

# Winter Cod Sampling in Proposed Wind Farm Area



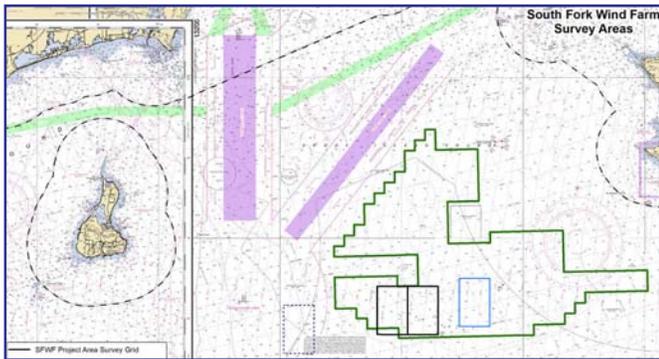
by Capt. Richard Hittinger

## Members get paid to go cod fishing

Members of the R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association are participating in a biological data survey on winter cod spawning activity on Cox Ledge this winter.

Hearty RISAA members will be fishing once per week on a party boat between January through March, in a project to assist Inspire Environmental in the area known as South Fork Wind Farm.

(The chart below shows the larger leased area with an irregular green outline and the South Fork area to be studied is shown by the two black rectangles.)



This work is being conducted with funding from Deepwater Wind, the developer selected for the project.

RISAA's Rich Hittinger and Dave Monti arranged for RISAA to participate while meeting with Inspire Environmental to discuss interactions between wind farm construction and recreational fishing.

Inspire Environmental of Middletown, RI was the company that had originally designed the Block Island Wind Farm trawl and lobster surveys.

The purpose of this study is to find locations where cod spawn and ideally avoid them when sitting turbines.

## Members Offered Opportunity to Participate

Rich Hittinger first told members of this project at the start of the December 18 annual meeting. On that night 25 members signed up.

Not only do they get the opportunity for free winter fishing trips, but each angler is being paid a stipend of \$100 per day to fish! On top of that, those fishers will be allowed to keep the fillets from all legal fish caught after biologists take measurements and whatever small samples they need for their research.

What an opportunity! Free fishing trips, free fish to take home, get paid for it and contribute to science at the same time.

# Yacht Captain Indicted in the 2015 Boating Death of RISAA Member Walter Krupinski

On December 7, the U.S. Attorney's office in Providence announced the indictment by a federal grand jury charging the operator of 60-foot luxury yacht with seaman's manslaughter in the death in September 2015 of the 81-year-old operator of a 23-foot powerboat.



It is alleged that on September 22, 2015, **Cooper "Chick" Bacon**, 78, of Cape May, N.J., failed to take precautions required of the ordinary practice of a seaman when he was at the helm of a yacht as it made its way from a boat show in Newport, R.I., to boat show in Stamford, Conn. The Princess 60 yacht collided with a 23-foot powerboat, the *Peggy K*, in waters off Westerly, R.I., killing its sole occupant, **Walter S. Krupinski**, of Norwalk, Conn. The collision occurred in Fishers Island Sound, on the waters off Napatree Point in the town of Westerly.



Walter Krupinski

According to the indictment, it is alleged that, among other things, Bacon failed to take precautions required by the ordinary practice of seamen; adequately assess the risk of collision; proceed at a safe speed; post his First Mate to look out; and properly overtake, give-way and steer well clear of the *Peggy K*.

Bacon was formally arraigned at U.S. District Court, Providence on December 19, and through his attorney, entered a plea of not guilty and was released on \$50,000 unsecured bond. In addition, Bacon was ordered to surrender his US Coast Guard 100-ton Merchant Marine license, refrain from piloting any boat or operating any vessel. He was also ordered to surrender his passport and is prohibited from travelling outside the United States.



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