

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries: History of Wild Trout Management

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J. Atkinson

Liberal Harvest Regulations = Over-Exploitation







J. Atkinson



1950's



The 1960's: Fishing-For-Fun

Catch and release regulations of 1961; Rapidan and Staunton



J. Atkinson

1976-1979 VA Game Commission Coldwater Stream Survey



41 counties surveyed
2,028 stream miles with wild trout identified



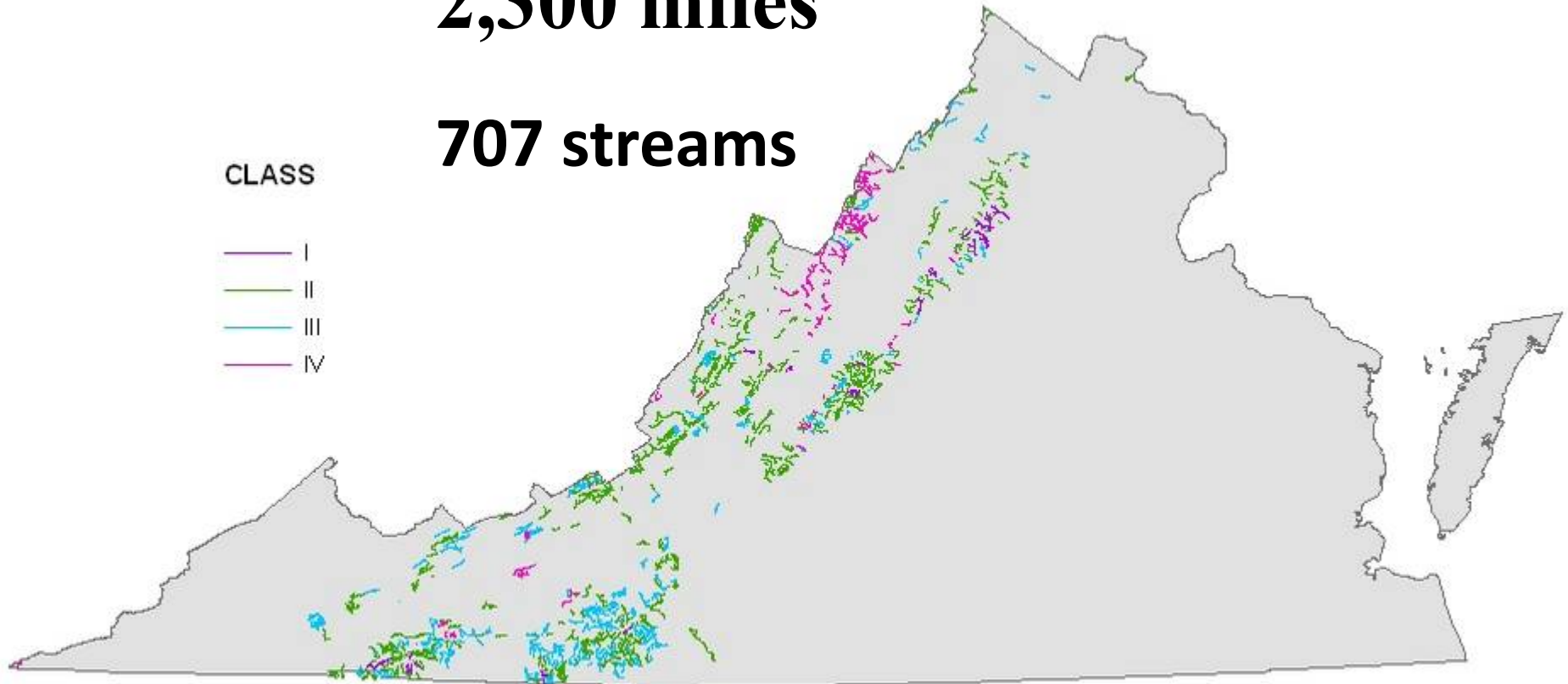
Virginia's Wild Trout Streams: Classes I-IV

2,300 miles

707 streams

CLASS

- I
- II
- III
- IV



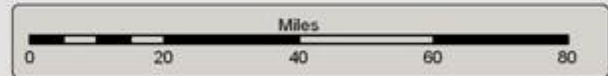
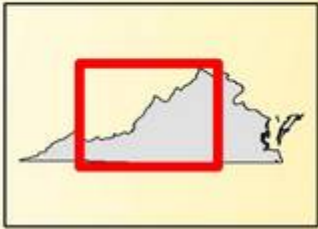
0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

