



PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPORTFISH REGULATIONS IN THE INLAND DISTRICT

**Presented by: Michael Beauchene, Supervisor Fisheries Division
Bureau of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division**

PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION

- To Provide a Simple Overview and Summary of the Proposed Changes to the regulations for sportfishing in the inland district (freshwater).
- Proposed changes to be effective January 1, 2025
- Please View the Full legal version at <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Search/RMRView/PR2023-034>
- Questions about the proposed regulation changes may be sent to mike.beauchene@ct.gov

FORMAL COMMENT PROCESS

Formal Public Comment is Open until 11:59 pm on May 31, 2024

Comment **Must** be Submitted via One of the Following Methods

By 11:59 pm on May 31, 2024.

1. Via the **CT EREGS system** – Preferred
2. At the **Public Hearing** on May 8, 2024
3. By **email** to William.foreman@ct.gov
4. By **mail** to

William Foreman, Fisheries Division

CT DEEP

79 Elm Street

Hartford, CT 06106

HOW DO PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES COME TO BE?

- Suggestions from the public, law enforcement, fisheries biologists
- Ambiguity or confusion with terminology
- Based on research
- To support fisheries management goals and objectives

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS

26-112-43 Definitions and Restrictions

26-112-45 Species Limitations

26-112-46 Special Management Areas

26-112-48 Miscellaneous Restrictions

Proposed changes follow actions within the various recently published action plans and from suggestions submitted by our angling community.

SECTION 26-112-43 DEFINITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Remove the definition of:

- Bobbing

Create a definition for:

- Artificial lure/lure
- Catch and Release Fishing

Revise the definition of:

- Bait, Daily Creel Limit, Fly, Fly Fishing (Center Pin), Hook, and Possession Limit

Rationale: to reduce ambiguity and confusion when interpreting regulations, especially related to the regulations for Atlantic salmon fishing.

26-112-45 SPECIES RESTRICTIONS (REMOVALS)

- Remove “*bobbing*” as a legal method for carp, bowfin, sea lamprey, eel, white sucker, panfish, bullhead, and catfish.
- Remove the references to and waterbodies with a 9-inch minimum length for trout.
- Remove the 20-inch minimum length for “lake trout”.

26-112-45 SPECIES RESTRICTIONS (ESTABLISH)

- **Establish a 9-inch statewide minimum length for trout.**
- **Establish a daily creel limit of 3 catfish for Wharton Brook Pond (Allen Pond), Wallingford.**

26-112-46 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (EDITS)

- **Revise language of “*Boundary Waters*”** to remove RI, MA, NY specific regulation text and replace with, “RI regulations apply to X, Y, and Z species”.
- **Replace Keach Pond** with Peck Pond, a more commonly used name for the waterbody.
- **Update language for Trout Management Areas** to take advantage of the new definition of “Catch and Release Fishing”.

26-112-46 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (REMOVALS)

- Remove *Crystal Lake* (Ellington) as a Trout Management Lake.
- Remove 6 Class 3 Wild Trout Management Areas.
 - *Morgan Brook, Pease Brook, and Stony Brook become a Class 1 WTMA,*
 - *Macedonia Brook becomes a trout park,*
 - *East Branch Naugatuck River and Shunock River revert to statewide regulations.*
- Remove 3 Sea-Run Trout Streams.
 - *Eightmile River (Salem/Lyme), Whitford Brook, and Mianus River.*

26-112-46 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (ESTABLISH)

- **Establish 19 Class 1 Wild Trout Management Areas.**
- **Establish 3 riverine Trout Parks**
 - *Macedonia Brook, Mashamoquet Brook and Kettletown Brook.*
- **Establish a “thermal refuge”** at the mouth of *Taylor Brook into Highland Lake* no fishing from July 1 to October 15.
- **Extend catch and release** for black bass throughout the entire Housatonic River.
- **Establish 3 “Chain Pickerel Management Lakes”**
 - *East Twin Lake, West Twin Lake, and Wononoskopomuc Lake.*

19 NEW CLASS 1 WILD TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS -PROPOSED

Beaver Brook, Barkhamsted

Belden Brook, Granby

Bonemill Brook, Tolland/Ellington

Cold Brook and tribs, Glastonbury

Greenfalls River, North Stonington

Gulf Stream and tribs, Somers

Hall Meadow Brook, Norfolk

Thorne Brook and tribs, Hartland

Hurricane Brook, Hartland

Indian Hole Brook, Shelton

Jericho Brook, Thomaston

Lowden Brook, Voluntown

Mohawk Pond Outflow, Goshen

Morgan Brook, Barkhamsted

Pease Brook, Bozrah

Railroad Brook, Vernon

Sages Ravine Brook, Salisbury

Spruce Brook and tribs, Litchfield

Stony Brook, Montville

Stratton Brook, Simsbury

West Branch Salmon Brook and tribs, Hartland

Willow Brook and tribs, Hamden/Cheshire

SECTION 26-112-48

MISCELLANEOUS RESTRICTIONS

- **Establish Catch and Release** for all species at Plymouth Reservoir.

(Per request of the Town of Plymouth and based on recommendations made to the town by former fish management staff.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT'S FISH AND FISHERIES

100% of your investment in license, permit, and stamp fees is allocated to the Bureau of Natural Resources to **support fish and wildlife programs.**