



# RISAA Events & Meetings

All events and meetings can be found online at [www.risaa.org/calendar.html](http://www.risaa.org/calendar.html)

Feb 5-7 ASMFC Winter Meeting  
Arlington, VA

Feb 19 • 6:30 PM Board of Directors

Feb 25 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

Mar 11 • 6:00 PM RIDEM Public Hearing on multiple recreational species. Corless Auditorium, URI Bay Campus

Mar 19 • 6:30 PM Board of Directors

March 22-24, 2019 New England Saltwater Fishing Show

Mar 25 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

Apr 8 • 6:30 PM Kayak Committee Spring Meeting, Gregg's, N. Kingstown

Apr 15 • 6:30 PM Fly Fishing Committee Spring Meeting, Gregg's N. Kingstown

Apr 16-18 N.E. Fisheries Mgt Council, Mystic, CT

Apr 23 • 6:30 PM Board of Directors

Apr 27 • 9:00 AM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at 100 Acre Cove, Barrington

Apr 29 • 7:00 PM RISAA Seminar

Apr 29-May 2 ASMFC Spring Meeting, Arlington, VA

May 4 • 10:00 AM Kayak Committee Annual Meet & Greet, Goddard Park

May 7 • 6:30 PM Fly Fishing Committee fish the worm hatch, Charlestown

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## Notes from the President's Desk

Stephen Medeiros



### By-Laws, Transit Zone & Thanks

To say I was surprised would be an understatement. At our Annual Banquet on January 26, after presenting several awards, Rich Hittinger took the mic and announced that he had a special award for me by the Board of Directors, thanking me for 21 years of service to RISAA.

The Board all knows I don't like the limelight. I gladly work behind the scenes. But I was sincerely humbled to receive the honor and thank them for their appreciation.

#### By-Laws Changes

The RISAA board has been discussing changes to the By-laws for the past year. The purpose is to reflect the description of duties as they really exist today.

When RISAA started 21 years ago, those of us who "founded" it, started with by-laws that matched any small club. We never envisioned that some day RISAA would become a small corporation with hundreds and hundreds of members.

One example is the current by-laws state that the secretary is responsible for dues, membership cards, etc. At first it was done by the secretary, but as the club exploded to 100, 200, 500 members, I ended up taking it over. I used to have the employees of my business doing membership bills, cards, etc.

In 2010 the By-laws were revised and the position of Executive Director was created. The Board appointed me to that job and it detailed many duties to be performed.

But the reality is that I do many jobs for RISAA including membership dues, newsletter editor, manage the RISAA web site, run Take-A-Kid Fishing Day, run the Youth Fishing Camp, and run the Fishing Show.

So the By-laws changes will reflect these changes.

They will specify that the Executive

Director is responsible for getting those jobs completed. This way, in the future when I'm not doing the job, the Executive Director will still get it all done, even if it means hiring staff for a RISAA office (some day in the future).

Those By-laws proposed changes are available to read at our web site. Just go to [risaa.org](http://risaa.org) and you'll see a headline in the middle that you can click on.

#### Block Island EEZ Fishing

As I was writing this, the ASMFC announced the agenda for it's Winter Meeting coming up Feb. 5-7 in Virginia. On the agenda for the Striped Bass Management Board was taking up the proposal of NOAA to create the Block Island Transit Zone which would allow fishing for striped bass in the large area between Block Island and Montauk.

This push to open the area came primarily because New York charter captains wanted to be able to fish that area (can you say "Block Island Southwest Ledge") legally.

And sorry to say, some Rhode Island boats want to see it opened as well, noting that illegal fishing is going on there anyway, so might as well open it up for everyone.

I don't agree with that!

The EEZ had been closed to striped bass fishing to protect the fish. Everyone knows that big cow bass are known to frequent Block Island and they are drawn to the Southwest Ledge area with happens to be in the EEZ.

And yes, illegal fishing goes on there all the time because of a lack of enforcement.

So let's let everyone start catching those big bass?

**IDON'T THINK SO!**

That's a sure way to eliminate big strippers from Block Island.

I hope ASMFC doesn't bow to greedy, self-serving interests and do their job of conserving striped bass for the future.