

## Final Proposed Filing - Coversheet

### **Instructions:**

In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the “Rule on Rulemaking” adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms with the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms shall be submitted at the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week.

The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

**PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT  
REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!**

**Certification Statement:** As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/Andrea Shortsleeve\_\_\_\_\_, on 05/05/2025  
(signature) (date)

**Printed Name and Title:**

Andrea Shortsleeve, Commissioner  
Department of Fish and Wildlife;  
Executive Secretary, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Coversheet
- ☐ Adopting Page
- ☐ Economic Impact Analysis
- ☐ Environmental Impact Analysis
- ☐ Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- ☐ Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- ☐ Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ☐ ICAR Minutes
- ☐ Copy of Comments
- ☐ Responsiveness Summary

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule**

2. PROPOSED NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

25P007

3. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

4. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:

*(A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).*

Name: Hannah Smith

Agency: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208

Telephone: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250

E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov

Web URL *(WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED)*:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>

5. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:

*(A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).*

Name: Eric Palmer

Agency: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive,  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208

Telephone: 802-535-7635 Fax: 802-828-1250

E-Mail: eric.palmer@vermont.gov

6. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

*(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE, EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?)* No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

7. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:

*(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).*

10 V.S.A. §§ 4081-4083

8. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

Title 10 V.S.A. § 4082 provides that the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board has the authority to "adopt rules, under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 . . . for the regulation of fish and wild game and the taking thereof." 10 V.S.A. § 4083 allows the Board to adopt rules related to fish that establish, extend, shorten, or abolish open seasons and closed seasons; establish, change, or abolish daily limits, season limits, possession limits, and size limits; and establish and change territorial limits for the pursuit, taking, or killing of any species or varieties, and close or open lakes, streams, or parts thereof.

9. THE FILING HAS CHANGED SINCE THE FILING OF THE PROPOSED RULE.

10. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE, CITING CHAPTER AND SECTION WHERE APPLICABLE.

11. SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS WERE RAISED FOR OR AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

12. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED COPIES OF ALL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND SYNOPSES OF ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED.

13. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE REASONS FOR THE AGENCY'S DECISION TO REJECT OR ADOPT THEM.

14. CONCISE SUMMARY (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The proposed rule amendments add Mud Pond to the list of seasonally closed waters; create a state-aggregate daily bag limit for all panfish on inland waters; add a segment of the Deerfield River to the list of Trophy Trout streams; increases minimum length and reduces daily bag limit of Lake Trout on Memphremagog; consolidates Bullhead requirements under Panfish requirements and reduces bag limits; reduces daily bag limit for crappie on Lake Champlain; adds panfish bag

limits for Berlin and Stiles Ponds; extends the closure season for trout spawning grounds; and adds certain waters to the list of closed seasonal spawning grounds.

**15. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:**

The proposed amendments to the rule are necessary for the proper management of Vermont's fisheries. The purpose of the rule is to extend fishing opportunities for anglers while protecting fisheries and healthy fish populations. The proposed bag limits for panfish are in response to a petition to the Board advocating for the imposition of bag limits. Angler surveys conducted by the Department indicate the bag limits will be accepted by most anglers, and that at least 50% of anglers prefer a bag limit on sunfish, which currently have no limit. Additionally, the proposed bag limits are consistent with New Hampshire's limits, and will discourage conflict between commercial and recreational anglers on inland waters. Maintaining current bag limits on Lake Champlain will ensure the viability of commercial angling in the State. The extended closure for spawning grounds is intended to reduce pressure on spawning gamefish in the designated waters.

**16. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY:**

The rule is explicitly authorized by statute and is consistent with the Department and Board's policies of protecting state fish and fisheries resources, as well as ensuring that Vermonters have reasonable access to recreational fishing.

**17. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:**

Department Staff including game wardens, and commercial and recreational anglers.

**18. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):**

The proposed panfish bag limits on inland waters may have an economic impact on commercial anglers who sell panfish harvested in the State. The other proposed amendments will not have an economic impact.

**19. A HEARING WAS HELD.**

**20. HEARING INFORMATION**

(THE FIRST HEARING SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING OF NOTICES ONLINE).

IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST THE INFORMATION FOR EACH HEARING, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO COMPLETE THE HEARING INFORMATION.

Date: 3/24/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: 111 State St., Montpelier VT Conference Room  
110

Zip Code: 05602

URL for Virtual:

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Date: 3/25/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: 169 South Main St., St. Albans City VT

Zip Code: 05478

URL for Virtual:

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Date: 3/27/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: 22 Stratton Rd., Rutland VT, Rutland High  
School

Zip Code: 05701

URL for Virtual:

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Date: 3/31/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: Virtual Meeting

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZlNTNkMjQ4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2220b4933bbaad-433c-9c0270edcc7559c6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZlNTNkMjQ4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2220b4933bbaad-433c-9c0270edcc7559c6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5%22%7d)

**21. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING):**

4/7/2025

**KEYWORDS** (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).

Fish

fish management

fisheries

panfish

bag limits

spawning grounds

## Adopting Page

### **Instructions:**

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

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1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule**

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment if the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

SOS Log # 21-009 (CVR -010-035); last adopted January 1, 2022

## Economic Impact Analysis

### **Instructions:**

In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn’t appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

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#### 1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule**

#### 2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### 3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

*LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:*

The proposed bag limits for panfish will have an economic impact on commercial anglers, who will be required to limit their daily catch to comply with new panfish bag limits on inland waters. Based on data collected by the Department, between 2014 and 2023 over 90% of reported commercial harvest of fish was taken from Lake Champlain. The proposed rule will maintain



current bag limits on Lake Champlain in order to mitigate the financial impact on commercial anglers. The rule may also impact fish buyers who profit off of the sale of panfish harvested in the state, if in fact commercial anglers' harvest rates are affected by the proposed rule.

**4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:**

*INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:*

The rule amendments will not have an impact on schools.

**5. ALTERNATIVES: CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.**

The rule amendments will not have an impact on schools.

**6. IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:**

*INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):*

The proposed amendments may impact commercial anglers and have a nominal impact on fish buyers. Some fish buyers operate small businesses that may be impacted by the reduced availability of panfish resulting from the new bag limits.

**7. SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE: EXPLAIN WAYS A BUSINESS CAN REDUCE THE COST/BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE OR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH EVALUATION ISN'T APPROPRIATE.**

The less restrictive bag limits on Lake Champlain (as compared to inland waters) are intended to mitigate the economic impact to small businesses that rely on the sale of panfish by imposing no new bag limits on Lake Champlain.

**8. COMPARISON:**

*COMPARE THE IMPACT OF THE RULE WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE, INCLUDING NO RULE ON THE SUBJECT OR A RULE HAVING SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:*

The proposed rule amendments are necessary to effectively manage the fisheries of Vermont while

continuing to offer exceptional fishing opportunities. No rule amendment imposing reduced bag limits would reduce the economic impact on commercial anglers, but may result in conflict between anglers, particularly commercial and recreational anglers, pursuing panfish on inland waters. Managing conflict between anglers is a strain on the Department's limited enforcement resources. Reducing angler conflicts through targeted management of inland fisheries provides an economic benefit to the Department by reducing the burden on Game Wardens, allowing for more effective enforcement of fish and wildlife violations.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The economic analysis included review of available information about commercial panfish harvests in Vermont from 1995-2024, as well as the results of angler surveys and the petition received by the Board advocating for bag limits on panfish. The analysis is sufficient in that it considers available information and evaluated the interests of all impacted stakeholders.

## Environmental Impact Analysis

### **Instructions:**

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

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#### 1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule**

#### 2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### 3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact the emission of greenhouse gases.

#### 4. WATER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact water quality. Effective fisheries management protects a public trust resource and designated use of Vermont waters that relies on high quality water.

5. **LAND:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact land uses.

6. **RECREATION:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS RECREATION IN THE STATE:*

The proposed amendments imposing a bag limit on panfish may have a positive impact on recreational angling by reducing conflicts between commercial and recreational anglers competing for the same resource on inland waters.

7. **CLIMATE:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact climate in Vermont.

8. **OTHER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*

The proposed rule will not otherwise impact Vermont's environment.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

This analysis examines all available information about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed rule amendments.

## Public Input Maximization Plan

### **Instructions:**

Agencies are encouraged to hold hearings as part of their strategy to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of rules. Please complete the form below by describing the agency's strategy for maximizing public input (what it did do, or will do to maximize the involvement of the public).

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

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1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule**

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE AGENCY'S STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE, LISTING THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:

The Board meetings regarding all rulemaking are open to the public and the public is allowed to comment at every Board meeting. The Board votes to initiate the rulemaking process before filing with ICAR, votes after the public comment period, and then again before final adopted rules are filed with the Secretary of State. The public is free to comment to individual Board members and to the Department at any time during the rulemaking process. In addition, the board will hold three public hearings on the rule and have a public comment period that exceeds thirty days. The rule will be posted on the Department and Board websites; and the Department will publicize the rule amendments in social media and press releases.

4. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

## Public Input

Board members, Department staff including wardens and biologists, and the petitioner and signatories advocating for panfish bag limits.

## Scientific Information Statement

**THIS FORM IS ONLY REQUIRED IF THE RULE RELIES ON SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FOR ITS VALIDITY.**

**PLEASE REMOVE THIS FORM PRIOR TO DELIVERY IF IT DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS RULE FILING:**

### **Instructions:**

In completing the Scientific Information Statement, an agency shall provide a summary of the scientific information including reference to any scientific studies upon which the proposed rule is based, for the purpose of validity.

#### 1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule**

#### 2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### 3. BRIEF EXPLANATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION:

In development of this rule, the Department relied on data obtained through the 2020 Vermont Angler Survey Report. The scientific, probability-based survey is intended to collect information related to angler effort in various waters for various species, examine angler preference for various species, examine angler satisfaction, obtain angler input on various regulations, and compare information gathered with data from past surveys.

#### 4. CITATION OF SOURCE DOCUMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION:

2020 Vermont Statewide Angler Survey

#### 5. INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE SOURCE DOCUMENTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FROM THE AGENCY OR OTHER PUBLISHING ENTITY:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/statewide-angler-survey>





TITLE 10 Conservation and Development APPENDIX  
CHAPTER 2. FISH  
Subchapter 2. Seasons, Waters, and Limits

§ 122. Fish Management Regulation.

**1.0 Authority**

- (a) This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. §4081(b). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and fur-bearing animals in this state is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the state requires a constant and continual vigilance.
- (b) In accordance with 10 V.S.A. §4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of Vermont's fisheries.
- (c) In accordance with 10 V.S.A. §4083, this rule establishes open seasons; establishes daily, season, possession limits and size limits; prescribes the manner and means of taking fish; and prescribes the manner of transportation and exportation of fish.

**2.0 Purpose**

It is the policy of the state that the protection, propagation control, management and conservation of fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing animals in this state is in the interest of the public welfare, and that safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the state requires a constant and continual vigilance.

**3.0 Open-Water Fishing, legal methods of taking fish**

**3.1 Definitions**

- (a) Department – Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- (b) Commissioner –Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner.
- (c) Open-water fishing –Fishing by means of hook and line in hand or attached to a rod or other device in open water. Fishing by casting or trolling baited hooks, artificial flies or lures is considered open-water fishing.
- (d) Baited Hook – A single shank hook with 1, 2 or 3 points which may be baited with natural or artificial bait or both.
- (e) Lure – A man-made device designed to catch only 1 fish at a time, to include a spoon, plug, spinner, bait harness, tandem hook streamer or lead head jig.

