

# Urban Shore Fishing

Access for all....

by Tom Duffy



## The Hurricane Barrier Providence, Rhode Island

Guarding the capitol of Little Rhody from damage-inflicting hurricanes that we actually have seen recently, the Barrier nestles itself north at a bend in the Providence river. Previous hurricanes in Rhode Island's past have made cause to build this protector of the city, which literally lies on the water itself.

In my mind, the Providence hurricane barrier has one other quality (other than protecting the city) that it happens to have **some of the state's best "winter holdover" striper fishing!**

When folks speak of urban fishing in Rhode Island, this area usually comes to mind. Instead of the usual settings for the hungry linesiders, the Providence area features the sounds of traffic and nightclubs instead of the ocean crashing; city walkways instead of beaches and metal bridges replace the jetties surfcasters are used to.

This is also one of the only places in urban Rhode Island that will hold stripers all winter.

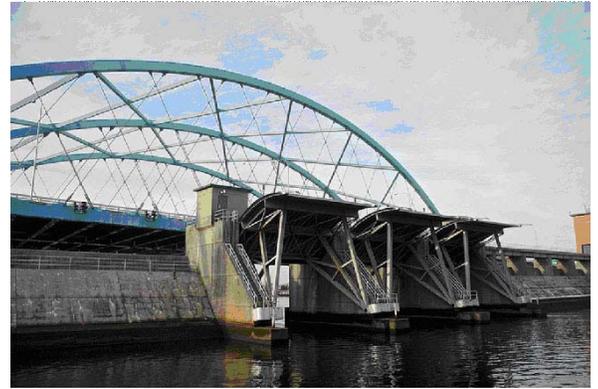
Most likely you won't catch a fifty pound fish here in February. What you *will* find is that the river is sometimes loaded with holdover schoolies, and if the time is right, a keeper or two mixed in that didn't migrate. The reason for this is the warm water discharge from the nearby power plant.

Don't let that keep you from coming here in the early to late spring. I have caught fish here from December right on through to late May depending on those precious pogies that can sometimes run right up the river all the way to Pawtucket.

Parking can be excellent depending upon what time of day you decide to fish. Daytime usually has plenty of space for your car at the park and across from the inside of the barrier. Obviously, a Friday or Saturday night can be a challenge both for parking and for any solitude you may be hoping for. As some of the easier spots at the barrier are within an earshot of the popular nightlife clubs and bars. Your chances for your quiet fishing during this time improve across the river at Bold Point. (Which will be next months featured location).

There are countless nooks and crannies along the shoreline at the Fox Point park just upriver from the actual hurricane barrier. Remnants of old man-made piers and docks remain and line the walls. It's great structure for bait, but can also easily rip waders so I recommend staying on the shore. Keep in mind this type of quiet landscape at night provides good hunting for fish and fishermen, so walk quietly, have patience and bring small tackle. An accurate fly-fisherman can also do well here.

I don't know of any closing hours at Fox Point park and have never been bothered by officials. Also, it pays to be smart so don't fish alone and keep a cell phone on you in any urban



setting at night.

Back at the actual barrier, a small but spacious railed area is perfect for kids and beginners. A younger child may enjoy the landscape and the barrier structure, not to mention the tugboats and the big commercial vessels which come around once in a while. Bring binoculars to keep them busy when the fishing is good for you, but boring for them. It's also sheltered by the above freeway for those rainy (or snowy) days.

I hardly recommend a canoe, but a skilled kayaker could navigate the area which sometimes has busy boat traffic. I am told of nearby "launches" for these small vessels, but be careful of larger vessels and stay away from the large docked commercial ships as there are security guards which may not enjoy having to observe a paddler near them. **(to page 31)**



### INFOMATION TO NOTE

GPS... 41°45.922"N

71°22.190"W

Parking... excellent

24 Hour access... yes

Canoe/Kayak use... kayak

Fly Fishing... yes

Busy spot... moderate

Kid friendly... yes

Wading... yes

Cleats Needed... no