

**The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association
Political Action Committee**

One of the missions of RISAA is to represent the concerns of the recreational community on regulatory and legislative issues. That means that we have to deal with elected officials.



Fortunately, there are a number of legislators who have worked hard on our behalf and others who support RISAA principles. We need to be sure those officials remain in office. It is also important that legislators understand who we are. If we don't advance our own causes, no one will do it for us.

By law, our Association can not contribute funds to any candidate, therefore we have established a **legal, incorporated and registered Political Action Committee** which CAN make contributions on our behalf.

Only donations specifically made to the RISAA PAC can be used. Under no circumstances can any membership dues money - or any other contribution made to the Association - be used for the PAC. It would be a violation of state election laws for any money from RISAA to be used for PAC purposes.

Also, all money received by the PAC must come from *individual donors*. **No contribution can be accepted from any organization or business interest.** The PAC has an independent treasurer and its own bank account.

Democracy is not a spectator sport. To be effective, we must participate in the system.

We need your support so we can continue to work within the political system to safeguard the rights of recreational fishing.

Thanks to the following members for their generous donations last month:

Bronze: up to \$50

waiting for your donation

Gold: up to \$500

waiting for your donation

Silver: up to \$100

**Michael J. Bucko
Tiverton, RI**

Platinum: over \$500

waiting for your donation

**Enclosed is my contribution to the
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE.**

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Employment At (*Req by law*): _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 other _____

Please make checks payable to RISAA PAC

Checks can ONLY be accepted from individuals. No company (*RI law*)

Mail to: RISAA PAC, 6 Arnold Road, Coventry, RI 02816

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (from page 2)

LNG TANKERS IN NARRAGANSETT BAY

There were representatives also of the commercial fishermen, shellfishermen, marine trades, marinas and John Torgan from Save The Bay. The first meeting was mainly to talk about LNG tankers going through Narragansett Bay.

The Weaver's Cove LNG terminal proposal would require LNG tankers to travel through Narragansett Bay, and the Coast Guard must present a Letter of Recommendation to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) concerning the Coast Guard's opinion on the suitability of the waterway to handle the LNG terminal.

A couple of the marine trades people told the Captain that they were concerned with closures of the Newport bridge when an LNG tanker would pass, danger of and LNG explosion, and of a tanker running aground as it enters the narrow east passage to the bay.

Capt. Perry was very amicable and polite, but it was clear he was not interested in hearing everyone's concerns. He stressed over and over that he could only consider actual evidence from official agencies when writing the Letter of Recommendation to FERC, and that public comment could be made a formal public hearings the Coast Guard has held.

DEM Director Sullivan told Capt. Perry that he didn't have the enforcement to clear the bay when a tanker came up, again Capt. Perry gave the impression that wasn't his problem, saying USCG was understaffed as well.

Disappointing.....

TRANSITING BLOCK ISLAND WITH STRIPERS ABOARD

That portion of the meeting ended and most of the people left. Present for the 2nd meeting with Capt. Perry was Director Sullivan, DEM Enforcement Chief Steve Hall, Russ Wallis (commercial fishing rep), Mike McGivney (shellfisherman's president), and myself.

While recreational anglers can legally cross from Block Island to the mainland with stripers aboard, they can not stop to fish again. That's because that it falls within the EEZ. State waters extends three miles out from the south coast and three miles out from Block Island, but the distance from Pt. Judith to Block is nine miles, leaving an approximate 3 miles stretch of federal waters (EEZ) in between. It is illegal to possess striped bass in the EEZ, but this "corridor" has been allowed for anglers to get home with their Block Island catch. Commercial fisherman can't even travel through that corridor with some prohibited species aboard.

Capt. Perry was aware of the existing EEZ between Block Island and Galilee, but not aware of the problem with fish possession. He pointed out there is a special exemption that ONLY covers transporting striped bass from Block to Galilee for recreational fishermen, but nothing else.

Chief Hall said that DEM has pretty much decided not to enforce boats transiting, and Capt. Perry said that, although he couldn't legally say so, was inclined to agree.

Director Sullivan said he didn't want it left that way, but wanted a clear commitment from USCG on whether or not they would enforce it. Capt. Perry said he would assign someone to contact DEM and work together on the issue.