

NONTIDAL — Youth-Only Trout Fishing Day

What is being considered?

The department is considering adding a youth-only fishing day for trout on the Saturday prior to the traditional opening day (last Saturday in March), beginning at 6:30 a.m. This would be limited to the Closure 1 put-and-take trout areas and have a creel of two fish per day. Other trout management areas will remain unaffected by this change.

Why is this change necessary?

This change will provide more opportunities for youth anglers (age 15 and younger). Currently, there are eleven specially regulated areas for youth to fish. Five of those areas are limited to fishing by persons under 16 years old, persons 65 years old and older, and blind persons; six areas are limited to fishing by persons under 16 years old and blind persons.

Who will this affect?

Recreational trout anglers.

When will this be effective?

The department expects this change to be effective in the spring of 2023. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

Has this change been discussed with advisory commissions?

The change was discussed at the July 2022 meetings of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission. Both commissions recommended moving forward with scoping.