

1 H.882

2 **Salisbury Fish Hatchery: House Proposal**

3 Sec. 12. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY

4 It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

5 (1) The State shall maintain or increase its current fish stocking  
6 capacity.

7 (2) To the extent practicable, the Salisbury fish hatchery shall, subject to  
8 annual appropriations, continue operating through December 31, 2027.

9 (3) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine potential options  
10 for continuing the operation of the Salisbury fish hatchery after fiscal year  
11 2027, including maintaining any necessary permits.

12 (4) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for  
13 maintaining or increasing the State’s current fish stocking capacity following  
14 the potential closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery, including:

15 (A) replacing the stocking capacity of the Salisbury fish hatchery  
16 with increased stocking capacity at one or more State-operated or federally-  
17 operated fish hatcheries;

18 (B) transferring fish stocking capacity from the Salisbury hatchery to  
19 other State fish hatcheries;

20 (C) establishing additional egg production at other State fish  
21 hatcheries to compensate for any lost egg production; and

1           (D) utilizing other innovative or more cost-effective approaches for  
2 replacing any lost stocking capacity.

3           (5) The Agency of Natural Resources shall examine options for limiting  
4 any negative economic impact from the potential closure of the Salisbury fish  
5 hatchery, including impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism,  
6 and impacts from the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

7           (6) The Salisbury fish hatchery shall not close without prior approval of  
8 the General Assembly, which shall be provided if:

9           (A) the hatchery is unable to secure the necessary permits to continue  
10 operating after December 31, 2027; or

11           (B) the stocking capacity of the hatchery can be replaced in a manner  
12 that is more cost-effective than the up-front and operating costs of the capital  
13 improvements necessary for the hatchery to obtain the necessary permits to  
14 continue operating after December 31, 2027.

15       Sec. 13. SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY FEASIBILITY STUDY

16           (a) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall update the July 9, 2013  
17 Facility Modernization Discharge Requirements Feasibility Study for the  
18 Salisbury Fish Hatchery and shall, on or before December 15, 2024, report to  
19 the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate  
20 Committee on Institutions regarding the feasibility of continuing operations at  
21 the Salisbury Fish Hatchery after December 31, 2027, of transferring the

1 production capacity of the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to the State’s hatchery  
2 system, and of alternative options for replacing the production capacity of the  
3 Salisbury Fish Hatchery.

4 (b) The report shall:

5 (1) identify the repairs, improvements, and other work necessary to  
6 enable the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to obtain any permits necessary to continue  
7 operating after December 31, 2027 and provide a detailed analysis of the  
8 associated costs and a plan for accomplishing the work;

9 (2) identify any repairs, improvements, and other work necessary to  
10 enable the production capacity of the Salisbury Fish Hatchery to be transferred  
11 to the State’s hatchery system and provide a detailed analysis of the associated  
12 costs and a plan for accomplishing the work; and

13 (3) examine alternative approaches to maintaining the State’s fish  
14 production capacity, including an analysis of associated costs and work  
15 necessary to successfully implement each identified alternative approach.