- (f) Fly – A single pointed hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, or any similar material wound on or about the hook to which no hooks, spinners, spoons, or similar devices have been added.
  - (g) Handheld Spear – A manually powered spear used from above the water’s surface.
  - (h) Speargun – A pneumatic or rubber band powered device, with a line not to exceed 20 feet attached to a spear, used from below the water’s surface.
  - (i) Cull Fish – Carp, tench, rudd, shad (alewife and gizzard shad), and goldfish. Additional invasive/exotic fish species may be designated by the Commissioner as “cull fish.”
  - (j) Immediate Control – Such constant control as would enable the angler to respond forthwith to a fish taking their bait, lure or fly promptly and without any delay.
  - (k) Snagging – Snagging shall mean the intentional hooking of a fish in a place other than the inside of the fish's mouth. No person shall pull, jerk or otherwise purposefully and/or repeatedly manipulate a hook, or hooks and line to snag or hook a fish in any method other than to entice a fish into taking, by mouth, a hook, lure or fly. Repeated and/or exaggerated jerking or pulling of the fishing line and/or hooks in any attempt to snag fish, whether it results in physically snagging a fish or not, shall be prima facie evidence that snagging has taken place. This shall not apply to the use of a gaff to land a fish that has been legally hooked.
- 3.2 Whether still fishing, casting, or trolling in Vermont waters, a person may take fish only by using not more than two lines over which he or she has immediate control and to each of which lines is attached not more than two baited hooks, or more than three artificial flies, or more than two lures with or without bait.
- 3.3 A person shall not take any fish pursuant to subsection (3.2) unless it is hooked in the mouth. Any fish taken under subsection (3.2) that is not hooked in the mouth shall be immediately released pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4602. A fish hooked in any part of the body other than in the mouth shall be considered to be foul hooked, and shall be prima facie evidence of foul hooking.
- 3.4 Taking or attempting to take fish by snagging is prohibited in all Vermont Waters.
- 3.5 Catch and Release: For species with defined harvest seasons, targeted C&R angling with immediate release can occur outside of harvest season, using artificial lures and flies.

#### **4.0 Ice Fishing**

- 4.1 Definitions - The definitions of section 3 are applicable to this section.
- (a) Ice Fishing – Ice fishing is defined as fishing by means of hook and line in hand or attached to a rod, tip-up, jack or bob, where the angler is

fishing through a hole in the ice, from the ice or on an object supported by the ice. Fishing by casting or trolling baited hooks, artificial flies or lures shall not be considered ice fishing.

- 4.2 Fish may be taken through the ice with not more than eight lines, except on Lake Champlain where no more than fifteen lines may be operated. Each line shall not have more than two baited hooks, or more than three artificial flies, or more than two lures with or without bait.
- 4.3 A person ice fishing shall have at all times, immediate control over all lines they operate. A person ice fishing shall be able to visually observe lines they operate. Any line that indicates a fish shall be tended within 30 minutes.
- 4.4 A person shall not take any fish pursuant to subsection (4.2) unless it is hooked in the mouth. Any fish taken under subsection (4.2) that is not hooked in the mouth shall be immediately released pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4602. A fish hooked in any part of the body other than in the mouth shall be considered to be foul hooked, and shall be prima facie evidence of foul hooking.
- 4.5 Taking or attempting to take fish by snagging is prohibited in all Vermont Waters.
- 4.6 Catch and Release (C&R): For species with defined harvest seasons, targeted C&R angling with immediate release can occur outside of harvest season, using artificial lures and flies.

## 5.0 Lake Champlain Boundaries

Lake Champlain proper shall be considered to include the setback at the same level and the major tributaries to the lake to the following boundaries:

Dead Creek to Panton Road bridge in Panton;  
 East Creek to the falls in Orwell (downstream of Mount Independence Road);  
 Lamoille River to the top of first dam (Peterson Dam) in Milton;  
 LaPlatte River to the falls in Shelburne (under Falls Road bridge);  
 Lewis Creek to falls in North Ferrisburgh (just upstream of Old Hollow Road);  
 Little Otter Creek to falls in Ferrisburgh Center (downstream of Little Chicago Road);  
 Malletts Creek to the first falls upstream of Roosevelt Highway (US 2 and US 7) in Colchester;  
 Mill River in Georgia to the falls in Georgia (just upstream of Georgia Shore Road bridge);  
 Missisquoi River to the top of Swanton Dam in the Village of Swanton;  
 Mud Creek to the dam in Alburg (just upstream of Route 78 bridge);  
 Otter Creek to the top of the dam in the city of Vergennes;  
 Poultney River to Central Vermont Power Dam at Carver Falls in West Haven.

Rock River to first Canadian border crossing;  
Winooski River to the Winooski One hydropower dam west of Main Street  
(US 7) in Winooski and Burlington;

## **6.0 Seasonally Closed Waters**

- 6.1 Lakes and Ponds – The following lakes and ponds or portions thereof are hereby designated seasonally closed waters and shall be closed to all fishing except between Second Saturday in April through October 31

Bald Hill Pond, Westmore  
Beaver Pond, Holland  
Beck Pond, Newark  
Beebe Pond, Sunderland  
Big Mud Pond, Mt. Tabor  
Bourn Pond, Sunderland  
Branch Pond, Sunderland  
Cary Pond, Walden  
Cow Mountain Pond, Granby  
Duck Pond, Sutton  
Forest Lake, Averill  
Griffith Lake, Mt. Tabor  
Holland Pond, Holland  
Jobs Pond, Westmore  
Lake Pleiad, Hancock  
Levi Pond, Groton  
Lewis Pond, Lewis  
Little Rock Pond, Wallingford  
Long Pond, Westmore  
Marl Pond, Sutton  
Martins Pond, Peacham  
Mud Pond, Hyde Park  
North Pond, Chittenden  
Notch Pond, Ferdinand  
Noyes (Seyon) Pond, Groton  
Perch Pond (Zack Woods Pond), Hyde Park  
Pigeon Pond, Groton  
Red Mill Pond, Woodford  
Silver Lake, Leicester  
South America Pond, Ferdinand  
South Pond, Marlboro  
Spring Lake, Shrewsbury  
Stannard Pond, Stannard  
Sterling Pond, Cambridge  
Stoughton Pond, Weathersfield  
Stratton Pond, Stratton

## APPENDIX 122

Unknown Pond, Averys Gore  
Unknown Pond, Ferdinand  
Vail Pond, Sutton  
Vernon Hatchery Pond, Vernon  
West Mountain Pond, Maidstone  
Wheeler Pond, Barton and Sutton  
Zack Woods (Perch Pond), Hyde Park

- 6.2 Rivers and Streams - All rivers and streams are hereby designated seasonally closed waters except as listed in all the sections below. For species with defined harvest seasons, targeted C&R angling with immediate release can occur outside of harvest season, using artificial lures and flies.

### **7.0 Fish – Open Seasons, Size Restrictions and Daily Bag Limits.**

#### **7.1 Fish of the species named or described in the tables set forth below may be taken:**

- (a) In the waters specified in column 1, by the method specified in column 2, during the open season specified in column 3.
  - (b) Provided they meet any size restrictions specified in column 4., and only in numbers listed under daily bag limits specified in column 5., under no circumstances may a person take in one day, more than the daily bag or weight limit from a listed body of water. No person may take in aggregate more than the daily State-wide aggregate limit for any species listed.
  - (c) Businesses may buy lawfully taken fish, with the approval of Commissioner, pursuant to the Commercial angling rules set forth in 10 V.S.A. App 123.
- 7.2 Possession limits are equal to twice the daily bag limits. Fish species with limit restrictions may not be possessed in excess of the possession limits at any time.
- (a) No person shall have live fish in their possession that are transported in a manner which attempts to keep them alive when leaving waters of the state (10 V.S.A. §1251(13)), except as follows:
    - (1) a person may transport approved baitfish species pursuant to the baitfish rules set forth in 10 V.S.A App. §141,
    - (2) the person has been issued a scientific collection permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity,
    - (3) the person has been issued a fish transportation permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity,

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(4) the person has been issued a fish breeders permit or fish importation permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity.

- 7.3 The daily bag limit for a fish species on a water body with a closed season for that fish species is zero during the closed season.
- 7.4 "General waters" restrictions are the provisions applicable to all waters of the state, except the waters specifically named or described.
- 7.5 Unless otherwise specifically provided, fish not listed in this regulation may be taken at any time and without size or catch limit, in waters not listed as seasonally closed waters in Section 7 6 of these regulations.
- 7.6 Open Seasons, Size Restrictions and Daily Bag Limits Tables

(a) STATEWIDE AGGREGATE DAILY BAG LIMITS (*Maximum number of a fish species that may be taken in one day*)

<b>FISH SPECIES</b>	<b>DAILY AGGREGATE LIMITS</b>
Brook and Brown and Rainbow Trout - Streams/Rivers	Maximum Combination of 6-8 fish
Brook and Brown and Rainbow Trout – lakes and ponds	Maximum Combination of 6 fish
Lake Trout	2 fish, (3 if taken from Lake Champlain)
Salmon	2 fish
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	Maximum combination of 5 fish
Northern Pike	5 fish
Chain Pickerel	10 fish
Muskellunge	0 fish
Walleye	3 fish
American Shad	0 fish
Sauger	0 fish
Sturgeon	0 fish
Panfish, defined as: Bluegill, Bullhead, Black and White Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch	50 fish total, no more than 25 of which can be Black and White Crappie
Exception for Bluegill, Bullhead, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch	Lake Champlain – no daily limit

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(b) BROOK, BROWN AND RAINBOW TROUT

<b>1.Waters</b>	<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>3. Season</b>	<b>4.Size Restrictions</b>	<b>5.Daily Bag Limit</b>
Lakes and Ponds	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	No restriction	6 trout
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Minimum length of 12 inches	3 trout
Rivers and Streams	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	No restriction	8 trout
Sherman Reservoir, Whitingham	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	No restriction	6 trout

