

Fish and Wildlife Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board held a meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 via video conference. The Zoom meeting ID was: 884 2626 6407. Members of the public joined the meeting via Zoom Webinar and over the telephone.

Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Review of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - October 7, 2020
- 2) Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes per speaker)
- 3) Lifetime License Winner Drawing
- 4) 2020 Deer Season Harvest Update – Nick Fortin
- 5) Fish Regulation Simplification Proposal – F&W Dept. Fisheries Staff
- 6) Petition Consideration – Use of Cell Game Cameras During Hunting Seasons
 - *Note: This petition was withdrawn from consideration prior to the meeting. The petition and the petitioner's request to withdraw are attached to these minutes.*
- 7) Commissioner's Update
- 8) Roundtable Discussion

Board Members in Attendance: Tim Biebel (Board Chair); Brian Bailey; Michael Bancroft; Wendy Butler; Brad Ferland; David Fielding; Mike Kolsun; Bryan McCarthy; Dennis Mewes; Bill Pickens; David Robillard; Jay Sweeny; and Martin Van Buren.

Department Staff in Attendance: Louis Porter, Commissioner; Mark Scott, Wildlife Director; Eric Palmer, Fish Director; Col. Jason Batchelder, Law Enforcement Director; Catherine Gjessing, General Counsel; Margaret Murphy, Fish Program Manager, Maureen Lynch, Fish Program Manager; Bernie Pientka, Fisheries Biologist; Nick Fortin, Deer Project Leader; Spc. Russ Shopland, State Warden; Steve Gomez, Financial Manager; Kim Royar, Furbearer Project Leader; Courtney Buckley, Fish Biologist; and Will Duane, Executive Assistant.

Members of the Public in Attendance (*Note: Zoom Webinar requests a first and last name for each attendee, the following names joined the meeting as attendees and on the phone*): Tiffany Razo; L Beegee; Sam Aronson; Brian O’Gorman; Brian Pena; Charles Sherman; Lesly Finlayson; David Kelley; Anthony; Terry Johnson; Molly Coseno; Frank Warren; Dorothy Dahm; Chris Owen; Susan Frey, Suzanne Zeliff; Ryan; Evan Potter; Lark Shields; Kevin Ramirez; Brenna Galdenzi; Clint; Joe Vocci; Mark Green; Lewis White; Allan Thompson; Pat Guyette; Michael Laveese, and Tim Duclos.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:02 PM

New Member Introduction

Brad Ferland is the new Board representative from Caledonia County. Brad is an avid outdoorsman and has recently retired from a long career with the State of Vermont, most recently as the Deputy Secretary of Administration. Brad stated that he is happy to be taking on this role to help put rules in place to manage our natural resources.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The October 7, 2020 meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: Bryan McCarthy moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2020 Board Meeting. Brian Bailey seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board Chair Tim Biebel, noted a typo to correct on the first page.

Vote: 12-0 rollcall vote to approve the minutes as amended. Brad Ferland abstained from voting as he was not present at the October 7, 2021 meeting.

Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes per speaker)

Brenna Galdenzi – Stowe: The recently withdrawn petition raised concerns I have with the petition process. There was social media discussion indicating that my organization was involved with the petition on game cameras. It was not involved. The Department and Board need to do a better job of monitoring social media and correcting misstatements.

Michael Lavese - Rochester: I'm calling because I have concerns about a local resident who may have shot more than his allotment of bears and I believe he might be trapping on my property. I recently purchased a home in Vermont, though I no longer hunt I do keep abreast of hunting regulations. I have no issue with regulated hunting, I do have an issue with the unethical pursuit of furbearers, bears, and coyotes. Current policies give the impression, especially to young people, that certain wildlife species have no value and do contribute to the ecosystem. I have neighbors who are considering posting their land for the first time because of the current policies on certain species.

Leslie Finlayson – Shelburne: I'd like to reiterate everything that the previous caller stated related to the hunting of coyote and black bears.

Molly Cosino – Stowe: I would also like to reiterate everything that the caller from Rochester stated. I'm not opposed to hunting but I am concerned at the rate of harvest of the black bear population and the methods allowed for hunting bear.

Note: Lark Shields requested to address the Board but was unable to do so due to technical issues with updates to the ZOOM App.

Lifetime Hunting License Drawing

The randomly selected recipient of the annual lifetime license drawing was Robert Hubbard from Warwick, MA.

2021 Deer Harvest Update

Commissioner Porter and Wildlife Director Scott introduced Deer Project Leader Nick Fortin to present preliminary data from the 2020 deer hunting season. Commissioner Porter noted that it was a successful deer season even with the complications of COVID-19 and the new deer hunting regulations, noting a surge in participation. Director Scott also noted that archery licenses, muzzleloader season tags, and turkey hunting tag sales were up from the previous year. This likely directly attributable to people seeking outdoor activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Wildlife Division does not have concerns that too many deer were harvested, these results are in line with projections from last year. The Department will present on more final data at the Board's February meeting.

Nick Fortin presented preliminary data to the Board on the 2020 deer harvest. His presentation slide is attached to these minutes. Of note:

- Archery season set a record for deer harvest with a bow or crossbow by a large margin. Previous record archery harvest was approximately 5,200 deer in the late 90s. This likely due to higher participation, archery license sales were up approximately 50%. The harvest total was probably not increased because of more harvest with crossbows, but there was probably more hunter participation because of the wider availability of crossbows as a hunting implement.
- 70% of the archery harvest was with reported with crossbows. In 2019 this figure was 41%.
- Youth and novice season harvest total was about 1,205 (125 for novice). This is the lowest number for youth weekend since it became a 2-day season back in 2002. The weather was bad on youth weekend in 2020, moving the date could have also been a factor
- The October muzzleloader (early antlerless) season harvest total is around 1,900. This is lower than expected, only about an 8% fill rate.
- The rifle season harvest total was down, coming in at approximately 7,000, - down from last year but still a good year. This total is lower than the last 4 years, but higher than 11 of 12 years before that. For a down year it was still pretty good.
- December muzzleloader was lower with a harvest total of 2,700 deer. This is down substantially from previous year, though the combined muzzleloader harvest is increased, most of that increase was antlerless deer. Approximately 18% of the muzzleloader tags were filled, we had estimated 24-25% in the permit recommendation in 2020. Weather and food availability seem to have been big factors. Sighting rates during rifle season were down statewide, which indicates that deer weren't moving around too much.

- Total buck harvest is a bit over 9,000, this is down from last year and down a bit from the three-year average. This is still a good number, this was achieved once between 2005 through 2016.
- Antlerless harvest was up to approximately 9,700. This was the intent of the new regulations. This happened mostly in archery season, and not as much as we thought for the muzzleloader. Our estimates were higher, but this is close.
- In WMUs where the antler point restriction was lifted, 23% of the buck harvest was spike horns. This is less than the usual percentage, which indicates to us that hunters were being selective and passing on some spikehorn deer.

Fishing Regulation Simplification Proposal

The Department has proposed changes to the Title 10 Appendix regulations relating to angling in Vermont. Commissioner Porter introduced Fisheries Director Eric Palmer and the Department's Fish staff who worked on the regulation. Director Palmer noted that the Department brought a preview of the proposal to the Fish and Wildlife Board in September of 2020. What is being presented at this meeting is mostly unchanged from that first look. After presenting the concepts to the Board last fall the Department held two informational meetings to receive public input. The response from the public thus far has been generally positive. Several members of the Fish Division who helped in this process and here to answer questions are Bernie Pientka, Mo Lynch, and Margaret Murphy. Warden Russ Shopland from the Law Enforcement Division has been involved throughout the process as well.

Fish Biologist Bernie Pientka provided an overview of the key changes of the proposal and made a short presentation on the high level concepts and the process steps taken so far. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. The Department initially presented the proposal concepts to the Board in September, 2020. There were two virtual public informational meetings held on 11/10 and 11/18 to gather input from the angling public. The presentation given at the informational meetings was also posted on the website alongside an electronic comment form. The comments were compiled, reviewed by staff, and sent to the Board. Department staff also created an edited version of 10 V.S.A App. §122 with the changes annotated, as well as a comparison document to highlight the current and proposed regulations. Proposed changes include modifications to catch limits, definitions, seasonally closed waters, special regulations, and edits for general clarification.

After the initial presentation on the process and status of the proposal Bernie Pientka explained the proposed changes line by line using the attached regulation comparison document. The regulation simplification proposal with specific citations to the proposed changes and all supporting documents are attached to these minutes and available on the Department website.

Motion: Jay Sweeny moved to approve the Department's regulation simplification proposal as presented. Dennis Mewes seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous 13-0 roll call vote to approve the proposal as presented. The rulemaking proposal will next be filed with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules and the Secretary of State's Office.

Commissioner's Update

- The proposed Board meeting schedule for the beginning half of 2021 was shared and is attached to these minutes. Generally, the Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

- The Department sent out a survey to about 1,800 waterfowl hunters in the state to ask for input on the future of mallard hunting in Vermont. Mallard populations are declining in the Atlantic Flyway. All 17 states in the flyway are conducting this survey.
- There was a record bear harvest in 2020. Slightly more than 900 bears were harvested. Most of those were taken in the early season. We suspect that drought conditions and lack of wild foods may have brought bears into areas where they were more susceptible to hunting harvest.
- Ice fishing for trout began last weekend. There have been some instances already of people and vehicles going through the ice.
- The annual free fishing day is January 30th. We are not hosting our annual festival, but the Department did film a virtual version of the festival that anglers can access online while fishing.
- Cassidy Shaw, our Fish Culture Operations Chief passed away on January 2nd. She will be greatly missed. Cassidy was an amazing person and an accomplished scientist. The fish health lab at Vermont Technical College is dedicated in her memory.
- Fish biologists will be coming to a future meeting to present results from the 10-year statewide angler survey.

Roundtable Discussion

Adjourn

Motion: Dennis Mewes moved to adjourn the meeting. Marty Van Buren seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous voice vote to adjourn.

The Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:33 PM

The mission of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is the conservation of all species of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

2020 Deer Seasons Summary

Thru 1/19/21 – NUMBERS ARE APPROXIMATE AND NOT FINAL!

Archery:

6,150 (up 64% from 3,748 in 2019)

All-time record

70% harvested w/ crossbow (41% in 2019)

Youth/Novice:

1,250 (1,125/125)

lowest since became a 2-day season in 2002

October (antlerless) Muzzleloader:

1,900

8% fill rate on permits sold at the time

Rifle:

7,000 (down 7% from 7,502 in 2019)

Lower than previous 4 years, but higher than 11 of 12 years before that

December Muzzleloader:

2,700 (down 21% from 3,663 in 2019)

Combined muzzleloader harvest of 4,600

Up 28% from 2019

TOTAL

Bucks: 9,300

Down 7% from 2019 (10,058)

Down 5% from 2017-19 average (9,854)

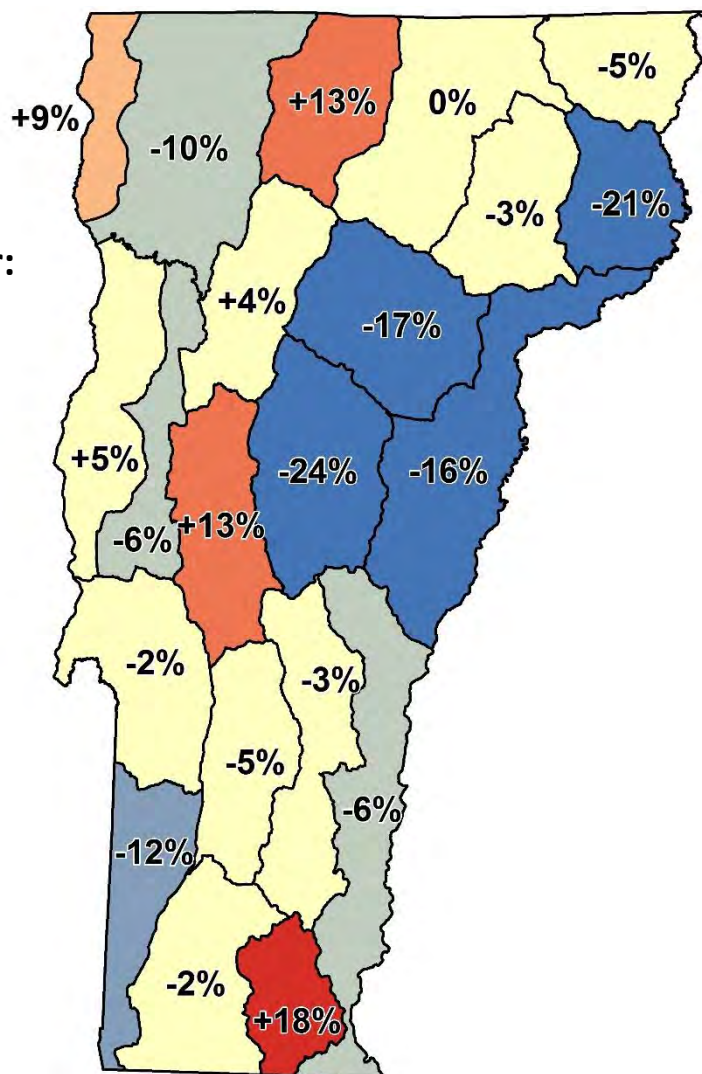
Antlerless: 9,700

Up 48% from 2019 (6,492)

Up 34% from 2017-19 average (7,327)

5% BELOW recommended antlerless harvest (10,147)

Change in Buck Harvest from 2017-2019 Average



Percent of Bucks That Were Spikes

(in WMUs where they were legal)

Archery	23%
Youth	43%
Rifle	21%
Dec Muzz	31%
TOTAL	23%

~33% of the buck population is spike-antlered

44% of buck harvest from 2001-2004 was spikes

Number of deer harvested by successful hunters

Year	1	2	3	4
2015	9394 (86%)	1289 (12%)	184 (2%)	
2016	11009 (83%)	1960 (15%)	329 (2%)	
2017	11078 (83%)	1955 (15%)	332 (2%)	
2018	11613 (78%)	2730 (18%)	646 (4%)	
2019	11208 (82%)	2091 (15%)	388 (3%)	
2020	11484 (79%)	2371 (16%)	559 (4%)	118 (1%)

Changes to 122 – Regulations Simplification Proposal – 1-11-21

Current	Proposed
<p>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, except that at Seymour Lake and Little Averill Lake a person may take fish only by using not more than one line.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>3.3 A person open-water fishing shall not take fish through the ice, from the ice, or from an object supported by the ice.</p>	<p><i>Entire section will be deleted</i></p>
<p>Not in current 122 – Some parts are for certain species – C&R bass, C&R trout</p>	<p>3.5 – open-water section <u>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.</u></p>
<p>4.2 Fish may be taken through the ice with not more than two baited hooks or three artificial flies or two lures on each line. A person shall not operate more than eight lines, except on Lake Champlain where no more than fifteen lines may be operated, and except on Seymour and Little Averill Lakes, where not more than four lines may be operated.</p>	<p>4.2 – ice fishing 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.</p> <p><i>Note: Seymour and Averill deleted and some reformatting to better match 3.5</i></p>
<p>be considered to be foul <u>hooked</u>, and shall be prima facie evidence of foul hooking. 4.5 The definitions of section 3 are applicable to this section. 4.6 Taking or attempting to take fish by snagging is prohibited in all Vermont Waters.</p>	<p>Section 4.5 is moved into 4.1 4.1 Definitions - <u>The definitions of section 3 are applicable to this section.</u> <i>Note: no new language</i></p>
<p>Not in current 122 – Some parts are for certain species – C&R bass, C&R trout</p>	<p>4.6 – ice fishing <u>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.</u></p>
<p>6.0 Clyde River: Catch and Release Between September 1 and October 31, on the Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston, a person may fish with artificial flies and lures only, and all salmon caught must be released.</p>	<p><i>Section maintained as written just moved within 122 (Section 7.7 (e)).</i> (e) <u>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</u> <u>Clyde River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston</u></p>

Current	Proposed	
<p>7.0 Seasonally Closed Waters</p> <p>7.1 The following lakes and ponds or portions thereof are hereby designated seasonally closed waters and shall be closed to all fishing except during the open season for trout as provided in section 8 of these regulations:</p>	<p>6.0 Seasonally Closed Waters</p> <p><u>Lakes and Ponds</u> – The following lakes and ponds or portions thereof are hereby designated seasonally closed waters and shall be closed to all fishing except <u>between the Second Saturday in April through October 31.</u></p>	
<p>Adams Reservoir, Woodford Ansel Pond, Bethel Baker Pond, Barton Bald Hill Pond, Westmore Bean Pond, Sutton Beaver Pond, Holland Beck Pond, Newark Beebe Pond, Sunderland Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill Big Mud Pond, Mt. Tabor Blake Pond, Sutton Bourn Pond, Sunderland Branch Pond, Sunderland Brown Pond, Westmore Caspian Lake, Greensboro Center Pond, Newark Colby Pond, Plymouth Cow Mountain Pond, Granby Crystal Lake, Barton Duck Pond, Sutton Dufresne Pond, Manchester East Long Pond, Woodbury Echo Lake, Charleston Ewell Pond, Peacham Forest Lake, Averill Goshen Dam (Sugar Hill Reservoir), Goshen Griffith Lake, Mt. Tabor Hapgood Pond, Peru Hartwell Pond, Albany Holland Pond, Holland Jobs Pond, Westmore Knapp Brook Pond No. 1, Reading and Cavendish Knapp Brook Pond No. 2, Reading and Cavendish Lake Dunmore-Salisbury and Leicester - Except from Sucker Brook to the island south, which shall be open. Levi Pond, Groton Lewis Pond, Lewis Little Averill Lake, Averill Little Elmore Pond, Elmore Little Rocky Pond, Wallingford Long Pond, Newbury Long Pond, Westmore</p>	<p>Maidstone Lake, Maidstone Marl Pond, Sutton Martins Pond, Peacham May Pond, Barton McIntosh Pond, Royalton Mud Pond, Hyde Park Nelson Pond (Forest Lake), Calais and Woodbury Nichols Pond, Woodbury North Pond, Chittenden Norton Pond, Norton Notch Pond, Ferdinand Noyes (Seyon) Pond, Groton Peacham Pond, Peacham Perch Pond (Zack Woods Pond), Hyde Park Pigeon Pond, Groton Red Mill Pond, Woodford Seymour Lake, Morgan Shadow Lake, Glover 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 Sunset Lake, Benson Unknown Pond, Averys Gore Unknown Pond, Ferdinand Vail Pond, Sutton Vernon Hatchery Pond, Vernon West Mountain Pond, Maidstone Wheeler Pond, Barton and Sutton Willoughby Lake, Westmore Zack Woods (Perch Pond), Hyde Park</p>	<p>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 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 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</p>

