

2025 -- H 6083

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPORT FISH RESTORATION
PROGRAM AS PART OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING**

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, Bennett, Solomon, Quattrocchi,
Paplauskas, J. Brien, Santucci, Casey, Roberts, and Nardone

Date Introduced: March 13, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters and anglers were among the first
2 conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain
3 unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

4 WHEREAS, Sportsmen and women took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped
5 excessive harvesting of fish and wildlife, established state agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and
6 their habitat, and supported special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new
7 agencies' efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations; and

8 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island House of Representatives then and now recognize that the
9 primary authority to protect and manage fish within their state waters resides in the state
10 agencies; and

11 WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and
12 sustain healthy fish populations, anglers supported excise taxes on fishing equipment to raise
13 additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

14 WHEREAS, The Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began 75 years ago with the
15 passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 (further expanded with the
16 Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984) is a vital part of
17 conservation funding in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, A manufacturers excise tax on fishing equipment, along with an excise tax
19 on motorboat and small engine fuels, is mostly distributed back to the states through the U. S.

1 Fish and Wildlife Service for fisheries conservation, management, and angler and boater access;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, This cooperative partnership between the sportfishing industry, anglers,
4 boaters, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the
5 most successful model of fisheries management in the world, restoring and enhancing populations
6 across the United States and its territories; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 1939, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish
8 Restoration Programs and license fees to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$78 Billion-
9 more than any other single conservation effort in American history-which constitute, collectively,
10 the American System of Conservation Funding; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
12 recognizes America's anglers, boaters, the sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies,
13 and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of
14 fish and aquatic resources, both game and non-game, to the abundance we see today with the help
15 of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, in this the 75th anniversary year of the program's
16 establishment as part of the American System of Conservation Funding; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island,
19 Daniel J. McKee, to Mr. Terrence Gray, Director of the Rhode Island Department of
20 Environmental Management, and to the members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation.
21 This House also commends and appreciates the foresight and contributions from anglers, the
22 sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on
23 behalf of our nation's fisheries and aquatic resources.

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