



Andrea Shortsleeve  
Commissioner  
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# Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife Fish Culture Stations





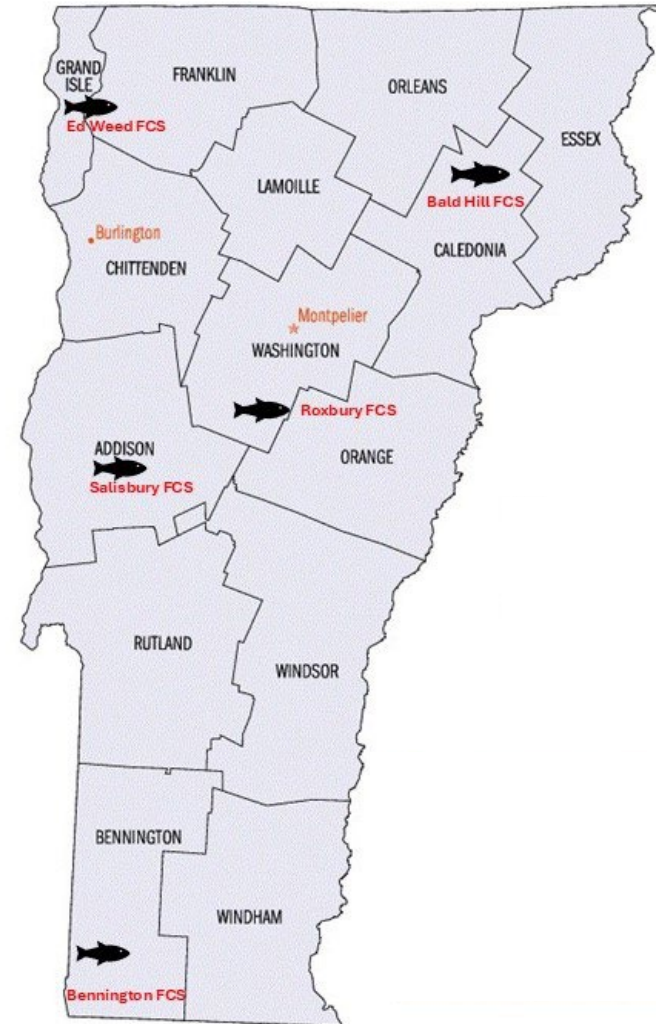
# The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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



# Vermont Fish Culture Stations

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





# Vermont Fish Culture Stations

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







# Vermont Fish Culture Stations

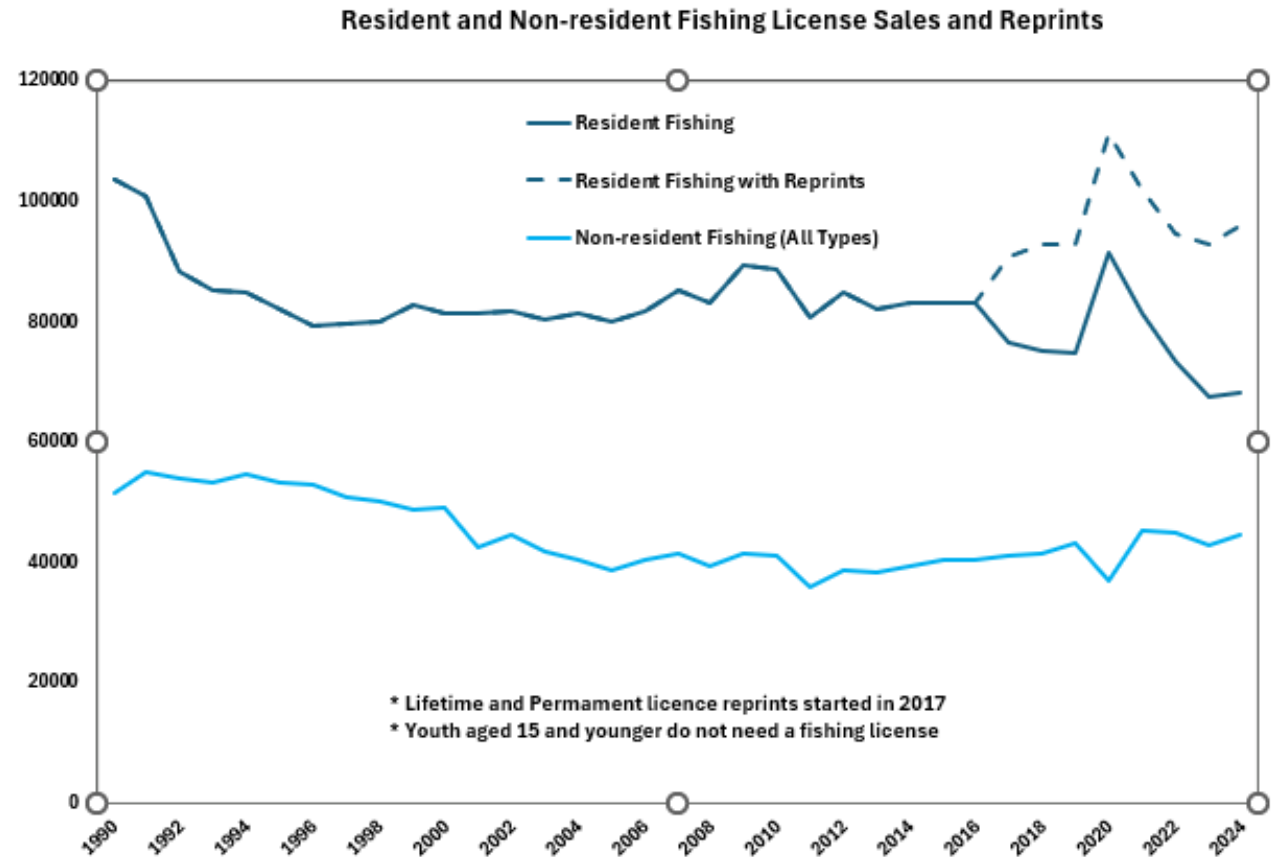
- Annual operating budget: \$4.2M
- Angling annually contributes approximately \$40M to Vermont's economy
  - 23:1 Return on the investment with State dollars
- Unfortunately, does not come back to the F&W budget



# Current Funding Model

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







**Act 162  
Legislative  
Report**





# Infrastructure Review

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





# Moving Production

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





# Required Permits

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



# Next Steps

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

