



# Charter Trip Report



Nearly 100 RISAA members are awarded spots on fishing charter trips each year simply by winning random drawings at the monthly meetings. One member on each trip agrees to write a short story to share the experience with all members. \*It should be noted that not every trip can be guaranteed to catch fish. The trip brings RISAA members together and provides an enjoyable day or night on the water. Catching fish is a bonus.

## STUFF IT SPORTFISHING • Capt. Joe Pagano

story by BRUCE FOURNIER

Members **Joe Marinello, Eric Kingman** and I (Bruce Fournier) were the lucky winners at the March meeting of an evening of fishing with Stuff It Charters with **Captain Joe Pagano** on the Providence River.

We confirmed our date a few days before we set sail, though Captain Joe was most generous in offering alternative dates as the weather looked iffy. Luckily the rain held off and Joe, Eric and I meet up at the Pawtuxet Cove Marina and preceded to the *Stuff-it*, a nice 28' center console, clean and well kept. Introductions were made, a quick safety and game plan discussed and off we went at 6:00 pm.

The basic plan was to snag enough menhaden for all, then set anchor and chunk fish. The evening turned out to be nicer than forecast, but a slight breeze made finding bait on the surface a challenge.

After trying a few spots we motored upriver and Captain Joe located a large school 10' or so deep. Everybody took turns snagging until there were a dozen or so baits in the live well. We motored down river a bit and tried live lining in the main channel for about a half hour with no success. As the sun was setting we moved over to shallower water and



**Bruce Fournier displays one of the many stripers caught on menhaden chucks during the trip.**



**(l-r) Eric Kingman, Capt. Joe Pagano and Joe Marinello discuss the fishing plan while heading to the fishing area**

set anchor.

Set up with spinning rods, all in excellent shape I might add, we each cast out a cut piece of pogy and let it settle to the bottom with no weight.

The action was slow as the sun went down, but once darkness set in things quickly heated up. While a few bluefish made their presence known by cutting us off, we had a steady stream of bass for the next two hours. **(to page )**

**Eric Kingman displays a healthy spring run striper that he caught aboard the *Stuff-It***



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