



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.

TEEZER CHARTERS • Capt. Eric Thomas

story by MIKE WARNER

Members **Bob Paul & I (Mike Warner)** were the fortunate winners of a July 26 charter trip with **Captain Eric Thomas** of Teezer Charters sailing out of Fort Adams, Newport.

Captain Thomas has been fishing the waters in and around Newport for all of his adult life. He has been guiding clients from shore and boat for the past 15 years on his two boats, the *Teezer-M*, the customized 19-foot Mako center console that we went on for our trip, and the *Teezer-V*, a 27-foot Hydra Sports Vector set up for big game fishing for groups or families.

We met at the ramp at 6:00 a.m and quickly were under way on what proved to be a glorious day on the water. It had been cold and raining for the previous few days, but our trip started out on a clear morning with calm seas.

The Captain specializes in light tackle and fly fishing and his boat is set up perfectly for either. The tackle provided was top notch and very smooth both casting my spook lure and on the retrieve.

We hit a small island under the Newport bridge known as The Outhouse and soon had the skunk off the boat as I landed a feisty 18" bass. Bob soon had one on his popper and we were off to a great start. After landing a few more fish this location slowed and we were on the move south to Rose Island. At the northeast corner we got some swirls from a few larger bass but landed more schoolies. After some more bass action it was time to move out front to the ocean side of Newport.

We quickly and comfortably zipped out to Brenton Reef and set up casting around the rocks. We soon



Heading out with Capt. Eric Thomas at the helm

had several swirls but no hook ups until a tautog hit a Yo-Zuri swimmer and was deftly reeled in by Bob. This was surprise # 1 on the day.

Finally we started hooking up with many drag-testing blues up to six or seven pounds.

"What a blast," commented Captain Eric as he watched our top water hits. He continued saying how this never gets old and we certainly agreed.

He moved us further to the east off Easton's Beach in the shadows of the famous cliff walk and the mansions where we spotted spotted surface-feeding fish which appeared like bass slurping bait, but it turned out to be surprise # 2. It was big bluefish lazily feeding on "rain bait" as I have only seen striped bass do. Even though they were finning at the surface they still got interested in our swimmers and proceeded to give us a serious workout with blues up to about nine pounds.



Bob caught a tautog on a swimming plug



Mike with one of the many bluefish landed during the trip

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Bob Paul (left) and Mike Warner (right) had a blast catching many schoolie strippers



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Guided Fishing Trips
in the waters off Newport and Southern New England
Captain Eric Thomas
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