

## **FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS – Fly Fishing-Only Areas**

### **What is being considered?**

The Department is considering removing the leader length restriction in fly fishing-only trout management areas.

### **Why is this change necessary?**

The current leader length restriction limits certain specialized techniques (e.g., European nymphing, tight line nymphing, dry fly fishing) often employed by fly anglers. Restricting the leader length to no more than 18 feet is unnecessarily restrictive. Removing this restriction does not functionally change the definition of fly fishing. This change will not affect the fly-fishing requirement that the line cannot be cast directly from the reel or the types of reels that are legal to use.

### **Who will this affect?**

This action will affect nontidal recreational anglers fishing in areas managed as fly fishing-only.

### **When will this be effective?**

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the winter of 2023-2024. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

### **Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?**

No.