Legend

- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV

Wild Brook Trout Streams

2,204 miles



Sources:
State Boundary - ESRI
All Other Data - VDGIF

VDGIF Coldwater Stream Database



US Army Corps of Engineers



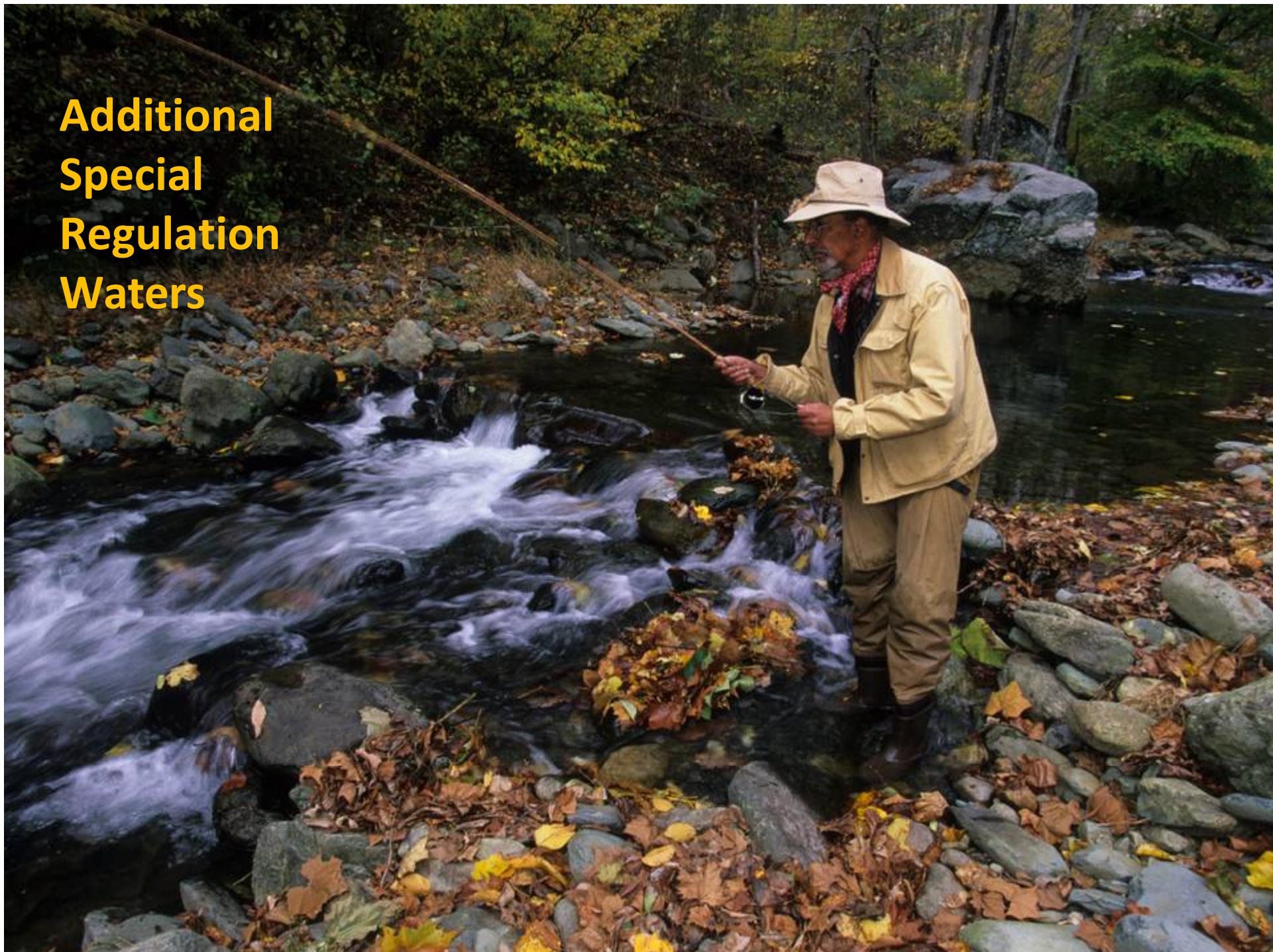




7 inch minimum size limit to protect fish to spawning size



**Additional
Special
Regulation
Waters**

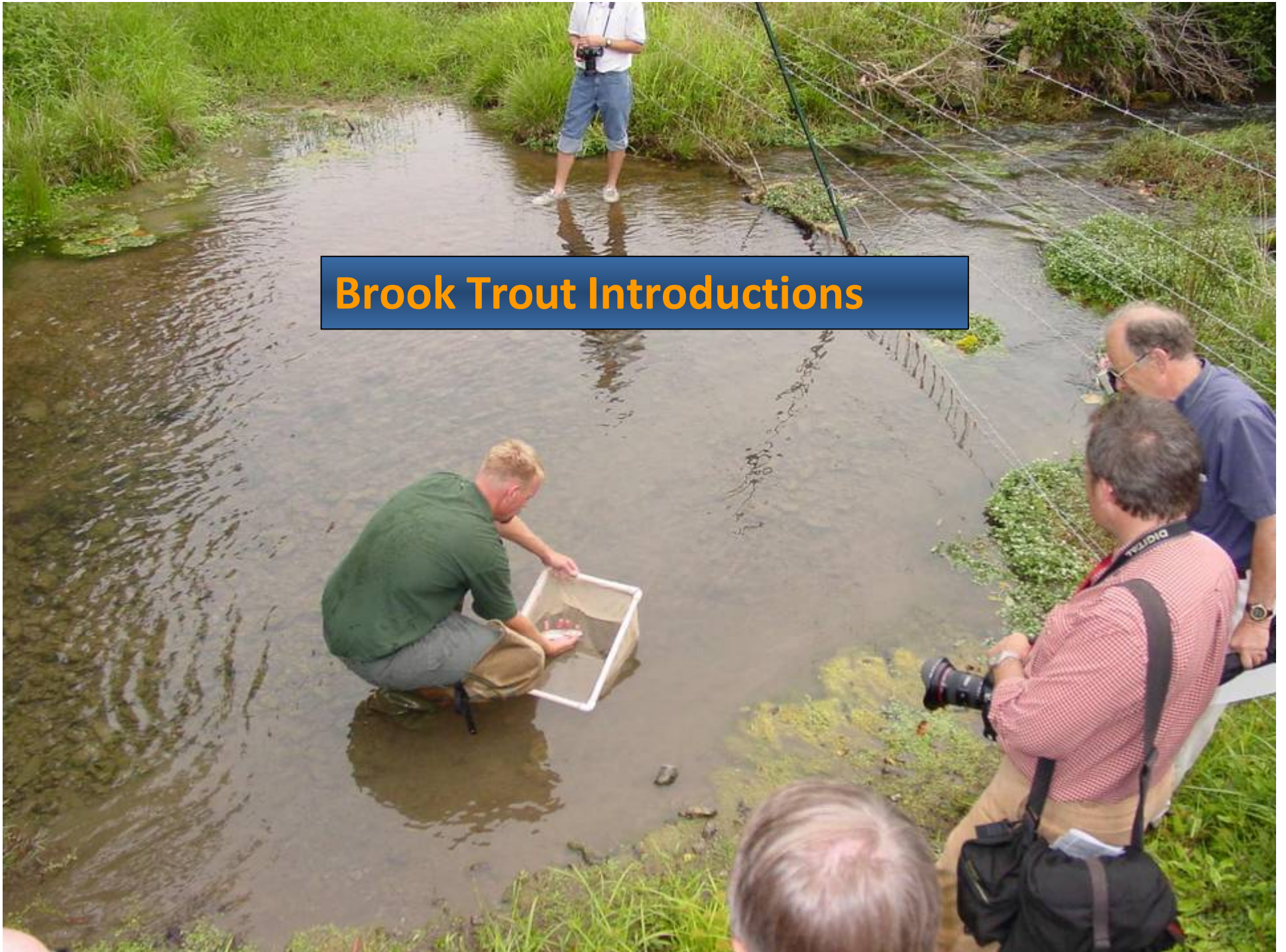




