

**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT**

**Hunting, Fishing and Trapping License Sales
2015-2019**

Submitted to:
House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Submitted by:
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I. Introduction

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department offers over 65 license, permit and tag types that grant hunting, fishing and trapping privileges to residents and nonresidents. These sales generate approximately \$9.5 million dollars in revenue and are used to leverage an additional \$9 million in federal funds. Taken together, license sales and federal funds account for three quarters of the Department's budget.

Note that license sales are not necessarily accurate indicators of resident hunting and angling participation. Licenses are not required for anglers under age 16 or landowners and their immediate family who hunt, fish or trap on their own land. In addition, in any one year, almost half (48%) of the resident anglers who purchased a license the previous year will not purchase a fishing license for the current year. This is known as churn and means the number of Vermont residents who fish is much larger than a single year's sales would suggest.

To reduce complexity, many of the license types reported in this document are not typically included in standard license reports to the public and the media. Examples include new permanent licenses and active-duty military licenses.

II. Resident Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

Notes:

- The totals in this section do not include the special fishing and hunting license types described in Section IV.
- A fee increase occurred in 2016.
- Hunter education is required for first-time hunting and combination hunting and fishing license buyers; bowhunter education is required for first-time archery license buyers.

A. Fishing

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Resident Fishing	45,208	44,320	42,166	41,442	41,200
Youth Fishing	3,192	3,087	2,656	2,533	2,626
Resident 5-year Fishing (active)	79 (235)	123 (358)	150 (474)	165 (578)	186 (703)
Resident 3-Day	1,041	949	956	870	959
New Permanent Fishing (2 types)	706	1,169	752	630	596

B. Combination Hunting and Fishing

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Resident Combination	29,030	28,602	27,212	25,960	25,403
Resident Youth Combination	1,526	1,311	1,177	999	926
Resident 5-year Combination (active)	96 (462)	139 (601)	139 (679)	181 (689)	159 (714)
New Permanent Combinations (4 types)	1,475	2,695	567	1,180	1,398

C. Hunting

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Resident Hunting	23,242	22,200	21,384	20,805	19,785
Youth Hunting	5,117	4,703	4,273	3,918	3,744
Resident 5-year Hunting (active)	22 (67)	18 (85)	30 (110)	28 (115)	52 (150)

D. Add-on Licenses

Notes:

- A hunting or combination hunting and fishing license is required to purchase an add-on license.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Resident-Archery	19,370	20,993	21,066	20,840	20,570
Resident-Muzzleloader	20,274	21,898	22,695	22,498	21,336
Resident-Turkey	14,631	15,011	14,444	13,880	13,713
Early Season Bear	10,952	10,678	10,068	10,285	10,106

E. Reprints

Notes:

- Starting in 2017, permanent (over age 65) and lifetime license holders were required to reprint their licenses. Though free, these transactions are conducted through the department's POS site.
- Reprints allow the Department to better estimate hunting and fishing participation by lifetime and permanent license holders.
- The large number of lifetime license reprints partly explain the significant decrease in youth hunting, combination and fishing license sales.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lifetime Fishing Reprint			1	0	0
Lifetime Combination Reprint			2,508	4,917	5,266
Permanent Fishing Reprint			92	119	144
Permanent Combination Reprint (4 types)			11,651	12,640	13,096

F. Total Resident Hunters and Anglers

Notes:

- Includes lifetime and permanent license reprints.

	2016	2017	2018	2015	2019
Resident Hunters	60,197	69,561	71,223	60,919	70,482
Resident Anglers	80,397	90,323	91,377	81,400	91,633

G. Trapping

Notes:

- Trapper education is mandatory for all first-time trapping license buyers.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
5 Year Trapping	8	5	7	11	5
New Permanent Fishing and Trapping	7	6	12	6	6
New Permanent Trapping	0	2	4	0	2
New Permanent Combination with Trapping	143	281	74	127	168
Trapping	811	753	750	649	670
Nonresident Trapping	7	5	3	6	9
Youth Trapping	129	109	88	66	61

H. Lifetime Licenses

Notes:

- Combination Hunting and Fishing Lifetime Licenses represent over 90% of all lifetime licenses sales.
- Almost all lifetime licenses are for infants, age one or under.
- In the last five years, approximately 20% of all Vermont newborns have received a lifetime license.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lifetime Licenses (3 types)	1,276	1,251	1,278	1,253	1,316

III. Nonresident Hunting and Fishing

Notes:

- The totals in this section do not include the special fishing and hunting license types described in Section IV.
- A fee increase occurred in 2016.
- A previous hunting, bowhunting and trapping license or proof of hunter, bowhunter or trapper education is required for first-time license buyers of the respective licenses.

