

One-time Operating Costs

The Department is seeking one-time funds to conduct a comprehensive Vermont Angler Survey. The Department has done comprehensive statewide angler surveys every 10 years to track changing public opinions and values (1991, 2000, 2010). This information is used as the basis for determining how many fish to grow and stock in Vermont's waterways, what types of angling and fisheries outreach and education Vermonters want, setting regulations and policy, and informing management plans. The survey is a random stratified statewide survey sent to approximately 5,000 anglers, both resident and non-resident, to gain an understanding of angler activity, opinions, and trends. Having current survey data creates modern and efficient programs by documenting how trends are changing, what species anglers are fishing for, how they view fishing regulations, where they get their information about fishing, and their opinion on boating access areas. The survey provides direction for where staff time and financial investments should be focused to maximize the benefits to anglers and the aquatic environment. Providing a better experience to anglers is critical to maximize the number of people participating in the sport, which generates well over \$100 million in annual revenues through fishing license sales, lodging, meals, and taxes. The survey is scheduled to be conducted in 2020 and the estimated cost is \$115,000.

The RFP for the survey project closed on Wednesday (1/9/19). A total of 9 bids were submitted.