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## (c) TROPHY TROUT STREAMS

1.Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4.Size Restrictions	5.Daily Bag Limit
Listed Below:	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	No restriction	2 trout in aggregate
<p><b>Black River</b> along Rt. 131 in Weathersfield and Cavendish, - from Downers covered bridge upstream (approximately 4 miles) to the next bridge across the river, the Howard Hill Bridge.</p> <p><b>Deerfield River</b> in Searsburg and Somerset – from the downstream edge of the East Branch Trailhead bridge upstream 4 miles to the downstream edge of the bridge on Somerset Rd. near junction with Forest Rd. 71.</p> <p><b>East Creek</b> in Rutland City -- From the confluence with Otter Creek upstream (approximately 2.7 miles) to the top of the Patch Dam in Rutland City</p> <p><b>Lamoille River</b> – From the downstream edge of the bridge on Route 104 in the Village of Fairfax upstream (approximately 1.6 miles) to the top of the Fairfax Falls Dam in Fairfax.</p> <p><b>Little River</b> – From the confluence with Winooski River in Waterbury upstream to the top of the Waterbury Reservoir Dam in Waterbury.</p> <p><b>Missisquoi River</b> in Enosburg and Sheldon -- From the downstream edge of Kane Road (TH-3) bridge upstream (approximately 5.7 miles) to the top of the Enosburg Falls Dam in Enosburg Falls.</p> <p><b>Otter Creek</b> in Danby and Mt. Tabor - From the Vermont Railway Bridge north of the fishing access upstream (approximately 2 miles) to the Danby- Mt. Tabor Forest Rd. Bridge (Forest Road # 10).</p> <p><b>Passumpsic River</b> in the Village of St. Johnsbury – From the top of the Gage Dam in St., Johnsbury upstream (approximately 2.4 miles) to the top of the Arnold Falls Dam.</p> <p><b>Moose River</b>-- From the confluence with the Passumpsic River upstream (approximately 350 feet) to the downstream edge of the Concord Avenue bridge in the Village of St. Johnsbury</p> <p><b>Walloomsac River</b> in Shaftsbury and Bennington – From the Vermont/New York border in Shaftsbury upstream to the top of the former Vermont Tissue Plant Dam (downstream of Murphy Road) in Bennington.</p> <p><b>Winooski River</b> in Duxbury and Waterbury, - From the top of the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury upstream to the Route 2 Bridge (east side of Waterbury Village).</p>				



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## (d) RAINBOW TROUT (Including STEELHEAD) / BROWN TROUT

1.WATERS	2. Methods	3. Season	4.Size Restrictions	5.Daily Bag Limit
Listed Below:	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	Minimum length of 10 inches	2 trout
<b>Rivers and Streams:</b> Orleans County: Barton River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the US Route 5 bridge southernmost and closest to the Village of Barton in Barton. Black River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the VT Route 14 / 58 bridge in Irasburg. Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River - From its confluence at the Willoughby River extending upstream to the second road crossing on Brownington Chilafox Road (TH #15). Crossing is located approximately 2.4 miles from Brownington Center on Chilafox Road (TH #15). Johns River-From the downstream edge of the first bridge (culvert) upstream of Lake Memphremagog on North Derby Road (TH #6) upstream to U.S. 5, in Derby. Willoughby River - The entire Willoughby River, from confluence with Barton River in Barton upstream to the Willoughby Lake outlet in Westmore.				

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(e) BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW, LAKE TROUT AND SALMON – 2  
FISH AGGREGATE LIMITS

1.Waters	2.Methods	3.Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
<b>Listed below:</b>	Open-water and Ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	See regulations for specific bodies of water	Two fish in aggregate
Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill Caspian Lake, Greensboro Crystal Lake, Barton East Long Pond, Woodbury Echo Lake, Charleston Elligo Lake, Craftsbury and Greensboro Forest Lake (Nelson Pond), Calais and Woodbury Harveys Lake, Barnet Jobs Pond, Westmore (Seasonally Closed) Lake Dunmore, Salisbury Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport; Little Averill Lake, Averill Maidstone Lake, Maidstone Martins Pond, Peacham (Seasonally Closed) Nelson Pond (Forest Lake), Calais and Woodbury Nichols Pond, Woodbury Seymour Lake, Morgan Shadow Lake, Glover Spring Lake, Shrewsbury Sunset Lake, Benson Willoughby Lake, Westmore				

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(f) LAKE TROUT AND SALMON

1. Waters	2.Methods	3.Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
General Waters ( <i>except as listed below</i> )	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 inches	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Lake Trout and Salmon – Minimum length of 15 inches	3 Lake Trout and 2 Salmon
Clyde Pond, Derby Little Salem Lake, Derby Salem Lake, Derby Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog upstream to Citizen's Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through August 31	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 inches  Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay)	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 24 inches  Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	1 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
<b>Listed Below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in	Lake Trout- Minimum	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each

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		April through October 31	length of 18 inches  Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	
<p>Orleans County:</p> <p>Barton River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the US Route 5 bridge southernmost and closest to the Village of Barton in Barton.</p> <p>Black River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the VT Route 14 / 58 bridge in Irasburg.</p> <p>Johns River-From the downstream edge of the first bridge (culvert) upstream of Lake Memphremagog on North Derby Road (TH #6) upstream to U.S. 5, in Derby.</p> <p>Willoughby River - The entire Willoughby River, from confluence with Barton River in Barton upstream to the Willoughby Lake outlet in Westmore.</p>				

## (g) SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT STREAMS

1. Waters	2. Method	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
<b>White River</b> From the confluence with Lilliesville Brook in Stockbridge downstream 3.3 miles to 220 ft. downstream of the confluence with Cleveland Brook in Bethel.	Open-water fishing, with artificial lures and flies only.	Second Saturday in April through October 31.	Minimum length of 18 inches	1 trout
<b>Winooski River Tributaries – Listed Below</b>	Open-water fishing	June 1 through October 31	10 to 16 inches protected slot: <i>(all fish 10 to 16 inches must be released)</i>	2 trout, only 1 greater than 16 inches
<p>Winooski River Tributaries:</p> <p><b>Joiner Brook, Bolton</b> - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1900 feet to the first falls.</p> <p><b>Pinneo Brook, Bolton</b> – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 100 feet to the railroad crossing.</p> <p><b>Preston Brook, Bolton</b> - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 2600 feet to</p>				

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<p>the first falls.</p> <p><b>Ridley Brook, Duxbury</b> – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1700 feet to the first falls.</p>				
<b>Listed Below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	10 to 16 inches protected slot: <i>(all fish 10 to 16 inches must be released)</i>	2 trout, only 1 greater than 16 inches
<p><b>New Haven River</b> – From Munger Street Bridge in New Haven upstream (approximately 4.1 miles) to the South Street bridge in Bristol.</p> <p><b>Mettawee River</b> – From the downstream edge of the Route 153 bridge in Pawlet upstream (approximately 16 miles) to the downstream edge of first bridge on Dorset Hollow Road and including tributary: Flower Brook upstream (approximately 1000ft) to the downstream edge of the Route 30 bridge in Pawlet.</p> <p><b>Winooski River</b> – From Preston Brook mouth upstream (approximately 4.4 miles) to the Ridley Brook mouth.</p>				
<b>Listed below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through September 30	No size restriction.	8 trout
	Open-water fishing	October 1 through October 31	All trout must be immediately released.	Zero, all trout must be immediately released.
<p><b>Batten Kill (East Branch)</b> – In towns of Manchester and Dorset from the downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester upstream (approximately 5.0 miles) to the downstream side of the US Route 7 Bridge south of East Dorset.</p> <p><b>Green River</b> – In the towns of Arlington and Sandgate from its confluence with Batten Kill upstream (approximately 8.5 miles) to the confluence with Moffitt Hollow Brook in Beartown.</p> <p><b>Roaring Branch</b> – In the towns of Arlington and Sunderland from its confluence with the Batten Kill upstream (approximately 3.0 miles) to the downstream side of the Bridge #14 on Sunderland TH# 3 in East Kansas.</p> <p><b>Warm Brook</b> – In the town of Arlington from its Confluence with the Roaring Branch upstream (approximately 0.8 miles) to the base of the so-called Hale Company Dam in East Arlington.</p>				

## (h) ANADROMOUS ATLANTIC SALMON

1. Waters	2. Method	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
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Connecticut River and tributaries	No person shall take or attempt to take an anadromous Atlantic salmon, any salmon unintentionally taken shall be immediately released in accordance with section 4602	No open season	All fish must be immediately released	Zero - All Anadromous Atlantic salmon must be immediately released
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## (i) AMERICAN SHAD

<b>1. Waters</b>	<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>3. Season</b>	<b>4. Size Restrictions</b>	<b>5. Daily Bag limits</b>
Connecticut River, including Vermont river tributaries	Open-water fishing	No closed season	All shad must be released	Zero – All shad must be immediately released.

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## (j) BOWFIN, REDHORSE SUCKER (MULLET), LONGNOSE GAR.

<b>1. Waters</b>	<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>3. Season</b>	<b>4. Size Restrictions</b>	<b>5. Daily Bag limits</b>
General Waters <i>and as listed below)</i>	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species
General Waters <i>(Except seasonally closed waters and as listed below)</i>	Speargun, bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No Closed Season	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Open-water and ice fishing, speargun, bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No closed season	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Shooting and Handheld Spear	March 25 through May 25, Title 10 (4606e)	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species

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(k) SUCKER (LONGNOSE AND WHITE), and CULL FISH

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (and as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No Limit
General Waters (Except seasonally closed waters and as listed below)	Speargun, <del>and</del> bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No Closed Season	No restriction	No Limit
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Open-water and ice fishing, speargun, <del>and</del> bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No closed season	No restriction	No Limit
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Shooting and Handheld Spear	March 25 through May 25, Title 10 (4606e)	No restriction	No Limit

(l) PANFISH, defined as Bluegill, Bullhead, Black and White Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Minimum length of 8" for  Black and White Crappie; No restriction for other species	50 fish total, no more than 25 of which can be Black and White Crappie
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Minimum length of 8" for Black and White Crappie; No restriction	25 Black and White Crappie Combined; No limit for other species



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			for other species	
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Bullhead only: Shooting and handheld Spear	March 25 through May 25, Title 10 (4606e)	Bullhead only: No restriction	Bullhead only: No limit
Berlin Pond Stiles Pond	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Minimum length of 8" for Black and White Crappie; No restriction for other species	50 fish total, no more than 10 of which can be Yellow Perch, and no more than 25 of which can be Black and White Crappie
Businesses may buy lawfully taken fish, with the approval of the Commissioner, pursuant to the Commercial angling rule set forth in 10 V.S.A. APP § 123.				

## (m) NORTHERN PIKE

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Minimum length of 20 inches	5 Fish
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing,	No closed season	Minimum length of 20 inches	5 Fish

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	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25, 10 VSA 4606)	Minimum length of 20 inches	5 Fish
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(n) CHAIN AND REDFIN PICKEREL

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No limit
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	10 fish
	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25	No restriction	10 fish

(o) MUSKELLUNGE

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing; Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	No closed season	All muskellunge must be released	Zero - All muskellunge must be immediately released
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing; Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	No closed season	All muskellunge must be released	Zero - All muskellunge must be immediately released
	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25, 10 VSA 4606)		Zero Fish

(p) SMELT

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
All waters	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No limit



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(q) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in June through March 15.	Minimum length of 10 inches	5 fish
Lake Champlain	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30.	Minimum length of 12 inches	5 fish
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs (seasonally closed)	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through October 31.	Minimum length of 10 inches	5 fish
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs (seasonally closed)	Open-water fishing: Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	Second Saturday in April through the Friday before the Second Saturday in June, both dates inclusive.	All bass must be released	Zero - All bass must be immediately released
Lake Morey, Fairlee	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in June through March 15	Minimum length of 14 inches	5 Fish
<b>Listed below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30.	Minimum length of 10 inches	5 fish
	Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	Dec. 1 through the Friday before the second Saturday in June, both dates inclusive	All bass must be released	Zero – All bass must be immediately released.
Austin Pond, Hubberton Black Pond, Hubberton Blueberry Lake (Warren Lake), Warren Breese Pond, Hubberton Bullhead Pond, Manchester Gale Meadows, Londonderry				

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Half Moon Pond, Hubberton
Lily Pond, Vernon
Lowell Lake, Londonderry
Mill Pond, Windsor
Raponda Lake, Wilmington
Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro
Roach Pond, Hubberton
Runnemedede Lake, Windsor
Sadawga, Whitingham
Weatherhead Hollow, Guilford

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(r) WALLEYE

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters and Lake Champlain ( <i>except as listed below</i> )	Open-water and ice fishing	First Saturday in May through March 15.	Minimum length of 18 inches	3 Fish
Lake Carmi, Franklin	Open-water and ice fishing	First Saturday in May through March 15	Minimum length of 15 inches Protected lengths- 17 to 19 inches (all fish between 17 & 19 inches must be released)	5 fish, provided only 1 is over 19 inches
Chittenden Reservoir, Chittenden including all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable to upstream fish movement	Open-water and ice fishing	June 1 through March 15	Minimum length of 22 inches	2 fish

(s) SAUGER

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters and Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No open season	Any fish taken must be immediately released	Zero – All Sauger taken must be immediately released

## 7.7 Spawning grounds for game fish generally

- (a) The below listed waters are declared spawning grounds for game fish and are hereby closed to the taking of fish from March 16 through May 31 annually.