Time of Year Restrictions for working in wild trout streams

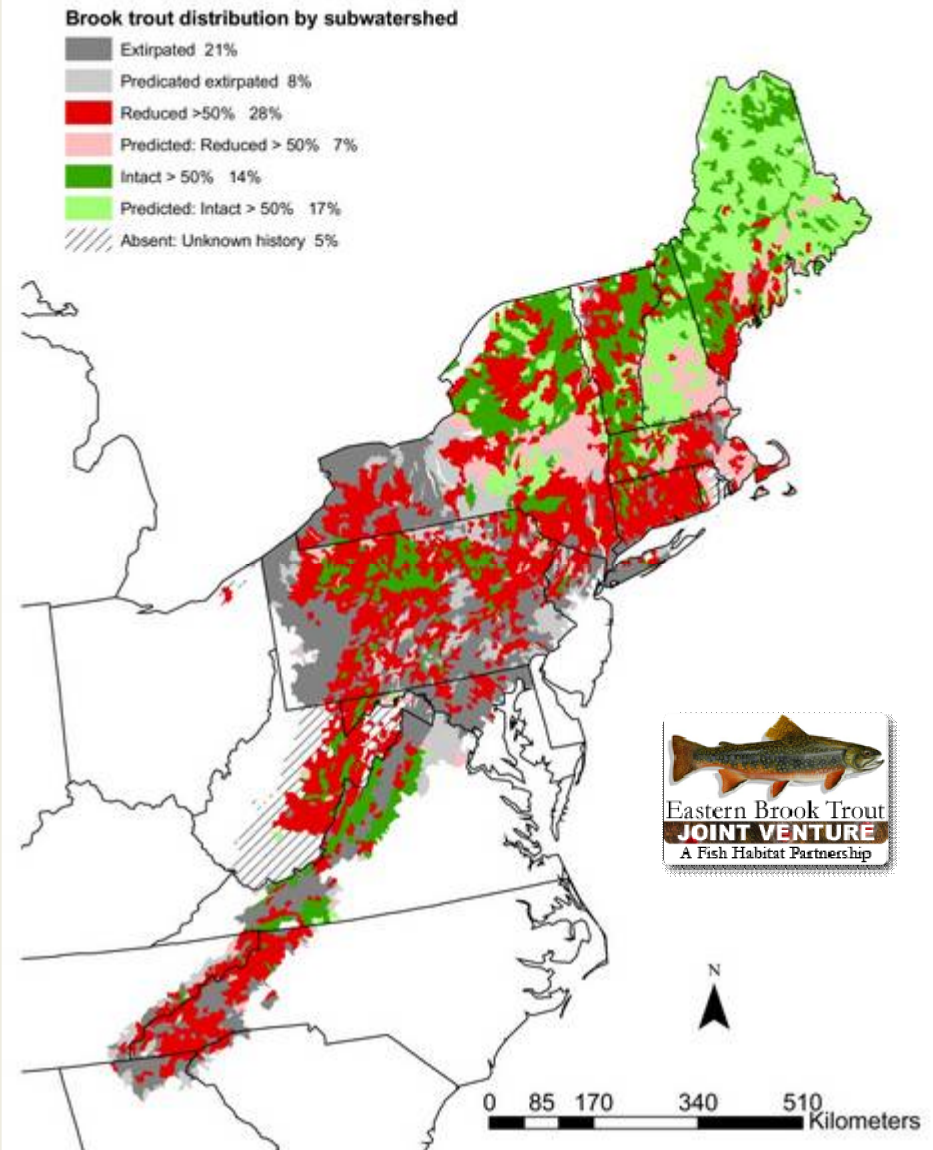
brook and brown trout	October 1 – March 31
rainbow trout	March 15 – May 15

