

Connecticut's

TROUT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



MORE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES:



- ***TMA*s**
- ***Trout Parks***
- ***Trophy Trout Streams***
- ***Sea-Run Streams***
- ***Wild Trout Management Areas***



State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries Division

Why Do We Need A Trout Plan?

Connecticut's trout fisheries have long been an important part of the State's overall angling activity. From days when anglers relied on native trout for food, through the growth of recreational angling and hatcheries to the more recent development of special Trout Management Areas (TMAs), anglers have enjoyed the opportunity to pursue their quarry in many of Connecticut's streams and rivers.

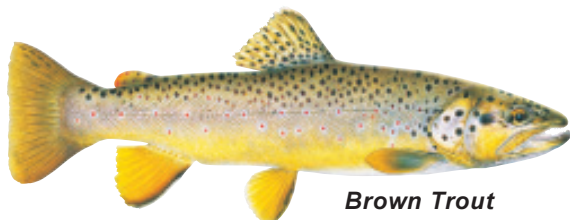
In recent years, there has been an increase in the variety of trout fishing experiences sought by Connecticut anglers. For example; some anglers practice only catch-and-release whereas other anglers like to harvest and eat their catch; some anglers seek large trout while others are more interested in catching a lot of fish; to some anglers a "trout is a trout" whereas others prefer to fish specifically for trout that are born in the wild. Providing such a variety of trout fishing opportunities requires innovative management based on the desires of the angling public and a sound, scientific understanding of our streams, trout populations and trout fisheries.

Fisheries Data and Public Opinion Surveys

The results of angler surveys done on more than 60 streams show that fishing pressure is heavy in most areas and that a high percentage of stocked and wild trout are caught and harvested.

Both put-and-take and catch-and-release trout fisheries are popular and heavily utilized.

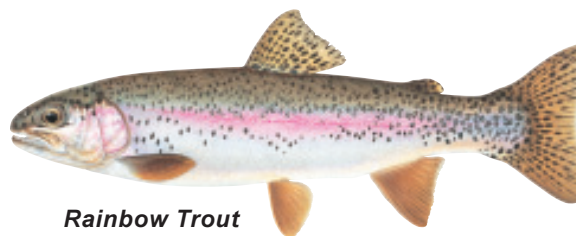
These surveys also revealed that the public desires higher quality fishing and that they favor alternative, stream-specific management to reach this goal.



Brown Trout

Hatchery Production

The DEP has two hatcheries that can be used to produce trout for stocking. Both are presently being operated at maximum production. Therefore, it is not feasible to increase the number of fish that we stock.



Rainbow Trout

Information from Stream Surveys

The DEP conducted surveys of fish populations, physical habitat and water chemistry on approximately 800 streams across the state.

The surveys:

- Identified streams that can support a larger trout population.
- Confirmed the presence of substantial wild trout populations in a number of streams.
- Provided data that enable us to determine which streams can maintain a trout population through the summer months as well as those that can provide such habitat only during the cool seasons.

Overall, the statewide stream survey revealed that angling quality and diversity can be enhanced in many of Connecticut's streams through alternative management.



The Trout Management Plan completed in 1999 was the culmination of a 13 year Sport Fish Restoration Project F-66-R entitled *A Survey of Connecticut Rivers and Streams*. The Sport Fish Restoration Program is administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is supported by your purchase of fishing equipment and motorboat fuels.

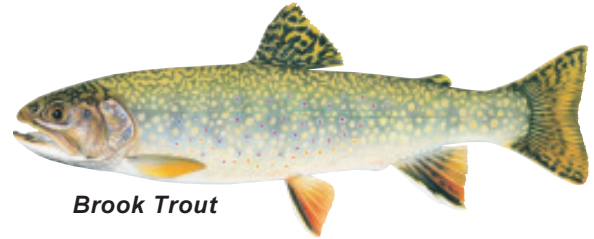
What's In The Plan?

Implementation of the new Trout Management Plan will improve fishing quality by diversifying the angling opportunities provided by hatchery trout and by increasing the value of fisheries sustained by wild trout. Both catch rates and the abundance of larger trout will be increased through the use of minimum length limits. Reduced creel limits will be used to distribute the catch among a greater number of anglers.

Wild Trout

The presence of self-sustaining wild trout populations in a number of streams means that Connecticut anglers can enjoy this alternative to fishing for hatchery-raised fish.

However, many of these populations cannot withstand increased harvest. Therefore, a number of these streams are being managed for catch and release angling, with little or no stocking of hatchery raised fish.



Brook Trout

Trout Management Areas

By increasing the number of stream miles included in existing TMAs and by creating new and a broader variety of TMAs in the State, we have increased angler access to high-quality, sustainable fishing within the capacity of current hatchery production.

Stocked Trout

The DEP continues to stock catchable size hatchery trout (9"-12") into more than 200 streams with public fishing access.

Trophy Trout Areas

In order to enhance the opportunity for anglers to catch really large trout, Trophy Trout Areas have been created. These areas are stocked with increased numbers of larger hatchery trout.