### Chittenden County

- Joiner Brook, Bolton - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1900 feet to the first falls.
- Pinneo Brook, Bolton – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 100 feet to the railroad crossing.
- Preston Brook, Bolton - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 2600 feet to the first falls.
- Lamoille River, Milton - From the downstream edge of the bridge on Bear Trap Road in Milton (referred to as the West Milton Bridge upstream to the top of first dam (Peterson Dam) in Milton.
- Winooski River, Winooski and Burlington - From the Winooski One Hydro dam west of Main Street (US 7) in Winooski and Burlington and extending downstream to the downstream side of the first railroad bridge.

### Franklin County

- Missisquoi River, Swanton - From the top of the Swanton dam in the Village of Swanton downstream approximately 850 feet to the water treatment plant on the west side of the river, and downstream approximately 850 feet to the upstream end of the cement breakwater on the east side of the river. (1988, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 975, eff. April 7, 1988.)

### Orleans County

- Black River, Coventry - From 600 feet below the falls at Old Harman Mill in Coventry upstream to the top of falls at Old Harman Mill in Coventry.
- Blodgett/Tarbox Brook – from the confluence with Willoughby River upstream 1,300' to bridge on Tarbox Hill Road.
- Willoughby River, Orleans - From the downstream edge of bridge on Tarbox Hill Road in Orleans Village upstream to the top of the natural falls upstream of the bridge on Tarbox Hill Road in Orleans Village.
- Dorin, Wells, Myers, Schoolhouse and Mill Brooks, all in Westmore - From mouth of brooks at Lake Willoughby upstream approximately 3/4 mile in Dorin Brook, all of Wells Brook, 1/2 mile in Myers Brook, 1/4 mile in the Schoolhouse Brook and, and 1/4 mile in Mill Brook and tributaries, all in Westmore. For identification purpose these brooks are arranged in order from

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north to south, and flow through Vermont Agency of Transportation structures on Route 5A number 10, 9, 8, 7 and 6, respectively.

Porter Brook, Greensboro – From Caspian Lake upstream to its headwaters. (1987, Fish and Wildlife Commissioner's Reg. No. 970, eff. April 1, 1987.)

### Washington County

Chase Brook, Berlin – From its confluence with the Dog River upstream approximately ½ mile to the top of the natural falls in Berlin.

Ridley Brook, Duxbury – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1700 feet to the first falls.

### Windsor County

Lilliesville Brook, Stockbridge - From its confluence with the White River upstream to the 2nd bridge on the Lilliesville Brook Road.

Locust Creek, Bethel - From its confluence with the White River upstream to the 2nd bridge on Rt. 12.

- (b) The below named waters are closed from March 16 to the Friday before the 1st Saturday in May, both dates inclusive:

### Franklin County

Missisquoi River, Swanton - From the top of the Swanton Dam in the Village of Swanton extending downstream 5,120 feet to the



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Northwest corner (downstream) of the Riverside Cemetery and across the river to a pole on the Northeast bank.

- (c) The below named waters are closed to fishing year-

round: Orleans County

Clyde River, Newport City - From 260 feet below the top of the abandoned Mill Dam immediately upstream of the Number 1, 2, 3 hydroelectric powerhouse in Newport City, upstream to the top of the abandoned Mill Dam immediately upstream of the Number 1, 2, 3 hydroelectric powerhouse in Newport City.

- (d) The below named water is only open to fishing using artificial flies and lures from September 1 to October 31. All salmon caught must be released. Lake Trout may be harvest during this period. The daily limit is 2 lake trout with a minimum length of 18 inches

Clyde River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston

- (e) The below named water is catch and release for trout from Second Saturday in April to October 31. All trout must be immediately released.

Batten Kill River - From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester

- (f) The below named water is catch and release for trout with artificial lures and flies only, anglers less than 15 years old may use live bait from Second Saturday in April to October 31. All trout must be immediately released.

Dog River - From the downstream edge of the Junction Road Bridge in Berlin/Montpelier upstream to the top of the Northfield Falls Dam in Northfield.

- (g) The below named waters are closed to fishing from November 1 to the Friday before the second Saturday in April.

Batten Kill River – From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester.

Clyde River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston

Dog River – From the downstream edge of the Junction Road Bridge in Berlin/Montpelier upstream to the top of the Northfield Falls Dam in Northfield.



TITLE 10 Conservation and Development APPENDIX  
CHAPTER 2. FISH  
Subchapter 2. Seasons, Waters, and Limits

§ 122. Fish Management Regulation.

**1.0 Authority**

- (a) This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. §4081(b). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and fur-bearing animals in this state is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the state requires a constant and continual vigilance.
- (b) In accordance with 10 V.S.A. §4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of Vermont's fisheries.
- (c) In accordance with 10 V.S.A. §4083, this rule establishes open seasons; establishes daily, season, possession limits and size limits; prescribes the manner and means of taking fish; and prescribes the manner of transportation and exportation of fish.

**2.0 Purpose**

It is the policy of the state that the protection, propagation control, management and conservation of fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing animals in this state is in the interest of the public welfare, and that safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the state requires a constant and continual vigilance.

**3.0 Open-Water Fishing, legal methods of taking fish**

**3.1 Definitions**

- (a) Department – Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- (b) Commissioner –Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner.
- (c) Open-water fishing –Fishing by means of hook and line in hand or attached to a rod or other device in open water. Fishing by casting or trolling baited hooks, artificial flies or lures is considered open-water fishing.
- (d) Baited Hook – A single shank hook with 1, 2 or 3 points which may be baited with natural or artificial bait or both.
- (e) Lure – A man-made device designed to catch only 1 fish at a time, to include a spoon, plug, spinner, bait harness, tandem hook streamer or lead head jig.

- (f) Fly – A single pointed hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, or any similar material wound on or about the hook to which no hooks, spinners, spoons, or similar devices have been added.
  - (g) Handheld Spear – A manually powered spear used from above the water’s surface.
  - (h) Speargun – A pneumatic or rubber band powered device, with a line not to exceed 20 feet attached to a spear, used from below the water’s surface.
  - (i) Cull Fish – Carp, tench, rudd, shad (alewife and gizzard shad), and goldfish. Additional invasive/exotic fish species may be designated by the Commissioner as “cull fish.”
  - (j) Immediate Control – Such constant control as would enable the angler to respond forthwith to a fish taking their bait, lure or fly promptly and without any delay.
  - (k) Snagging – Snagging shall mean the intentional hooking of a fish in a place other than the inside of the fish's mouth. No person shall pull, jerk or otherwise purposefully and/or repeatedly manipulate a hook, or hooks and line to snag or hook a fish in any method other than to entice a fish into taking, by mouth, a hook, lure or fly. Repeated and/or exaggerated jerking or pulling of the fishing line and/or hooks in any attempt to snag fish, whether it results in physically snagging a fish or not, shall be prima facie evidence that snagging has taken place. This shall not apply to the use of a gaff to land a fish that has been legally hooked.
- 3.2 Whether still fishing, casting, or trolling in Vermont waters, a person may take fish only by using not more than two lines over which he or she has immediate control and to each of which lines is attached not more than two baited hooks, or more than three artificial flies, or more than two lures with or without bait.
- 3.3 A person shall not take any fish pursuant to subsection (3.2) unless it is hooked in the mouth. Any fish taken under subsection (3.2) that is not hooked in the mouth shall be immediately released pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4602. A fish hooked in any part of the body other than in the mouth shall be considered to be foul hooked, and shall be prima facie evidence of foul hooking.
- 3.4 Taking or attempting to take fish by snagging is prohibited in all Vermont Waters.
- 3.5 Catch and Release: For species with defined harvest seasons, targeted C&R angling with immediate release can occur outside of harvest season, using artificial lures and flies.

#### **4.0 Ice Fishing**

- 4.1 Definitions - The definitions of section 3 are applicable to this section.
- (a) Ice Fishing – Ice fishing is defined as fishing by means of hook and line in hand or attached to a rod, tip-up, jack or bob, where the angler is

fishing through a hole in the ice, from the ice or on an object supported by the ice. Fishing by casting or trolling baited hooks, artificial flies or lures shall not be considered ice fishing.

- 4.2 Fish may be taken through the ice with not more than eight lines, except on Lake Champlain where no more than fifteen lines may be operated. Each line shall not have more than two baited hooks, or more than three artificial flies, or more than two lures with or without bait.
- 4.3 A person ice fishing shall have at all times, immediate control over all lines they operate. A person ice fishing shall be able to visually observe lines they operate. Any line that indicates a fish shall be tended within 30 minutes.
- 4.4 A person shall not take any fish pursuant to subsection (4.2) unless it is hooked in the mouth. Any fish taken under subsection (4.2) that is not hooked in the mouth shall be immediately released pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4602. A fish hooked in any part of the body other than in the mouth shall be considered to be foul hooked, and shall be prima facie evidence of foul hooking.
- 4.5 Taking or attempting to take fish by snagging is prohibited in all Vermont Waters.
- 4.6 Catch and Release (C&R): For species with defined harvest seasons, targeted C&R angling with immediate release can occur outside of harvest season, using artificial lures and flies.

## 5.0 Lake Champlain Boundaries

Lake Champlain proper shall be considered to include the setback at the same level and the major tributaries to the lake to the following boundaries:

Dead Creek to Panton Road bridge in Panton;  
 East Creek to the falls in Orwell (downstream of Mount Independence Road);  
 Lamaille River to the top of first dam (Peterson Dam) in Milton;  
 LaPlatte River to the falls in Shelburne (under Falls Road bridge);  
 Lewis Creek to falls in North Ferrisburgh (just upstream of Old Hollow Road);  
 Little Otter Creek to falls in Ferrisburgh Center (downstream of Little Chicago Road);  
 Malletts Creek to the first falls upstream of Roosevelt Highway (US 2 and US 7) in Colchester;  
 Mill River in Georgia to the falls in Georgia (just upstream of Georgia Shore Road bridge);  
 Missisquoi River to the top of Swanton Dam in the Village of Swanton;  
 Mud Creek to the dam in Alburg (just upstream of Route 78 bridge);  
 Otter Creek to the top of the dam in the city of Vergennes;  
 Poultney River to Central Vermont Power Dam at Carver Falls in West Haven.

