



Massachusetts/Rhode Island Council  
Trout Unlimited

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Lenox, MA 01240  
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October 12 2006

NRD Public Comment  
c/o Woodlot Alternatives  
30 Park Drive  
Topsham, ME 04086

**RE: Proposal #011 Housatonic Watershed Fisheries Assessment**

Attention: Mr. Chadwell

Dear Mr. Chadwell

Please be advised that the members of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Council of Trout Unlimited support proposal #11 - Housatonic Fisheries Assessment, submitted by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. This proposal has three components.

Component 1: We consider the mapping of coldwater resources as the first major step in protecting or restoring the wild brook trout which experts claim have been extirpated or greatly reduced in most of the state's subwatersheds. Fortunately, there are a few areas in the state where the wild brook trout population still exist intact and some of those areas are in the headwaters of the Housatonic River. It is extremely important that they be located and mapped; and the information be distributed to conservation commissions, planning groups, etc. with the end result being increased protection.

Component 2: There are two very successful catch and release areas in the Housatonic River which contain stocked and native brown trout. It is important to fishermen and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to be able to track the brown trout's movement to find out where and how they survive during stress times such as the warm summer months and/or cold winter months, where they spawn, etc. This information will allow the DFW to better protect this wonderful fishery.

Component 3: Recreational fishing guides for the watershed will go a long way in bringing visiting anglers and sportsmen to a river and its watershed that has suffered a terrible reputation for a long time due to the PCB stigma.

The MA/RI Council of Trout Unlimited is comprised of some 14 individual chapters with a combined membership of approximately 4,000 individuals. Its stated goal is to conserve, protect and restore cold waters and their fisheries. We are in unison in our support of this watershed fisheries assessment.

Respectfully yours

Gene Chague, Chairman  
MA/RI Council of Trout Unlimited