



Stocked Trout at Lincoln Woods State Park



Wildlife Outreach Program Field Trip



NE Cottontail Being Fitted with a Radio Collar



Fish Hatchery Tour

RI DIVISION FISH & WILDLIFE

FISH AND WILDLIFE LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife supports a long tradition of fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation funded through fishing and hunting license fees matched by federal dollars. Changing the fees associated with licenses and permits is expected to 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.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife shares management responsibility of more than 60,000 acres of land distributed across 15 towns and all counties and is responsible for managing thousands of species of wildlife, including freshwater species. The division serves a wide and diverse segment of the public from outdoor recreationists — such as hunters, hikers, mountain bikers, and wildlife watchers — to the general public and municipalities concerned with nuisance wildlife.

Hunting and fishing are more than just traditional pastimes in Rhode Island — they contribute more than \$235 million to our economy.

Hunters and anglers purchase close to 70,000 licenses, permits, stamps, and tags each year, and revenue generated from license and permit sale supports Rhode Island fish and wildlife conservation programs. A critical source of funding, these monies are leveraged to match federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program dollars that support outdoor recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and boating in Rhode Island.

There are over 9,000 licensed hunters in Rhode Island, whose license and permit revenue is used to match federal funds. This user pay/public benefit model is extremely successful because our sportsmen and women, and the industries that serve them, have historically been willing to commit the resources necessary to protect, enhance, and expand Rhode Island's conservation, hunting, and shooting heritage.

DEM has changed the fees associated with many fish and wildlife licenses and permits to generate additional revenue for the Division of Fish and Wildlife and to provide matching funds for federal funding.

- To minimize impact on hunters and anglers, fees set to increase will do so over an eight-year period in three steps taking place in 2021, 2025, and 2028. See reverse for more details.
- These increases will better align RI fish and wildlife fees with those in other states.
- Most fees associated with the fish and wildlife licenses and permits have not been increased since 2003 or before.
- Fees for disabled and senior (65+) licenses will not increase.
- License fees for youth hunters (12-14) will decrease.
- The fee increases will generate over \$60,000 in new restricted receipt revenue after the first step, over \$185,000 per year after the second step, and over \$300,000 per year after the third step.
- New revenue will leverage federal funding (3:1 match) that can be used for a variety of projects benefiting hunters and anglers.

In addition to wildlife research and monitoring programs that include migratory birds, New England Cottontails, and predator species like bobcats and coyotes, the Division also spearheads projects that expand hunting and fishing opportunities in Rhode Island. Completed projects include a renovation of the Great Swamp Shooting Range in West Kingston, wheelchair-accessible boat ramp upgrades at Echo Lake, Indian Lake, Watchaug Pond, and Goddard Memorial State Park, conservation of more than 400 acres of management land over the last four years, and expansion of education programs that include a wild game cooking class, mentored youth hunts for wild turkey and waterfowl, year-round fishing programs, and a division-run Instagram page.





Photo by S. Petraca

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DEM Police Officer with Small Game Hunters

DEM Fisheries Biologist Leads a Fish Survey

Let's Go Fishing Event at Lincoln Woods State Park

Habitat Tour at Great Swamp Mgmt Area

LICENSE/PERMIT	PREVIOUS RI FEE	REGIONAL* AVERAGE FEE	NEW FEE EFF. 7/1/2021	NEW FEE EFF. 7/1/2025	NEW FEE EFF. 7/1/2028	MA FEE	CT FEE
Hunting, Resident	\$18.00	\$26.49	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	\$27.50	\$19.00
Hunting, Non-Resident	\$45.00	\$118.54	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$99.50/\$65.50 ¹	\$91.00
Hunting Jr., Resident	\$18.00	\$8.11	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$11.50	\$10.00
Hunting Jr., Non-Resident	\$45.00	\$47.49	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$99.50/\$65.50	\$91.00
Hunting Landowner, Resident	\$18.00	N/A	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	N/A ²	N/A ³
Hunting Tourist, Non-Resident	\$16.00	\$42.63	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	N/A	\$35.00
Hunting Active Military, Non-Resident	\$18.00	\$26.49	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	\$27.50	\$19.00
Freshwater Fishing, Resident	\$18.00	\$25.09	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	\$27.50	\$28.00
Freshwater Fishing, Non-Resident	\$35.00	\$45.89	\$38.00	\$41.00	\$44.00	\$37.50	\$55.00
Freshwater Fishing Tourist, Non-Resident	\$16.00	\$17.84	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$23.50	\$22.00
Freshwater Fishing Active Military, Non-Resident	\$18.00	\$25.09	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	\$27.50	\$28.00
Combo Hunting & Fishing, Resident	\$33.00	\$50.65	\$38.00	\$43.00	\$48.00	N/A	\$40.00
Trapping, Resident	\$10.00	\$25.29	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$35.50	\$34.00
Trapping, Non-Resident	\$30.00	\$192.32	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
Game Bird (Pheasant) Permit, Resident & Non-Resident	\$15.50	\$28.58	\$17.00	\$18.50	\$21.00	N/A	\$28.00
Deer Permit, Resident	\$12.50	\$15.61	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$19.00
Deer Permit, Non-Resident	\$25.50	\$29.11	\$26.50	\$27.50	\$28.50	\$5.00	\$68.00
Turkey Permit – Resident	\$7.50	\$18.11	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$10.50	\$5.00	\$28.00
Turkey Permit, Non-Resident	\$20.00	\$25.61	\$21.50	\$23.00	\$24.50	\$5.00	\$28.00
Trout Stamp, Resident	\$5.50	\$6.92	\$5.50	\$6.00	\$6.50	N/A	\$5.00
Trout Stamp, Non-Resident	\$5.50	\$10.22	\$5.50	\$6.00	\$6.50	N/A	\$5.00
Waterfowl Stamp, Resident	\$7.50	\$8.99	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$17.00
Waterfowl Stamp, Non-Resident	\$7.50	\$9.88	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$17.00

*Averages of fee information collected in 2019. Includes MA, CT, ME, NH, VT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, and PA – average excludes RI.

¹ MA charges \$99.50 for a nonresident big game hunting license (includes deer, bear, turkey, and all other game) and \$65.50 for a small game hunting license (includes all game except deer, bear, and turkey).

² MA and CT do not offer this license – nonresident landowners must obtain a regular nonresident hunting license.

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