



Natural Resource Economics



www.watershedcounts.org

Beach closed? Money washed away...



Scarborough Beach, RI

- There are over 20 million “beach visits” in Rhode Island per year.¹
- The total social value of these beach days is estimated at over \$155 million per year. This is the how much the beach is worth to people beyond what they actually pay.²
- 37% of individuals surveyed rated visiting beaches as the 1st or 2nd most needed water-based activity in RI.³

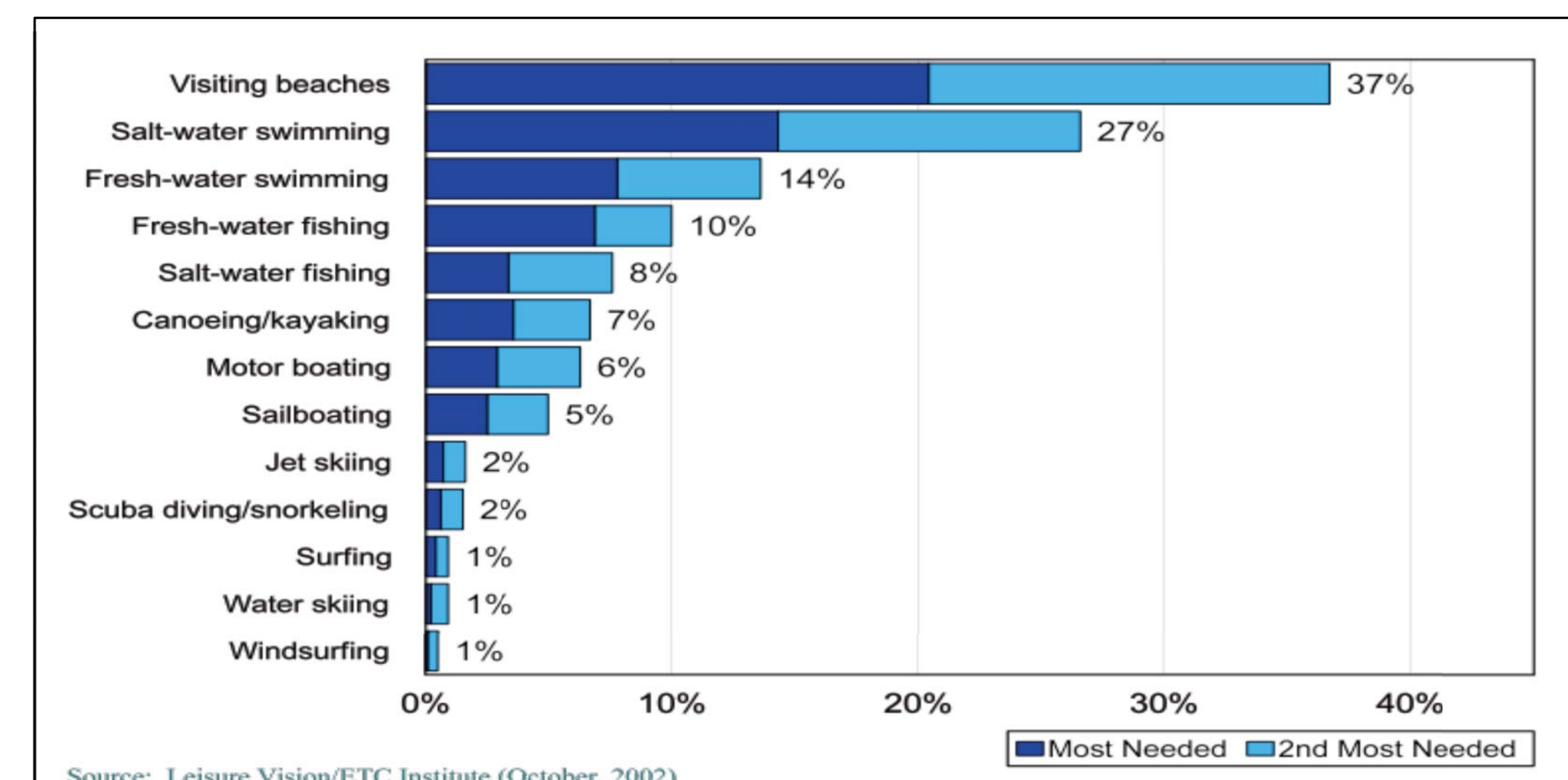


Photo: RI Dept. of Environmental Management

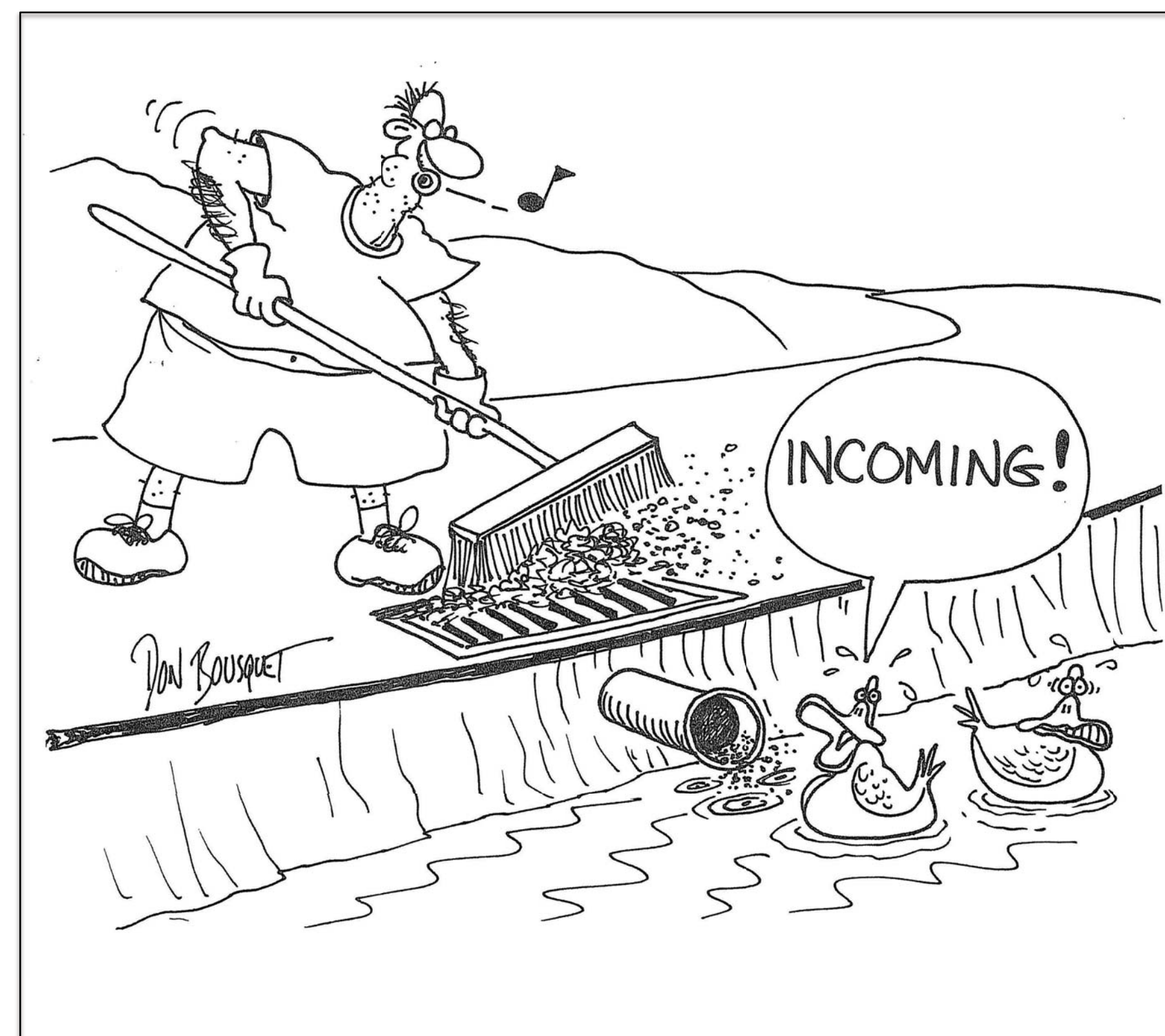
Water-based activities that are needed most in Rhode Island. By percentage of individuals in households who will have the next birthday (two choices could be made).

Healthy Watershed = Healthy Bay = Healthy Economy



Photo: Town of North Kingstown, RI

Photo: Save The Bay



Rhode Island Stormwater Solutions

Investments in stormwater infrastructure and public education help to protect and improve beach water quality



Conimicut Point Beach, RI

Photo: RIPhoto.com

Oakland Beach and Conimicut Point Beach are among those beaches that have frequent closures. Around 14,000 people use these beaches each summer, far below maximum capacity (5-25%), and therefore many more people, particularly in the urban area, might enjoy these beaches if water quality improves.



Narragansett Beach, RI

Photo: South County Office of Tourism

Data sources:

¹ Average estimate from RIDEM Outdoor Recreation Demand Citizen Survey, Conducted by Leisure Vision, Aug-Oct., 2002 and National Survey of Recreation and Environment 2000 (From: <http://coastalsocioeconomics.noaa.gov/core/nsre/nsre2000.html#marine>, preliminary estimates from versions 1-6: coastal recreation participation, and 2001 participation in marine rec nsre_2).

² This refers to the “consumer surplus” or net “willingness to pay” value for a beach day – what a person would be willing to give up beyond what they actually pay for that day at the beach. Sources: Peconic Estuary recreation survey, conducted summer of 1995, at Peconic Estuary LI beaches, using travel cost (revealed preference) method and Kline and Swallow, 1998, based on CV survey (stated preference method) conducted in summer 1995 at Gooseberry Island, near Horseneck Beach, MA (beach with no facilities or services).

³Source: RIDEM Outdoor Recreation Demand Citizen Survey, Conducted by Leisure Vision, Aug-Oct., 2002.