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The Voice of Southern New England Fishermen

Modern Fish Act Passes Congress

Amidst all the turmoil in Washington, D.C., the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act) has made it through Congress and awaits President Trump's signature.

The bill passed the Senate on December 17 and then passed the House on December 19. The bill passed by unanimous consent in both chambers.

"This new federal law recognizes the fact that commercial fishing and recreational fishing are inherently different activities that need to be managed differently," said Jeff Anglers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy.

"The Modern Fish Act isn't going to solve every problem in every fishery in every corner of the country," continued Anglers. But the simple fact of the federal government recognizing the differences between the two activities is a huge win for recreational fishing and something we've needed for the last 40 years.

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Member
MARK PAPARELLI



landed this 15.2 lb tautog on the morning of Nov. 24 while fishing east of Pt. Judith. He was using crabs for bait. He took 1st Place in the Yearlong Tournament.

Recreational fishing is worth \$412 MILLION to the Rhode Island economy and over 4,000 jobs!

Value of Recreational Fishing to RI Economy Increases

Rec Value Higher Than Commercial Fishing!

Last month the NOAA released its *Fisheries Economics of the United States 2016* report. Both recreational and commercial fishing in the nation and in Rhode Island saw gains since the last 2015 Report.

In 2016, commercial and recreational fisheries throughout the United States generated approximately 1.7 million jobs in the U.S. economy. In addition, commercial and recreational fishing together generated \$212.2 billion in sales impacts, \$64.2 billion in income impacts, and \$99.5 billion in value-added impacts throughout the economy.

Once again **recreational fishing in Rhode Island led the way with \$412-million in sales, \$176-million in income, \$270-million in value added to the economy, and the industry supports 4,173 jobs.**

The commercial seafood industry is also very valuable in Rhode Island, creating \$333-million in sales, \$120-million in income, \$169-million in value added to the economy, and the industry supports 5,193 jobs without imports.