



December 24, 2014

Senator Andres Ayala Jr., Co-Chairman
Representative Selim G. Noujaim, Co-Chairman
Legislative Regulation Review Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 011
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Proposed Amendments to Regulations Concerning Sport Fishing, and Permits for Liberation of Triploid Grass Carp.

Dear Senator Ayala and Representative Noujaim,

Pursuant to Section 4-170 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I submit for your consideration and approval the enclosed amendments to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Notice of intent to adopt the proposed changes was posted on the Secretary of State's regulations webpage on April 15, 2014, the proposals were the subject of a public hearing on May 19, 2014, the public comment period remained open through June 3, 2014 and a notice of decision to take action was posted on the Secretary of State's regulations webpage on October 17, 2014. On December 19, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General approved the proposed regulations as legally sufficient.

The proposed amendments to the regulations will 1) revise triploid (sterile) grass carp permitting procedures to improve the application process for water bodies under multiple ownership; 2) increase the number of lines allowed for angling in inland waters from two to three lines; 3) move the date of "Opening Day" of trout season one week earlier, from the current third Saturday in April to the second Saturday; 4) remove the closed season from three areas (Batterson Park Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Yantic River below falls at Indian Leap), and establish a closed season for one water body (Scoville Reservoir); 5) removes twenty-three areas from the list of children's fishing areas; 6) increase the minimum length to 9 inches and reduce the creel limit for American eel and limit harvest of American shad to the Connecticut River system to comply with provisions of interstate fishery management plans of

the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC); 7) update regulations for several other species (reduces creel limit for Kokanee salmon, allows fishing for bowfin and tench and defines methods of fishing for them, and explicitly prohibits taking of state-endangered brook lamprey) to better reflect current status of their populations; 8) refine existing regulations concerning thermal refuges intended to protect trout seeking cool water refuge at tributaries to major rivers and establish a thermal refuge at a site on the lower Salmon River that serves as a cool water refuge for several species including trout, salmon and northern pike; 9) remove special regulations for brown trout and extend the fishing season at East Twin Lake (Salisbury) to be consistent with the other designated Trout Management Lakes; 10) designate additional portions of the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries in Vernon as a Class 1 Wild Trout Management Area; and 11) allow the use of boats and electric motors on Hewitt Pond (North Stonington). There are also several minor conforming and technical adjustments.

If there are any questions on these amendments, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs at 860-424-3401 (office) or 860-622-1797 (cell). Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Klee
Commissioner

Enclosures