

Pittsford

National Fish Hatchery

Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Resources Complex Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT)
Senator James M. Jeffords (I-VT)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)
Senator Hillary R. Clinton (D-NY)
Rep. John E. Sweeney (R-NY-20th)
Rep. John M. McHugh (R-NY-23rd)

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Purpose

Pittsford National Fish Hatchery is an integral part of the Lake Champlain Management Cooperative, raising landlocked Atlantic salmon for restoring interjurisdictional and recreational fisheries in the Lake Champlain watershed. The hatchery also produces sea-run Atlantic salmon as part of the effort to restore migratory fish populations in the Connecticut River basin.

Management Activities

- Annually produces 350,000 Atlantic salmon fry and 100,000 smolts for release in the Connecticut River basin.
- Annually produces 170,000 landlocked Atlantic salmon for release in Lake Champlain and rivers that flow into the lake.
- Presents the Adopt-A-Salmon Family and other programs in schools and at other community events.
- Annually produces up to 5,000 imperiled lake sturgeon for restoration of the St. Lawrence River and Finger Lakes in New York State.

Highlights

Atlantic salmon fry and smolts raised at the hatchery are released into the Connecticut River.

The hatchery produces more than 70 percent of the landlocked salmon stocked in Lake Champlain. The salmon support a thriving sport fishery with a value to the local communities in Vermont and New York estimated at 500,000 angler days and \$50 million per year.

At the turn of the century, landlocked salmon and lake trout were extinct in Lake Champlain due to dam construction, overfishing and habitat loss. Healthy populations of both species have since been restored.

Pittsford is a historic hatchery and as a Fisheries Technical Center in the first half of the 20th century pioneered many culture techniques for a dozen or more species of trout, char, grayling and salmon. The hatchery is considered to have ideal water chemistry and temperature regime for salmonid culture.



Issues

Aging hatchery facilities are in need of upgrade and repair.

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