STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10B

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – EARLY OPENING OF FISHING SEASON

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall remain in effect until February 9, 2021, unless earlier terminated; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2021, I renewed the March 10, 2020 and September 1, 2020 declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall run concurrently and remain in effect until April 20, 2021, unless earlier terminated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued ninety (90) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (the "COVID-19 Orders"); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a grave threat to public health and safety and civil preparedness in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and transmission or "shedding" of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have recommended that, to prevent transmission of COVID19, and in light of the risk of asymptomatic transmission and a significant rate of false negative tests, everyone should assume they can be carrying COVID-19 even when they have received a negative test result or do not have symptoms; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including limitation on the size of gatherings, maintaining a safe distance from others, and wearing masks or face coverings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused unanticipated health effects that are not well understood by the medical community, vaccines and effective treatments for COVID-19 are not widely available, and residents, businesses, and government agencies face new and unanticipated economic, fiscal, and operational challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, infections with highly transmissible variants of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and that have spread widely in the United Kingdom and elsewhere have been discovered in Connecticut and other states, increasing the risk of greater transmission of COVID-19 throughout Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Section 26-112 of the Connecticut General Statutes and its associated regulations provide for closed seasons for fishing in inland waters; and

WHEREAS, fishing is a healthy outdoor activity that provides an opportunity to enjoy Connecticut's natural resources, so long as anglers practice social distancing by standing at least six feet apart and refrain from traveling or gathering in groups; and

WHEREAS, last year, as a result of Executive Order No. 7L, Section 2, issued on March 24, 2020, anglers were able to enjoy fishing without increasing the risk of spread of COVID-19, with the early opening of fishing season approximately six weeks early and the diminishment of large crowds on what would have otherwise been a traditional Opening Day; and

WHEREAS, because the public health emergency remains, it is important to continue to allow for this healthy, outdoor activity again this year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, and pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020 and January 26, 2021 and the new public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on January 26, 2021, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **Early Opening of 2021 Fishing Season.** Notwithstanding Section 26-112 of the Connecticut General Statutes and any associated regulations, effective immediately and through the remainder of the 2021 fishing season, unless

earlier modified or terminated by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, there is no closed season for fishing in the inland waters of Connecticut. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may extend or modify the open seasons for inland waters fishing without notice and public hearing and issue any implementing orders she deems necessary consistent with this order. All other regulations for fishing, including, but not limited to, licensing, stamps, methods, catch-and-release areas, creel limits and length limits shall remain in effect. Anglers shall practice social distancing measures, including remaining six feet apart, and wear masks or cloth face coverings that cover the nose and mouth wherever and whenever such distancing is not possible, and not travel in groups.

Unless otherwise provided herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020, September 1, 2020, and January 26, 2021.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 4th day of March, 2021.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State