A. Fishing

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nonresident Fishing	13,299	13,640	13,673	14,010	14,556
Nonresident Youth Fishing	1,764	1,677	1,686	1,594	1,662
Nonresident 5-year Fishing	55	71	81	107	119
Nonresident 1-Day	5,236	4,964	4,903	5,147	5,940
Nonresident 3-Day	11,788	11,420	12,121	11,647	12,124
Nonresident 7-Day	6,770	6,974	6,977	7,258	7,308

B. Combination Hunting and Fishing

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nonresident Combination	1,450	1,514	1,515	1,520	1,548
Nonresident Youth Combination	85	71	64	67	71
Nonresident 5-year Combination (active)	13	17	18	18	25

C. Hunting

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nonresident Hunting	5,985	6,089	5,966	5,866	5,835
Nonresident Youth Hunting	454	447	407	358	393
Nonresident 5-year Hunting (active)	2	3	5	6	10
Limited Archery - Deer	254	272	267	230	245
Small Game	1,079	1,005	989	887	926

D. Add-on Licenses

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nonresident-Archery	1,351	1,646	1,745	1,713	1,762
Nonresident-Muzzleloader	1,142	1,317	1,466	1,471	1,479
Nonresident-Turkey	1,262	1,254	1,302	1,286	1,320
Nonresident - Early Season Bear	1,017	995	1,011	1,002	1,133

E. Reprints

			2017	2018	2019
Lifetime Hunting Reprint			17	17	17
Lifetime Combination Reprint			44	62	61

G. Total Nonresident Hunters and Anglers

Notes:

- Includes reprints

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total nonresident hunters	9,322	9,418	9,292	9,031	9,131
Total nonresident anglers	40,460	40,348	41,082	41,430	43,414

F. Trapping

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nonresident Trapping	7	5	3	6	9

IV. Special Licenses

Notes:

- The numbers in these totals are not included in the previous charts.
- Some totals include residents and non-residents; some types make no distinction on residence.
- Most are free or reduced cost.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
60% Disabled Vet - 1 Year Combo (If state of residency has reciprocity)	44	48	57	59	63
60% Disabled Vet - 1 Year Fishing (If state of residency has reciprocity)	3	5	6	9	10
Complimentary - Combo	7	5	5	5	2
Complimentary - Fishing	1	2	1	1	1
Mentored Hunting License	398	379	286	235	264
Military Personnel (active duty in VT) - Combo	4	9	3	8	12
Military Personnel (active duty in VT) - Fishing	9	21	14	19	15
Military Personnel (active duty in VT) - Hunting	5	9	10	11	14
Military Personnel (active duty) - Combo	455	447	447	421	431
Military Personnel (active duty) - Fishing	209	175	175	158	184
Military Personnel (active duty) - Hunting	79	68	68	62	84
Mobility Disability - 1 Year Combo (If state of residency has reciprocity)				4	4
Mobility Disability - 1 Year Fishing (If state of residency has reciprocity)	1	1	0	1	2
Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Combo (+Muzzleloader Turkey)	81	73	56	54	57
Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Combo (+Muzzleloader Turkey Archery)	75	86	44	59	53
Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Combo (+Muzzleloader Turkey Trapping Archery)	12	3	1	1	3
Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Fishing	29	28	4	19	30
Permanent - Legally Blind - Fishing	8	6	28	4	4
Permanent - Mobility Disability - Combo	6	22	9	33	34
Permanent - Mobility Disability - Fishing	3	11	29	16	19
Therapeutic License	8	7	7	7	11
Therapeutic License - Lets Go Fishing Instructor				1	1

V1. Migratory Bird Hunting Conservation Stamp

Notes:

- Required for waterfowl hunting.
- Includes residents and nonresidents.
- All revenue supports the Migratory Waterfowl Fund, which is used for wetland purchases and enhancement projects.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Waterfowl Stamp	6,295	6,016	5,954	5,722	5,655