

Cod is King (from page 14)

Rick Bellavance said, "If fishing on your own boat for cod plan to move around a bit, keep the bottom machine going and try each hump and bump. Try each spot at different times of the trip, focus on one area and hit the spots in that area hard. Take notes throughout the day and over time you will have the info you need to have success each time you go."

Recreational angler Rich Hittinger and RISAA 1st Vice President said to find cod, it is very useful to have a good fish finder. "Cod have a developed swim bladder and they show up well on a good fish finder. Many trips we have spent 30 minutes driving around the area until we see good piles of fish and when we stop right on them we hit them immediately."

Cod rigs and bait

A hook or two, a bank sinker that holds the bottom and sea clams are often used as bait to catch cod. Jigs of various sizes, color and weight depending on conditions are used too. Cod will generally eat anything that is in front of them. They are not picky, but you have to get their attention and jigs usually do a good job of this. A common rig used is a diamond jig with a colored teaser tied about 12 inches above the jig. Sometimes anglers tip the jig and teaser with fresh bait (a piece of sea clam).

"We fish hi/low rigs but bait the bottom hook with clam but then put plastic bait like a shad or worm on the top hook. One half or our hits come on the top hook with artificial bait. This works particularly well when sand ells are running and it helps keep the dog fish away," said Capt. Tony Guarino of *Booked Off Charters*. "But jigs are my favorite way to catch cod. We use a slow pitch jig made by Yo-Zuri that we buy in Japan, fish usually hit the jig on the drop."

Cod fishing experts generally use seven to eight foot rods with a big of backbone. Shimano, Daiwa and Penn are popular names when talking cod fishing rods and reels.

Some party boat captains suggest customers use monofilament line to avoid timely tangles with fellow customers. Yet, most captains suggest braid to create the most direct line of contact with the fish. Capt. D'Angelo said, "Braid line is important to create that direct contact with the fish, the less line out the better, there's no big bow in your line when using braid compared to monofilament."

Who's fishing for cod?

Party boats (inspected vessels that take more than six anglers, often 50 to 75 anglers) out of Rhode Island fishing for cod this winter include: the *Seven B's* at www.sevenbs.com, the *Frances Fleet* at www.francesfleet.com and *Island Current III* at www.islandcurrent.com. Rates per angler for cod fishing are about \$100.

Article originally printed in *On The Water*, January 2018



Capt. Peter Bacon of Big Game Charters with a January cod off RI last year

CORAYER 2017 (from page 37)

We tipped the camo hat to the man in a camo hat when a Good Samaritan on RT. 95 alerted **Captain Jerry Sparks** that his trailer hubs were ablaze. If not for the consideration of someone who never gave their name, that situation would have been much worse.

"How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world," William Shakespeare wrote. Cheers to the human spirit.

Happenstance by way of **Elisa Conti** at Snug Harbor Marina brought us to the brightest moment of the year when two young and happy fishermen, seven year old **Michael** and five year old **Gabriel Simpson** hauled in a really big fish, went back to catch another one and best of all, shared their stories with us.

They are imaginative adventurers, budding comedians and wonderfully silly young kids who love to fish with their grandfather, **Bob Kolb** in his Whaler, *Speedy McSkiff*.

With their mom **Krista**, they also are a **Gold Star Family**. They lost their dad, **Army SSG Michael H. Simpson** of C Company, 4th BN, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), a Green Beret with a chest full of pride for his country and a heart full of love for his family, defending all of us.

I feel blessed to have met the Simpson family and hope those boys share more stories in 2018.

RISAA member Todd Corayer is a lifelong fisherman who lives not far from the Saugatucket River with his wife, who supports his fishing mainly to get him out of the house and a young son who regularly catches more fish than him.



READ

"FISH WRAP"

- Accurate Fishing Reports
- Interviews/Commentary
- Truthful-ish Fish Stories
- ... and the occasional lie

- Friday's Narragansett Times
- Coventry Courier
- East Greenwich Pendulum
- Kent County Daily Times
- N. Kingstown Standard Times
- Pawtucket Times
- Woonsocket Call

