



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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January 26, 2022

The Honorable Kathleen A. Fogarty
Chairwoman
House Committee on Special Legislation
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 6633 An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Special License Plate

Dear Chairwoman Fogarty,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 6633, which would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue specialized license plates to benefit the Atlantic Shark Institute (ASI).

DEM has collaborated with ASI on several projects since 2019 focused on advancing our scientific understanding on sharks that inhabit Rhode Island state waters and/or are recreationally sought after by Rhode Islanders. Data collected through tagging and acoustic telemetry research have provided us with a greater insight as to when certain shark species seasonally inhabit state waters and for how long. This data has been used to fill knowledge gaps on shark species' biology and to inform other state policies about the presence of sharks. ASI has been a critical partner in these efforts.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Jason McNamee, Deputy Director for Natural Resources, at jason.mcnamee@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrance Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terrance Gray, P.E.
Acting Director

CC: Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation