

PR2021-038 Inland Sport Fishing Regulations – list of provisions

Section 1. Amends sec. 26-112-39 RCSA. Updates provisions concerning behavior in easements/leased properties and provisions concerning use of state boat launches to conform with current Boating regulations.

Section 2. Amends sec. 26-112-43 RCSA. Eliminates the existing definition of closed season as a closure of an area to all fishing; establishes definitions and restrictions for “culling” and “cast nets”; and clarifies that an angler in the inland district may continue to fish (catch-and-release) once they reach their creel/possession limits.

Section 3. Amends sec. 26-112-44 RCSA. Eliminates the current closed seasons at all lakes and ponds and for all rivers and streams (with exceptions for closures intended to protect fish health).

Section 4. Amends sec. 26-112-45 RCSA. Amends trout seasons to conform with provisions of PA 21-12 prohibiting closed seasons for trout; revises statewide trout and kokanee creel limits (establishing a five fish limit for trout and a five fish limit for kokanee); and establishes a catch-and-release only requirement for trout and Kokanee during the proposed open season from March 1 to 6 am on the second Saturday in April.

Section 5. Amends sec. 26-112-46 RCSA. Updates provisions of several subsections to conform with provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 concerning seasons, closed areas and trout creel limits; amends trout regulations at East Twin Lake to reflect increases in alewife populations; adds Long Pond to the list of Trout Management Lakes; and adds a new special management area (“tidal waters and tributaries”, formerly “rivers and streams open year-round” in sec. 26-112-44).

Section 6. Amends sec. 26-112-48 RCSA. Eliminates the closed season at Quassapaug Lake; and establishes a prohibition on ice fishing at several lakes and ponds (Factory Pond, Lake Chamberlain, Lake Saltonstall, Maltby Lakes).

Additionally, there are several technical changes and updates.