



River-Run Atlantic Salmon Restoration

Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Landlocked Atlantic salmon were extirpated from Lake Champlain in the early 1800s. Management actions, such as sea lamprey control and stocking provide for a popular salmon fishery in the lake. However, spawning runs of salmon to rivers have remained low. In 2010, we initiated a long-term adaptive management project focused on increasing river-runs of salmon to enhance in river fisheries and restore natural populations.

Major Accomplishments

- Developed new hatchery methods ↑ adult returns to rivers 3-5 fold.
- Captured wild fry. First time in 150 years! (Winooski 2016, Boquet 2017, 19).
- Expanded in river salmon fishery.
- Improved fish passage at dams.
- Identified reproductive success and habitats used in river.
- Linked efforts for restoring salmon habitat, river function, and water quality.
- Developed low thiamine tolerant broodstock at White River NFH.
- Salmon in schools program and Richmond salmon festival.
- Publication of 12 scientific papers on salmon restoration.



Applied research on L. Champlain salmon restoration featured on cover of international scientific journal.

Optimize Hatcheries



L. Champlain salmon eggs at White R. NFH for broodstock resilient to VitB1 syndrome.

Improve Passage



Trap and truck program on Winooski R. to move salmon above three dams.

Reestablish Populations



Wild salmon fry from Winooski River. First in 150 years!

Engage Youth



Students stock salmon in Huntington R.

Enhance Fishery



Angler with salmon in Huntington River.

Restore Habitat



Assessing salmon habitat and juvenile survival.