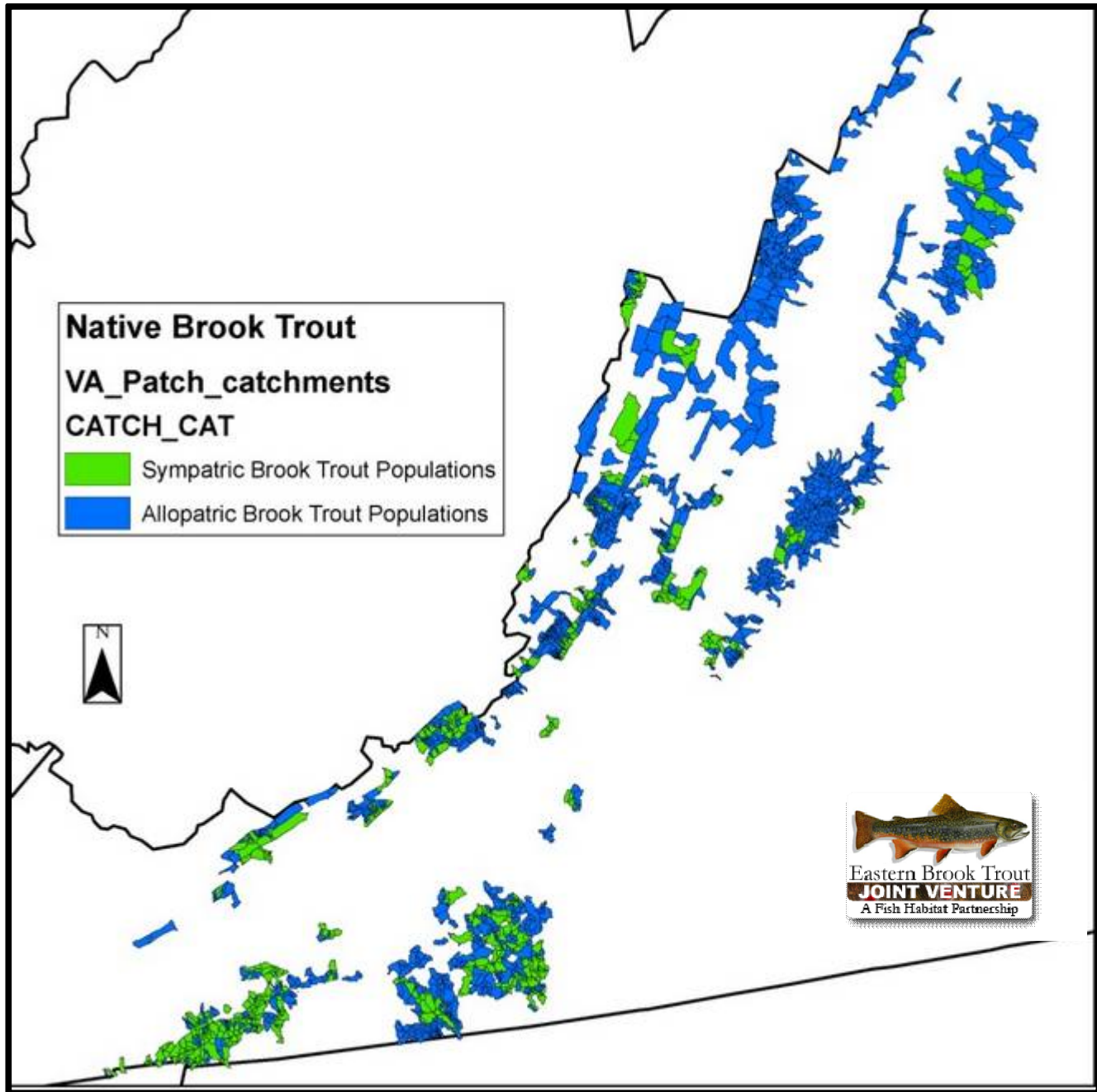
Brook Trout Introductions



Study Area: 6th level watersheds

- Extirpated 21%
- Predicated extirpated 8%
- **Reduced >50% 28%**
- **Predicated Reduced >50% 7%**
- **Intact >50% 14%**
- **Predicated Intact >50% 17%**
- Absent: Unknown History 5%

