



Seasonal Lifeguard at East Beach



Local Food at Goddard Memorial State Park



Sapowet Marsh Restoration Project



Clamming at Rocky Point State Park

BUDGET PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED FY2022 BUDGET

PARKS AND RECREATION INVESTMENTS

- Our state parks and beaches are some of Rhode Island's most treasured places, providing countless families with opportunities to enjoy being outside.
- Rhode Island's parks, beaches, and campgrounds attract over 9 million visits a year, infusing more than \$310 million into the economy. They also add ~\$40 million in state and local taxes and support ~4,000 jobs a year.
- These investments continue the much-needed modernization of RI's state parks system by adding four additional FTEs, comprised of a maintenance technician, plumber, clerk, and civil engineer, and an increase in the operating budget for grounds maintenance, as well as building maintenance and repairs and to ensure that we can take better care of our assets.
- The initiative would be funded by an increase in parking rates at Misquamicut State Beach. This unique location is the State's busiest beach and welcomes mostly non-residents, with close to 88% of parking fees collected from out-of-state visitors in 2020.
- This proposed investment complements the recently approved 2020 Beach, Green Economy, Clean Water and Bond which will fund facility upgrades to state parks, beaches, and campgrounds.

FISH AND WILDLIFE LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

- The Fish and Wildlife Division supports a long tradition of fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation funded through license fees matched by federal dollars.
- This proposal will provide additional state match for federal funding, increasing the Division's ability to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and carry out projects that benefit the outdoor community.
- These fee increases (in three steps over an eight-year period) will better align Rhode Island fish and wildlife fees with those in other states.

AGRICULTURE REGISTRATION FEES

- This proposal adjusts registration fees for pesticide products, commercial fertilizers, and commercial feeds.
- These fee increases are comparable to those in neighboring states.

INVESTMENTS TO THE PORT OF GALILEE AND STATE PIER NINE IN NEWPORT

- The Port of Galilee is one of the largest and most successful commercial fishing ports on the East Coast with close to 200 commercial fishermen landed 48 million pounds of seafood, valued at \$66 million, at Galilee in 2019.
- Located in Newport Harbor, State Pier 9 is home to the Newport Lobster Shack operated by a membership co-op of commercial fishermen. It sells lobster, crab, squid, and fish landed on adjacent docks caught by its members, connects consumers with the men and women harvesting from the local ecosystem, and provides a steady source of income to fishermen May through October.
- This proposal invests in the Division of Coastal Resources, which operates the ports of Galilee and Newport, by adding three additional FTEs, comprised of a maintenance technician and two administrative positions. It also includes funding for maintenance and repairs and other operating expenditures.

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE MODERNIZATION

- RI's commercial fishing industry supports many small businesses and thousands of jobs, and supplies delicious, fresh Rhode Island seafood to local and global markets.
- Streamlining the licensing system will create efficiencies for fishermen and fish processors, increase consistency and fairness, improve data quality, support better management and reduce administrative burden on DEM.
- This proposal modernizes the license structure and better aligns license costs with programmatic needs, as well as with fees in other states.



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