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P R E S S R E L E A S E

DEEP & MDC Relocate Fish, Enhance Community Fishing Waters

Over 200 Fish Relocated to Hubbard Park Pond (Meriden) and Stanley Quarter Park Pond (New Britain)

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) captured 262 sportfish from MDC's West Hartford Reservoir #1 and stocked 106 of the captured fish into Mirror Lake in Meriden and 156 fish into Stanley Quarter Park Pond in New Britain. All the relocated fish are of ready-to-fish-for size that anglers can target immediately. The collaborative effort to capture and relocate these high quality fish developed out of the MDC's need to greatly reduce the water level within the reservoir to facilitate accessing and replacing water control devices within the dam.

"DEEP is very appreciative of MDC's willingness to work together on this unique opportunity to relocate some large and highly desirable fish to two of our Community Fishing Waters," Said Susan Whalen, Deputy Commissioner of DEEP. "Both waters are very popular with local residents and the addition of these warmwater fish species will support excellent fishing opportunities during the summer."

"The Metropolitan District is pleased to partner with DEEP to protect, through relocation, the fish population in our Reservoir #1, which will be drained as part of the planned Reservoir No. 1 Dam Rehabilitation Project," said Scott Jellison, Metropolitan District CEO. "The preservation of the fish currently in Reservoir No. 1 will be a significant benefit to Connecticut's recreational fishing community."

MDC's Reservoir No. 1 Dam Rehabilitation Project will involve the drawdown of the reservoir in order to safely perform construction activities. The work is expected to take 18-24 months and will begin in late 2015.

Inland Fisheries staff collected a total of 262 popular sportfish including; Largemouth Bass (110 - minimum of 12"), Yellow Perch (66 - minimum of 8"), Bluegill and Pumpkinseed (77 - minimum of 6"), Brown Bullhead (8 - minimum 12"), and Chain Pickerel (1 at 20") from the reservoir and then transferred the fish to

the popular Community Fishing Waters (CFW). Mirror Lake and Stanley Quarter Park Pond are part of the DEEP Community Fishing Waters program, the goal of which is to create and enhance year-round fishing opportunities in urban and suburban areas by combining trout stocking (in the spring and fall) with catfish stocking (in late spring or early summer). This program began in 2007 and expanded recently to a total of 14 lakes and ponds.

“Augmenting the existing fish populations with these large and highly desirable fish will most certainly provide excellent fishing,” said Deputy Commissioner Whalen. “The Community Fishing Program is one of our many efforts to promote fishing throughout the state and to provide opportunities for all to enjoy the great outdoors.”

All anglers can find fishing regulations in the *2015 Connecticut Angler’s Guide*, found online at www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide. Print version of the guides are available at more than 350 locations statewide, including town halls, bait & tackle shops and other vendors selling outdoor equipment, DEEP facilities, and commercial marinas and campgrounds, or by contacting DEEP’s Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH).

Make plans now to take someone fishing with you for FREE. DEEP has designated June 21, 2015 (Father’s Day) as Free Fishing License Day. Anyone can participate and fish for free, providing they obtain a 1-day Free Fishing License (Available now) either from the online system www.ct.gov/sportsmenlicensing or from DEEP field offices, many town clerk offices, or bait and tackle shops.

Additional fishing and fisheries related information can be found on the DEEP web site at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife, and now on Twitter @ctfishinginfo.

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