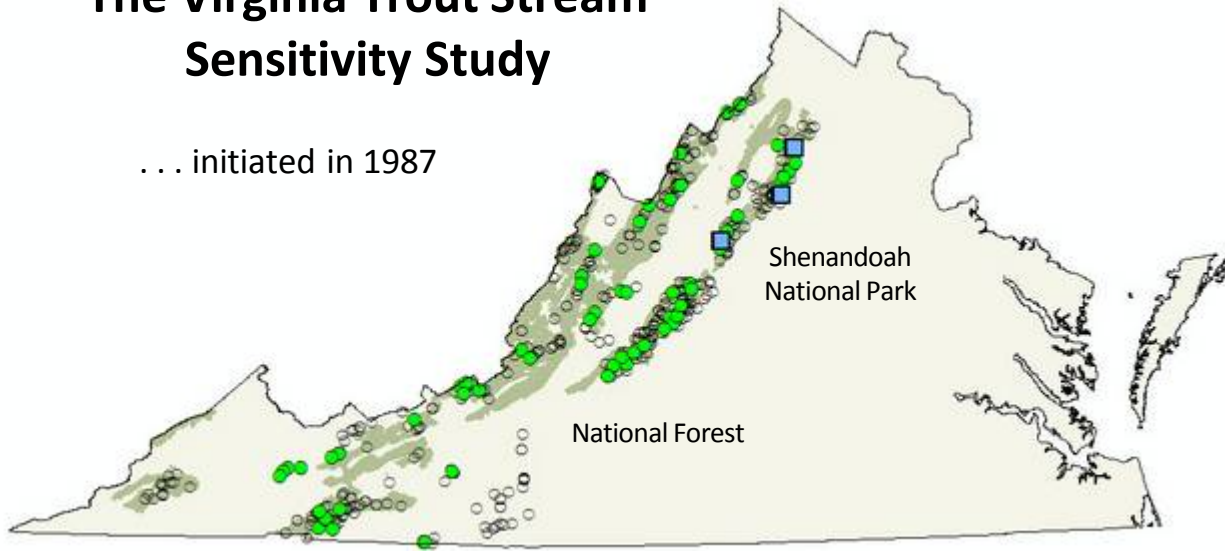




M. Hudy

The Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study

... initiated in 1987



- **Regional surveys:**
1987, 2000, and 2010
(n = 460)
- **Quarterly monitoring:**
continuous since 1987
(n = 67)
- **Intensive monitoring:**
weekly and storm-flow
sampling, with continuous
discharge gauging since 1992
(n = 3)

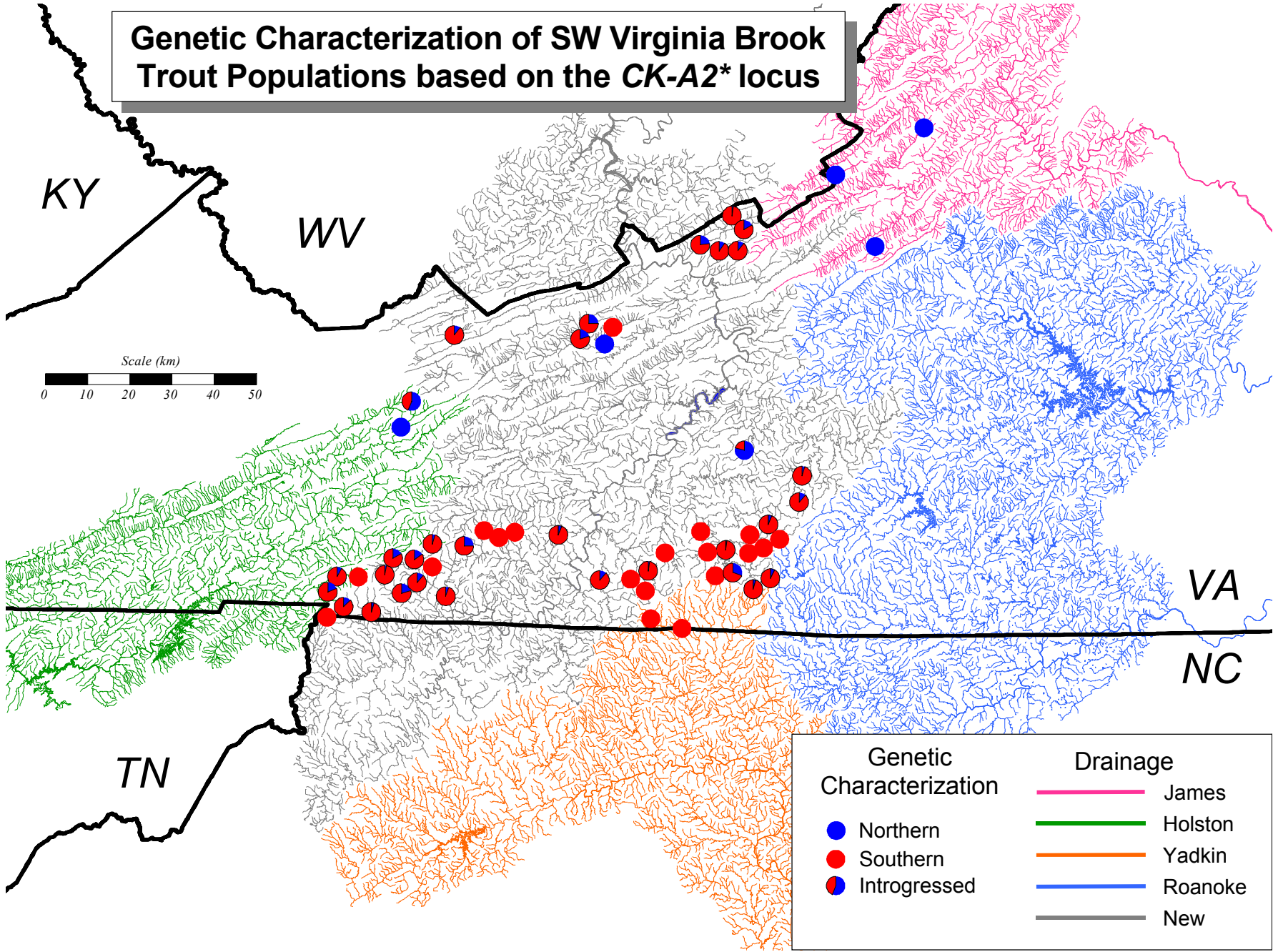
Long-term monitoring sites were selected to represent relatively pristine watersheds and regional bedrock distribution.