Current	Proposed										
<p>7.2 All streams are hereby designated seasonally closed waters and shall be closed to all fishing, except during the open season for trout as provided in section 8 of these regulations; and</p> <p>7.2.1 except that the following streams shall be open to trout fishing only, and no fishing for other species shall be allowed, from November 1 to the Friday before the second Saturday in April, as set forth in Table 7.2.2.</p>	<p>6.2</p> <p><u>Rivers and Streams</u> - All rivers and streams are hereby designated seasonally closed waters except as listed in all below sections. For species with defined harvest seasons, targeted C&R angling with immediate release can occur outside of harvest season, using artificial lures and flies.</p> <p><i>Note: this opens up year-round fishing in rivers and streams. Keeping them listed as seasonally closed to address baitfish, speargun, etc conditions.</i></p>										
<p><i>As part of the above change (Section 7.2) two river sections need to remain closed to C&R fishing outside of the regular trout harvest season. Also due to open year round stream fishing an additional river section was added (Clyde River).</i></p>	<p>7.7 (g) The below named waters are closed to fishing from November 1 to the Friday before the second Saturday in April.</p> <p>Battenkill River – From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester.</p> <p><u>Clyde River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Note: Clyde River was not in earlier board presentation.</i></p>										
<p>7.2.2: STREAMS OPEN TO FISHING FOR TROUT ONLY FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE SECOND WEEK IN APRIL</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="117 878 674 1024"> <thead> <tr> <th>1. Waters</th> <th>2. Methods</th> <th>3. Season</th> <th>Size Restrictions</th> <th>5. Daily Bag Limit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Listed Below</td> <td>Artificial fly or lure only</td> <td>November 1 to the Friday before the 2nd Saturday in April.</td> <td>Catch and release only</td> <td>Zero-All trout must be immediately released to the water where taken.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Black River – From the top of the Lovejoy Dam in Springfield upstream to the Howard Hill Road Bridge in Cavendish.</p> <p>Deerfield River – From the Woods Road (Medburyville) bridge in Wilmington upstream approximately 2 miles to the VT Route 9W bridge in Searsburg.</p> <p>East Creek (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>Hoosic River – From the Vermont/New York border upstream to the Vermont/Massachusetts border.</p> <p>Lamoille River – From the top of the hydroelectric dam at Fairfax Falls upstream to the top of the Cady's Falls Dam in Morristown.</p> <p>Moose River – From the confluence with Passumpsic River upstream to the downstream edge of the Concord Avenue bridge in St. Johnsbury.</p> <p>Otter Creek – From the top of the Center Rutland Falls in Rutland upstream to the Danby-Mt. Tabor Forest Road Bridge (Forest Road #10) in Mt. Tabor.</p> <p>Passumpsic River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of Arnolds Falls Dam in St. Johnsbury.</p> <p>Walloomsac River – From the Vermont/New York border in Bennington upstream to the top of the former Vermont Tissue Plant Dam (downstream of Murphy Road) in Bennington.</p> <p>Winooski River – From the top of the Bolton Dam in Waterbury and Duxbury upstream to the VT Route 2/100 in Duxbury and Waterbury.</p>	1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit	Listed Below	Artificial fly or lure only	November 1 to the Friday before the 2nd Saturday in April.	Catch and release only	Zero-All trout must be immediately released to the water where taken.	<p><i>Entire section will be deleted</i></p> <p><i>Note: This is not needed because of the change to open up rivers and streams to year-round fishing.</i></p>
1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit							
Listed Below	Artificial fly or lure only	November 1 to the Friday before the 2nd Saturday in April.	Catch and release only	Zero-All trout must be immediately released to the water where taken.							

Current

8.1.1 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:

8.1.1.1 the person has been issued a Commercial Bait Dealers Permit by the Commissioner,

Proposed

(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.

Note: Was not in earlier board presentation – Section 7.1 (a), (1).

FISH SPECIES	DAILY AGGREGATE LIMITS
Brook Trout	12 fish
Brown and Rainbow Trout	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
Black and White Crappie	25 fish
American Shad	0 fish
Yellow Perch	50 fish
Yellow Perch exception	Lake Champlain – no daily limit
Sauger	0 fish

Section 7.6 (a).

FISH SPECIES	DAILY AGGREGATE LIMITS
Brook and Brown and Rainbow Trout - Streams/Rivers	Maximum Combination of 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
Black and White Crappie	25 fish
American Shad	0 fish
Yellow Perch	50 fish
Yellow Perch exception	Lake Champlain – no daily limit
Sauger	0 fish
Sturgeon	0 fish

8.5.2 BROOK, BROWN AND RAINBOW TROUT

1.Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4.Size Restrictions	5.Daily Bag Limit
General waters. (except as listed below)	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	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	12 trout, of which not more than 6 can be brown and/or rainbow

Section 7.6 (b)

(b) BROOK, BROWN AND RAINBOW TROUT

1.Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4.Size Restrictions	5.Daily Bag Limit
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	6 trout
Sherman Reservoir, Whitingham	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	No restriction	6 trout

Current

8.5.4 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

Lakes and Ponds:
 Caspian Lake, Greensboro
 Echo Lake, Charleston
 Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport
 Willoughby Lake, Westmore

Rivers and Streams:
 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.
 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.

Proposed

Section 7.6 (d).

(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

Rivers and Streams:
 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.

8.5.5 BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW, LAKE TROUT AND SALMON – 2 FISH AGGREGATE LIMITS

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	See regulations for specific bodies of water	Two fish in aggregate

Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill
 Caspian Lake, Greensboro
 Center Pond, Newark
 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
 Lake Dummore, Salisbury
 Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay and the connecting waters), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport;
 Little Averill Lake, Averill
 Long Pond, Westmore
 Maidstone Lake, Maidstone
 Martins Pond, Peacham
 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

(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
Listed below:	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 Dummore, 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

Section 7.6 (e)

Current

8.5.6 STREAMS OPEN TO YEAR ROUND TROUT FISHING

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
The following portions of the specified rivers shall be open to fishing for trout year round: (Listed below)	Artificial fly or lure only, except during the open season for trout.	No closed season for catch and release only Open season; from the 2nd Saturday in April through October 31	Catch and release only During the open season follow any species restrictions for the selected river	Zero-All trout must be immediately returned to the waters where taken, except during the open season, limits apply in accordance with the river selected.
<p>Black River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the Lovejoy Dam in Springfield.</p> <p>Lamoille River – From the Lake Champlain boundary (top of Peterson Dam in Milton) upstream to the top of the hydroelectric Dam at Fairfax Falls.</p> <p>Lewis Creek – From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the State Prison Hollow Road (TH #3) bridge in Starksboro.</p> <p>Missisquoi River – From Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the top of the Enosburg Falls Dam in Enosburg Falls.</p> <p>Ompompanoosuc River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Union Village Dam in Thetford.</p> <p>Otter Creek – From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to top of Center Rutland Falls in Rutland.</p> <p>Waits River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the Central Vermont Power Dam in Bradford.</p> <p>West River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Townshend Dam in Townshend.</p> <p>White River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the bridge on Route 107 in Bethel.</p> <p>Williams River – From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the dam at Brockway Mills Falls in Rockingham.</p> <p>Winooski River – From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury.</p>				

Proposed

Entire section will be deleted

Note: This is not needed because of the change to open up rivers and streams to year-round fishing.

8.5.7 LAKE TROUT AND SALMON

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	Salmon- Minimum length of 15 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
Little Averill Lake and Seymour Lake	Open-water fishing, with not more than 1 line	Angling: second Saturday in April through October 31	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 20 inches	1 Lake Trout and 1 Salmon or 2 Salmon
	Ice fishing with not more than 4 lines	Ice fishing: third Saturday in January through March 15	Salmon- Minimum length of 15 inches	

Section 7.6 (f)

(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 15 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

Current					Proposed				
Continued 8.5.7 Lake Trout and Salmon					Section 7.6 (f)				
Clyde Pond, Salem Lake, Little Salem Lake, and 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	<u>Clyde Pond, Derby, Little Salem Lake, Derby, Salem Lake, Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog upstream to Citizen's Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston</u>	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
	Open-water fishing, Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog to Charleston Dam – Artificial flies and lures only	September 1 through October 31	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 inches	2 Lake Trout, 0 Salmon (all salmon must be immediately released)					
Continued 8.5.7 Lake Trout and Salmon					Section 7.6 (f)				
Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay)	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 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 <u>January 1 through March 15</u>	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 inches Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
	Ice fishing	Third Saturday in January through March 15	Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches						
Note: Formatting. The open-water C&R for salmon Sept 1 to Oct 31 was moved within 122 to new section with other C&R regulations.					Note: Change of season was from 3 rd Sat in Jan to Jan 1.				

Current

8.5.8 SPECIAL ICE FISHING PROVISION FOR BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW, LAKE TROUT, SALMON AND BASS

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
Listed below:	Ice fishing	Third Saturday in January through March 15	See species restriction for individual body of water	See species restriction for individual body of water
<p>Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill Big Salem Lake, Derby Caspian Lake, Greensboro Chittenden Dam, Chittenden Crystal Lake, Barre Echo Lake, Charleston Echo Lake, Plymouth Eden Lake, Eden Elligo Lake, Craftsbury and Greensboro Glen Lake, Castleton, Fair Haven, and Benson Hartman Reservoir, Wilmington and Wilmington Harveys Lake, Barre Island Pond, Brighton Jones Pond, Cabot, Danville Lake Birnbaum, Castleton and Hubbardton Lake Dunham, Leicester and Salisbury Lake Fairlee, Thetford, West Fairlee, Fairlee Lake Hortonia, Sudbury, Hubbardton Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport Lake Money, Fairlee Lake Rescue, Ludlow Lake St. Catherine, Wells, Poultney Little Averill Lake, Averill Little Salem Lake, Derby Maidstone Lake, Maidstone Marshfield Dam (Mollys Falls Reservoir), Cabot Miles Pond, Concord Nelson Pond (Fines Lake), Calais and Woodbury Newark Pond, Newark Norton Pond, Norton Parker Pond, Glover Peacham Pond, Peacham Pensioner Pond, Charleston Seymour Lake, Morgan Shadow Lake, Glover Somerset Reservoir, Somerset Sunset Lake, Benson Wallace Pond, Canaan Waterbury Reservoir, Waterbury Willoughby Lake, Westmore Woodbury Lake (Sabin Pond), Calais and Woodbury</p>				

Proposed

Entire section will be deleted

Note: This is not needed because of the shift of ice fishing for trout and bass to General regulations. Language was added throughout 122 to list winter season.

8.5.9 SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT STREAMS

1. Waters	2. Method	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
White River From the confluence with Lallose 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
Mettawee River – 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.	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	10 to 14 inches protected slot: (all trout 10 to 14 inches must be released)	2 trout, only 1 greater than 14 inches

Listed Below:	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	10 to 16 inches protected slot: (all fish 10 to 16 inches must be released)	2 trout, only 1 greater than 16 inches
New Haven River – From Munger Street Bridge in New Haven upstream (approximately 4.1 miles) to the South Street bridge in Bristol.				
Mettawee River – 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.				
Winooski River – From Preston Brook mouth upstream (approximately 4.4 miles) to the Ridley Brook mouth.				

