

1       Sec. \_\_. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY

2           It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

3           (1) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall, subject to annual appropriations,  
4           continue operating through fiscal year 2027.

5           (2) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine potential options  
6           for continuing the operation of the Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year  
7           2027, including maintaining any necessary permits.

8           (3) In the event that the State is unable to continue operating the  
9           Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year 2027, the Agency of Natural Resources  
10          shall examine potential options for:

11           (i) transferring the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery  
12          to one or more State-operated or federally-operated fish hatcheries;

13           (ii) transferring fish broodstock from the Salisbury hatchery to  
14          other State fish hatcheries;

15           (iii) establishing additional egg production at other State fish  
16          hatcheries to compensate for any egg production lost due to the closure of the  
17          Salisbury fish hatchery; and

18           (iv) limiting the economic impact of the closure of the Salisbury  
19          fish hatchery.

1           (4) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall only close if the stocking capacity,  
2           broodstock, and egg production of the Salisbury fish hatchery have been  
3           successfully transferred to one or more other fish hatcheries.

4           Sec. \_\_. SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY; ANNUAL REPORT

5           On or before January 15 of 2025, 2026, and 2027, the Secretary of Natural  
6           Resources shall submit a written report to the Senate Committees on  
7           Institutions and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees  
8           on Corrections and Institutions and on Environment and Energy regarding  
9           efforts undertaken and progress made with respect to sustaining the fish  
10          production and stocking capacity of Vermont’s State-operated fish hatcheries,  
11          including:

12           (1) efforts to maintain permits necessary to continue operating the  
13          Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year 2027;

14           (2) the potential for transferring the stocking capacity of the Salisbury  
15          fish hatchery to one or more State-operated or federally-operated fish  
16          hatcheries;

17           (3) the potential for transferring the fish broodstock of the Salisbury fish  
18          hatchery to one or more State-operated fish hatcheries for the purpose of  
19          replacing the Salisbury fish hatchery’s egg production; and

20           (4) options for limiting the economic impact of the potential closure of  
21          the Salisbury fish hatchery after the conclusion of fiscal year 2027.

1 Sec. APPROPRIATION [PLACEHOLDER LANGUAGE]

2 The amount of \$550,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
3 Agency of Natural Resources for purposes of operating the Salisbury fish  
4 hatchery during fiscal year 2027.

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