



# SURFCASTERS

## Committee

Richard Reich, Chairman



## RISAA Team Wins Fall Fishing Club Tournament

The **2017 Surf Fishing Club Challenge** was held on the weekend of October 13-15. Established in 1993 to bring together Atlantic Coast surf fishing clubs in an effort to unite members from different clubs and regions to meet and discuss fishing and conservation efforts.

This was the 24th year of the tournament, and has recently been run by the Weekapaug Surfcasters. All proceeds are donated to charity in the name of sport fishing.

All fishing must be done from shore and confined to the shoreline between Napatree Point (Westerly) to Narrow River (Narragansett). The target species is bluefish and striped bass.

This year 7 fishing clubs, from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island participated. Follow are the results:

### 2017 SURF CLUB CHALLENGE TEAM STANDINGS

1 Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Assoc...	59.08 lbs.
2 Hartford Surf Fishing Club.....	47.58 lbs.
3 Weekapaug Surfcasters.....	31.80 lbs.
4 Pioneer Valley Boat & Surf Club.....	7.90 lbs.
5 Rhode Island Mobile Sportfishermen.....	6.11 lbs.
6 Narragansett Surfcasters.....	0.00 lbs.
7 Massachusetts Striped Bass Assoc.....	0.00 lbs.

“Good news!,” said **Rich Heffernan**, RISAA Surfcasting Committee Vice Chairman. “RISAA is the new Surf Club Champion and we have the trophy to prove it.”

Fourteen RISAA members fishing during the weekend.

“We won it based on **Ed Sousa’s** skill and dedicated efforts,” continued Heffernan. “Ed won the Largest Striped Bass award for his thirty-plus pounder.”

On Sunday morning, an Awards Breakfast was held at the Andrea Hotel in Westerly at which winners were announced and awards presented. 72 people attended. Five members of the RISAA team attended.



RISAA’s Surfcasting Committee Chair Richard Reich accepts the Team Trophy

A raffle was also held, the proceeds of which were donated to charity.

### Individual Award Winners

- Largest Striped Bass: 30.42 lbs. **Ed Sousa**, RI Saltwater Anglers
- Largest Bluefish: 18.4 lbs. **Claire Clay**, Weekapaug Surfcasters

There were four striped bass entered, the average weight of which was 23.47 lbs.

There were eight bluefish entered, with an average weight of 7.32 lbs.

The Weekapaug Surfcasters issued an email announcing the winners and thanking the following for donations: Grumpy’s Bait & Tackle, Mike’s Custom Plugs, R.I. Mobile Sportfishermen, Pioneer Valley Boat & Surf Club, RISAA, Quonny Bait & Tackle and the Hartford Surf Club.

They also thanked weigh-in stations Misquamicut B&T, Quonny B&T and Snug Harbor Marina. They also thanked **Gil Bell** for arranging for participants to get special 3-day beach passes.

Best of all, \$1,500 was raised and donated to the Jonnycake Center of Westerly who’s executive director was on hand to accept the donation.



Ed Sousa with winning striper



RISAA members who attended the Awards Breakfast (l-r) Rich Heffernan, Richie Reich, Ed Sousa, Dick Geldard and Jeff Gendron.