



GUIDELINES FOR ICE FISHING TOURNAMENTS ON CONNECTICUT PUBLIC WATERS

Ice fishing is a popular wintertime activity in Connecticut, with groups holding events when safe ice is available. Although the vast majority of such permitted events are conducted in a courteous manner, we continue to receive a number of complaints each year from concerned individuals regarding the behavior of some ice tournament anglers. Common complaints often include excessive trash being left on the ice and in the parking areas, parking in inappropriate locations along roads and on private property, trespassing on private property, fires left burning on the ice, drunk and disorderly conduct, and urinating in public.

The DEEP takes all complaints seriously. Fishing tournament permits are issued at the discretion of the Commissioner and further **misconduct could result in permits being denied and/or bring about added regulations**. Therefore, anglers organizing ice fishing tournaments should comply with the following guidelines:

1. **Provide trash receptacles** and place them at convenient locations for the tournament anglers.
2. **Provide at least one port-o-let for tournaments with 50 or more participants.**
3. **Ensure that available parking is appropriate (legal) and sufficient** to accommodate the total number of anglers allowed to register in the tournament.
4. **Ensure that participants will not exhibit poor behavior such as littering, rude or drunken behavior, trespassing and illegal parking.** All participants should be informed that poor behavior will not be tolerated.
5. **Designate one or two individuals to monitor the safety and behavior of the tournament anglers.** They should be clearly visible during the entire tournament and be available to address questions and concerns from the general public. This is particularly important for all tournaments having over 50 participants.
6. **Cleanup after the tournament.** Designate individuals to be responsible for trash pickup.

Please note that your PERMIT CAN BE IMMEDIATELY REVOKED for failure to follow these guidelines. The approval of future permit applications can also be affected.

Many tournament directors currently operate effectively in this manner. The future of ice fishing tournaments on Connecticut's public waters depends on keeping a good public image, so let's all do our part!