

2021-2022 Proposed Inland Sport Fishing list and plain English summary

Regulation Reference and Summary	The proposed change in plain English
<p>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.</p>	<p>Revised Easements and Leased Properties: This section was last amended in 1977 and several provisions require updating. Specifically the requirement for anglers to remain within 10 feet of the shoreline. This requirement differs and is not a standard distance in many current easements or leased properties.</p> <p>Revised Use of Boat Launches: This proposal deletes the obsolete language concerning the mooring of boats at state boat launches, eliminating a conflict between two department regulations, and avoiding any confusion concerning regulations addressing activities at state boat launches.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Removed: Definition of Closed Season</p> <p>Added: Definition of Cast Net and definition of Culling.</p> <p>Revised: Definition of Daily Limit and Possession Limit. Done to clarify that a person can continue to fish once the daily limit/possession limit has been met, providing any additional fish are released immediately upon catch.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Removed: Closed seasons for fishing at all lakes and ponds and rivers and streams.</p> <p>NOTE: Closures for specific areas and dates are allowed to protect the health of the fish and the overall fishery. Thermal Refuges, which are cold water tributaries that enable trout to survive through elevated water temperatures in the main river during the summer, are retained.</p>
<p>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 separate five fish limit for trout and five fish limit for kokanee, instead of eight fish in aggregate); and establishes a catch-and-release only</p>	<p>Removed: The statewide closed season for trout fishing. The combined eight fish creel limit for trout and kokanee in aggregate.</p> <p>Revised: Statewide daily creel Limits for Trout of five per day and five Kokanee per day.</p>

<p>requirement for trout and Kokanee during the proposed open season from March 1 to 6 am on the second Saturday in April.</p>	<p>Added: Statewide Catch and Release fishing only for Trout and Kokanee from March 1 to the 6:00 am on the second Saturday of April. Except in Trout Management Lakes where harvest (one fish) is allowed (per specific waterbody rules) during this time period.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Revised: language to be consistent with proposed changes described above.</p> <p>Revised: Protective Slot limit for Brown Trout on East Twin Lake (Salisbury) to be 14-22 inches.</p> <p>Add: Long Pond (North Stonington) as a Trout Management Lake</p> <p>Revised: The list of “Rivers and Streams Open Year-Round” is renamed to be “Tidal Waters and Tributaries” to support the existing regulations for Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Shad, trout and methods of take (snagging, cast nets). These regulations differ from the general statewide regulations and the current name for this list of waters would no longer be appropriate.</p>
<p>Section 6. Amends sec. 26-112-48 RCSA. Eliminates the closed season at Quassapaug Lake to conform with PA 21-12; and establishes a prohibition on ice fishing at several lakes and ponds (Factory Pond, Lake Chamberlain, Lake Saltonstall, Maltby Lakes).</p>	<p>Removes: The closed season on Quassapaug Lake (no public access) to conform with PA 21-12 (prohibiting closed seasons for trout)</p> <p>Add: Prohibition on ice fishing on Factory Pond (Salisbury), Lake Chamberlain (Bethany), Lake Saltonstall (East Haven), Maltby Lakes (West Haven. The current regulations, by default, preclude ice fishing (due to the waters being closed on a particular date), so this proposal can increase shore fishing opportunity until ice forms.</p>
<p>Additionally, there are several technical changes and updates.</p>	