

Salisbury Fish Hatchery
Side-by-Side Comparison of House and Senate Language
April 9, 2024

House	Senate
N/A	<p>Sec. 12. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY</p> <p><u>It is the intent of the General Assembly that:</u></p> <p><u>(1) The State shall maintain or increase its current fish stocking capacity.</u></p> <p><u>(2) To the extent practicable, the Salisbury fish hatchery shall, subject to annual appropriations, continue operating through December 31, 2027.</u></p> <p><u>(3) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine potential options for continuing the operation of the Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year 2027, including maintaining any necessary permits.</u></p> <p><u>(4) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for maintaining or increasing the State’s current fish stocking capacity following the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including:</u></p> <p><u>(A) replacing the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery with increased stocking capacity at one or more State-operated or federally operated fish hatcheries;</u></p> <p><u>(B) transferring fish broodstock from the Salisbury hatchery to other State fish hatcheries;</u></p> <p><u>(C) establishing additional egg production at other State fish hatcheries to compensate for any lost egg production;</u></p> <p><u>and</u></p> <p><u>(D) utilizing other innovative or more cost-effective approaches for replacing any lost stocking capacity.</u></p> <p><u>(5) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for limiting any negative economic impact from the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and</u></p>

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	<p><u>impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.</u></p> <p><u>(6) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall not close without prior approval of the General Assembly, which shall be provided if:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>(A) the hatchery is unable to secure the necessary permits to continue operating after December 31, 2027; or</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>(B) the stocking capacity of the hatchery can be replaced in a manner that is more cost-effective than the up-front and operating costs of the capital improvements necessary for the hatchery to obtain the necessary permits to continue operating after December 31, 2027.</u></p>
<p>Sec. 12. FISH HATCHERY FEASIBILITY STUDY</p> <p><u>(a) On or before December 15, 2024, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding the feasibility of continuing operations at the Salisbury Fish Hatchery after December 31, 2027, of transferring the production capacity of the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to the Ed Weed Fish Hatchery in Grand Isle, and of alternative options for replacing the production capacity of the Salisbury Fish Hatchery.</u></p> <p><u>(b) The report shall:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>(1) identify the repairs, improvements, and other work necessary to enable the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to obtain any permits necessary to continue operating after December 31, 2027 and provide a detailed analysis of the associated costs and a plan for accomplishing the work;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>(2) identify any repairs, improvements, and other work necessary to enable the production capacity of the Salisbury Fish</u></p>	<p>Sec. 12a. SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY; ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p><u>On or before January 15 of 2025, 2026, and 2027, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit a written report to the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Environment and Energy regarding efforts undertaken and progress made with respect to sustaining the fish production and stocking capacity of Vermont’s State-operated fish hatcheries, including:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>(1) efforts to maintain permits necessary to continue operating the Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>(2) the potential for transferring the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery to one or more State-operated or federally operated fish hatcheries, including estimated costs;</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>(3) the potential for transferring the fish broodstock of the Salisbury fish hatchery to one or more State-operated fish</u></p>

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<p><u>Hatchery to be transferred to the Ed Weed Fish Hatchery and provide a detailed analysis of the associated costs and a plan for accomplishing the work; and</u></p> <p><u>(3) examine alternative approaches to maintaining the State’s fish production capacity, including an analysis of associated costs and work necessary to successfully implement each identified alternative approach.</u></p>	<p><u>hatcheries for the purpose of replacing the Salisbury fish hatchery’s egg production, including estimated costs;</u></p> <p><u>(4) the potential to employ innovative or more cost-effective approaches than those identified pursuant to subdivisions (1)–(3) of this section to replace any lost stocking capacity due to the closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including estimated costs; and</u></p> <p><u>(5) options for limiting negative economic impact of the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.</u></p>
	<p>Sec. 12b. APPROPRIATION</p> <p><u>In addition to other monies appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2025, the amount of \$550,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund for purposes of operating the Salisbury fish hatchery during fiscal year 2025.</u></p>