

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 6047**

LCO No. 5832

AN ACT PROVIDING PROPER FUNDING FOR STATE HATCHERIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) There is established the
2 Connecticut Fish Hatcheries and Recreational Fisheries Trust to
3 promote and enhance the funding of the state's fish hatcheries and the
4 state's recreational fisheries programs. The trust shall receive and hold
5 all payments and deposits or contributions intended for the trust,
6 including gifts, donations, bequests, endowments or federal, state or
7 local grants and any other funds from any public or private source and
8 all earnings until disbursed in accordance with subsection (d) of this
9 section.

10 (b) The amounts on deposit in the trust shall not constitute property
11 of the state and the trust shall not be construed to be a department,
12 institution or agency of the state. Amounts on deposit in the trust shall
13 not be commingled with state funds and the state shall have no claim
14 to or against, or interest in, such funds. Any contract entered into by or
15 any obligation of the trust shall not constitute a debt or obligation of
16 the state and the state shall have no obligation to any designated
17 beneficiary or any other person on account of the trust and all amounts
18 obligated to be paid from the trust shall be limited to amounts
19 available for such obligation on deposit in the trust. The amounts on

20 deposit in the trust may only be disbursed in accordance with the
21 provisions of subsection (d) of this section. The trust shall continue in
22 existence as long as it holds any deposits or has any obligations and
23 until its existence is terminated by law and upon termination any
24 unclaimed assets shall return to the state.

25 (c) The State Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt,
26 maintenance, administration, investing and disbursements of amounts
27 from the trust. The trust shall not receive deposits in any form other
28 than cash. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
29 may not direct the investment of any contributions or amounts held in
30 the trust.

31 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
32 shall direct the Treasurer to disburse funds from the trust for the
33 funding of the state's fish hatcheries and the state's recreational
34 fisheries programs. The commissioner may determine the requisite
35 amount and timing for any such disbursement. Any disbursement
36 from the trust shall be for the purpose of funding the state's fish
37 hatcheries and the state's recreational fisheries programs.

38 Sec. 2. Section 26-27 of the general statutes is amended by adding
39 subsection (j) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

40 (NEW) (j) Any fishing license application issued or utilized by the
41 commissioner pursuant to this part shall, in addition to any other
42 information prescribed by the commissioner, contain a check box that
43 enables an applicant to elect to make a donation to the Connecticut
44 Fish Hatcheries and Recreational Fisheries Trust, established pursuant
45 to section 1 of this act. Any such donation to the trust shall be made in
46 addition to the requisite fee for such fishing license. Any donation to
47 the trust that is received by the commissioner pursuant to this
48 subsection shall be transferred by the commissioner to the State
49 Treasurer for deposit in said trust provided nothing in this subsection
50 shall be construed to restrict or limit the commissioner's authority to

51 otherwise receive gifts, donations, bequests, endowments or federal,
52 state or local grants and any other funds from any public or private
53 source for deposit into said trust.

54 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
55 study the sustainability of the state's recreational fisheries. Such study
56 shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of all issues that
57 affect and threaten the sustainability of the state's recreational
58 fisheries. Additionally, such task force shall make a recommendation
59 on a dedicated source of revenue for funding the Connecticut Fish
60 Hatcheries and Recreational Fisheries account established pursuant to
61 section 1 of this act. In developing such recommendation, the task
62 force shall examine the feasibility of dedicating a percentage of all
63 recreational fishing license fees for deposit in such account.

64 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

65 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

66 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

67 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
68 Representatives;

69 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

70 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
71 Representatives;

72 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

73 (7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
74 the commissioner's designee;

75 (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor; and

76 (9) The cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
77 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the

78 environment, or said cochairpersons' designees.

79 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
80 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
81 of the General Assembly.

82 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
83 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
84 filled by the appointing authority.

85 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
86 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
87 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
88 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
89 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

90 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
91 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
92 environment shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

93 (g) Not later than February 1, 2016, the task force shall submit a
94 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
95 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
96 relating to the environment, in accordance with the provisions of
97 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
98 the date that it submits such report or February 1, 2016, whichever is
99 later.

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This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2015	26-27
Sec. 3	from passage	New section