



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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**TOWN OF BOLTON
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

April 24, 2014

Joyce Stille
Administrative Officer
Town of Bolton
222 Bolton Center Road
Bolton, CT 06043

Dear Joyce:

I have received your letter dated 4/16/14 requesting that DEEP not stock Lower Bolton Lake with channel catfish again this year. I am cognizant of the ongoing water quality issues at Lower Bolton Lake, and DEEP shares your concern about these issues and wishes to work cooperatively with all interested parties to resolve them. Accordingly, as in 2013, we have agreed to not stock channel catfish in Lower Bolton Lake in 2014.

Our decision to not stock the lake is motivated by a desire to act in good faith as a partner with Town of Bolton and other stakeholders who are seeking to address the water quality issues at Lower Bolton Lake. However, our decision to extend the cessation of channel catfish stocking should not be misconstrued as an endorsement of the idea put forth by some parties that channel catfish contribute to the nutrient loading problems at Lower Bolton Lake. In a position paper provided to the Town of Bolton on 8/8/13, DEEP clearly laid out evidence that the channel catfish population in Lower Bolton Lake is small relative to other fish species in the lake, that top-level predatory fish such as channel catfish rarely cause significant nutrient loading in lakes and are in fact likely to improve water quality, and that the channel catfish stocking program has been received favorably by the overwhelming majority of anglers using Lower Bolton Lake. Our view is that, if anything, cessation of channel catfish stocking runs counter to the goals of improving water quality and maximizing the recreational value of Lower Bolton Lake. Accordingly, we remain interested in resuming channel catfish stocking at Lower Bolton Lake in the near future.

We appreciate the ongoing cooperative and respectful dialogue surrounding these issues. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns (860-424-4171). Alternatively you can contact Fisheries Biologist Justin Davis at the Marlborough office (860-295-9523).

Sincerely,

Peter Aarrestad
Director, Inland Fisheries Division