Trout Parks

To enhance trout fishing opportunities for young anglers and novice anglers as well as for those with mobility challenges we have created **Trout Parks** that offer easy access. These areas are stocked more frequently to ensure high success rates.

Sea-Run Trout Streams

Have been designated in waters believed to be able to support anadromous brown trout. These areas are being stocked with fingerling and yearling brown trout.

Catch and Release vs. Harvest?

- Some of the streams suitable for TMAs provide habitat capable of sustaining trout populations through the summer months. These are being managed for catch and release throughout the year.
- Other streams provide good trout habitat only during the cooler months. TMAs on these waters are managed for catch and release through the fall and winter, but are then opened to harvest in the spring to allow anglers to catch and keep fish that otherwise would die during the summer.

See Angler's Guide for a list of areas and a general summary of their regulations.

For complete site-specific information including all regulations that apply, you need to refer to the:

**Connecticut
Angler's Guide**

DESIGNATED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS FOR TROUT

For complete site-specific regulations & locations, see the:
CONNECTICUT ANGLER'S GUIDE

CONNECTICUT TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS (TMA)

Naugatuck River, TMA
Bulls Bridge TMA
Farmington River TMA
Hammonasset River TMA
Hockanum River TMA
Housatonic River TMA
Mianus River TMA
Mill River TMA
Moosup River TMA
Pequabuck River TMA
Salmon River TMA
West Branch Farmington River TMA
William "Doc" Skerlick TMA
(Saugatuck River)
Willimantic River TMA
Yantic River TMA

TROUT PARKS

Easy to fish, frequently stocked fishing areas. Reduced creel limit (2).

Black Rock SP (pond and brook), *Watertown*
Chatfield Hollow SP (pond and brook), *Killingworth*
Horse Pond, *Salem*
Kent Falls SP (brook), *Kent*
Natchaug R, *Eastford*
Salmon R TMA, *Colchester*
Sleeping Giant SP (Mill R), *Hamden*
Southford Falls SP (brook and pond), *Oxford*
Stratton Brook SP (ponds and brook), *Simsbury*
Wharton Brook SP (pond), *Wallingford*
Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Lake), *Monroe*

TROPHY TROUT STREAMS

Reduced creel limit (2). Higher minimum length limit in some areas.

Farmington R-West Branch, *Hartland to New Hartford*
Farmington R, *New Hartford to Farmington*
Natchaug R, *Eastford-Chaplin-Windham*
Naugatuck R, *Torrington to Ansonia*
Pequonnock R, *Trumbull*
Pomperaug R, *Woodbury-Southbury*
Salmon R, *Colchester to Haddam*
Shetucket R, *Windham to Norwich*

WILD TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS (WTMA)

CLASS 1 WTMA's

Abundant wild trout. No trout stocking. **Catch-and-release only, no closed season.**

Belding WTMA (Tankerhoosen River), *Vernon*
Deep Brook WTMA (and portion of Pootatuck River)*Newtown*
Macedonia WTMA (Lower), *Kent*
Eight Mile River WTMA, *Southington*
Hawleys Brook WTMA, *Easton-Weston*
Merrick/Beaver Brooks WTMA, *Scotland*
Mill River WTMA, *Easton*
Quinnipiac River WTMA, *Meriden-Southington*
Wachocastinook Brook WTMA, *Salisbury*

CLASS 2 WTMA's:

Some wild trout and stocked trout. Reduced creel limit (2) and higher minimum length limit (12").

Heather Reaves WTMA (Furnace Brook), *Cornwall*
Salmon Brook WTMA, *Glastonbury*

CLASS 3 WTMA's:

Some wild trout and stocked trout. Higher minimum length limit (9").

Beacon Hill Brook WTMA, *Naugatuck-Beacon Falls*
Blackberry River WTMA, *Canaan*
East Aspetuck River WTMA, *New Milford-New Preston*
East Branch, Naugatuck R WTMA, *Torrington*
Farm River WTMA, *Branford-East Haven*
Fenton River WTMA, *Mansfield-Willington*
Little River WTMA, *Oxford*
Macedonia Brook WTMA (Upper), *Kent*
Morgan Brook WTMA, *Barkhamsted*
Norwalk River WTMA, *Wilton-Ridgefield*
Pease Brook WTMA, *Lebanon*
Roaring Brook WTMA, *Glastonbury*
Roaring Brook WTMA, *Stafford*
Salmon Brook WTMA, *Granby*
Sessions Woods WTMA (Negro Hill Brook), *Burlington*
Shunock Brook WTMA, *North Stonington*
Stony Brook WTMA, *Montville*

SEA-RUN TROUT STREAMS

Reduced creel limit (2) and higher minimum length limit (9" or 15").

Eight Mile R, *East Haddam-Lyme*
Farm R, *Branford*
Hammonasset R, *Killingworth-Clinton-Madison*
Latimer Brook, *East Lyme*
Mianus R, *Greenwich-Stamford*
Oil Mill Brook, *East Lyme*
Saugatuck R, *Danbury-Redding-Weston-Westport*
Whitfords Brook, *Groton-Ledyard*

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