

# COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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by Robert T. Crook, Director/Lobbyist

**S.B. No. 139 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH A TROUT STAMP.      RELUCTANTLY SUPPORT**

CCS Reluctantly Supports the Trout Stamp. The issue is revenue and sustainability of what we traditional fishing we currently have. The Administration has tried for 2 years to close one or all fish hatcheries and we suspect it may come up again in the budget negotiations. Although the hatcheries predominately raising Trout is a revenue gainer, eliminating this low hanging fruit would seriously degrade recreational activity and quality of life.

*According to the 2011 Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, there were 3,518,000 days of freshwater fishing in Connecticut (trips) and 26% of those were for trout (914,680). If an angler spends \$20 on average each trip, expenditures for trout fishing in the state of Connecticut is almost \$18.3 MM per year.*

Without trout stocking, the state cannot rationally expect that trout fishermen will buy licenses to fish in Connecticut's inland waters, and trout fishermen comprise a significant percentage of the 134,000 sportsmen who purchased licenses allowing access to fish the state's inland waters in 2014. The revenue for the sales of these licenses was close to \$4.7 million.

Based upon this recreational and fiscal data CCS has successfully Opposed a Trout Stamp for several years. It is only with the threat of eliminating Trout stocking that we consider supporting this fee bill.