Note: Mettawee’s slot limit and daily limit were adjusted to match other rivers sections with slot limit. It was then shifted to that part of 7.6 (g)

Current

Proposed

SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT STREAMS

Section maintained as written just moved within 122 to 7.7 (f).

(f) The below named waters are catch and release for trout with artificial lures and flies only from Second Saturday in April to October 31. All trout must be immediately released.

Battenkill River - From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester
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. Anglers less than 15 years old may use live bait.

Batten Kill – From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester.	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	All trout must be immediately released.	Zero, 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.	Open-water fishing with artificial lures and flies only for anglers 15 years of age and older	Second Saturday in April through October 31	All trout must be immediately released.	Zero, all trout must be immediately released.

8.5.21 LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

(s) 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 fishing	No closed season	No restriction	5 fish
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs	Open-water fishing (Ice fishing - see special provisions)	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30 th .	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
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs (not seasonally closed)	Open-water fishing: 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
Seasonally Closed Waters - streams	Open-water fishing	Only when such rivers and streams are open to trout fishing except as prohibited by Section 9.2	No restriction	5 fish

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 seasons Second Saturday in June through March 15.	No restriction 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

Note: Lots of reorganization to deal with expanded bass season and changes to Lake Champlain min length. Section 7.6 (s)

Current

8.5.21 Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

Lake Morey, Fairlee	Open-water fishing (Ice fishing - see special provisions)	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30	Largemouth bass - Minimum length of 14 inches	5 Fish
Lake Morey, Fairlee	Open-water fishing: Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only	Dec. 1 through the Friday before the Second Saturday in	All bass must be released	Zero - All bass must be immediately released

Proposed

Lake Morey, Fairlee	Open-water fishing and ice fishing	Second Saturday in June through March 15	Minimum length of 14 inches	5 Fish
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Note: Length limit expanded to include smallmouth bass. C&R season because standard general regulation. Season dates shifted to extended bass harvest season. Section 7.6 (s)

Note: Length limit added to smallmouth bass was not in earlier board presentation.

8.5.21 Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

Kent Pond, Killington And Baker Pond, Brookfield	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30	Largemouth Bass - protected slot: 10- 12 inches (all fish between 10 & 12 inches must be released)	10 fish, only 1 fish greater than 12 inches.
Kent Pond, Killington And Baker Pond, Brookfield	Open-water fishing: 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

Section will be deleted because of the shift to General regulations.

8.5.21 Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

Not in current 122 – Section was added to keep some lakes/ponds in current bass regulation.

Listed below:	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, Hubbardton Black Pond, Hubbardton Blueberry Lake (Warren Lake), Warren Bresse Pond, Hubbardton Bullhead Pond, Manchester Gale Meadows, Londonderry Half Moon Pond, Hubbardton Lily Pond, Vernon Lowell Lake, Londonderry Mill Pond, Windsor Sawyers Lake, Wilmington Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro Roach Pond, Hubbardton Runnemeade Lake, Windsor Sadrys, Whitehall Weatherhead Hollow, Guilford				

Note: Section was added to keep some lakes/ponds in current bass reg. Section 7.6 (s)

Current	Proposed
<p>Spawning grounds for game fish generally - 8.6</p> <p>Orleans County</p> <p>Black River - From 600 feet below the falls at Old Harman Mill in Coventry upstream to the top of falls at Old Harman Mill in Coventry.</p> <p>Ware Brook - From the downstream edge of the furthest downstream bridge / culvert on Back Coventry Road (TH #8 in Irasburg) upstream approximately one mile to top of the first major natural falls on Ware Brook.</p> <p>Alder (Stony) Brook - From its confluence with the Black River upstream 3 1/2 miles to the outlet of Sargent Pond, in Coventry.</p> <p>Willoughby River - From the confluence of the Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River in Brownington upstream to the downstream edge of the bridge on Vermont Route 58 in the village of Evansville (Brownington), and 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.</p> <p>Dorin, Wells, Myers, Schoolhouse and Mill Brooks - 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 north to south, and flow through Vermont Agency of Transportation structures on Route 5A number 10, 9, 8, 7 and 6, respectively.</p>	<p>Spawning grounds for game fish generally - 8.6</p> <p>Orleans County</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 north to south, and flow through Vermont Agency of Transportation structures on Route 5A number 10, 9, 8, 7 and 6, respectively.</p> <p><i>Note: added towns to description. Section 7.7 (a)</i></p>
<p>Spawning grounds for game fish generally – 8.6</p> <p>Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River in Brownington - From its confluence at the Willoughby River extending upstream to the second road crossing on Brownington Chilafoux Road (TH #15). Said crossing is located approximately 2.4 miles from Brownington Center on Chilafoux Road (TH #15).</p> <p>Country Club Brook - From its confluence with the Willoughby River extending upstream to Hollow Road (TH #14) in Barton.</p> <p>Porter Brook, Greensboro – From Caspian Lake upstream to its headwaters. (1987, Fish and Wildlife Commissioner's Reg. No. 970, eff. April 1, 1987.)</p> <p>Johns River-From the downstream edge of the bridge on Beebe Road (TH #3) upstream approximately two tenths of a mile to the downstream edge of bridge on Elm Street (TH #2) in Derby.</p> <p>Outlet Brook- From the highway bridge near Echo Lake in Charleston upstream to the top of dam at outlet of Seymour Lake</p>	<p>Porter Brook, Greensboro – From Caspian Lake upstream to its headwaters. (1987, Fish and Wildlife Commissioner's Reg. No. 970, eff. April 1, 1987.)</p> <p><i>Section: 7.7 (a)</i></p> <p><i>Note: Deletion of Johns River Section was not in earlier board presentation.</i></p>

Current	Proposed
<p>8.6 through 8.8 – Minor updates</p> <p>Added towns to descriptions.</p>	<p><i>Note: added towns to descriptions. Section 7.7 (a-g)</i></p>
<p><u>§.10</u> The below named waters are closed from October 1 through October 31:</p> <p>Orleans County 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><i>Section will be deleted and shifted to General regulations.</i></p>
<p>This is a reorganization of 122. These sections were listed in other sections.</p>	<p>(f) <u>The below named waters are catch and release for trout with artificial lures and flies only from Second Saturday in April to October 31. All trout must be immediately released.</u></p> <p><u>Battenkill River - From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester</u></p> <p><u>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. Anglers less than 15 years old may use live bait.</u></p> <p>(g) <u>The below named waters are closed to fishing from November 1 to the Friday before the second Saturday in April.</u></p> <p><u>Battenkill River – From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester.</u></p> <p><u>Clyde River - From Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston</u></p> <p><u>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.</u></p> <p>Section 7.7 (f) & (g). <i>Note: Clyde River was not in earlier board presentation.</i></p>

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.

APPENDIX 122

- (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, ~~except that at Seymour Lake and Little Averill Lake a person may take fish only by using not more than one line.~~
~~A person open water fishing shall not take fish through the ice, from the ice, or from an object supported by the ice.~~
- 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. ~~not more than two baited hooks or three artificial flies or two lures on each line. A person shall not operate more than eight lines, except on Lake Champlain where no more than fifteen lines may be operated, and except on Seymour and Little Averill Lakes, where not more than four lines may be operated.~~
- 4.3 A person ice fishing shall have at all times, have 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 considered to be foul hooked and 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.
~~The definitions of section 3 are applicable to this section.~~
- 4.5 Taking or attempting to take fish by snagging is prohibited in all Vermont Waters.
- 4.6 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.

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);

APPENDIX 122

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 Clyde River: Catch and Release~~

~~Between September 1 and October 31, on the Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog upstream to Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston, a person may fish with artificial flies and lures only, and all salmon caught must be released.~~

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 as provided in section 8 7 of these regulations:

~~Adams Reservoir, Woodford~~
~~Ansel Pond, Bethel~~
~~Baker Pond, Barton~~
Bald Hill Pond, Westmore
~~Bean Pond, Sutton~~
Beaver Pond, Holland
Beck Pond, Newark
Beebe Pond, Sunderland
~~Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill~~
Big Mud Pond, Mt. Tabor
~~Blake Pond, Sutton~~
Bourn Pond, Sunderland
Branch Pond, Sunderland
~~Brown Pond, Westmore~~
~~Caspian Lake, Greensboro~~
~~Center Pond, Newark~~
~~Colby Pond, Plymouth~~
Cary Pond, Walden
Cow Mountain Pond, Granby

APPENDIX 122

~~Crystal Lake, Barton~~
~~Duck Pond, Sutton~~
~~Dufresne Pond, Manchester~~
~~East Long Pond, Woodbury~~
~~Echo Lake, Charleston~~
~~Ewell Pond, Peacham~~
~~Forest Lake, Averill~~
~~Goshen Dam (Sugar Hill Reservoir), Goshen~~
~~Griffith Lake, Mt. Tabor~~
~~Hapgood Pond, Peru~~
~~Hartwell Pond, Albany~~
~~Holland Pond, Holland~~
~~Jobs Pond, Westmore~~
~~Knapp Brook Pond No. 1, Reading and Cavendish~~
~~Knapp Brook Pond No. 2, Reading and Cavendish~~
~~Lake Dunmore Salisbury and Leicester—Except from Sucker Brook
to the island south, which shall be open.~~
Lake Pleiad, Hancock
~~Levi Pond, Groton~~
~~Lewis Pond, Lewis~~
~~Little Averill Lake, Averill~~
~~Little Elmore Pond, Elmore~~
~~Little Rocky Rock Pond, Wallingford~~
~~Long Pond, Newbury~~
~~Long Pond, Westmore~~
~~Maidstone Lake, Maidstone~~
~~Marl Pond, Sutton~~
~~Martins Pond, Peacham~~
~~May Pond, Barton~~
~~McIntosh Pond, Royalton~~
~~Mud Pond, Hyde Park~~
~~Nelson Pond (Forest Lake), Calais and Woodbury~~
~~Nichols Pond, Woodbury~~
~~North Pond, Chittenden~~
~~Norton Pond, Norton~~
~~Notch Pond, Ferdinand~~
~~Noyes (Seyon) Pond, Groton~~
~~Peacham Pond, Peacham~~
~~Perch Pond (Zack Woods Pond), Hyde Park~~
~~Pigeon Pond, Groton~~
~~Red Mill Pond, Woodford~~
~~Seymour Lake, Morgan~~
~~Shadow Lake, Glover~~
~~Silver Lake, Leicester~~
~~South America Pond, Ferdinand~~
~~South Pond, Marlboro~~

APPENDIX 122

Spring Lake, Shrewsbury
 Stannard Pond, Stannard
 Sterling Pond, Cambridge
 Stoughton Pond, Weathersfield
 Stratton Pond, Stratton
~~Sunset Lake, Benson~~
 Unknown Pond, Averys Gore
 Unknown Pond, Ferdinand
 Vail Pond, Sutton
 Vernon Hatchery Pond, Vernon
 West Mountain Pond, Maidstone
 Wheeler Pond, Barton and Sutton
~~Willoughby Lake, Westmore~~
 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, and shall be closed to all fishing except during the open season for trout as provided in section 8 of these regulations; and

~~7.2.1~~ except that the following streams shall be open to trout fishing only, and no fishing for other species shall be allowed, from November 1 to the Friday before the second Saturday in April, as set forth in Table 7.2.2.

