



# 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.

## NO FLUKE CHARTERS • Capt. David Monti

story by RICH HEFFERNAN

### A TALE OF THE TAPE

Setting out from Wickford into a beautiful sunrise on glassy waters the morning of Saturday, July 22nd, the three lucky winners

of the **No Fluke Charters** fishing trip were hopeful the journey to Block Island would be as smooth as the picturesque setting. And indeed it was as **Captain Dave Monti** of the *Virginia Joan* took **Larry Audino**, **Tom Wood**, and **Rich Heffernan** out to the island's North Rip for some fun and striped bass.

Captain Dave skillfully held the boat in clear water ahead of the rip to let our soft plastics swim and do their work in the current. But after several passes, this technique proved fruitless and we were off to the nearby bluffs and beaches along the eastern shore of the island.

Now rigged with bait and drifting with the tide, the bite began to pick up and fish started coming aboard. Tom put the first fluke in the box and the friendly competition among the three of us was on! But the action slowed and we set off for the ledge along the barely spinning wind turbines where the *Gail Frances* of Galilee's Frances Fleet was also fishing. We met with some success, but not enough to really satisfy, so we sailed to the East Grounds since we were so close at this time.

While fishing this area, Captain Dave had to keep a watchful eye for other boats, swells, and an occasional lobster pot and quickly repositioned us to keep our lines wet with little delay.

Soon Tom had a hit that bent his rod in half and we all watched as he grunted in a handsome, four pound black sea bass. Number two in the ice chest for Tom. It didn't take too long for my turn though as I was able to hook into a nice fluke that went on two

drag screeching dives and was the biggie of the day at that point. Now with the ante raised, it was now up to Larry and Tom to best that 23 incher.



Members Rich Heffernan, Tom Wood and Larry Audino display part of their catch while fishing with Captain Dave Monti on July 22.

So with grim determination we all went back to work to take advantage of the fertile grounds. And guess what? Right, Tom again with a beauty of a flounder that was a full two feet long, nosing me out by a fang! It proved to be the catch of the day.

With the day wearing on and the bite ebbing, we headed north toward Beavertail while being entertained by Mr. Lucky bragging about all the fish he

caught and how big they were and yadda, yadda...

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