



# Charter Trip Report



Nearly 100 RISAA members are awarded spots on fishing charter trips each year simply by winning random drawings at the monthly meetings. One member on each trip agrees to write a short story to share the experience with all members. \*It should be noted that not every trip can be guaranteed to catch fish. The trip brings RISAA members together and provides an enjoyable day or night on the water. Catching fish is a bonus.

## REEL CAST CHARTERS • Capt. Michael Roy

story by RICHARD HEFFERNAN

On May 17th of this year, Mark Ouelette and I (Rich Heffernan) traveled to Saybrook's Baldwin Bridge boat ramp to meet up with Captain Mike Roy of Reel Cast Charters. Mark and I won one of RISAA's first charters of the year and we were eager to get out on the water. And before long we were onboard and powering out to the mouth of the Connecticut River in a mix of light and heavy fog. But with the tide running out the water was calm which made for a smooth ride out.

Captain Mike specializes in striped bass fishing with light tackle in his trim 21' Steiger Craft center console. His gear selection is simple and straightforward, using quality hardware that can stand up to big fish: sleek black G. Loomis E6X Inshore spinning rods and silky smooth Shimano Stradic 5000 reels loaded with PowerPro Super Slick eight-strand braid. What's not to like about that?

With one eye on the fog and the other on his Hummingbird depth finder, Mike found the channel he was looking for as the mists obscured seeing the usual landmarks.

Only a few other boaters were out that day so the fishing grounds off Griswold Point were all ours. Still, the channel was no more than ten feet deep at that tide and so we began our first drift. Mark worked the surface with a large topwater Spook-type plug and Mike and I were twitching big Slug-Gos to entice some action. It didn't take long before we all hooked onto stripers in the 20 to 24" class with the Saybrook lighthouse now within eyesight once the fog cleared.

Capt. Mike led the way by hauling in the day's first keeper, the 30-plus inch beauty shown in the picture.

We made a few drifts the old fashioned way before Mike rolled out the technology to hold us against the wind, tide and river current. Deploying his bow-mounted Minn Kota trolling motor with a push of the wireless remote, Mike locked us onto a promising spot where the side scanning electronics were showing a few fish.



Capt. Mike Roy with the day's first keeper striper

To say we helped Mike pay back his investment in modern technology is an understatement as we all landed fish after fish and Mark got another 30-incher off the bow of the boat.

Heading upriver under the railroad and Baldwin bridges, the captain made his way to a navigation point where the water swirled madly around the man-made rockpile and channel marker.



Rich Heffernan display a striper he caught during the Reel Cast Charters trip.

This move upstream proved to be a good choice, not so much because of the beautiful scenery and the palatial riverfront homes, but for the great striper action that was fast and furious in this deeper, turbulent water.

(to page 38)

Light tackle fishing striped bass, bluefish, bonito false albacore

Connecticut and Block Island Sound

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CHARTERS

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