~~7.2.2: STREAMS OPEN TO FISHING FOR TROUT ONLY FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE SECOND WEEK IN APRIL~~

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
Listed Below	Artificial fly or lure only	November 1 to the Friday before the 2nd Saturday in April:	Catch and release only	Zero-All trout must be immediately released to the water where taken:
<p>Black River – From the top of the Lovejoy Dam in Springfield upstream to the Howard Hill Road Bridge in Cavendish.</p> <p>Deerfield River – From the Woods Road (Medburyville) bridge in Wilmington upstream approximately 2 miles to the VT Route 9W bridge in Searsburg.</p> <p>East Creek (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>Hoosic River—From the Vermont/New York border upstream to the Vermont/Massachusetts border.</p> <p>Lamoille River—From the top of the hydroelectric dam at Fairfax Falls upstream to the top of the Cady’s Falls Dam in Morristown.</p> <p>Moose River—From the confluence with Passumpsic River upstream to the downstream edge of the Concord Avenue bridge in St. Johnsbury.</p> <p>Otter Creek—From the top of the Center Rutland Falls in Rutland upstream to the Danby Mt. Tabor Forest Road Bridge (Forest Road #10) in Mt. Tabor.</p> <p>Passumpsic River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of Arnolds Falls Dam in St. Johnsbury.</p> <p>Walloomsac River—From the Vermont/New York border in Bennington upstream to the top of the former Vermont Tissue Plant Dam (downstream of Murphy Road) in Bennington.</p> <p>Winooski River—From the top of the Bolton Dam in Waterbury and Duxbury upstream to the VT Route 2/100 in Duxbury and Waterbury.</p>
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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) ~~the a person may transport approved baitfish species pursuant to the baitfish rules set forth in 10 V.S.A App. §141. has been issued a Commercial Bait Dealers Permit by the Commissioner,~~
 - (2) the person has been issued a scientific collection permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity,

APPENDIX 122

- (3) the person has been issued a fish transportation permit by the Commissioner which specifically approves of the activity,
- (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 Trout	12 fish
<u>Brook and Brown and Rainbow Trout - Streams/Rivers</u>	Maximum Combination of <u>6-8 fish</u>
<u>Brook and Brown and Rainbow Trout - lakes and ponds</u>	<u>Maximum Combination of 6 fish</u>
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
Black and White Crappie	25 fish
American Shad	0 fish
Yellow Perch	50 fish
Yellow Perch exception	Lake Champlain – no daily limit
Sauger	0 fish
<u>Sturgeon</u>	<u>0 fish</u>

APPENDIX 122

(b) BROOK, BROWN AND RAINBOW TROUT

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
General waters. <i>(except as listed below)</i> Lakes and Ponds	Open-water <u>and ice</u> fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31 <u>January 1 through March 15</u>	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	12 <u>8</u> trout, of which not more than 6 can be brown and/or rainbow
<u>Sherman Reservoir, Whitingham</u>	<u>Open-water fishing</u>	<u>Second Saturday in April through October 31</u>	<u>No restriction</u>	<u>6 trout</u>

APPENDIX 122

(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>Black River 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>East Creek 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>Lamoille River – 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>Little River – From the confluence with Winooski River in Waterbury upstream to the top of the Waterbury Reservoir Dam in Waterbury.</p> <p>Missisquoi River 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>Otter Creek 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>Passumpsic River 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>Moose River-- 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>Walloomsac River 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>Winooski River 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>				

APPENDIX 122

(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
<p>All Lakes and Ponds: Caspian Lake, Greensboro Echo Lake, Charleston Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport; Willoughby Lake, Westmore</p> <p>Rivers and Streams: 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. <u>Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River - From its confluence at the Willoughby River extending upstream to the second road crossing on Brownington Chilafoux Road (TH #15). Crossing is located approximately 2.4 miles from Brownington Center on Chilafoux Road (TH #15).</u> 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.</p>				

APPENDIX 122

(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
Listed below:	Open-water <u>and</u> <u>Ice</u> fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31 <u>January 1 through March 15</u>	See regulations for specific bodies of water	Two fish in aggregate
<p>Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill Caspian Lake, Greensboro Center Pond, Newark 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 (<u>Seasonally Closed</u>) Lake Dunmore, Salisbury Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay and the connecting waters), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport; Little Averill Lake, Averill Long Pond, Westmore Maidstone Lake, Maidstone Martins Pond, Peacham (<u>Seasonally Closed</u>) 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</p>				

APPENDIX 122

8.5.6 STREAMS OPEN TO YEAR ROUND TROUT FISHING

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
<p>The following portions of the specified rivers shall be open to fishing for trout year-round: (Listed below)</p>	<p>Artificial fly or lure only, except during the open season for trout.</p>	<p>No closed season for catch and release only</p> <p>Open season; from the 2nd Saturday in April through October 31</p>	<p>Catch and release only</p> <p>During the open season follow any species restrictions for the selected river</p>	<p>Zero—All trout must be immediately returned to the waters where taken, except during the open season, limits apply in accordance with the river selected.</p>
<p>Black River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the Lovejoy Dam in Springfield.</p> <p>Lamoille River—From the Lake Champlain boundary (top of Peterson Dam in Milton) upstream to the top of the hydroelectric Dam at Fairfax Falls.</p> <p>Lewis Creek—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the State Prison Hollow Road (TH #3) bridge in Starksboro.</p> <p>Missisquoi River—From Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the top of the Enosburg Falls Dam in Enosburg Falls.</p> <p>Ompompanoosuc River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Union Village Dam in Thetford.</p> <p>Otter Creek—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to top of Center Rutland Falls in Rutland.</p> <p>Waits River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the Central Vermont Power Dam in Bradford.</p> <p>West River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Townshend Dam in Townshend.</p> <p>White River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the bridge on Route 107 in Bethel.</p> <p>Williams River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the dam at Brockway Mills Falls in Rockingham.</p> <p>Winooski River—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury.</p>				

APPENDIX 122

(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 <u>and ice</u> fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31 <u>January 1 through March 15</u>	Salmon- Minimum length of 15 <u>17</u> 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
Little Averill Lake and Seymour Lake	Open-water fishing, with not more than 1 line	Angling: second Saturday in April through October 31	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 20 inches Salmon- Minimum length of 15 inches	1 Lake Trout and 1 Salmon or 2 Salmon
	Ice fishing with not more than 4 lines	Ice fishing: third Saturday in January through March 15		
<u>Clyde Pond, Derby</u> <u>Little Salem Lake, Derby</u> <u>Salem Lake, Derby</u> <u>Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog upstream to Citizen's Charleston Dam (Lubber Lake), West Charleston</u>	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

APPENDIX 122

	Open water fishing; Clyde River from Lake Memphremagog to Charleston dam— Artificial flies and lures only	September 1 through October 31	Lake Trout Minimum length of 18 inches	2 Lake Trout, 0 Salmon (all salmon must be immediately released.)
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 18 inches Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
	Ice fishing	Third Saturday in January through March 15		
Listed Below:	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in April through October 31	Lake Trout- Minimum length of 18 inches Salmon- Minimum length of 17 inches	2 Lake Trout or 2 Salmon or 1 of each
<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>				

APPENDIX 122

8.5.8—SPECIAL ICE FISHING PROVISION FOR BROOK,
BROWN, RAINBOW, LAKE TROUT, SALMON AND
BASS

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
Listed below:	Ice fishing	Third Saturday in January 1 through March 15	See species restriction for individual body of water	See species restriction for individual body of water
<p>Big Averill Lake, Norton and Averill; Big Salem Lake, Derby Caspian Lake, Greensboro; Chittenden Dam, Chittenden. Crystal Lake, Barton; Echo Lake, Charleston; Echo Lake, Plymouth; Eden Lake, Eden; Elligo Lake, Craftsbury and Greensboro Glen Lake, Castleton, Fair Haven, and Benson; Harriman Reservoir, Whitingham and Wilmington; Harveys Lake, Barnet; Island Pond, Brighton; Joes Pond, Cabot, Danville; Lake Bomoseen, Castleton and Hubbardton; Lake Dunmore, Leicester and, Salisbury; Lake Fairlee, Thetford, West Fairlee, Fairlee; Lake Hortonia, Sudbury, Hubbardton; Lake Memphremagog (including South Bay), Coventry, Derby, Newport City and Newport; Lake Morey, Fairlee; Lake Rescue, Ludlow; Lake St. Catherine, Wells, Poultney; Little Averill Lake, Averill; Little Salem Lake Derby; Maidstone Lake, Maidstone; Marshfield Dam (Mollys Falls Reservoir), Cabot; Miles Pond, Concord; Nelson Pond (Forest Lake), Calais and Woodbury; Newark Pond, Newark; Norton Pond, Norton; Parker Pond, Glover; Peacham Pond, Peacham; Pensioner Pond, Charleston; Seymour Lake, Morgan; Shadow Lake, Glover; Somerset Reservoir, Somerset; Sunset Lake, Benson; Wallace Pond, Canaan; Waterbury Reservoir, Waterbury; Willoughby Lake, Westmore; Woodbury Lake (Sabin Pond), Calais and Woodbury</p>				

