

CONNECTICUT'S TROUT HATCHERIES ARE ONCE AGAIN AT RISK!

WHAT IS THE SITUATION?

Recent and anticipated staff reductions have pushed our state fish hatcheries to the breaking point. Hatcheries are already understaffed. Three positions have been lost due to layoff and two more positions will be lost, including a supervisor, due to voluntary departures this summer.

WHAT IS AT RISK?

The reduced workforce of 14 down to 9 (full staffing level is 22) will not be able to keep all three hatcheries running. This will result in severe cutbacks in trout stocking, elimination of Atlantic Salmon and Sea-run Trout stocking, elimination of the Salmon-in-Schools program and put at risk the eggs for Trout in the Classroom program. The school programs introduce thousands of children each year to conservation and angling, and their loss would endanger the future of fishing and Connecticut's rivers. **Reduction in trout and salmon stocking will greatly reduce revenue to DEEP from fishing license and undermine potential revenue from a proposed trout and salmon stamp.**

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

The state has instituted a hard hiring freeze, so no vacant positions are being filled. While the hatcheries positions were not targeted layoffs, per se, this reduction will cripple a revenue generating program for the fisheries division.

THERE IS NO REASON FOR THIS TO HAPPEN

- Operation of trout hatcheries cost approximately \$3 million per year. Support of these hatcheries is our highest priority for the funding we anglers provide to the Bureau of Natural Resources. The operation of the hatcheries only requires a small portion of the funds we provide.
- In addition to paying taxes, anglers and hunters contribute \$14 million per year to the budget of the Bureau of Natural Resources through state license fees and federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment. **Over \$7 million of this is contributed by anglers including \$4 million from the sale of fishing licenses.**
- Furthermore, **the state is investing \$4 million in bond funds** to modernize and increase energy efficiency in our hatcheries. The value of this investment is directly dependent on the ongoing operation of these facilities using funding provided by anglers.



Hatcheries and trout stocking get people outdoors, generate license revenue, are good for local economies and help develop future conservationists.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

We bring this to your attention and request that you do whatever you can to ensure that hatcheries and current fish stocking levels are maintained by maintaining a hatcheries staff at an absolute minimum of 14.

**CONNECTICUT ANGLERS ALREADY PROVIDE FUNDING FOR STATE HATCHERIES
OPERATION OF FISH HATCHERIES AND FISH STOCKING MUST BE MAINTAINED AT CURRENT LEVELS**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- There are more than 100,000 trout and salmon anglers who generate approximately \$40 million to local economies in the state of Connecticut.
- At full operation, state hatcheries produce approximately 650,000 catchable sized trout, 1,400 large Atlantic Salmon, 100,000 kokanee salmon fry, 17,000 survivor strain brown trout, 10,000 sea run brown trout smolts, 300,000 brown trout fry, 200,000 Atlantic salmon fry.
- Hatcheries provide trout and salmon eggs for the aforementioned school programs to more than 160 schools across the state of Connecticut.