

Boating and Fishing

Etiquette

by David Westfall



We've all seen rude and inconsiderate boaters and anglers out on the water, and wish someone would tell them how to behave. While this monthly column probably won't reach those people, it will serve as a reminder to all of us on being aware of others and the safety of everyone.

Respect the Laws

Size and bag limits - Know and obey them! If you see someone violating the law, don't confront them angrily. If you *must* confront them at all, do so in an informative way, not a hostile one. I know it's hard, but these situations can escalate quickly and most fishermen have knives.

I prefer to call D.E.M. and let them handle it. They can be called on their emergency number anytime. The D.E.M. Hot-line number is 401-222-3070. Believe me, if they can get there, they will.

One thing I like to do is carry a copy of the RIDEM publication called 2003 RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COMMONLY CAUGHT FISH AND SHELLFISH MULTI LANGUAGE BROCHURE. It is, as it says, a multi-language booklet with size and bag limits for almost all fish and shellfish caught in Rhode Island. It is written in the languages of English, Hmong, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Spanish, Cambodian, and Laotian. If someone tells me they don't speak English, I can break it out and show them the error in their ways.

You can pick up this and many other useful publications for free at the D.E.M. office in the Foundry Building at 235 Promenade St, Providence. It is just across I-95 from Providence Place Mall.

SQUID FISHING COURTESY

If a friend takes you to one of their secret spots, don't go back there with all of your friends. I know there aren't many truly secret spots anymore, but it's disrespectful to give up the ones your friend was nice enough to show you.

Never cast across someone else's line. This happens a lot when squid fishing. Normally, the person with the most light wins when it comes to catching squid.

I have had one guy cast across me and 7 more anglers trying to get into the light. Every cast he pulled in his line and 8 others. After a few of these casts, he was given a lecture and was threatened with violence.



Anglers line up along the Goat Island causeway fishing for squid

Committee Report . . .

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE



Lynn Medeiros
Chairperson



Kids Fishing Day plans are ready

Hello Everyone,

Last month there was a joint meeting of the Entertainment and the Education Committees to plan this year's annual Take-A-Kid Fishing Day. The Education Committee controls the actual fishing portion and arrangements with the various organizations, and the Entertainment Committee provides all the food and the cooking. Then both committees team up for the setup and work on that day.

As always we cross our fingers that the weather will cooperate. As everyone knows we have NEVER had to cancel due to bad weather.

If you have not as yet signed up to help it's still not too late. The event is held at Brewer Greenwich Bay Marina on Masthead Drive, Warwick. You can always stop by on the big day and pitch in. There is always something you can help with.

We all look forward to seeing you there.

WATERFRONT? DOCK? MOORING?

There are some great homes for sale at prices not seen in years! Ask me about what's available on or near the water in South County, R.I.

Will Litvin

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