APPENDIX 122

(g) SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT STREAMS

1. Waters	2. Method	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
<p>White River From the confluence with Lilliesville Brook in Stockbridge downstream 3.3 miles to 220 ft. downstream of the confluence with Cleveland Brook in Bethel.</p>	<p>Open-water fishing, with artificial lures and flies only.</p>	<p>Second Saturday in April through October 31.</p>	<p>Minimum length of 18 inches</p>	<p>1 trout</p>
<p>Mettawee River 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>Open-water fishing</p>	<p>Second Saturday in April through October 31</p>	<p>10 to 14 inches protected slot: (all trout 10 to 14 inches must be released)</p>	<p>2 trout, only 1 greater than 14 inches</p>
<p>Winooski River Tributaries – Listed Below</p>	<p>Open-water fishing</p>	<p>June 1 through October 31</p>	<p>10 to 16 inches protected slot: (all fish 10 to 16 inches must be released)</p>	<p>2 trout, only 1 greater than 16 inches</p>
<p>Winooski River Tributaries: 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. Ridley Brook, Duxbury – From the confluence of the Winooski River upstream approximately 1700 feet to the first falls.</p>				
<p>Listed Below:</p>	<p>Open-water fishing</p>	<p>Second Saturday in April through October 31</p>	<p>10 to 16 inches protected slot: (all fish 10 to 16 inches must be released)</p>	<p>2 trout, only 1 greater than 16 inches</p>
<p>New Haven River – From Munger Street Bridge in New Haven upstream (approximately 4.1 miles) to the South Street bridge in Bristol.</p>				

APPENDIX 122

<p>Mettawee River – 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>Winooski River – From Preston Brook mouth upstream (approximately 4.4 miles) to the Ridley Brook mouth.</p>				
<p>Batten Kill – From the New York State line upstream (approximately 20.6 miles) to downstream side of Depot Street Bridge (Route 11/30) in Manchester.</p>	<p>Open-water fishing</p>	<p>Second Saturday in April through October 31</p>	<p>All trout must be immediately released.</p>	<p>Zero, all trout must be immediately released.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Open-water fishing with artificial lures and flies only for anglers 15 years of age and older</p>	<p>Second Saturday in April through October 31</p>	<p>All trout must be immediately released.</p>	<p>Zero, all trout must be immediately released.</p>
<p>Listed below:</p>	<p>Open-water fishing</p>	<p>Second Saturday in April through September 30</p>	<p>No size restriction.</p>	<p>8 trout ±2 trout of which not more than 6 can be brown and/or rainbow trout in aggregate.</p>
	<p>Open-water fishing</p>	<p>October 1 through October 31</p>	<p>All trout must be immediately released.</p>	<p>Zero, all trout must be immediately released.</p>
<p>Batten Kill (East Branch) – 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>Green River – 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>Roaring Branch – 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>				

APPENDIX 122

Warm Brook – 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.

(h) ANADROMOUS ATLANTIC SALMON

1. Waters	2. Method	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag Limit
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

(i) AMERICAN SHAD

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

APPENDIX 122

(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

APPENDIX 122

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

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 Limit
General Waters <i>(Except seasonally closed waters and as listed below)</i>	Speargun, and 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, and 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) BULLHEAD

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 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

APPENDIX 122

(m) NORTHERN PIKE

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (<i>except as listed below</i>)	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
	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25, 10 VSA 4606)	Minimum length of 20 inches	5 Fish

(n) CHAIN AND REDFIN PICKEREL

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters (<i>except as listed below</i>)	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 (<i>except as listed below</i>)	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

APPENDIX 122

	Shooting and handheld spearing	March 25 through May 25, 10 VSA 4606)		Zero Fish
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(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

(q) BLACK AND WHITE CRAPPIE

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

(r) YELLOW PERCH

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	No closed season	No restriction	50 fish,
Lake Champlain	Open-water and ice fishing	No closed season	No restriction	No Limit
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.				

APPENDIX 122

(s) LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

1. Waters	2. Methods	3. Season	4. Size Restrictions	5. Daily Bag limits
General Waters <i>(except as listed below)</i>	Open-water <u>and ice</u> fishing	No closed season <u>Second Saturday in June through March 15.</u>	No restriction <u>Minimum length of 10 inches</u>	5 fish
<u>Lake Champlain</u>	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30.	Minimum length of 12 inches	5 fish
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs	Open-water fishing (Ice fishing—see special provisions)	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30th	Minimum length of 10 inches	5 Fish
<u>Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs (seasonally closed)</u>	<u>Open-water fishing</u>	<u>Second Saturday in June through October 31.</u>	<u>Minimum length of 10 inches</u>	<u>5 fish</u>
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
Lakes, Ponds and reservoirs (not seasonally closed)	Open water fishing: 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
Seasonally Closed Waters—streams	Open-water fishing	Only when such rivers and streams are open to trout fishing except as prohibited by Section 9.2	No restriction	5-fish

APPENDIX 122

Lake Morey, Fairlee	Open-water <u>and ice fishing</u> (<u>see fishing—see special provisions</u>)	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30 <u>March 15</u>	Largemouth bass— Minimum length of 14 inches	5 Fish
Lake Morey, Fairlee	Open-water fishing: <u>Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only</u>	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
Kent Pond, Killington And Baker Pond, Brookfield	Open-water fishing	Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30.	Largemouth Bass— protected slot: 10–12 inches (all fish between 10 & 12 inches must be released)	10 fish, only 1 fish greater than 12 inches.
Kent Pond, Killington And Baker Pond, Brookfield	Open-water fishing: <u>Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only</u>	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
Listed below:	<u>Open-water fishing</u>	<u>Second Saturday in June through Nov. 30.</u>	<u>Minimum length of 10 inches</u>	<u>5 fish</u>
	<u>Catch and release with artificial lures and flies only</u>	<u>Dec. 1 through the Friday before the second Saturday in June, both dates inclusive</u>	<u>All bass must be released</u>	<u>Zero – All bass must be immediately released.</u>
<u>Austin Pond, Hubberton</u> <u>Black Pond, Hubberton</u> <u>Blueberry Lake (Warren Lake), Warren</u> <u>Breese Pond, Hubberton</u> <u>Bullhead Pond, Manchester</u> <u>Gale Meadows, Londonderry</u> <u>Half Moon Pond, Hubberton</u>				

APPENDIX 122

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) 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	Open-water and ice fishing	June 1 through March 15	Minimum length of 22 inches	2 fish

(u) 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 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.

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.
~~Ware Brook – From the downstream edge of the furthest downstream bridge / culvert on Back Coventry Road (TH #8 in Irasburg) upstream approximately one mile to top of the first major natural falls on Ware Brook.~~
~~Alder (Stony) Brook – From its confluence with the Black River upstream 3 1/2 miles to the outlet of Sargent Pond, in Coventry.~~
 Willoughby River, Orleans - From the confluence of the Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River in Brownington upstream to the downstream edge of the bridge on Vermont Route 58 in the village of Evansville (Brownington); and 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 north to south, and flow through Vermont Agency of Transportation structures on Route 5A number 10, 9, 8, 7 and 6, respectively.
~~Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River in Brownington – From its confluence at the Willoughby River extending upstream to the second road crossing on Brownington Chilafoux Road (TH #15). Said crossing is located approximately 2.4 miles from Brownington Center on Chilafoux Road (TH #15).~~

APPENDIX 122

~~Country Club Brook – From its confluence with the Willoughby River extending upstream to Hollow Road (TH #14) in Barton.~~

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

~~Johns River, Derby – From the downstream edge of the bridge on Beebe Road (TH #3) upstream approximately two tenths of a mile to the downstream edge of bridge on Elm Street (TH #2) in Derby.~~

~~Outlet Brook – From the highway bridge near Echo Lake in Charleston upstream to the top of dam at outlet of Seymour Lake~~

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, in the Town of Stockbridge – from~~ From its confluence with the White River upstream to the 2nd bridge on the Lilliesville Brook Road.

Locust Creek, Bethel - ~~in 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.)

APPENDIX 122

- (c) 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 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.

- ~~8.10 The below named waters are closed from October 1 through October 31:~~

~~Orleans County~~

~~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.~~

- (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 waters are catch and release for trout with artificial lures and flies only from Second Saturday in April to October 31. All trout must be immediately released.

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

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. Anglers less than 15 years old may use live bait.

APPENDIX 122

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

Battenkill 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.

Listening Sessions Questions and Comments Received on Regulations Simplification Concept Proposal

Time Range - 10/15/2020 to 12/01/2020

Two Listening/Information Sessions (11/10 & 11/18)

11/10/20 – Around 20 attendees – 21 Questions Asked. Below are the questions exactly as they were submitted into the chat window of the meeting (contains typos).

