



OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE
RHODE ISLAND

SALTWATER ANGLERS Association



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Representing Over 6,400 Recreational Anglers

The New Angler Registry: What it's all about

On June 11th, NOAA Fisheries released a proposed rule on the National Saltwater Angler Registry, a requirement of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act and an important component of the broader initiative to improve the quality of recreational fishing data.

The national registry of saltwater anglers is the key to closing a major gap in information on recreational fishing. This "phonebook" will improve the efficiency and accuracy of our surveys. It will also help NOAA demonstrate the economic value of saltwater recreational fishing on local and national economies and allow us get a more accurate picture of the level of participation by the American public in saltwater fishing.

Beginning in January 2009, recreational anglers who fish in federal waters are required to be registered each year with NOAA Fisheries Service. The proposed rule also requires registration by those who may catch anadromous species such as salmon, striped bass, and shad that spawn in rivers and streams and spend their adult lives in estuaries and the ocean. Registration will be free for the first two years.

The proposed rule outlines the process NOAA Fisheries will use for registering saltwater recreational anglers. It also



addresses the qualifications and procedures for exempting states and their anglers from the federal registration requirement.

Anglers may be exempt from federal registration if they fish in a state that already has a program in place to account for all of its saltwater anglers. The proposed rule outlines possible exemptions for states that have a comprehensive saltwater fishing license or a regional angler survey program approved by NOAA Fisheries. In addition, anglers fishing from licensed for-hire vessels and anglers under the age of 16 are also exempt.

Next Steps

NOAA is accepting public comments on the proposed rule until August 11, 2008. A final rule based on those comments is expected in November 2008 with the requirement going into effect January 1, 2009.

Materials including the press release, fact sheet, and the proposed rule itself are available at a web site created for this purpose: www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov.

(to page 21 for answers to your questions)

Plum Point Legislation passes General Assembly in final hours

New provisions now guarantee public access to the shore

The attempts to squash a future Jamestown Bridge fishing pier at Plum Point by a few area neighbors, actually resulted in modified legislation that left the door open for a pier in the future, and also added additional wording that guarantees the public's access to that shoreline.

Local NIMBY's, with a made-up official sounding name of the North Kingstown Coastal Preservation Association, convinced the N.K. Town Council, Senator James Sheehan and Representative Kenneth Carter, that a fishing pier at the site would become a "battering ram" in a hurricane and knock down the Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge. It was a poorly veiled attempt to kill the fishing pier.



PLUMPOINT

Legislation was introduced that required the removal of the last remaining section of the old bridge which, by law, was to have been made into a fishing pier.

During a hearing of the House Committee on the Environment, RISAA officials agreed that the old section might need to come down, since it had been allowed to fall into total disrepair by D.O.T. for the past 20 years, and was no longer cost-effective to refurbish; but RISAA

requested that if it was allowed to amend the current law and remove the old bridge section, the law should be further amended to allow for the building of a new fishing pier, and in the very least, ensure that the public didn't lose access to the shore at Plum Point. **(to page 27)**