

My name is Scott Garland from Terryville, CT. I am a member of the Fisheries Advisory Council here in Connecticut, owner of Fishing Northeast LLC ([HYPERLINK "http://www.fishingnortheast.net"www.fishingnortheast.net](http://www.fishingnortheast.net)) and founder of a very successful Facebook group, Fishing CT. The recent passing of new regulations in the state were very much needed and I applaud that decision.

I am writing to you today as it was brought to my attention that there is a meeting TOMORROW, Wednesday, March 14, 2018 to get exemptions to allow unrestricted bow fishing in the following areas: CT River below Middletown, Housy below Derby Dam and the Quinnapiac River. I really think this revision needs to be turned down and thrown out.

The state is finally showing the respect to the carp species and its anglers that is long overdue. We have a world-class carp fishery here within the state and if we allow wasteful killing of the species, anymore than that is currently allowed then we risk losing this gem. Connecticut in the past couple years has held the Connecticut Carp Open along the Connecticut River, which brought in anglers from across the globe. These anglers fished for 100 straight hours, spending money at local businesses up and down the river, whether it was on food, beverage, hotel and travel.

The local bait and tackle shops are thriving at the growth of carp fishing in this state and if we allow bowhunters the right to kill on a free-will basis then we are really just hurting an industry that is starting to grow as word gets out about this great fishery. Bowhunters are targeting these specific locations because much of this area is trophy area and where the carp will spawn. Bowhunters are not killing these fish to put a meal on the plate in most instances, but rather doing it for the bragging rights within their bowhunting community.

Carp are long lived and a specimen carp weighing over twenty pounds may be 10-12 years in age and a 30 considerably older. Killing these valuable trophy fish not only destroys the sporting opportunities for the growing numbers of catch & release anglers but can also have significant impacts on the natural environment and balance of fish populations, including native species.

While common carp are sometimes considered 'invasive' they are not to be confused with Asian carp species. In many waters such as those in New England they have become naturalized and rarely if ever pose the water quality issues or over population that some claim. Where you find trophy sized carp you will invariably find trophy sized bass, pike, walleye and other species.

Personally I feel there was plenty of time over the past year to discuss the regulation changes, but as it seems with the recent regulations being passed, very few came forward to fight.

I would respectfully request that the regulations remain unchanged without any amendment for such exemptions. I am opposed to any exemptions or changes to the recently adopted CT regulations for Trophy Carp Waters and Creel Limits.

Sincerely,  
Scott Garland

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