

Inland Fisheries 2025

Draft Trout Rule Public Input Session







Agenda



- ▶ This is the Beginning
- ▶ Overfishing-the original Why
- ▶ Why are we here?
- ▶ Proposed Categories/Examples
- ▶ Summary w/ Dates
- ▶ Public Input

Critical Dates

Subject	Date
 Public Input Session #1-HQ	August 27 6 pm
 Public Input Session #2-Reg 1	August 28 6 pm
Deadline for Public Input	September 6 4 pm
Public Hearing-HQ	October 22
Deadline for Public Comment	October 29

Stocking History and Need

- ▶ Water Chemistry-Ca Low
- ▶ Overfishing- (NE 1600's)
- ▶ 1700's Discussions
- ▶ NHFGD established 1865-our Mission



A Fair Angler
H. S. Watson
1907

2024: 310 lakes stocked

2023: 328 lakes stocked

Proposed Summary of Production by Facility (*impaired waters)

Hatchery	Existing lbs (2024)	Proposed lbs (*2025 & 2026+)
Powder Mill*	124,097	30,000
Berlin*	74,336	74,336
New Hampton	71,792	150,000
Milford	68,124	68,124
Twin	20,698	23,000
Warren	26,742	26,742
Total	385,789	372,202



Why change Trout Ponds?



- ▶ **Reorganization, while maintaining the Mission:**

The mission of the Inland Fisheries Division is to use planning and science for effective management of New Hampshire's freshwater fisheries.

- ▶ **Management goals not met-no advancement in growth or opportunity**

- ▶ **Habitat changed**

- ▶ **Reclassify: Angler Expectation = Habitat Capacity**

148 waters- 59 are limited in some way, 61 are staying the same, 35 waters have new perspective

Habitat Potential

1. Wild

2. Put-Grow-Take

- a) Fingerlings or age 1+
- b) Low reproduction success

3. Put and Take-

- a) Age 1 and greater
- b) OK WQ - reduced growth & overwintering
- c) Degraded WQ and warmwater spp
- d) Inadequate reproduction

Management

Tools

- ▶ Season
- ▶ Bag Limit
- ▶ Gear
- ▶ Stocking
- ▶ Bait



Habitat

- ▶ Temperature
- ▶ Dissolved Oxygen
- ▶ Forage-bugs, fish, etc.
- ▶ Competition
- ▶ Access

Management Categories



1. Wild
2. FFO
3. ALO
4. DTP
5. No Closed Season



Wild Trout- self-sustaining, no stocking



Current (3)

- 4th Sat in Apr-Labor Day (latest Sept 7)
- 0 fish – Catch & Release
- No bait
- Only single hook, barbless artificial lures and flies only
- Some limited access

Proposed (0)

FFO-Fly Fishing Only

Tenkara, Fly fishing, fly rod, fly reel and fly line combination

Current (29)

- 4th Sat in Apr-Oct 15
- 5 fish/5lbs, 2 fish, or no fish
- No bait
- Some suitable habitat (14)
- Some unsuitable habitat (12)
- Stocking-varied ages & spp (3)
- 1 wild

Proposed (5)

- Apr 1-Sept 7
- 1 fish <12"
- No bait
- Suitable habitat (5)
- Wild (3)

ALO: Artificial Lures Only

Artificial lures and flies only, single, barbless hook

Current (1)

- 4th Sat in Apr-Oct 15
- 2 fish
- No bait
- 1 pond

Proposed (22)

- Apr 1-Oct 15, maybe Sept 30?
- 2 fish
- No bait
- Suitable habitat (22)
- Wild

DTP: Designated Trout Pond “General”

Current (115)

- 5 fish (5lbs)
- 4th Sat Apr-Oct 15
- no live fish or their eggs, except salmon eggs for bait
- Some unsuitable habitat (32)
- Stocking-varied ages & spp (13)

Proposed (61)

- 5 fish (5lbs)
- Apr 1- Oct 15
- no live fish or their eggs, except salmon eggs for bait
- Stay same
- 9 suitable cold habitat to ALO
- 45 to General (38 limited by habitat)

Pond Summary



Management Strategy	Current	Draft Proposal 2025
Trout Ponds	148	91
Wild	3	0
FFO	29 (10 limited)	5
ALO	1	22
DTP	115 (39 limited)	64
General Regulation	0	57 (49 limited habitat)

