

Keep Kensington Hatchery Open

I am a retired science teacher. I have been involved with both the Trout-in-the-Classroom program and the CRSA's Salmon Program for many years. The Governor's budget includes closing the Kensington Hatchery. If this happens, it will mean the end of the Trout-in-the-Classroom program. There are about 90 schools, 10,000 students and over 100 volunteers who are participating in the program this year. In addition, the Salmon-in-the-Classroom program will definitely be eliminated. The salmon program includes over 70 schools and 6000 kids. This has been an outstanding experience for kids across the state. They monitor the growth of their fish from eyed-eggs to fry. Then they participate in a field trip to release their fish. We need to develop more hands-on projects for students not eliminate them! Other wildlife projects are on the chopping block as well. There will be no more stocking of salmon in CT. The estimated savings to close the hatchery is \$196,000 . The Kensington Hatchery produces about \$13 to 15 million dollars per year in angler expenditures etc. We need to make sure the Kensington Hatchery stays open. .