

MEMO

TO: Testimony for the Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee

re: Hatchery Funding

FROM: Michael Hiza, MS, RD, Professor Emeritus

I am writing the Appropriations Committee to ask that they reinstate the \$195,000 dollars needed to run the Kensington Hatchery. I am an angler and have fished for stocked salmon and brown trout for many years.

More importantly, I developed and have been the internal coordinator of the Fly Fishing Series at Manchester Community College. This is a series of courses devoted to fly fishing in Connecticut that has been offered through our non credit Extension Division dating back to 1998.

We have offered courses in both fly casting and fly tying to our non credit population for those who are just beginning the sport and to those who have chosen to hone their existing skills. This student population has an in depth appreciation for the environment and the natural resources that our state has to offer. These are also individuals who purchase Connecticut fishing licenses and spend many recreational dollars that supports our local economy.

The Kensington Hatchery is a primary source of salmon and brown trout that these anglers depend on.

Again, I am asking you to reinstate the full funding to the Kensington Hatchery.

If I can provide you with any additional information or comments, please contact me.

Thank you,

Michael Hiza

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