

I am disappointed that the Scott Administration has once again chosen to put the Salisbury Fish Hatchery on the chopping block. According to the 2019 agreement to raise license fees by \$5 to cover the costs of maintaining the hatchery, I believe the hatchery is permitted until at least 2027. The suddenness of this leads me to the question, what's the big hurry? I will guarantee you that 90% of the fishermen in the State of Vermont are unaware of this. Has there been a study done to ascertain how much money would be needed to continue the service that this hatchery provides? How much is that? Can it be raised through another license fee raise? Are there other options? This will affect the overall stocking program which is vital to the fishing tourism business in the State of Vermont. Have there been any studies done to predict how the loss of the fish that this hatchery produces every year will affect everything from license sales to the hospitality businesses that depend on this resource? There are campgrounds, private single camps, stores, and restaurants on lakes and in towns that realize, and rely on out of State fishermen's money. If the fishing here sucks, who's going to want to spend their money to come here? They'll go to Maine, or New Hampshire. I don't go to either state because the fishing in Vermont at this time is better than either of these states, but in the future? If this hatchery is closed, will the difference in the numbers of the fish being stocked be augmented with fish from private hatcheries? Between the kowtowing to anti-hunters, and the mismanagement of these hatcheries I'll bet "Big Ed" Kehoe is rolling over in his grave from seeing what the Department that he guided for so many years has been turned into.

Don't do that to us, or the memory of those that came before.

Sincerely,
Pat Finnie