



Andrea Shortsleeve
Commissioner
March 14, 2025

Vermont Department of
Fish & Wildlife
Fish Culture Stations



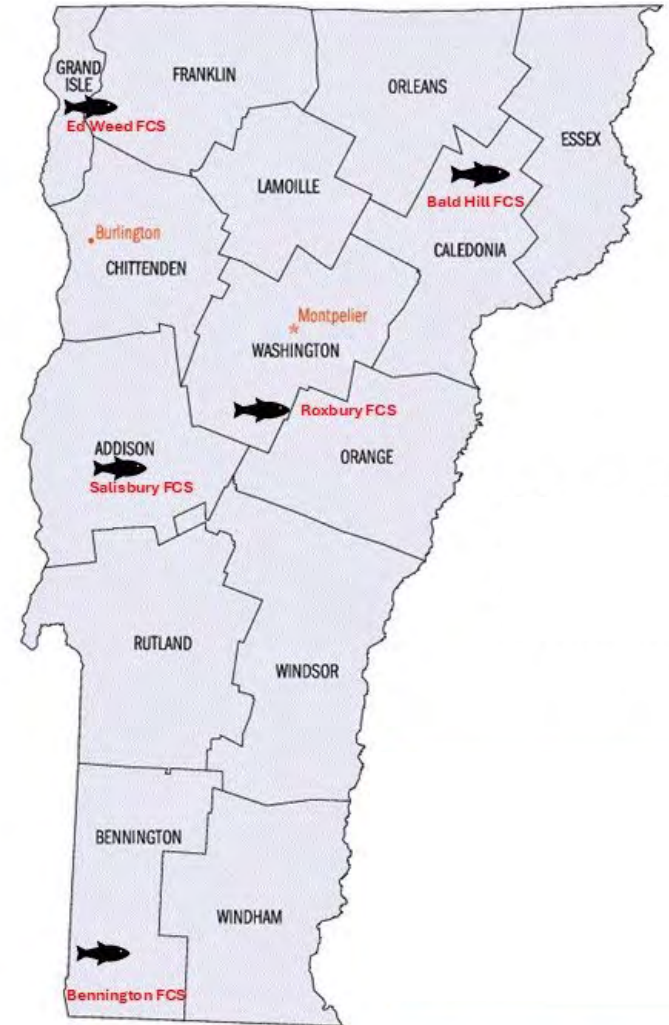
The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

*The mission of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the
conservation of our fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats
for the people of Vermont*



Vermont Fish Culture Stations

- 5 Fish Culture Stations
 - Plus Fish Health Lab
- Raise 7 species
 - Restoration
 - Angler Opportunities



Vermont Fish Culture Stations

- 21 Full-time Staff
- Not just Fish Culturists
- Meeting stocking recommendations while not working at fully staffed