- My question is regarding the Catch and Release season. What is the primary goal of the new catch and release season?
- Presumably the closed season on streams was due, in some part, to concerns about protecting spawning trout and redds from fishing and trampling (via wading). Is it now believed that the consequences of C&R fishing year-round, even during spawning season, is inconsequential with regard to recruitment of young trout from year to year?
- Were any waters given catch and release status all year, and if so what are they?
- When does NY changes take effect
- Why were new ponds added to the list of seasonally closed ponds?
- What stream was added to the list of brown and rainbow streams with a 2 trout harvest limit.
- Native Fish Coalition recommends one simple number for daily trout harvest: (brook rainbow, brown) six in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. This supports simplicity and conservation. What does F&W staff think about this?
- What is the format of the index of lakes and streams? Will it be in a table?
- What is the basis for the trout daily limit? Is this based on public input, scientific data (eg, how to get to a wild trout population that require less or even no stocking. I personally favor lower daily trout & salmon limits.
- What is the reason for increasing the number of rainbow, brown or rainbow, brown and brook trout from 6 to 8?
- Would the Dog river be catch and release and open all year?
- Is there any focus on a wild trout or native trout program for 2022?
- I like the format of the General Waters table and would like to see more regulations end up in this format. (What is the format of the index of lakes and streams? Will it be in a table?)
- Where can I access the short list of closed waters that are being recommended?
- Rather than raise the rainbow and brown bag limit to 8 couldn't the brook trout limit be lowered to 6 to equal the current bag limit of brown and rainbow trout? As a follow up wouldn't it be a simplification for the bag limit in ponds and lakes and rivers and streams be easier if all were set at 6?
- Was there a reason for having a different bag limit for streams/rivers versus ponds and lakes?
- But besides tradition could the rivers and streams sustain a higher bag limit?
- How will you enforce catch and release angling throughout the winter, as well as the other regulations being discussed?
- Are you concerned with enforcement of catch and release in off season?
- Are any of the lakes and ponds that you can harvest bass and trout out of in the ice fishing season in being taken away?
- So is brook trout harvest reduction driven by social or biological concerns?

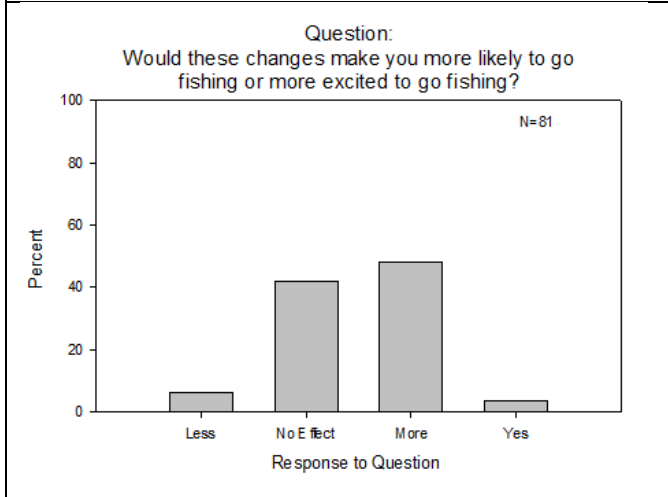
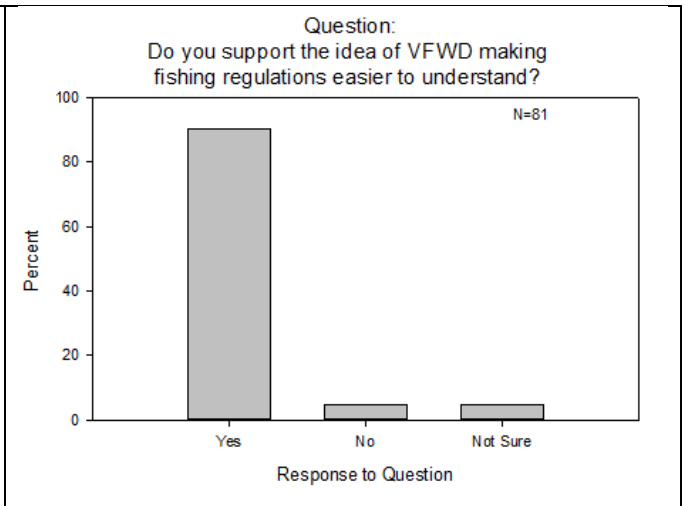
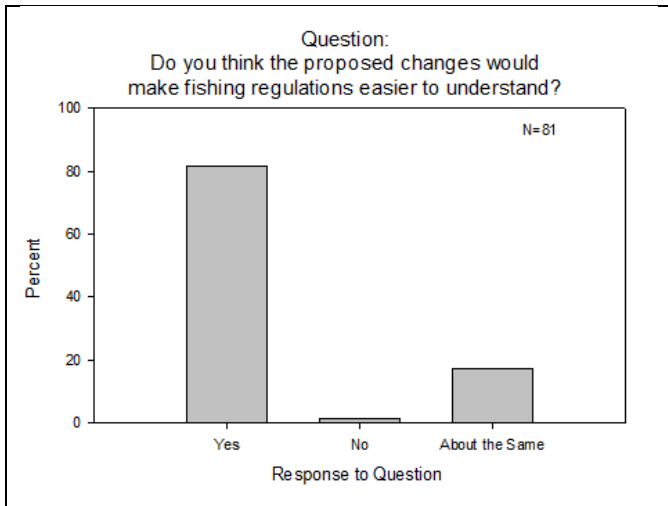
- Living on a catch and release stream and seeing worm containers littered on the banks- we don't feel the confidence you are speaking of and would like to hear more specific ideas on how you will enforce.

11/18/20 – Around 10 attendees – 9 Questions Asked - Below are the questions exactly as they were submitted into the chat window of the meeting (contains typos).

- Not all Vermont rivers and streams are equal in terms of quality, though the effort to simplify regulations will treat most equally. Will simplified rules remove tools to manage waters rated excellent and very good? Special regulations can optimize trout populations, protect habitat seasonally, and improve angler experience. What is the prospect for added special regulations going forward?
- Vermont presently offers an extended trout season on fifteen rivers. Each river has a limited section available to fish. Would the proposed extended season open up catch and release fishing year-round on every section of most every Vermont river? And if so, how will VTF&W enforce poaching ie; use of live bait, catch & keep, fishing over redds etc. especially late fall/early winter when game wardens are predominantly focused on hunting season?
- What will "catch and release" involve? I am concerned that if it does not mandate single barbless hook it will result in killing many fish which are intended to be released in viable state. I reference fishing on protected waters in Georgia where possessing any possession of a hook with a barb while on these waters is subject to a very significant penalty.
- Does the increase in fishing licenses this year raise concerns that the proposed daily limit increase from 6 to 8 trout in rivers and streams is sustainable?
- Wouldn't it be simpler to have one general regulation for six-trout bag limit for all waters: lakes and pond, rivers and streams. Why are there two different bag limits, one for rivers/streams, another for lakes and ponds.
- what do we know about survival of stocked fish over winter? Will there be a fall stocking if C&R is instituted over winter months?
- If these proposed regs are approved, are there any plans for a review in XX amount of years and if so, when?
- Where can we see the new proposed Special Regulation Waters?
- Thank you for this process to simplify the regs and allow year-round stream fishing. I strongly support but I'm wondering if you are looking at additional habitat protection like protection of springs? Also, will any trophy or wild stretches be expanded?

Comments Received:

- Emailed Responses: 113 received (some duplicate anglers)
 - Overall general positive support of the proposal.
- Specific Group Letters Received:
 - Vermont Trout Unlimited
 - Native Fish Coalition
 - Lake Champlain Walleye Association
- Answers to general questions on the proposal
 - 3 Questions asked.



Specific comments on certain proposed changes:

- Brook Trout limit reduction to 8
 - 19 comments received
 - 7 – general support of reduction to 8
 - 3 – general support of reduction to 8 but would like more reductions
 - 5 – should reduce to 6 trout
 - 4 – keep at 12
- Brown and Rainbow Trout limit increase to 8
 - 7 comments received
 - 6 – against the increase – “keep at 6”
 - 1 – support the increase
- General Trout Limit Comments:
 - Couple comments that should make total combined limit “6” for rivers/streams and lake/ponds
- Year-Round C&R
 - 19 comments received
 - 13 – support
 - 2 – support with additional conditions (flies only; reduce bag limit during harvest season)
 - 2 – against – biological concerns
 - 2 – against – angler safety concerns (Cold water, ice, dangerous)
- Special Regulations on Trout
 - 1 comment received
 - Does not support removal of special regulation on any wild trout waters.
- Lake Trout – Seymour and Averill Lakes
 - 2 comments received
 - 2 – support
- Landlocked Salmon Min Length
 - 1 comment received. Would like to see increase to 20”. Angler seems confused as they mention Lamprey control which would suggest Champlain.
- Bass Min Length 12” on Lake Champlain
 - 3 comments received
 - 1 – support
 - 2 – against
- Expanded Harvest on Bass – Inland waters (not Champlain)
 - 3 comments received
 - 2 – general support the expansion but suggest “Slot limit” to protect larger fish from harvest.
 - 1 – would like to see harvest allowed on Champlain.
- Other items not related to proposal
 - License requirements for CT river (non-resident issue)
 - Should expanded trout special regulation – fly only, barbless hooks,
 - Stop commercial sales of fish
 - Open walleye season earlier
 - See list of more.

Potential Angler Concerns from Listening Sessions and Department Response

1/11/2021

VT Fish and Wildlife Department

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department held two listening sessions on 11/10/20 and 11/18/20 that were open to the public, as well as posting information on our website. These listening sessions served two purposes – to provide details on the upcoming regulation simplification proposal and to receive feedback. Comments were received during the informational sessions as well through an online submission form and our general email account. The comments covered a wide range of areas but there were two specific themes which were mentioned by multiple individuals. Below are the two themes and a Department response for each.

Theme 1: Expansion of catch and release season.

Issues: Some anglers were supportive of the catch & release (C&R) expansion and others were concerned about potential biological impacts. The biological impacts mentioned by anglers included fishing while brook trout and brown trout are spawning, increased angling pressure, anglers stepping on redds (trout nests), and hooking mortality. Additionally, there was concern about ability of Wardens to enforce C&R during the busy hunting seasons, as well as two comments on safety concerns for anglers.

Response: The proposal would allow C&R fishing for multiple species to occur in all brooks, streams, and rivers using artificial flies and lures only during the currently closed season (November 1 through the Friday before the second Saturday in April). As most comments referred to trout, we will be focusing our responses on trout. While this season would remain closed to harvest, the proposal would increase opportunities for C&R angling. Exceptions to this include the Batten Kill and Dog River, which both have C&R restrictions during the regular season for biological reasons, and the special regulation section on the Clyde River (C&R for salmon between September 1 and October 31). These exceptions would remain closed to fishing during the winter.

