

THEMES

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FOUR FOCAL POINTS



Grow Fish

Invest in hatchery infrastructure & modify production goals in order to increase the average size of our standard trout as well as produce a greater number of specialty salmonids.



Catch Fish

Maintain a diversity of options to fish for salmonids, which appeal to a wide range of preferences and desires.

Refine the allocation of salmonids in order to maximize angler satisfaction through reactively optimizing timing, quantity, and location.



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The Fisheries Division has developed this 5-year action plan in conjunction with input from Connecticut's trout anglers via a series of ongoing surveys and through input obtained from 6 public discussions held in the fall of 2019. The plan focuses on 4 key themes; *Grow Fish, Catch Fish, Conserve Fish, and Public Engagement*. Goals, objectives, and specific action items are detailed within the full plan available on the Fisheries Division website.



Conserve Fish

Develop a management plan to ensure wild trout populations will persist.

Continue to maintain a captive line of the Connecticut River strain of Atlantic salmon .



Public Engagement

Increase awareness and relevancy of salmonid fisheries through engagement with both traditional fishing enthusiasts as well as nontraditional audiences who may not be aware of the salmonid resources in their own backyard.



Themes and Goals: The purpose of this action plan is to maintain and improve salmonid fishing and wild populations in Connecticut. This plan follows four themes with supporting goals and objectives. Detailed action items for each objective are found within the <u>full action plan</u>.

GROW FISH

- 1. Maximize efficient production and distribution of salmonids at State Fish Hatcheries
 - Goal 1.1: Create a stable and predictable funding allocation for hatchery operation
 - Goal 1.2: Continue to focus on improving & maintaining hatchery infrastructure
 - Goal 1.3: Reduce losses of fish to predation
 - Goal 1.4: Distribute trout and salmon effectively and efficiently
 - Goal 1.5: Continue to maintain the highest level of professional development



- 2. Increase the size of fish produced at State Hatcheries
 - Goal 2.1: Increase "standard-size" 9-11 inch (2.0 fish per pound) trout to 10-12 inches (1.8 fish per pound).
 - Goal 2.2: Increase the number of "specialty trout"
 - Goal 2.3: Continue to manage waters where "hold-over" production is practical

CATCH FISH

- 3. Improve access to stocked salmonids
 - Goal 3.1: To maximize catch of stocked fish
 - Goal 3.2: Maintain and acquire access to waters
- 4. Provide a diversity of fish and fishing opportunities that appeal to a wide range of preferences and desires
 - Goal 4.1: Maintain the Kokanee Salmon fishery in select lakes
 - Goal 4.2: Maintain Brown Trout Fry stocking into WTMAs (Class 2 and Class 3).

CONSERVE FISH

- 5. Maintain a legacy population of Connecticut River strain Atlantic Salmon
 - Goal 5.1: Maintain the genetic integrity of the Connecticut River strain of Atlantic salmon at the Kensington State Fish Hatchery
- 6. Conserve wild trout populations
 - Goal 6.1: Develop and Publish a Wild Trout Management Plan
 - Goal 6.2: Continue to monitor and assess the status of wild trout populations
 - Goal 6.3: Increase opportunity for recreational fishing

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 7. Increase awareness and relevancy of salmonid fisheries
 - Goal 7.1 Increase awareness and relevancy of salmonid fisheries