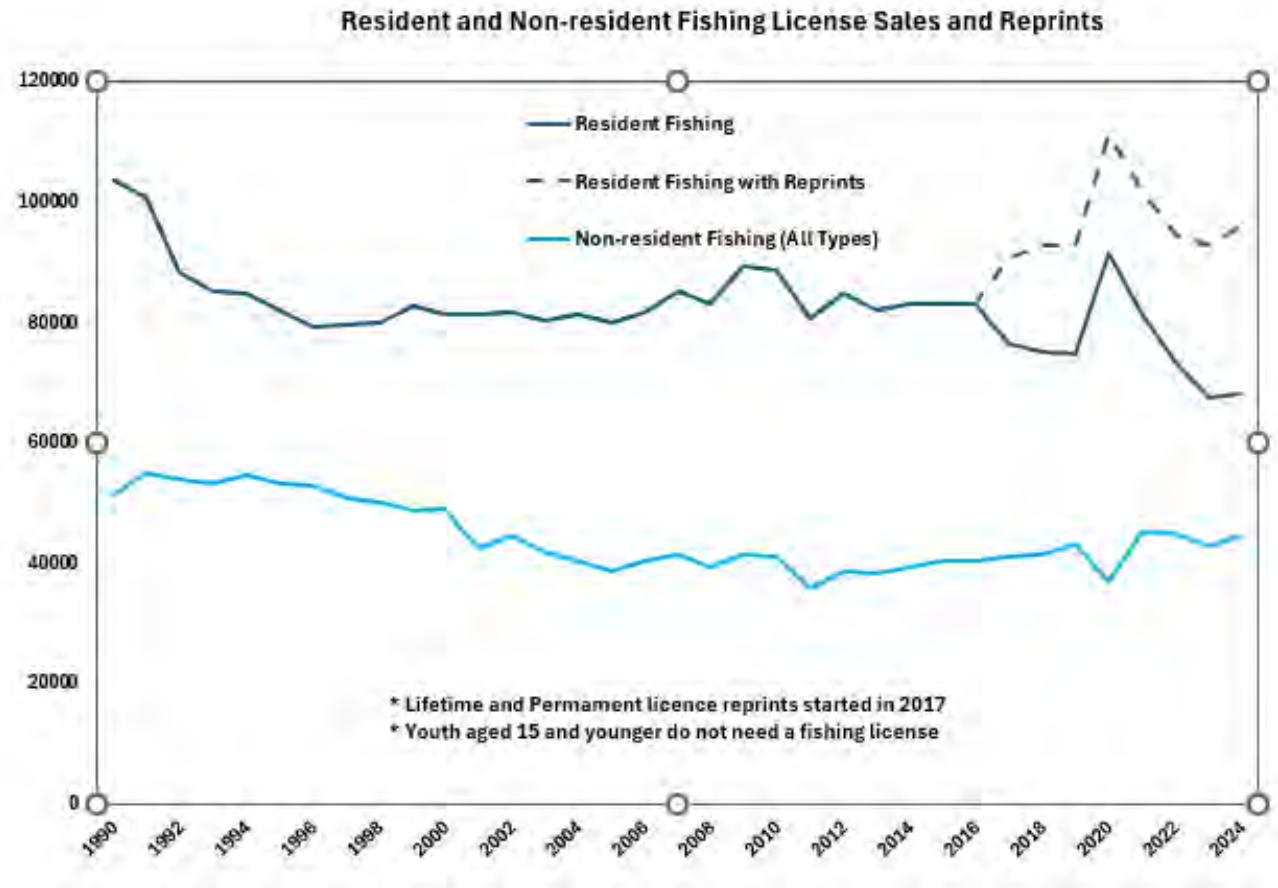


Vermont Fish Culture Stations

- Annual operating budget: \$4.2M
- Angling annually contributes approximately \$40M to Vermont's economy
 - 23:1 Return on the investment with State dollars
- Unfortunately, does not come back to the F&W budget

Current Funding Model

- Declining license funds
- Department is receiving an increasing amount of General Funds
- Reflection that the historical model is no longer working
 - Fewer and fewer license buyers to fund more and more conservation work





Act 162
Legislative
Report



Infrastructure Review

- Considerable physical needs for maintenance and structure repair
- Significant infrastructure improvements needed
- Department-wide context
- Requiring an infrastructure needs assessment



Moving Production

- Ed Weed FCS
 - Significant biosecurity upgrades
- Transitioning broodstock away from Salisbury would reduce production for several years
- Operational costs would shift between facilities
- Maintain Salisbury as Historic Building



Required Permits

- Salisbury NPDES permit
 - Requires renewal in Dec. 2027
- FCS subject to Act 135 (2022) water withdrawal reporting and permitting

Next Steps

- Conduct an infrastructure needs assessment on department-owned lands and facilities
- Complete a 5-year financial forecast of annual operating revenues and expenditures
- Complete prioritization of department programs, existing and future
- Review other funding models

