

PR2023-034 Inland Sport Fishing Regulations – list of provisions (as of 4/19/2024)

Section 1. Amends sec. 26-112-43 RCSA (“Definitions”). Updates definitions of “Bait”, “Fly”, “Fly Fishing”, “Hook” and “Possession Limit”; and establishes definitions for “Artificial Lure/Lure,” “Catch and Release,” and “Center Pin Fishing” and removes a definition for “Bobbing”.

Section 2. Amends sec. 26-112-45 RCSA (“Species limitations”). Establishes a statewide minimum length of nine (9) inches for trout, adds Allen Brook Pond (Wharton Brook Pond, in Wharton Brook State Park), Wallingford, to the list of lakes and ponds with a reduced creel limit (3 fish per day) for catfish and removes “Bobbing” as a method of take.

Section 3. Amends sec. 26-112-46 RCSA (“Special management areas”). Amends multiple Special Management Areas. Most notably, Crystal Lake is removed from the list of Trout Management Lakes, a thermal refuge is designated at Highland Lake, a new Bass Management Area is established on the entire Housatonic River from the Massachusetts border to the Bleachery Dam (New Milford) with catch and release only regulations for black bass, nineteen new Class 1 Wild Trout Management Areas (WTMAs) are designated, three Class 3 WTMAs are redesignated as Class 1 WMTAs, three Class 3 WTMAs are eliminated, three new Trout Parks (Macedonia Brook, Mashamoquet Brook and Kettletown Brook) are established, three streams are removed from the list of Sea-Run Trout Streams, and three lakes (East Twin Lake, West Twin Lake, and Wononskopomuc Lake) are designated as Chain Pickerel Management Lakes.

Section 4. Amends sec. 26-112-48 RCSA (“Miscellaneous restrictions”). Establishes a daily creel limit of zero (“Catch and Release” only fishing) for all fish species at Plymouth Reservoir (Plymouth) as requested by the Town of Plymouth.

Additionally, there are several technical changes and updates.