Examples-Ponds

2025 Proposed DRAFT Trout Pond summary				
	FFO, 2-fish Fly Fishing Only	ALO Artificial lures and flies only, single, barbless	Keep DTP Designated Trout Pond-"Trout Pond" in the Fishing Digest	No Closed Season "General Rules" in the Fishing Digest
bag limit	1 fish <12"	2 fish	5 fish, 5lbs	5 fish, 5 lbs
bait	no	no	no live fish or their eggs, except salmon eggs	all bait
Season	Apr 1- Sept 7	Apr 1-Oct 15	Apr 1-Oct 15	Open Year Round
Waterbody	Town	County	Bag Limit Info	Why proposed
BOUNDARY POND	PITTSBURG	Coos	1 fish under 12"	Wild & slot ineffective
ETHAN POND	BETHLEHEM	Grafton	1 fish under 12"	Wild
GREENOUGH POND, LITTLE	WENTWORTH'S LOCAL	Coos	1 fish under 12"	Wild
PHILLIPS POND	ODELL	Coos	1 fish under 12"	Wild
SHOAL POND	LINCOLN	Grafton	1 fish under 12"	Wild
BEAR BROOK POND, LITTLE	WENTWORTH'S LOCAL	Coos	2 fish	Stocked w/potential growth and survival
BIG BROOK BOG	PITTSBURG	Coos	2 fish	Stocked w/potential growth and survival
COLE POND	ENFIELD	Grafton	2 fish	Stocked w/potential growth and survival
COON BROOK BOG	PITTSBURG	Coos	2 fish	Stocked w/potential growth and survival
ECHO LAKE	FRANCONIA	Grafton	2 fish	Stocked w/potential growth and survival
FALLS POND	ALBANY	Carroll	2 fish	Stocked w/potential growth and survival
WHITCOMB POND	ODELL	Coos	5 fish/5 lbs	no changes
WHITTEMORE LAKE	BENNINGTON	Hillsborough	5 fish/5 lbs	no changes
AIRPORT POND	WHITEFIELD	Coos	5 fish/5 lbs	Stocked multiple age classes
BACK LAKE	PITTSBURG	Coos	5 fish/5 lbs	MB, stocked multiple age classes & multiple sp

Proposed Draft River Categories

- ▶ Statewide River Regs: Not listed in book
Dates in development, 5 fish/5lbs, any bait, No ice fishing
- ▶ ALO: 2 fish, Apr 1 – Oct 15, no bait
- ▶ No Closed Season: all methods, open year round, seasonal habitat suitability
- ▶ FFO-Still in Development

Examples-Rivers

	ALO	General River
	Artificial lures and flies only, single, barbless hook	
DRAFT Proposals- FFO still developing	ALO-Apr 1-Sept 30/Oct 15, Single barbless hook, 2 fi	Apr 1-Oct 15, 5 fish/5l
River Name	Town	Proposed 2025
Androscoggin-Errol Dam to Bragg Bay:	Errol	ALO
Androscoggin	Sawmill Dam in Berlin to Shelburne:	ALO
Connecticut River	1st CT Lake dam to Lake Francis:	ALO
Connecticut River	2nd Lake Dam to inlet at Greens Point:	ALO
Connecticut River	Murphy Dam to Colebrook Town line:	ALO
Magalloway River	Second College Grant, Wentworth Location	ALO
Magalloway River and its tributaries	Sturtevant Stream to Umbagog Lake	ALO
Saco River and tributaries	Crawford Notch-Bartlett-Meadow Brook confluence	ALO
SB Piscataquog tributaries		ALO
Pemigewasset River and its tributaries	Franconia to Campton	
Upper Ammonoosuc River and its tributaries	Columbia-Stark	
Androscoggin River tributaries	Errol to Shelburne	
Ammonoosuc River and its tributaries upstream of	Franconia to Crawford Notch	
Dead Diamond and its tributaries	Pittsburg to Magalloway River confluence	
Swift Diamond River and its tributaries		
Ammonoosuc River downstream of Lower Falls	Sugar Hill to Woodsville	No Closed Season
Androscoggin River-outside of ALO sections		No Closed Season

Important Dates

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Public Input Session #2-Reg 1	August 28 6 pm
Deadline for Public Input	September 6 midngt
Final draft of initial Proposal to Commission	September 17
Public Hearing-HQ	October 22
Deadline for Public Comment	October 29

Input Please...

Written comments up until *Midnight, Sept 6, 2024*

Mail: Executive Director, New Hampshire Fish
and Game Department, 11 Hazen Dr., Concord,
NH, 03301

Faxed to (603) 271-5829

Emailed to comments@wildlife.nh.gov

**Thank
You**