



SURFCASTERS Committee



Rich Heffernan, Chairman

Surfcasters Plan 2019 Events; New Tournament

The Surfcasters Committee met for its annual meeting at on Sunday, November 11 at Gregg's Restaurant in North Kingstown. Nine of us showed up, shared a nice dinner and got down to business while the food was being prepared. It was a fun and lively meeting. Here are the topics we covered.

We reviewed the 2018 outings and batted a few ideas around on how and where we can get together to fish more often. We agreed to work on that during the activities planning meeting we usually have during the winter, which will likely be sometime after the Super Bowl.

EEL-RIGGING WORKSHOP

There was a suggestion that a good off-season activity would be to get together for a hands-on eel-rigging workshop. We surmised that Gregg's might frown on us skinning eels in their restaurant so we'll have to come up with another venue. Richie Reich offered to give a presentation he has done before on eel rigging and fishing with eels. We could even combine our activities planning meeting in with the eel workshop.

This workshop discussion led to an agreement that we should hold our meetings on week nights instead of on Sunday night. We felt that either Monday or Thursday would be easier on most people's schedules and may lead to better attendance.

SURF FISHING CLUBS TOURNAMENTS

During our review of past outings, we briefly discussed our annual Spring Surf Fishing Club Tournament and that rolled right into the really big news, the Fall Tournament.

Well, the founders of the Fall Challenge have turned it over to RISAA to run going forward. So now we will sponsor two annual tournaments, one each spring and fall! So if you've ever considered join our group, now is the time to get in on some great and competitive fishing action.

All who attended were in favor of running the fall contest and we even divvied up some of the work. For both events the officers will be responsible for overall organization and communication, a four-man team will conduct the raffle at the awards breakfasts, and one or two members will gather the results from the weigh-in stations.

It was also a unanimous decision that we hold the breakfast at the Andrea in Misquamicut! And what a great venue the Andrea is too. At the fall breakfast we all dropped our raffle tickets to watch the bass blitz in the surf right outside the tent!

AUGUST COOKOUT

It seemed like our little cookout in August was a big hit too, so we'll try to do that again - maybe more than once. And plan to fish afterwards the next time!

ELECTIONS FOR 2019

Our last business matter was the election of officers. All voted to retain the current slate of officers who are Rich Heffernan, Chairman, Richie Reich, Vice Chairman, and Mike Roy, Secretary. Anyone wishing to join us can come to the winter meeting or contact Rich at heffernan@risaa.org

We adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

It is with great sadness, that we report the loss of longtime member

J. George O'Keefe

George (87) of Greenville, RI passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2018 surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of **Carolyn** (Borys) O'Keefe, and the father of Sean O'Keefe of Ottawa and Joseph O'Keefe of Franklin, MA.



George was a professor of physics at RI College for 31 years before retiring. He received his Bachelor's degree from Siena College, a Master's degree from RPI, and his PhD from Brown University.

He was a member of the R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA), Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, and the Smithfield Sportsmen's Club.

Services were held on December 27 in Greenville.

George joined RISAA in 2005 and was a familiar face. He attended almost every monthly meeting from 2005 to 2016, after which he lost the ability to drive at night.



He participated in the RISAA Take-A-Kid Fishing Days and volunteered each year at the Saltwater Fishing Show.

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Carolyn and his whole family.

He will be missed at RISAA.