



RISAA  
**Events & Meetings**

All events and meetings can be found online at [www.risaa.org/calendar.html](http://www.risaa.org/calendar.html)

Aug 5 • 6:00 AM Kayak Committee fishing at Third Beach, Middletown

Aug 12 • RISAA ADULT/JUNIOR PARTY BOAT FISHING TRIP

Aug 15 • 6:00 AM Kayak Committee fishing at URI Bay Campus, Narra.

Aug 16 • 5:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing Charlestown Breachway

Aug 22 • 6:30 PM Board of Directors

Aug 28 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

Aug 29 • 6:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing Narragansett Town Beach

Sep 2 • 4:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Bristol Narrows

Sep 9 • 6:00 PM Kayak Committee fishing at Ft. Adams, Newport

Sep 19 • 6:30 Board of Directors

Sep 20 • 6:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Weekapaug Breachway

Sep 23 • 8:00 AM Kayak Committee fishing at Fogland Beach, Tiverton

Sep 25 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

Sep 28 • 5:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Narrow River

Oct 30 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

Nov 27 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

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Notes from the  
**President's Desk**

Stephen Medeiros



**Fisherman Access Attacked in Cranston**

Unbelievable! It's a public CRMC designated Right of Way (ROW) to the shore. It has been used by people to fish for many years.

But all it takes is a few people with political clout who decide they don't want people fishing next to THEIR property, and strings get pulled and suddenly a city ordinance is created to keep those nasty fishermen away!

This is what happened when the Cranston City Council passed a "No Fishing" ordinance that would prohibit fishing at the end of Ocean Avenue.

You will find the whole story elsewhere in this issue, and I suggest members read it. It should make you all angry that this keeps happening all over the Ocean State.

I'm pleased that the RISAA Board got fired up over this. Immediately after the "No Fishing" ordinance was passed, I was authorized to send a letter to Cranston **Mayor Allan Fung**, pointing out how wrong this was and urging him to veto the ordinance.

I then sent a letter to **Grover Fugate**, Executive Director of the RI CRMC bringing this issue to their attention. After all, this was happening at a legal ROW.

And why stop there? I sent another letter to **Attorney General Peter Kilmartin** asking if he would have someone look into the legality of the City trying to stop citizens from fishing at public ROW?

And this is discrimination against certain people who fish on the shore, so I sent another letter to the **Rhode Island ACLU** asking if they can get involved.

The letter to Cranston Mayor Fung (copies sent to all parties above) noted that the problems cited in the creation of the "No Fishing" ordinance such as parking congestion, litter, loud music and public drinking had nothing to do with fishing.

Also, there were audience comments at the hearing that "these people don't come from the neighborhood" and "the people put up tents" and "children are running around without supervision."

But banning fishing does not solve

those problems. The new ordinance says nothing about drinking, playing music, bringing children, parking, or banning anyone not from the neighborhood.

The ordinance was intended only to BAN FISHING.

In our letter to the Mayor we stated that RISAA is willing to work with the City on this, perhaps with outreach to those fishing at the site or printing up signage with rules.

We'll see what happens.

**AND SOMETHING NICE TO READ FOR A CHANGE...**

**Norm Morrissette** was one of the members who volunteered to help at the Youth Fishing Camp in June. He heard that someone proposed ending Take-A-Kid Fishing Day and ONLY sponsoring the Fishing Camp in the future. He sent me this email:

I realize the enormous amount of work it takes to put on both a Fishing Camp and Take-A-Kid fishing event. I believe these two events are the most important and best part of RISAA.

Our oceans and our fisheries will be there for most of us, but it is our youth we strive to preserve them for. If we help create future sportsman (fishermen) it may be an activity that occupies time keeping them away from drugs and other unproductive temptations. Better yet, maybe becoming the next leader and keeper of our environment.

I understand that both kids events are great PR. More importantly they can bring a wonderful and happy event into these kids lives. I don't believe we should eliminate either of these events.

I donated some time, others did much more, even using some vacation time, and will do my absolute best to do so for kids events. I do this not for myself or RISAA, but for the kids. They are the best part of our world! Eliminate anything, but please keep these two wonderful events going for as many young ones as possible. Proud to be a RISAA member.

Thanks Norm Morrissette