



Lake Champlain

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Station Facts

- FY 2020 Budget: \$2.1M
- Staff: 24
- Established: 1992
- The Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program consists of 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 9 Fish Health Centers and 7 Fish Technology Centers.
- There are FWCOs in 32 States with over 300 biologists. Lake Champlain FWCO was established for restoration and conservation of native species.

Contact Information

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Represented by the following members of Congress

- Senator Patrick Leahy (VT)
- Senator Bernie Sanders (VT)
- Representative Peter Welch (VT-AL)
- Senator Kirstin Gillibrand (NY)
- Senator Charles Schumer (NY)
- Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (NY-21)



Who We Are

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources for the benefit of the American people, helping ensure that these resources remain among the richest and most diverse in the world. Working across geographic and political borders, FWCO biologists craft partnerships and solutions to conserve, restore, and enhance our natural resources.

How We Help

Lake Champlain FWCO along with our National Fish Hatcheries is the lead federal entity in Vermont and eastern NY working to restore landlocked Atlantic salmon and lake trout by producing hatchery fish; controlling sea lamprey; monitoring fish populations; restoring aquatic, wetland and riparian habitats; and minimizing impacts of invasive species in the Lake Champlain Watershed.

Key Initiatives

Implement innovative new programs to enhance river-runs of landlocked Atlantic salmon; leading state partners in sea lamprey control, reconnecting streams impeded by dams and culverts to restore aquatic organism passage, restoring wetland and riparian habitat and working to minimize the impacts of invasive species.



Jaime Masterson, USFWS

Highlights

Through increased USFWS and Great Lakes Fishery Commission appropriations, the USFWS lamprey control program continues to meet lamprey population reduction goals with low wounding rates on Atlantic salmon and lake trout.

Increased assessment of salmon in the Winooski and Boquet Rivers through telemetry are yielding valuable insights on use and movements. Events, education, displays, and media celebrating International Year of the Salmon took place throughout the Lake Champlain Basin in 2019 reaching over 6,000 people.

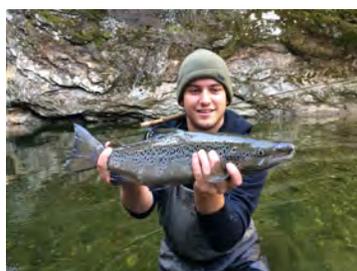
Cumulatively, through 2019, the habitat program completed over 950 restoration projects with over 740 landowners, restoring and enhancing over 2,900 acres of upland habitat, 515 miles of streambank habitat, 6,800 acres of wetland habitat; re-opened 1,153 miles of aquatic habitat to fish passage by removing 56 barriers and treated 1,500 acres of wetland habitat impacted by invasive species. These projects have leveraged \$30 million in partner contributions.



Biologist Bill Ardren identifying odors from salmon use to imprint on rivers



Sample of metamorphosed sea lamprey from the Little Chazy River, NY. Eliminated using lampricide before they could out-migrate to Lake Champlain and parasitize its fish community.



Angler with salmon in the Huntington River



Restoring natural stream flow and fish passage under a road

