



DEM
RHODE ISLAND



Patience Island New England Cottontail Trapping Technician

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

West Kingston, RI

Pay: Weekly rate of \$700 with no benefits

Classification: Contractor (expected average of 35 hours per week for approx. 15 weeks spanning December 2025 to April 2026)

Start Date: December 2025

Duration: Approx. 15 weeks spanning December 2025 to April 2026

Recruitment: Internal/External

Application Deadline: November 4, 2025, or until position is filled

Overview: Work independently and as a team in a joint capacity with the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) and the Bureau of Natural Resources, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to assist Division of Fish and Wildlife biologists with New England cottontail research on Patience Island. The incumbent will: drive equipment to and from the field office and the boat ramp; haul traps on and off the boat to the island; transport traps throughout the island; set traps to catch rabbits; and collect fecal pellets on the island and mainland monitoring sites. The contractor must work diligently to ensure all set traps are checked to verify rabbits are not left in traps for long periods of time. The contractor also may assist in transporting, collaring, collecting biological samples and information, releasing, and monitoring rabbits. This position will be classified as a Contractor to the WMI. Direct supervision of day-to-day activities will be provided by RIDEM and partners.

Must possess, or be able to obtain, a Class D Rhode Island driver's license before the start of the position. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds and be willing to travel regularly on a boat to Patience Island, RI.

Term: Work within this agreement shall be performed up to 4/24/2026. The work is intermittent and will not be every day. For example, marine and/or land weather conditions may prevent trapping or surveying certain days. The total maximum number of weeks worked will be 15 weeks.

Pricing: WMI shall pay Contractor an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 (the "Price") at the rate of \$700.00 per week without paid holidays or vacation to perform the Services described in the Overview. The position has an expected workload of 35 hrs/week. Some weeks may require additional hours when weather conditions allow extended trapping, while other weeks may have reduced workloads when weather conditions prevent fieldwork.

Application Procedures: To apply via email, send a cover letter outlining your interest and qualifications and a resume to: christopher.thawley.ctr@dem.ri.gov and cc dylan.ferreira@dem.ri.gov and wgel@etal.uri.edu. Please state "**Patience Island New England Cottontail Trapping Technician**" in the email's subject.