



# 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.

## CAPTAIN BRUCE SPORTFISHING • Capt. Bruce Millar

story by EDWIN RODRIGUEZ

On July 17, 2017 we got a rare opportunity to fish with Otter Lures. Ron Shurilla, John Troiano, Paul Phillips, and I (group leader Edwin Rodriguez) had won our chance at one of the RISAA meetings, and we jumped at the opportunity to do so (as shown in the first picture from our trip).

Captain Bruce Millar pilots his boat, *Otter*. The vessel is a Tournament Series Chris Craft powered by twin Volvo diesels which Capt. Bruce installed himself when he switched from gasoline-powered engines.



Members Ron Shurilla, John Troiano, Paul Phillips and Capt. Bruce Millar relax on the *Otter*

to pounce on their prey. We passed the lighthouse at the mouth of the Thames river, as well as Ocean Beach and Harkness Park on our course to Bartlett's Reef, our first fishing spot at 4:00 p.m.

It was decided to put our most "senior" fisherman, Ron Shurilla, and the youngest, Edwin Rodriguez, on the rods first to see who would catch the first fish. Ron, who had celebrated a birthday earlier in the month, got the first hook-up. Congratulations to him as age triumphed over youth once again. Ron



Ron Shurilla was first to hook up with a 23 lb. striper

He currently has twelve seasons on the water with her. According to the captain, out of 150 Chris Crafts built, only 80 are still in use on the water.

The weather for our trip was partly-cloudy with winds at about 10 knots. The conditions seemed perfect as the diesels purred like cats ready

was elated with his 23-pound, 40-inch striper...a nice birthday present from the fish gods.

Next on the rods were John Troiano and Paul Phillips. At 6:00 p.m. the sun broke through and seemed to shine us as Paul landed a 20-pound, 40-inch striper as well on a tube tipped with one of the captain-designed chartreuse Otter Tails. Ron's fish had been hooked on a pink otter tail-tipped tube. These rigs were trolled on rods rigged with leadcore line with 20 feet of 80 lb. leader.

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Capt. Bruce's



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