

**Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VTFWD) Policy on
Providing Eggs / Fish to External Fish Culture Facilities from
VTFWD Fish Culture Stations.**

Appointing Authority: Louis Porter	Signature: 
Title: Commissioner, VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.	Date: 5/19/17
Name of Reviewer: Eric Palmer	Signature: 
Title: Fisheries Division Director	Date: 5/22/17
Name of Reviewer: Adam D. Miller	Signature: 
Title: Fish Culture Operations Manager	Date: 5/17/17
Adoption Date: 5/22/17	Effective Date: Upon adoption

Policy Statement:

Over the years, VTFWD fish culture stations have provided eggs and/or fish to fish culture facilities outside of the Department. In many cases, eggs and/or fish were provided to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, other state fish and wildlife agencies, educational institutions, research labs, and Vermont private trout growers. Occasionally, requests are received from other outside organizations to receive eggs and/or fish. Many of these outside requests have been from out-of-state organizations which seek to acquire eggs and/or fish for profit either for food fish production or for private stocking.

Reason for Policy:

The reason for this policy is to outline under what circumstances VTFWD will deem acceptable to provide outside organizations with eggs and/or fish from VTFWD fish culture stations.

Who Should Read this Policy:

All fisheries division staff that interact, coordinate, or communicate with external fish culture facilities who potentially would request to receive eggs and/or fish from a VTFWD fish culture station.

The Policy:

- I. VTFWD shall only provide eggs and/or fish from VTFWD fish culture facilities to outside organizations when there is a significant benefit to conservation and/or public

recreation that doesn't conflict with fisheries management priorities of the appropriate jurisdictional fisheries regulatory agency.

- II. Prior to providing egg and/or fish VTFWD staff will confirm with the requestor and the appropriate jurisdictional fisheries regulatory agency that the operations of the outside organization are a significant benefit to conservation and/or public recreation and do not conflict with other fisheries management priorities of the fisheries regulatory agency.
- III. Examples of a significant benefit to conservation and/or public recreation include but are not limited to:
 - a. Research which promotes scientific knowledge regarding fish, fish pathogens, and/or ecology.
 - b. Research which potentially contributes to the maintenance and restoration of healthy, sustainable fish populations.
 - c. Efforts to reintroduce / establish self-sustaining fish populations.
 - d. Public stocking to increase recreational angling opportunities
 - e. Public displays which promote a conservation ethic
 - f. Use of fish/eggs to benefit or maintain the health and/or disease classification of Vermont waters
- IV. This policy is applicable to outside organizations such as private fish culture operations, out-of-state cooperative nurseries, educational institutions, research labs, as well as state and federal fish and wildlife agencies.
- V. Final decisions for providing eggs and/or fish will be made jointly by the Fish Culture Operations Manager and Fisheries Division Director.