

## FISHING SHOW RECORDS (from page 1)

Many show attendees said how this was the best show yet. There were a lot of congratulations posted online.

“Nicely done,” said **Dave Garzoli** of Plainville, MA. “Thanks for all our work in bringing such a great event together. Several people I work with attended and couldn’t say enough positive things about the Show, vendors and seminars.”

“Thanks to everyone at RISAA for all the hard work,” said **Chris Ryan** of Plainville, “I had a great time, bought some stuff, and watched a most fabulous fluke fishing seminar by John Skinner.”

“You guys rock!” said **Kerry Jones Clark**. “The Rhode Island community is so lucky to have you!”

“Thank you folks at RISAA for sponsoring another great event,” said **Steve Spargo** of Westerly. “You give back to much to the community. It doesn’t go unappreciated. Thank you again.”

“This is the best and only show that I’ve gone to in the past six years,” said **Ken Blanchard** of Easthampton, MA. “Just a great show.”

A successful show also needs to keep the vendors and exhibitors happy.

“Bottom line, this year’s show was AMAZING!” said **Julio Silva** of eFishing360. “I enjoyed seeing old friends, making new friends and talking fishing for three full days! I was particularly impressed with the planning and management of this show. Can’t wait until next year!”



Julio Silva

“I would like to say thank you to all of the organizers,” said **Dave Morton** of Beaverail Rod & Reel. “There is no doubt that this takes an army of sorts to organize. We have noticed a steady uptic of customers through our 7 years of doing this show, but this year far surpassed my expectations. Thank you again and I look forward to the 2019 Show!”



David Morton

**Dave Waldrip**, President of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association said, “The volunteers under the watchful eye of the show committee, and of course, Steve Medeiros leadership, did an awesome job... I and the other officers and BOD want to personally thank you for hosting the best fishign show in the Northeast.”



The crowd was stacked at the Shimano booths



The aisles were crowded with saltwater anglers during most of the weekend

**Heidi Reid**, owner of Stur-Dee Boat Company, said “You knocked it out of the park! I expected nothing less! You guys are great.”

### A NEED TO EXPAND

A “good” problem that the Show Committee has faced each year is a stand-by list of exhibitors who don’t get into the show.

“This 2018 Show as sold out before Christmas,” said **Steve Medeiros**, RISAA President and show manager. “But many exhibitors call after that asking to get in, so I start a stand-by list. Someone always cancels near the end because of an illness, family issues, or just life. When that happens I go to the list and fill the vacancy within the hour.”

In the past three years, there were still more companies waiting to get in.

### 2019 CHANGES

Each year, soon after the show ends, the Show Committee will hold a post-show meeting. It was decided to make a few changes to the Show layout for 2019 to allow more exhibitors to get in, which in turn will make the show even better for the public.

Gone will be the “casting lane” and an adjustment of the seminar areas.

“We have added an entire 1300 aisle for next year,” said **Gary Johnson** of the Show Committee. “This will allow for another 30 booth spaces so that more dealers can get in.”

The Show will still have plenty of room for seminars. The Main Stage, Workshop and Seminar areas will still be in operation next year, so attendees will still have over 50 seminars to select from.

“As of today (end of March), about 60% of the 2019 Show’s exhibitor spaces are already sold,” said Steve Medeiros. “Many of the dealers always go to the show office before leaving on Sunday night to lock in their spaces for next year.”

Many other exhibitors have mailed or faxed in their 2019 sign-up forms, and more arrive each day.

It’s hard to believe that the 2018 New England Saltwater Fishing Show could be any better, but it’s already looking like 2019 will be bigger AND even better!



Gary Johnson