



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 551

LCO No. 2184

02184_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING RECREATIONAL FISHING IN CONNECTICUT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
2 Environmental Protection shall not close an area to sport fishing, as
3 defined in section 26-1 of the general statutes, pursuant to section 26-
4 16, 26-101, 26-102, 26-111 or 26-112 of the general statutes, unless the
5 commissioner finds, after a hearing held pursuant to section 26-113 of
6 the general statutes, that: (1) There is a clear indication that less severe
7 conservation measures such as gear restrictions, size limits, quotas or
8 closed seasons will not adequately provide conservation and
9 management of affected fish stocks, (2) the proposal to close the area
10 includes specific, measurable criteria to determine the conservation
11 benefits of closing such area on affected fish stocks, (3) a timetable is
12 provided for review of the closure of such area not less than once
13 every three years, (4) the proposed closed area is no larger than that
14 which is supported by the best scientific data available to the
15 commissioner, and (5) provisions are made to reopen the closed area to
16 sport fishing when the conditions requiring the closure no longer exist.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To protect the rights of persons who engage in sport fishing in Connecticut.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]