced three other regulation sections for exceptions. As numerous other inland regulations have been promulgated since then providing for various closed seasons that conflict with this section and all three of those referenced sections are among a number of regulation sections that were repealed effective on January 1, 1986, it appears that this section was inadvertently overlooked sometime during the regulations making process but was assumed to have been repealed. Only since the establishment of the eRegulations system made the official regulations text easily available electronically was this oversight noticed.

Section 26-112-47 provided regulations for two ponds at the Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery managed as public fishing ponds, with limits on use (access was managed via reservations), an atypical open season (generally from early March through mid-May on weekends and holidays), limited creel limits and methods and a minimum fee. As DEEP’s trout management program evolved and the number and types of special management areas grew (thirty Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas and portions of Sea-run Trout Streams are open to fishing year round and eleven Trout Parks provide both excellent shoreline fishing and frequent stockings), use of the ponds declined. At the same time operating costs continued to grow and in late 2009, these two fishing ponds were closed and converted to other uses and there is no longer any need for regulations concerning management of these two ponds.