



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.

NORTHEAST BOAT & KAYAK CHARTERS

• Capt. Jerry Sparks •

story by JEFFREY RICHARD

A wise man once proclaimed “good things come to those that wait. This proverb certainly held true for **John DeVeny** and me (**Jeff Richard**) on the **Northeast Boat and Kayak Charter** trip with **Captain Jerry Sparks**. Originally planned as a kayak trip for June, the weather refused to cooperate, and the target of inshore striper fishing at one of the South County estuaries became an October albie, striper, and blues fishing adventure from Jerry’s 17 foot center console. Captain Jerry did not disappoint.

I have been fortunate to win a trip the last five years through RISAA. Not owning a boat, I always look forward to these outings as a “special” opportunity. So when the trip ended up being postponed five times, it seemed as though the fishing gods had other plans for me. However, it is because of Jerry’s thoroughness to ensure we had a great outing that we remained patient, waiting for the right weather window to coincide with the fishing forecast to give us the best opportunity to “catch” and not just fish.

On the brisk morning of October 23, Captain Jerry, John and I met up in Richmond and drove in Jerry’s truck to Groton, where we launch his boat onto the Thames River. This spot wasn’t finalized until the night before, as Jerry was doing his diligence to ensure he put us on fish. Both John and I were hoping for a shot at albies, but Jerry wanted to first make sure we had success catching some blues and schoolie stripers he was confident were in the area.

Shortly after 7:30 AM we were looking for birds and bait upstream of Route 95. Sure enough, we found birds working a cove and had lines in. It wasn’t long until both John and I were tight with blues and stripers!

We were using 7-foot medium action spinning setups and

tossing MirrOlure C-Eyes poppers and suspended twitch baits. I pretty much stuck with the popper for the first two hours, while John transitioned to the twitch bait. In my opinion, there is nothing like a striper blasting a popper on the surface of the water, although John was marginally out-fishing me with the twitch bait. And the blues were fierce and put up some great battles on the light tackle.

After a while we moved to several other spots as we followed the bait. There were the occasional blitzes and dive-bombing attacks by the gulls, keeping us moving around. We probably caught 15 or so fish in this time with many other misses.



John DeVeny with one of the many schoolies caught during the trip

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Jeff Richard with big bluefish

Northeast Boat & Kayak Charters Capt. Jerry Sparks

IGFA Captain



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CT & RI Inshore Waters

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