Rock River to first Canadian border crossing;  
Winooski River to the Winooski One hydropower dam west of Main Street  
(US 7) in Winooski and Burlington;

## **6.0 Seasonally Closed Waters**

- 6.1 Lakes and Ponds – The following lakes and ponds or portions thereof are hereby designated seasonally closed waters and shall be closed to all fishing except between Second Saturday in April through October 31

Bald Hill Pond, Westmore  
Beaver Pond, Holland  
Beck Pond, Newark  
Beebe Pond, Sunderland  
Big Mud Pond, Mt. Tabor  
Bourn Pond, Sunderland  
Branch Pond, Sunderland  
Cary Pond, Walden  
Cow Mountain Pond, Granby  
Duck Pond, Sutton  
Forest Lake, Averill  
Griffith Lake, Mt. Tabor  
Holland Pond, Holland  
Jobs Pond, Westmore  
Lake Pleiad, Hancock  
Levi Pond, Groton  
Lewis Pond, Lewis  
Little Rock Pond, Wallingford  
Long Pond, Westmore  
Marl Pond, Sutton  
Martins Pond, Peacham  
Mud Pond, Hyde Park  
North Pond, Chittenden  
Notch Pond, Ferdinand  
Noyes (Seyon) Pond, Groton  
Perch Pond (Zack Woods Pond), Hyde Park  
Pigeon Pond, Groton  
Red Mill Pond, Woodford  
Silver Lake, Leicester  
South America Pond, Ferdinand  
South Pond, Marlboro  
Spring Lake, Shrewsbury  
Stannard Pond, Stannard  
Sterling Pond, Cambridge  
Stoughton Pond, Weathersfield  
Stratton Pond, Stratton

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Unknown Pond, Averys Gore  
Unknown Pond, Ferdinand  
Vail Pond, Sutton  
Vernon Hatchery Pond, Vernon  
West Mountain Pond, Maidstone  
Wheeler Pond, Barton and Sutton  
Zack Woods (Perch Pond), Hyde Park

- 6.2 Rivers and Streams - All rivers and streams are hereby designated seasonally closed waters except as listed in all the sections below. For species with defined harvest seasons, targeted C&R angling with immediate release can occur outside of harvest season, using artificial lures and flies.

### **7.0 Fish – Open Seasons, Size Restrictions and Daily Bag Limits.**

#### **7.1 Fish of the species named or described in the tables set forth below may be taken:**

- (a) In the waters specified in column 1, by the method specified in column 2, during the open season specified in column 3.
  - (b) Provided they meet any size restrictions specified in column 4., and only in numbers listed under daily bag limits specified in column 5., under no circumstances may a person take in one day, more than the daily bag or weight limit from a listed body of water. No person may take in aggregate more than the daily State-wide aggregate limit for any species listed.
  - (c) Businesses may buy lawfully taken fish, with the approval of Commissioner, pursuant to the Commercial angling rules set forth in 10 V.S.A. App 123.
- 7.2 Possession limits are equal to twice the daily bag limits. Fish species with limit restrictions may not be possessed in excess of the possession limits at any time.
- (a) No person shall have live fish in their possession that are transported in a manner which attempts to keep them alive when leaving waters of the state (10 V.S.A. §1251(13)), except as follows:
    - (1) a person may transport approved baitfish species pursuant to the baitfish rules set forth in 10 V.S.A App. §141,
    - (2) the person has been issued a scientific collection permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity,
    - (3) the person has been issued a fish transportation permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity,

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(4) the person has been issued a fish breeders permit or fish importation permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity.

7.3 The daily bag limit for a fish species on a water body with a closed season for that fish species is zero during the closed season.

7.4 "General waters" restrictions are the provisions applicable to all waters of the state, except the waters specifically named or described.

7.5 Unless otherwise specifically provided, fish not listed in this regulation may be taken at any time and without size or catch limit, in waters not listed as seasonally closed waters in Section 7 ~~6~~ of these regulations.

7.6 Open Seasons, Size Restrictions and Daily Bag Limits Tables

(a) STATEWIDE AGGREGATE DAILY BAG LIMITS (*Maximum number of a fish species that may be taken in one day*)

FISH SPECIES	DAILY AGGREGATE LIMITS
Brook and Brown and Rainbow Trout - Streams/Rivers	Maximum Combination of 6-8 fish
Brook and Brown and Rainbow Trout – lakes and ponds	Maximum Combination of 6 fish
Lake Trout	2 fish, (3 if taken from Lake Champlain)
Salmon	2 fish
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	Maximum combination of 5 fish
Northern Pike	5 fish
Chain Pickerel	10 fish
Muskellunge	0 fish
Walleye	3 fish
<del>Black and White Crappie</del>	<del>25 fish</del>
American Shad	0 fish
<del>Yellow Perch</del>	<del>50 fish</del>
<del>Yellow Perch exception</del>	<del>Lake Champlain—no daily limit</del>
Sauger	0 fish
Sturgeon	0 fish
<u>Panfish, defined as: Bluegill, Bullhead, Black and White Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch</u>	<u>50 fish total, no more than 25 of which can be Black and White Crappie</u>
<u>Exception for Bluegill, Bullhead, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch</u>	<u>Lake Champlain – no daily limit</u>



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(b) BROOK, BROWN AND RAINBOW TROUT

<b>1.Waters</b>	<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>3. Season</b>	<b>4.Size Restrictions</b>	<b>5.Daily Bag Limit</b>
Lakes and Ponds	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	No restriction	6 trout
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Minimum length of 12 inches	3 trout
Rivers and Streams	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	No restriction	8 trout
Sherman Reservoir, Whitingham	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	No restriction	6 trout

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## (c) TROPHY TROUT STREAMS

1.Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4.Size Restrictions	5.Daily Bag Limit
Listed Below:	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	No restriction	2 trout in aggregate
<p><b>Black River</b> along Rt. 131 in Weathersfield and Cavendish, - from Downers covered bridge upstream (approximately 4 miles) to the next bridge across the river, the Howard Hill Bridge.</p> <p><b>Deerfield River in Searsburg and Somerset</b> – <u>from the downstream edge of the East Branch Trailhead bridge upstream 4 miles to the downstream edge of the bridge on Somerset Rd. near junction with Forest Rd. 71.</u></p> <p><b>East Creek</b> in Rutland City -- From the confluence with Otter Creek upstream (approximately 2.7 miles) to the top of the Patch Dam in Rutland City</p> <p><b>Lamoille River</b> – From the downstream edge of the bridge on Route 104 in the Village of Fairfax upstream (approximately 1.6 miles) to the top of the Fairfax Falls Dam in Fairfax.</p> <p><b>Little River</b> – From the confluence with Winooski River in Waterbury upstream to the top of the Waterbury Reservoir Dam in Waterbury.</p> <p><b>Missisquoi River</b> in Enosburg and Sheldon -- From the downstream edge of Kane Road (TH-3) bridge upstream (approximately 5.7 miles) to the top of the Enosburg Falls Dam in Enosburg Falls.</p> <p><b>Otter Creek</b> in Danby and Mt. Tabor - From the Vermont Railway Bridge north of the fishing access upstream (approximately 2 miles) to the Danby- Mt. Tabor Forest Rd. Bridge (Forest Road # 10).</p> <p><b>Passumpsic River</b> in the Village of St. Johnsbury – From the top of the Gage Dam in St., Johnsbury upstream (approximately 2.4 miles) to the top of the Arnold Falls Dam.</p> <p><b>Moose River</b>-- From the confluence with the Passumpsic River upstream (approximately 350 feet) to the downstream edge of the Concord Avenue bridge in the Village of St. Johnsbury</p> <p><b>Walloomsac River</b> in Shaftsbury and Bennington – From the Vermont/New York border in Shaftsbury upstream to the top of the former Vermont Tissue Plant Dam (downstream of Murphy Road) in Bennington.</p> <p><b>Winooski River</b> in Duxbury and Waterbury, - From the top of the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury upstream to the Route 2 Bridge (east side of Waterbury Village).</p>				

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## (d) RAINBOW TROUT (Including STEELHEAD) / BROWN TROUT

1.WATERS	2. Methods	3. Season	4.Size Restrictions	5.Daily Bag Limit
<b>Listed Below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	Minimum length of 10 inches	2 trout
<b>Rivers and Streams:</b> Orleans County: Barton River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the US Route 5 bridge southernmost and closest to the Village of Barton in Barton. Black River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the VT Route 14 / 58 bridge in Irasburg. Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River - From its confluence at the Willoughby River extending upstream to the second road crossing on Brownington Chilafox Road (TH #15). Crossing is located approximately 2.4 miles from Brownington Center on Chilafox Road (TH #15). Johns River-From the downstream edge of the first bridge (culvert) upstream of Lake Memphremagog on North Derby Road (TH #6) upstream to U.S. 5, in Derby. Willoughby River - The entire Willoughby River, from confluence with Barton River in Barton upstream to the Willoughby Lake outlet in Westmore.				

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(e) BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW, LAKE TROUT AND SALMON – 2  
FISH AGGREGATE LIMITS

1.Waters	2.Methods	3.Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
<b>Listed below:</b>	Open-water and Ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	See regulations for specific bodies of water	Two fish in aggregate
Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill Caspian Lake, Greensboro Crystal Lake, Barton East Long Pond, Woodbury Echo Lake, Charleston Elligo Lake, Craftsbury and Greensboro Forest Lake (Nelson Pond), Calais and Woodbury Harveys Lake, Barnet Jobs Pond, Westmore (Seasonally Closed) Lake Dunmore, Salisbury Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport; Little Averill Lake, Averill Maidstone Lake, Maidstone Martins Pond, Peacham (Seasonally Closed) Nelson Pond (Forest Lake), Calais and Woodbury Nichols Pond, Woodbury Seymour Lake, Morgan Shadow Lake, Glover Spring Lake, Shrewsbury Sunset Lake, Benson Willoughby Lake, Westmore				

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(f) LAKE TROUT AND SALMON

1. Waters	2.Methods	3.Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 inches	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Lake Trout and Salmon – Minimum length of 15 inches	3 Lake Trout and 2 Salmon
Clyde Pond, Derby Little Salem Lake, Derby Salem Lake, Derby Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog upstream to Citizen's Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through August 31	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 inches  Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay)	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31  January 1 through March 15	Lake Trout- Minimum length of <del>18</del> 24 inches  Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	<del>2</del> 1 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
Listed Below:	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in	Lake Trout- Minimum	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each

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		April through October 31	length of 18 inches  Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	
<p>Orleans County:</p> <p>Barton River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the US Route 5 bridge southernmost and closest to the Village of Barton in Barton.</p> <p>Black River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to the downstream side of the VT Route 14 / 58 bridge in Irasburg.</p> <p>Johns River-From the downstream edge of the first bridge (culvert) upstream of Lake Memphremagog on North Derby Road (TH #6) upstream to U.S. 5, in Derby.</p> <p>Willoughby River - The entire Willoughby River, from confluence with Barton River in Barton upstream to the Willoughby Lake outlet in Westmore.</p>				