**VDGIF , USFS, NPS
monitoring fish populations
in selected VTSSS streams
1990-present**



Genetic Characterization of SW Virginia Brook Trout Populations based on the CK-A2* locus



An Analysis of Wild Trout Anglers in Virginia 2001-2003



Stephen J. Reeser and Larry O. Mohn

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries



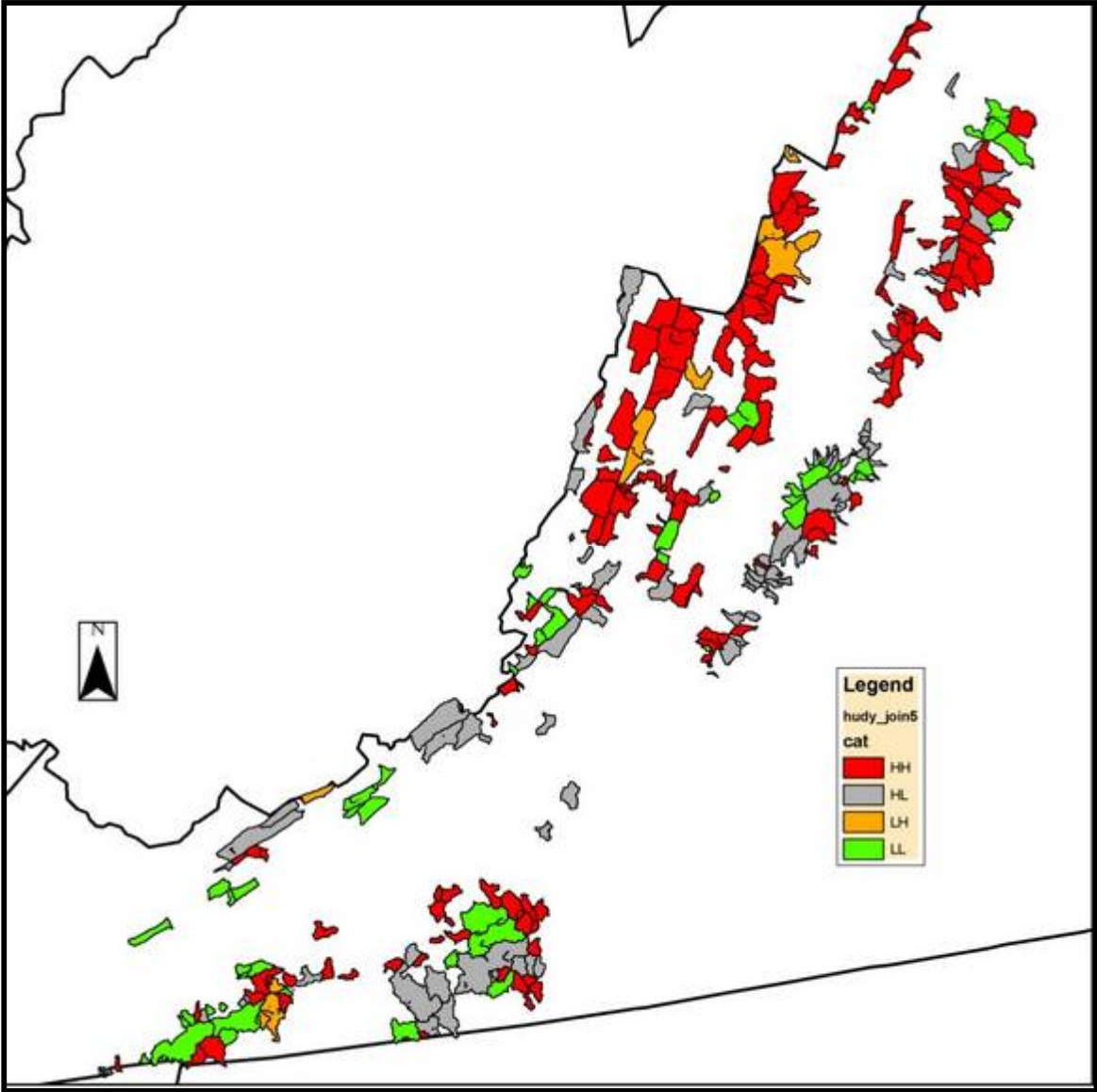






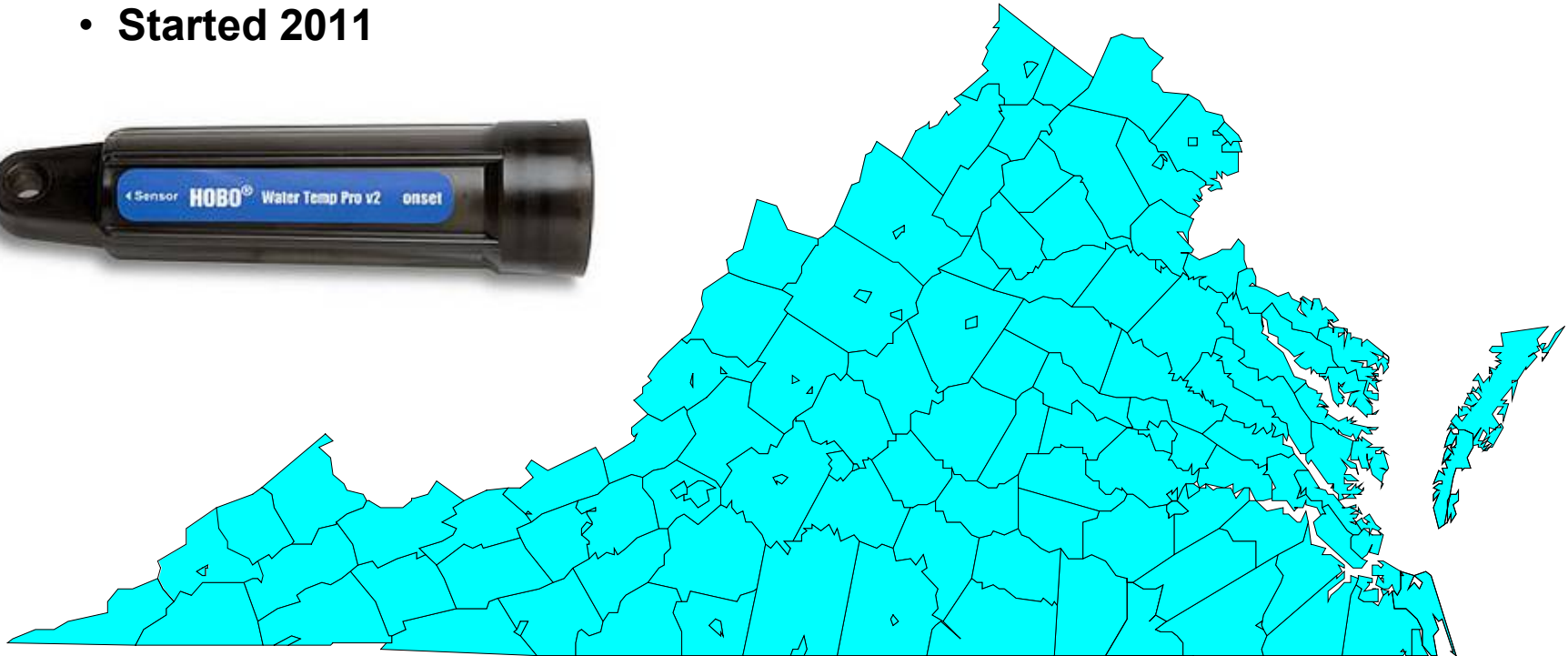


Vulnerability of Brook Trout Patches to Climate Change



VDGIF Long-Term Coldwater Stream Temperature Monitoring Project

- **Collecting hourly observations of water temperature (year-round)**
- **72 different streams**
- **SW VA, Blue Ridge, Alleghany Highlands, Valleys**
- **Freestone and Spring Creeks**
- **National Forest and Private Land**
- **Started 2011**



Continued collaboration with partners on research and management projects targeting wild trout in Virginia.

