

SURFCASTERS (from page 26)

Charlie Bradbury from our Committee did a great job again coordinating the tackle raffle that closed out the Awards Breakfast. Lots of anglers left with great prizes and great memories of the tournament. I would like to share the reflections of two Club Presidents about the weekend of fishing.

Dennis Zambrotta, President of Newport County writes:

We had 12-15 members that said they would participate in the tourney. Some of them started to fish just after 6 p.m. on Friday with the intent of catching bluefish on top-water plugs. Others chummed up some local Aquidneck Island spots with menhaden. Our members were pretty much spread around the island. Some were fishing around poggy schools in the Bay to the north but most were casting around the southern coast. The bass bite was best as the tide dropped out in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

First check with Edwards Fishing Tackle on Saturday afternoon had a 33 lb. and two 20 lb. class fish entered along with 3 blues. An email update was sent to our members letting them know what size fish were eligible for weigh-in on Sunday morning.

Saturday night we had another good effort but not very many quality fish were taken. We had one entry of note on Sunday, a 28 pound bass, but it was entered an hour late at 8am. Miscommunication was the cause and we're lucky we didn't need that fish to win.

Bluefish are the key to the tourney more often than not. They can be an easy 12-20 pounds if you can get your members to target them. Our club is fortunate that we have some very good chunk fishermen who catch blues regularly. Most of our members plug or fish eels and I don't need to tell you that while bluefish

love eels, they are not a very efficient bait to take bluefish.

Bill DeLizio, President of the CT Surfcasters writes:

We had a larger number of participants this year. Many new members were interested in supporting the club for a great cause. As you know, member Brian Florek has MS. We as a club hold our own MS raffle in the month of April. When someone close to you has this crappy disease, you feel an urge to help.

Fishing on a whole was slow for most members. Few caught fish were worthy to scale. Jenn Zagorski landed an 18 lb. striper. Chris Wahl had 2 fish, 23 and 8 lbs. Toby Lapinski had a 14 lber. Rich Morris won the first place Bluefish prize at 12.5 lbs. The rest, including yours truly worked hard for schoolies or an empty creel.

My group fished Beavertail Light for the first time. Came out there at dusk to scout, then settled down for the night bite. I came away with 3 fish, all short, on an SS Darter and Gibbs Polaris Popper. The location was no cake walk. It was a very intimidating venue. At least the water was not extremely rough.

These benefit events, along with supporting a cause, help us out-of-towners to expand our fishing horizons and share memories with friends. Thanks for all your hard work putting on this event. We at the CT Surfcasters will be looking forward toward next year. If it was a perfect world, and there was a cure, we would no longer need to hold the event on behalf of MS."

Thanks for sharing your thoughts Dennis and Bill. That wraps up our spring Surf Fishing Club Challenge. For more information on the RISAA Surfcasters Committee please email moeller@risaa.org.

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