## (g) SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT STREAMS

1. Waters	2. Method	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
<b>White River</b> From the confluence with Lilliesville Brook in Stockbridge downstream 3.3 miles to 220 ft. downstream of the confluence with Cleveland Brook in Bethel.	Open-water fishing, with artificial lures and flies only.	Second Saturday in April through October 31.	Minimum length of 18 inches	1 trout
<b>Winooski River Tributaries – Listed Below</b>	Open-water fishing	June 1 through October 31	10 to 16 inches protected slot: <i>(all fish 10 to 16 inches must be released)</i>	2 trout, only 1 greater than 16 inches
<p>Winooski River Tributaries:</p> <p><b>Joiner Brook, Bolton</b> - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1900 feet to the first falls.</p> <p><b>Pinneo Brook, Bolton</b> – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 100 feet to the railroad crossing.</p> <p><b>Preston Brook, Bolton</b> - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 2600 feet to</p>				

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<p>the first falls.</p> <p><b>Ridley Brook, Duxbury</b> – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1700 feet to the first falls.</p>				
<b>Listed Below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	10 to 16 inches protected slot: <i>(all fish 10 to 16 inches must be released)</i>	2 trout, only 1 greater than 16 inches
<p><b>New Haven River</b> – From Munger Street Bridge in New Haven upstream (approximately 4.1 miles) to the South Street bridge in Bristol.</p> <p><b>Mettawee River</b> – From the downstream edge of the Route 153 bridge in Pawlet upstream (approximately 16 miles) to the downstream edge of first bridge on Dorset Hollow Road and including tributary: Flower Brook upstream (approximately 1000ft) to the downstream edge of the Route 30 bridge in Pawlet.</p> <p><b>Winooski River</b> – From Preston Brook mouth upstream (approximately 4.4 miles) to the Ridley Brook mouth.</p>				
<b>Listed below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through September 30	No size restriction.	8 trout
	Open-water fishing	October 1 through October 31	All trout must be immediately released.	Zero, all trout must be immediately released.
<p><b>Batten Kill (East Branch)</b> – In towns of Manchester and Dorset from the downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester upstream (approximately 5.0 miles) to the downstream side of the US Route 7 Bridge south of East Dorset.</p> <p><b>Green River</b> – In the towns of Arlington and Sandgate from its confluence with Batten Kill upstream (approximately 8.5 miles) to the confluence with Moffitt Hollow Brook in Beartown.</p> <p><b>Roaring Branch</b> – In the towns of Arlington and Sunderland from its confluence with the Batten Kill upstream (approximately 3.0 miles) to the downstream side of the Bridge #14 on Sunderland TH# 3 in East Kansas.</p> <p><b>Warm Brook</b> – In the town of Arlington from its Confluence with the Roaring Branch upstream (approximately 0.8 miles) to the base of the so-called Hale Company Dam in East Arlington.</p>				

## (h) ANADROMOUS ATLANTIC SALMON

1. Waters	2. Method	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
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Connecticut River and tributaries	No person shall take or attempt to take an anadromous Atlantic salmon, any salmon unintentionally taken shall be immediately released in accordance with section 4602	No open season	All fish must be immediately released	Zero - All Anadromous Atlantic salmon must be immediately released
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## (i) AMERICAN SHAD

<b>1. Waters</b>	<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>3. Season</b>	<b>4. Size Restrictions</b>	<b>5. Daily Bag limits</b>
Connecticut River, including Vermont river tributaries	Open-water fishing	No closed season	All shad must be released	Zero – All shad must be immediately released.



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(j) BOWFIN, REDHORSE SUCKER (MULLET), LONGNOSE GAR.

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters <i>and as listed below)</i>	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species
General Waters <i>(Except seasonally closed waters and as listed below)</i>	Speargun, bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No Closed Season	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Open-water and ice fishing, speargun, bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No closed season	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Shooting and Handheld Spear	March 25 through May 25, Title 10 (4606e)	No restriction	No more than 5 fish of any one species

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(k) SUCKER (LONGNOSE AND WHITE), and CULL FISH

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (and as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No Limit
General Waters (Except seasonally closed waters and as listed below)	Speargun, <del>and</del> bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No Closed Season	No restriction	No Limit
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Open-water and ice fishing, speargun, <del>and</del> bow and crossbow all with line attached to arrow	No closed season	No restriction	No Limit
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Shooting and Handheld Spear	March 25 through May 25, Title 10 (4606e)	No restriction	No Limit

(l) PANFISH, defined as Bluegill, Bullhead, Black and White Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch

<u>1. Waters</u>	<u>2. Methods</u>	<u>3. Season</u>	<u>4. Size Restrictions</u>	<u>5. Daily Bag Limit</u>
<u>General Waters</u> (except as listed below)	<u>Open-water and ice fishing</u>	<u>No closed season</u>	<u>Minimum length of 8" for</u>  <u>Black and White Crappie;</u> <u>No restriction for other species</u>	<u>50 fish total, no more than 25 of which can be Black and White Crappie</u>
<u>Lake Champlain</u>	<u>Open-water and ice fishing</u>	<u>No closed season</u>	<u>Minimum length of 8" for</u> <u>Black and White Crappie;</u> <u>No restriction</u>	<u>25 Black and White Crappie Combined;</u> <u>No limit for other species</u>

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			<u>for other species</u>	
<u>Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries</u>	<u>Bullhead only: Shooting and handheld Spear</u>	<u>March 25 through May 25, Title 10 (4606e)</u>	<u>Bullhead only: No restriction</u>	<u>Bullhead only: No limit</u>
<u>Berlin Pond</u> <u>Stiles Pond</u>	<u>Open-water and ice fishing</u>	<u>No closed season</u>	<u>Minimum length of 8" for Black and White Crappie; No restriction for other species</u>	<u>50 fish total, no more than 10 of which can be Yellow Perch, and no more than 25 of which can be Black and White Crappie</u>
<u>Businesses may buy lawfully taken fish, with the approval of the Commissioner, pursuant to the Commercial angling rule set forth in 10 V.S.A. APP § 123.</u>				

## (l) — BULLHEAD

<b>1. Waters</b>	<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>3. Season</b>	<b>4. Size Restrictions</b>	<b>5. Daily Bag limits</b>
<i>General Waters (and as listed below)</i>	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No Limit
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No Limit
Lake Champlain, not to include tributaries	Shooting and handheld Spear	March 25 through May 25, Title 10 (4606e)	No restriction	No Limit

## (m) NORTHERN PIKE

<b>1. Waters</b>	<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>3. Season</b>	<b>4. Size Restrictions</b>	<b>5. Daily Bag limits</b>
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	Minimum length of 20 inches	5 Fish
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing,	No closed season	Minimum length of 20 inches	5 Fish

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	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25, 10 VSA 4606)	Minimum length of 20 inches	5 Fish
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## (n) CHAIN AND REDFIN PICKEREL

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No limit
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	10 fish
	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25	No restriction	10 fish

## (o) MUSKELLUNGE

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing; Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	No closed season	All muskellunge must be released	Zero - All muskellunge must be immediately released
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing; Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	No closed season	All muskellunge must be released	Zero - All muskellunge must be immediately released
	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25, 10 VSA 4606)		Zero Fish

## (p) SMELT

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
All waters	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No limit

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## ~~(q) — BLACK AND WHITE CRAPPIE~~

<del>1. Waters</del>	<del>2. Methods</del>	<del>3. Season</del>	<del>4. Size Restrictions</del>	<del>5. Daily Bag limits</del>
<del>All waters</del>	<del>Open water and ice fishing</del>	<del>No closed season</del>	<del>Minimum length of 8 inches</del>	<del>25 fish, Combined</del>

## ~~(r) — YELLOW PERCH~~

<del>1. Waters</del>	<del>2. Methods</del>	<del>3. Season</del>	<del>4. Size Restrictions</del>	<del>5. Daily Bag Limit</del>
<del>General Waters (except as listed below)</del>	<del>Open water and ice fishing</del>	<del>No closed season</del>	<del>No restriction</del>	<del>50 fish,</del>
<del>Lake Champlain</del>	<del>Open water and ice fishing</del>	<del>No closed season</del>	<del>No restriction</del>	<del>No Limit</del>
<del>Businesses may buy lawfully taken fish, with the approval of the Commissioner, pursuant to the Commercial angling rule set forth in 10 V.S.A. APP § 123.</del>				

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~~(s)(q)~~ LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (except as listed below)	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in June through March 15.	Minimum length of 10 inches	5 fish
Lake Champlain	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30.	Minimum length of 12 inches	5 fish
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs (seasonally closed)	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through October 31.	Minimum length of 10 inches	5 fish
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs (seasonally closed)	Open-water fishing: Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	Second Saturday in April through the Friday before the Second Saturday in June, both dates inclusive.	All bass must be released	Zero - All bass must be immediately released
Lake Morey, Fairlee	Open-water and ice fishing	Second Saturday in June through March 15	Minimum length of 14 inches	5 Fish
<b>Listed below:</b>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30.	Minimum length of 10 inches	5 fish
	Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	Dec. 1 through the Friday before the second Saturday in June, both dates inclusive	All bass must be released	Zero – All bass must be immediately released.
Austin Pond, Hubberton Black Pond, Hubberton Blueberry Lake (Warren Lake), Warren Breese Pond, Hubberton Bullhead Pond, Manchester Gale Meadows, Londonderry				

## APPENDIX 122

Half Moon Pond, Hubberton
Lily Pond, Vernon
Lowell Lake, Londonderry
Mill Pond, Windsor
Raponda Lake, Wilmington
Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro
Roach Pond, Hubberton
Runnemedede Lake, Windsor
Sadawga, Whitingham
Weatherhead Hollow, Guilford

APPENDIX 122

~~(t)(r)~~        WALLEYE

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters and Lake Champlain ( <i>except as listed below</i> )	Open-water and ice fishing	First Saturday in May through March 15.	Minimum length of 18 inches	3 Fish
Lake Carmi, Franklin	Open-water and ice fishing	First Saturday in May through March 15	Minimum length of 15 inches Protected lengths- 17 to 19 inches (all fish between 17 & 19 inches must be released)	5 fish, provided only 1 is over 19 inches
Chittenden Reservoir, Chittenden including all tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable to upstream fish movement	Open-water and ice fishing	June 1 through March 15	Minimum length of 22 inches	2 fish

~~(u)(s)~~        SAUGER

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters and Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No open season	Any fish taken must be immediately released	Zero – All Sauger taken must be immediately released



## 7.7 Spawning grounds for game fish generally

- (a) The below listed waters are declared spawning grounds for game fish and are hereby closed to the taking of fish from ~~second Saturday in April~~March 16 through May 31 annually.

### Chittenden County

Joiner Brook, Bolton - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1900 feet to the first falls.

Pinneo Brook, Bolton – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 100 feet to the railroad crossing.

Preston Brook, Bolton - From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 2600 feet to the first falls.

Lamoille River, Milton - From the downstream edge of the bridge on Bear Trap Road in Milton (referred to as the West Milton Bridge upstream to the top of first dam (Peterson Dam) in Milton.

Winooski River, Winooski and Burlington - From the Winooski One Hydro dam west of Main Street (US 7) in Winooski and Burlington and extending downstream to the downstream side of the first railroad bridge.

### Franklin County

Missisquoi River, Swanton - From the top of the Swanton dam in the Village of Swanton downstream approximately 850 feet to the water treatment plant on the west side of the river, and downstream approximately 850 feet to the upstream end of the cement breakwater on the east side of the river. (1988, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 975, eff. April 7, 1988.)

### Orleans County

Black River, Coventry - From 600 feet below the falls at Old Harman Mill in Coventry upstream to the top of falls at Old Harman Mill in Coventry.

Blodgett/Tarbox Brook – from the confluence with Willoughby River upstream 1,300' to bridge on Tarbox Hill Road.

