

**No. R-356. House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish culture program for the continued success of aquatic-resource sustainability and the availability of abundant recreational fishing opportunities in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.298)

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Conlon of Cornwall, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Rutland City, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Logan of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, Malay of Pittsford, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nigro of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, and Winter of Ludlow

*Whereas*, recreational fishing bonds family and community members, offers physical and mental health benefits, and is accessible to most Vermonters regardless of geographic location, financial means, physical ability, or developmental level, and

*Whereas*, the preservation and enhancement of our aquatic ecosystems helps ensure biodiversity, community health, prosperous local economies, and recreational fishing opportunities for residents and visitors, and

*Whereas*, Vermont's five fish culture stations (commonly referred to as fish hatcheries)—Bald Hill (Newark), Bennington, Ed Weed (Grand Isle), Roxbury, and Salisbury—annually produce more than 1.5 million fish for distribution to and stocking of the State's waters, and they play a significant role in maintaining sustainable fish populations, restoring species, and providing ample fishing resources for Vermonters and their communities, and

*Whereas*, abundant fish populations enhance food security, and

*Whereas*, fishing helps foster interest, public buy-in, and investment in clean waters, and

*Whereas*, maintaining an abundant fishery sustains jobs and stimulates economic growth, and

*Whereas*, Vermont's fish hatcheries support educational programs and partnerships that foster a better understanding of aquatic ecology, conservation, and responsible fishing practices, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish culture program for the continued success of aquatic-resource sustainability and the availability of abundant recreational fishing opportunities in Vermont, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.