

## Regulatory Impact Statement

### 1. Statutory authority:

Section 3-0301 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) establishes the general functions, powers, and duties of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Commissioner, including general authority to adopt regulations. Section 11-0303 of the ECL authorizes the DEC to provide for the management and protection of the State's fisheries resources.

### 2. Legislative objectives:

A fishing tournament permit and reporting system will be a tool used by the DEC in achieving the intent of the legislation referenced above. A permit and recording system is necessary to allow the DEC to inform and improve fisheries management and provide, if necessary, protections for black bass populations.

### 3. Needs and benefits:

New York has become a national destination for black bass fishing tournaments and information suggests that the number of these events has increased significantly over the past decade. The increase in the number of these competitive events has the potential to place valuable black bass fisheries at risk and pose a social challenge regarding competing uses of this resource. New York is only one of two states in the Northeastern U.S. (including the Great Lakes states) that does not have a fishing tournament registration/permitting system in place. A permit and reporting system for fishing tournaments is needed to understand the scope and scale of tournaments in New York. This will provide the information necessary to identify and respond to potential tournament-related issues and impacts such as user conflicts, overuse of the

resource, and concerns about fish populations, including health, displacement and reproductive success. A permit system will also provide anglers information about the locations and dates of tournaments and summary results of those tournaments.

4. Costs:

Costs associated with the implementation and enforcement of the proposed regulation are principally the responsibility of the DEC. The DEC will incur no costs as a result of this rulemaking beyond typical administrative expenses. This rulemaking will not result in increased expenditures by other State agencies, local governments, or the general public. There are no costs associated with the permit for tournament organizations.

5. Local government mandates:

The proposed rule will not impose any programs, services, duties or responsibilities upon any county, city, town, village, school district, or fire district.

6. Paperwork:

Fishing tournament directors will be required to apply for a fishing tournament permit for all events that meet established definitions. They will also be required to submit tournament results for each permitted event. Online permit applications and report submissions will be required to aid in the administration of the system. Permits will be issued electronically.

7. Duplication:

The proposed rule does not duplicate any State or federal requirement.

8. Alternatives:

No change: Black bass are the most sought-after freshwater sportfish in New York State, but the continued lack of information regarding bass fishing tournaments will

remain a detriment to appropriately managing these important fisheries. Additionally, New York will remain one of the only states in the Northeastern U.S. without a tournament registration/permitting system.

Voluntary registration: A voluntary registration system was considered. A full accounting of the scope and scale of tournaments and their results is necessary to provide information for effective management. Participation in a voluntary registry would likely provide only a partial accounting of tournament activity.

#### 9. Federal standards:

There are no minimum federal standards that apply to the regulation of sportfishing.

#### 10. Compliance schedule:

These regulations, if adopted, will be in effect on September 1, 2024, to implement the fishing tournament permitting and reporting system for tournaments conducted on or after January 1, 2025.