Willoughby River, Orleans - From the downstream edge of bridge on Tarbox Hill Road in Orleans Village upstream to the top of the natural falls upstream of the bridge on Tarbox Hill Road in Orleans Village.

Dorin, Wells, Myers, Schoolhouse and Mill Brooks, all in Westmore - From mouth of brooks at Lake Willoughby upstream approximately 3/4 mile in Dorin Brook, all of Wells Brook, 1/2 mile in Myers Brook, 1/4 mile in the Schoolhouse Brook and, and 1/4 mile in Mill Brook and tributaries, all in Westmore. For identification purpose these brooks are arranged in order from

## APPENDIX 122

north to south, and flow through Vermont Agency of Transportation structures on Route 5A number 10, 9, 8, 7 and 6, respectively.

Porter Brook, Greensboro – From Caspian Lake upstream to its headwaters. (1987, Fish and Wildlife Commissioner's Reg. No. 970, eff. April 1, 1987.)

### Washington County

Chase Brook, Berlin – From its confluence with the Dog River upstream approximately ½ mile to the top of the natural falls in Berlin.

Ridley Brook, Duxbury – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1700 feet to the first falls.

### Windsor County

Lilliesville Brook, Stockbridge - From its confluence with the White River upstream to the 2nd bridge on the Lilliesville Brook Road.

Locust Creek, Bethel - From its confluence with the White River upstream to the 2nd bridge on Rt. 12.

(b) ~~The below named waters are closed from March 16 through May 31.~~

### ~~Chittenden County~~

~~Lamoille River, Milton – From the downstream edge of the bridge on Bear Trap Road in Milton (referred to as the West Milton Bridge) upstream to the top of first dam (Peterson Dam) in Milton.~~

~~Winooski River, Winooski and Burlington – From the Winooski One Hydro dam west of Main Street (US 7) in Winooski and Burlington and extending downstream to the downstream side of the first railroad bridge.~~

### ~~Franklin County~~

~~Missisquoi River, Swanton – From the top of the Swanton dam in the Village of Swanton downstream approximately 850 feet to the water treatment plant on the west side of the river, and downstream approximately 850 feet to the upstream end of the cement breakwater on the east side of the river. (1988, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 975, eff. April 7, 1988.)~~

(e)(b) The below named waters are closed from March 16 to the Friday before the 1st Saturday in May, both dates inclusive:

### Franklin County

Missisquoi River, Swanton - From the top of the Swanton Dam in the Village of Swanton extending downstream 5,120 feet to the

## APPENDIX 122

Northwest corner (downstream) of the Riverside Cemetery and across the river to a pole on the Northeast bank.

- (d) The below named waters are closed to fishing year-round:

Orleans County

Clyde River, Newport City - From 260 feet below the top of the abandoned Mill Dam immediately upstream of the Number 1, 2, 3 hydroelectric powerhouse in Newport City, upstream to the top of the abandoned Mill Dam immediately upstream of the Number 1, 2, 3 hydroelectric powerhouse in Newport City.

- (e) The below named water is only open to fishing using artificial flies and lures from September 1 to October 31. All salmon caught must be released. Lake Trout may be harvest during this period. The daily limit is 2 lake trout with a minimum length of 18 inches

Clyde River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston

- (f) The below named water is catch and release for trout from Second Saturday in April to October 31. All trout must be immediately released.

Batten Kill River - From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester

- (g) The below named water is catch and release for trout with artificial lures and flies only, anglers less than 15 years old may use live bait from Second Saturday in April to October 31. All trout must be immediately released.

Dog River - From the downstream edge of the Junction Road Bridge in Berlin/Montpelier upstream to the top of the Northfield Falls Dam in Northfield.

- (h) The below named waters are closed to fishing from November 1 to the Friday before the second Saturday in April.

Batten Kill River – From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester.

Clyde River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston

Dog River – From the downstream edge of the Junction Road Bridge in Berlin/Montpelier upstream to the top of the Northfield Falls Dam in Northfield.





## INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (ICAR) MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Location:** February 10, 2025, virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:** Chair Sean Brown, Diane Sherman, Jared Adler, Jennifer Mojo, Michael Obuchowski, Natalie Weill, and Nicole Dubuque, John Kessler

**Minutes By:** Melissa Mazza-Paquette

- 2:01 p.m. meeting called to order, welcome and introductions.
  - Note: This is ICAR Chair Brown's last meeting as Nick Kramer begins his role as Chair on February 24, 2025.
    - Member Obuchowski shared his thoughts with Chair Brown that as a group we appreciate his thoughtful, respectful and democratic way he has run this committee and wish him all the best in his new encounters with government.
- Review and approval of [minutes](#) from the January 13, 2025 meeting.
- No additions/deletions to agenda. Agenda approved as drafted.
- No public comments made.
- Presentation of Proposed Rules on pages 2-5 to follow.
  1. 10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, page 2
  2. 10 V.S.A. App. § 123, Commercial Angling Rule, Fish Management Rule, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, page 3
  3. 10 V.S.A. App. § 124, Valley Brook-Spawning Waters, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, page 4
  4. 10 V.S.A. App. § 141, Baitfish Rule, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, page 5
- Next scheduled meeting is March 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
- 3:19 p.m. meeting adjourned.

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith, Eric Palmer, and Margaret Murphy

Motion made to accept the rule by Sean Brown, seconded by Mike Obuchowski, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #11: Strike commercial fishing guides and tourism personnel as they shouldn't be impacted economically by the changes.
2. Adopting Page, #4: Add title.
3. Economic Impact Analysis:
  - a. Be consistent with the impact on the Proposed Filing Coversheet.
  - b. Use descriptive terms.
  - c. #6 and #7: Estimate the mitigation of impact.
  - d. #9: Mention any supportive consequences of the rule.
4. Environmental Impact Analysis, #4: Expand upon to include language that supports that water quality leads to fish and fishing, but fishing doesn't necessarily change water quality.
5. Public Input Maximization Plan:
  - a. #3: Include plans to include press releases, social media, etc.
  - b. #4: Identify specifically the individuals you plan to contact separate from the standard APA requirements posted on your website.
6. Scientific Information Statement:
  - a. #3: Correct misspellings ('informaiton' and 'angerl').
  - b. #4: Reference the angler survey linked in #5.

1) **Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 123, Commercial Angling Rule, Fish Management Rule, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith, Eric Palmer, and Margaret Murphy

Motion made to accept the rule by Sean Brown, seconded by John Kessler, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #10: Either change ‘Department’ to ‘Department’s’ or to ‘...policy of the Department...’.
  - b. #8 and #12: Clarify that it may be anglers with the reciprocal license who would need to buy a Vermont fishing license.
2. Adopting Page, #4: Add title.
3. Economic Impact Analysis, #: Include the potential impact on the buyers based on this change to the regulations.
4. Public Input Maximization Plan:
  - a. #3: Include plans to include press releases, social media, etc.
  - b. #4: Identify specifically the individuals you plan to contact separate from the standard APA requirements posted on your website.
5. Scientific Information Statement:
  - a. #3: Correct misspellings (‘informaiton’ and ‘anger!’).
  - b. #4: Reference the angler survey linked in #5.

1) **Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 124, Valley Brook-Spawning Waters, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith, Eric Palmer, and Margaret Murphy

Motion made to accept the rule as presented without any recommendations by Sean Brown, seconded by Jared Alder, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained.

DRAFT



1) **Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 141, Baitfish Rule, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith, Eric Palmer, and Margaret Murphy

Motion made to accept the rule by Sean Brown, seconded by Nicole Dubuque, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #11: Use consistent terminology throughout all proposed rules from today.
  - b. #12: Change ‘significant’ to another term such as ‘nominal’ or ‘negligible’.
2. Adopting Page, #4: Add title.
3. Public Input Maximization Plan:
  - a. #3: Include plans to include press releases, social media, etc.
  - b. #4: Identify specifically the individuals you plan to contact separate from the standard APA requirements posted on your website.
4. Scientific Information Statement:
  - a. #3: Correct misspellings (‘informaiton’ and ‘angerl’).
  - b. #4: Reference the angler survey linked in #5.

DRAFT

(802) 828-2863

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Primary Contact: Hannah Smith, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1  
National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, Vermont  
05620-3208 Tel: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-  
Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov

Secondary Contact: Eric Palmer, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1  
National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208  
Tel: 802-535-7635 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail:  
eric.palmer@vermont.gov.

URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>

From: APA Coordinator, VSARA

RE: 10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule.

Date 05/06/2025

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We received Proposed Rule on 02/14/2025  
Final Proposed Rule on 05/05/2025  
Adopted Rule on

We have assigned the following rule number(s):

Proposed Rule Number: 25P007

Adopted Rule Number:

(Final Proposals are not assigned a new number; they retain  
the Proposed Rule Number.)

The following problems were taken care of by phone/should be  
taken care of immediately:

We cannot accept this filing until the following problems  
are taken care of:

The notice for this proposed rule appeared/will appear  
online on: 2/19/2025 and in the newspapers of record on 2/27/2025.

This rule takes effect on  
Adoption Deadline: 10/14/2025

Please note: The agency has requested a combined notice for 25P007,  
25P008, 25P009, and 25P010.

If you have any questions, please call me at 828-2863. OR  
E-Mail me at: sos.statutoryfilings@vermont.gov

cc: Emery Mattheis

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
VERMONT STATE ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (VSARA)  
(802) 828-2863

TO:	Seven Days Legals ( <a href="mailto:legals@sevendaysvt.com">legals@sevendaysvt.com</a> )	Tel: (802) 865-1020 x110.
	The Caledonian Record Julie Poutre ( <a href="mailto:adv@caledonian-record.com">adv@caledonian-record.com</a> )	Tel: 748-8121 FAX: 748-1613
	Times Argus / Rutland Herald Melody Hudson ( <a href="mailto:classified.ads@rutlandherald.com">classified.ads@rutlandherald.com</a> ) Elizabeth Marrier ( <a href="mailto:elizabeth.marrier@rutlandherald.com">elizabeth.marrier@rutlandherald.com</a> )	Tel: 802-747-6121 ext 2238 FAX: 802-776-5600
	The Valley News ( <a href="mailto:advertising@vnews.com">advertising@vnews.com</a> )	Tel: 603-298-8711 FAX: 603-298-0212
	The Addison Independent ( <a href="mailto:legals@addisonindependent.com">legals@addisonindependent.com</a> )	Tel: 388-4944 FAX: 388-3100 Attn: Display Advertising
	The Bennington Banner / Brattleboro Reformer Lylah Wright ( <a href="mailto:lwright@reformer.com">lwright@reformer.com</a> ;	Tel: 254-2311 ext. 132 FAX: 447-2028 Attn: Lylah Wright
	The Chronicle ( <a href="mailto:ads@bartonchronicle.com">ads@bartonchronicle.com</a> )	Tel: 525-3531 FAX: 880-1040
	Herald of Randolph ( <a href="mailto:ads@ourherald.com">ads@ourherald.com</a> )	Tel: 728-3232 FAX: 728-9275 Attn: Brandi Comette
	Newport Daily Express ( <a href="mailto:jlafoe@newportvermontdailyexpress.com">jlafoe@newportvermontdailyexpress.com</a> )	Tel: 334-6568 FAX: 334-6891 Attn: Jon Lafoe
	News & Citizen ( <a href="mailto:mike@stowereporter.com">mike@stowereporter.com</a> ) Irene Nuzzo ( <a href="mailto:irene@newsandcitizen.com">irene@newsandcitizen.com</a> and <a href="mailto:ads@stowereporter.com">ads@stowereporter.com</a> removed from distribution list per Lisa Stearns.	Tel: 888-2212 FAX: 888-2173
	St. Albans Messenger Legals ( <a href="mailto:legals@samessenger.com">legals@samessenger.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:cfoley@orourkemediagroup.com">cfoley@orourkemediagroup.com</a> )	Tel: 524-9771 ext. 117 FAX: 527-1948 Attn: Legals
	The Islander ( <a href="mailto:islander@vermontislander.com">islander@vermontislander.com</a> )	Tel: 802-372-5600 FAX: 802-372-3025
	Vermont Lawyer ( <a href="mailto:hunter.press.vermont@gmail.com">hunter.press.vermont@gmail.com</a> )	Attn: Will Hunter

**FROM:** APA Coordinator, VSARA

**Date of Fax:** May 7, 2025

**RE:** The "Proposed State Rules " ad copy to run on

**February 27, 2025**

PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER MEMO:

**3**

**\*NOTE\* 8-pt font in body. 12-pt font max. for headings - single space body. Please include dashed lines where they appear in ad copy. Otherwise minimize the use of white space. Exceptions require written approval.**

If you have questions, or if the printing schedule of your paper is disrupted by holiday etc. please contact VSARA at 802-828-3700, or E-Mail [sos.statutoryfilings@vermont.gov](mailto:sos.statutoryfilings@vermont.gov), Thanks.

