



3/2/2013

Dear CRSA Member:

Once again we are faced with an attempt to close a state hatchery by removing a relatively small amount of money from the budget. Governor Malloy's proposed budget calls for the removal of \$147,910 specified as the amount necessary to operate the Kensington Hatchery (not including personnel costs since layoffs are not an option). We need your help again in an effort to "KEEP KENSINGTON!"

The situation has changed considerably since the state budget issues in 2011. As you know from our last Newsletter the US Fish and Wildlife Service has pulled out of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program and will no longer produce juvenile salmon or eggs for that effort. Of concern has been the potential loss of the valuable genetic traits of Connecticut River salmon developed by the selective breeding returning salmon over time. To meet that concern Connecticut DEEP Fisheries has developed a legacy program in an attempt to maintain those traits. This program will also continue to provide salmon eggs for our Salmon-in-Schools program. As part of this legacy program each year approximately 2000 broodstock salmon are made available to Connecticut anglers in the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers and certain lakes. This popular fishery attracts 5000 to 7000 fishing trips and produces on the order of \$350,000 in angler expenditures per year.

Of no little consequence will be the loss of the unique Seeforellen Brown trout broodstock. These fish provide catchable sized fish and trophy sized surplus broodstock for certain deep water lakes. They also provide eggs for the Wild Trout Program and Sea Trout Program. It has been noted that production at Kensington cannot be moved to one of the other two hatcheries in the state as these facilities are being operated at full production capacity in support of the statewide trout program. Following are impacts of the loss of the Kensington Hatchery:

- The award winning Salmon-in-Schools Program would be terminated after this school year which would affect 60-70 schools and more than 6000 Connecticut students each year.
- Valuable genetic traits defining Connecticut River salmon will be lost forever.
- Five thousand to 7000 Atlantic salmon fishing trips by Connecticut recreational fishermen will be lost with the end of the brood stock stocking program.
- The unique Seeforellen Brown trout will be lost to Connecticut anglers.
- The Trout in the Classroom program will be lost due to the need for chilled water (only available at Kensington) during egg development.
- The closing of Kensington would save \$147,910 in a multibillion dollar budget.

Help us save Kensington with letters and emails or phone calls to your Legislative members and particularly to members of the Appropriation Committee. A vote by that Committee on this budget item is expected on March 13. Enclosed is a list of Legislators on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Conservation and Development. If you wish to view the entire Appropriations Committee, a listing with email addresses can be found at:

[http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/MemberList.asp?comm\\_code=APP](http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/MemberList.asp?comm_code=APP)

Sincerely,

Robert A. Jones  
President