

To whom it may concern,

I am against the exceptions for bow fishing introduced and added to HB 5360, especially for the Connecticut River & its Coves.

As a catch & release angler I fully support and endorse the legislation to create Trophy Carp Waters and Creel Limits for common carp.

The Connecticut river offers an exceptional opportunity to create a trophy carp water without impacting other fish species or the water quality. As noted by DEEP Fisheries scientists common carp rarely, if ever, pose any issues to water quality in Connecticut & surrounding New England states. Since their introduction in the 1800's common carp have become naturalized and their spawn and fry provide exceptional food resources for other fish and wildlife. Where you find big carp you invariably find big bass, walleye, pike, perch and other species. River systems like the St. Lawrence are a prime example, where a trophy carp fishery accompanies clean water and thriving populations of pike, walleye, bass, and many other species.

The killing of many hundreds of trophy carp by bow fishers during the spawn is not only highly detrimental to creating a trophy carp fishery but has been documented to result in potential problems due to an increased biomass of smaller carp.

The rapid growth in catch and release trophy carp fishing and the creation of Trophy carp waters, especially the CT River, is of significant economic importance to Connecticut. Many anglers travel and purchase licenses annually to fish Connecticut's best carp waters, due to their trophy potential.

I have bought a CT out-of-state fishing license for the past several years, and certainly plan to fish for carp in Connecticut this year as well.

Thanks,

Franky DeMayo, Massachusetts