Although this proposal would allow fishing to occur later into the season when redds are present, this change is not likely to have a biological impact on trout populations in the state, as we expect the amount of increased fishing effort to be minimal. Trout creel surveys in the state have indicated that less than 10% of the fishing effort occurs after September 30th, even though the weather is usually nice in October and trout fishing conditions are ideal. Our expectation is that even fewer people will be fishing in November as weather conditions deteriorate and hunting season begins drawing people into the woods. Once winter arrives with snow and ice, only the largest rivers will be accessible to anglers, many of which are already open for C&R fishing year-round, and observations indicate little to no angling pressure in the winter.

In terms of spawning protection, our current October 31st closure is a somewhat arbitrary date that ends the season rather than one meant to offer spawning protection. Spawning time can vary dramatically across the state with brook trout spawning from September through much of October in many places. We also have rainbow trout spawning in April. This means even under our current season we have angling occurring during spawning, with no discernable biological impact.

We believe the impacts to trout populations will be minimal if more anglers do continue to fish for trout later in the season. Studies have shown that wading anglers can impact the survival of eggs and fry in redds, and that the level of mortality is affected by the frequency and timing of the impact (Roberts and White 1992; attached). However, the study found that impacts due to anglers are only an issue for the population if spawning habitat is the limiting factor for population growth. In Vermont,

trout populations are usually limited by water temperature or other habitat features not directly related to spawning habitat. Based on our electroshocking data, young-of-year (YOY, or age-0 fish) abundance is highly variable year-to-year; however, this variation does not result in dramatic changes to the abundance of older individuals in the population. In years where large storm events occur in the late fall or early spring, almost an entire year class of juvenile trout can be lost, but in the long-term populations remain relatively stable. The amount of additional angling pressure created by this regulation change will have minimal impact compared to these large events.

Lastly, wardens are very familiar with the angling community and are excited to engage with them in this new opportunity. They are confident that they will be able to dedicate appropriate time to angler patrols to ensure compliance during the proposed C&R season, the majority of which falls outside of the big game hunting season. Wardens depend heavily on complaints from the public and encourage anyone with concerns over resource exploitation or violations to contact their district warden.

Theme 2: Changes in Trout Limit in rivers and streams – Brook trout limit decrease, and brown/rainbow trout limit increase.

Issues: Among the comments, two categories could be distinguished - brook trout and other trout. For brook trout, responses expressed mixed support for the proposed reduction of the brook trout creel limit to 8 fish per day. In some cases, the reduction was supported, but some individuals suggested the reductions should be even greater – with several suggesting a limit of 6 brook trout per day. For other trout species, there were multiple individuals against the proposed increase to 8 fish per day, due to concerns over biological impacts.

Response: The current creel limit for brook, brown, and rainbow trout on rivers and streams in Vermont is routinely identified as a complicated regulation for anglers to understand (a combined total of 12 brook, brown, and rainbow trout, with no more than 6 total brown trout and rainbow trout combined). Simplification was the primary driver behind the proposed change, but biological and social factors were considered when developing the proposed 8 trout daily limit for brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout combined.

Several people voiced concerns during the public information meetings that the proposed regulation would either lead to, or continue to result in, overharvesting of trout. Several anglers believed raising the brown and rainbow trout limit from 6 to 8 fish per day would result in biological impacts to these species while others indicated that this limit would still not provide enough protection for brook trout, despite being lowered from 12 to 8 fish per day. The Department believes the proposed changes to trout creel limits will not result in biological impacts on trout populations, and that further reductions (e.g. 6 trout or less) are unnecessary and would only serve to limit angler opportunity.

Creel surveys in Vermont have routinely indicated that few anglers harvest their allowed limit. Surveys of thousands of anglers on the Dog, Passumpsic, and White rivers in 1996, 2013, and 2017, respectively, indicated that none had harvested the daily limit of 6 brown and rainbow trout. Typically, anglers harvest a couple trout per day with many harvesting none. Surveys during the past 30 years in Vermont and throughout the country have indicated an increasing proportion of anglers are voluntarily choosing to practice C&R. Given that fishing effort on brook trout streams in Vermont is typically low and characterized by limited harvest, angler harvest has not been shown to impact trout abundance.

Brook trout populations are generally dense and composed of slow-growing, short-lived individuals that mature early and produce a large number of eggs. These characteristics allow populations to be resilient, and to recover quickly following large disturbances such as storm events, winter ice, or predation from mink, otters, and birds. Water temperature and the quality of instream

habitat have consistently been shown to be the limiting factors affecting brook trout populations rather than angler harvest in Vermont and other nearby states. For example, in 1992 Maine reduced its brook trout limit from 10 to 5. Long-term monitoring of brook trout populations across the state demonstrated that the reduced creel limit had essentially no effect on brook trout populations. Similarly, catch-and-release regulations had no effect on brook trout abundance in several Pennsylvania streams.

Because changes to the creel limit will not have a biological impact, social factors were considered when developing the new creel limit proposal. Although few fishing trips result in a catch of the maximum allowed number of trout, some anglers do harvest eight or more brook trout to provide a meal for themselves and their family. Given wild brook trout are typically small, more fish are required to provide a full meal for multiple individuals. In contrast, wild brown trout and rainbow trout commonly reach larger sizes and giving anglers the opportunity to harvest large numbers of these larger fish may be viewed as overly wasteful. An eight- trout per day limit was chosen as a value that balanced the opportunity to harvest an appropriately sized meal of brook trout without seeming overly careless about brown and rainbow trout populations while also simplifying this regulation.



VERMONT
FISH & WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION GROUP

www.vtfcwg.org

October 3, 2020

Re: Limiting Live Action Trail Camera Use

Commissioner Porter and VT Fish & Wildlife Board,

We are writing to propose limiting the use of live action trail cameras during the fall big game hunting seasons. These are cameras that are generally capable of transmitting images in real time to a personal device in such a way as to give an unfair advantage to a hunter. This violates an important part of what makes hunting such a unique and challenging pursuit, the concept of fair chase.

As technology continues to evolve, devices like trail cameras can assist in scouting and wildlife research; both legitimate uses. However, once that technology crosses the line to directly assist in the taking of an animal, especially without a boots-on-the-ground investment of time and effort, we believe it becomes unacceptable. With these types of cameras coming down in price, and ever-more cell phone and satellite coverage across the state, this technology must be limited.

There are those who feel that using trail cameras enhances the hunting experience. We don't disagree, and therefore we feel that cameras that don't transmit images in real time should still be allowed. Some live action cameras are used to monitor private property; therefore, we include below a 100-foot rule to monitor a residence or place of business. These cameras are also frequently used for legitimate wildlife research, which we feel should be continued if the camera and a general location are registered with the Department of VT Fish and Wildlife

We propose the following language be taken up by the Board:

Define Live Action Trail Camera: "Live action trail camera" means an unmanned device capable of transmitting images, still photographs, video or satellite imagery, wirelessly to a remote device such as but not limited to a computer, smart phone or tablet. This does not include a trail camera that records photographic or video data for later use, provided the device is not capable of transmitting wirelessly.

A person shall not use a live-action trail camera from September 1 through December 31.

Exceptions:

To monitor, within 100 feet, a residence or place of business, placed in such a way as to make monitoring the property the primary use of the camera.

Bona fide wildlife research, with the Commissioner of VTF&W notified as to the approximate location and dates of use as well as the research project.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the VTFWCG board and our members,

Matthew Breton, President
VTFWCG
PO Box 207, East Charleston, VT 05833



**VERMONT
FISH & WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION GROUP**

www.vtfwcg.org

January 18, 2021

Re: Limiting Live Action Trail Camera Use

Commissioner Porter and VT Fish & Wildlife Board,

We are writing to withdraw our proposal dated October 3rd, 2020, that was intended to limit the use of live action trail cameras for hunting during the fall big game hunting seasons. Our intention was to move a conversation forward around technology where the line between hunter-preferences and hunter-ethics seemed blurred. As technology continues to quickly evolve, and devices like live action trail cameras and other new technologies emerge, their impact on a hunter's effectiveness and the resulting impact on hunter opportunity, experience, and wildlife management should be considered. The boundaries of technology are commonly managed in our self-regulation, and have been for over a century. Things like drones, motor vehicles, broadheads, and electronic calls all commonly have limits in the context of hunting, and these limits are in large part what has resulted in and continues to sustain the abundant wildlife we enjoy today.

It was never our intent to divide hunters. Aside from the unpleasant vitriol that a few people displayed, the proposal resulted in some fruitful discussions that came from all sides of this issue, which ultimately swayed us to reconsider our stance and current approach. We hope a productive conversation will continue to happen.

Ultimately, we hunters have successfully regulated ourselves since the end of market hunting and must continue to do so, or someone else will do it for us; a prospect none of us likes to consider.

Respectfully submitted,

The VTFWCG Board
PO Box 207, East Charleston, VT 05833

2021 Fish and Wildlife Board Calendar

- January 20:** Review of 2020 deer hunting season
Fish Management Rule – First Vote
- February 17:** 2021 Migratory Game Bird Season Preview (Straw vote)
2021 Moose Season Recommendation – Preliminary Approval
- March** No meeting scheduled
- April 7:** Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons – Final Vote
2021 Moose Hunting Season Recommendation – Final Vote
Fish Rule – 2nd Vote
- April 28:** 2021 Antlerless Deer Permits and Youth Season – Preliminary Approval
- May 19** 2021 Antlerless Deer Permits and Youth Season - Final Vote
- June 16:** If needed

Hearings:

- 3.9.21 – Virtual migratory game bird public hearing #1
- 3.11.21 – Virtual migratory game bird public hearing #2
- 3.23.21 – Virtual deer/moose public hearing #1
- 3.25.21 – Virtual deer/moose public hearing #2
- 3.26.21 – Virtual deer/moose public hearing #3
- 5.11.21 – Virtual antlerless deer public hearing #4
- 5.13.21 – Virtual antlerless deer public hearing #5