



**Native Fish Coalition**

PO Box 10  
Pownal, ME 04069  
info@NativeFishCoalition.org

April 29, 2021

Sent via electronic mail

Ashley Schipritt  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Fort Wetherill Road  
Jamestown, RI 02835

Dear Ms. Schipritt,

We are writing on behalf of Native Fish Coalition to support proposed amendments to Draft Regulations for the Freshwater Fishing, Hunting and Falconry Seasons, as more fully detailed below.

Native Fish Coalition (NFC) is a nonpartisan, grassroots, donor-funded, all volunteer, 501(c)(3) national non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and restoration of wild native fish. We currently have state chapters in Alabama, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Vermont representing thousands of members, partners, volunteers, supporters and followers.

With the public hearing scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:00 p.m., we submit the following commentary for inclusion into the formal record being developed for this hearing.

With respect to Beaver River in Richmond, RI, we propose that a portion of the river where wild native fish are present be deemed catch and release only and therefore removed from the designated trout stocking areas. See §10.6.1(A)(16) Designated Trout Waters. In particular, the section in question should commence at the confluence of Beaver River and the Pawcatuck River, located downstream of Shannock Hill Road in Richmond and extend upstream to the New London Turnpike in Richmond. This section should be designated as a "no kill" and "catch and release" only.

Further, within this section, we propose that fishing be permitted with artificial lures, equipped with a single point, single barbless hook to reduce incidental mortality of released fish. Any and all fish caught in this section should be immediately returned to the water unharmed. Finally, the possession of any trout, salmon, or charr while fishing in this section of river shall be deemed *prima facie* evidence that said trout, salmon, or charr was taken in violation of §10.6.1, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer this commentary and for your consideration of the same.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Day, Chair, Connecticut Chapter of Native Fish Coalition  
CC: NFC National Board  
NFC Connecticut Board



**Native Fish Coalition**

PO Box 10  
Pownal, ME 04069  
info@NativeFishCoalition.org

May 5, 2021

Sent via electronic mail

Ashley Schipritt  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Fort Wetherill Road  
Jamestown, RI 02835

Dear Ms. Schipritt,

I am writing on behalf of Native Fish Coalition to support proposed amendments to the Draft Regulations for the Freshwater Fishing, Hunting and Falconry Seasons specific to the Beaver River in Richmond, Rhode Island.

Native Fish Coalition (NFC) is a nonpartisan, grassroots, donor-funded, all volunteer, 501(c)(3) national non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and restoration of wild native fish. We currently have state chapters in Alabama, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Vermont representing thousands of members, partners, volunteers, supporters and followers.

We would like to submit the following commentary for inclusion into the formal record being developed for the upcoming public hearing on May 6.

We propose that a portion of the Beaver River in Richmond where wild native fish are present be deemed catch and release only and subsequently removed from designated trout stocking areas (§10.6.1(A)(16) Designated Trout Waters). Specifically, the section that should be designated as a “no kill” and “catch and release” would commence at the confluence of Beaver River and the Pawcatuck River, located downstream of Shannock Hill Road in Richmond and extend upstream to the New London Turnpike in Richmond.

Furthermore, we propose that fishing be permitted with artificial lures, equipped with a single point, single barbless hook to reduce incidental mortality of released fish within this section of river. Any and all fish caught should be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

We thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment on these regulations.

Sincerely,

Emily Bastian, Vice Chair, Native Fish Coalition

CC: NFC National Board



**Native Fish Coalition**

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May 5, 2021

Sent via electronic mail

Ashley Schipritt  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Fort Wetherill Road  
Jamestown, RI 02835

Dear Ms. Schipritt,

I am writing on behalf of the Massachusetts chapter of Native Fish Coalition to support proposed amendments to Draft Regulations for the Freshwater Fishing, Hunting and Falconry Seasons.

Native Fish Coalition (NFC) is a nonpartisan, grassroots, donor-funded, all volunteer, 501(c)(3) national non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and restoration of wild native fish. We currently have state chapters in Alabama, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Vermont representing thousands of members, partners, volunteers, supporters and followers.

With the public hearing scheduled for Thursday May 6, we submit the following commentary for inclusion into the formal record being developed for this hearing.

With respect to the Beaver River in Richmond, RI, we propose that a portion of the river where wild native fish are present be deemed Catch and Release only and therefore removed from the designated trout stocking areas. (See §10.6.1(A)(16) Designated Trout Waters.) In particular, the section in question should commence at the confluence of Beaver River and the Pawcatuck River, located downstream of Shannock Hill Road in Richmond and extend upstream to the New London Turnpike in Richmond. This section should be designated as a "no kill" and "catch and release" only. Similarly, Massachusetts Division of Wildlife and Fisheries is no longer stocking over wild native fish in Red Brook in Wareham, MA and the stream is Catch and Release only. As a result, the sea-run brook trout of Red Brook have maintained a healthy and robust population, even in a heavily fished water.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer this commentary and for your consideration of the same.

Sincerely,

Robert Dalton Jr., Chair, Massachusetts Chapter of Native Fish Coalition

CC: NFC National Board, NFC Massachusetts Board