



## State of Rhode Island GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION **National Hunting and Fishing Day**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Rhode Island has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that dates back further than the state itself and carries forward to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, hunting and angling continue to be an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, and over recent years have offered a growing number of participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while simultaneously proving food security, a sense of self sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and through their license fees, helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on firearms, ammunitions, fishing tackle, and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

**WHEREAS**, to this day, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is funded in part, by sportsmen and women, through this American System of Conservation Funding- a "user pays-public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as a successful model for funding fish and wildlife management; and

**WHEREAS**, last year alone, Rhode Island's sportsmen and women generated \$11,300,011 through this System to support the conversation efforts of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; and

**WHEREAS**, 66,457 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$1.8 billion spent on outdoor activities in Rhode Island last year; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level, sportsmen and women spent more than \$38 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, which does not include spending on items such as trips and travel, or license fees that were necessary for their participation. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised of 2.1% of Rhode Island's GDP that same year; and

**WHEREAS**, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and to our society.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2025, as: **National Hunting and Fishing Day** in the state and encourage all residents to join me in and recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.



*Given under my hand and the great seal of the  
Office of the Governor of the State of Rhode  
Island, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.*

**Daniel J. McKee**  
Governor

**Gregg M. Amore**  
Secretary of State