



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

**WHEREAS**, 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 providing 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 Division of Fish and Wildlife 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 and ammunition, fishing tackle and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

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

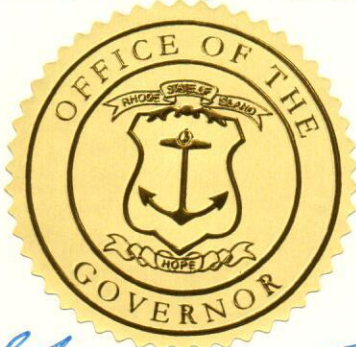
**WHEREAS**, last year alone, Rhode Island's sportsmen and women generated \$11.1 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; and

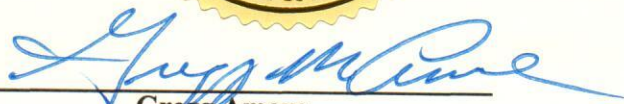
**WHEREAS**, more than 64,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$2.1 billion spent on outdoor activities in Rhode Island last year; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, nationally, sportsmen and women spent more than \$41 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, not including trips and travel or license fees. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.7% of Rhode Island's GDP that same year; and

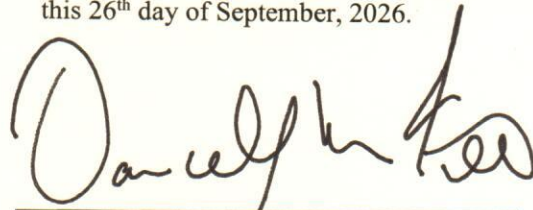
**WHEREAS**, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and to our society.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2026, to be **National Hunting and Fishing Day**, a day to be set aside in celebration of Rhode Island's sportsmen and women, and to recognize the varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.



  
Gregg Amore  
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the seal of the  
Governor of the State of Rhode Island,  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2026.

  
Daniel J. McKee  
Governor