

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

2           It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

3           (1) The State shall maintain or increase its current fish stocking  
4       capacity.

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

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

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

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

16           (B) transferring fish broodstock from the Salisbury hatchery to other  
17       State fish hatcheries;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14          On or before January 15 of 2025, 2026, and 2027, the Secretary of Natural  
15          Resources shall submit a written report to the Senate Committees on  
16          Institutions and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees  
17          on Corrections and Institutions and on Environment and Energy regarding  
18          efforts undertaken and progress made with respect to sustaining the fish  
19          production and stocking capacity of Vermont’s State-operated fish hatcheries,  
20          including:

1           (1) efforts to maintain permits necessary to continue operating the  
2           Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027;

3           (2) the potential for transferring the stocking capacity of the Salisbury  
4           fish hatchery to one or more State-operated or federally operated fish  
5           hatcheries, including estimated costs;

6           (3) the potential for transferring the fish broodstock of the Salisbury fish  
7           hatchery to one or more State-operated fish hatcheries for the purpose of  
8           replacing the Salisbury fish hatchery’s egg production, including estimated  
9           costs;

10           (4) the potential to employ innovative or more cost-effective approaches  
11           than those identified pursuant to subdivisions (1)–(3) of this section to replace  
12           any lost stocking capacity due to the closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery,  
13           including estimated costs; and

14           (5) options for limiting negative economic impact of the potential  
15           closure of the Salisbury fish hatchery after December 31, 2027, including  
16           impacts from reduced fish stocking on fishing and tourism, and impacts from  
17           the loss of staff positions at the Salisbury fish hatchery.

18           Sec. APPROPRIATION

19           In addition to other monies appropriated to the Agency of Natural  
20           Resources in fiscal year 2025, the amount of \$550,000.00 is appropriated from

- 1 the General Fund to for purposes of operating the Salisbury fish hatchery
- 2 during fiscal year 2025.