## PROPOSED STATE RULES

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By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

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**NOTE:** The four rules below have been promulgated by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board who has requested the notices be combined to facilitate a savings for the agency. When contacting the agency about these rules please note the title and rule number of the proposed rule(s) you are interested in.

- 10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule  
Vermont Proposed Rule: **25P007**
- 10 V.S.A. App. § 123, Commercial Angling Rule  
Vermont Proposed Rule: **25P008**
- 10 V.S.A. App. § 124, Valley Brook-Spawning Waters  
Vermont Proposed Rule: **25P009**
- 10 V.S.A. App. § 141, Baitfish Rule  
Vermont Proposed Rule: **25P010**

AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

The amendments to 10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule adds Mud Pond to the list of seasonally closed waters, adds a segment of the Deerfield River to the list of Trophy Trout streams, creates and amends various bag limits and requirements for panfish on various water bodies specified within the rule, and amends the list of closed seasonal spawning grounds and extends the closure season for trout spawning grounds.

The amendments to 10 V.S.A. App. § 123, Commercial Angling impose new license requirements for the selling of fish in the State and bans the sale and purchase of black and white crappie caught in Vermont.

Title 10 V.S.A. App. § 124, Valley Brook-Spawning Waters is being repealed as it is outdated.

The amendments to 10 V.S.A. App. § 141, Baitfish Rule expand angling opportunities and allow anglers more opportunities to harvest baitfish, by: allowing the use of larger minnow traps; allowing transportation of personally-harvested baitfish between non-restricted waters within the same zone; modifying the requirements for personally harvested baitfish on seasonally closed waters; modifying the use of personally-harvested fish eggs in the same water as

harvested, and eliminates the requirements that commercial bait sellers keep carbon copies of receipts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Hannah Smith, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208 Tel: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail: [hannah.smith@vermont.gov](mailto:hannah.smith@vermont.gov) URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>. FOR COPIES: Eric Palmer, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208 Tel: 802-535-7635 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail: [eric.palmer@vermont.gov](mailto:eric.palmer@vermont.gov).

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## The Vermont Statutes Online

The Statutes below include the actions of the 2024 session of the General Assembly.

**NOTE:** The Vermont Statutes Online is an unofficial copy of the Vermont Statutes Annotated that is provided as a convenience.

### Title 10 : Conservation and Development

#### Chapter 103 : Department of Fish and Wildlife

##### Subchapter 002 : REGULATORY POWERS OVER FISH AND WILDLIFE

(Cite as: 10 V.S.A. § 4081)

#### § 4081. Policy

(a)(1) As provided by Chapter II, § 67 of the Constitution of the State of Vermont, the fish and wildlife of Vermont are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the citizens of Vermont and shall not be reduced to private ownership. The State of Vermont, in its sovereign capacity as a trustee for the citizens of the State, shall have ownership, jurisdiction, and control of all of the fish and wildlife of Vermont.

(2) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall manage and regulate the fish and wildlife of Vermont in accordance with the requirements of this part and the rules of the Fish and Wildlife Board. The protection, propagation control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing animals in this State are in the interest of the public welfare. The State, through the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, shall safeguard the fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing animals of the State for the people of the State, and the State shall fulfill this duty with a constant and continual vigilance.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 2803, the Fish and Wildlife Board shall be the State agency charged with carrying out the purposes of this subchapter.

(c) An abundant, healthy deer herd is a primary goal of fish and wildlife management. The use of a limited unit open season on antlerless deer shall be implemented only after a scientific game management study by the Department of Fish and Wildlife supports such a season.

(d) Annually, the Department shall update a scientific management study of the State deer herd. The study shall consider data provided by Department biologists and citizen testimony taken under subsection (f) of this section.

(e) Based on the results of the updated management study and citizen testimony, the Board shall decide whether an antlerless deer hunting season is necessary and if so how many permits are to be issued. If the Board determines that an antlerless season is necessary, it shall adopt a rule creating one and the Department shall then administer an antlerless program.

(f) Annually, the Department shall hold regional public hearings to receive testimony and data from concerned citizens about their knowledge and concerns about the deer herd. The Board shall identify the regions by rule.

(g) If the Board finds that an antlerless season is necessary to maintain the health and size of the herd, the Department shall administer an antlerless deer program. Annually, the Board shall determine how many antlerless permits to issue in each wildlife management unit. For a nonrefundable fee of \$10.00 for residents and \$25.00 for nonresidents, a person may apply for a permit. Each person may submit only one application for a permit. The Department shall allocate the permits in the following manner:

(1) A Vermont landowner, as defined in section 4253 of this title, who owns 25 or more contiguous acres and who applies shall receive a permit for antlerless hunting in the management unit on which the land is located before any are given to people eligible under subdivision (2) of this subsection. If the land is owned by

more than one individual, corporation, or other entity, only one permit shall be issued. Landowners applying for antlerless permits under this subdivision shall not, at the time of application or thereafter during the regular hunting season, post their lands except under the provisions of section 4710 of this title. As used in this section, "post" means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is restricted on the land. If the number of landowners who apply exceeds the number of permits for that district, the Department shall award all permits in that district to landowners by lottery.

(2) Permits remaining after allocation pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be issued by lottery.

(3) Any permits remaining after permits have been allocated pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be issued by the Department for a \$10.00 fee for residents. Ten percent of the remaining permits may be issued to nonresident applicants for a \$25.00 fee. (Added 1961, No. 119, § 1, eff. May 9, 1961; amended 1979, No. 68, § 1, eff. May 8, 1979; 1979, No. 126 (Adj. Sess.); 1979, No. 189 (Adj. Sess.), § 3, eff. date, see note set out below; 1983, No. 158 (Adj. Sess.), eff. April 13, 1984; 1989, No. 140 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; 1989, No. 248 (Adj. Sess.); 1991, No. 16; 1991, No. 230 (Adj. Sess.), § 6; 1997, No. 99 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; 1997, No. 155 (Adj. Sess.), § 53a, eff. Jan. 1, 1999; 2003, No. 136 (Adj. Sess.), § 2; 2011, No. 54, § 2; 2011, No. 54, § 9, eff. May 31, 2011; 2013, No. 78, § 2.)





# Proposed Rules Postings

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## Search Rules

### Deadline For Public Comment

Deadline: Apr 07, 2025

The deadline for public comment has expired. Contact the agency or primary contact person listed below for assistance.

### Rule Details

Rule Number:	25P007
Title:	10 V.S.A. App. § 122, Fish Management Rule.
Type:	Standard
Status:	Proposed
Agency:	Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
Legal Authority:	10 V.S.A. §§ 4081- 4083
Summary:	The proposed rule amendments add Mud Pond to the list of seasonally closed waters; create a state-aggregate daily bag limit for all panfish on inland waters; add a segment of the Deerfield River to the list of Trophy Trout streams; increases minimum length and reduces daily bag limit of Lake Trout on Memphremagog; consolidates Bullhead requirements under Panfish requirements and amends bag limits accordingly; adds panfish bag limits for Berlin and Stiles Ponds; extends the closure season for trout spawning grounds; and adds certain waters to the list of closed seasonal spawning grounds.
Persons Affected:	Department Staff including game wardens, and commercial and recreational anglers.
Economic Impact:	The proposed aggregate panfish bag limits on inland waters may have an economic impact on commercial anglers who sell panfish harvested in the State. The other proposed amendments will not have an economic impact.
Posting date:	Feb 19,2025

### Hearing Information

**Information for Hearing # 1**

Hearing 03-24-2025 6:30 PM [ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR](#)  
date:  
Location: Conference Room 110, Pavilion Building  
Address: 111 State Street  
City: Montpelier  
State: VT  
Zip: 05602  
Hearing  
Notes:

**Information for Hearing # 2**

Hearing 03-25-2025 6:30 PM [ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR](#)  
date:  
Location: St. Albans Town Educational Center  
Address: 169 South Main Street  
City: St. Albans  
State: VT  
Zip: 05478  
Hearing  
Notes:

**Information for Hearing # 3**

Hearing 03-27-2025 6:30 PM [ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR](#)  
date:  
Location: Rutland High School  
Address: 22 Stratton Rd.  
City: Rutland  
State: VT  
Zip: 05701  
Hearing  
Notes:

**Information for Hearing # 4**

Hearing 03-31-2025 6:30 PM [ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR](#)  
date:  
Location: Virtually via MS Teams  
Address: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/193ameeting\\_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZINTNkMjQ440thread.v2context7b22Tid223a2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6222c22Oid223a222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5227d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/193ameeting_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZINTNkMjQ440thread.v2context7b22Tid223a2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6222c22Oid223a222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5227d)  
City: n/a  
State: VT  
Zip: n/a  
Hearing Virtually via MS Teams [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/193ameeting\\_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZINTNkMjQ440thread.v2context7b22Tid223a2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6222c22Oid223a222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5227d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/193ameeting_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZINTNkMjQ440thread.v2context7b22Tid223a2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6222c22Oid223a222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5227d)  
Notes: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/193ameeting\\_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZINTNkMjQ440thread.v2context7b22Tid223a2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6222c22Oid223a222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5227d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/193ameeting_ZWM2ZTVhZDgtMmM2MS00ZDJjLWE3YWItMDFkOWZINTNkMjQ440thread.v2context7b22Tid223a2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6222c22Oid223a222fafd1d9-49ab-4c12-b37c-0bf36bb473f5227d)

**Contact Information****Information for Primary Contact**

**PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON** - A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE.

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Website Address: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)

### Information for Secondary Contact

**SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON** - A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON.

Level: Secondary  
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## Keyword Information

Keywords:

Fish  
Fish Management  
Fisheries  
Panfish  
Bag Limits  
Spawning Grounds

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