The bipartisan Rhode Island Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus was formed in 2019 and was the 49th caucus to unite under the National Assembly of Sportmen’s Caucuses (NASC). The Caucus was a work-in-product for several years, until its current Co-Chairs, Senators Frank Lombardo and Gordon Rogers, spearheaded the effort to formally establish a recognized Caucus. Leading up to its formation, and during its tenure, the Co-Chairs have attended several in-person and virtual NASC Sportsman-Legislator Summits, including the event held in Bretton Woods, NH. Despite having only formed two years ago, the Caucus Co-Chairs have been actively engaged in protecting and advancing sportsmen’s interests in the Ocean State, including efforts to expand the use of hunting with crossbow, legalize firearms suppressors, and authorize the use of suppressors while hunting.

Policy Highlights
- In 2020, Senator Rogers introduced several bills that would both authorize the ownership of suppressors and their use in the pursuit of game.
- The Caucus Co-Chair have driven efforts to expand crossbow authorizations for certain hunting seasons in the state.
- Both Caucus Co-Chairs have introduced and supported numerous policies related to concealed carry legalities, including: authorizing residents 21 years of age or older to carry a concealed handgun without a permit, and allowing the attorney general to enter in agreements with other states to recognize a concealed handgun permit as valid.

Economic Impact and Conservation Funding
- Sportsmen and women spent $154 million on hunting and fishing in Rhode Island in 2011 - that is two and a half times more than the receipts for all agricultural commodities in the state that year ($154 million vs $62 million).
- Hunters and anglers supported nearly as many jobs in Rhode Island as the University of Rhode Island, the second largest university faculty in the state (2,300 vs. 2,500).
- Rhode Island’s sportsmen and women generated $18 million in state and local taxes in 2011 - that is enough to support the average salaries of more than 250 secondary school teachers in the state ($18 million vs. $70,000).